Property crime against the elderly

„Granny Scam“
Austria 2050
(Source: Statistik Austria, Europ. Comission)

- Population will be roughly the same (approx. 9 mil)

- **Increasement of life expectancy**: male: 83,6 (+ 7,4), female: 87,7 (+5,6)

- **In the group of people over 15 years**: 53,2 % will be over 65 years

- **Elderly people over 75**: 1.600.000 (Increasement of 147%)
Granny Scams

„Nephew Trick“
1.) First Call  
phone book pick of an old fashioned first name  
use of prepaid sim-cards, VoIP-Phonecalls

2.) The Story  
financial emergency, asks for a large amount of money

3.) Second Call  
caller is unable to come to pick up the money, is going to send a friend

4.) Handing over  
second offender heading to the victim’s flat to receive the money
Advanced forms

- **false bank employee**
  - victim gets informed about false banknotes
  - gets asked to read out serial numbers on the phone
  - Second offender gets ot the victim and pretends to have a money deduction machine in his car

- **false police detective**
  - victim get told that a relative is arrested
  - Offender asks for a needed deposit to get the relative out of arrest
  - Second offender gets to the victim and takes over the money
Reduction Strategies

Low succes with standard police methods

- Criminals strike on random locations at random times
- Criminals use only prepaid mobile phones or VoIP internet calls
- Close to zero traces at the crime scene
- Description made by victims barely useful
- Long time between the criminal offense and the police call
Reduction Strategies

Higher succes with Crime prevention strategies

- General public information about the specific crime forms against the elderly
- Cooperation with bank institutions – information for bank employees
- Specific crime prevention events at care facilities for elderly
- Information and campaigns for bedridden person in cooperation with the home care services
Still a long way to go ...

- Extension of the „Crime Victim Law“ to victims of property crime such as distraction burglary and granny scams

- More detailed information inside the police education systems about crime victims, specially high risk victims like the elderly

- Improvement of victim data transfer from the police to victim support organisations (currently only working in cases of domestic violence)

- Indemnity (specially for elderly) needs to be set at the criminal court; ist unsuitable for elderly to fight for their right in an additional civil rights trial

- A general law change regarding crime against the elderly which is often qualified as a simple theft or fraud and so insurance companies often dont come up for financial damage
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