



THE EUROPEAN
AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING
INNOVATION ALLIANCE

newsletter

Preface

The AALIANCE newsletter is part of the dissemination activities of the EU-funded Coordination Action AALIANCE.

More actual and comprehensive information is available on:

www.aaliance.eu

The demographic development in Europe, longer life expectancy and the decline of the population have only been recently recognised as challenges for technological R&D and innovation in Europe. More and more research activities in the field of Ambient Assisted Living have been started on European and national level, but to unleash the full potential of the AAL industry in Europe, a lot remains to be done: A critical mass of R&D and Innovation on European level has to be created and the conditions for industry exploitation of R&D results and innovations have to be improved. Together with the European Commission, the AAL Association has set up the AAL Joint Programme to foster the emergence of innovative ICT-based products, services and systems. The first call for proposals has been launched in spring and follow-up calls are already in the pipeline. As president of the AAL Association I highly welcome the AALIANCE project, funded by the European Commission in the 7th Framework Programme. By bringing together different stakeholders from industry,

research and user organisations in a sustainable network, the project can significantly contribute to the development of an AAL community in Europe. The AALIANCE roadmap and the strategic research agenda to be developed within the project, together with recommendations for standardisation and policy measures can be important pillars to establish an AAL industry in Europe. That helps European countries to tackle the demographic challenges and to compete as a technology leader on global markets.

Dr. Gerhard Finking

Head of Unit
Microsystems in the
German Federal
Ministry of Education
and Research and
President of the AAL
Association
(www.aal-europe.eu)



AALIANCE – The European Ambient Assisted Living Innovation Alliance

In the imminent years and decades European societies will be faced with serious demographic changes. As in other industrialised countries the population's average age will drastically increase. The "ageing society" is becoming not only an evident challenge for the social security systems but for the societies as a whole.

Ambient Assisted Living solutions can be defined as technological innovations that will assist the elderly individual to maintain autonomy, independence and dignity by:

- extending the time people can remain in their preferred environment
- maintaining health and functional capability of the individuals, especially the elderly and/or persons with chronic illnesses or disabilities

- changing the possible risk profile of individuals to better and healthier life style
- enhancing security to prevent social isolation and to support maintaining the multifunctional network around the individual
- supporting carers, families and care organisation
- increasing the efficiency and productivity of resources used in the ageing societies
- improving equal access to services.

AALIANCE is funded within the specific programme "Cooperation" and the research theme "ICT" of the **7th European Framework Programme**.



The Coordination Action AALIANCE - funded by the European Commission, DG Information Society and Media, within the 7th Framework Programme - focuses on Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) solutions based on advanced ICT technologies for the areas of aging at work, aging at home and aging in the society.


AALIANCE will contribute to fulfilling the objectives of Ambient Assisted Living solutions based on advanced technologies. Structured according to the various social arenas, AAL solutions

- are aiming at facilitating the conditions of elderly people at work
- extending the time they are able to live in their preferred home environment and
- to support their mobility and integration into social life

by increasing their autonomy and assisting them in carrying out activities of daily living.

In AALIANCE European stakeholders are closing ranks and built a platform to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on strategically important issues in the field of Ambient Assisted Living

AALIANCE will play a key role in ensuring an adequate focus of research funding for AAL, in fostering effective public-private partnerships and in developing a European research policy, in particular in focusing on FP7 and on current activities launched by EU member states (AAL Joint Programme).



Project facts

FP7 Coordination Action (CA)

Theme ICT-1.7.1

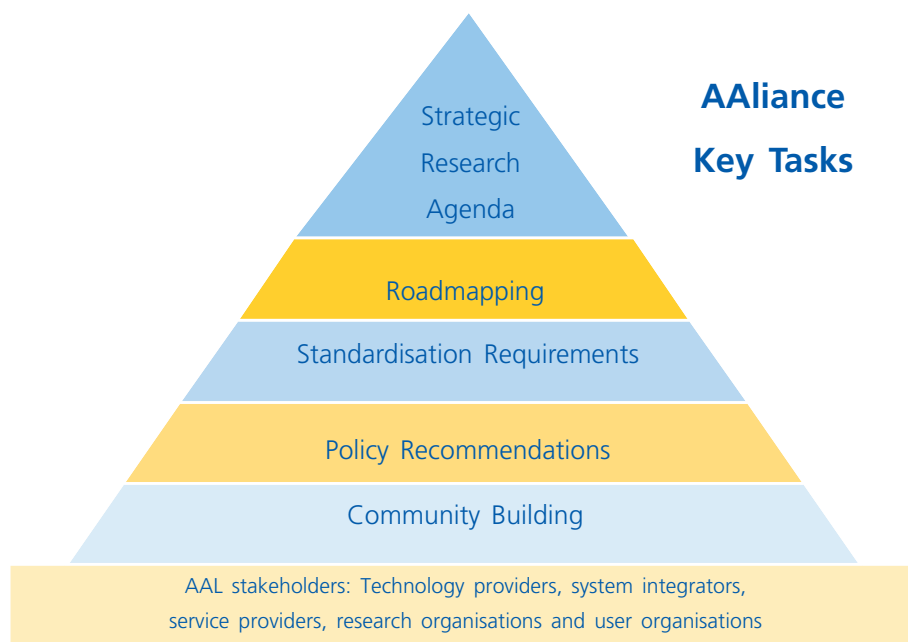
ICT and Aging

Duration: 01/2008 - 12/2009

Partners: 14

Volume: 1,646,170 €

EC Contribution: 1,070,000 €



Community building

AALIANCE will establish an inter-sectoral platform for the European AAL community. Starting with 14 partners - and to be extended - it involves companies as technology providers and system integrators, service providers, research organisations, and user associations. Regarding dissemination, the working group will not try to replace other initiatives. On the contrary, AALIANCE will co-operate closely with other European groups as well as industrial and societal associations in order to amplify the outputs of the different initiatives. As regards to the end user, dissemination activities will contribute to a rise of awareness and a promotion of a better understanding of the European AAL research activities, AAL technologies including their implications on society, and legal challenges.

