

Overview of running EU-funded research projects in the area of ICT for Ageing Well

The projects below are funded under the Sixth (FP6: 2003-2006) and the Seventh (FP7: 2007-2013) Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development¹.

January 2008 – December 2009

AALiance

European Ambient Assisted Living Innovation Alliance

<http://www.aaliance.eu>

up to 1.070 M€ EC funding (FP7)

Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) solutions are based on advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) and they are developed to improve conditions for aging at work, home and in the society. **In order to improve the value chain of AAL solutions, this coordination action will provide a framework for stakeholders to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans in the field of AAL.** It aims to play a key role in ensuring an adequate focus of research funding for AAL, fostering effective public-private partnerships and developing a European research policy. A network involving several stakeholders will promote the development and use of AAL technologies.

¹ <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict>

October 2011-September 2014

ACCOMPANY

Acceptable robotiCs COMPAnions for AgeiNg Years

up to 3.600 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The proposed ACCOMPANY system will consist of a robotic companion as part of an intelligent environment, providing services to elderly users in a motivating and socially acceptable manner to facilitate independent living at home. The ACCOMPANY system will provide physical, cognitive and social assistance in everyday home tasks, and will contribute to the re-ablement of the user, i.e. assist the user in being able to carry out certain tasks on his/her own. Services to the user will be delivered through socially interactive, acceptable and empathic interaction, building on computational models of robot social cognition and interaction. **The envisaged relationship of the user with the robot is that of a co-learner – robot and user providing mutual assistance for the user not to be dominated by the technology, but to be empowered, physically, cognitively and socially.** A state of the art service robot platform, Care-O-bot® 3 will be used to assess user requirements and user acceptance of the robot. Results from user studies will then be fed back to adapt the technology so that it better suits user demands and preferences. Throughout the project such formative feedback results in different iterations of the ACCOMPANY prototypes. Three test sites in three different European countries (UK, the Netherlands, France), as well as a dedicated showcase, will ensure an extensive evaluation process considering cultural differences. In addition, ACCOMPANY will specify and benchmark design and ethical guidelines for service robots for the elderly.

January 2007 – March 2009

Aladin

Ambient Lighting Assistance for an Ageing Population

<http://www.ambient-lighting.eu>

up to 1.800 M€ EC funding (FP6)

Adaptive lighting can contribute to sound sleep and a regular sleep-wake cycle. This research project will investigate the impact of lighting to the wellbeing and comfort of older people, by developing an assistive system. Its intelligent open-loop control and biofeedback will adapt light parameters in response to psycho-physiological data, while manual adjustments and default values stay available. An application will help users in understanding their own affective/cognitive state and trying to regulate it. With its open architecture, the system could be easily extended to include other environmental factors such as temperature, acoustics or colour.

March 2010 - February 2012

BRAID

Bridging Research in Ageing and ICT Development

<http://www.braidproject.eu>

up to 1 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The project will develop a comprehensive RTD roadmap for active ageing by consolidating existing roadmaps and by describing and launching a stakeholder co-ordination and consultation mechanism. It will characterise key research challenges and produce a vision for a comprehensive approach in supporting the well-being and socio-economic integration of increasing numbers of senior citizens in Europe. BRAID responds to the apparent need to consolidate the various existing perspectives, plans, roadmaps and research and to coordinate effectively the stakeholders in ICT and Ageing. It will utilise knowledge repositories and stakeholder networks to create a self-sustaining, dynamic strategic mechanism for overcoming the fragmentation that has plagued e-inclusion and for improving co-ordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

January 2008 – December 2009

Capsil

International Support of a Common Awareness and Knowledge Platform for Studying and Enabling Independent Living

<http://www.capsil.org>

up to 0.540 M€ EC funding (FP7)

To help the elderly people remain independent for a longer time many ICT solutions are being developed within the EU, USA, and Japan. However, they tend to be fragmented and heterogeneous. **This coordinating action is teaming an international coalition of university and industrial partners developing hardware, software and knowledge solutions to independent living.** There are also members of regional and national centres on aging engaged in the process of helping to establish public policy and international standards. The aim is to launch initiatives, disseminated by a series of workshops in the EU, USA and Japan. It will develop a detailed roadmap for EU research. It is proposed to incorporate all the solutions into WiKi entries. This will support policy makers to coordinate research agendas and funding efforts across the three continents.

