

Working Group 3 (WG3) Technology and Innovation

The PAAR-NET COST Action emphasises knowledge co-production through participatory approaches with older adults in research, policymaking, and practice. Working Group 3 (WG3) focuses on addressing the social exclusion deriving from **digital divide** and barriers to **technology access** and use among older adults. This includes lack of digital competence, limited access to appropriate hardware and software, and addressing usability challenges.

We aim to:



Explore barriers to technology use and support the inclusion of older adults through innovative solutions, user-led processes, and co-creation.

Facilitate inclusive digital literacy initiatives to empower older adults to confidently use technology.

Advocate for equitable access to technological resources for older adults in diverse settings, including communities and institutions.



Challenges are:

Digital exclusion: Limited access to technological devices and digital tools, coupled with insufficient training opportunities among/for older adults,

Complexity of technology: Poor usability and inaccessible design not adapted to cognitive, sensory, and motor needs,

Bias in innovation: Lack of consideration of older adults' lived experiences and feedback during the design and implementation stages.

Opportunities are:

Empowering older adults: Designing inclusive solutions that build confidence and interest by supporting older adults' agency in navigating digital tools,

Bridging intergenerational gaps: Leveraging intergenerational collaboration to foster reciprocal learning and innovation,

Promoting adaptive technologies: Encouraging the development of flexible, accessible, and assistive technology solutions.

Implications are:

Co-create digital strategies: Develop solutions in collaboration with older adults by applying their specific challenges and aspirations,

Increase accessibility: Promote universal design principles to ensure technologies and innovations are accessible to all, considering local and cultural challenges,

Build digital literacy programs: Provide tailored training and support for older adults to build digital competence and confidence in using new technologies,

Advocate for policy change: Encourage investment and policies that support inclusive technology access and digital inclusion for older adults.

