

Why SPES?

Innovations in telemedicine offer patients the possibility to enjoy better monitoring of their health and safety while reducing unneeded trips to the doctor. The SPES project helps encourage use of this technology by implementing a tele-health platform that serves people dealing with respiratory problems, dementia, disabilities and social exclusion in four central European cities.

Geographical isolation can be a problem for anyone, but it is especially difficult for those who have chronic illnesses and need frequent medical care. As they seek to bridge the gap between patients and care givers on the regional and local level, health service providers need to be able to test and adopt e-health instruments. Working in cooperation with a transnational team, and some of the most advanced technology providers within each region, SPES helps encourage innovative and shared solutions in the field of telemedicine. The result is that patients and caregivers have better communication, an improvement that amounts to enhanced geographical integration of the regions involved.

The SPES project implements an information-communication technology platform that is connected to different medical devices and installed in a patients' home. The platform creates a link with medical care providers and a system that is able to monitor the patients' health status. The SPES platform can also connect other patients and can serve as social communication channel. The platform is based on a low-cost personal computer and offers a user-friendly graphic interface. It provides the patient with a user entertainment system; it interacts with the health provider's call centre through a central server; and it functions as a telemedicine system, collecting medical data through sensors deployed at the patients' home.

Solution enhances people's lives

By exploiting this easy-to-use telemedicine solution, patients can lower their displacement costs and reduce the time they might spend visiting care providers, such as hospitals, general practitioners or medical centres. The reduction in travel time and improved medical monitoring enhances the quality of patients' daily lives and their general well-being.

For example, in Ferrara, Italy, an SPES initiative provided patients suffering from breathing problems with a system that can remotely monitor their health status via a pulse oximeter and other non-invasive medical devices – all of which work while the patient stays comfortably at home. The SPES pilot in Vienna endeavours to enhance the quality of life of older persons with dementia using localisation devices that do not restrict their movements. In Boskovic, Czech Republic, 40 mobility-impaired clients are trained in a range of registered social services, such as education and social and professional integration. And in Kosice, Slovakia, older persons are able to enrich their daily routine with various communication and social features that allow them to get involved in leisure activities or to receive psychological support.

Along with operating these pilot efforts, the SPES project contributes to better cooperation between the regions participating in the issue of tele-assistance applications. The project does this by encouraging cross-border collaboration on the highest political level, initiating a dialogue on the supra-regional level and promoting innovative developments between the partner regions.

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„She is delighted to find songs in her memory book that she liked listening to in her youth. I can see that from her smile.“

Woman whose mother suffers from dementia commenting on progress made thanks to SPES brain stimulation software

Why SPES?

Figures

40

Mobility impaired seniors in Brno pilot who are trained in a range of registered social services

80

Percentage of patients in Ferrara pilot who appreciated the ability to easily visualize and store their clinical data

36

Million people worldwide suffer from dementia

List of interesting projects

We list several projects that are close to SPES goals.

VERITAS

Virtual and Augmented Environments and Realistic User Interaction To achieve Embedded Accessibility Design

Project VERITAS is expected to operationalise and potentially revolutionise the accessibility testing at all stages of design and development of new products in five very important industrial domains.

www.veritas-project.eu

EASTIN

European Assistive Technology Information Network

Some of the best known, expert information providers in Europe have joined together to create the biggest, most comprehensive information service on assistive technology (AT) serving older and disabled people, their families and carers across the globe.

www.eastin.eu

SOFTCARE

SOFTCARE project has developed a prototype of a monitoring system

for seniors that allow carers (formal and informal) and senior users to get real-time alarms in dangerous or potentially dangerous situations and warnings on long-term trends that could indicate a future problem. - See more at: www.aal-europe.eu/projects/softcare/#sthash.DaOqIPiX.dpuf

www.aal-europe.eu/projects/softcare/

CONNECTED VITALITY

The Personal Telepresence Network (CVN) – aims to link groups of senior citizens into a video communication network, enabling them to choose the activity as well as levels of social interaction according to their individual needs, abilities and lifestyle.

