Assistance Systems for elderly People –
a central funding topic of the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Joachim Russ, BMBF department 514, Micro Systems Technology
High-tech Strategy for Germany

- **Focus** of research funding on 17 chosen priorities, of which micro systems technology is one.
- Concentrated consideration of the research funding and improvement of its basic conditions.
- **Fast implementation** of research results into products and services.
- Intensification of collaborations between sciences and economy.
- May 2009: High-tech Strategy is being enhanced by a concentration on 5 **fields of application:**
  - health and nutrition,
  - energy and climate,
  - safety and security,
  - mobility,
  - communication.
Assistive systems in ordinary to the older people

The BMBF provides altogether **125 m €** for the overall scope of AAL:

- Announcement „Senior-friendly assistive systems for a healthy and independent living“ (departments 514, 525, 316)  **45 m €**
- Announcement „Technologies and services for meeting the demographic shift“ (department 316)  **20 m €**
- European AAL-Joint Programme (department 514)  **15 m €**
- Line of funding „SILQUA-FH Social innovations for quality of life in old age“ (department 515)  **14 m €**
- Announcement „Intelligent implants“ (department 514)  **15 m €**
- Announcement „Innovative aids for rehabilitation and disabled people“ (department 615)  **16 m €**

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a total of  **125 m €**
for? towards? touching on?
conrad; 22.09.2009
National Call „Age-fit assistive systems“

Announcement „Senior-friendly assistive systems for a healthy and independent living – AAL“

- The **18 research and development projects** selected for this funding programme (starting at the beginning of 2009) focus on combining services and technical solutions enabling older people to **live at home as long as possible**.

- The strengthening of **regional supply** and a fast implementation into practice by the means of appropriate **business models** is a fundamental focus.

- Consortia have allocated a total sum of **45 m €** for the implementation of project objectives.
National Call „Age-fit assistive systems“

Projects of the announcement „Senior-friendly assistive systems for a healthy and independent living – AAL“

Distribution among more than 150 project partners:

- Technologieanbieter (Industrie): 42%
- Forschung (Fraunhofer, Unis und Fhls): 23%
- Pflege- und Gesundheitsdienstleister: 22%
- Wohnungswirtschaft und Sicherheitsanbieter: 9%
- Krankenkassen und Versicherungen: 4%

Creation of new networks including:
- Producers and service providers
- Housing industry
- Health insurances
- Universities and other research facilities
Community building and networking

**BMBF/VDE partnership of innovations for AAL**

- Support of development and application of technical assistive systems based upon new technologies and services for people having functional restraints or health problems as well as for areas of comfort.

- Establishment of networks by all participants of the value-added chain.

- Improvement of the communication, of the public relations and of the information exchange.
Supporting projects by secondary research

- **Area of conflict** between the possibility of a helpful, technological assistance and the risks of electronic „paternalism“ or „incapacitation“.

- **Necessity** to deepen considerations of ethncial, social, ergonomic, data privacy, judicial and economic aspects.

- The secondary research should **avoid** a development of technologically excellent, but socially controversial and **inacceptable solutions**.

- The projects are – adjusted to their needs – to be supported with necessary additional information („Coaching“).

- **Studies** are announced:
  Currently: „User-dependent innovation barriers in the area of senior-friendly assistive systems“

Quelle: ARD Webseite
German annual AAL-Congress

- 1st AAL Congress in January 2008
  - More than 300 participants from diverse branches
  - Lessons learned:
    - Heterogeneity of agents
    - Markets have to be developed
    - Lack of communication between suppliers and users
- 2nd AAL-Congress in January 2009
  - More than 500 participants with a high quote of users
  - Presentation of selected projects
- 3rd AAL-Congress 01/26 to 01/27, 2010
  - First results of the funded projects
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