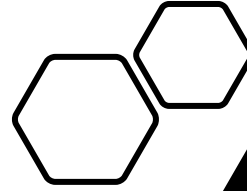




Embassy  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Seoul



Panel Discussion  
22 February 2021

The 20th Informal  
ASEM Seminar on  
Human Rights -  
Human Rights of  
Older Persons

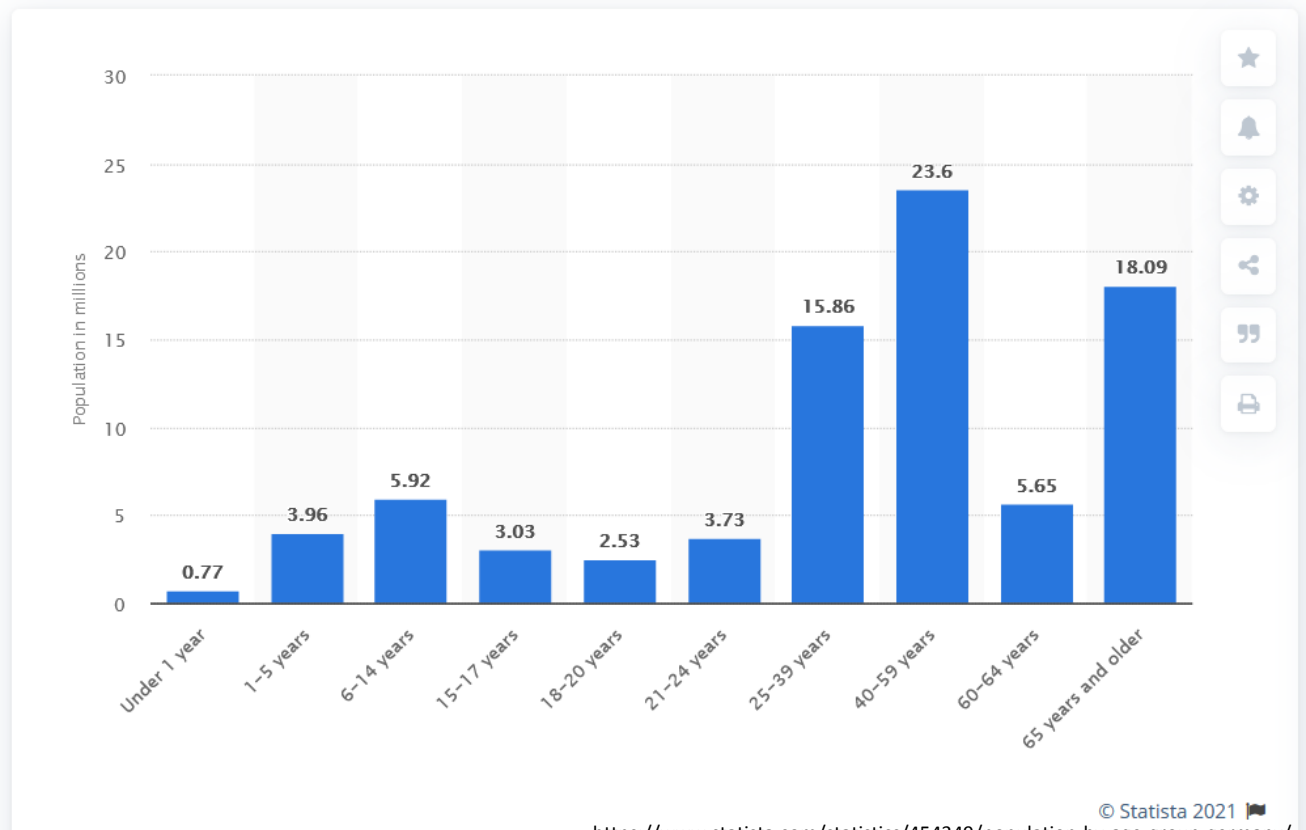
# “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons in the post-COVID Era” - Focus Country: Germany -

