

Digital technologies for older populations (DigiTechOP)

Concept Paper for Online Series



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Background

Personalized healthcare is a priority goal in Luxembourg and at a global level. Digital technologies are the adequate platform for delivering personalized healthcare primarily because it involves relatively low costs while a wide population can be reached simultaneously. Through the periodic collection, storage, and automatic evaluation of digital data, for example, via smartwatches, wristbands, or smartphones, healthcare can become personalized. However, transitioning toward personalized healthcare through digital technologies may have unwanted negative consequences on the health of vulnerable populations if their experience and healthcare needs are insufficiently addressed. Vulnerable populations such as older people are at danger of being left behind resulting in increased health and socio-economic inequalities.

Problem and Goal

The society is currently digitally divided. Younger generations habitually use digital technologies and have structural opportunities to becoming digitally literate, for instance, in schools or through targeted policies. Meanwhile, older generations must re-invent themselves involving, for example, updating their skill set and accepting and willing to accept healthcare delivered through technologized modalities. Self-actualization at an old age might convey an unwanted normative undertone for older individuals adding the burden of self-responsibility on the ageing individuals themselves. Transitioning toward a digitalized society where healthcare is personalized involves not only an infrastructure including Internet coverage and affordable hardware such as smartphones and computers but, also the adequate digital skills to benefit from these, which most older people still lack today.

This online series aims to inform, educate, and provide hands-on knowledge to populations of older people. The focus is on digital health technologies while digital technology in general is discussed as a motor for

sustainable societal change having an impact on the life experience, health, and healthcare needs of older individuals. Six general domains are covered:

1. **Implementation.** This section addresses practical examples and policies targeting the use and adoption of digital health technologies/ digital technologies for and by older people.
2. **Acceptance.** This section discusses psychological mechanisms and factors influencing the decision to accept, use, and adopt digital technologies for and by older people.
3. **Socio-cultural determinants.** This section addresses societal and cultural factors that impact the acceptance, use, and adoption of digital health technologies/ digital technologies for and by older people.
4. **Healthy ageing.** This section discusses the specifics of digital health technologies/ digital technologies aiming to improve the healthy ageing of older people.
5. **Security and privacy.** This section discusses ethical and legal aspects associated with the use, adoption, and implementation of digital technologies by and for older people.
6. **User design and determinism.** This section addresses potential biases and the co-creating of age and ageing arising at the stage of (co-)creating digital health technologies/ digital technologies for older people.

Approach

Content for the online series is created from multiple disciplines including the social sciences, health sciences, ethics and law, and science and technology. Content is created by experts in the field and is evidence-based. The emphasis is on creating content that is easily accessible primarily for older individuals, non-academics, and, in general, non-experts in the field.

Format

Local and international experts are invited to share their expertise, experience, and recommendations. This is recorded at the UL Media Center in a professional setting involving a green screen, cameras, and prompters, followed by professional post-editing. Recordings of max. 5 minutes each are planned.

One recording follows the talk show format. The guest expert is interviewed by Prof. Dr. STANCIU, or another member of the core team, in view of a pre-established set of questions. Subsequent recordings (exact number decided bilaterally with the guest expert) follows the presentation format. The guest expert presents state of the art findings, addresses timely debates, or shares their experience in the field.

Copyright and Compensation

The recordings are made publicly available under a CC BY-NC 4.0 license¹ on the Internet and/ or used as media resources in workshops, presentations, and, generally, for education purposes and outreach campaigns involving older people.

Guest experts are provided with the final and editable recordings so they may use as they deem fit. The involvement of the University of Luxembourg (MEDIACentre), GoldenMe, and Prof. Dr. Adrian STANCIU must be credited accordingly.

There is no financial compensation involved.

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