Welcome to the third INNOVAge Newsletter!

We are in the final year of implementation of INNOVAge project and, as we are going to inform our readers in this newsletter, it has been a year full of work and activities at local and European level. All these activities have been focused on creating a framework which supports elderly people to live independently in their homes and also encouraging the adoption of smart solutions, with a valuable contribution to minimize the environmental impact of daily life.

INNOVAge partners have teamed up for the following purposes: to implement one Pilot Action in each of the learning partners’ countries, to organize mentoring visits and other mentoring activities to support this Pilot Actions implementation, to carry out training sessions and workshops and to build up new links at regional level to contribute to the regional growth of the Independent Living sector. Thanks to this work we can now state that INNOVAge project has reached great results in terms of increasing its effectiveness of regional development policies in the field of eco-independent living for the elderly.
ABOUT INNOVAge...

INNOVAge is a project supported under the INTERREG IVC Innovation & Environment Regions of Europe Sharing Solutions. Supervised by Marche Regional Authority (Italy), INNOVAge aims at increasing and improving the effectiveness of regional development policies in the field of eco-independent living for the elderly through networking and mentoring activities at regional and interregional level. This policy focuses on helping elderly people to live independently in their homes, increasing their autonomy and assisting them in carrying out their daily activities.
PILOT ACTIONS IMPLEMENTATION

The central aim of the INNOVAge project is to explore the **Research&Innovation Driven Cluster model** as an efficient way to strengthen creative interaction in the knowledge triangle (business-private-research), to accelerate research, development and market deployment of innovations in the area of healthy ageing.

The core of the **INNOVAGE Working Model** has been matching more innovative partners (Mentoring Group) with less innovative (Learning Group) to take advantage of the potential of independent living and relative eco-innovation solutions in each region. Key element of this model are dissemination of learning and dissemination activities that INNOVAge has provided for its 15 European partners which include sharing of regional Good Practices (documented in “INNOVAge Good Practices Catalogue”), international study visits, training sessions and workshops.

On the basis of these activities, the **“Learning partners”** have been tasked with putting together Pilot Action Plans to transfer Good Practice to their respective regions, under the guidance of the **“Mentoring Partners”** who have already matured in this field.
PILOT ACTION 1: INNO.VOUCHER

**Mentoring Partners:** Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research (TNO)

Marche Regional Authority (Italy) has set up an Innovation HUB that provides local SMEs with innovation vouchers worth between €5,000 and €10,000. With these vouchers, SMEs can purchase consultancy from approved European research center’s or individual experts to develop products or services that meet one or more demands articulated by Marche Regional Authority’s Key Informants (strategic stakeholders who understands which functionalities would allow elderly citizens to take better charge of their lives).
PILOT ACTION 2: Preparation and Testing of Telecare within Social Patronage Service in Sofia Municipality

**Mentoring Partners:** South East Health Technologies Alliance (SEHTA)

Sofia Municipality has planned and implemented an innovative telecare service integrated into its existing Social Patronage service. It developed the specification for this new service by carrying out an assessment of the local needs of its elderly population by considering the resources available to them. This new service, which is facilitated by 15 managers and care workers trained in the use of telecare, has been tested on ten elderly residents from Sofia Municipality who were already in receipt of Social Patronage. The Municipality has run an information campaign to promote this new service, and they have identified the legislative changes required to support its widespread roll-out.

PILOT ACTION 3: Preparation of the Active Ageing Innovation Vouchers Programme

**Mentoring Partners:** Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research (TNO) and Marche Regional Authority

Region of Central Macedonia is completing the preparatory work to set up a vouchers programme that will allow businesses providing healthcare services, such as old people’s homes, as well as businesses developing innovative products that address active ageing, to access exclusive services. They designed this Programme in consultation with various stakeholders and have since identified who the implementing body and supporting stakeholders will be.

