Welcome to the second INNOVAge Newsletter!

During the second year of the implementation of the INNOVAge project, the partnership has been involved in several activities at local and EU level in order to create the framework to support elderly people to live independently for longer in their own homes. Indeed, INNOVAge aims at increasing their autonomy by emerging of new technological supply chains associated with new developments like independent living and eco-innovation, with a valuable contribution to minimize environmental impact of elderly daily life activities.

INNOVAge partners have been strongly teamed up for the following purposes: to exchange good practices in the field among learning and mentoring regions, to organize study visits to the best practices at EU level, to carry out training sessions and to build up new networks at regional level or join the most important European platforms on Active Ageing, Ambient Assisted Living and Independent Living of the elderly.

Thanks to these efforts, INNOVAge is reaching good results in terms of increasing the effectiveness of regional development policies in the field of eco-independent living for the elderly. Connection among partners has been fostered, interregional cooperation and a network of cluster at European level, working in the area of eco-independent living, have been developed in order to help share experience and knowledge by encouraging a strong collaboration within regions.

SUMMARY

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REMINDER 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 to increase and improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the field of eco-independent living for the elderly by networking and mentoring activities at regional and interregional level. This policy focuses on helping elderly people to live independently for longer in their homes, increasing their autonomy and assisting them in carrying out their daily activities.
CROSS SWOT ANALYSIS

The Cross SWOT Analysis was published in 2013. This document reports on the data collection and inter-regional cross SWOT analysis identifying key areas of development for the next stages of the project such as: the training and mentoring scheme. The Cross SWOT analysis also makes recommendations for policy makers, for future cluster development and joint actions.

The SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) methodology was selected as basis for analysis with tailored templates being used to collect the data. Europe has an ageing population and it will place an increasing burden on the statutory care sector. This burden could be reduced by adopting new technologies which will help to support the elderly to live independently for longer – referred to as Ambient Assisted Living (AAL). The wide scale implementation and the use of AAL would be easier if houses were built or were able to be retrofitted easily with the necessary communications systems – so called “Smart Homes”.

The INNOVAge project aims to bring together 14 regions from the EU to stimulate the development of AAL, of Smart Homes and the convergence of the two by exchanging good practices (GP), transferring ideas for one to another and starting the debate on how best to influence policy and the uptake. So after the analysis of the results, 5 recommendations were adopted:

- **Recommendation 1**: Integrate policy making across health, social care and housing. It is not sufficient to rely on policy makers to stimulate change but other stakeholders such as industry, care professionals and end users must be involved in the design of policy and new types of services

- **Recommendation 2**: Implement procedures to ensure that all stakeholders are involved. In this area of eco-innovation, industry includes device manufacturers, telecommunications, architects and builders. The assisted living and smart homes sectors already have their special interest groups (SIGs). The role of the regional innovation cluster should be to build on existing SIGs and networks

- **Recommendation 3**: The RDCs should avoid duplication and build on existing innovation infrastructure. However, even if the regional innovation clusters bring all the stakeholders together to focus on user need, the industry will be reluctant to invest unless the market is large and there is a reasonable expectation of a good return on their investment. Clusters should be examining their regions need for “care” as widely as possible such as combating social isolation and thus meeting a basic need.
• **Recommendation 4:** Cluster innovation policy should aim to identify the larger market opportunities. Meeting a basic need across several regions could lead not only to the sharing of good practice and the exchange of ideas but to the identification of a bigger market.

• **Recommendation 5:** Interregional activities should be explored. The next phase of the INNOVAge project will allow the ‘learning group regions’ to access some of the models in place in the ‘mentoring regions’ and also those Good Practices identified through the GP collection and catalogue. There will not be a ‘one model fits all’ approach, rather the transfer of knowledge will be tailored to each regional scenario having learnt from the GP but also the ‘mistakes’ of others.

You can download the complete Cross SWOT Analysis on the following link (http://INNOVAge-project.eu/sites/default/files/20130502_Cross_swot_report_FINAL.pdf).

**DETECTION, PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICES**

One of the most important tasks from the last months of 2012 and the first ones of 2013 was the selection by partners of Good Practices (GP) in the field of eco-independent living for the elderly developed at local level in the 14 regions participating in the INNOVAge project.

