

## **AT Contribution: Human Rights of Older Women**

### **Questions 1, 4, 6 (Annex II):**

*Women in old age are facing a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than men, especially when living alone, according to EU-SILC data. This may be explained by the high gender gap in pensions in Austria, resulting in low average pensions for women. These lower pensions are mainly due to women's lower earnings during the life-cycle because of lower hourly and yearly earnings, their higher part-time rate, their overrepresentation in low-paid jobs and their longer career interruptions for child and dependent's care obligations.*

*To analyse the reasons and factors in more detail and to draft some options to address the gender gap in pensions, the EU-co-funded project TRAPEZ was carried out between 2019 and 2020 by the Federal Chancellery in cooperation with Social and Labour Ministry, and research institutes WIFO and FORBA. A detailed study was drafted, and some information material were developed also addressing older women. For more information, please refer to <https://www.trapez-frauen-pensionen.at/english.html>; [https://www.trapez-frauen-pensionen.at/documents/TRAPEZ\\_Analyse\\_Bericht\\_2020-EN.pdf](https://www.trapez-frauen-pensionen.at/documents/TRAPEZ_Analyse_Bericht_2020-EN.pdf), <https://www.trapez-frauen-pensionen.at/trapez-publik-videos.html>.*

### **Questions 10-12 (Annex II)**

*Older women must be addressed as specific group, i.e. in counselling and support measures and institutions. They are also particularly at risk of gender-based violence due to their underrepresentation in public life as well as due to the fact that they more often still live in patriarch structures.*

*Available data gets scarce with increasing age, unfortunately. The recent FRA survey, for instance, only covers women until 74. For women aged 60+, results of the 2014 FRA violence survey indicate for Austria, that 3% of women 60+ experienced physical violence during the previous 12 months; 2% experienced violence from the partner within the last year.*

*Combing physical and sexual violence during the last year, 4% of women aged 60+ experienced these form(s) of violence by a partner or non-partner.*

*All measures and project fundings to increase accessibility (i.e. language, barrier-free access/construction measures) by the Women's ministry also benefit older women. Regular project fundings also focus on elderly women and women with disabilities as specific target groups. The Austrian organisation of women's shelters takes also part in an international EU-project for supporting older female victims of gender-based violence (<https://www.a oef.at/index.php/presseaussendungen/495-pa-13-12-2019-pa-neues-eu-projekt-marvow-multi-institutionelle-zusammenarbeit-bei-der-unterstuetzung-von-gewalt-betroffenen-aelteren-frauen>). Previous studies and projects (in 2010 with Austrian partner organisations) also focused on older women.*

*In general, all violence prevention and support measures in Austria including legal measures are valid for all age groups.*

*Around 6 percent of women counselled in the Austrian violence protection centres were above 60 (2019), in women's shelters around 3% of clients were aged 60+ (2018). 8% of clients of the Women's helpline in 2019 were above 60.*