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Older people and technological innovations

Conference Item

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Title of presentation: **OPT-in (Older People and Technological innovations)**

Conference theme: **Ageing and Technology**

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Preferred type of presentation: oral

Summary:

Over the last 20 years computers, the internet and mobile phones have taken a central role in changing how people communicate and share information. Whilst many older people have adopted ICT innovations in their everyday lives, initiatives aimed at helping people understand and use new technologies usually occur after the product has been designed and the area of application pre determined. Older people then often struggle to learn how to use them. This presentation will demonstrate how a pan European life long learning project aims to increase the:

- confidence of older people to use diverse technologies in daily life
- opportunities for older people to engage with existing, new and emerging technologies
- use of technology as a medium that enhances older people's opportunities to be fully engaged citizens in local, national, European and global society

We question whether existing pedagogic approaches are the best way of enabling older people to learn about and use new technologies. This presentation will therefore describe alternative learning activities that are being developed, including:

- Technological playgrounds where older learners can actively engage with a wide variety of prototype and emerging technologies
- Simulation centres where older learners can engage with new technologies that have been developed for use in health and social care.
- Workshops exploring innovative ways of interacting with computers that use tactile, mobile, portable and pervasive technologies.
- Learning exchanges where older learners across Europe can share their experiences of using and playing with new technologies.