PILOT ACTION 4: Castilla y León research and innovation driven cluster set up in the independent living field

**Mentoring Partners:** Medica@lps and Marche Regional Authority

Fundación INTRAS and Regional Management of Social Services (Junta de Castilla y León) has developed and set up the Innovative Solutions for Independent Living (SIVI) cluster, which aims to catalyze research and innovation that addresses the needs of the ageing society. Fundación INTRAS and the Regional Management of Social Services designed their cluster using insights gained from mapping the existing regional quadruple helix (academia, business, care/clinicians and patients). They have since recruited 29 stakeholders from across this helix as members and have supported the actions of their first working groups.
PILOT ACTION 5: Supportive Health Services for Daily Care in a Smart Home after an Operation

**Mentoring Partners:** Blekinge Institute of Technology

Geroskipou Municipality has developed a proof-of-concept suite of software and hardware to support its elderly population at home after they have had an operation. These products, which range from medical instruments to smart sensors to technologies that promote involvement in social activities, are made available and managed by the Geroskipou Centre.

PILOT ACTION 6: Social-communication Platform for Elderly "SPERO"

**Mentoring Partners:** South East Health Technologies Alliance (SEHTA)

Development Centre of The Heart of Slovenia has put systems in place to support the development of close-to-market healthcare technologies. They have tested these systems by developing and trialing technology inspired by Simpla Solutions Ltd.’s “MyHomeHelper” App. Specifically, they have developed personal units that connect to any existing computer or television to allow the user to receive messages and instructions from friends, family and local day centres, listen to relevant news and order third-party services. Development Centre of The Heart of Slovenia became aware of MyHomeHelper after meeting UK-based Simpla Solutions Ltd. at the INNOVAge event in Helsinki, Finland in 2013. They developed and tested the software and hardware, educated the prospective users how to use the system, and have installed it in four homes (one more installation pending before the end of December 2014).

PILOT ACTION 7: Creating a smart home eco-system in Lithuania

**Mentoring Partners:** Mentoring partners: The Baltic Institute of Finland and Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research TNO

Lithuanian Innovation Centre has developed a cluster of smart-home related companies which it has already engaged in workshops, international fairs and conferences, and national and international match-making activities.
PILOT ACTION 8: Evaluation of the possibility of establishing a cluster of social services in the South Bohemian Region

Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia RERA is running a viability study to test the potential for setting up and running a cluster akin to Medic@lps cluster of universities, hospitals, research institutes, SMEs and start-ups, large companies and local authorities working in the healthcare field. The mission of this cluster will be to support its members to develop innovative healthcare technologies via collaboration and profile raising.

Mentoring Partners: Medica@lps

PILOT ACTION 9: DEMOFLAT - Creating demonstration flat and cross-cluster cooperation network for active aging, eco-independent living and quality of life

Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (Poland)

Poland Pilot Action is aimed to engage different institutions to work together on developing a demonstration flat for elderly people (inspired on Functional Home, study visit to Finland in 2013) and building cross-cluster cooperation network for active ageing, eco-independent living and quality of life.

Mentoring Partners: Baltic Institute of Finland

INNOVAGE POLICY PAPER

The Innovage partnership is preparing a Policy Paper scoping recommendations for new governance model for assisted living clusters. With the experience of all 14 partners involved in the creation and running of the InnoHubs, the Innovage Policy paper is calling for the establishment of an international authoritative scientific base and a legislative and bidding framework signed across countries. The parallel is made with the climate change targets ‘Agenda 2020’, can we achieve these binding targets across the world also for the health and well-being of citizen? More information will be released soon on the Innovage Project Web site (http://www.innovage-project.eu).
WORKSHOPS

ELDERLY/USERS NEEDS TO IMPROVE REGIONAL POLICIES AND SERVICES AND TO RAISE AWARENESS AT POLICY AND RESEARCH LEVEL
České Budějovice (Czech Republic)

The 5th workshop organized within INNOVAGE Project took place on 10th June 2014 in České Budějovice (Czech Republic), under the topic “Elderly/users need to improve regional policies and services to raise awareness at policy and research level”. This workshop was held in the framework of the 4th Intermediate Event of INNOVAGE project and counted on the participation of around 50 stakeholders in the field of eco-innovation and independent living (project partners and also some external participants).

