

Country note on Mainstreaming Ageing

Austria

About

The Austrian Federal Plan for Senior Citizens “Ageing and the Future” was developed along the recommendations of MIPAA/RIS and the Vienna Ministerial Declaration 2012. There are 14 areas of action of the Federal Plan for Senior Citizens:

1. Social and political participation
2. Economic situation, social differentiation and intergenerational equity
3. Older workers and “work” in old age
4. Health promotion and health situation
5. Education and lifelong learning
6. Age and gender-related issues: the special situation of elderly women
7. Ties and relations between generations
8. Housing condition, technology and mobility
9. Nursing and new forms of care
10. Social security, social and consumer protection
11. Ageing and the media
12. Discrimination, violence and exclusion
13. Older migrants
14. Safeguarding infrastructure

They can be summarized under the four main goals of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration on “Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing.” The four main goals include: (1) Longer working life is encouraged and ability to work is maintained, (2) Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons are promoted, (3) Dignity, health and independence in older age are promoted and safeguarded, and (4) Intergenerational solidarity is maintained and enhanced. The Plan was commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Health & Consumer Protection on behalf of the Federal Senior Citizens’ Advisory Council; and is based on the analysis of scientific studies.

https://www.sozialministerium.at/site/Service_Medien/Infomaterial/Downloads/Bundesseniorenplan

Structures

Central level: The unit on Ageing, Population and Volunteering Policies was established in 1997 and is responsible for coordinating ageing issues across the Austrian government. It is responsible for the implementation of the Federal Law on the support of Senior Citizens, adopted in 1998, the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy in the UNECE Region 2002, the improvement of the quality of life and dignity of older persons, measures fostering low threshold infrastructures and pilot-projects for lifelong learning, cooperation with the health sector to promoting health and social inclusion of older persons, research in demographic and ageing issues, certificate on the quality of life in nursery homes and the implementation of the Federal Law on the promotion of volunteering in Austria, adopted in 2012, and especially with strengthening volunteering of older persons. There are not special ageing units in other ministries, but a number of projects deal with the improvement of the quality of life of older persons, especially in the Federal Ministry for Digitization & Business Location, for Education & Science, for Youth & Family, and for Transport, Innovation & Technology.

Representatives of all federal ministries are taking part in the Federal Senior Citizens' Advisory Council, under the Chair of the Minister for Social Affairs, which is an instrument for fostering the political dialogue about different issues of ageing policies. In addition, all ministries, provinces, institutions and NGOs dealing with ageing specific issues are invited to report to the 5-years review of implementation of MIPAA/RIS.

States level: Austria is a federal state and has nine provinces. The principles of ageing policies are regulated at the federal level, their implementation is in the responsibility of the provinces and communities. In every of the nine Austrian provinces, there is a unit on ageing policies. Many communities have an officer in charge of older persons. Once a year a cooperative meeting between the representatives of the federal state and of the provinces in charge of ageing policies is organized.

Laws and Policies

Austrian government implemented its own national strategy on ageing since 2012, with a monitoring framework to assess progress towards its implementation. A first evaluation of the implementation of the Federal Plan for Senior Citizens was commissioned in 2017. The main results had been published in the Austrian Report on the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing and its UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy. Although there is no

institutionalized government-internal regulation/guidance on the inclusion of ageing issues/ageing stakeholders in policy development, there is a strong institutionalized cooperation within the departments for foreign affairs, for labour market policies, for health promotion, for transport, innovation & technology, for education, science & research, for care policies, and for consumer protection.

The Federal Act Governing Equal Treatment (Equal Treatment Act), as amended on 01 January 2014, and the Ombud on Equal Treatment protect older persons against discrimination on the grounds of age in employment.

In connection with the new law on budgeting by impact orientated assessment in 2013, a "[Youth-check](#)" (child and youth impact assessment of laws) has been institutionalized in 2013 in the process of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Methods and Tools

Data Collection and Analysis

The Austrian Central Statistical Office provides regular population statistics, labour force statistics, reports about care recipients, etc., which are differentiated by 5-years-age-groups, thus all these statistics could be used for age-sensitive analyses. When producing and using the ageing-related statistics, the Austrian Central Statistical Office considers the advice of advisory boards e. g. on population and on health statistics. In addition, government funding is assigned to the Ministry of Education, Science & Research, and within the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, and Consumer Protection, for the purpose of advancing ageing-related research.

In the framework of the Austrian Interdisciplinary High-Aged Study in addition to essential statistical data, scientifically sound qualitative and quantitative data are collected, e.g. on health status and lifestyle, housing and care situation, use of social and medical services, functional capacity, nutritional situation, subjective quality of life, personal preferences and needs, etc, see item 3 under good practices.

Awareness Raising, Advocacy, and Education

At the national level, the Austrian Federal Academy of Public Administration provides training courses on ageing-related issues, especially for staff in transition to retirement and on transfer of experience and knowledge between generations. Furthermore, there are sector-specific notes on ageing (e.g. Innovation and Technology in Changing Needs of Mobility) to raise

awareness about ageing-related issues

<http://www.bmvit.gv.at/innovation/themen/mobilitaet/ways2go.html>.