www.aal-europe.eu/projects/cvn

WE CARE

WeCare is a collaborative European project which primary goal is to encourage older people to create, participate in and continue their social networks in order to prevent isolation and loneliness.

www.wecare-project.eu

Pilots Progress

Brno

The Boskovice pilot (Brno – Czech Republic) is focused on 40 mobility impaired clients of a non-governmental organization DEEP. The DEEPs' clients are often illiterate in the field of assistive devices and monitoring services including e-health concept. Therefore, as the first step, courses and appropriate training is provided in a range of registered social services motivating seniors and disabled persons in the field of communication services, education, social and professional integration. DEEP team selected 40 clients that will take part in the SPES pilot testing of services bases on monitoring through sensors and detectors – these clients are located predominantly in the city of Brno in the Czech Republic. We decided to share with you a strong story of Deep's client Petr Vicha. Jaroslav Cajka, a DEEP's blind client, interviewed Petr about his life experience. We left the

interview untouched – please keep in mind that Mirek suffers from a special kind of speech disorder.



I was very worried...

We met several years ago. He was such a quiet guy. He did not speak too much. We usually met at the bowling alley, where visually impaired persons had training sessions. He did not practice sport. He always drank one cup of coffee and

small soft drink and after that he disappeared.

As the time went by, we started to speak with each other. He shown himself as a very comical and interesting man. I want to share with you the fragments of his story as he had told it to me.

„You know, I can arrive only here in my town. It is not far, so I do not have to be afraid too much. As a result of my injury, I stayed almost four hours in a coma due to swelling of the brain; then I have started to experience further medical complications. The main medical complication, which is holding me at home, is epileptic seizures. That's why I need constantly company of people. With parents at home with you here. I must also regularly commute on dialysis, because my kidneys do not work. So I can not visit my son, who lives in other city. Just afraid. I'm very worried.”

We convinced him to meet people from ngo ProDeep from Boskovice.

The social workers offered him help. One year later, Peter is telling me his experience.

„Firstly, I was very nicely impressed by the device which you are wearing on your hand. You explained me that this device will monitor my location, detect fall and inform competent people that something happened to me. It would be also a chance for me. So I contacted them, and I got simi-

lar device. Yours device is on your hand; meanwhile I have a special box placed at the waist. And those great workers in call centrum somewhere far away can see, when I leave my house, or if I forget to charge the device, or if I fall, the dispatcher will call the help for me. Firstly, I did not believe them (to social workers). Then I tested them. They always reacted well. I felt suddenly happy. I did not

have to always stay at home. And I can only confirm, if the soul is quiet and satisfied many things around me are starting fulfilling. My doctors confirmed that I am much more quiet and calm. My doctors even told me that if I believe in the device and in people around that the epileptic seizures could completely stop. It is about peace and trust.“

Ferrara

The Ferrara pilot is addressed to the development of a telemedicine solution which helps people, affected by chronic respiratory failure, who can stay at home and obtain the needed care.

The SPES platform deployed in Ferrara consists of sensors for remote monitoring of physiological parameters. Selected tablet installed in patients homes automatically collects the data measured by the devices and sends them to a central repository in a secured way. The data stored in the central repository are automatically analysed by the SPES system tools. Each patient involved was provided with a tablet touch screen Acer, Oximeter Nonin and in this last phase a spirometer. Up to date more than 25 patients have been included in the Ferrara Pilot. Patients are daily monitored by the pneumology staff. The monitoring process includes self administered blood saturation test and self administered clinical questionnaires that assess perceived health conditions, like breathing capacity and drugs assumption.

In the middle of June one of the patient, Patrizia, was interviewed by a team of experts in CUP 2000 where a workshop organized by the FISTAR (www.fi-star.eu – project focused on advanced trials in the ehealth).