In the context of the INTERREG IVC programme, a good practice is defined as an initiative (e.g. methodologies, projects, processes, and techniques) undertaken in one of the programme’s thematic priorities which has already proved successful and which has the potential to be transferred to a different geographic area. Proved successful is where the good practice has provided tangible and measurable results in achieving a specific objective.

In the context of the INNOVAge project, a Good Practice is defined as a Research & Innovation Driven Cluster already existing with running initiatives in EU Regions in the policy area tackled by the project.

After the selection of 15 GPs the, “INNOVAge Good Practices Catalogue” was published in April 2013. It was then distributed that month during the Workshop held in Valladolid in Spain. This GP Catalogue contains detailed information on the excellence and variety of experiences that have taken place across the EU in this field. These are examples of
research & innovation driven cluster models that can be set up in response to a major societal challenge: the ageing society.

A summary of the work and methods employed by the 15 GPs involved in INNOVAge are highlighted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of instrument</th>
<th>GOOD PRACTICE TITLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Innovative tool for the monitoring and rehabilitation of patients</td>
<td>- GP1: Competency Center for Biomedical Engineering (CC BME) written by Development Centre Litija</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectorial referent Governance model</td>
<td>- GP2: eVia written by Regional Management of Social Services - Junta de Castilla y León and INTRAS Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market driven actions and Innovation tools</td>
<td>- GP3: GAC written by Gerokshipou Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target setting and planning, market driven, innovation tools, SMEs incubator, cluster Internationalisation</td>
<td>- GP4: HABITECH written by Marche Region and SVIM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Factory creates a platform for research, education, innovation and start-up activity in the healthcare services and solutions industry. Its main focus is to utilize technology in healthcare. It combines technology, business and design</td>
<td>- GP5: Health Factory Initiative written by The Baltic Institute of Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative method on how to prepare the specifications for a regional funded programme, SME centric and friendly to companies. Market driven action</td>
<td>- GP6: ICE-T written by SEHTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation tools; economic measures; KPI (Key Performance indicators): satisfactory surveys, financial indicators, working group with end users, etc.; networking</td>
<td>- GP7: MEDIC@LPS The Grenoble-Isere Health Cluster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of instrument</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerging cluster: Structural Funds Cluster Support, BSR Stars project support for</td>
<td>- GP8: MONAK2 Cluster written by Lithuania Innovation Centre- LIC</td>
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<td>cluster internationalisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clustering of stakeholders and identification and evaluation of suitable technologies</td>
<td>- GP9: Senior well living BTH Sweden written by the Blekinge Institute of Technology</td>
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<td>and research front were identified</td>
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<tr>
<td>An interdisciplinary approach covering the technological, economic and social aspects</td>
<td>- GP10: Subcarpathian Renewable Energy Cluster written by Rzeszow Regional Development Agency</td>
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<td>of a model conducive to the creation of innovative construction providing improved</td>
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<tr>
<td>quality of life in Podkarpacie. Innovation tools</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic measures (societal/economic value added), innovative</td>
<td>- GP11: TNO SBIR written by TNO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational measures, Innovation projects funding, Innovation supporting services</td>
<td>- GP12: Torino Wireless- the Piemonte ICT cluster written by Marche Region and SVIM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-clustering, Entrepreneurial Training</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation tools; Interregional cooperation on a specific research project in the</td>
<td>- GP13: Robo M.D written by RERA</td>
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<td>form of a mini-programme.</td>
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<td>Social added value (social measures); - Users centered; Targeted services.</td>
<td>- GP14: Social Patronage written by Sofia Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative eServices provided to elders and info-marginalized audiences, user-</td>
<td>- GP15: T-Seniority written by Region of Central Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>centric integration of services throughout TV, integrated care eService, use of</td>
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<td>digital TV as the most widely available and preferred channel for info-marginalized</td>
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<td>sectors.</td>
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If you want to read or download the complete GP Catalogue, follow the link http://issuu.com/INNOVAge/docs/130416good_practices_catalogue

In addition, 15 posters containing the main information on the GPs were designed, printed and exhibited during the Workshop held in Valladolid (Spain) in April 2013 and also during the Open Days in Brussels (Belgium) in October 2013.

