



THE EUROPEAN
AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING
INNOVATION ALLIANCE

newsletter

The AALIANCE newsletter gives information on the activities of the EU-funded Coordination Action AALIANCE. Further up-to-date information is available on www.aaliance.eu

AAL and well-being: adaptation for all ages and communities

Anne-Sophie PARENT, Isabel BORGES, Kusuto NAITO (AGE-Platform)



AGE – The European Older People’s Platform – is a European network gathering 150 older people’s organisations across the 27 member states of the EU. The platform promotes and protects the interests of the 150 million older people who live in Europe. The main role of AGE in the AALIANCE programme is to contribute to the further development of a user-centred vision. During the AALIANCE Policy Workshop, which took place in Brussels on 25-26 September 2008, Rodd BOND, one of the AGE ICT group experts, clarified the contribution of AAL in age-friendly communities¹. Mr Bond focused 1) on the importance of a dynamic approach to local and regional collaboration (to ensure efficient value-chain participation), and 2) on the life cycle of each older person (whose needs constantly change depending on their physical/cognitive status and life environment). Isabel Borges, AGE Policy Officer, highlighted the potential support that AAL could bring to improve employment opportunities for “older workers”². According to Ms Borges, AAL technology in the fields of 1) work-place design, 2) health programmes, 3) training, 4) work-time management and 5) corporate culture would improve not only the barriers to employment of these workers but also their work-life balance.

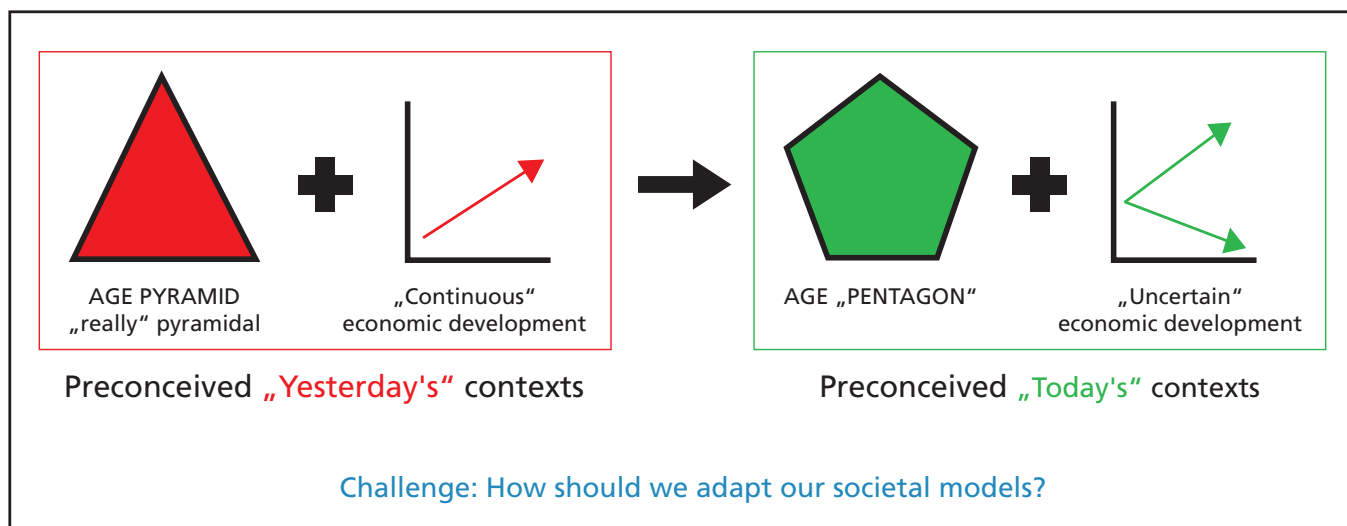
The European ageing society requires multilevel innovation

Beyond differences in the various analysed fields and approaches, some common questions were also raised through the presentations: How can AAL concepts help adapt social services to each individual’s well-being (“I am happy because I can live independently thanks to AAL solutions?”)³. The AALIANCE roadmap⁴ is based on the consensus that older people are not just an “effort requiring group” facing social needs, but that each person has a vital role to play in socio-economic developments involving fundamental changes. We are concerned about demographic changes (the rise of dependency as a social risk), but has our mind really shifted to today’s contexts?