Hana Becker, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

# Germany

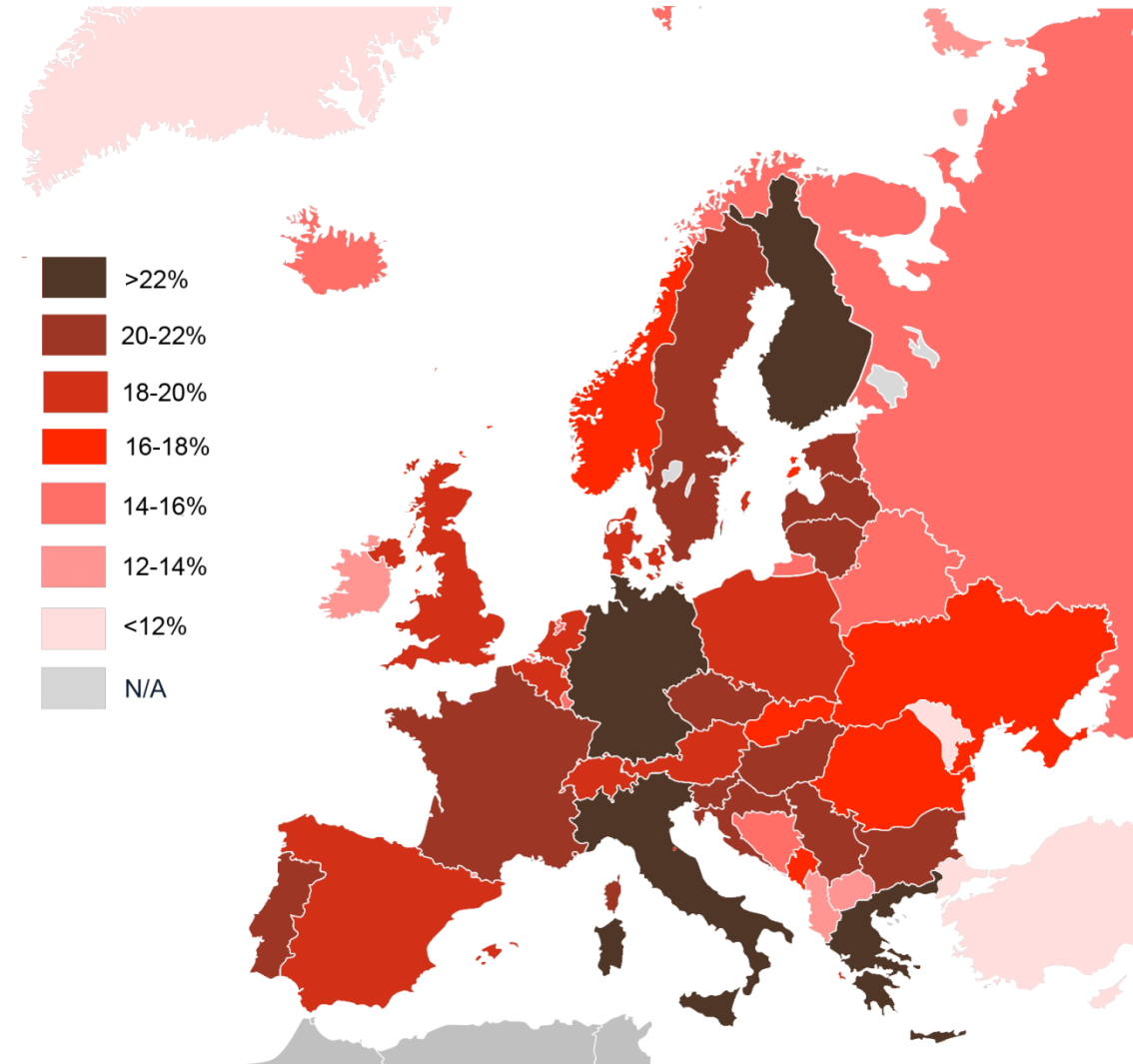
## Population of Germany as of December 31, 2019, by age group

(in millions)



<https://www.statista.com/statistics/454349/population-by-age-group-germany/>

## Europe population over 65 – in 2020



Based on data from the CIA World Factbook. Image retrieved from [Wikimedia Commons](#)

