

How are early career dementia researchers considered and supported by dementia plans and organisations?

An overview of global policy approaches

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Objectives

Early career dementia researchers (ECDRs) are essential for dementia care and research. It remains unclear how ECDRs are being considered through top-down national policy approaches. This study aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of **how international efforts** that focus on dementia research and care (i.e., national dementia plans or organisation) **consider and support ECDRs**.

Methods

- **G20 member states:** Review of **national dementia plan/strategy** and policies of **one governmental and one non-governmental dementia organisation** (e.g., associations, charities, institutes) per country (n=46).
- Searches were conducted in local languages and in English.
- Data (i.e., support for ECDRs) were extracted and a content analysis using inductive coding was performed. Findings were categorised and narratively synthesised.

Results

- **Only China, the United States (excluding Puerto Rico), England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Greece, Spain, and Denmark** specifically mentioned ECDR support in their national dementia plan/ strategy, referring to creating specific ECDR funding and education opportunities.

- **17 countries** were identified as providing targeted support for ECDRs via governmental and/or non-governmental dementia organisations (Table 1).

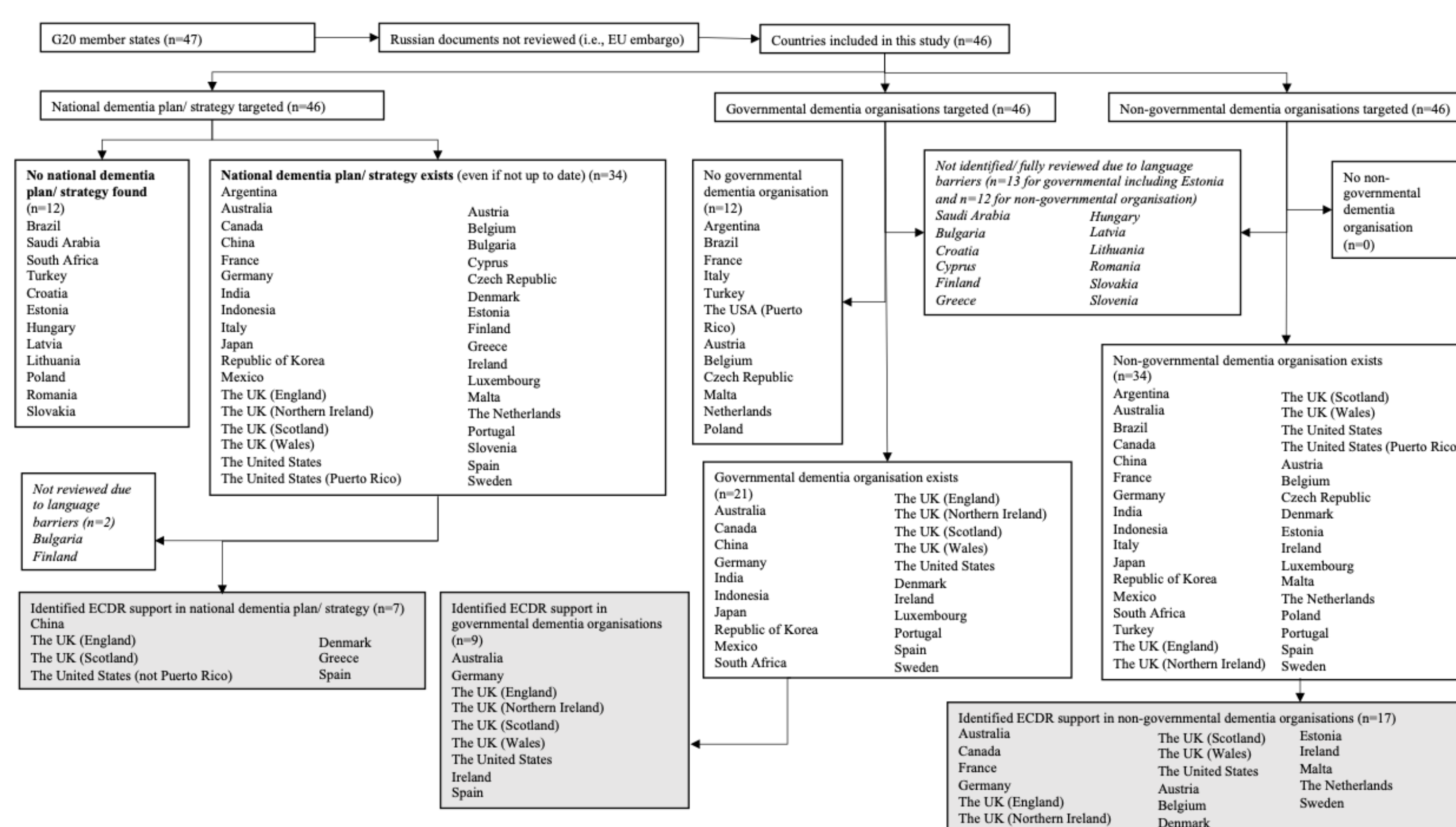


Figure 1. Review process: ECDR support or considerations in national dementia plans/ strategies, governmental, and non-governmental dementia organisations. Note: Little-to-no information could be obtained from 13 countries due to language barriers.

Table 1. Different forms of ECDR support from governmental/non-governmental dementia organisations.

	Research funding	Dissemination & networking	Career development & training	Research advice
Australia	X			
Canada	X			
France	X	X	X	
Germany	X	X	X	X
The U.K. (England)	X	X	X	X
The U.K. (Northern Ireland)	X	X	X	X
The U.K. (Scotland)	X	X	X	X
The U.K. (Wales)	X	X	X	X
The U.S.	X	X	X	X
Austria		X		
Belgium	X	X		
Estonia		X		
Ireland	X	X	X	X
Malta				X
The Netherlands	X	X	X	X
Spain	X			
Sweden	X		X	
Total	14/17	12/17	10/17	9/17

Conclusion

- Support for ECDRs varied greatly across the G20 member states, with few formally recognising ECDRs in their national dementia plan or strategy and mixed support provided by dementia organisations.
- To facilitate equal prospects for ECDRs, top-down national policy approaches are urged to enhance and align their efforts in the future.

ECDRs need to be considered and supported top-down, through dementia plans and strategies and dementia organisations, to ensure the future of dementia care and research.

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