After the opening ceremony by Tomáš Cílek on behalf of RERA (INNOVAGE Czech partner), Ivana Stráská, Deputy Governor of South Bohemian Region put the audience in context and introduced the workshop, split into three blocks: contribution of academic sphere, contribution of business sphere and contribution of Social Services Providers.

The participation of academic sphere started with a presentation by the Department of Applied Physics and Technics, Faculty of Education (University of South Bohemia) related to a Home-Care Robot for Monitoring and Detection of Critical Situations (ROBO MD). ROBO MD is a prototype robot which monitors and detects critical situations which needs prompt medical attention for elderly people or people with cardiovascular diseases. Some daily questions have been implemented to establish certain communication between patients and the robot. During the course of the day, there were other presentations about Computers in the World of Elderly by Faculty of Health and Social Studies, University of South Bohemia, which focused on what the Internet offers to elderly people, barriers, etc. Finally there was a presentation about how technologies can improve life of seniors, by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague.
The second part of the workshop was devoted to the **business experiences**, and it was based on the presentation of different assistive technologies such as: Senior Inspect (by CleverTech) based on the acquisition and processing of environmental and medical parameters to reflect senior’s health status; InspectLife (by Mediinspect), an assistance service for seniors and their families; and one presentation by Insight Home about Assistive Technology as Part of Smart Homes. The workshop drew to a close with a **perspective from the Social Services Providers**, highlighting that technologies should act as a support of human care but not replace it.

**CREATING UNITY OUT OF DIVERSITY: SUSTAINING LESSONS LEARNT IN ACTIVE AGEING**

**Brussels (Belgium)**

The 6th workshop organized within INNOVAGE Project and the final one, was not only a workshop but the Final Conference of CASA and INNOVAGE project. INNOVAGE and CASA projects decided to join forces and organize a Joint Final Conference to present their results. This conference took place last 7th October 2014 in Brussels, under the topic “Creating Unity out of Diversity: sustaining lessons learnt in Active Ageing”.

As we are going to discuss later, the Final Conference was a high-impact interregional event, but now we are going to focus on the contents of the conference, thus, the contents of the workshop. After the initial welcome, introduction and opening speech there was a short presentation about CASA and INNOVAGE project, both of them INTERREG IV C projects, by Mr. Fabian Dominguez and Mr. Massimiliano Pinat respectively.

Then the first block of the conference started and counted on several presentations about **regional policies and situations** in different European regions such as: Castilla y León (Spain), Wielkopolska (Poland), Kent (United Kingdom), Marche region (Italy) and Andalucía (Spain). Several representatives of the regional government explained their situation in relation to ageing and the social and health care regional systems and policies.

Next to this description of regional situations there was a presentation related to **DAA project** that consist of a network of cities that need to find economic and innovative yet sustainable solutions for senior care.
Some figures and estimations reflecting this situation were shown at the beginning of this presentation. Three examples of the work done were presented being one of them a new intergenerational center created in the City of Warsaw as of an existing social center to improve the health and welfare of senior citizens and the public perception of ageing.

End users also have an important role in this conference with two testimonies. Mr. George Casteleyn and Mr. Geert Casteleyn from Flanders (father and son) explained how smart ICT have improved their quality of life and carried out a simple but very attractive exhibition of how they communicate through ICTs (Domus Admin System). It was also really inspiring the participation of Dick de Gunst from Andromeda Association in Noord Brabant showing how an association of active seniors develops a smart ICT solution (based on some products already on the market: smartphones, tablets, sensors) and finds a SME to launch this solution to the market.

Subsequently an expert panel about policy recommendations took place. Six experts from different regions (Kent, Flanders, Castilla y León and Lithuania) discussed about the topic of the conference linked to a political point of view. Some interesting reflections arose during the expert panel: i) enough technologies available, but low cost solutions are needed, ii) user-center approach (for example, the way of communication now is different so the innovation should be based on this kind of behavioral changes), iii) Some evidences are requested to promote changes from the political point of view but it is difficult to show these evidences in the short term, iv) Innovation is a process that lasts longer than the government’s terms of office and this is a great problem (government changes=political changes), v) It is necessary to understand that innovation is linked to risk.

