

S.M. KAIJANEN, L.I. STENBERG. *Establishment of a permanent NGO 'Technology for the Elderly Centre': New innovation supporting the good everyday life of the elderly.* *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(suppl):40s; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.908.00

Purpose The purpose of a 'Technology for the Elderly Centre' is to assemble and share information and experiences related to technology for the elderly. The centre is a unique and new innovative construction with the roots in the insight, that a facilitator for the involvement of the elderly in technology development is crucial. The main goal is that the elderly be full members of the technology society and that they are aware of the opportunities of technology and digitalization. The centre was established 2015 and is a part of the work of Valli, the Finnish Union for Senior Services and is financed by Finland's Slot Machine Association RAY. **Method** The centre promotes the collaboration between different operators, and influences the needs of elderly users being taken into consideration in technological development work, and in social discussions. The technology centre has four main working areas: (i) It collects and distributes information, know-how, experiences and methods related to elderly technology through the involvement of the elderly themselves; (ii) It increases collaboration and coordinates networks between organizations, experts, and developers, (iii) It develops and distributes good practices of elderly technology, and (iv) It offers its expertise to governmental bodies and agencies on questions like utilization of technology and the digitalization of services. The Center organizes events and discussions for the elderly¹. **Results & Discussion** To accomplish involvement of the elderly in the technology society we need to solve how to implement a more age-friendly attitude within communities and society. A finding of the KÄKÄTE-project² was, that there is a need for a specific independent and non-governmental organization which can influence both the governmental bodies and the big audience³. By participating in discussion and interaction where elderly meet the politicians and technology developers, old people have an opportunity to point out their own opinions and needs. Finnish Government's high priority project at date is digitalization. This is an area where the elderly are not sufficiently involved. In 2016 only 30% on Finnish elderly (age 74+) have access to the digital services⁴. When slowly most of public services are being provided by digital means, the expectations towards the elderly's relatives is overemphasized. In addition it leads to an increased need for an age-friendly consultative approach and support⁵. By pointing out the elderly's opinions and networking with different kinds of bodies, including companies and non-governmental organizational, the 'Technology for the Elderly Centre' can make an influence on how the elderly be full members of the technology society.

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