If you want to read or download the complete GP Poster Session, go to the following link http://issuu.com/INNOVAge/docs/INNOVAge_gp_gallery?e=8225003/2996543

BEGINNING OF PILOT ACTIONS

As previously mentioned, 15 Good practices (GP) were identified by the INNOVAge partners in the field of Research & Innovation Driven Cluster in assistive technologies. From these identified and analyzed GP, 9 pilot actions will be undertaken during 2014 and be implemented by the ‘Learning Group’ (LG) of INNOVAge. The mentoring group (MG) will supervise the transfer of Good Practices and help to monitor their implementation.

The objective of the pilot actions is to start a project in the area of care of the elderly at home that could lead on to a sustainable service in that region. The pilot action should be innovative for that region. This could include for example, implementing a good practice from another region (s) or bringing together existing regional providers in a novel way. However, the project shouldn’t be disruptive. It should work within the context of the existing health and social care infrastructure serving to extend the existing services.

The Learning Group is composed of the following partners:

- Marche Regional Authority (Italy).
- Sofia Municipality (Bulgaria)
- Region of Central Macedonia (Greece)
- Regional Management of Social Services – Junta de Castilla y León (Spain)
- Geroskipou Municipality (Cyprus)
- Development Centre Litija (Slovenia)
- Lithuanian Innovation Centre (LIC) (Lithuania)
- INTRAS Foundation (Spain)
- Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia RERA, (Czech Republic)
Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (Poland)

And the Mentoring Group is composed of:

• Marche Regional Authority (Italy)
• Medic@lps (France)
• Baltic Institute of Finland (Finland)
• SEHTA (UK)
• Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research TNO (The Netherlands)
• Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden)

The role of the monitoring and assessment process is twofold. The first one is at project level to help the pilot action to achieve its goals and the second objective is at strategic level to help to develop a sustainable cluster in that region, for example:

1. **Pilot Action Support.** The mentoring regions will be available to support the ‘Learning regions’ by:
   - Commenting on the individual Pilot Action plans
   - Assisting with the identification of delivery/operational partners
   - Assisting with the setting of milestones
   - Assisting with the setting of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
   - Reviewing the progress reports

2. **Cluster Development.** The mentoring regions will also:
   - Help to identify pilot action steering group
   - Help to identify strategic partners
   - Comment on any dissemination activities

During 2013 the learning group finished their road map on the development of pilot actions for their own regions.
WEBINARS CHAIRED BY TNO AND BTH

Two webinars were held during 2013. The first INNOVAge webinar was broadcasted on the 25th of June 2013, were professionals from all over Europe joined the hour long online presentation and shared their local experiences in an interactive discussion. During the webinar Remy van der Vlies and Esther Felix (TNO, Dutch Center for Health Assets) presented the results of a study after the implementation of telecare technology in three regions in the Netherlands.

Special attention was paid to the System Innovation Framework, which was used to map drivers and barriers regarding the implementation of telecare technology. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed on the following link (https://www.onlineseminar.nl/Nabij-vitalewijk/OnDemand.aspx?id=680b727b-66ed-43b6-b607-04ee183617ed). Throughout the webinar, the background and methodology of the study will be explained and the most interesting results and recommendations will be shared.

The second INNOVAge webinar was broadcasted on 3rd of October 2013 and focused on End-user involvement and usability aspects, methods and approaches and was held using Adobe connect platform. During the webinar cluster manager Mats Löfdahl and researchers and external expertise representing different disciplines and areas of competence presented a framework of relevance for Sustainable Smart Home Services for elderly.

Prof. Sara Eriksén, associate professor Sharon Kao-Valter and assistant professor Jenny Lundberg were presenting experiences and methods from EU projects as well as ongoing cooperation with China and India. Furthermore external expertise with substantial experience in the area Per-Olof Svensson presented innovations and cooperation with industry and governments.

The presenters gave insights into ongoing projects and approaches on how to integrate end-users in the design process and how to understand their needs. The cluster manager presented the stakeholders, companies, institutes and governments focusing on services and innovations. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed on the following link: https://connect.sunet.se/p340hftfqem/
14 INNOHUBS IN 14 REGIONS

During 2013 Innovation Hubs were opened in the 14 participant regions of the INNOVAge project. These Innohubs are the partner’s offices that organize activities and the staff that coordinate stakeholders and actions related to eco innovation applied to the elderly independent living and smart home.