The second part of the conference was dedicated to the transfer methods used in both, CASA and INNOVAGE projects, and some experiences of how these knowledge transfers have been implemented in these projects. Finally it was presented the European policy vision by means of the participation of high representatives of EU DG for Health and Consumers, EU DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, AAL Joint Programme, Coral network and INTERREG IVC JTS. The conference had a perfect final touch with a really interesting closing session by Mr. David Parry from SEHTA (UK) of which it should be highlighted the quote he shared with all the audience at the end: “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them” [Albert Einstein].
The 2nd training session within INNOVAGE project took place on 26th and 27th February 2014 in Vilnius (Lithuania) and counted on around 40 participants. Sander Van Der Molen, on behalf of LIC (INNOVAGE Lithuanian partner) was in charge of the welcome and introduction of this training, chaired by Nicolaï Sederberg Rottbøll from Copenhagen Cleantech Cluster (Denmark) and with the collaborations as co-trainers of Peter Bjørn Larsen from Copenhagen Cleantech Cluster, Linas Eriksonas from Cluster for Plastics and Novel Materials and Valerie Ayache & Severine Lebreton from Medic@lps (France).

The training session was split into four modules. The first one was oriented to Business Models for running a cluster, with 3 case studies on “Member Services in practice”: Copenhagen Cleantech Cluster, Medic@lps and Cluster for Plastics and Novel Materials.

The second module was oriented to Access to finance for clusters and members, with an overview on financial models, private funding, membership fees, services, public funding and EU funds. Usually there is a balance between Public and Private funding, being rare to have 100% of private funding.

The third module, dedicated to Inter-cluster collaboration focused on 3 examples of national collaboration between similar clusters and the International Cleantech Network (ICN), as a case study. Finally the last module was related to cluster labeling with the presentation of different types of certifications, pro and cons of cluster labeling, etc.
České Budějovice (Czech Republic), 11th and 12th June 2014, the last training session within INNOVAGE project takes place in the framework of the 4th Intermediate Event, with the participation of around 30 participants (project partners and also external participants). This training session was chaired by Reiss-Schmidt from Clusterland Upper Austria with the collaboration of Ms. Nina Kainz, project manager at the Automotive Cluster.

Mr. Reiss-Schmidt presented the structure of Clusterland Upper Austria as an umbrella of 7 clusters and two networks in the region, with 1,900 partners. This organization has an important component of public funding from the regional government that has allowed them to finance 1,137 collaborative initiatives since it was created.

In relation to the financial models of clusters, Mr. Reiss-Schmidt referred to a suitable evolutionary model that consists on a strong financial support from public bodies during the first stages that should be reduced gradually once the cluster is mature and produces enough collaborative projects. The idea is that finally the cluster can be financed by the members’ fees, the collaborative projects and a small support of public bodies. Concerning the budget structure it was recommended to focus the efforts on: cooperation, communication and information, training and qualification, marketing, internationalization and internal management. A financial and management tool box was presented as an essential instrument for an efficient management.

Finally, the success key aspects of a cluster were mentioned (to include the whole value chain, intercluster collaboration, to cover several regions, management by objectives,) and some quality certifications for clusters were presented (ECEI y NGPExcellence).
During the last year of the project, the INNOVAge Steering Group and the Innovation Task Force (ITF) took part in two project meetings. These meetings are important to ensure effective and efficient project management, implementation and monitoring in order to achieve the expected results.

The first one took place last June in České Budějovice (Czech Republic), where our partners from RERA were perfect hosts. This meeting was part of the 4th Intermediate event that also included a Workshop and a Training Session, described above. From the point of view of the Steering Group, the meeting in Czech Republic was really important to well define the work to be done till the end of the project and how to contribute with our last activities to get the most of the project. Concerning the Innovation Task Force, during this meeting each partner presented the state of play of their respective Pilot Action and described the specific and different activities implemented by each learning partner on the basis of the mentoring ones and the knowledge transferred. During this meeting the Mentoring Visits carried out within INNOVAGE were reviewed and the last ones were planned. It was also presented a content proposal for the 2nd ITF Working Paper: “Policy recommendations for new cluster governance model”.