Patrizia is a 70 year old woman who has Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder for 18 years. She is dependent on oxygen either from an oxygen cylinder or an oxygen enhancer, which she carries with her in a small trolley. The oxygen helps her to overcome her shortness of breath. Patrizia showed us how she managed to submit the readings of her pulsioxymeter to her specialist doctor. She brought the SPES tablet to demonstrate us how to do it. Experts spoke to Patrizia to find out her thoughts on how the SPES technology is assisting her with her disease. Patrizia said: *"It is not di-*

fficult to learn to use the computer to measure the saturation. It takes little, maybe about one week, but it's not difficult, it's easy. I have to use always those 2 or 3 buttons, and it is always the same program. It is a good thing. You feel more calm. I felt more calm using it because once every 2 days I control my saturation. So I can see if I have enough oxygen in my blood. This is important. It's just at the beginning that is a bit difficult to perceive this necessity, but the more you use it, day by day, you feel always more self-confident. So you can face things. I can say ok! I can go out without been afraid, feeling safe because I just measured the oxygen and it is ok. While in the past, we used to go to the specialist for control just once a month. Checking blood saturation was painful because they used to take blood from my arm. While now, with this system, they do this painful test less times in a year. In the meantime I feel calm every day of the week. For us, this constant specialist evalua-

tion is very important because we have difficulties to walk. We don't have the strength to walk that we used to have in the past, due to the lack of oxygen. Having less oxygen in the blood makes us feel weaker. Anyhow this must not preclude my relationship with the specialist. If the patient remains without the communication with his doctor he feels isolated and lonely. Even if the doctor has the patient monitored through the computer, without relationship is like to abandon the patient.“

At the end experts realised that the SPES system is really working. Additionally during a midterm analysis of results, feedbacks were collected from the patients' and clinical specialists' point of view:

Point of view: Patient

A high percentage of the patients (more than 80%) has performed the assigned activities and has reported the lesson learnt with the use of the system.



The patients have appreciated the possibility to visualize and store their clinical data measured with the provided device in a very easily manner.

Patients feel safer and serene because they perceive that the specialist constantly monitors his or her health conditions. Perception that health conditions are daily monitored by the specialist.

The patients refer that are able to self monitor their health parameters better. Blood saturation and heart rate are data that can be easily interpreted by the patient. The patients has the possibility to daily self manage the disease and self administer the therapies. Patients feel to have more control on their lives by having

their health parameters remotely monitored by clinicians and feeling empowered by the opportunity to be self monitored at home.

Point of view: Clinical specialists

Refer to be satisfied of the SPES platform because:

They are able to remotely and constantly monitor patients' parameters.

They are satisfied because patient empowerment is enhanced by self monitoring.

They are more capable to define the medical follow-up agenda according with health conditions priorities.

All the actors involved in this pilot, from the Local Health Authority

and Province of Ferrara to CUP 2000 with the support of the coordinator organisation, ENEA, are playing a crucial role and pursue the objective to transform the pilot experience in deploying telemedicine services into routine care so as to build a body of good practice. They are working together to define tools and procedures that validates the SPES platform and consolidates the telemedicine service implementation process.

The synergy the Italian team is trying to build with the FISTAR project represents a good approach to scale up and deploy the platform at large scale.

Kosice

The third pilot of the SPES project is implemented within Košice City, a second largest city in Slovakia. The Košice pilot is devoted to problem of elderly social inclusion that can be supported within suitable information and communication technologies integrated into easily understandable and usable virtual user environment. The aim is to promote and encourage interactions between elderly and their families or friends, in a way such that typical face to face communication is not replaced or pushed aside. Each of 40 participants were given a laptop with installed software, USB modem for 3G mobile internet connection and one or two supported medical devices, i.e. glucose monitor or blood pressure monitor. Installed SPES software includes following modules: simple email client; real time chat; audio and video calls; calendar with possibility to create simple reminders; multimedia sharing; customized user profile and contacts list; management of collected data from medical devices: visualization and export; simple RSS aggregator for current news gathering from the web; simple information „wall“ for sharing short messages; and questionnaires to collect feedback from pilot participants. In the near future, this basic set of features will be further extended with RSS reader, information and news wall, audio/video calls and questionnaires.

