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Ways Out Of Social Isolation For Older People In The Context Of New Media

CONNECT-ED – A Project to Improve
Social Participation

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
	References	5
2	Background	7
2.1	Lifeworld Orientation as a Point of Reference for Social Work with the Elderly	7
2.2	Social Isolation and Loneliness in Old Age	10
2.3	The Concept of Age	14
2.3.1	The Calendrical Age	14
2.3.2	Age as a Subjectively Perceived Variable	16
2.3.3	Age as a Social Category	16
2.3.4	Age Images and Age Stereotypes	17
2.4	The Digital Divide	18
2.4.1	The Digital Age Gap	19
2.4.2	The Digital Gender Gap	21
	References	23
3	Learning in Old Age and Education for the Elderly	29
3.1	Education of the Elderly/Geragogy	30
3.2	Main Features of a Social-Geragogical Perspective	32
	References	34
4	The CONNECT-ED Project	37
4.1	The Basic Conceptual Idea	37
4.2	Preparation, Structure and Procedure of the Course Series	39
4.2.1	Consideration of Age- and Gender-Sensitive Didactics	39

4.2.2	Recruitment of Participants	40
4.2.3	The Learning Setting	41
4.2.4	Procedure of the Digital Media Training Courses	41
References	43
5	Research Concerns/Methodology	45
5.1	Standardised Written Surveys	46
5.2	Overt Participant Observations	48
5.3	Group Discussions	48
5.4	Network Cards	49
References	52
6	Project Results	55
6.1	Description of the Total Sample: Socio-Demographic Characteristics	56
6.1.1	Gender	56
6.1.2	Age	56
6.1.3	Physical Impairments	59
6.1.4	Marital Status	59
6.1.5	Formal Educational Attainment	59
6.1.6	Individual Net Income	61
6.1.7	Origin	62
6.1.8	Experience with the Internet	63
6.1.9	Life Satisfaction	65
6.1.10	Summary	66
6.2	Satisfaction with the Digital Media Training and the Course Experience	69
6.2.1	Satisfaction with the Course Design	69
6.2.2	Satisfaction with the Support during the Courses	69
6.2.3	Satisfaction with Individual Aspects of the Course Experience	70
6.3	Assessment of Digital Competences after the End of the Course Series	73
6.4	Developing New Contacts	76
6.5	Evaluation of the Network Cards	78
6.5.1	Description of the Sub-Sample by Gender, Age and Marital Status	79
6.5.2	Description of the Implementation	80
6.5.3	Contact Gains of All in a Time Comparison	80
6.6	Effectiveness and Benefits of the Concept of Encounter	89

6.6.1	Changes in Individual Life Situations	89
6.6.2	Well-being before the Start of the Course and after the End of the Course	90
6.7	Evaluation of the Group Interviews	94
6.7.1	Perception of the Digital Transformation in Relation to Lifeworlds	96
6.7.1.1	Compulsion to Use the Internet	96
6.7.1.2	Wanting to Learn New Things	98
6.7.1.3	Maintaining Family Contacts	99
6.7.1.4	Facing the Unknown Medium	99
6.7.1.5	Old Versus New Worlds of Knowledge	100
6.7.1.6	The Loss of the Personal Through Emails Versus the Internet as a Medium for Maintaining Contact	101
6.7.2	Gender-Specific Differences in Motives for Participation	103
6.7.3	Conclusion of the Group Discussions	107
6.8	Typology of Primary Participation Interest and Social Behaviour in the Social-Geragogical Setting	109
6.8.1	The Four Learning Types	111
6.8.2	Gender-Specific Observations	114
6.8.3	Relevance of the Typology for the Learning Setting	114
6.9	Summary of the Results	115
	References	118
7	Transfer into Practice and Outlook	121
7.1	CONNECT-ED as a Standard Offer	122
7.2	Conceptual Adjustments in Practice	123
7.3	Outlook	126
	Reference	127

List of Figures

Fig. 2.1	Proportion of women and men aged 65 and over living alone in Germany in 2019. (Source: Own figure based on data from the Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020, p. 105)	13
Fig. 2.2	Digital participation of over 60s in percent/DIVSI 2016. (Source: Own figure based on data from DIVSI 2016, p. 11)	20
Fig. 3.1	Geragogy at the interface between gerontology and education/ science of education. (Source: Own figure according to Kricheldorff, 2018, p. 47)	31
Fig. 4.1	Course series CONNECT-ED.	41
Fig. 4.2	General procedure of an individual training course on media competence CONNECT-ED	42
Fig. 5.1	Bare network card.	50
Fig. 5.2	Project modules of CONNECT-ED	51
Fig. 6.1	Participants in CONNECT-ED, absolute and relative frequencies by gender.	57
Fig. 6.2	Educational attainment of participants in percent.	60
Fig. 6.3	Educational attainment of participants, shares in the respective gender group	61
Fig. 6.4	Individual net income, shares in the respective gender group	63
Fig. 6.5	Yes, I have little PC knowledge, relative frequencies of the respective age group	64
Fig. 6.6	Internet usage of those who owned an end device in percent.	65
Fig. 6.7	How satisfied are you with your life at present? Total group in percent.	66
Fig. 6.8	How did you like the course? Total group in percent	70