September 2006 – August 2009

CogKnow

Helping people with mild dementia navigate their day

<http://www.cogknow.eu>

up to 1.900 M€ EC funding (FP6)

While there is some research and development in cognitive prosthetics, **there are very few relevant tools or technologies to help people with mild dementia to navigate through their day. The objective of this research project is to research and prototype such a portable, near-to-market, user-validated device and associated services.** The solution will offer the users information and reassurance in a discreet manner entailing cognitive reinforcement, in order to help people to remember, maintain social contact, perform daily life activities and enhance their feelings of safety.

January 2008 – June 2012

CompanionAble

Integrated Cognitive Assistive & Domestic Companion Robotic Systems for Ability & Security

<http://www.companionable.net>

up to 7.800 M€ EC funding (FP7)

To address the issues of social inclusion and homecare of people who suffer from chronic cognitive disabilities, this integrated project will develop the synergy of robotics and ambient intelligence technologies and enhance the cognitive stimulation and therapy management of the care-recipient. This integrating project will produce a robotic companion (mobile facilitation) working collaboratively with a smart home environment (stationary facilitation). The framework architecture will provide a scalable and cost-effective integration. Evaluation will take place in a number of test-beds representing the diverse European user-base.

February 2008 – January 2011

Confidence

Ubiquitous Care System to Support Independent Living

<http://www.confidence-eu.org>

up to 3.500 M€ EC funding (FP7)

In order to detect an unusual event (such as a fall) or any unexpected behaviour that could indicate health problems with elderly people, this research project will develop and integrate existing innovative technologies in a new care system. This will work both outdoors and indoors and the user can control it and customise its alarm protocol. Such a cost effective, non-intrusive and reliable system would support the independence and confidence of elderly people and diminish the need of their institutionalisation. This multidisciplinary research with end-users involved at various stages will result in a working prototype.

September 2006 – August 2009

Diadem

Delivering Inclusive Access for Disabled or Elderly Members of the community

<http://www.project-diadem.eu>

up to 1.950 M€ EC funding (FP6)

In order to support users who suffer from a reduction in their cognitive skills to remain active and independent in the society both at work and at home, this research project aims at providing an adaptable web browser interface. The system, located in the user's PC, will ensure that as many services on the Internet as possible are accessible and it will also monitor that the user's privacy and security are not challenged. A plug-in to a web browser monitors the ability of the user to interact, while dynamic personalisation of the interface optimises the assistance to a specific user. The service provider needs only to use standard web services and to provide some fixed meta-level data about the dialogue structure. The technology will also be extended into the work place.

January 2007 – June 2009

EasyLine+

Low cost advanced white goods for a longer independent life of elderly people

<http://www.easylines.com>

up to 1.450 M€ EC funding (FP6)

Elderly people can be compensated in their loss of physical and/or cognitive abilities when they are using an advanced white good (as a refrigerator or an oven) in the home. **This research project will develop near to market prototypes of white goods that can be actuated in the home by the elderly people themselves or via an assisting “e-servant” control system** based on sensors information and the habits of the user. As an example, such an advanced refrigerator will be able to read the RFID label of products and the home system will then tell the user if some food is missing or going out of date and suggest which food the user could use taking into consideration his or her dietary requirements.

September 2006 – August 2009

ElderGames

Development of high therapeutic value IST-based games for monitoring and improving the quality of life of Elderly People

<http://www.eldergames.eu>

up to 0.950 M€ EC funding (FP6)

For improving the cognitive skills and the quality of life for elderly people this research project will deliver a preventive, therapeutic tool via an interactive-play board. It will be the first play platform being able to monitor cognitive health and wellbeing, allowing an early detection of cognitive diseases or social unease and responding to these signals. The project will develop IST-based games using advanced visualisation and interaction interfaces in order to improve quality of life in the old age, with a particular emphasis on cognitive skills.