OPEN DAYS 2013

More than 150 people attended to the workshop “Innovative policies and solutions for active ageing” on October 8th, organized jointly by INNOVAge, CASA and DAA projects.

The workshop, moderated by Ms Roos Galjaard (advisor, Bureau PAU), included keynote speakers on excellent actions from the active ageing sector: Mr. Tomasz Pactwa (Director of the Projects and Social Affairs Department, The City of Warsaw), Ms. Maria Kleine (Project manager, City of Stockholm), Mr. Juha Jolkkonen (Head of Division, City of Helsinki), Mr. Jo Vandeurzen (Minister for Welfare, Health and Family, Flemish Government), Mr. Thierry Auboyer (Social Action Commission’s President, General Council of Isere) on behalf of Mrs. Gisèle Perez (1ère Vice-présidente, Conseil général de l’Isère (General Council of Isere), Mr. Robert Stewart (Director of NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent),Ms. Anne Tidmarsh (Director of Older People and Physical Disability, Kent County Council, Paola Giorgi (Ministry of Marche Regional Government, responsible for EU policies and ICT) and Dr. Lieve Fransen (Director Europe 2020: Social Policies, European Commission).

The three main goals addressed during the workshop were: (1) working together on complex issues that arise from demographic ageing and the many challenges that the future poses on European senior care; (2) Looking at growth in terms of creating new opportunities and smart specialization; and (3) Being of particular value as regards the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.
INNOVAge PARTNERS AND THE CORAL NETWORK

Three partners from the INNOVAge project, namely the Region Marche (Italy), the Regional Management of Social Services – Junta de Castilla y León (Spain) and INTRAS Foundation, as well as its Technical Secretariat SVIM (Italy), are now part of the Coral Network. CORAL is a European network of regions collaborating in the field of Ambient Assisted Living and Active and Healthy Ageing. Through a process of open innovation to solve the barriers implementing AAL and AHA solutions and services, CORAL focuses on ‘regional policies about Active and Healthy Ageing’ and ‘Ambient Assisted Living’.

Coral is about strengthening connectivity between the regions and their innovation clusters in Europe. The member regions of Coral consist of – quadruple helix – clusters of stakeholders in the sectors of research, entrepreneurship, government and civil society. Coral also connects the regions to other European counterparts and networks. It gives the regions a position in the fast growing European community of innovators in the field of Active and Healthy Ageing.

The added value of Coral for the European Commission is that it makes a connection between the supply and the demand side. This is among others because innovative companies, service providers and buyers – users and care institutions – are part of the regional clusters.
Around innovation for independent living services and ICT products for the elderly more than 100 people gathered on the workshop hold in Valladolid on 19th April 2013.

The regional minister of Family and Equal opportunities from the Junta de Castilla y León, Milagros Marcos, presented the new model for the attention of elderly in Castilla y León named “En mi casa” (At home). The main aim is to change the model by attending to the elderly in their own homes and using technologies in order to improve their independence and their quality of life.

At the same time, Pablo Gómez, Executive manager of INTRAS Foundation, presented the services and technologies offered by INTRAS with a user centered approach. Apart from this, some important regional organizations like Limcasa, Connectis, Cartif y Cruz Roja presented ideas and projects linked to enhancing Independent Living and Quality of Life through ICT based Products and Services.

Afterwards CARTIF Foundation explained a project about Robotic devices for upper limb neuro-rehabilitation in seniors with traumatic brain injury, and representatives from the Regional Development Agency (ADE) and the Industrial Technological Development Centre (CDTI) informed about the regional, national and European policies on innovation, research and development for independent living.

At the end of the day, the participants had the opportunity to see the different technologies available to improve the independence and the quality of life of elderly people. Gradior 4, Psicoed, Entrena, Redap, LLM, Resater, Fit4All were some of these interactive technologies used for cognitive and physical rehabilitation, tele-care and tele-medicine, geo-localization, virtual and augmented reality,….

At the same time different representatives from the Good Practices presented their GPs to the general public, opening an interactive space to matchmaking between all participants. The Good Practice Manual was the most important document delivered to all attendance.
EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICIES TO STIMULATE INNOVATION
Sofia (Bulgaria)

Public policy can be generally defined as a system of laws, regulatory measures, courses of action, and funding priorities concerning a given topic promulgated by a governmental entity or its representatives. The stimulation of innovation at all levels is really important for the present societies, and the design of public policies is a key matter around this question.

