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At a very old age Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev died in Russia on August 30 and Elizabeth II in Scotland on September 8, 2022. The once most powerful man in the Soviet Union was denied a state funeral, while hundreds of thousands of people lined the funeral procession of the English queen, who had no political power.

In these turbulent times – at least they have found their peace,
thinks

Oliver Schuster

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Impressum



The Hornbostel Family in Vienna's Evangelic Cemetery is the historical resting place from the time of Emperor k.u.k. Franz Joseph I.

The President of the k.k. Priv Ost Credit Institution for trade and commerce, born October 29, 1815, died June 2, 1888, as well as the k.u.k. Austrian opera singer, born Hamburg November 11, 1840, who died Vienna October 18, 1910, are buried with five other members in the Hornbostel family crypt from this era.

Mother Tongue German

Beyond Duden & Co.

One might think that countries that speak a common language would have no communication problems. The Irish poet George Bernard Shaw is credited with the phrase: »*England and America are two countries divided by a common language.*«

Oscar Wilde and Winston Churchill are also credited with saying: »*England and America are two countries divided by a common language*« according to another source.

A comparable *bon mot* is not known for the German language, although Austria and Switzerland, unlike Germany, each have their own characteristics: In order to recognize nut lettuce and lamb's lettuce as bird's lettuce, you would have to consult a trilingual dictionary for Swiss, Austrian and German. On

In the Vienna tram, the dogs have to wear a muzzle. That is probably why there is no gag order. The passengers are instructed: »Please hold on to yourself!« The German-German counterpart is simply: »Please hold on!« Very early on, buses and trains used to say: »Look for a firm footing when walking and standing.«

In Austria one often hears the sentence: »That goes itself fine.« In Germany, if everything goes well, people are content with a short sentence: »That's fine.«

The Viennese author Robert Sedlczek has listed more than 2,500 entries in the dictionary of everyday language in Austria. He found additional characteristics for the Viennese. In the edition of the *Wiener Zeitung* of September 2, 2022, in which Sedlczek regularly contributes language-related articles as a columnist for the feuilleton, he vehemently defended the double perfect as an Austrian peculiarity against the verdict of Germany's language policeman Bastian Sick*).

Colloquially, one would say: »I have had forgotten, then I have remembered.« Sedlczek would write, however: »I forgot, then I remembered.« He criticizes the double perfect as incorrect German in housewife jargon.

Over-the-top

Kanzlei-Deutsch, or rather the Austrian variant for legal-political texts, is particularly popular everywhere, in order to leave the reader with elitist formulations in the dark about the true meaning. Austria's more reputable newspapers sometimes write quite pompously.

The mayor has the right to arrogance and suspension, one learns in connection with the financial difficulties of the largest energy supplier in the country, while a panel of experts is trying to calm things down. The smoke candles are particularly popular in the health sector: Before the preparation is handed out, a check must be carried out and vaccination promises must be posted.



From the imperial period
Vienna fire station with Habsburg coat of arms.

***) Bastian Sick:** *Der Dativ ist dem Genitiv sein Tod. A guide through the maze of the German language.*

Kiepenheuer und Witsch, Köln
2004, ISBN 3-462-03448-0.

the other hand, the bag and tomato for *Sackerl* and *Paradeiser* are now so familiar to Austrians due to extensive television consumption of German channels that language purists are already concerned about the vanishing existence of Austro-German. It is not only the words, such as *Marillen* for apricots, *Carfiol* for cauliflower, *Fisolen* for beans and many more, that need to be translated, but also the grammar and the assigned gender can be used in different ways: You dip a (female) toe in the Danube – maybe in Vienna, but a (male) toe in the Neckar on the banks of Heidelberg.



k.u.k. etc. Imperial heritage all around in Vienna – the view from the roof top of the Palace of Justice: In front are the Parliament Building and on the right side the towers of the Municipal Hall and the Votiv-Church.

The Language: Kakanian

The examples are probably relics of Kakanian, the official language of Austria-Hungary, as it comes from the abbreviations for k.u.k, k.k. and k.u. as the courtly language was ironically called.

In the Habsburg dual monarchy of Austria and Hungary, both parts of the empire had their own government in their respective capitals, the imperial-royal ruled in Vienna (k.k.) and the royal-Hungarian in Budapest (k.u. also k.ung).