January 2007 – December 2009

Enable

A wearable system supporting services to enable elderly people to live well, independently and at ease

<http://www.enable-project.eu>

up to 2.800 M€ EC funding (FP6)

Mitigation of the effects of disability and increased quality of life: independence, autonomy, mobility, communications, care and safety is the aim of this research project, which will develop a personal, user-centred enabling system for use by an elderly person in or out of the home. A number of services, such as emergency and health monitoring, will be provided. The system combines GSM technologies and a portable bracelet and is based on a distributed open platform, enabling other services to be added by third parties by “plugging” into defined interfaces. The mobile phone enables the user to go out whilst maintaining access to help and services.

February 2008 - January 2010

ePal

Extending Professional Active Life

<http://www.epal.eu.com>

up to 0.800 M€ EC funding (FP7)

Many elderly citizens, following retirement, face a risk of becoming marginalised and considered as a cost burden rather than a resource in the society. **It is a challenge to create an ICT-supported environment where elderly citizens do not feel excluded, and where they have the chance to use their knowledge and expertise in making valued contributions to the communities where they live. This coordination action aims at establishing a research roadmap towards a second generation support system for active ageing.** Such system is foreseen as an answer to the challenges of the increased life expectancy and the ageing of the European population.

October 2006 – September 2008

eSangathan

Collaborative Environment for Working Ageing Workforce

<http://www.esangathan.eu>

up to 0.750 M€ EC funding (FP6)

In Europe, old age often means being excluded from the labour market. Yet in India, the expert retirees are considered a "national treasure" (Sangathan) due to their valuable experience. However, these elderly experts often lack the technological tools to support their work. **This support action will experiment how the elderly could benefit from using collaborative tools. Exchanging experiences with India will help foster and improve competitiveness in Europe and improve the quality of life for the Indian ageing workforce with innovative ICT practices.**

February 2010 – January 2013

Florence

Multi Purpose Mobile Robot for Ambient Assisted Living

<http://www.florence-project.eu>

up to 3.550 M€ EC funding (FP7)

Due to increasing mobility and the ageing society the demand for care will increase significantly, leading to high costs and unrealistic manpower demands. Florence will alleviate this by keeping **elderly independent much longer by providing care and coaching services, supported by robots.** This will greatly improve the efficiency in care and reduce costs. The second problem addressed by Florence is the **acceptance of robots by elderly.** For this purpose, the project adopts a user-centric approach, by starting with focus-group sessions. The Florence consortium contains partners from the complete value chain: robot vendors, care providers, and consumer electronics vendors. The consortium positions the service robot as a consumer device, supporting various lifestyle services.

February 2010 -January 2013

GUIDE

Gentle User Interfaces for Disabled and Elderly Citizens

up to 3.400 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The project will develop a toolbox of adaptive, multi-modal user interfaces (UIs) that target the accessibility requirements of elderly users in their home environment, making use of TV set-top boxes as processing and connectivity platform beside the common PC platform. With its software, hardware and documented knowledge, this toolbox will put developers of ICT applications in the position to easier implement truly accessible applications using the most recent user interface technologies with reduced development effort. For this purpose, the toolbox will provide the technology of advanced multi-modal UI components as well as the adaptation mechanisms necessary UI components interoperable with legacy and novel applications, including the capability to self-adapt to user needs.

January 2008 - December 2010

Hermes

Cognitive Care and Guidance for Active Ageing

<http://www.fp7-hermes.eu>

up to 2.820 M€ EC funding (FP7)

Age-related decline of cognitive capabilities can be compensated by using other functional cognitive skills and training these, thereby reducing the need for active care and support and increasing the ability to cope with everyday life and live independently. **This research project provides an integrated approach to cognitive care through an assistive technology combined with the functional skills of an older person.** Based on intelligent audio and visual processing and reasoning, the project will result in the combination of a home-based and mobile device to support the user's cognitive state and prevent cognitive decline.