Fig. 6.9	How well have you been looked after? Total group in percent	71
Fig. 6.10	Have you been able to improve your computer skills? Total group in percent	74
Fig. 6.11	Were you able to make new contacts through CONNECT-ED? Total group in percent	76
Fig. 6.12	Will the Internet competence you have acquired help you in this? Total group in percent.	77
Fig. 6.13	Example 1 of a balanced social network/described network card, survey t_1	81
Fig. 6.14	NCS evaluation of example 1 at survey time t_1	82
Fig. 6.15	Example 2 of an unbalanced social network/described network card, survey t_1	83
Fig. 6.16	NCS evaluation of example 2 at survey time t_1	84
Fig. 6.17	Example 3: NCS survey time t_1	85
Fig. 6.18	Example 3: NCS survey time t_2	86
Fig. 6.19	Summary of results NCS contact gain (t_1/t_2) per sector/female participants	87
Fig. 6.20	Summary of results NCS contact gain (t_1/t_2) per sector/male participants	88
Fig. 6.21	Changes in the individual life situation, total group in percent	91
Fig. 6.22	Changes in individual life situation, relative frequencies by gender	92
Fig. 6.23	Comparison of the average well-being before and after the end of the course, different categories in percent	93
Fig. 6.24	CONNECT-ED result chain	94
Fig. 6.25	Coding scheme for the participation motive “Securing social participation”	108
Fig. 6.26	Typology of “primary interest in participation” and “interaction behaviour”	110
Fig. 7.1	Implementation of CONNECT-ED.	124
Fig. 7.2	Elements and further development of CONNECT-ED.	125

List of Tables

Table 2.1	Digital index by gender in the 4 index pillars	22
Table 3.1	Subject areas of adult education and social work	33
Table 5.1	WHO-5 questionnaire	47
Table 6.1	Age structure of participants, absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total.	57
Table 6.2	Age distribution in the training locations, absolute frequencies by gender and total.	58
Table 6.3	Marital status of participants, absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total.	60
Table 6.4	Individual net income, absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total.	62
Table 6.5	PC prior knowledge, absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total.	64
Table 6.6	PC/tablet/smartphone ownership before course start, absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	65
Table 6.7	Overview participant group CONNECT-ED	68
Table 6.8	Overall evaluation of tablet training, total group in percent	72
Table 6.9	Have you been able to improve your computer skills? Absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	74
Table 6.10	Ownership of an end device at the beginning and after the end of the course, absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	74
Table 6.11	Do you use the Internet independently? Absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	75

Table 6.12	What do you use the Internet for? Absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	75
Table 6.13	Were you able to deepen these contacts? Absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	76
Table 6.14	Do you want to continue maintaining contacts? Absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	77
Table 6.15	NCS sample, absolute and relative frequencies by age cohorts and gender and total	79
Table 6.16	NCS sample, absolute and relative frequencies by age cohorts and marital status and total	79
Table 6.17	Has your individual life situation changed as a result of participating in the course? Absolute and relative frequencies by gender and total	90
Table 6.18	Proportion of women and men in relation to the respective number of participants within the four types	114



Introduction

1

Abstract

The introduction briefly describes the connection between digital exclusion and possible social isolation of older people, outlines the objective of the research-practice project CONNECT-ED and gives a short overview of the contents of the individual book chapters.

This book presents the BMBF-funded research-practice project “*CONNECT-ED—Ways out of social isolation through encounters in the context of new media. A project to improve the social participation of older people*”. Based on findings from various disciplines, the project, which was carried out from 2017 to 2019 at Kiel University of Applied Sciences, took a look at two possible intertwined problem areas in the living situations of older people aged 65 and over, namely social isolation and digital exclusion, in a living environment that is increasingly changing due to digitalisation. The aim was to test a life-world-oriented, target-group specific concept of encounter that promotes social integration, “networks” people with each other in both senses of the word, and thus sustainably improves their quality of life. The teaching of media competence was the central intervention and served as a door opener for social encounters for the participating practice partners in senior citizen work. Through the project partnership, they received targeted support in setting up easy accessible learning sites for training the media skills of older people who are inexperienced with the Internet.

Digitisation is a megatrend that now permeates almost all spheres of life, has prompted globally significant innovations and serious processes of change, and