

OPP: HOUSING & DAILY LIVING

Interdisciplinarity and multiprofessionality to improve housing counseling in Brandenburg

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Purpose Professional housing advice in Germany is intended to provide advice seekers and relatives with reactive or preventative information about the options for designing age-appropriate, independent and self-determined housing and living in order to strengthen individual lifestyles, social relationships and networks. In Brandenburg, housing advice services are distributed differently from region to region, and housing conditions also vary: Most elderly people in Brandenburg live in rented accommodation, and some are also affected by low incomes and pensions. It is discussed whether energy-efficient refurbishment and structural measures can contribute to climate protection and prevent the segregation of living space. Technology advice and digitalization is becoming established in Brandenburg. The applications offer technical solutions for an intelligent home as a whole and support individual areas of life. Internationally, studies on housing counseling focus on medical aspects (Carnemolla & Bridge, 2020). Housing counseling is complex and includes numerous dimensions (Retkowski & Glunde & Hilbig, 2024). Older people's individual life stories also shape the way they live - the biography-oriented advisory approach should respect their housing preferences. In this context, preventive counseling approaches such as preventive home visits, which aim to strengthen the resources of older people and promote health, are relevant. In the transfer of knowledge on questions of living practice such as housing (Ludwig, 2008), areas of tension in the provision of services of general interest, demographic change and transformation are addressed. Therefore, an interdisciplinary view that combines sound social expertise and specialist skills from various fields must be brought together in a multi-professional negotiation process. **Methods** In order to research the structures of housing advice in Brandenburg, a professional online search was carried out using databases and search engines to identify the structure, funding and sponsorship. Three different search strings and defined inclusion and exclusion criteria were used. In addition, individual aspects of housing advice, such as funding and training, were empirically examined in an exploratory preliminary study by means of a survey. A qualitative survey using guideline-based interviews is being planned to investigate the characteristics of success for interdisciplinary housing and living advice processes, including both the perspectives of those affected and the advisors. **Results and Discussion** Housing advice is not uniform in Brandenburg and is offered by 45 contact points of the care support centers by full-time employees as free, outreach or telephone advice. In addition, independent providers and craft businesses are also involved in the advisory process. The aim of the study is to develop a standardized concept for housing advice that takes account of structural change and includes how multi-professional advice skills can be networked on an interdisciplinary basis (Pflegestützpunkte Brandenburg, 2024; Andrews et al, 2007).

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