

International Expert-Conference on Human Rights of Older Persons

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Older Persons And Very Advanced Technologies

A contribution by Dirk Jarré
President of the European Federation of Older Persons –
EURAG

EURAG was founded in 1962 and is thus the oldest transnational organisation of and for senior citizens
It has institutional and individual members in 28 European countries

On Human Dignity

- “Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.”
- *Human dignity* means that an individual feels self-respect and self-worth. It is concerned with physical and psychological integrity and empowerment.

Fundamental Rights of Older Persons

- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union states in article 25: „The Union recognises and respects the rights of the elderly to lead a life of dignity and independence and to participate in social and cultural life”

Home Sweet Home

- At least 80% of the Europeans want to age at home
- They do not want to be placed into an institution
- Independence & self-determination are key for them
- Generally they may need service, help and support
- Assistance, surveillance and care may be necessary
- Available, qualified and willing personnel is lacking

“Home” is physical and social

- “At home” may be a complicated and unsafe place
- Dangers and limitations have to be overcome
- Safety systems and household services needed
- Advantages of tele-medicine and tele-care
- Support and servicing “on demand and just in time”
- The not-bad-tempered but understanding servant

Information, communication, participation

- Older persons do not want to be isolated and lonely
- Access to information is key for decision-making
- Inter-active learning should be an ongoing joyful process
- Communication for connectedness and participation
- Equality, participation, integration boost social cohesion
- Who to determine what is helpful for older persons?

Perspectives of artificial intelligence

- Digitalisation and robots are only the beginning
- Great progress in neuroscientific knowledge
- Artificial intelligence as partners of human beings
- High developed technologies in human services
- Very advanced individualisation of services
- The need of positive acceptance of cultural change

Cognitive potential of artificial intelligence

- Humanoid, manlike, imbedded intelligence can, in a technical sense, replace “Thinking”
 - It can perceive and detect facts and processes
 - It can interpret and assess information
 - It can learn and memorise extensively
 - It can predict and draw reasonable conclusions

How about the “dark” sides?

- Is it not just too much innovation for older persons?
- Will we be dominated and become dependent?
- Where is human closeness, warmth, understanding?
- What about access to & costs of such systems?
- Will privacy, data protection and control be an issue?
- Where to locate the overall responsibilities?

Final reflections

- Are human dignity and human rights endangered by AI?
- “I am somewhat afraid of artificial intelligence – but definitely I do not want to miss it!”
- How I hope that my old age will be organised
- **Thanks for your kind attention!**