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2021 Alzheimer's Innovation Readiness Index Questions and Answers

What is the Alzheimer's Innovation Readiness Index?

The *2021 Alzheimer's Innovation Readiness Index* provides an assessment of 10 European countries on how well they are addressing Alzheimer's disease and their progress in Alzheimer's innovation – defined as applied tools or solutions, resources, methods and approaches, technologies, services, interventions, or best practices, existing or under development, that would impact the prevention, treatment, or care of people with Alzheimer's disease.

The *Index* builds on previous reports measuring the readiness of G7 countries, select G20 countries, and large cities to integrate innovative dementia solutions into their healthcare systems. The goal of this *Index* is to complement existing efforts by highlighting best practices across Europe, particularly those impacting people living with Alzheimer's disease and their families, while drawing attention to areas of greatest opportunity and need.

What is the utility of the Index?

The *2021 Alzheimer's Innovation Readiness Index* aims to bring greater attention to the rising prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias in Europe and the impact of these diseases. As a data-driven tool, the *Index* can assist policymakers with priority-setting and support renewed commitment at the country level to lead on Alzheimer's care and innovation. Specifically, the *Index* will serve as a benchmark for future progress within the evaluated countries, while other countries can use the key findings of this report to highlight areas where extra attention is needed and look to featured successes as adoptable best practices. Advocates and decision makers alike can use this report to reflect upon and drive change on the most pressing dementia issues within respective country contexts, while also working to deliver on various commitments where the region as a whole has fallen short.

Is this report only about Alzheimer's Disease?

As the most common form of dementia, Alzheimer's was chosen as the specific target for the *Index* to highlight the importance of innovations being made in how the disease is diagnosed and managed. Because most policies that impact people living with Alzheimer's disease target dementias more broadly, the report also assesses many critically important areas which are not isolated to Alzheimer's, such as the stigmatization of dementia, as well as quality of life and access to high quality care and support for all people living with dementia, and their families.

Why Europe?

The European Commission's first-of-its-kind Green Paper for Ageing (2021) aims to prepare EU Member States for the policy needs of an aging society, which notably includes the dramatically increasing prevalence of dementia in Europe. The demographic changes taking place across the region and the momentum generated, not only by the European Commission, but also the UN and WHO, who have declared 2020 to 2030 the Decade of Healthy Ageing, make this an opportune and critical moment for Europe to step into a global leadership role on Alzheimer's innovation. GCOA and ADI together identified these 10 European countries for evaluation based on their policy leadership, both within Europe and globally.

How are countries scored? What was the methodology?

The 2021 Alzheimer's Innovation Readiness Index assesses country-level performance across five key categories: *Strategy & Commitment, Early Detection & Diagnosis, Access to Care (Medical), Awareness & Monitoring, and Care Standards & Settings*. The *Index* incorporates both qualitative and quantitative data from the above categories, which is subdivided into over 20 component areas, comprised of a total of more than 120 distinct metrics.

All metrics were scored on a 100-point scale relative to a determined best score scenario. Binary and qualitative data were converted to a simple banded 100-point scale (e.g., Yes=100, No=0). Metrics were grouped into component areas, which were further grouped into the five categories. Category scores were then equally weighted to produce a final overall score on a 100-point scale.

Which countries are doing best and why?

The three best performing countries in the *Index* are the United Kingdom (67/100), Sweden (63), and Germany (61). Countries that performed better had greater stakeholder engagement in the development of national strategies, reliable diagnostic access, strong reimbursement systems for treatment, more integrated care pathways (with a focus on innovation), and more funding provided for the implementation of programs. Countries that performed poorly had notably low levels of funding for awareness efforts and weaker monitoring programs.

What are the Index's key findings?

The need to secure funding to more fully implement national strategies was clear across all of the countries assessed in the *Index*. The need was particularly pronounced in funding

for early diagnosis and detection programs. Furthermore, all countries demonstrated a need for greater investment in efforts to raise awareness and eradicate stigma, which often acts as a barrier to diagnosis and can severely impede the quality of life for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The *Index* also revealed a need for more robust training and provisions for both informal and formal caregivers.

Other key findings include:

- COVID-19 disrupted implementation, renewal, and funding of national plans
- Data consolidation is a large gap, with countries struggling to establish or develop systems to collect data across the Alzheimer's and dementia care pathway
- European governments continue to underfund Alzheimer's and other dementias research
- Widespread variation within countries creates a 'postcode lottery' in determining access to care
- Most governments do not have sustained funding for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias awareness campaigns
- Care pathways remain difficult to navigate for people living with dementia, caregivers, and healthcare professionals
- Informal caregivers continue to shoulder the brunt of caregiving responsibilities

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ABOUT THE GLOBAL COALITION ON AGING

The Global Coalition on Aging aims to reshape how global leaders approach and prepare for the 21st century's profound shift in population aging. GCOA uniquely brings together global corporations across industry sectors with common strategic interests in aging populations, a comprehensive and systemic understanding of aging, and an optimistic view of its impact. Through research, public policy analysis, advocacy, and strategic communications, GCOA is advancing innovative solutions and working to ensure global aging is a path to health, productivity and economic growth.

ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE INTERNATIONAL

Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) is the international federation of over 105 Alzheimer and dementia associations from around the world, in official relations with the World Health Organization. ADI's vision is prevention, care and inclusion today, and cure tomorrow. ADI believes that the key to winning the fight against dementia lies in a unique combination of global solutions and local knowledge. As such, it works locally, by empowering Alzheimer and dementia associations to promote and offer care and support for persons with dementia and their care partners, while working globally to focus attention on dementia and campaign for policy change from governments.