The last project meeting took place on 6th October 2014 in Brussels in the framework of the Joint Final Conference of CASA and INNOVAGE project. It was the moment to look back and assess all the outcomes of the project and the work done and also to present the last activities that each partner was going to carry out till the end of the project and even after INNOVAGE. During the ITF each partner presented their Regional Implementation Plans to show how the lessons learnt from the cooperation within INNOVAGE project have been integrated into each region. There was also some time to discuss the 2nd IMF Working paper about Policy recommendations, trying to get the last contributions and point of views of the partners.

All the partners’ meeting developed within INNOVAGE have been very important to ensure effective and efficient project implementation but even more to reinforce the links set among the partners. We are sure the INNOVAGE partners’ network is going to keep alive beyond the project!
FINAL EVENT

October 7th 2014, Brussels, CASA and INNOVAGE organized a high-impact European event as a final touch of both projects. INNOVAGE and CASA look at the complex issues that arise from demographic ageing and the many challenges that the future poses on European senior care. The projects aim at finding sustainable and innovative solutions that enable longer independent living. With this aim, both projects decided to join forces and organize a Joint Final Conference to present their results, which took place under the topic “Creating Unity out of Diversity: sustaining lessons learnt in Active Ageing”.

The day before CASA&INNOVAGE Final Conference, a networking dinner was organized to bring together all project partners and other high level policy makers, as well as other stakeholders in the field of ageing and independent living. During this dinner an Award Ceremony took place to award the three best practices of each project as a public acknowledgement of the work undertaken during the project execution.

Within CASA project, the three best practices awarded were the following:
- IMinds, Flanders
- Kent Innovation Hub
- The City of Edinburgh Community Alarm Telecare Service

Within INNOVAGE project, the three best practices awarded were the following:
- INNO.VOUCHER - Marche Regional Authority (Italy)
- SIVI cluster - Fundación INTRAS and Regional Management of Social Services (Spain)
- Social-communication Platform for Elderly "SPERO" - Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia (Slovenia)
Marche Region was awarded as one of the best pilot actions within INNOVAGE project. This award represented a very important validation from other partners about the Innovation Voucher Scheme developed by Marche Region, in collaboration with SVIM – Sviluppo Marche Spa, within the Pilot Action. The Innovation Vouchers Scheme was developed on the basis of "TNO SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research)" Good Practice identified to be transferred by Marche Region at the beginning of the project. TNO was also selected as Mentor partner in charge of the technical assistance for the development and implementation of this Pilot Action. During the implementation of the Pilot Action, 7 Key Informants selected among Pensioners Associations, Social Housing Agencies, Local Administration (in charge for the social health services), Social Enterprises, Research Centers, Universities and other organizations that provide service for the elderly, were interviewed or involved in specific focus groups with elderly people. The main needs detected belong to the following macro-categories: i) Physical and psychological well-being; ii) Mobility, iii) Personal and environmental safety (Domestic supervision and safety) and iv) General technologic devices.

All the contents of the Joint Final Conference of CASA and INNOVAGE project have been presented above as it was also considered the last INNOVAGE workshop. It must be highlighted that there were around 200 participants in the conference from different European countries and different kind of entities. We would like to remark two aspects of the conference, beyond the contents and the speeches that were really interesting: the activity on twitter during the final conference (#casainnovage) and the Market Place. During the Conference 18 entities had the chance to show innovative projects results, applications and solutions in the field of Independent Living through a set of stands available during the whole conference.

Now we are going to give the floor to the INNOVAGE partners awarded in order to know further about their Pilot Actions.

**INNOVOUCHER – Marche Regional Authority (Italy)**

Marche Region was awarded as one of the best pilot actions within INNOVAGE project. This award represented a very important validation from other partners about the Innovation Voucher Scheme developed by Marche Region, in collaboration with SVIM – Sviluppo Marche Spa, within the Pilot Action.