On 19th November 2013 the INNOVAge project brought together in Sofia (Bulgaria) experts on this matter in order to discuss about these items. After the opening session, with the participation of Albena Atanasova (Deputy Mayor), Aneta Georgieva (Sofia Municipal Council, Councilor) and Margarita Disheva (Social Assistance Agency from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy), some international Projects of Sofia Municipality funded by EC illustrating innovations in the public sector were presented by Mina Vladimirova, Director “Social activities” Directorate from Sofia Municipality.

After the coffee break, the first presentation informed about telemetry of high-risk patients with cardiovascular diseases, addressing the following contents: Main features and applicability of telemetry for real-time monitoring of high-risk patients; Telemetry systems for monitoring of patients with cardiovascular diseases – parameters and requirements; Algorithms applicable for real-time ECG (electrocardiogram) analysis; and PATRIS – telemetry system embedded in treatment process of patients at the Department of cardiovascular diseases – University Hospital “Aleksandrovska”.

The second and last presentation, Ambient assistive living systems for elderly and disabled people, tackled with adaptive platform on ambient assistive system applicable to different target groups of elderly people; Practical implementations and approaches make it possible to overcome some barriers in acceptance of assistive systems by the users, for example how their privacy is respected and in a practical and positive way. New innovative multi parametric personal device – specialized for WBAN assistive systems; Based conception and advantages of wireless multipoint emergency notification system and its application at the Municipal Home for elderly - specialized hostel for elderly people “Darvenitsa”, Sofia.
TRAINING SESSIONS

HOW TO SET UP A CLUSTER
Sofia (Bulgaria)

Medic@lps, in collaboration with the Sofia Municipality, organized the 1st Training Session in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 21st November 2013. The aim of the trainings was to strengthen the capacity of policy/decision makers in management of RIDCs, transform weakness emerged from SWOT analysis into specific training modules, to support policymakers to better understand their requirements and to facilitate the transfer of GP, relative success and durability. This 1st Training session was focused on “how to set up a cluster”.

The whole day was centered on the “Key Future trends of setting up a cluster” including the Key Factors influencing clusters’ development and “What does the Cluster set up Journey look like?”, covering 3 topics: Initiation (biz model, reputation/ legitimacy), Execution (skills, culture, spread of activities….) and Governance (vision, organization…).

After this, in order to learn the do’s and don’ts of a cluster set up and to design a list of prerequisites to make the cluster initiative a success (organization, competences, tools, governance, stakeholders to involve / benefits) 3 cluster’s teams explained how best to approach the journey of setting up a cluster.

Another two items emerged during this training session: how to create a service offer portfolio, taking into consideration the experience of the stakeholders that are also “customers” given their needs and maturity and the capabilities required (through different methodologies as presentation, role playing, etc), and the concrete implementation of the cluster: setting up of a cluster and discussion around potential internal/ external collaborations, pilot project to launch, resources, sponsorship, capabilities, etc.

In order to close the session the different participants shared the lessons learnt during the training session and planned the next steps to be developed across the different regions.
4th STUDY VISIT

London (United Kingdom)

On 6th December 2012, SEHTA organized a Study visit to the BRE (the Building Research Establishment, www.bre.co.uk) to show some examples of best practices in eco-housing design and integration of assisted living. After a welcome from Deborah Pullen, Mike Perry introduced to all participants the Opportunities and Barriers presented by the convergence of Smart Homes and Assisted Living.

BRE is a group set up in 1921 as the Building Research Station (BRS). This became the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in 1972. BRE is an expert advice on achieving better buildings, communities and businesses. BRE helps government, industry and business to meet the challenges of the built environment. It is an independent and impartial, research-based consultancy, testing and training organisation, offering expertise in every aspect of the built environment and associated industries.

