

Centre for Collaborative Innovation in Dementia

Research-innovation – co-creating sustainable solutions.

The Centre for Collaborative Innovation in Dementia is a Liverpool City Region Research-Innovation asset. The Centre arose out of the successes of the Innovate Dementia project. This project, which started in 2012 and completed successfully in 2015, was a 5.4-million-euro transnational project consisting of partners from the UK, Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium. The central aim of the project was to engage with people living with dementia to develop innovative ways of addressing their everyday challenges. The UK project team worked with people living with dementia, the business sector – SMEs and multinational companies, other academics, and commissioners and providers of services. Transnationally ‘over 15 innovations were brought to the market’ (<http://www.innovatedementia.eu/en/about-innovate-dementia>). The work of the project was based on a robust participatory engagement process, also known as a living lab. In 2013 the Centre for Collaborative Innovation in Dementia at LJMU was established. The Centre’s ‘living lab’ was assessed and accredited by the European Network of Living labs (ENoLL) in 2014.



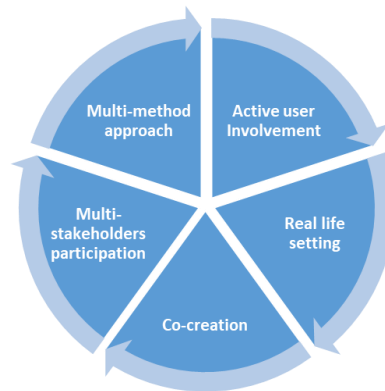
“Living Labs (LLs) are defined as user-centred, open innovation ecosystems based on systematic user co-creation approach, integrating research and innovation processes in real life communities and settings” (<https://enoll.org/about-us/>).

The Centre has widened its reach by working with co-creation groups across health and social care, this work is not always condition specific, it can be international; however, it is always grounded within the needs of the most vulnerable in society. The civic intention of the Centre is to facilitate people living with a health-related condition to develop sustainable solutions to their everyday challenges, while evaluating the real-world effectiveness of these solutions. Since 2012, the Centre has worked in partnership with both national and international partners on several research-to-innovation projects, securing nearly £20 million of funding. During the delivery of these projects, the Centre has produced over eighty diverse research-to-innovation outputs.

The common theme underpinning this work is one of user-centric innovation, methodologically structured through a Living Lab (citizen science) approach and contextualised by its application to the health field. Examples include the co-creation of apps, services, web portals, and MedTech, to the development of a new way of evaluating innovations – real world validation. The value of co-creating can be summarised as (Frow et al., 2016):

- Full and active involvement of all
- The equal sharing of resources and knowledge
- Developing sustainable innovations
- Contributes to the well-being of citizens

To ensure positive outcomes the living lab process is underpinned by the following principles (Cerbova, 2018):



Currently the Centre is pioneering a new methodological approach to health innovation – real world validation through its involvement in the Liverpool Health Matters Project. This ERDF funded project aims to accelerate innovation and growth by supporting SMEs in the region to better understand, work with and sell to the health and social care markets. The project provides mechanisms to validate the benefits of an innovation in a practical (real-world) setting. The Centre team working on Health Matters project validate health innovations that are in different stages of their development and have a different level of evidence. Some are at a **pre-market stage** and have deficient evidence of their effectiveness and health outcomes. They are still in the stage of describing logically, coherently, and convincingly what are they do. Another group of SMEs have already launched their innovations to the market, they're on a **growth phase** and have collected some data. This group of SMEs that are already in the market and have already conducted some form of evaluation of their products and services can demonstrate a reasonable level of evidence showing that their innovation can induce some change, but they cannot prove that their innovation caused that change. Finally, the innovations that are on a **maturity stage** are the ones that have been faithfully replicated in different contexts demonstrating advanced levels of evidence of their effectiveness, positive outcomes, and even efficacy. In these cases, we design a protocol to demonstrate that an innovation can be scaled up, whilst continuing to have a positive and direct impact on the health outcome, whilst remaining a financially viable proposition.

Building on the Centre's reputation within the Living Lab and RWV fields the Centre is the academic partner of a NIHR-funded project "CYP as One". The research programme aims to co-design and use real-world data to determine the effectiveness of a digital single point of integrated access into specialist provision in Liverpool and Sefton. This project centrally involves children and young people, parents and staff and is led by Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust.

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