



## Older People and Technological Innovations

Over the last 20 years computers, the internet and mobile phones have taken a central role in changing how people communicate and share information.

Older people are afraid of technology but if you use technology to ring your son, that's not technology, it's a phone

Walter Harris  
1 Dec, 2008 BBC News Channel



### What is the *OPT-in* project?

The *OPT-in* project, launched in August 2009, is a European partnership involving the UK, Slovenia, Germany and the Netherlands.

The project is led by a team from The Open University including: Nursing, Health & Social Care and the Centre for Widening Participation and involves collaboration with Age Concern Milton Keynes and colleagues from the Faculty of Maths, Computing and Technology.

#### The 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 to enhance older peoples' opportunities to participate in local, national, European and global society

### Older people will visit other European countries to explore new technologies

This partnership offers a unique opportunity for older people and their supporters from Age Concern Milton Keynes to participate in learning opportunities through the use of:

*Technological playgrounds*: to play with a wide variety of new and emerging technologies

*Simulation centres*: to see how technologies can enable a range of healthcare interventions to be self-managed

*Workshops*: to explore innovative ways of interacting with computers that use new and developing tactile, mobile and portable technologies.

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