Guiding R&D in the Contributions to Policy right direction Development

AALIANCE will contribute both to the AAL Joint Programme (short-term) and ICT Framework (mid-/long-term) themes and priorities. Through development of a shared vision and a RTD roadmap by main stakeholders, a basis for the identification of relevant RTD work will be developed. The Roadmap and a Strategic Research Agenda will serve vital needs not just for R&D actors but also for other stakeholders: i.e. public health authorities will gain insight in future developments affecting their spheres of action. Second and third level potential suppliers for AAL applications will realise challenges ahead.

The European Commission has already taken a first step towards a European Ambient Assisted Living policy. Calls in the Framework Programme 6 and the new Framework Programme 7 are expressions of an increasing awareness of the issue. Furthermore, the AAL Joint Programme has launched a first call in 2008. One of the major objectives of AALIANCE is therefore to contribute to the process of defining a consistent European AAL policy. This policy should cover research and technology development and also standardisation measures as a determining aspect of innovation as well as economic and social conditions for technology implementation.

Contributions to standardisation

Ambient Assisted Living solutions are revealing a series of standardisation aspects which are known phenomena in the area of ICT. Standardisation is a prerequisite for a broad deployment and use of ICT and will trigger and enable new business.

Raising awareness

This requires an interaction with policy makers in the area of Ambient Assisted Living and direct advice in implementing the necessary actions for realising the vision of Ambient Assisted Living. In particular, activities are addressed to the AAL Association, to national bodies and to the European Commission.

These activities are expected to strengthen the Ambient Assisted Living value chain in Europe, to reinforce the position of providers of Ambient Assisted Living solutions in Europe and address one of the most promising markets of industrialised countries.

AALIANCE Consortium members




No.	Partner	Type	Country
1	VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH	SME	Germany
2	AGE - the European Older People's Platform	Association	Europe
3	Robert Bosch GmbH	Industry	Germany
4	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V.	Research	Germany
5	Fundación Vodafone España	Research	Spain
6	Institute for Microelectronics and Microsystems - CNR	Research	Italy
7	Luleå University of Technology	University	Sweden
8	Nokia Research Center	Industry	Finland
9	Philips Electronics	Industry	The Netherlands
10	Scuola Superiore S. Anna	Research	Italy
11	Sorin Group France	Industry	France
12	University of Newcastle	University	UK
13	Vermon SA	SME	France
14	VTI Technologies Oy	Industry	Finland



AALIANCE Partner Profile: Sorin Group

Positioned as the largest cardiovascular group in Europe, Sorin Group is implementing innovative technologies. Latest innovation: the smallest defibrillators and pacemakers in the world.



Cardiac Pacemaker
(Courtesy of Sorin Group)

Established more than 50 years ago, Sorin group is still distinguished by the quality of its research and development, by the knowledge of its teams, and by close collaboration with the medical and scientific community.

Sorin Group has contributed to essential therapeutic and technological successes: treatment of cardiac arrhythmia and heart failure, high-performance hemodynamic mechanical valves, or cutting-edge biological valves, no longer requiring the use of sutures.

Research is the keystone of Sorin's strategy. More than 500 employees of the group are dedicated to R&D, accounting for 12% of the staff. Sorin Group has a tradition of excellence in research and gears these works toward deep knowledge of the application and mechanisms of the disease to be treated, particularly based on "engineer-doctor intelligence networks". The company favors multidisciplinary technological expertise as well as scientific and technical collaborations with world-renowned universities and research organisations. One of Sorin's latest innovations is a new generation of devices with a "revolutionary" heart failure sensor: SonR.

Follow-up of patients with synchronisation of patient's home to the hospital, for distance monitoring disorders between the two ventricles will find them to be significantly improved. Eventually, through a very high frequency link incorporated in the prosthesis, the information could be transferred. An innovation which will allow patients to live more normally while avoiding repeated hospitalisations. Today more than 14 million Europeans are affected by heart failure, and that this number might rise to 30 million in 2020.

Sorin Group by numbers

The group, listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, lists sales of 785.5 million Euros. Present in 80 countries, its medical devices care for 1 million patients a year. Sorin Group is the worldwide leader in the development of medical heart surgery techniques.

www.sorin.com

Important initiatives and projects in the field of AAL

European funded research projects for older people

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/research/ageing/index_en.htm

The European Ambient Assisted Living Association and Joint Programme

<http://www.aal-europe.eu>

A comprehensive database on projects, products and organisations in the AAL field, covering 27 European countries.

<http://www.independent-living-for-elderly.eu/>

Events

15 Oct – 17 Oct 2008 ehome fair - Berlin, Germany

The focus of ehome 2008 will be on changed living standards and requirements. Two new areas will be central to the event: a practical exhibition area with a prototype apartment and a lecture programme parallel to belectro - as well as an international expert congress on the subject of "Assisted Living" with its own accompanying exhibition.

http://www.ehome-berlin.de/index_e.html

26 Oct – 29 Oct 2008 IEEE SENSORS 2008 - Lecce, Italy

The international conference for the presentation, discussion, and exchange of information regarding research and development in sensors and its related fields. The event is organised by the Institute for Microelectronics and Microsystems (IMM-CNR) with the support of the Italian Association on Sensors and Microsystems (AISEM).

<http://www.ieee-sensors2008.org>

25 Nov – 27 Nov 2008 ICT 2008 - Lyon, France

Europe's biggest research event for information and communication technologies

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2008/index_en.htm

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