

*Chances and opportunities for Sociopolitical participation in post professional life*

## **EURAG conference in TIRANA**

**"National policies on aging 2024. Challenges and new approaches in Albania! Issues, concepts and positions in EU countries"!**

**„PARTICIPATION OF SENIORS IN  
DECISION MAKING PROCESSES"**

**Tirana, 25th May 2024**

# Geriatric Health Centres of the City of Graz

## **GRAZ Capital of Styria**

<i>Coutry:</i>	<i>Austria</i>
<i>Area :</i>	<i>83.879 km<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Inhabitants:</i>	<i>9.045.673</i>
<i>City:</i>	<i>Graz</i>
<i>Area :</i>	<i>127,56 km<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Inhabitants:</i>	<i>291.134</i>
<i>Birth Rate:</i>	<i>8,69</i>
<i>People &gt;60:</i>	<i>68.500</i>





## COMPETENCE CENTRES FOR GERIATRIC MEDICINE AND CARE

### Patient care and complex geriatric treatment

#### Albert Schweitzer Clinic

- Acute Geriatrics /Remobilization
- Medical Geriatrics
- Memory clinic
- Apallic Care Unit
- GEKO & Telecare

#### Albert Schweitzer Hospice/Day Hospice

#### Nursing Homes

#### Assisted living arrangements

#### Day treatment and care

#### Research and teaching – “Albert-Schweitzer Institute

for geriatrics and gerontology

#### Albert Schweitzer Training Centre

**House Esther**  
*More Independent  
healthy years of life*

- New ways of caring for older people: care and advice services for older people under one roof

<https://ggz.graz.at/haus-esther/>

Dr. Rosemarie Kurz,  
Senior Scientist, Gerontologist



**Team of the Albert Schweitzer Institut:** Dr. Judith Goldgruber,

Dr. Wolfgang Kratky; Dr. Rosemarie Kurz, Dr. Sandra Dohr, Dr. Ursula Berger



Dr. Rosemarie Kurz, Senior Scientist, Gerontologist

## *Together we create better living environments for older people*

**Mission** | *With our co-creative research and development, we are a link between science and society.*

**Vision** | *We design living environments in which older people can use their resources and develop their potential. We are looking for new ways to enable people to grow old where they want to grow old.*



## ***Chances and opportunities for Sociopolitical participation in post professional life***

### ***User Centered Design and Co-creation!***

- *Participation of the target group*
- *ESTHER LAB*
- *Scientific articles*
- *Digitalization*
- *ASIGG*
- *ESTHER*
- *The Thesis of Mag.a Drin Rosemarie Kurz deals with the participation of the elderly in societal processes with special focus on senior citizens´ organizations in the context of political parties. University Graz 1999*



*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

**In a society in which every fifth person is already older than 60** years, senior citizens are not a marginal group worthy of protection, but **an independent group of people who have to take responsibility for protecting their own interests.**

**Turnout of elections:** Older people can influence political decisions in their favor because of their large number



*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

Public voices are calling for **participatory behavior** on the part of the elderly themselves.

There are different forms of **social participation**.

- **Self-organized and self-determined** projects are aiming to force self-help institutions on local level.

*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

- **Participation means** that elderly are using free spaces of society for awareness in public and political issues and so **older people could influence decision-making authorities.**
- **Self-determination:** Older people work autonomously aiming to gain competence **for forming decision-making bodies for issues of their own interests.**

*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

- **Participation models are community-oriented** reflecting the living environment of those affected.
- **Productivity projects:** These include the productive use of aging for the general interest. **They combine elements of self-help and volunteering.**

*Chances and opportunities for Sociopolitical participation in post professional life*

## **A lifeworld-related participation of older people arises through:**

- ... **Initiatives and activism** of the elderly themselves
- ... **Transparent information** for older people in matters that affect them,
- ... **Awareness and public relations** want to make the potential of older people visible

*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

- ... **Changing the negative image of old age** by including older people in the process,
- ... **Revitalizing and incorporating** the life experience of older people,
- ... **Promotion intergenerational understanding**  
- younger people benefit from the experience of older people, and older people learn to deal with new realities,

*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

- ... **Taking in account the heterogeneity of older people** by promoting projects and initiatives for specific target groups and subject areas.
- ... **Supporting organizations and individual networks** to inform the public about the importance of socio-cultural issues in the post-professional phase of life.

*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

- ... **Socio-political participation as a right and duty for all age groups.**
- ... **Promoting a cross-generational view** of socio-political activities, habits, needs and interests in all phases of life.
- ... **Putting Senior Interests on European Level** by taking serious the possibility of taking part in the upcoming elections!

*Chances and  
opportunities for  
Sociopolitical  
participation in post  
professional life*

***"A society for all is one that adapts its structures and functions as well as its strategies and plans to the needs and abilities of everyone so that everyone's potential is available for the benefit of everyone."** UN 1995*



## *Elephants as a symbol for solidarity among generations*

Elephants are said to attain old age and wisdom. They live in herds with the young ones; when water is scarce the old ones remember more water spots than the young; when water is found the young animals may enjoy the water first. The pace of trotting is so arranged that the very young and aged animals can also keep up with the rest. And when life comes to its end the elephant herd comforts the old dying animal with their trunks.