September 2006 – August 2009

I2Home

Intuitive interaction for everyone with home appliances based on industry standards

<http://www.i2home.org>

up to 2.700 M€ EC funding (FP6)

The design and implementation of appliances, mobile phones and remote controls are often made to serve users that are already familiar with modern technologies. As a result, many people with cognitive disabilities and older persons are excluded from being able to use them. **This research project will build upon a new series of industry standards (ANSI/INCITS 389ff) for interfacing networked appliances by means of a Universal Remote Console and it will use an architecture with a Universal Control Hub that communicates to networked (off-the-shelf) home appliances and consumer electronics devices (through industry networking protocols) and provides intelligent and adaptable interfaces particularly targeted to persons with cognitive disabilities and older persons.**

February 2010-January 2013

KSERA

Knowledgeable Service Robots for Aging

<http://www.ksera-project.eu/>

up to 2.900 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The project will research and develop a **Knowledgeable Service Robot for Aging (KSERA)** that will serve several related purposes for elderly persons in general and those with pulmonary disease in particular. Specifically KSERA will provide (1) a mobile assistant to follow and monitor the health and behavior of a senior, (2) useful communication (video, internet) services including needed alerts to caregivers and emergency personnel, and (3) a robot integrated with smart household technology to monitor the environment and advise the senior or caregivers of anomalous or dangerous situations. KSERA aims at an adaptive technical aid that will provide needed and useful services in a pleasant, easy-to-use format via a robot that also acts as a companion and assistant.

December 2009-November 2012

MOBISERV

An Integrated Intelligent Home Environment For The Provision Of Health, Nutrition And Mobility Services To The Elderly

<http://www.mobiserv.eu/>

up to 2.750 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The objective of the project is to develop a **proactive personal service robotics for supporting independent living**. The project will develop a personalized system, orchestrating vital signs recording and analysis, warnings, and alerts to health and emergency assistance networks. It will deliver a robotic prototype of an open standard-based personal platform capable of sensing the user's personal environment and adapting to the user's patterns of behaviour. By early detection of threatening environmental and/or emerging medical conditions, harmful consequences will be mitigated by issuing warnings and providing guidance; in case adverse events cannot be evaded, alarms will be issued. The platform will integrate innovative components delivered by the project and existing standards-compliant technologies. Innovative wireless (bio-) sensor-actuators, localisation and communication technologies, smart textiles and clothing and a wearable solution hosting monitoring equipment will be integrated into an existing robotic platform capable of self-learning and able to support elderly in indoor contexts. Tele-alarm applications will be developed to enhance health and integrated care services.

September 2006 - August 2010

MonAmi

Mainstreaming Ambient Intelligence

<http://www.monami.info>

up to 8.700 M€ EC funding (FP6)

This integrated project will demonstrate that accessible, useful services for elderly and disabled persons living at home can be delivered in mainstream systems and platforms. Bouquets of services and applications will be selected and developed, with a Design for All approach together with potential users, in the areas of comfort applications, health, safety and security as well as communication and information. The technology platforms will be derived from standard technology mainly built upon the TFIHI approach and will include reliable self-organizing networks, wearable devices, monitoring and service infrastructures ensuring the quality of service, reliability and privacy. Feasibility and usability testing and validation will be carried out in six countries.

October 2006 - March 2009

MPower

Middleware platform for empowering cognitive disabled and elderly

<http://www.sintef.no/mpower>

up to 2.350 M€ EC funding (FP6)

This research project will define and implement an open platform to simplify and speed up the task of developing and deploying services for persons with cognitive disabilities and the elderly. The platform will support the integration of SMART HOUSE, interoperability between profession and institution specific systems (as a hospital information system) and secure and safe information management. Applications will be developed to demonstrate the feasibility of the platform in relation to (i) a dynamic sharing of plans and information and (ii) interconnectivity and integration of smart home and sensor technologies.

