

Press release:

## SPES – ATIS4all Workshop on Assistive Technologies

The Prague Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 as a one day workshop organized in close cooperation between two complementary international projects running currently in Czech Republic, namely of the SPES project (<http://www.spes-project.eu>) and the European Thematic Network ATIS4all (<http://www.atis4all.eu/>). ATIS4all seeks to facilitate everyone's access to the most suitable assistive technology or accessibility device and service according to their needs, preferences and contextual characteristics, e.g. type of impairment, currently applied solution based on information and communication technologies (ICT), environment constraints, user devices necessary for the considered person, language skills. This joint workshop tried to review various aspects of current ICT solutions for better quality of life of patients and challenged persons. This topic attracted 56 participants interested in using assistive technologies and ICT supported services. The audience represented all types of stakeholders including final users and their dedicated organizations (e.g. TyfloCentrum and Dinasy – associations of people with vision impairment or people with motor impairment), the care providers (e.g. association Život 90 supporting seniors living on their own) and their associations (e.g. Open Alliance of Assistive Technologies), mediators helping with individual choice of modern tools for challenged users (e.g. LifeTool), universities offering specific technical solutions and public bodies including representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs as well as the Ministry of Health and health insurance companies. All attendees were informed about intentions, outputs and results of both projects SPES and ATIS4all. Moreover, they were introduced to the concept of national and European activities for improving the accessibility of public administration and public services for people with special needs (Governance accessibility).

The workshop was divided into two sessions. The morning session introduced current state of art in assistive technologies and telemedicine through 9 contributions. The afternoon session first presented 6 real life examples from Czech Republic proving positive impact of technology and results of various relevant projects on everyday life of target users that were complemented by the final panel discussion. This discussion pointed to future plans of government in this domain as well as to some current problems preventing quicker onset of telemedicine and ICT solutions that should include also complex support combining preventive, emergency, activating as well as relief services. Number of the speakers from the audience joined the discussion. They often criticised absence of legislative support for implementation of ICT (and related services) to area of health, social services, but also into the security area (including data and their transfer). Further, the speakers called for clear strategy of funding for e-health and social services that would help providers of these services in development of sustainable models for their activities. It was stressed that this cannot be achieved without close cooperation among all considered stakeholders. Audio record from the workshop is available on <http://atisworkshop.site44.com/index.html>.