# Germany's policy-making for senior citizens

## Two priority goals:

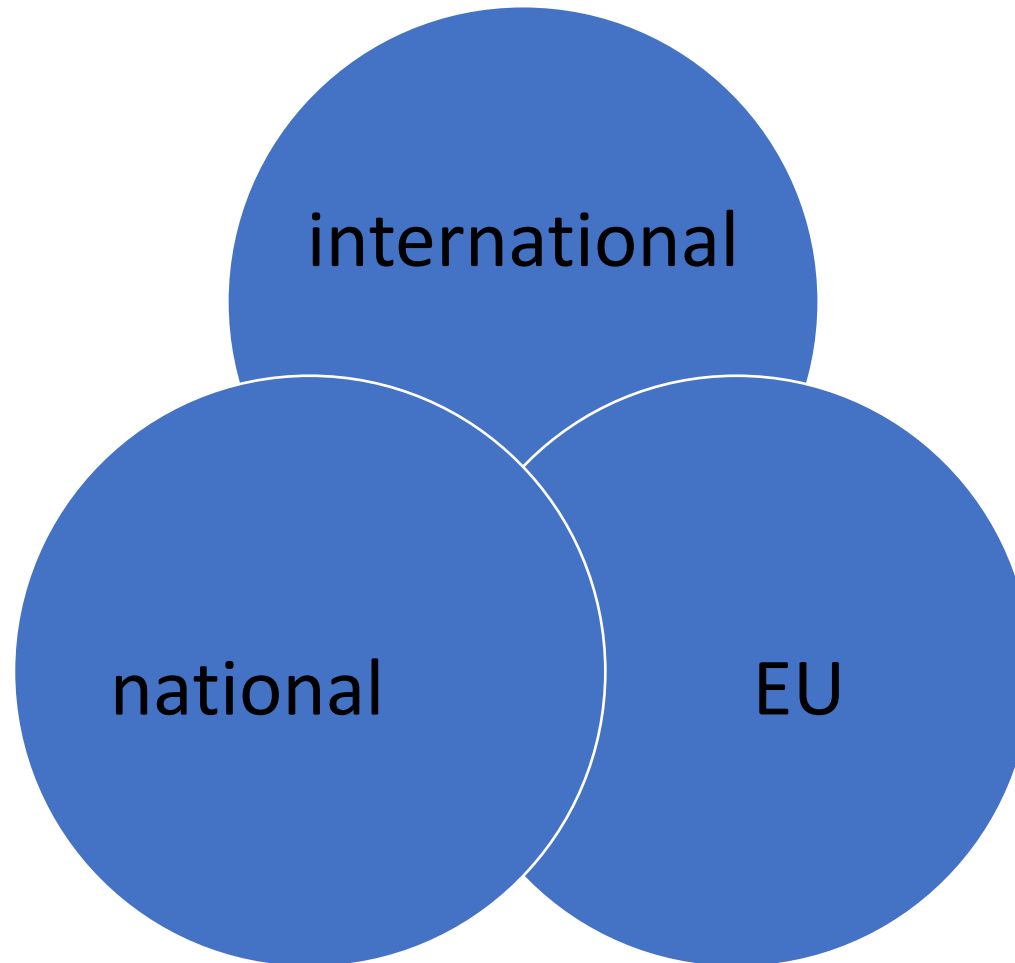
support older persons

- lead an independent life in old age
- keep participating in society

To support older people in need of care, help or other forms of assistance

To use the potential of older persons to foster cohesion between the generations and promote a society based on sharing and solidarity

# Activities of the German Federal Government



# Activities of the German Federal Government I *-national-*

- **Promoting intergenerational equity and peaceful coexistence of all generations**
  - „Demografiewerkstatt Kommunen“ (Municipality Workshop on Demography)
  - Federal Programme "Multi-generational Centre"
  - "Living in Old Age" (shared housing, age-appropriate home conversions, ambient-assisted homes, local support schemes)
- **Supporting Non-statutory Welfare Organisations and Senior Citizens' Organisations** which support the Federal Government's policies, helping to shape Germany as a welfare state and enabling **social inclusion**
- **National Dementia Strategy**

# Activities of the German Federal Government II

## *-national-*

- **Reconciliation of family, care and work**
  - strengthening legal grounds to make it easier for employees to take care of close relatives in need of long-term care
  - Independent Advisory Committee for the Reconciliation of Care and Work
- **Vocational training and education in nursing care**
  - Care Professions Reform Act (January 2020)
  - Concerted Action for Nursing, Vocational Training Initiative for the Care Sector
- **(Digital) education**