The Innovation Vouchers Scheme was developed on the basis of "TNO SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research)", Good Practice identified to be transferred by Marche Region at the beginning of the project. TNO was also selected as Mentor partner in charge of the technical assistance for the development and implementation of this Pilot Action. During the implementation of the Pilot Action, 7 Key Informants selected among Pensioners Associations, Social Housing Agencies, Local Administration (in charge for the social health services), Social Enterprises, Research Centers, Universities and other organizations that provide service for the elderly, were interviewed or involved in specific focus groups with elderly people. The main needs detected belong to the following macro-categories: i) Physical and psychological well-being; ii) Mobility, iii) Personal and environmental safety (Domestic supervision and safety) and iv) General technologic devices.
Thanks to a critical analysis carried out by “Polytechnic University of Marche Region” these needs were finally matched with products and services that could meet them and be inserted in the call for projects to be awarded with the Innovation Vouchers. As a result of this call, 4 projects submitted by local SMEs were granted with the Innovation Vouchers which supported collaboration with research and innovation bodies included in a transnational list of experts. We selected two of them to be presented as the best projects awarded:

1. **MYDOOR – THE GATEWAY FOR DOMOTICS**
   
   **Beneficiary**: Qui Projectsrl
   **Knowledge Provider**: Ing. Andrea Pistoli
   
   Smart and interoperable system for Ambient Assisted Living (AAL), able to increase security in the life at home of people with deficits or disabilities who can’t or don’t want to live more in assisted facilities other than their homes. MyDoor is a full ALL system that can be also used to integrate and control, without replacing, already working technologies.

2. **COLLECTING DATA DEVICE FOR SMART MONITORING OF ELDERLY**
   
   **Beneficiary**: A TLC SRL
   **Knowledge Provider**: Meccano scpa
   
   A TLC srl (commercial brand of Aethra® Telecommunications, www.aethra.com) used the innovation voucher INNOVAge to cooperate with Meccano scpa with the aim of improving the test processes and defining legal and certification requirements for the production of new M2M solutions about telemonitoring applications.

This Pilot Action was a substantial opportunity for Marche Region not only to learn how to implement an Innovation Voucher scheme but also about how to use such an instrument to:

- Increase knowledge on the needs for the eco-independent living for the elderly and active ageing thanks to the consultation with welfare services providers, care providers, Universities/Research Centers and Civil Society Organizations.
- Involve end-users and research centers in a quadruple helix model for the innovation in eco-independent living for the elderly.
- Increase knowledge on the products and services that can meet the needs identified.
- Develop a regional strategy for increasing investments in technology and research.
- Innovate local MSMEs by a technology push.
- Enforce the role played by by the MSMEs in innovation processes.
SIVI cluster - Fundación INTRAS and Regional Management of Social Services (Spain)

Since the beginning of the INNOVAge project, the Castilla y León Region has been immersed in the process of development of the SIVI cluster **Innovative Solutions for Independent Living**. Currently, the cluster has been formally set up and built upon the quadruple helix model, amounting so far to 29 stakeholders. This initiative was awarded as one of the best Pilot Actions within INNOVAge project in the framework of the Final Conference.

All the work related to the cluster set up and its first activities have been led by The Regional Management of Social Services and Fundación INTRAS: an early diagnosis of the background conditions, mapping of the stakeholders and strategic plan design, cluster creation, initial working groups and first collaborative actions.

It is worth noting that the SIVI cluster is unique in Spain. There is no other existing initiative comparable with a regional focus. This cluster will foster an innovative market in the future. It will address the needs coming from an ageing society, as well as raise the competitiveness of our region.

INNOVAge project has been a good opportunity of building SIVI cluster on the basis of other European mature clusters’ experiences. The creation of the cluster is being reinforced by two mentor sessions on cluster management and governance and a more technical mentor action to increase awareness of the market possibilities of eco-innovation applied to assisted living and social housing.

