

Citizens' summary

Communication on the First Interim Evaluation of the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP)

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- The Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) performs applied research with a two-to-three year time-to-market of products and services for the elderly population that are based on information and communication technologies.
- The AAL JP aims to create a triple win: a better quality of life, sustainable cost of care, and new jobs and business thanks to a growing 'silver economy'.
- The AAL JP was set up in 2008 by 20 EU Member States and 3 associated countries. The EU provides part of the financing.
- An interim evaluation after 2 years of operation of the AAL JP has been undertaken.
- The outcome is positive about the relevance of the programme for the ageing population, European added value, high financial contribution by the countries, and high presence of small- and medium-sized companies. But the evaluation finds that the AAL JP can be run more effectively and be connected better to users and the market.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- European citizens are the primary beneficiaries, as they can enjoy products and services that improve the quality of life when they or their relatives are ageing. As taxpayers they also benefit, as a number of projects help to reduce the cost of care.
- European businesses benefit, as the AAL JP helps to open up a potentially huge market of products and services for the ageing population, the 'silver economy'.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- The participating countries are to work on better daily operations of the programme, give more attention to exploitation of results and simplify national funding rules.
- The European Commission will help in deployment of results and ensure a closer link between the AAL JP and related European initiatives, including the recently announced European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

- Results from the projects should get faster in the hands of citizens and better meet their needs, and an easier participation of interested parties (e.g. senior organisations, companies from all over Europe) in the AAL JP should become possible.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- End 2010-early 2011 the evaluation report and the Commission's reaction to it will be discussed with the Member States and the European Parliament and stakeholders (senior citizens' organisations, industry and service providers, regional authorities).