February 2007 – January 2011

Netcarity

A Networked multi-sensor system for elderly people: health Care, safety and security in home environment

<http://www.netcarity.org>

up to 8.250 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The project proposes a new integrated paradigm for supporting independence and engagement in elderly people living alone at their own home place. It fosters the development of a 'light' technological infrastructure to be integrated in homes of old people at reduced costs, that both allows the assurance of basic support of everyday activities and health critical situations detection, as well as the social and psychological engagement required to maintain in the elder the emotional well-being enhancing dignity and quality of life. The project will seek to advance ambient intelligence technologies in the integration of micro and nano systems in a networked wireless/wired multi-sensing environment with plug and play capabilities and intelligent decision making for an effective detection of critical situations and support of task completion. Efforts will be concentrated in developing low-cost solutions and could rapidly reach the market and facilitate easy adaptation in a wide number of existing homes.

January 2008 – December 2011

Oasis

Open Architecture for Accessible Services Integration and Standardisation

<http://server-5.itl.gr/joomla/>

up to 8.520 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The aim of this integrating project is to develop the interoperability, quality, breadth and usability of services of all daily activities for the elderly. In order to enable and facilitate interoperability, seamless connectivity and the sharing of content between such services and related ontologies, the project will develop an open reference architecture and system. The applications developed include a nutritional advisor, an activity coach, a brain and skills trainer, social communities' platform, health monitoring as well as environmental control. Applications are all integrated as a unified, dynamic service batch, managed by a Service Centre and it supports all types of mobile devices and all types of environments for the elderly and beyond.

January 2007 - June 2010

Persona

Perceptive Spaces Promoting Independent Ageing

<http://www.aal-persona.org>

up to 6.750 M€ EC funding (FP6)

There is a need to harmonise Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) technologies and the development of sustainable and affordable solutions for social inclusion and independent living of elderly people. This integrated project aims to integrate these approaches into a common semantic framework, advancing the concept of Ambient Intelligence. It will develop a technological platform based on scalability and openness providing a broad range of AAL services. Psychologically pleasant and easy-to-use integrated solutions will demonstrate affordability and sustainability of the approach for all the actors and stakeholders involved. Social impact will be assessed and a business strategy for future deployment of the proposed technologies and services will be initiated.

January 2008 - December 2009

Senior

Social Ethical and Privacy Needs in ICT for Older People: a Dialogue Roadmap

<http://www.seniorproject.eu>

up to 0.950 M€ EC funding (FP7)

While new technologies hold a great promise, they also pose risks to ethical issues. **This support action will develop a systematic assessment of the social, ethical and privacy issues involved in ICT and ageing.** This will help to understand what lessons should be learned from current technological trends and how to plan strategies for governing future developments, ensuring that new ICT meet the needs of senior citizens without compromising privacy and ethics.

January 2007 - June 2009

SensAction-AAL

SENsing and ACTION to support mobility in Ambient Assisted Living

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

up to 2.000 M€ EC funding (FP6)

With recent technological advances, **it is now possible to use body-fixed sensors in combination with advanced ICT solutions to effectively monitor older people in their home environment and to introduce interventions that are tailored to their individual needs.** This new approach allows the establishment of tele-rehabilitation, tele-medicine and tele-care scenarios where, from a distance, medical professionals monitor older people in their home environment and assist with tailored interventions, and prevention or rehabilitation programs. The partners of this research project are designing and testing in the field an innovative wireless on-body system which enables: (1) physical activity monitoring in daily living conditions, and (2) real-time, active control of physical performance using principles such as sensory augmentation and biofeedback. The SENSATION-AAL architecture introduces original solutions that will ultimately make the proposed system: 1) easy-to-wear and easy-to-use; 2) active anywhere, anytime; 3) cost effective.

