Policy Seminar
„Ageing in the Digital Era“

Safeguarding Human Rights in the Use of Digital Technologies -

Member State Perspective
Austria
Safeguarding Human Rights in the Use of Digital Technologies

• Different aspects
  ✓ Access, participation, data protection, consent, privacy, identity, surveillance, democracy, freedom of speech, violence, harassment, hate crime and discrimination

• AT attempts to identify gaps in human rights legislation with view to digitization
International Expert-Conference on the Human Rights of Older Persons

- Vienna, 2018
- Exchange of experiences on new challenges & for human rights of older persons
- Robotics & automation and their impact on human rights
- Digitization & education as a lifelong learning process
International Expert-Conference on the Human Rights of Older Persons

Lessons learned:

- Potential to promote dignity, autonomy, independence and participation
- **Not** all technologies are easily available or go hand in hand with privacy + data protection rights
- Lack of tailored education = discriminatory outcomes, less empowerment to participate, less capacities to pursue human rights
- **Conference declaration:** human rights-based and participatory approach needed (→ research, design and implementation)

✓ http://www.ageing.at/
Update of the 2012 Analytical Outcome Study on the Normative Standards in International Human Rights Law

• i.a. special focus on **digitization**

• **11th Session of the OEWGA** (03/2021)

• **Positive** developments at **regional level** vs. **fragmented & inconsistent** coverage at **international level** in law and practice

• Digital technologies: remaining **challenges** and **protection gaps**

• **opportunities** regarding the **realization of human rights**

• Concerns about the **adverse impact** on human rights
Ongoing Study on the Situation of Older Persons in relation to the Impacts of the COVID-19 Measures

• **Aim:** more age-sensitive & age-appropriate perspective in managing future crises and pandemics

• **Tensions:** health safety vs. human rights & individual freedom

• **Older persons’ needs for safety & self-determination** from the perspective of older and very old persons

• **Findings + recommendations:**
  - loneliness & quality of life
  - digital technology
  - institutional care settings