Combating violence against older people

Implementing the goals of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration

Goal I: Promoting active and healthy ageing throughout life

Austria

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Which data and evidence were used for the design of the policy?

- rising number of femicides (against older women) approx. 30-50% > 60 years
- Increase in violence due to the COVID-19 crisis
- "Violence in old age" helpline (telephone consultations, Case documentation)
- measures are based on the results of basic research (studies)
  → Comprehensive package of measures
  → Significant increase in funding

How are older persons involved in the design and implementation of the policy?

- Federal Plan for Senior Citizens / Federal Senior Citizens Advisory Board
What lessons from the design and implementation may be relevant for other countries?

• “Violence in old age" helpline
  • anonymous,
  • telephone consultations
  • Cooperation and involvement of other regional offices
  • Case documentation and case discussions
  • Prevention and Intervention
  • low threshold advice

• Traveling Exhibition
  • 2y, nationwide
  • moves continuously from place to place
  • Enabling self-reflexion
  • Highlighting possibilities for prevention and support
What lessons from the design and implementation may be relevant for other countries?

- **Information Folders – Initiative**
  - general, dementia, institutions
  - Information, case studies and contact points
  - very high demand
  - Doctors, pharmacies, old age and nursing homes

- **Workshop and Event initiative**
  - awareness among professionals
  - currently 40 events throughout Austria in institutions, schools, old age and nursing homes
What lessons from the design and implementation may be relevant for other countries?

- **Conference on violence against older persons**
  - perspectives from philosophy, forensics, gerontology and psychotherapy
  - great interest

- **Age-appropriate, temporary shelters and networks**
  - no age-appropriate shelters for older persons experiencing violence
  - two pilot regions Austria
  - stakeholders (police, regional agencies, violence protection centers, women's shelters, etc.)
  - needs-based and low-threshold refuge
  - interdisciplinary, multi-professional network