Leaving nobody behind in times of digitalisation. Experiences of older people from across Europe.
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Digitalisation has reached all areas of life. Just think of shopping, cultural, sports or educational opportunities, medical advice, work or volunteer work. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clearer than ever: if you have a good Internet connection, an Internet-capable device and, above all, the right know-how, you have endless possibilities for shaping your everyday life, maintaining communication as far as possible and obtaining important up-to-date information.

In Germany, nine million older "offliners" are excluded from these opportunities of digitalisation, especially very old people, women, people living alone, people with low income, low formal education or with a migration background. Creating fair access, teaching the necessary skills and ensuring safe use are therefore central for a society with equal chances of participation for all. Especially in crisis situations, such as the current pandemic, access to information and the maintenance of social contacts plays an essential role.

What happens if you do not have access to the Internet? Where can you get support to get closer to digital media? Do we have the right to information and participation? Does this also apply to the analogue, offline route? These and other questions will be dealt with in this workshop by the Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations, which offers interested parties an insight into this topic from the perspective of diverse European countries. The aim is to exchange experiences of "digital senior citizen work" and to examine the situation of older people in times of digitalisation from a human rights perspective.

Virtual check-in and technical test

Welcome from BAGSO and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Introduction

Interview “Being digitally connected: right or obligation?”
Prof Dr Claudia Mahler, United Nations independent expert on the enjoyment of the rights of older persons

Break

A virtual trip through Europe in four working groups
The four working groups will address the following issues: What is the living situation of older people in the country? Where can older people get support in using digital media? To what extent do technical support older people to live self-determined lives and participate in society in the respective country? What are some good examples of older people’s use of digital media? Where older people are digitally cut off? What needs to happen to change this?

1

DANUBE COUNTRIES (English with translation support in Bulgarian and Romanian)
- Ana Zlibut, Writers’ League, Timisoara, Rumänien und DANET e.V.
- Associate Prof Dr Emiliya Velikova, Angel Kanchev, University of Ruse, Bulgaria and DANET e.V.
- Moderation: Carmen Stadelhofer and Viktoria Kurnosenko, Institute for virtual and face-to-face learning in the area of adult education at Ulm University (ILEU e.V.)

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FRANCE (French and German)
- Guillaume Moissé, Francophone Network of Age-Friendly Cities
- Monique Epstein, E-Seniors
- Moderation: Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf, Board member of BAGSO e.V.
SLOVENIA (English)
- Tone Dolčič, ZDUS – Slovenian Association of Pensioner Organisations and Clubs, former vice-Ombudsman of Slovenia
- Dr Dušana Findeisen, Slovenian Third Age University
- Moderation: Silke Leicht, BAGSO e.V.

PORTUGAL (English and German)
- Fernando Martins, APRe! (Portuguese association of pensioners)
- Prof Elisio Costa, University of Porto, coordinator of ICTskills4All – Empowering old adults Citizens for a Digital world
- Jorge Oliveira, siosLIFE
- Moderation: Ina Voelcker, BAGSO e.V.

4.00 p.m. Break

4.30 p.m. Discussion round
- Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe
- Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf, Board member of BAGSO and Vice President of AGE Platform Europe
- Barbara Kahler, Head of Ageing, Care, Rehabilitation, Social Planning at the Deutscher Verein
- Nicola Röhricht, Officer for digitalisation and education at BAGSO

5.30 p.m. Closing

Moderation: Ina Voelcker & Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf
Languages

Three language channels (English, French and German), except for the country-specific working groups. For the working groups please check the programme and choose according to your language skills.

Registration and data protection

Please register by 22 September via the following link: https://bit.ly/32cX62r.

You will then receive the dial-in data for the workshop, which will be held via Zoom, a few days in advance. Please provide your priority regarding the working groups, considering your language skills, when you register.

Upon registration, BAGSO collects your data for verification and, with your consent, for sending you further selected information on international topics. Your data will be used by BAGSO exclusively for the aforementioned purposes and will not be passed on to third parties. Furthermore, the privacy policy of Zoom Video Communications, Inc.: https://zoom.us/privacy-and-legal