5th STUDY VISIT

Helsinki (Finland)

After Ancona, Rotterdam, Grenoble and London, Helsinki was the last opportunity for all partners to visit and to be exposed to good practices in the field of eco-independent living for the elderly. During two days, 11th and 12th June 2013, and after a useful matchmaking/networking event, more than 70 participants (INNOVAge partners and stakeholders) visited several Finnish examples:

Visit to the Aalto University

The aim of the visit was to introduce participants the concept of Aalto University and especially introduce the idea of Health Factory. The visit started with the introduction of the concept of the Aalto University by D.Sc. Seppo Laukkanen. This was followed by the introduction of the Health Factory by the Professor Raimo Sepponen.

Factories in the Aalto University work as platforms for AU and its stakeholders. Health Factory is the newest factory among the 4 factories. It was established in the beginning of the year 2013 and is coordinated by AU School of Electrical Engineering. Health Factory aims to find solutions for health and wellbeing related problems with a social significance. One of the aims of Health Factory is to create new business activity. A successful solution can be used as a foundation for a new business or may be incorporated as part of an existing company.
Visits to Nature Centre Haltia
Haltia Nature Centre is the first public building in Finland built entirely of wood. It signals a new era of wood building. The environment has been taken into account in Haltia’s facilities and activities alike through skillful design and the latest ecological solutions. Haltia was designed and built according to the principles of sustainable construction, with the objective of minimizing the carbon footprint. The environmental perspectives are also catered for in Haltia’s activities.

Visits to Validia Housing Services
Validia Housing Services is a forerunner of Finnish supported living. They offer support for everyday life, accessible premises and additional care and welfare services – throughout all stages of life “Validia Services for Safe Living and Wellbeing”. Validia Housing Services is an expert and forerunner in Finnish supported living. Validia Housing Services helps people with special housing needs. They rent accessible and functional apartments with special furnishing and offer housing support to people from various age groups.

Validia Housing Services belong to the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities. The operating idea in organizational work is the empowerment of people with disabilities and the securing of equal opportunities for them.

The tour of the Validia Housing Services started with a short introduction about the functions of the Validia Services. During the tour of the Validia House, visitors were introduced to the flats and shown some of the methods and solutions in use. Visitors were able to visit the actual premises, where the clients of the services live. After the guided tour of the Validia Houses, the Chief Advocacy and Member Relations Officer of the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities Anssi Kemppi, introduced visitors to the idea and role of the Association in the Finnish health and wellbeing sector.

Visits to the Functional Home
Functional home acts as an information centre and exhibition Information centre and exhibition on solutions, technology, aids and products for accessible and safe housing. The Functional Home is a unit of the Social Services and Health Department of the City of Helsinki started in 1998.

The tour in Functional Home started with the general presentation of the activities and services in the training space. During the guided tour, visitors explored the solutions and products that support accessibility and safety in living. Solutions were displayed in the exhibition facilities in practical terms.
PARTNERS MEETINGS

During the last month of 2012 and the whole 2013, the INNOVAge Steering Group and the Innovation Task Force hold 5 meetings: 4th and 5th December 2012 in London (UK), 17th and 18th April 2013 in Valladolid (Spain), 10th June in Helsinki (Finland), 8th October in Brussels (Belgium) and 19th and 20th November in Sofia (Bulgaria). These meetings are important to ensure effective and efficient project management, implementation and monitoring in order to achieve the expected results.

At the meeting in London each participating region introduced their Good Practice. These GPs were a combination of GPs in running clusters and also some projects and initiative of services. Apart from this, it is also important to highlight the fact that Medic@lps, responsible of Component 4, presented the possible training modules defined according to the gaps and weaknesses emerged from the SWOT cross-analysis (Component 3).

Valladolid was the place selected for the next meeting. This meeting was crucial in terms of project success; the project was in the midst of its execution. After the presentation of the GP Catalogue and the GP Poster Gallery, SEHTA and TNO presented the revised Cross-SWOT Report. Afterwards, under the coordination of BTH and SEHTA, a first approach towards matchmaking and a matrix of GPs were performed. The aim of this part was to match regional needs and peculiarities as described in the SWOT analysis. The interests in matchmaking were considered and structured in a matrix, which was presented to all partners and in dialog with the group. Finally the different partners selected several Good Practices identified from others’ PPs presentations.

