THE ICT4LIFE RESEARCH PROJECT

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR PATIENTS WITH ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE


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This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement Nº 690090

Background
- With an increasingly growing population in Europe, cognitive impairment and dementias are major social and health issues
- According to the World Alzheimer Report (WHO, 2014) dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease remains one of the biggest global public health challenges our generation is facing
- There are many efforts at European level to promote active and healthy ageing

Main Problems To Address In Dementia
- Psychopathology (cognitive, affective, behavioural)
- Functionality (everyday activity)
- Interpersonal problems (relatives, caregivers, society)
- Quality of life (QoL)

Quick Facts
- 44 million people live with dementia
  - Will double by 2030 and triple by 2050
- 6th leading cause of death
  - 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer’s or other dementia
- Alzheimer’s takes a devastating toll
  - Not just on those with the disease, but on entire families and society
- Huge direct and indirect costs
  - Direct costs are estimated at 0.5% of GDP

Main Aims Of The Project
- Real-time monitoring in order to alarm and early intervention
- Gather data in order to follow-up and analysis
- Increase safety and reduce risk
- Prevent fall risk, chronic disease, dementia, social isolation, depression, poor well-being, and poor medication management
- Support to remain independent, safe and socially involved
- Promote independence and autonomy
- Improve confidence and quality of life
- Support to live at home for longer
- Support to maintain abilities
- Provide reassurance to carers and help them to feel less stressed

Method – Research Project
- ICT4Life platform is designed to improve situational awareness about patients at their home environments making use of advanced sensor-based analytics
- Maximize elderly empowerment and self-care abilities thanks to a reconfigurable recommendation system that will be able to exploit user-generated data
- Improve decision-making processes in care professionals’ daily activities
- All solutions are developed following a user-centred methodology and tested in real-life scenarios

Conclusions 1.
- This initiative brings together nine partners representing academia, industry and users’ groups
- All committed in improving patients’ lives and advancing Europe’s leadership role in personalized services for integrated care
- ICT4Life develops a solution for individuals with early stage cognitive impairment that will permit doctors and caregivers to extract useful information about patients
- While contributing in a user-friendly way to extending their independence

Conclusions 2.
- ICT4Life proposes an innovative platform for integrated care by the use of sensor-based analytics for human behaviour
- This three-year project has the ambition to provide new services for integrated care with breakthrough research and radical innovation by employing user-friendly ICT tools, ultimately increasing patients’ quality-of-life and autonomy at home
- Preliminary results are about to come soon in 2017

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