1st evaluation phase (the first four months of testing) had resulted into

some interesting findings that showed a very good potential of the implemented idea, however at the moment only in a local area. The main finding is the willingness and desire of elderly to use various information or communication technologies to enrich their daily routine. Pilot participants are satisfied with offered software solution, but require more intuitive easily adaptive features for their level of skills or experiences.

2nd evaluation phase (the second four months of testing) had brought improvements, especially in a frequency of software use and IT skills of involved seniors: 40% (previously 12.5%) of them used SPES software several times during the day and 72.5% had improved their IT skills. Pilot participants are satisfied with

offered software solution, but require more intuitive easily adaptive features for their level of skills or experiences. Moreover, a combination of suitable software solution and social services provided by local governments and relevant stakeholders represents a good opportunity to save costs and time. We are looking forward for evaluation after next period, which may start to show trends or changes in some of monitored areas. Nevertheless, a potential of e-health aspect need to be further investigated from the point of communication between patients, doctors and all relevant included organization. But in fact, this issue represents a challenge for both common Europe e-health politics and relevant initiatives or projects.



Vienna

The Vienna Pilot aims at testing different technologies supporting older persons with dementia in their everyday lives. With the aid of GPS localizers and active RFID, the personal security of persons inclining to get lost can be increased.

In addition, an acoustic reminder to take the keys when leaving the flat, similarly based on active RFID, as well as an RFID function to find lost objects are intended to provide a tangible facilitation of everyday life.

A personal memory book activated on a touch screen PC and containing pictures, films, music and texts acts as brain stimulation and, at the same time, opens up access to new technologies (games, Skype etc.). For more than a year, older persons with dementia have been testing these technologies in day-care centres and private flats.

Technical devices for older persons with dementia are also intended to relieve the burden on care givers; nevertheless, test persons need to

be accompanied and supported continuously during testing phases.

It could be observed that persons who try to talk about their memories, feelings and thoughts appreciate being supported by pictures on the screen, e.g. from the internet or with the help of a personal memory book. This support encourages them increasingly to share their experiences.

Moreover, even persons who can no longer communicate verbally become more relaxed and communicative when they can e.g. fulfil their individual music wishes on the screen of a PC.

The daughter of a test person who deals with a personal memory book in their joint flat within the scope of the test case 'Brain Stimulation' commented on the changes she notices in her mother as follows:

"She is delighted to find songs in her memory book which she liked listening to in her youth. I can see that from her smile. Memories surface, thinking is activated and my mother,

who hardly used to speak, expresses interest, joy and astonishment. I also feel that to be a relief for myself, as all the motivation no longer has to come from me."

It is important to establish some continuity, i.e. to work with the test persons on a regular basis on touch screen PCs, even if a test case is temporarily not available (e.g. due to a necessary update or improvement of the software and hardware.)

At any rate, test persons – even very old persons with severe dementia – express interest in technology, utilization of localization devices, or the operation of touch screen PCs. Since the launch of the Vienna Pilot the experience has increasingly been made that the SPES project has contributed considerably to a form of e-inclusion of older persons with dementia – in addition to their acquaintance with technology useful for coping with the challenges of dementia.



SPES & Technology

SPES Infrastructure

For seniors or people who already encounter difficulties (cognitive, functional, financial) in their daily life, the evolution of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) may first appear as hard to follow or even as a contributor to their isolation.

However, these technologies can also enable them to increase their autonomy and social interaction and

to safely stay as long as possible in their familiar environment. Convinced by this and relying on its experience in ehealth-related projects, CETIC, a Belgian applied research center in ICT, prototypes in the SPES project a technological platform. This mainly consists of a software solution for the patients of the different selected target groups (i.e. patients suffering from breathing problems, dementia, social exclusion or phy-

sical/mental disabilities) that can be used on a touch screen terminal (without keyboard or mouse), on a classical laptop or on a Windows tablet. It has an intuitive user interface and is regularly improved with the patients' feedback to make sure it best fits their needs. Besides, the SPES platform includes web portal solutions to enable the patients' monitoring by their caregivers (physicians, social workers in day-care centers).