January 2007 - December 2009

Share-It

Supported Human Autonomy for Recovery and Enhancement of cognitive and motor abilities using information technologies

<http://www.ist-shareit.eu>

up to 3.150 M€ EC funding (FP6)

To support the self-dependency and autonomy of older persons or people with disabilities, the next generation of assistive devices needs to be developed into transparent and easy to use adaptive systems. **This research project will design such a scalable, adaptive system of add-ons to sensor and assistive technology, in order to inform and assist the user and his/her caregivers through monitoring and with mobility help.** The system will be modularly integrated into an intelligent home environment and will rely on add-ons to be compatible with existing technologies and to achieve an easier integration into the existing systems. Scalability will be developed to insert or remove devices from the system in a simple, intuitive way.

January 2008 - June 2010

Smiling

Self Mobility Improvement in the eLderly by counteracting falls

<http://www.smilingproject.eu>

up 2.250 M€ EC funding (FP7)

Ageing is characterized by functional changes in the sensory, neurological and musculoskeletal systems, affecting motor tasks including gait and postural balance: the main risk factors for falling. **This research project aims at improving gait and postural balance thanks to a wearable non-invasive system that will generate small height and slope perturbations during active walking.**

January 2007 - April 2010

Soprano

Service Oriented Programmable Smart Environments for Older Europeans

<http://www.soprano-ip.org>

up to 7.000 M€ EC funding (FP6)

This integrated project aims to integrate older people with functional impairments into social life and increase their independence, by designing and developing innovative, context-aware, affordable, smart services with comfortable interfaces. Three strands of research and development are to be integrated. The stand-alone assistive technology provides products designed to compensate for motor, sensory and cognitive difficulties frequently experienced by older adults. The smart home technology enables the integration of advanced ICT in the home environment. Specific appliances and devices are integrated in the home environment to provide tele-care services and more overall control of the living space to support both professional and informal carers in their work.

February 2010 – January 2013

SRS

Multi-Role Shadow Robotic System for Independent Living

<http://www.srs-project.eu>

up to 3.300 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The project will demonstrate an innovative, practical and efficient system called “**shadow robot**” for personalised home care. SRS solutions are designed to enable a robot to act as a shadow of its controller. For example, elderly parents can have a robot as a shadow of their children or carers. In this case, adult children or carers can help them remotely and physically with tasks such as getting up or going to bed, doing the laundry and setting up ICT equipment etc. as if the children or carers were resident in the house.

September 2008 – August 2011

TREMOR

An Ambulatory BCI-driven tremor suppression system based on functional electrical stimulation

<http://www.iai.csic.es/tremor>

up to 2.140 M€ EC funding (FP7)

Tremor movement disorder is strongly increasing in incidence and prevalence with ageing. It is responsible for social inconvenience and functional disability, in particular for daily living. Treatments are not always effective. **This research project will validate, technically, functionally and clinically, the concept of mechanically reducing the tremor through selective Functional Electrical Stimulation of muscles.** The Brain Computer Interaction (BCI) detection of involuntary motor activity will combine CNS (Electroencephalography) and PNS (Electromyography) data with biomechanical data (Inertial Measurement Units, IMUs). The system will model and track tremor and voluntary motion.

February 2010-January 2014

Universaal

UNIVERSal open platform and reference Specification for Ambient Assisted Living

<http://www.universaal.org/>

up to 10.500 M€ EC funding (FP7)

There is a huge market potential for AAL solutions, but adoption is limited because they require significant resources for implementation. To address this, the project will produce an open platform that provides a standardised approach making it technically feasible and economically viable to develop AAL solutions. The platform will be produced by a **mixture of new development and consolidation of state-of-the-art results from existing initiatives.** Work on establishing and running a sustainable community will achieve attention, with promotion of existing results gradually evolving into promotion of the universAAL platform, as it develops into one consolidated, validated and standardised European open AAL platform. The platform will provide runtime support for the execution of AAL applications in accordance with a reference architecture, development support through core AAL services and an online developer depot of various development resources. universAAL results will be standardised in European (CEN) and international (OMG, Continua) standardisation bodies.

