

## POSTER BCONNECT@HOME

### 1) Impact on civil society

The long-term goal of **Being Connected at Home** is to enable diverse older people to make sense of relevant digital resources for their everyday life use. In Dutch, Spanish, Swedish and Canadian “Academic Work Places” they develop co-design methodologies while working together with other stakeholders, such as policy makers, (ICT)companies and researchers. These methodologies allow for *ecologically valid* solutions that increase the potential of older adults as a diverse group to make use of a rich choice of infrastructures and digital devices. Older people’s own interpretation of their needs and expectations will be used as a starting point to emancipate from stereotyped limitations underlying innovation and design for older users. In this way, **Being Connected at Home** will help reduce the burden of loneliness and social isolation in later life. Disseminating examples and images of older persons as active agents of technological change, will be an important step to balance current stereotypes of technological ineptness and frailty. We will provide insight to policy makers and (ICT)companies to get closer to a more realistic image of older consumers. The insights of **Being Connected at Home** will allow us to connect older people in a more efficient and effective way in order to realize impact on their wellbeing.

### 2) Summary:

This project addresses a research gap by exploring and theorizing the role of digital communication devices, such as smartphones (that will be tracked), tablets, PCs, apps, fitness trackers and “brain games”, in relation to the modern life course of diverse older people. These insights will be made actionable through co-design by involving older people and other relevant stakeholders in “Academic Work Places” in The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Canada. We contextualize this by debates around ageing in place, loneliness and social isolation, and the idea that these are age-related challenges requiring interventions. The potential of such interventions has so far not been realized because the complexities of human-machine interactions are both under-theorised and over-instrumentalised in technology projects. New devices to stimulate social connectedness need to be based on a fine-grained understanding of digital use as an integral element in the contemporary experience of being connected.

### 3) Consortium:

The consortium consist of 4 partners: Utrecht University (the Netherlands), Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain), KTH Stockholm (Sweden) and Trent University (Canada). These partners will deliver four Work Packages, each of which links and ties to the Academic Work Places in the participating countries: **1. Tracking older people’s mobile use, 2. Digital lives of older people, 3. Digital infrastructures of health and ageing and 4. Academic Work Places for the digital life course.**