Responsibility, Challenges and Perspectives

Ralf M. Tatto

Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection
Austria

WHO GATE Forum on Assistive Technologies

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Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

- **Long-Term-Care**
  - Care allowance for people in need of care
  - Caregiving relatives
  - 24-Hour-Care
  - LTC-Funds
    - Innovative projects (e.g. ambient assisted living)

- **People with disabilities**
People with Disabilities

- **Federal Disability Equality Act**
  - objective: protection of discrimination in daily life

- **Federal Disability Act**
  - objective: enable full participation

- **Disability Employment Act**
  - objective: supporting people with disabilities in the world of employment
National Action Plan on Disability 2012-2020 (NAP Disability)
Long-term strategy to implement the CRPD at the federal level in Austria

- > 250 measures in eight main focuses
  - ⇒ Education
  - ⇒ Accessibility
  - ⇒ Employment
  - ⇒ ...

- Austrian disability inclusion strategy in all areas of life
Assistive Technologies

- **Examples from the NAP**
  - Program „benefit“ [https://www.ffg.at/programme/benefit](https://www.ffg.at/programme/benefit)
  - EU-Program: „Ambient Assisted Living – AAL“

- **Principle: Autonomy in everyday life**
  - objective: longer stay at home, self-determination
  - Financial support by the support fund
Full Participation in Employment

- People with disabilities
  - high unemployment rate,
  - confrontation of stereotypes

- Ass. techn. opens new job prospects

- BMASGK support for people with disabilities, companies and supporting organizations

see also the nominated project TopEasy from the Austrian Press Agency
http://science.apa.at/koop/topeasy
Scientific Initiatives of the BMASGK

▪ Sociopolitical science award (SoWiSo)
  ⇒ www.sozialministerium.at/SOWISO

▪ Science award inclusion via natural science and technology (WINTEC)
  ⇒ NAP-Measure 237
  „Awareness raising and spreading on information about the UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities“
  ⇒ Awards 2015, 2016 and 2018
  ⇒ www.sozialministerium.at/WINTEC
WINTEC 2015

1st Price – Thaller & Nussbaum – 4D Joystick

2nd Price – Bergmeister Intelligent Prosthesis

3rd Price – Augstein – IAAA Project (Interaction Analysis for Automated Adaptation)
WINTEC 2016

1st Price – Bieling – Lorm-Hand

2nd Price – Veigl/Deinhofer/Aigner – Interaction Aids (FlipMouse)

3rd Price – Team-Pucher – Speech Synthesis
Outlook

⇒ New NAP 2021–030
⇒ Since 2018 – own Ministry for Digitalization

“The best use of technologies is achieved by matching devices to persons, not vice versa, and the use of a ‘person first’ perspective.”
(Scherer 2005: xiv.)

Further information: Overview of the horizontal issue of disability in Austria
https://tinyurl.com/bmasgk-eng
https://tinyurl.com/bmasgk-fra
https://tinyurl.com/bmasgk-deu