May 2008 - October 2010

VAALID

Accessibility and Usability Validation Framework for AAL Interaction Design Process

<http://www.vaalid-project.org>

up to 2.737 M€ EC funding (FP6)

This research project aims at facilitating and streamlining the process of creation, design, construction and deployment of technological solutions in the context of AAL. A 3D-Immersive Simulation Platform for computer aided design and validation of User-Interaction subsystems will support the design of the Human Interaction aspects in all the stages of user centred design, putting in practice the guidelines for verification and validation of the accessibility and usability facets. Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality scenarios will be used to verify interaction designs and validate the accessibility of the AAL products. This will help European industry, ICT companies specialized in Human Factors and User Interaction design, Research and Academia in streamlining their respective business for the Independent Living and Inclusion.

October 2011-September 2014

VERVE

Vanquishing fear and apathy through
Personalised and populated
Realistic Virtual Environments
for clinical, home and mobile
platforms

No website yet

up to 5 M€ EC funding (FP7)

The project will develop ICT tools to support the treatment of people who are at risk of social exclusion due to fear and/or apathy associated with a disability. These tools will be in the form of personalised Virtual Reality (VR) scenarios and serious games specifically designed for therapeutic targets and made broadly available via a novel integration of interactive 3D environments directly into Web browsers. The project will perform cutting edge research into rendering and simulating personalised and populated VR environments, 3D web graphics, and serious games. These technical efforts will be underpinned by clinical/laboratory and industry partners and in liaison with the stakeholders (i.e., participants, carers/family, and health professionals). They project will test the VERVE interventions in three use-cases, each targeting a different group of participants: Fear of falling, Apathy related to cognitive decline and behavioural disturbances, and other emotional disturbances linked to anxiety.

January 2007-December 2009

Vital

Vital Assistance for the Elderly

<http://www.ist-vital.org>

up 2.100 M€ EC funding (FP6)

The concept of Total Assistance can be understood as assistance anytime, anywhere, using any terminal and for any type of service. This research project intends to put this in practice by developing a set of technologies, platforms and applications to provide remote assistance for elderly users, including delivery of advice, assistance, information, education, entertainment as well as support in inter-personal communication. Research is needed for advanced user interfaces over readily available domestic terminals (i.e. TV and mobiles), intelligent systems able to offer personalised information and services in an active way and natural speech understanding and automatic summarising.

March /2008-June 2010

VM

Vital Mind

<http://www.vitalmind-project.eu>

up to 2.750 M€ EC funding (FP7)

Passive TV viewing can be transformed into dynamic activities of mental preservation and intellectual enhancement for senior citizens. **This research project combines cognitive psychology, the television medium and advanced interactive Information Computer Technology to enable the elderly to do mind fitness exercises while they are sitting in front of their screen.** The project will support the design of iTV-based applications to enhance cognitive training, in particular the development of authoring and production tools. It will also develop user control by detection of hand movements using vision and/or gyro and by non-voice vocal commands. Delivery via USB Flash disk will be promoted in addition to broadcasting.

April 2007 - September 2010

WAI-Age

Web Accessibility Initiative:
Ageing Education and
Harmonisation

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/WAI-AGE>

up to 0.900 M€ EC funding (FP6)

Activities under the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) topic "Ageing Education and Harmonisation" aim at a better understanding of the needs of the ageing community in the context of existing Web accessibility guidelines. More direct contribution from the ageing community into W3C/WAI work will help revising and complementing educational materials to better reflect their needs and to pursue the standards' coordination to promote adoption and implementation of a common set of guidelines. This support action contributes to these efforts and also to the associated dissemination.



For further information:

ICT for Inclusion
Tel: +32 (0)2 29 52329
Directorate General for Information Society and Media
European Commission, BU31 06/66
B-1049 Brussels Belgium
einclusion@ec.europa.eu
<http://ec.europa.eu/einclusion>



European Commission
Information Society and Media

European Commission
Information Society and Media