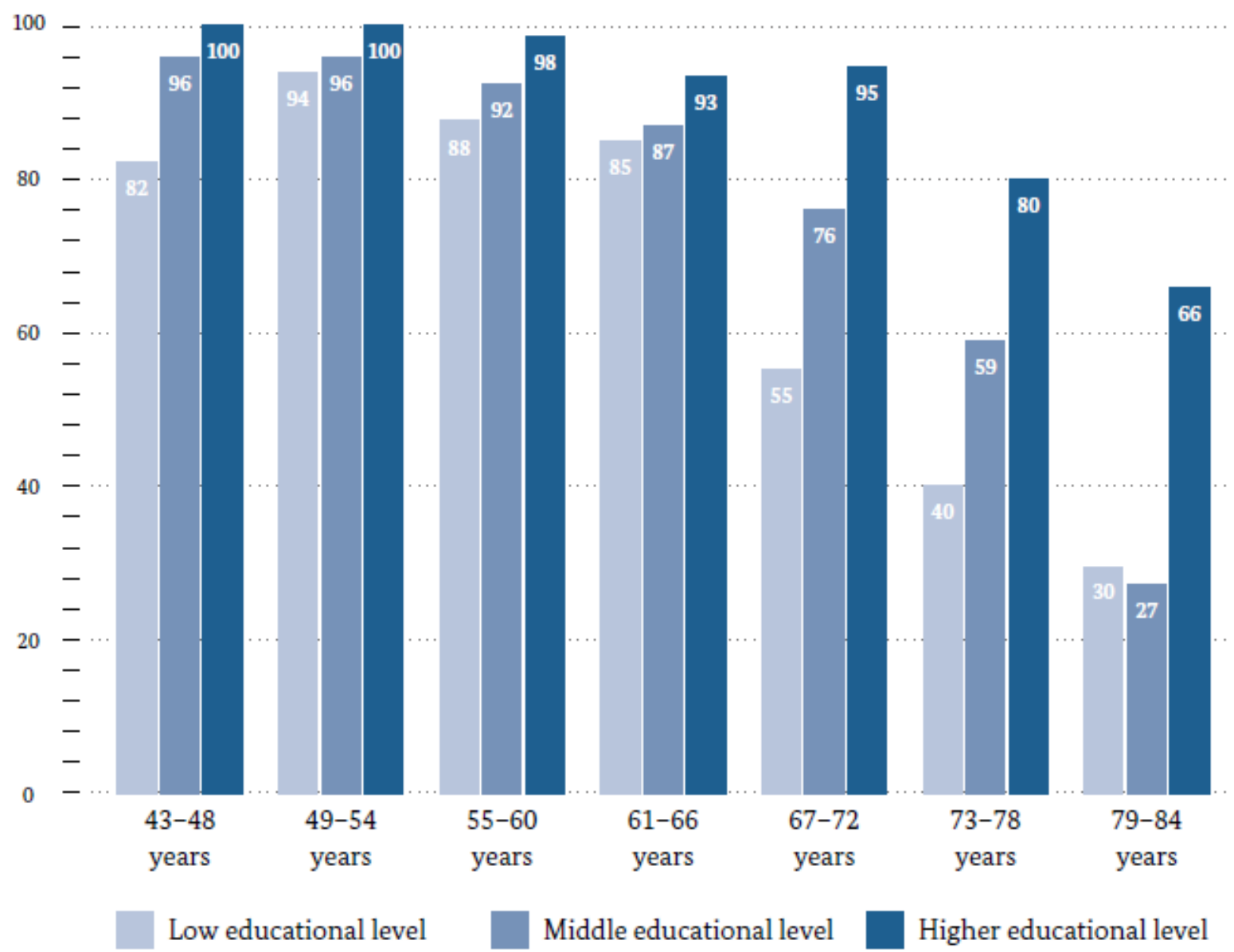


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© picture alliance / Zoonar | Robert Kneschke

