

Social Research Call

Title:

*Intentions and behaviours of using digital health technology by older adults:
Collaborative research*



Acronym: Time-to-Engage

Project leader: Elzbieta Bobrowicz-Campos

Host organisation: Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon

Main purpose of the project: Time-to-Engage explores individual and contextual factors that interfere with the intention to use digital technologies in health by citizens in advanced age. It also aims at understanding how these factors are shaped by levels of digital competencies and engagement and by availability, accessibility, and affordability of digital equipment.

Design/methodology/approach: Time-to-Engage will use an original survey, built upon the conceptual framework elaborated and validated upon older adults' views on the topic. In the construction process, the 10th European Social Survey findings on socio-cultural determinants of digital health behaviours will also be considered. Data collected will be used to inform an explanatory model.

Potential results: Time-to-Engage will allow to identify and understand different profiles of intention to use digital technologies in healthcare and, based on the generated knowledge, to elaborate guidelines for person-centred and context-adapted community interventions that promote behavioural change. The translation of project results into action will involve community partners.

Social relevance of the research: By approaching the digital transformation-related challenges in advanced age from a new angle, which recognizes the diversity of mobilized adaptive responses and explores the associated factors, Time-to-Engage allows a more in-depth analysis of possible paths to digital inclusion and, from there, a definition of evidence-based solutions for digital health equity.

Originality/value of the project: Time-to-Engage has the ambition to leverage civic participation in the implementation of digital health, placing digital rights and principles at the centre of the discussion and providing concrete measures to reduce digital divide. It also intends to add value to ageing-focused research, recognizing older adults as active agents in society.