

# Property crime against the elderly

„Granny Scam“

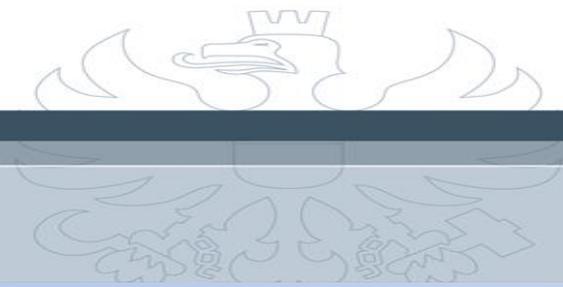




## **Austria 2050**

(Source: Statistik Austria, Europ. Commission)

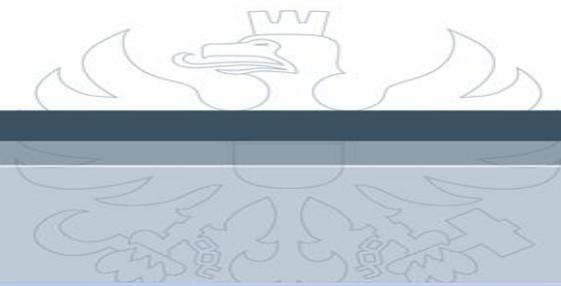
- Population will be roughly the same (approx. 9 mil)
- **Increasement of life expectancy:** male: 83,6 (+ 7,4), female: 87,7 (+5,6)
- **In the group of people over 15 years:** 53,2 % will be over 65 years
- **Elderly people over 75:** 1.600.000 (Increasement of 147%)



# 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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