SIVI cluster will operate as a catalyzer for research and innovation actions on innovative solutions that can improve the prevention, the care and the recovery of different conditions leading to a dependency situation, as well as promoting active and independent living.

Being awarded as one of the best practices of INNOVAge project has been really gratifying and motivating for SIVI cluster members, since it is an acknowledgement at European level. This acknowledgement, together with the socio-demographic conditions in our region, the lessons learnt and the knowledge transferred within INNOVAge project and the commitment of cluster’s members will be key aspects in relation to our cluster sustainability.
SPERO: Social-communication Platform for Elderly - Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia

Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia was awarded as one of the best pilot actions within INNOVAGE project. Being awarded was a great honour for them and a confirmation that they are on the right track for providing conditions for independent living for the elderly.

They have put systems in place to support the development of close-to-market healthcare technologies and tested them by developing and trialling technology inspired by Simpla Solutions Ltd’s “MyHomeHelper” They received the help and advice from mentoring partner South East Health Technologies Alliance, UK.

A prototype of the terminal device is the result of the collaboration of various experts and is adapted to the older population. It allows the elderly to communicate with the local day centre, relatives and friends, read selected and local news, access services available in the local area and be informed when it is time for everyday task (reminders). The terminal is easy to use because it has only five buttons to operate it (4 buttons for navigation and 1 button for confirmation) and can be connected to an existing TV or PC monitor. User specified administrators (family members, close relatives, neighbours) have remote access to the device via interface. They can set notifications, send some text messages or voice messages that are played back automatically. The pilot project allows a further development of the system (audio and video link with relatives or local centres, touch screen) after the testing phase. Currently five devices have been installed and are being tested by end-users, who constantly give their suggestions for upgrading and improving of the platform.

Social-communication platform for the elderly is a great opportunity for The Heart of Slovenia area, because it will strengthen intergenerational cooperation and encourage the integration of various stakeholders into clusters for developing and implementing innovative solutions for the elderly. It will also develop clusters of service providers in different local environments.

“The Advanced Interactive Home System that Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia has implemented is a very good example of meeting a local need by transferring existing technology and developing it to fit the local context. Social isolation is a great worry for elderly people and this service ensures that through familiar technology they can keep in contact with friends, family and the care services.” (Dr. Richard Curry, SEHTA).
HIGHLIGHTS ON INNOVAge REGIONS

CYPRUS. Geroskipou Municipality

Presentation of Support Services for Daily Health care ‘Smart Home’.

On September 11th 2014 Municipality of Geroskipou, as part of the funded project INNOVAge, held the pilot implementation and presentation of Support Services for Daily Health care ‘Smart Home’ during the postoperative recovery period. The event took place in Geroskipou Municipality and was attended by around 200 people from the industry and Academia (Cyprus University of Technology), representatives from Prestigio company and Microsoft and elderly people from Health Care Centre Municipalities.

The event focused on presenting specific applications in living spaces for elderly people in the framework of policy formulation and conditions for an improved quality of life. During the event, Municipality of Geroskipou presented the pilot study of the project and the main axes of development of the applications. Also, at the event the Mentoring group, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), represented by Dr. Jenny Lundberg, presented current practices to a better quality of life for elderly people.

SLOVENIA. Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia

“Social-communication platform for the elderly” presented on the 14th Festival of the Third Age.

Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia presented INNOVAge project and “Social-communication platform for the elderly” on the stand for three days within the 14th Festival of the Third Age from 29th September to 1st October 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This Festival is a unique event for the elderly in Slovenia and the largest event of this kind in Europe because it has more than 15 thousand visitors each year.

