

Greek national action plan for dementia and alzheimer`s disease

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Currently there are 200,000 people living with dementia in Greece and 400,000 caregivers looking after them. These numbers will increase dramatically in the years to come, making dementia one of the most crucial medical, societal and economic challenges in Greece. Responding to lobbying efforts from the Alzheimer Associations, in October 2013, the Greek State assigned a working group which developed a National Dementia Action Plan. Its key priorities are to raise public and professional awareness, promote early diagnosis and intervention and create support services towards ameliorating the quality of life of people with dementia and their caregivers. In December 2014, the Greek Parliament enacted a law authorising the establishment of an independent public institution, the National Observatory for Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The Observatory will ensure the implementation and subsequent updates of the National Dementia Action Plan and will provide specific guidance for organising and promoting the national policy in research and education. Dementia Action Plan was approved by the Standing Committee of Social Affairs of the Greek Parliament in March 2016. To this moment, the implementation of the plan has begun: 1. A national dementia registry and a rating system to measure the burden of dementia on families are underway. These will be used by the State to accordingly establish financial benefits for persons with dementia and their caregivers. families—funding 2. Day Care Centers for people with dementia are being implemented throughout the country with funding available from the National Strategic Reference Framework 2014-2020.