

Communicating Key results achieved from EU funded research and innovation on ICT for Active and Healthy Ageing under Framework Programme 7, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and Horizon 2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A study prepared for the European Commission

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OUTSIGHT
Think out of the Box

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The purpose of this study was to identify and consolidate the key findings from the research and innovation projects addressing ICT for Active and Healthy Ageing funded under FP7, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) and the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. While the total number of relevant projects from these 3 programmes account for more than 100, the contractor selected the top 25 most relevant, to extract the key findings on results achieved, i.e. regarding impact in the sense of: 1. improved quality of life, 2. increased efficiency of health and long-term care, 3. market growth and expansion of the EU industry. In addition, the study summarized the main lessons learned and recommendations for policy makers for future research and innovation agenda on ICT for Active and Healthy Ageing. It also developed a showcase of success stories to exemplify the outcomes to a wider public audience.

The study gives an overview of the 25 relevant projects referred to. Based on the analysis of these projects, the contractor sets forth in the Final report the following conclusions:

- The geographical representation in the R&I projects related to Active and Healthy Ageing within the initial study knowledge base of 58 projects (See Annex I) were dominated by representative organisations from Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany and the United Kingdom.
- There was limited representation of organisations from the Nordic countries (with the exception of Sweden) and from the eastern European Member States. When analysing the geographical representation of projects' coordinators, the results were similar.
- Regarding the Impact Area improved quality of life: projects related to fall prevention and robotics for ageing well had the strongest impact, together with stand-alone projects related to innovating elderly care and integrated care.
- Regarding the Impact Area increased efficiency of health and long-term care: there was a clear dominance of integrated care projects with some projects related to innovating elderly care also proving to be quite influential in this area.
- Regarding the Impact Area market growth and expansion: projects related to robotics for ageing well demonstrated the strongest impact. The projects related to fall prevention also were very influential, particularly in the creation of new markets. Finally, the projects related to innovating elderly care also made an impact in this area.
- Regarding the Impact Areas dissemination and engagement opportunities and sustainability: all six categories of projects demonstrated a strong impact with

particularly impressive work carried out by the projects related to robotics for ageing well in dissemination and engagement. Furthermore, the projects related to innovating elderly care were extremely effective in ensuring the sustainability of project results.

- The top three projects with regards to overall impact after the in-depth analysis included FARSEEING (FP7), CAREWELL (CIP) and ACCOMPANY (FP7), covering the following three domains: fall prevention; better connected through integrated care and robotics for ageing well.

Recommendations

Based on the analysis of these projects the contractor formulated in the Final report the following recommendations:

- Recommendation 1: Implementation of validated evaluation methodologies and practices to ensure the generation of quantitative results and to improve scientific credibility. Effective evaluation methodologies need to be used to provide credibility to project conclusions.
- Recommendation 2: Increased consideration should be given to ethical and regulatory issues. A lack of focus on ethical and regulatory issues can lead to serious problems in project execution, so steps must be put into place to sufficiently address them.
- Recommendation 3: A more thorough and deeper analysis of the State of the Art and Market/Competitors should be demanded of EU funded projects related to ICT for Active and Healthy Ageing at different stages of the project lifecycle. There is a general lack of extensive market, competitor, and state of the art analysis prior to and during project execution.
- Recommendation 4: The user should be placed at the centre of the design process through the adoption of tried and tested methodologies and sufficient, well-documented iterative cycles. User requirements' elicitation should be carried out early in the process and with regular iterative cycles. The importance of the design phase should not be underestimated
- Recommendation 5: Introduction of user recruitment practices to effectively engage, convince and maintain users in trials. The reasons behind insufficient user involvement need to be addressed and taken into consideration in future projects.
- Recommendation 6: Inclusion of counter-measures from early on in the project to help improve the digital skills of potential users for the pilot trials. User testing is not homogeneous across countries, adaptations need to be made.
- Recommendation 7: Take into account alternative ways of exploiting project outcomes and results. Collaboration agreements with industrial players should be

actively sought in order to enhance expansion into the market.

- Recommendation 8: The uptake of project management methodologies/tools can increase project efficiency. Effective risk management strategies need to be implemented to ensure the smooth execution of the project. Project objectives should be realistic and attainable.
- Recommendation 9: Use of organisational structures/processes to identify and engage with key stakeholders related to the theme of the project at hand. Need to involve additional external stakeholders in project activities.
- Recommendation 10: A greater emphasis should be given to expand the participation in EU-funded Research and Innovation programmes related to ICT for Active and Healthy Ageing.

European Commission

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