

Rosemarie Kurz

Born 1936 when Austria was in Austria Fascism my parents tended to National Socialism. Between 1938 and 1945 they worked in the education system in today's known country Slovenia. There were 4 gifted girls who suffered afterwards through the punishment which the parents had to endure because of their involvement with Hitler's system. I had the best survival skills! Looking at 23 different living places in 4 different countries and in 9 different schools during the 2nd world war I was extremely lucky to form my character so that I could survive wherever I was. One year in England as a domestic help I learned English thoroughly and is a good tool for all my doings up to now.

Having a teacher's trainings education, I was able to teach in different schools in Austria and Germany. Being married in 1961 I started my family life with my husband and two children with daughter and son. 1978 I left Germany and husband and started in Austria my own new life. The beginning was hard for the three of us, but the outcome is pleasing. I am still alive and having an enjoyable life. My children were studying law and technics and got good along in the modern world. There are 6 grandchildren – four girls and two boys in the twenties studying various interesting issues.

I retired with 52 and started studying at the Graz University. I loved and still love BILDUNG and education in every possible variety. 1999 I finished my PHD in Social Economics. My topic was "Chances and Opportunities for Socio-political Participation of Elderly Men and Women in Styrian Senior Citizens' Organizations between Expectations and Reality"!

While studying I worked as a speaker for the Austrian Student Union of the University Graz. It was very important to use my voice for the intergenerational issues. Later on I founded the institution GEFAS – GEFAS Styria Association for Promoting Gerontology and the Studies of Senior Citizens at Graz University. This was my tool to be able to deal with international projects being funded by the EU Commission. As GEFAS had no basic funding, I had to be extremely inventive.

2023 I am going to be 87 I still love doing things, I am still a net working person and so I became an influencer with 250 contacts for WhatsApp and Signal. My messages want to strengthen positive thinking!

RIPEN: R esearch, I nnovation, P articipation, E valuation, N etworking

Message for Young people: Enthusiasm, flexibility, humor and sticking to one's ideas in order to implement them!