

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