At the end of the meeting, the methodology for the selection of the 3 training sessions was presented to all PPs by Medic@lps. The INNOVAge’s PPs were classified from a list of 16 Topics of interest for training sessions in function of their interest as a training session and/or as a mentoring visit. A compilation of all responses highlighted 6 proposals and gave indications for the selection. These were the results obtained for the 3 training sessions:

- The setting-up of a cluster: how to initiate the process? How to identify driver(s) having the legitimacy to act? How to federate and animate stakeholders (research, industry, policy makers, end-users) with different backgrounds/objectives? How to align their interests and make them collaborate?
- Cross-border collaboration and inter-clustering: how
to initiate collaboration and experience exchange? How to have reciprocity in service provision to cluster members? How to support the access to international markets through inter-clustering? EU support for cluster development: smart economic diversification of regions/territories

- To provide support to the economic development of the companies from early stages to critical size, from start-up to SMEs: growth of the number of employees, growth of the turnover, etc. It is mandatory to have services adapted to every development stages of companies

Both the Helsinki and Brussels meetings were important in order to define the content of the Sofia’s workshop and the training sessions, such as the timeline of the definition and execution of the different Pilot Actions that shall be developed by the Learning Group partners.

Finally, during the Sofia’s meeting each partner presented their Pilot Actions in a session chaired by SEHTA. After this it was open to the LG members to take part in a working session with their respective mentors on the advancement of their Pilot Actions.
HIGHLIGHTS ON THE INNOVAge REGIONS

ITALY. Marche Region

Forital – 4th Italian Forum on Ambient Assisted Living (Ancona, 23rd-25th October 2013) as INNOVAge event on the thematic AHA.

Marche Region, together with its Technical Secretariat SVIM, attended the 3 days Italian Forum dedicated to the Ambient Assisted Living thematic. Different stakeholders participated in the 4th Italian Forum like professionals, researchers, service operators, end-user representatives, administrators and “policy makers” to share know-how, to compare projects and experiences and to present and discuss the latest research results.

The Forum purpose was to respond to the socio-economic challenges of an aging population through an innovative and integrated approach to encourage a better use of products and services by the end users. Marche Region and SVIM attended both an exhibition space - where they showed their activity in the framework of their main projects: Jade, INNOVAge, SEE-INNOVA and WIDER – and participated to a dedicated workshop on October 24th titled “INNOVAge PROJECT”.

FRANCE. Medic@lps

Europe in our region: Active and healthy aging, new opportunities for EU funding for your projects.

On Tuesday, November 26, the General Council of Isere and Medic@lps, in collaboration with the TASDA organized a session under the banner “Europe in our Region”, in Grenoble. 36 Participants (companies, universities, local authorities) attended the event. The theme was “Horizon 2020”: active and healthy aging, new opportunities for EU funding for your projects. The main topics discussed were:

- European projects (INNOVAge, WIDER and JADE)
- European funds and perspectives for the new programming period 2014-2020 (Structural Funds in Rhône-Alpes, Interreg funds, H2020, EIP AHA ...)
- Illustration by emerging projects (health projects, Autonom@Dom®, projects emerging from the JADE project).
GREECE. Region of Central Macedonia

INNOVAge event on Thessaloniki

On the 6th of December of 2013, the Region of Central Macedonia organized the event with the title: “Project INNOVAge, independent living for the elderly and new technologies for supporting independent living”, in Thessaloniki, Greece. The objective of the event was to present the project to local stakeholders, to inform them about project activities and more specifically about the activities that are being implemented in the region of Central Macedonia, and to instigate their participation in the project.

In this respect, the event included a thorough presentation of the project and the respective RCM activities focusing mainly on the initiation of the operation of RCM’s INNOHUB in Thessaloniki as well as in the pilot action of RCM. Speakers from the research, the academic, the beneficiaries’ and the business community presented their experiences and their views on independent living supported by new technologies and more generally on the topics of INNOVAge. Participants in the event included representatives of policy makers, of enterprises offering complete solutions to support independent living, of the academia and of research organizations with significant research work in more than one of INNOVAge’s topics.

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

Creation of Independent Living Solutions Cluster: SIVI

All along 2013 the Spanish INNOVAge partners have been immersed in the process of setting up one Regional Cluster that promotes RDI activities on Independent Living. This is the major achievement for the project in Castilla y León, and it will contribute to mobilize a sufficient critical mass of stakeholders in the Region to boost a market that is able, at the same time, to address social needs and to foster economy and competitiveness.

