



AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING

Preparation of a new European initiative for IT supported solutions

RATIONALE

In future, elderly people will be more active and in better health if current trends continue. They will be better off hence they will consume more new goods and services and want to participate actively in social life. The number of elderly people will be more

than doubled in 2050 and the proportion of people living alone will increase. However dependent or independent these elderly and very old people are – ageing people need more and more help and care challenging their families and the society.

OBJECTIVE

Based on article 169 of the EU-treaty, the joint programme **Ambient Assisted Living (AAL)** aims to establish a new European funding programme for research and innovation projects whose outcomes will enhance the quality of the lives of elderly people by the use of new ICT products and the provision of remote services.

Ambient Assisted Living enables the provision of equipment and services for the independent living of elderly people, via the seamless integration of info-communication technologies within homes and extended homes, thus increasing their quality of life and autonomy and reducing the need for being institutionalised. These include assistance to carry out daily activities, health and activity monitoring, enhancing safety and security, getting access to social, medical and emergency systems, and facilitating social contacts, in addition to context-based info-tainment and entertainment.



Ambient Assisted Living addresses in particular the issues affecting an ageing population and targets the needs of the individual person and their caretakers.

ARTICLE 169

Article 169 of the EU-treaty allows new forms of joint R&D activities with shared financial contributions between the European Commission and Member States. It has been newly introduced as a funding instrument within the 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and will continue in the 7th Framework Programme.

Initiatives on the basis of article 169 of the EU treaty are subject to the co-decision of the European Parliament and the Council. It is expected that the co-decision procedure will be launched in 2006. A final decision is expected in 2007, shortly after which AAL169 will be ready to start.



More actual and comprehensive information is available on: www.aal169.org



Ambient Assisted Living is funded as a Specific Support Action under the 6th EU-Framework Programme.

