

Project 14: Digital social security in old age: Digitalised welfare institutions for ageing European societies

This dissertation project documents case studies of digital welfare services for older Europeans. It evaluates the experiences of older Europeans with such welfare digitalisation, and it develops a theoretical framework of country differences in governmental strategies on inclusive access to digitalised welfare institutions in old age. This dissertation uses qualitative methods, such as case studies, policy analysis, document analysis, and/or expert interviews.

Host institution: LUT University, Finland

Preferred start date: October 2026

Contract duration: 48 months full-time

Supervisors: Adj.Prof. Zhen Im, Prof. Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen

Secondments: Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences (Lithuania), Age Platform Europe (Belgium)

Working at the Department of Social Sciences at LUT University

The Department of Social Sciences is a young and quickly growing unit at LUT University. Having been founded only 4 years ago, it already has a staff of almost 50. Its research aims to understand society and human activities in relation to global sustainability problems. By engaging people and communities more strongly at the very start of problem-solving, it strives to bring about changes more quickly. Its topical foci are societal renewal, sustainable citizenship, and people & technology. The position is part of the research group on social sustainability and welfare policies, led by Prof. Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen. This research group explores how we can achieve a good society, with a high well-being of all. For more information, see <https://www.lut.fi/en/research-groups/social-sustainability-welfare-policies>

LUT University seeks solutions to global issues with its expertise in technology, business, and social sciences. LUT is a trailblazer in promoting the energy transition and the regenerative use of natural resources and helps build resilient communities, industry, and businesses through data, research, and education. LUT's campuses are in Lappeenranta and Lahti, Finland, but its impact is global. [Lut.fi/en](https://www.lut.fi/en)

Employment benefits and conditions

LUT University offers a 48-month full-time employment contract (initial 12-month term, extendable by 36 months provided that the studies progress satisfactorily). There is a probation period of 6 months, and the annual workload for researchers is 1,612 hours/year. An employment contract can be concluded only if the candidate obtains the right to pursue postgraduate studies at LUT University, and the application for this right must be submitted with all required appendices to the LUT Doctoral School within the first two months of the employment relationship.

Net salaries may fluctuate depending on personal circumstances (marital status, age, disability, family, and dependents). For more information on Finnish taxation, please visit [here](#).

Workplace

The position is based at the Lappeenranta campus (flexible hybrid work approach applied; regular on-site presence required). The work will start in October 2026 (six-month trial period applies).