# Proportion of people with access to the internet by age group and education (2017, in percent)



Source: Huxhold, O. and Otte K. (2019): Zugang zum Internet und Nutzung des Internets in der zweiten Lebenshälfte [Access to the internet and use of the internet in the second half of life]. DZA Aktuell. Berlin: Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen [German Centre of Gerontology]. Based on data from: DEAS 2017, weighted, (n = 5246). Retrieved from: Federal Government's Eighth Age Report "Older People and Digitisation", [https://www.achter-altersbericht.de/fileadmin/altersbericht/pdf/BMFSEJ-2020-01199\\_21x21\\_Senioren\\_eng\\_v7\\_BF.pdf](https://www.achter-altersbericht.de/fileadmin/altersbericht/pdf/BMFSEJ-2020-01199_21x21_Senioren_eng_v7_BF.pdf) (13.02.2021)

# (Digital) Education in Old Age



© picture alliance / Zoonar | Robert Kneschke

- New information and communication technologies (ICT)  
    ➡ **new development opportunities for older persons**
- New media skills and literacy in the digital technologies prerequisite for social participation in the **digital society**
- Promotion of **digital access and training**; including in the care sector
- Involvement of **older persons as co-developers of ICT**
- **Key improvement measures:** putting sufficient service structures in place at local levels; ensuring that flexible structures are established and affording older persons active opportunities for participation and design



# Activities of the German Federal Government III

## *-national: digitalization and education-*

- **Service center “Digitalization and Education for Older Persons”** as nationwide support structure at the Federal Association of Senior Citizens' Organizations (BAGSO)
- **Advisory council on “Digitalization and Education for Older Persons”**
- **Federal Government's Eighth Age Report “Older People and Digitization”<sup>1</sup>**
- **Project “Digital Angel”** - offers personal contact and digital support and knowledge to older persons

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.achter-altersbericht.de/fileadmin/altersbericht/pdf/BMFSFJ-2020-01199\\_21x21\\_Senioren\\_eng\\_v7\\_BF\\_.pdf](https://www.achter-altersbericht.de/fileadmin/altersbericht/pdf/BMFSFJ-2020-01199_21x21_Senioren_eng_v7_BF_.pdf)



# Activities of the German Federal Government IV

## *-EU: digitalization and education-*



### **Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU 2020:**

- **Joint online conference together with AGE Platform Europe and BAGSO** (the German civil society organization of senior citizens):  
*"Strengthening Older People's Rights in Times of Digitalization – Lessons learned from COVID-19"*<sup>2</sup>
- **Council Conclusions** on Human Rights, Participation and Well-Being of Older Persons in the Era of Digitalization<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9IGvgSCLQroWG6sbYoXeZ5Oxbxm--\\_6O](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9IGvgSCLQroWG6sbYoXeZ5Oxbxm--_6O)

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11717-2020-REV-2/en/pdf>



# International Policy for Senior Citizens

## **United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG-A)**

On Agenda since 2017:

- Discrimination in old age
- Violence, abuse and neglect in old age
- Right to long-term care and palliative care
- Right to autonomy and self determination
- Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity-building
- Social protection and social security

## **Second United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing**

adopted in Madrid in 2002 ([Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing - MIPAA](#))

[Ministerial Declaration](#) adopted by the 56 Member States at last UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon in 2017:

- Recognising the Potential of Older Persons
- Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work
- Ensuring Ageing with Dignity

# To conclude

- **“Human rights have no expiry date** and are not tied to a person’s age”<sup>4</sup>
- Exit strategies from the pandemic must **ensure that all people can participate** in cultural, economic and social life and no group is advantaged or disadvantaged.
- **Life-long learning** is a major guarantor of active and healthy ageing and social participation; **Literacy in the digital technologies** is a prerequisite for social participation in the digital society.
- **Technology must benefit the people** - however, technology can never replace face-to-face human contact.
- **International cooperation** is becoming increasingly important in view of the growing percentage of older persons worldwide. Germany therefore actively advocates for older persons in an international context.

<sup>4</sup> Documentation of the Online Conference “Strengthening Older People’s Rights in Times of Digitalisation”, Lessons learned from Covid-19 28–29 September 2020, available: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/jump/162666/en-documentation-eu-ageing2020-data.pdf> (retrieved 13.02.2021)



Thank you for your attention!