

Newsletter 1

January 2011

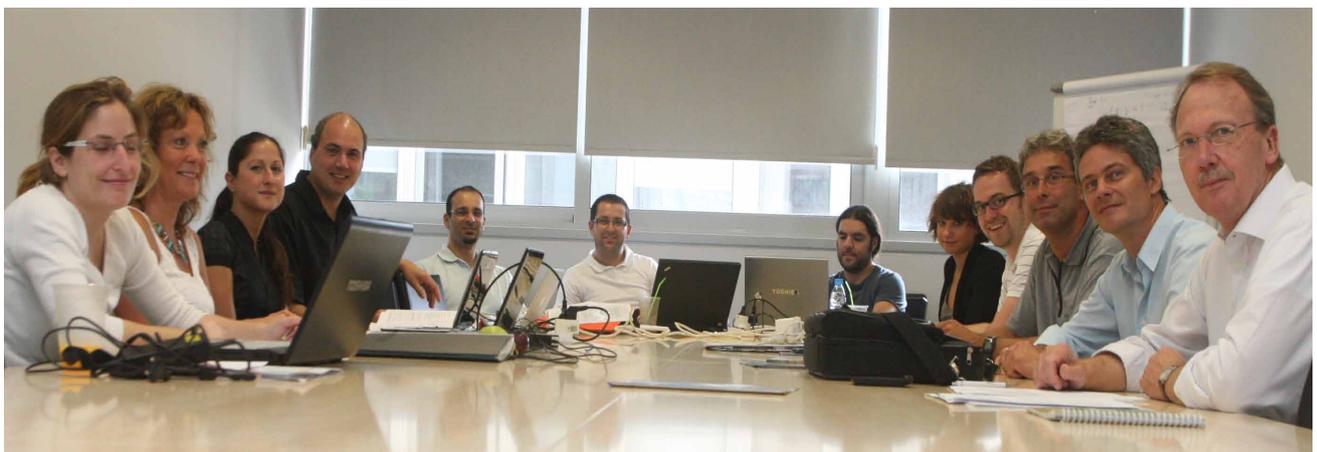
The new year just on the way, I send you the first Newsletter of the AAL Connected Vitality Project. Every six months I will inform you in this way of some of the work that has been done and where we are heading next. Enjoy the read!

Kind regards,
Robbert Smit, project coordinator



The Project

A growing number of elderly are suffering from social isolation. In this project the Connected Vitality Consortium, consisting of 9 European Partners, aim to develop technological solutions that make it possible for elderly to have meaningful relationships with others without having to leave the house. For more detailed info on the project, please check www.connectedvitality.eu.



Project status

The Connected Vitality Project started in June 2010. At the Kick Off meeting in Cyprus the first tasks were distributed amongst the partners and plans were made. What happened since?

1. A webspaces was created to facilitate the exchange of information amongst partners. This space is functioning well.
2. A project website was created by Presence Displays : www.connectedvitality.eu
3. A project logo has been developed.
Robbert Smit: "The circles are abstract human beings, seen from above. Every one has its own colour, or way of being. Some of them can connect with several other circles, but some cannot; they are alone or connected with just one. It is by being connected that these circles, or humans, can show who they really are and become vitalized. This image shows what we try to do in this projekt."
4. The University of Cyprus conducted a research into the state of the art of video conferencing and communications technology today.
5. Workshops, questionnaires and interviews were conducted and a lot of data was gathered in Arvika (Sweden), Malaga (Spain) and in the East of the Netherlands to gain a thorough understanding of the needs and wishes of elderly and their perception of contact over distance.



Start of an interview in the east of The Netherlands supervised by Andre Hermsen and Kirsty Lankreijer



Start of a workshop in Malaga, supervised by Natalia Garcia de Leaniz Herzog

The interviewees received the project positively and wanted to start the pilot right away. Some quotes from interviews: 'This is nice in the morning, as I love to wake up and have a chat over coffee', 'Me and my partner are separated due to sickness and it would be wonderful to be virtually together over distance' and 'It would be nice but will it not be difficult to use'. Data analyses have just started under the supervision of Katja Neureiter and Christiane Moser of the University of Salzburg.

Central Questions asked during the first phase of the project

The first phase of the project evolves around two central questions:

1. Which social activities are meaningful for elderly?
2. Which of them could be conducted over distance?

The answers to these questions will be discussed at the next meeting in March 2011. That will determine how we continue into the next phase of the project.



Start of a workshop in Arvika, supervised by Margaretha Lundberg

Partners

The Connected Vitality consortium consists of 9 members joined together with the goal of finding a solution for the elderly isolation problem. The project will run from 2010 till 2013 in Sweden, The Netherlands, Hungary, Cyprus, Spain, Israel and Austria and is funded by the European Ambient Assisted Living program to enable elderly people to be more self supporting and support the upcoming demographic changes.

- Arvika Municipality
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- Famcorner
- Fundación Andaluza de Servicios Sociales
- Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Presence Displays BV.
- Sensire
- University of Cyprus
- University of Salzburg

- Sweden
- Hungary
- Israel
- Spain
- The Netherlands
- The Netherlands
- The Netherlands
- Cyprus
- Austria



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