

A Home based APPROACH to the Years of AGEING



HAPPY AGEING

Call AAL-2008-1

Project Overview

AAL FORUM - Innovative ICT Solutions for Older Persons. A New Understanding

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HAPPY AGEING Consortium



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INRCA

Italian National Research Centre on Aging

- **Mission:** care and research in favour of older people
- **Focus of research on:**
 - ✓ promoting health and well-being of the elderly and their carers;
 - ✓ Implementing services and policies for the older population, especially if frail and disabled.
- **Personnel:** Employees: 1154
Physicians: 169
Biomedical and Social Research Area : 45
Total Beds: 612
- **Most important Projects, funded by EU:**
 - MOBILATE, EU-FP5-KA (1999-00)
 - EUROFAMCARE, EU-FP5 (2003-05)
 - ZINCAGE, EU-FP6 (2004-07), (Coordinator)
 - SMILING, EU-FP7 (2007), (Coordinator)
 - ASPA, EU-FP7 (2008-2011)
 - MARKAGE, EU-FP7 (2008-20013)
- **Website:** www.inrca.it



HAPPY AGEING Objectives & Target



Objectives:

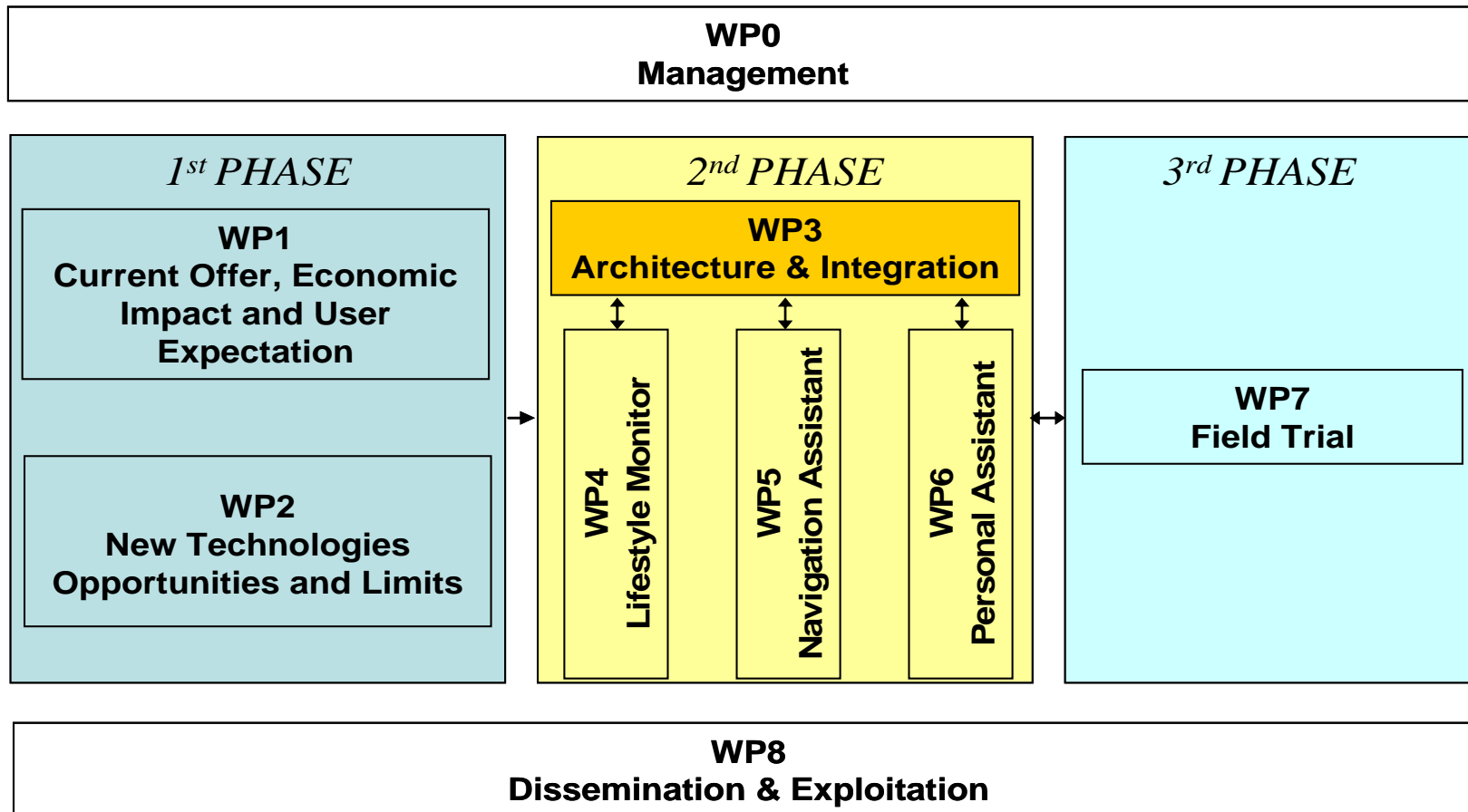
- To prevent the incidence of chronic conditions and to manage such conditions supporting independent living of older people
- To develop and integrate a customizable system
- To directly involve the end-users in all phases of the project
- To stimulate business innovation and create market opportunities to distribute and selling HAPPY AGEING device