SPES & TECHNOLOGY

Among the numerous possibilities offered by the platform are:

- wired or wireless medical devices like glucometer, pulse oximeter, sphygmomanometer or spirometer can be connected to the platform. At appropriate times decided by the doctor, the patient is reminded to take measures with those devices and can graphically visualize them. The patient is also regularly invited to answer questionnaires on his/her general health status and well-being and on his/her specific disease as well. The medical measures and answers to questionnaires are sent to a central database to build a history of the patients' health status which can be consulted on a web portal by a physician, a nurse or any authorized operator. Those data can also be analyzed in real time to trigger automatic alerts to the medical staff and detect as soon as possible potential problems. Besides, the patient can interact with the medical staff (e.g. to get feedback about his/her medical data or to adjust a medical treatment) using written messages or Skype-based audio or video calls.

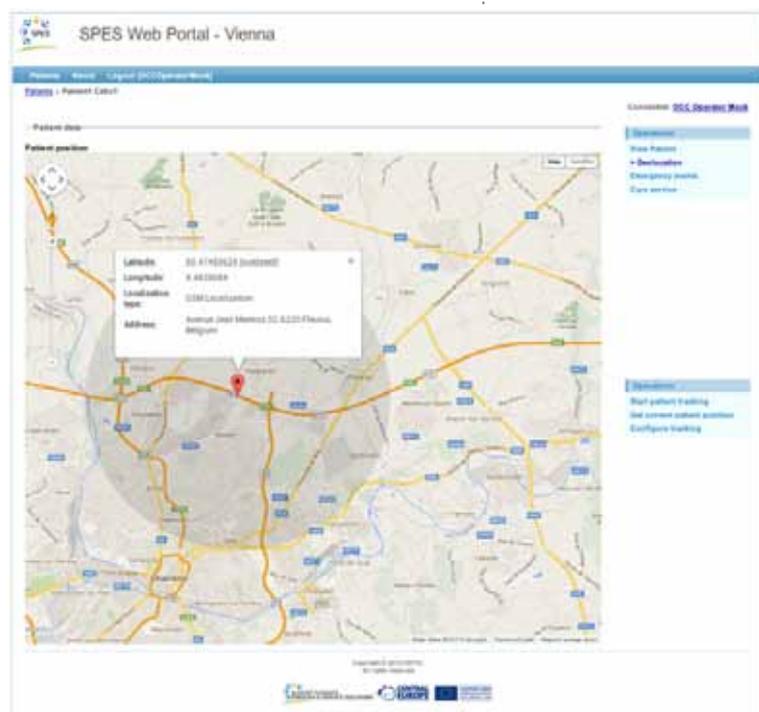
- people geo-location and tracking: the real-time position of less autonomous people who gave their consent to be equipped with a GPS/GSM/GPRS geo-location device can be tracked indoors and outdoors and visualized by authorized operators (like social workers in day-care centers for seniors suffering from dementia) in a web portal on a Google Map. The operator can also get in vocal contact with the patient by calling the device at any time. In case the patient is alone and feels bad or in an unsafe situation, he/she can call an operator or press an SOS button on the device, which triggers an alert in the web portal.



The patient can graphically visualize the medical measures in Ferrara pilot (here, the oxygen rate and the hearth rate).



The medical measures (here, the hearth rate and oxygen rate) can be visualized on a web portal by a physician, a nurse or any authorized operator in Ferrara pilot.



The position of a patient equipped with the geo-location device can be requested and visualized in a web portal on a Google Map in Vienna pilot.