The AALIANCE programme aims to develop ambitious propositions that are likely to allow our societal models to adapt to the socio-demographic challenges of today and tomorrow. It is important to look at other AAL-related trials or policies in Europe⁵ and around the world⁶. The case of Finland is an interesting example of recent AAL-induced social adaptations which could be developed because this country has a long experience of ICT applications⁷.

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





ICT as a part of an integral societal adaptation to the social transition in Europe

Climate conditions, geographical distances and the low cohabitation rate are important factors that have led Finland to develop ICT infrastructures and solutions together with their highly developed IT industry. It is generally known that their Electronic Patient Record (EPR) cover rate is almost 100% and that electronic processing of client data within social welfare and health care has been in force legally since July 2007. Information exchange programmes between health-care organisations and the patients have also been launched in several health districts⁸. These may be regarded as crucial for the AAL deployment because ambient intelli-

gence will only be operational if information exchanges exist between every older person and different centres within a whole borderless network.

Finland is among the frontrunners in this area but several studies^{9,10} show that significant improvements are necessary, in particular with regard to:

- Interoperability between municipalities (main authorities for health and social cares)
- Cooperation between municipalities, third-sector providers and private corporate bodies
- ICT training for medical and care personnel¹¹

AAL concepts as “key” to a positive correlation between societal adaptations and individual happiness

The example of Finland shows us that a human-centred vision is required not only in AAL technology development but also in institutional reorganisations, which is one of the preliminary conditions to achieving independent living with interpersonal solidarity. AAL technologies are called to be oriented toward improving relationships between individuals, and between individuals and communities and between communities. •

www.age-platform.org

¹ http://www.aaliance.eu/public/policy-workshop/pdfs/10_bond.pdf

² http://www.aaliance.eu/public/policy-workshop/pdfs/20_borges.pdf

³ This ethical question has an important place for organisations such as AGE, and we have recently launched the debate on ICT, ethics and older people: <http://www.age-platform.org/EN/spip.php?article669>

⁴ <http://www.aaliance.eu/public/newsletter-1/aaliance-newsletter-02-2008.pdf>

⁵ For example, the Norwegian smart home project: http://www.shdir.no/publikasjoner/veiledere/smart_home_technology_22920

⁶ The Japanese government also launched its ubiquitous vision in 2005: http://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_02/ict/u-japan_en/index.html

⁷ For example, “Digital Media in Health Care” led by TEKES from 1996 to 1999. <http://www.age-platform.org/EN/spip.php?article669>

⁸ http://www.google.be/url?sa=t&source=web&ct=res&cd=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.stakes.fi%2Fverkkojulkaisut%2Fraportit%2FR1-2007-VERKKO.pdf&ei=ZQkwSYndEliuQYLdga8L&usq=AFQjCNEgikAdwaEelaVbtyTuS_M5BYw8GQ&sig2=M4941_qXMK8z0vhdDLebQ

⁹ http://www.stakes.fi/FI/Julkaisut/verkkojulkaisut/raportteja08/VR32_2008_1.htm?Description=abstract&Description=abstracten#abstracten

¹⁰ <http://www.stakes.fi/verkkojulkaisut/raportit/R32-2008-VERKKO.pdf>

¹¹ It might increase the cost of AAL but the question of costs has to be actively taken into account. According to STAKES institute studies, if it is true that Finland’s health expenditure is relatively low compared with other European countries, it means that salary levels of nurses and public-sector doctors are below the OECD average.

Current AAL funding opportunities



Framework Programme 7 ICT Call 4

On 19 November 2008 the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research launched the 4th call for ICT under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

Under Challenges 5 (Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare) and 7 (ICT for Independent Living, Inclusion and Governance) the call involves several opportunities for researchers in the area of Ambient Assisted Living.