User target group:

Older people with mild physical and cognitive impairment, who are motivated to live at home, especially the ones alone.

Also the elderly caregivers are considered as target group.

Workplan



HAPPY AGEING System

- The system will integrate sensors and technologies available on the market in a whole smart system (RFID), able to assure reliability and privacy of the user.
- It will be composed by three main modules:

Lifestyle monitor

- ✓ Recording activities in the home and compare with the habits of the subject
- ✓ Reminding the user to performe important activities (e.g. taking medicines)
- ✓ Monitoring lack of activity for an extended period and unusual behaviors

Navigation assistant

- ✓ Support user's mobility in close environment
- ✓ Extremely useful for older people with low vision or difficulties of orientation

Personal assistant

- ✓ Support in performing usual actions (e.g. dialing a phone number)
- ✓ Support in searching for personal objects in the home (e.g. keys)

Demand Side Factors HAPPY AGEING Survey



- **Referred:** Task 1.1 - “Elderly independent living frame definition”, WP1 (M1-M4)
- **Aim:**
 - Collect data on end-users condition and attitude toward technology
 - Investigate the factors that influence the choice of using an ICT device
 - Involve directly the end-users in the definition of device requirements
- **Protocol of questionnaires on:** End-User Condition, End-User perspective on device, Demand and cost information
- **Sample:** 180 subjects (104 females, 76 males) in NL; IT; HU
 - Mean age= 75.72 (SD=6.6)
 - Marital status= married or full time relationship (44%), widowed (43%)
 - Education= secondary school (43%)
 - Working condition: retired (98%)
 - Kind of household= alone (51%), with the spouse/partner (37%) and also with the children (6%).

Demand Side Factors Survey main results



Expectations and attitudes towards technology

- 85% think technology could help elderly to satisfy their needs
- 85% think technology can save their life in unfavourable circumstances
- 79% think some assistive device could improve their quality of life
- 73% would learn using technological tools, if they could help them

Motivations factors (they would decide to use it if...)

- 83% the use of the device is suggested by a physician
- 81% the device could really improve their daily activities
- 79% they will feel more secure in their home when they are alone

Barriers

- 65% technology solutions are too difficult to use without training
- 54% technological devices are too expensive

Device requirements

- To receive help at home is the most expected requirement and the one that mostly influence the choice of using HAPPY AGEING system
- Cost is not so important if compared to the opportunity of receiving support at home
- The most critical factors for purchasing an AT device are: state of one's health, easy of use and comfort with technology.

Demand Side Factors

HAPPY AGEING Focus Group



- **Referred:** *Task 1.4* - “Institutions role investigation”, **WP1** (M1-M4)
- **Aim:**
 - to get an overview of private and public health and social systems in each countries
 - to understand the role of policy-stakeholders as driver and/or barrier to innovation in the context of elderly independent living
 - to collect information for the Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - Ethical Issue investigation.
- **Method:** focus groups with relevant stakeholders were taken in Italy, Hungary and The Netherlands

Demand Side Factors

Focus groups results



- **General impression:** **a)** the device could be useful both for older people and caregivers; **b)** it could help to reduce caregiver's burden and stress; **c)** the next generation of older people could find it more useful and easy to use.
- **Welfare system, Reimbursement mechanism and spending capacity:** Governments, politicians, Health insurance company, housing cooperatives are involved in each country in different ways. More in depth analysis will be requested for the diffusion of the device.
- **Technology acceptance:** **a)** Cost, social context and design aspects of the device are the key factors; **b)** fear of getting lesser support and care from their care givers has to be monitored.
- **Ethical Issue:** Privacy issue has to be analysed in relation to cultural differences (I.e. Hungary context after Socialism).

Thank you for your attention!



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