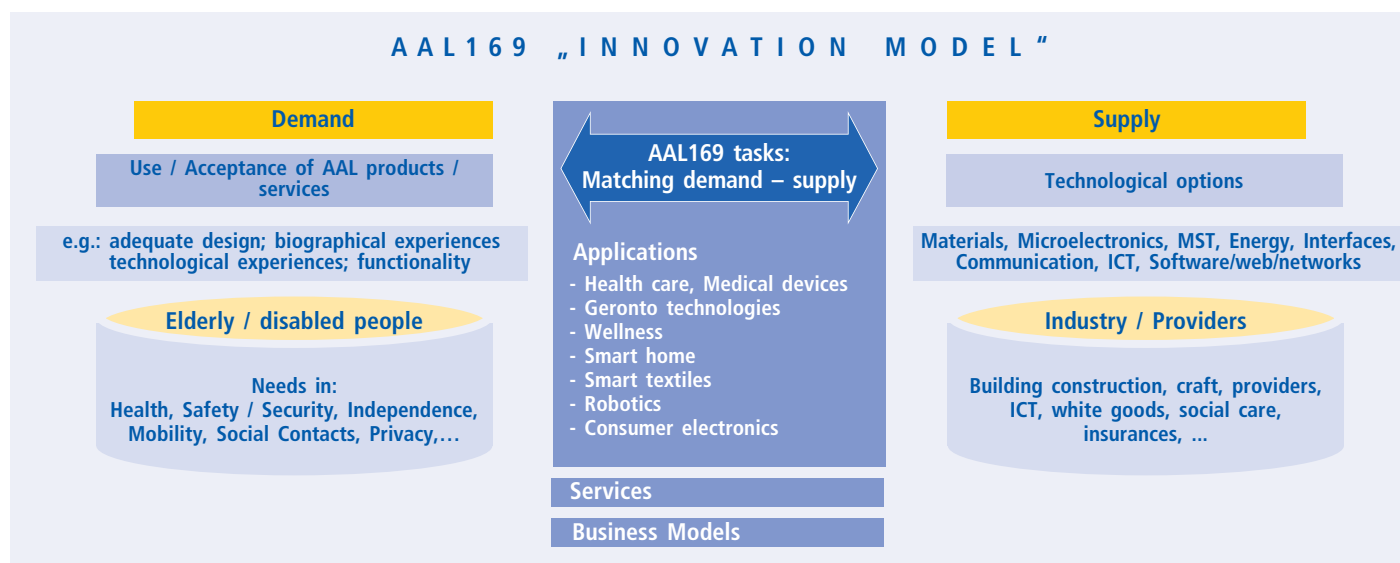
ACTIVITIES OF THE AAL PROGRAMME

Elderly (65+) and very old (80+) people may have very special and very different needs. To fulfil their needs a lot of important factors have to be regarded in the development of AAL solutions: age, gender, education, culture, biography, religion, loneliness, relatives, lifestyle, work, hobbies, current and future life situation, current and future asset, current and future degree of diseases, disabilities and their occurrence etc. AAL169 will address not only these demands for various applications, services, but match them with the supply-side as illustrated in the picture and will also look into new business models.

The activities of the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme consist of repeatedly (twice a year) initiating and **administering calls for proposals** for pre-specified topics and supporting activities. The conduction of each call will be based on approved operational procedures.

Through **funding of applied research and innovation projects**, with emphasis on integration of the required technologies and exploring new ways for the inclusion of user needs into relevant products and services, AAL169 aims to reinforce a consolidated European market for AAL products, environments and services by addressing multinational consortia that consist of organisations from the AAL169 partner states.

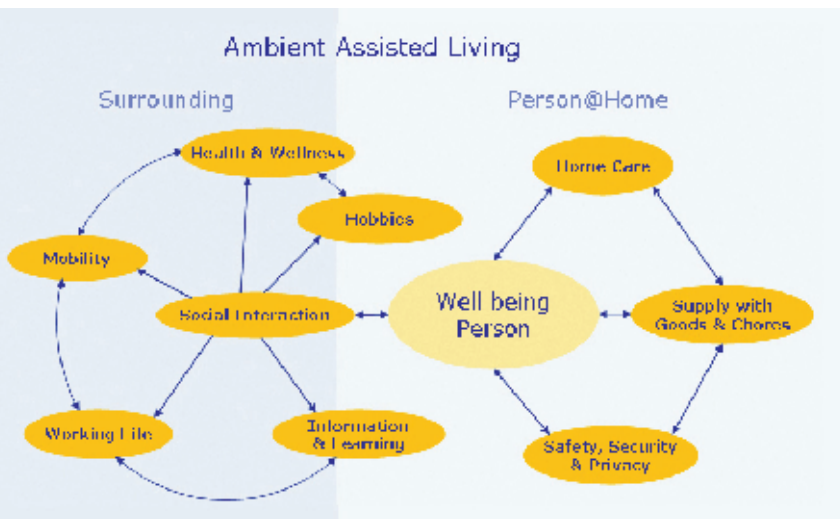
The technologies to be applied cover integrated assistive smart objects and health status monitoring systems including wearables as well as context-aware services, virtual presence, security and safety technologies. Here trust and safety, privacy, confidentiality, user acceptance, dependability, interoperability and usability aspects are key issues to be addressed in an integral way.



AAL169 is formed as an independent programme and will include **activities to support the programme image, network generation and policy level programme activities**.

Also the programme centrally has the duty to promote important topics on different European platforms as well as maintain close cooperation with relevant activities in the EU Framework Programme and within National Programmes.

The programme takes care of **generating active networking between the partners and potential project partners**. The programme arranges, related to programme topics, networking workshops and seminars together with national Programme Management Agencies. The target of these partnering events is to activate the projects, generate new proposals for the AAL calls and increase the general awareness of the AAL programme and the topics related to ageing and the use of the technology to solve the ageing related challenges.



PERSONAL NEEDS

Calls for research and innovation projects, launched regularly by the AAL169 programme, will address the **needs of the target group**, i.e. (mostly elderly) people who care for their well being.

PROCEDURES WITHIN AAL169

AAL169 will ensure scientific integration of the national programmes in place by

- a common elaboration of the call topics and the central organisation of the calls for proposals;
- commonly defined rules for the evaluation (common set of criteria) and the selection of the proposals;
- a single submission address (electronic submission is envisaged).

