Germany – EU Council Presidency 2020

Activities

I. Online-Conference
II. Council Recommendations
I. International Online-Conference
“Strengthening Older People’s Rights in Times of Digitalisation - Lessons Learned from COVID-19”

• 28.-29. September 2020

• Jointly organized by Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations (BAGSO e. V.), and AGE Platform Europe (AGE)

• attended by more than 1,500 people from over 60 countries. Input from experts and representatives of EU member states as well as European institutions.
I. Online-Conference
Key findings

• Human rights have no expiry date, are not tied to age.
• Strategies of the EU and its member states must ensure that all people can participate and no group is disadvantaged.
• UN Agenda 2030 principle to “leave no one behind” is particularly pertinent for digitalisation that has become a guarantor of full participation in all spheres of life.
• Technology must benefit the people and be designed to be usable and safe - also accommodating limitations.
• Technology can never replace face-to-face human contact
• To ensure digital participation efforts must be made to translate the right to lifelong learning into practice
I. Online-Conference
“Strengthening Older People’s Rights in Times of Digitalisation - Lessons Learned from COVID-19”

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9IGvgSCLQroWG6sbYoXeZ5Oxbxm--_6O
II. Council Conclusions
“Human Rights, Participation and Well-Being of Older Persons in the Era of Digitalisation”

- for the first time since 2010, Council Conclusions with topic of older persons/ageing.
- Adopted 9\textsuperscript{th} of October, as an agenda for the coming years.
- Digital transformation must be shaped that it reaches to everyone and does leave no-one behind (Agenda 2030).
- COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of digital participation in that it enables general participation in social, economic, cultural and political life.
- link to the SDGs, MIPAA, RIS and the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration
II. Council Conclusions - Content

- Council Conclusions invite the Member States of the EU and the Commission to take concrete action
- Call for a positive approach of ageing that starts from a positive place and takes a life-course perspective with attention to gender equality, communicating positive images of ageing and acknowledging older persons as heterogeneous group
- Older persons’ contribution to the cohesion of society
- Rights of all persons
- Ageing is to be mainstreamed in all policy fields
- Older persons must be involved in all decision-making processes that affect their lives
II. Council Conclusions - Content

• Active and healthy ageing should be promoted, including by using digital technology
• Life-long learning must be supported
• When digitalising healthcare, long-term care and social services, low-threshold accessibility must be ensured
• Urban planning must accommodate needs of older persons
• a human rights-centered approach is to be strengthened
• Dedicate a chapter of the Green Paper of Ageing to the rights of older persons
• Continue to supply reliable data on all aspects of ageing.
• Establish a digital platform to encourage commitment
II. Council Conclusions - Content

- Dedicate a sub-chapter in the Action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Invites the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights to further explore the impact of digitalisation on older persons and to improve the relevant data base
- Council invites the Social Protection Committee to foster a life-course perspective in the policy fields within their remit;
  Continue to promote the sharing of best practices;

- Trio partners Portugal and Slovenia also intend to include ageing and older persons on their Presidency-agendas.
Thank you very much for your attention

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