

Responsibility, Challenges and Perspectives

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**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>

- ⇒ 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 “

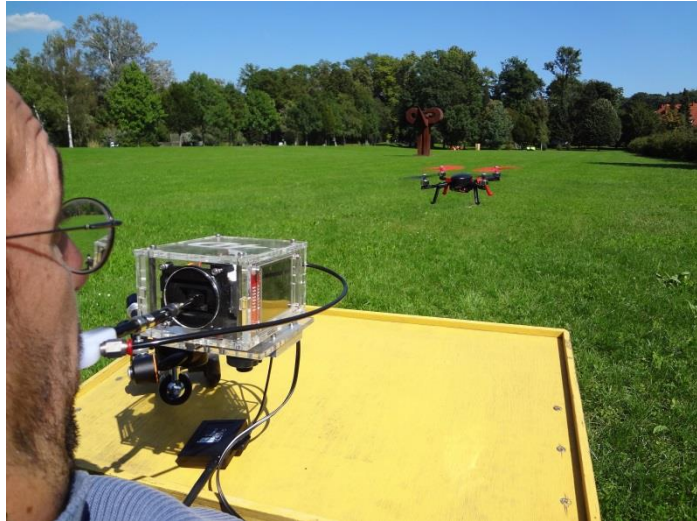
⇒ Awards 2015, 2016 and 2018

⇒ www.sozialministerium.at/WINTEC

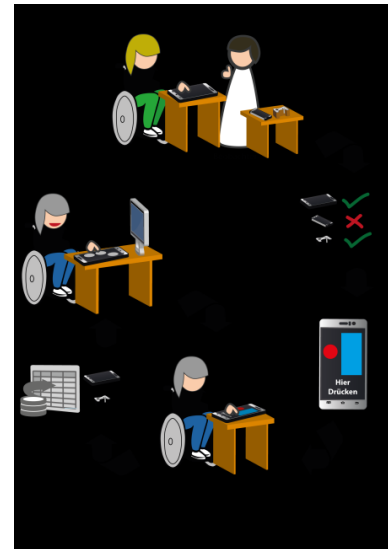


WINTEC 2015

1st Price – Thaller & Nussbaum – 4D Joystick



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



2nd Price – Bergmeister Intelligent Prosthesis



WINTEC 2016

1st Price – Bieling – Lorm-Hand



3rd Price– Team-Pucher – Speech Synthesis



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





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>