Geo-location device used in Vienna pilot

SPES & TECHNOLOGY

eScrapBook: multimedia tools for seniors

eScrapBook is a web application developed by CVUT partner for the Vienna Pilot, aimed mainly (but not exclusively) as a support tool in reminiscence therapy. One of favorite techniques used in reminiscence therapy is scrapbooking, i.e. creating commemorative albums and memory books from supplied materials (photos, newspaper clippings). Our application, inspired by system/service Biogravision, allows its users (mostly caregivers or family members of the clients) to gather and upload various multimedia files (photos, videos, audio clips, texts) and to author a flippable, web-browsable digital books from them. These books can be then viewed online via web interface or exported as a zip archive for offline use, with HTML5 capable browser as only requirement. The application has open architecture and is readily extensible, allowing to easily support more types of content which may be embedded in eScrapBooks, from various types of page layouts (which govern the placement of content items on pages - grids, insets, borders) to Javascript miniapplications (quizzes, games). The data from user session (which may contain in-

formation such as how long the user viewed a specific page or if/when the user viewed certain video/audio clip) with an eScrapBook can be also optionally logged and analyzed in order to help the book authors and caregivers with selecting and updating the books contents. The target group of clients in this case are seniors with various stages of dementia and/or Alzheimer disease in several Viennese day care centers. Several scrapbooks were created and installed on all-in-one computers with touch screens during the course of Brain Stimula-

tion test case of Vienna pilot. In this test case, the clients were guided to practice handling the touch screen interface and encouraged to bring their various memorabilia (photos, videos) as materials from which then personal memory books were produced. It was shown that memory books such as these are an useful tool in therapy for persons who no longer can communicate verbally or for those from different language background (other than German), but of course also for persons not affected by those limitations.



Project News

Conferences

Active Healthy Ageing, Czech Republic

Owing to the links via the FRAM project prof. Štěpánková (CVUT partner) had the opportunity to participate at the conference "Active Healthy Ageing in the Czech Republic - from Strategy to Practice" which was held on 22 March 2013 at the Czech Ministry of Health, Unit of Health and Social Care Services

Week of Accessible Design

SPES project was presented during the event Week of Accessible Design (17 to 21 September 2013), organized by Czech Design. Several members of the Steering Committee attended Workshop focused on accessible design where, one of the main spe-

akers was Silvio Sagromola (Director of National Disability Information and Meeting Centre of Luxembourg - Info-Handicap). Mr. Sagromola demonstrated on the specific examples how the city can become friendlier not only for wheelchair users, but also for the elderly and other residents with special needs.

Stakeholder meetings Steering Committee meeting in Ferrara, April 2013

On the 18th of April 2013 was held the Steering Committee meeting in Ferrara with the aim to verify the development of the planned activities. The platform for the management of the tele medicine services has been

analysed and each partner presented the state of the art of the pilot projects implementation. In addition the partners presented the results from the stakeholders' meetings and how the dissemination of information towards the local stakeholders is one of the project pillar to ensure sustainability and follow up. This follow up was presented in draft during the meeting.

In the afternoon the partners had the opportunity to visit the residence for old people managed by Centre services for people, a consortium of Municipalities located in the Province of Ferrara and the ASL, Local Agency for Assistance. The residence hosts 190 old people located in a old palace of the Ferrara centre. The old people

are identified in four different groups according to their needs and the level of self-sufficiency.

In addition the partners visited for dinner the "Fienile di Baura", and old hayloft managed by a cooperative for the social integration of disabled. The location is a restaurant and is a location of events, training courses and different set of activities aiming at integrate in the jobs the disabled and people affected by disabilities.



The "Fienile di Baura"

5th Steering Committee Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic, September 2013;

A technical meeting was organised with partner ProDEEP and in Brno including the visit to the Boskovice center on 20 June 2013. The main goal of the meeting was to discuss the status of the Brno's pilot. The demonstration on the progress of the pilot, and specific results in ambient living technologies were presented. Additionally, further implementation issues regarding this pilot and budget were discussed.