Identifier: FP7-ICT-2009-4

Publication Date: 19 November 2008

Budget: € 801 000 000

Deadline: 01 April 2009 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Challenge 5 Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare

Objective ICT-2009.5.1: Personal Health Systems

- a) Minimally invasive systems and ICT-enabled artificial organs: Solutions to enable diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases remotely, i.e. outside hospitals and care centres. Proposals are expected to develop technological innovations both at component level where required and at system level.
- b) Mental Health: ICT-based solutions for people suffering from stress, depression or bipolar disorders (other mental disorders are not included)
- c) Support Action on c1) Prevention of diseases and c2) Interoperability of Personal Health Systems

Challenge 7: ICT for Independent Living, Inclusion and Governance

Objective ICT-2009.7.1 ICT & Ageing

- a) Service robotics for ageing well: Integration and adaptation of modular robotic solutions that are seamlessly integrated in intelligent home environments and adaptable to specific user requirements to provide support to elderly people and their carers.
- b) Open Systems Reference Architectures, Standards and ICT Platforms for Ageing Well: this should facilitate interoperability, systems integration and easy personalisation to provide seamless and cost-effective end-to-end care support and services for independent living, smart workplaces and mobility of elderly people and for their carers.
- c) RTD roadmaps and stakeholder coordination: One support action is to be launched to continue development of RTD roadmaps and stakeholder coordination already started under FP7. One CSA is expected to be funded under c).

Objective ICT-2009.7.2 Accessible and Assistive ICT

- a) Embedded Accessibility of Future ICT: Solutions for supporting developers in deeply embedding generalised accessibility support within future mainstream ICT-based products and services.
- b) ICT restoring and augmenting human capabilities compensating people with reduced motor functions or disabilities: Radically new ICT-enabled approaches to restore and augment the abilities of people in daily life with a focus on reduced motor functions. Research should aim at achieving break-

throughs in the way humans interact with computers.

- c) RTD research agendas & coordination of constituencies. In areas a) and b), coordination actions to further align constituencies and prepare future joint agendas and roadmaps. One CA for each RTD area is expected to be funded.

Complete information on these calls can be found on the Official Cordis Homepage:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=185



ICT PSP: Next Call for Proposals and Work Programme 2009

The Draft Work Programme 2009 of the ICT Policy Support Programme (part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme CIP) has been agreed by the Programme Committee on 21 November 2008. The draft Work Programme remains subject to formal approval by the Commission. Budget amounts foreseen are under the conditions that the appropriations foreseen in the preliminary draft budget for 2009 are adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The Work Programme 2009 is expected to be formally approved in January 2009. The third call for proposals should open from 29 January till 2 June 2009.

Themes and objectives within the Work Programme include:

- * ICT for health, ageing and inclusion
- * Digital Libraries
- * ICT for government and governance
- * ICT for energy efficiency and environment
- * Multilingual Web
- * Public Sector information
- * Internet evolution and security (including RFID)
- * Open innovation, user experience and living labs

Additional information on call 3 and guidelines will be available shortly on the call pages
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/participating/index_en.htm



AAL Joint Programme

Preliminary call 2 information

Call 2 under the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme is currently under preparation. During the ICT event in Lyon, representatives of the AAL Joint Programme presented preli-

minary information on the upcoming call. The call is expected to focus on **ICT based solutions for Advancement of Social Interaction of Elderly People**. The call is planned to be published in Q1/2009 (open for 3 months).

More information on the AAL CALL 2 Website: <http://www.aal-europe.eu/aal-2009-2>

Partner search

If you are looking for potential project partners for these programmes and would like to get in contact with the AALIANCE members please write to aaliance@aaliance.eu.

ec.europa.eu/information_society

Events

22 January 2009

FP7 - ICT Proposers' Day 2009 – Budapest (Hungary)

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/budapest_2009/index_en.htm

26 January 2009

Information Day for Call 3 of ICT PSP – Brussels (Belgium)

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

27 - 28 January 2009

2nd German AAL Congress – Berlin (Germany)

www.aal-kongress.de

18 – 19 March 2009

Technically Assisted Rehabilitation TAR 2009 Conference – Berlin (Germany)

www.tar-conference.eu

Imprint

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