

Experiences in Participation in the AAL-JP An Introductory Note

Marjo Rauhala
EUROPATAGUNG 2014
Hofburg, Wien
21/01/2014

- Summary of experiences of a small university research group in participating in the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme
- Tracing the points based on two projects funded in the AAL-JP and a large number of national and international projects funded within diverse programs
 - Reasons for participation in AAL-JP
 - Benefits and disadvantages
 - A short list of wishes
- A collection of group experience
 - Our research group took the opportunity to reflect on the experiences together

- Institute for Design and Assessment of Technology Faculty of Informatics at the Vienna University of Technology
- Previously known as the working group for rehabilitation technologies – „fortec“
- Long-standing experience in national and international cooperation projects in the field of assistive technologies and ambient assisted living (incl. FP4 – FP7, Benefit, AAL)
- Participation in shaping of the AAL-JP
- 150 + publications over the last 10 years
 - 17 EU funded projects in FP4 – FP7 (8 carried out as coordinator)
- Research staff: professor Wolfgang L. Zagler and 6 fulltime senior researchers funded entirely on project basis

- **Technology for People** – Development of innovative, usable and readily accepted concepts of assistive technology.
- **Opening Doors** – Accessible and assistive environments despite of age and disability.
- **Increasing Autonomy** – Technology development for increasing and maintaining independence and quality of life.
- **Social Responsibility** – Technology to foster social relationships while respecting highest ethical standards and using participative design strategies.

- **Sensory substitution**
- **Alternative and augmentative communication**
- **Smart Living environments**
- **User Interface Design**
- **Social and ethical dimensions of involvement of potentially vulnerable persons in technology development**
- **User-driven research**

AAT – Center for Applied Assistive Technologies TU Vienna

- Close cooperation with users as core philosophy
 - User-drivenness, user-centeredness
- Multidisciplinary approach
 - Engineering, social sciences, ethics
- Projects ranging from individual AT devices to complex systems (ICT, motion sensors, robotics)
- Recent / Current projects in FP7 / AAL-JP:
 - KSERA, HOBBIT – Socially Assistive Robotics
 - DOME0 – Domestic robotics for older people
 - LILY – Solutions for independent living in the self-serve society

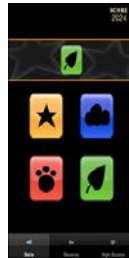
■ Domestic Robot for Elderly Assistance

- Demonstration of the use of robots at home for the support of old people
- Requirements in robotics, sensors and 24/7 communication services
- Analysis of efficiency
- Long-term trials in real environment at home



Call 1: ICT based solutions for Prevention and Management of Chronic Conditions of Elderly People

LILY – Advanced Support for Independent Living; Human Life Cycle Approach in Senior Housing (AAL-2010-3-027)



- Company-oriented R&D project coordinated by University of Oulu (2012-2014)
- Research partners, SMEs, user organisation (FI, FR, AT)
- *Living Lab – Pilot sites in Finland and France*
- Focus: Persons 55+ ; senior living, advanced ICT solutions for self-management of the activities of daily living (ADL) at home
- AAT: Leader of WP user involvement and ethical and legal issues



- Previous good experiences in cooperation in international projects since the FP4; continuity to our work
- AAL-JP practically tailor-made for AAT
- Content of AAL corresponds with the mission statement and core competences of our center
 - Focus on user orientation
 - Applied research that is close to the market
 - Attention to ethical aspects of user involvement and emerging technologies
 - Room for multidisciplinary

- *“The AAL Joint Programme has the following specific aims:*
- *foster the emergence of innovative ICT-based products, services and systems for ageing well at home, in the community, and at work, thus improving the quality of life, autonomy, participation in social life, skills and employability of older people and reducing the costs of health and social care.*
- *This may be based, for example, on innovative utilisation of ICT, new methods of customer interaction or new types of value chains for independent living services. The results of the AAL Joint Programme could also be used by other groups of people, namely people with disabilities, (...)“*

(DECISION No 742/2008/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL)

- Excellent opportunity to network with and learn from the experiences of international actors in the field of AAL
 - Learning about the experiences of long-term user trials of our partners (DOME0, LILY)
 - Exchange of good practices, for example, about processes that contribute to acceptance of new systems and services (LILY)
- Opportunity to share our expertise in a consortium
 - Long-standing experience in user involvement using participatory methods (LILY)
 - Research ethics, with a focus on involving potentially frail older people in research
- National aspect of AAL
 - Adds to familiarity, NCP easy to contact

- Funding rate
 - 100% funding would be necessary to do work well
 - 75% rate for research organisations and universities in Austria
- Uncertainty of national funding of partners
 - DOME0: an approved project, partner was unable to secure national funding; AAT on board on a short notice without having contributed to the proposal; continuous challenges for some partners
 - LILY: a partner had to drop out due to national funding issues causing delay and reallocation of work and responsibilities
- Limited partner pool
 - Only partners from countries participating in the AAL-JP can join a consortium
- Double reporting
 - Reports to CMU and NCP

1. Funding rate

- Minimum of 100% funding rate to finance the work, or, a favourable combination of funding rate and granted overhead
- Current funding rate a clear disadvantage for a group like AAT

2. Funding for proposal writing

3. Increasing the pool of AAL partner countries

- Or at least not decreasing the pool

4. (Re)introduction of budget for peer review

- Contribution to quality of deliverables, course correction when necessary, preparation for the review meetings

5. Harmonization of the reporting and ethics approval

- 1 joint report nationally or internationally could be sufficient for AAL
- Challenges continue in gaining local research approval due to different national practices

Thank you for your attention!

Marjo Rauhala
marjo.rauhala@fortec.tuwien.ac.at