



Property crime against the elderly

„Granny Scam“





Austria 2050

(Source: Statistik Austria, Europ. Commission)

- 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“





Original Form

- 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 ammount 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 recieve 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 out of the victim and pretends to have a money deduction machine in his car

- **false police dedective**
 - 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 instituions – information for bank employeess
- Specific crime prevention events at care facilitys for elderly
- Informatrion 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
- Mored detailed information inside the police education systems about crime victims, specially high risk victims like the elderly
- Improvment 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 cilvil rights trial
- A general law change regarding crime against the elderly which is often qualified as a simple theft or fraud and so insurances companies often dont come up for financial damage



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