The successful consortia will have to conclude a consortium agreement. Few requirements will be imposed to them by the AAL169 programme, including central reporting obligations and participation in commonly organised project progress events. The administrative handling of the project partners will stay with the national agencies.

GOVERNANCE OF AAL169

The **highest decision making** body of AAL169 is the **Steering Committee**, consisting of representatives of the national funding programme owners (organisations with budgetary authority for national funding programmes). The Steering Committee decides upon thematic priorities and calls, the evaluation of the programme and funding activities, revision and future development of the AAL programme and about the projects to be funded. The Steering Committee will be supported by an external Advisory Group representing key stakeholders such as industry, academia, user groups and public authorities. A representative from the European Commission will participate as observer in the Steering Committee.

tribution and fulfils associated reporting and coordination duties. The national Programme Managing Agencies will contribute substantially by appointing staff to administer their national project partners within the AAL projects, but also to fulfil certain tasks regarding the general programme management, under the overall responsibility of the Management Unit.

Legal body of the AAL169 programme

The current consortium has agreed to found a **non-profit association** for the conduction of the AAL169 programme located in Brussels. This association will sign contracts with the European Commission, the Management Unit and the national Programme Managing Agencies to perform precisely defined activities within the AAL169 programme. The statutes for the association are currently under preparation. Consensus has been reached that the appointed board members of the association will act on an honorary basis and a rotation model shall be put in place for the board of managers.

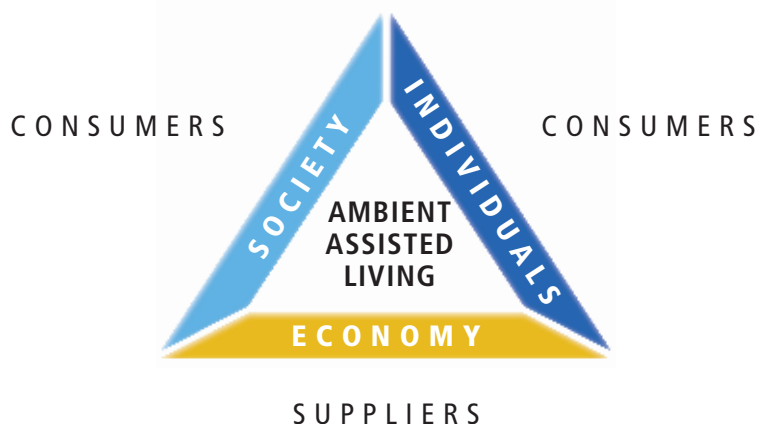
The **Management Body** consists of the **central Management Unit** – performing central level activities - **and the nominated national programme managing agencies**. The Management Unit interlinks with the European Commission and the Steering Committee on the operational management of the AAL joint programme. As such, it manages the European financial contri-

BUDGET AND DURATION OF AAL169

Each of the participating states will earmark a yearly budget of national funds to support their successful national project partners. Together with the substantial contribution of the European Commission, a multi-annual financing plan will be defined. The overall budget is envisaged to reach approx. 350 Mio. € of public funds over the 7 years' duration. With the expected financial engagement of the European industry, a total volume of 700 Mio. € might come true. The administration of the national project partners lies within the nominated national programme managing agencies. This includes the funding itself

and the fulfilment of administrative requirements applied in the respective state.

The new European technology funding programme is intended to issue calls over a period of 7 years (2007 to 2013), starting in parallel to FP7. Factually, the duration of this new funding programme would be 2 to 3 years longer (up to 2016), to administer projects called for in the final year of its first duration (2013).



PARTICIPATING STATES / FUNDING COMMITMENT

In September 2004, ministries, national programme agencies and research organisations from 7 European countries started to prepare the article 169 initiative "Ambient Assisted Living". Since then, the number of interested states to participate within the AAL169 initiative increased to about 12 at this moment (June 2006). **The consortium envisages to accept final declarations on the partnership for the initial phase in autumn 2006**, in order to meet the deadline for the launch of

the above mentioned co-decision procedure. The declaration encompasses a financial commitment and the nomination of an organisation for the membership within the AAL169 legal entity.

Following an internal assessment after 3 years of operation, new countries are asked to join the initial members.

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