The platform was presented by its developer and a lot of visitors tested it. Besides this, the round table “Products and services for older people in the Heart of Slovenia - Region of intergenerational cooperation” was also organized within the event where the pilot action was also presented to potential end-users.
CZECH REPUBLIC. RERA, Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia

RERA will attend the “Innovation Cocktail 2014“ to promote INNOVAGE results

In November, RERA´s representatives will partly organize and participate in the “Innovation Cocktail 2014", in Prague, to introduce the project´s achievements and to spread the results of INNOVAge to key innovation stakeholders. The event should pursue ideas of young people and entrepreneurs, commercialize and give publicity to different projects, find projects for the fourth year of the Czech Innovation competition and interconnect active people (networking). The town of Prague, which is of course outside the South Bohemian Region, was chosen deliberately in order to disseminate the project’s results among the widest range of different actors.

SPAIN. Regional Management of Social Services - Junta de Castilla y León and INTRAS Foundation

Spanish INNOVAGE partners welcome their mentor partners

Last April Medic@lps teams visited Valladolid (Spain) to share their working experience with The Regional Management of Social Services from JCyL, INTRAS Foundation and other members of SIVI Cluster. The expertise of Medic@lps is based on NABC methodology to analyze needs, approach, benefits and competencies of each project. This way they can define the requirements for a good cluster operation and its consolidation. During the visit the audience was split in four groups (civil society, research center and universities, public administration and technology based enterprises) to analyze this aspects by looking for the interests and needs of all of them in order to set the course of actions of SIVI cluster.

On the other hand, last October 17th another mentoring activity was set, led by SVIM and Evotre and oriented also to SIVI cluster members, under the topic “Eco-innovation and smart building applied to social housing”. An Italian project about an eco-efficient building with social aims was presented, trying to widen commercial horizons to the companies of the SIVI Cluster since this is not yet a research field within the cluster.
SWEDEN. Blekinge Institute of Technology

BTH participated in the NordiCHI2014 Conference to promote INNOVAge project

The NordiCHI2014 conference took place on 26th October, in Helsinki with 550 participants from 34 different countries. INNOVAge partners from BTH participated in a specific workshop on the topic "Beyond the Switch: Implicit and Explicit Interaction with Light" which brought together approximately 20 participants with a special interest in designing for implicit and explicit interaction with lighting. BTH team presented a workshop paper with the title "Seeing the Light in INNOVAGE: Eco-smart independent living for the elderly". During the workshop it was discussed how lighting could be designed in smart ways for eco-smart independent living for the elderly.
INNOVAge does not end here!

Although INNOVAge project is officially coming to an end a lot of regional initiatives to support eco-independent living have been launched and are going to keep running beyond INNOVAge. In the last few months we have been working on a final project brochure to show the main project results and activities (find the Final Brochure on http://www.innovage-project.eu). In this sense, one of the topics we thought about was related to the sustainability of INNOVAGE project, as you can see this does not seem to be the end...

"THANKS TO INNOVAGE WE ARE READY TO...

"...involve Rhône Alpes stakeholders in actions identified in the regional implementation plan and connect them at an EU level using the INNOVATION HUB network set up"

"...increase the capacity of public and private system to attract additional resources for research and innovation and focus investment in AAL and eco-smart house sector, raise the quality and the quantity of the networks between companies and universities/research centers, develop new smart services and products for the local communities to address demographic challenges."

"...share our knowledge to improve other regional policies in the field of independent living."

"...develop more innovative social services at home in our region"

"...move forward with enhanced cooperation among local stakeholders and increased know how for the development of new regional policies for the independent living of the elderly."

"...foster in the near future an innovative market that will address the needs coming from an ageing society, from a regional to a European perspective."

"...expand our InnoHub network and collaborate in future AAL projects and synergies."

"...direct members of the SEHTA cluster towards market development, product development and funding opportunities"

"...become the best practice for other regions in Slovenia because of the understanding and providing friendly conditions for active aging, which will improve the quality of life for all generations."

"...uptake the new practices for effective and efficient cluster support as well as to find policy initiatives that will help to address the future needs of elderly people in Lithuania."

"...build on lessons learned especially in the area of cluster set up and cluster management in the given field. “

"...foster a regional network of cooperation in the field of eco-innovation and independent living."

"...share our knowledge in a sustainable way across Europe with valued partners."

"...join efforts for sustainable socio-technical platforms meeting the demographic and environmental needs of tomorrow."
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