Stakeholder Consultation

In Austria, stakeholders are consulted in the framework of the Federal Senior Citizens' Advisory Council and of the review of implementation of MIPAA/RIS. There are several programs for outreach to the private sector and other organizations: (1) Award for the best and warning for the worst reporting about older persons by the Senior Citizens Organisations, <http://www.seniorenrat.at/de/presse> (2) Programme Fit2Work for healthy working places and health promotion in enterprises, <http://fit2work.at/> (3) Award NestorGOLD for intergenerational age management in enterprises, https://www.sozialministerium.at/site/Ministerium/Guetesiegel/NESTOR_GOLD/ (4) National Quality Certification for Nursery Homes, https://www.sozialministerium.at/site/Soziales_und_KonsumentInnen/Soziale_Themen/Senior_Innenpolitik/Lebensqualitaet_und_Wuerde/#intertitle-9 and (5) Fostering and supporting many NGO-projects on ageing, volunteering, www.freiwilligenweb.at and intergenerational cooperation. Furthermore, the Labour Market Service has conducted an image campaign called "Einstellungssache 50+" to change employers' mind on hiring and employing older persons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p66eOja-hcE>.

Involving Older Persons and Their Representatives in Policy-Making

At the federal level, there is the Senior Citizens' Advisory Council under the Chair of Minister for Labour, Social Affairs, health and consumer Protection, and at the province level, there are several Advisory Councils.

Since 2000, the Senior Citizens' Council as the federation of all Senior Citizens' Organizations as well as the umbrella of youth organizations "Federal Youth Representation" have the status of social partners and have the right to give their comments on every law concerning young or older persons. <http://www.seniorenrat.at/de/seniorenrat>, <https://www.bjv.at/>

Age-Sensitive Policy Development and Budgeting

Although there is no institutionalized government-internal regulation/guidance on the inclusion of ageing issues/ageing stakeholders in policy development, there is a strong cooperation within the departments for foreign affairs, for labour market policies, for health promotion, for transport, innovation & technology, for education, science & research, for care policies, and for consumer protection. In order for youth-inclusive laws, a "[Youth-check](#)" of laws has been institutionalized in the process of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the

Child. Also, in order to achieve sustainability and not to burden future generations, the Austrian Commission on Pension Reforms ensures responsible budgeting.

https://www.sozialministerium.at/site/Pension_Pflege/Pensionen/

Good practices

- 1. Active and healthy aging through social inclusion:** This is a project in implementation of “Health in All Policies – Goal Nr. 1 - Healthy living and working conditions” and its subgoal “Multidisciplinary Dialogue for a Strategy on Active Ageing”. It is implemented in cooperation of the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection (the social, health and volunteering sector) and the Fonds Gesundes Österreich (Fund Healthy Austria) to develop measures for to increase years in good health and the social capital of older persons, especially of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of older persons. The project started in 2016 and at the moment a summary of international and national good practice examples is under discussion. There are a lot of good practice examples in Austria like “Neighbourhood PLUS” and “Community Services” which will be developed further to Austrian wide standardization.

<https://gesundheitsziele-oesterreich.at/arbeitsgruppen/#1492970278500-0fb67ef9-3364>
- 2. Innovation and Technology in changing needs of mobility:** This is a longstanding multidisciplinary project of the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology on research on future solutions for mobility, also especially for older people, Automated People Mover, paratransit, barrier-free solutions “Retro-Fitness”, new forms of cooperation in transports, micro-mobility, nomadic devices, intelligent information systems etc.

<https://www.ffg.at/mobilitaetderzukunft>
<https://www.bmvit.gv.at/innovation/aktuell/downloadsaktuell/wasner.pdf>
- 3. Austrian Interdisciplinary High-Aged Study (ÖIHS)** in cooperation of the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions, Styria, Department of Science and Research, Health and Care Management, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, Office of the NÖ State Government, Department of Social Affairs, undertaken by the Austrian Platform for Interdisciplinary Ageing Questions.

It is in particular the "older among the elderly" – that is, the "high-aged" population, whose proportion in Europe will have grown by about half by 2030 and has already

more than doubled by 2060, making it of enormous importance not only demographically, but also in social and health policy terms.

In addition to essential statistical data, scientifically sound qualitative and quantitative data are collected, e.g. on health status and lifestyle, housing and care situation, use of social and medical services, functional capacity, nutritional situation, subjective quality of life, personal preferences and needs, etc. The first study was published in 2016 and the third study is just under way.

<http://www.translatetheweb.com/?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=de-AT&dl=en&lp=DE EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.oepia.at%2fhochaltrigkeit%2f>

4. **National Report on the State of Research on Ageing and Demographic Change in Austria**, In cooperation with the partners of the Ageing Network and in coordination with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, a national report on the state of research on ageing and demographic change in Austria was prepared. The aim of the report is to present the state of research in an overview and as comprehensively as possible. At the same time, it depicts perspectives, wishes and needs from the research community. The report was published in 2017.

<http://www.translatetheweb.com/?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=de-AT&dl=en&lp=DE EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.netzwerk-altern.at%2f>

Partners: <http://www.translatetheweb.com/?ref=SERP&br=ro&mkt=de-AT&dl=en&lp=DE EN&a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.netzwerk-altern.at%2f>

5. Austrian Strategy for Life-long Learning for low threshold learning opportunities for older people, participation of older persons in digitalization through life-long learning. It was published in 2011 and is under implementation.

[https://www.sozialministerium.at/siteEN/Social_Policy_Consumers/Social_Issues/Austrian_Senior_Citizens_Policy/Lifelong_learning/;](https://www.sozialministerium.at/siteEN/Social_Policy_Consumers/Social_Issues/Austrian_Senior_Citizens_Policy/Lifelong_learning/)

<https://uil.unesco.org/document/austria-strategy-lifelong-learning-III2020-issued-2011>

6. The Federal Senior Citizens' Advisory Council has its meeting once a year – or on application of its members - under the chairmanship of the Minister for Social Affairs as a political dialogue on ageing policies. Its members comprise representatives of all ministries, of the provinces, of social partners and of senior citizens organisations.