2nd Strategic Political Committee Meeting, April 2013

After the Ferrara welcome to the participants by the President of the Province of Ferrara, the members of the Strategic Political Committee started the meeting inside the Ferrara Castle on the 19th of April. The Strategic Political Committee has the purpose to facilitate the creation of an area of Ambient Assisted Living, e-health and telemedicine in Central Europe through cross-border collaboration, initiating a dialogue on the supra-regional level and promoting innovative developments between the participating partner regions.

During the event in Ferrara, participants got informed about the ongoing project SPES. They got involved in the cross-border cooperation and innovative development of assistive technologies on the Central Europe-

an level. They were provided with information about running activities, results and challenges from SPES Project Partners. The meeting was a successful to get together from Central Europe regions in the field of e-Health, Telemedicine, and Ambient Assisted Living

The meeting was the opportunity to:

- Get informed about the midterm results from Central Europe Project SPES
- Get updated about experiences from SPES Project Partners
- Get involved in the cross-border cooperation and innovative development of assistive technologies on the Central European level
- Get together from Central Europe regions in the field of Ambient Assisted Living, e-Health and Telemedicine.

At the meeting SPC members got involved in two different working groups about these relevant topics in developing a telemedicine project:

1. How can technology (and findings from SPES) help to meet the challenges of an aging population?
2. Which strategic innovation alliances and cooperation could be built up for a sustainable development of e-services?

Even if these work groups had not the willing of answering exhaustively to these questions, the discussion can help the SPES partners in individuating the most important elements as perceived from the SPC.



1st working group session

The 1st working group has no doubt that AAL, e-health and telemedicine (in short: tele-assistance) make significant contributions to meeting the challenges of an ageing population, in particular to the health and nursing support of older persons. Among other benefits of these new technologies, costs can be reduced over the long term by using technological applications in the health and social

fields. However, this effect of reducing expenses is difficult to prove, especially at the beginning of an innovative introduction; usually, subsidized projects come to an end before it is possible to prove the effect of reducing costs in the implementation. It is necessary to make investments in the development and implementation of ehealth, telemedicine and AAL before a reduction in costs is possible. Hence, suitable funding is required in order to make a contribution towards mastering the challenges facing an ageing population. Subsequently, it was discussed how sustainable funding can be ensured, also beyond EU projects. In this respect, it has to be borne in mind that it is not just a question of investments, but also of covering ongoing costs, which are frequently not affordable for end-consumers.



2nd working group session

The 2nd working group started with the definition of the relevant stakeholders that could be involved when defining an innovative telemedicine service or innovating a running system. The result can be summarised on the fact that a lot of different actors play an active role in taking care of people and most of them can be involved in the improvement of such a service as the patients themselves.

This lists contains the Insurance companies, patients' associations, planners of health services, social services and others. Then the group tried to identify the "key concepts" to address these stakeholder and to map these concepts with relevant stakeholders, in order to define a common vocabulary to address a specific representative of the stakeholders.

The results of this Strategic Political Committee Meeting is about the linking between enabling technologies, key concepts and target groups. This is the first important step in creating high-impact messages tailored on concepts and addressed to specific and relevant target groups, like politicians or insurance companies.

Local Workshops

PTE EXPO 2013, Italy

Italian SPES partner participated at the PTE EXPO 2013, trade fair in Italy completely dedicated to operators and professionals of Elderly Care, held from 14 to 16 May 2013 in Bologna. Specifically ENEA, Local Health Authority and Province of Ferrara and CUP 2000, participated at the smart living space "Vivere e invecchiare smart" (Living and ageing smart) where a stand was equipped with domotic products including the SPES solution and system. The aim was to disseminate the SPES results and exchange knowledge and best practices with an audience of people and experts in the ICT and healthcare fields coming from different regions of Italy.

Prague Workshop November 2013

The Prague Stakeholder 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 (www.spes.org) 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 informati-

on and communication technologies (ICT), environment constraints, user devices necessary for the considered person and 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 intro-

duced 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>.

Calendar

Final conference, May 16 2014,
Vienna



Prague Workshop

Contact and information

www.spes-project.eu

For further information subscribe to our mailing list and receive the SPES newsletter or contact the Lead Partner:

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