

Combating violence against older people

Implementing the goals of the 2022 Rome Ministerial Declaration

Goal I: Promoting active and healthy ageing throughout life

Austria

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