For foreign policy and the military there was also a common government in

Vienna, the imperial-royal government (k.u.k.); this abbreviation was also used to address imperial majesties.

One can imagine the effort that the bureaucrats undertook to in order to use the adequate language to clarify the differences between the institutions and at the same time to express the unity of the Habsburg monarchy.

This Kakanian legacy lives on linguistically in present Austria. □



Caro and Elli at the demonstration for the acceptance of European values

EU – the Community of Values

Live and Die with Dignity



The European Union wants to achieve harmony among the 27 member states in the healthcare sector. The procurement of the vaccine to curb the infectious disease COVID-19 was a step that benefited everyone in the EU. Furthermore, the European Parliament has passed a resolution to the Commission to advance the legalization of cannabis-based medicines. This will lift a taboo and help many pain patients. But there are still discrepancies when patients want to be relieved of the pain by medical suicide assistance instead of pain treatment.

The search for statements on humane dying, English: EUTHANASIA, on the website of the European Parliament yielded only nine hits, a long time ago with little meaning. The most recent mention took place in connection with the Croatian Council Presidency: On January 23, 2020, the Minister of Health Milan Kujundžić asked by the Committee for Environment and Health about food labeling, obesity, bottlenecks in medical care - and also about euthanasia in Croatia. His answer is not listed.

It should be taken into account that the English expression euthanasia in our time means medically accompanied suicide. In the BENELUX countries, the social consensus on medically assisted suicide is now so great that more and more people are taking advantage of this option.

It is therefore not appropriate to morally condemn the increase. The name of leading death association in Amsterdam is without the slightest reservation quite naturally: NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING VOOR VRIJWILLE EUTHANASIA (Dutch Union for Voluntary Euthanasia).

In German-speaking countries, euthanasia has become a bad word as a result of the murders of the physically and physically ill by the National Socialists. They were killed under the pretext of relieving the residents of a »life unworthy of living« with a nice death – the meaning of the Greek word euthanasia. The letter of authorization dated September 1, 1939 states: »That, according to human judgment, incurably ill patients can be granted mercy death if their condition is critically assessed.«

Germany's psychiatric clinics became death factories. Between 1941 and 1945 more than 15,000 people were killed in what was then the Hadamar state sanatorium in Hesse alone. The death certificates were forged; having their own registry office avoided reporting to the municipal authorities and buried the mortal remains in mass graves camouflaged as individual graves in the institution's cemetery.

In Hadamar is one of the central Nazi memorials in the state of Hesse. Since 1991, it has commemorated the Nazi crimes of euthanasia. <https://www.gedenkstaette-hadamar.de/> □

Two of the smaller EU countries are singled out for their attitude towards assisted suicide, both of which are considered to be tolerant societies with high social standards. Since the Reformation, they have had a Protestant-influenced ethic in common. However, when it comes to assisted suicide, Denmark and the Netherlands show opposite behavior.

The Netherlands

Euthanasia has been legal since 2002. The detailed annual report for 2021 of

annual report by Coordinating Chair Mr Jeroen Recourt are cited:

»In 2021, the regional control commissions for euthanasia received 7,666 notifications of euthanasia. In seven cases, the commissions came to the conclusion that the doctor had not acted in accordance with the due care criteria. This is why it can again be stated this year that euthanasia is carried out with great care in the Netherlands.