SIVI cluster has been set up as an Innovation Hub, according to the quadruple helix model, that drives economy, helps to further develop policy on IL and AHA and create new and effective social-health & health care in the Region, having the elderly citizen at its core. It also helps to reduce the high level of fragmentation between the technological and service offer existing before.
UNITED KINGDOM. SEHTA

Launch of the UK InnoHub

SEHTA launched its InnoHub on 6th November 2013 as part of the INNOVAge INTERREG IVC funded project. The SEHTA InnoHub is a partnership bringing together experts on one hand from ambient assisted living and on the other hand from smart houses. Partners in the InnoHub already include Smart Homes and Buildings Association (SHBA), Housing Leaning and Improvement Network (HLIN), Built Environment Foresight Group, UCL and Habinteg Housing Association. The aim is to strengthen the knowledge transfer activities between those sectors and to look for convergence of priorities to support the development of eco-innovation and smart homes for the elderly.

The first task of the InnoHub is to assemble evidence in the form of case studies of the integration of housing and care, to develop the business and benefits case for the convergence and to identify the relevant policy links. The SEHTA InnoHub will also operate transnationally in cooperation with the 14 other Hubs to be established on the same topics in INNOVAge Partner countries.

SLOVENIA. Development Centre Litija

Eco-Innovation Hub and implementation of the social platform for elderly

During the lifetime of the project INNOVAge, the Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia participated at all the study visits with different external participants, which also participated at the regional workshop on Active Ageing, that was held in Intergenerational care center Bistrica, where new strategies and goals were defined for the period 2014 – 2020.

In the second part of the year 2013, this centre founded the working body on project, named Eco-innovation office for elderly that is in charge for implementation of pilot project. In the working group are involved experts from different sector of quadruple helix model from local and national level. Members prepared the implementation plan for a pilot action, that was also discussed within the mentoring group.
CZECH REPUBLIC. RERA. Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia

National Event on Active Ageing and Independent Living in České Budějovice

RERA organized, in cooperation with the Faculty of Health and Social Studies of the University of South Bohemia, the National Event on Active Ageing and Independent Living (16th April, České Budějovice). The event was attended by students and academic staff from several universities across Europe. The program of the event comprised presentations, workshops and also visit to a local home for elderly.

RERA has also identified good practice (ROBO M.D.) which has the potential for further use in the project by other partners. ROBO M.D. is a home-care robot for monitoring and detection of critical situations, developed to improve the quality of life of risk patients such as elderly people and to reduce costs of home-care systems.

SWEDEN. Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH)

Exhibitions, Workshops and presentations: INNOVAge project in Sweden

During 2013 BTH developed several activities linked to INNOVAge project promoting innovation awareness, workshops for elderly and technology. BTH also promoted ideas linked to Mechanic prototypes for product development. We can highlight the following ones:

- Peppar, peppar, on 10th January 2013 the Municipality organized event with 48 exhibitors of technology & service companies, the INNOVAge project was represented by researchers and students. 690 visitors.
- Presentation about INNOVAge at Shanghai Second Polytechnic University (A BTH Corporated University)
- Presentation for researchers and inventors from India (25th November 2013)
- Presentation on County council meeting, end conference for other CTM and Kivo projects (18th October 2013).
- Cooperation students, elderly, county council concerning smart phone app for medical reminders (10th October 2013).
INNOVAge 2014...

During the last year of the INNOVAge project the following main activities are going to be realized:

- 2 Training Sessions focusing on cluster development and management (in Lithuania in February 27th-28th and in the Czech Republic in June 9th-13th)
- 1 Interregional Event in the Czech Republic which will include a workshop focusing on elderly/users needs to improve regional policies and services and to raise awareness at policy and research level
- Implementation of 9 Pilot Actions (in Marche Region, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Slovenia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic)
- Organization of 2 Mentoring Visits for each Pilot Action
- Drafting of 12 regional implementation plans
- Development and management of the 14 InnoHub founded by the project
- Drafting of the “Policy recommendations for a new cluster governance model”.
- 1 final Meeting in Brussels (in October 2014)

All these activities will be supported by the INNOVAge communication and dissemination of actions in order to keep our stakeholders informed on the project implementation, the results achieved and the key news on the innovation in eco-independent living for the elderly.
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