

To the editor:



PEARL - Platform for Ergonomic and motivating, ICT-based Age-friendly woRkpLaces

An EU research project with 8 international partners and a budget of over 3 million Euro will over the next two and a half years develop a platform that can help senior workers to be productive, by means of ergonomic and motivating workplaces. Switzerland is represented with 2 partners, namely COMARG Ltd. and SENSAP AG.

PEARL project will provide a first-of-a-kind platform for the programmable and modular configuration of ICT-enabled age-friendly working spaces, which will be an essential element of EU strategy towards prolonging the working life. The main goal of the project is to enable the development and deployment of ICT-based ergonomic motivating age-aware and age-friendly workspaces, on the basis of a unique blending of leading edge technologies for smart spaces, tools for time/project management and ICT utilities for cognitive and mental support.

As a starting point, PEARL will leverage a number of available and proven technologies (i.e. surface computers, pervasive AutoID technologies) which already contribute to the development of ergonomic and motivating spaces. These technologies will be complemented by a number of ICT tools for project management, time management, e-learning, cognitive and mental support like described previously. To-date there have been several efforts in customizing individual ICT tools for the elderly. However, there have been no systematic efforts to explore the adaptation and integration of multiple age-friendly ICT tools in the working environment. Hence, a key novelty and add-value of the project is the fact that these technologies will be combined in a modular, configurable and programmable fashion and in response to different business and deployment requirements.

The quantification of the project's progress and objectives will be based on: Technical/technological criteria and figures (e.g. the number of ICT applications/platforms to be integrated and the number of distinct deployments/solutions that will be built), Evaluation and validation related criteria and indicators (such as the number of elderly workers to be engaged in the project pilots, Techno-economic and socio-economic indicators (such as financial indicators and quality-of-life (QoL) indicators for the elderly and Indicators associated with the project's dissemination and exploitation activities, which form an integral part of the project's work plan.

Comarg will organize one of the three pilots in Canton Vaud with the involvement of 10 active seniors, develop the eLearning platform for web and smart devices (tablet and mobile phones), tools, content ,based on MOOC, serious gaming and will lead the dissemination (website and social networking) and exploitation activities (business plan).

SENSAP will responsible for the development, integration and validation of the AutoID/RFID infrastructure of the PEARL platform. In addition to its RFID-related tasks, SENSAP will have an active contribution in the implementation of the semi-automated decision support system (DSS) of the PEARL platform. Furthermore, SENSAP will contribute to the definition of the PEARL platform architecture, as well as to the validation, dissemination and exploitation tasks

Partners

The consortium behind PEARL counts 8 partners from 6 countries: AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH, Roessingh Research and Development, Singular Romania Computer application S.R L., Empirica Gesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Technologieforschung mbH, COMARG – Communication & Marketing Agency, SENSAP Swiss AG, Aalborg University, RFID-specialisten (SME).

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