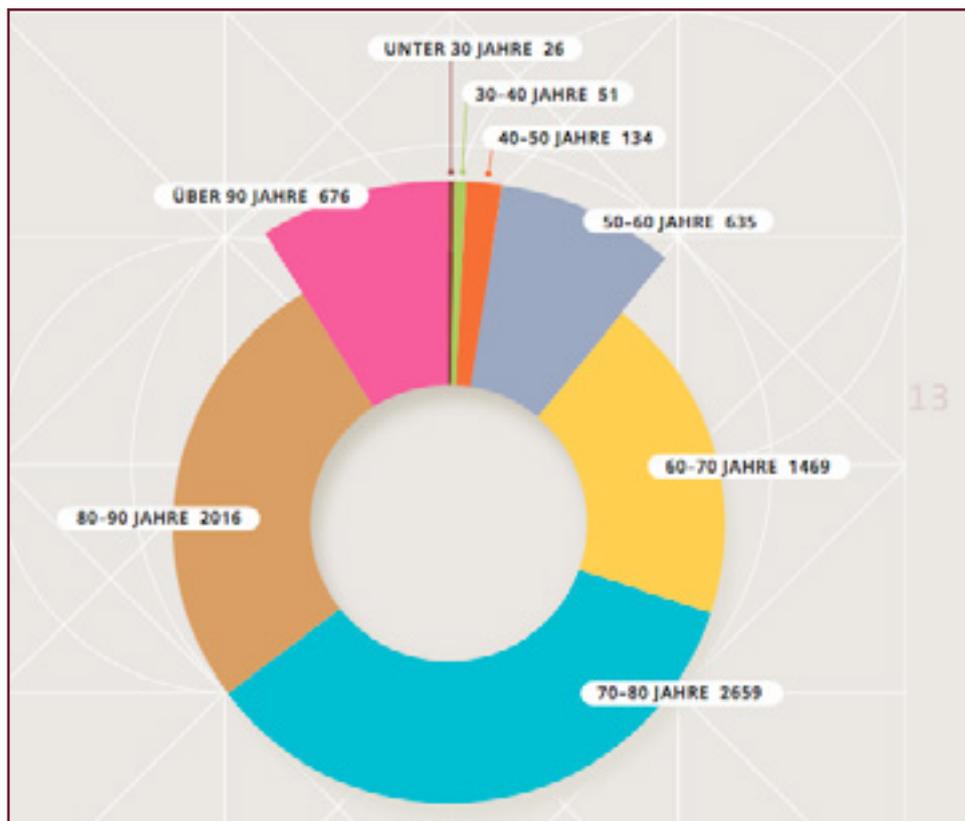
The social and political debate on the subject of euthanasia did not fall silent in 2021 either. The commissions stay out

Criminal or legal

My Will, my Way: Equal Rights in the EU

My will, my way, translated in Luxembourgish language is called: MÄI WËLLEN, MÄI WEE (MWMW.lu),

the institution for legal euthanasia. Association pour le Droit de Mourir dans la dignité Lëtzebuerg a.s.b.l.



Die Altersstruktur der Menschen, die 2021 in den Niederlanden das gesetzlich verbiefte Recht einer medizinisch assistierten Sterbebegleitung in Anspruch nahmen.

the Regional Control Commissions on Euthanasia is available in English, German, French and Spanish, in addition to the national language, translated by the Language Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

See www.euthanasiacommissie.nl
Essential excerpts from the 70-page

of this debate. The reported cases of euthanasia (7,666) increased by 10.5 percent in 2021 compared to the previous year. The proportion of the total number of deaths (170,839) has thus also increased, it is now 4.5 percent compared to 4.1 percent in 2020.

Corona infection was only mentioned in a few cases as a factor that contributed to the patient's suffering in addition to another serious illness. The excess mortality as a result of the corona pandemic has (virtually) not increased the number of cases of euthanasia.«



Denmark

Svend Lings, formerly chief physician at Odense University Hospital, was sentenced to 40 days in prison in 2018, later extended to 60 days. He had accompanied two people as they died and helped a third attempt suicide. The 81-year-old retired doctor founded the association *Læger for Aktiv Dødsbøje* (Doctors for Assisted Death) in 2015, which campaigns for the legalization of euthanasia in Denmark. Medically-assisted suicide is illegal in Denmark, but disseminating information about suicide methods is not. The doctor challen-

ged the verdict and went all the way to the European Court of Human Rights (ECJ) in Strasbourg because he saw his freedom of expression in the dissemination of suicide assistance information as being infringed.

His objection was not upheld because he did not write general instructions but specific instructions for these patients and provided the medication for them. In April 2022, the seven-member jury in Strasbourg took the view that the European Convention could not force member states to allow assisted suicide or assisted suicide.

There is a long way to go before everyone in the European Union has the right to a dignified, self-determined death. The WORLD FEDERATION OF RIGHT TO DIE SOCIETIES (WFRtDS) will discuss this topics at its conference in Toronto, Canada in October 2022. □

Impressum

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