



Mutual Learning Platform

Housing

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Technology for housing

In housing policies a goal is to keep older people in their homes:

- technological devices can support care and home services
- they start from the specific needs and perspectives of the user
- they let older people participate in the development and implementation of effective and useful solutions



Effective technology

To be effective, technology must be:

- comprehensible, understandable and clear on what it is for
- adapted to individuals (specific needs) and to social contexts (region, country, culture)
- combined with human-based services
- affordable for each individual so that it can be used by everybody



Inclusive urban planning

Architectural urban planning can play a key role in housing policies:

- it thinks buildings and neighborhoods together
- it makes older people more autonomous and promotes their socializing
- it facilitates intergenerational dialogue through inclusive design
- it can overcome many diversities (of age, social and economic backgrounds, ethnicity, gender)
- the inclusion is for the whole society, not only for older people



Robotics & housing

Technologies can serve as support to other services, human-based services:

- Robotics can help elderly in their daily life (house cleaning and personal hygiene support)
- the acceptance of robots by the elderly is also related to where older people live
- in some parts of Europe robots are welcome, while in some others they are not
- in Japan, robots are preferred to humans for some care services
- it is a matter of both individual attitude and cultural context



Digital divide and the next generation

- In the current society there is a negative representation of older people as non users of technologies. The younger person is considered the typical internet user
- Also the elderly assess themselves as not capable of engaging with technology
- The representation of older people as technology non users must change
- In the next 20 to 30 years we will see interconnectivity increase over time. Older people will be the protagonists
- We need to think out of the box: make technology simple and accessible and let the elderly communicate with the other age groups and contribute to society