



## 1st PROJECT PERIODIC REPORT M18

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LIVING INNOVATION AALIANCE  
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**Date of latest version of Annex I against which the assessment will be made:**

Periodic report: 1<sup>st</sup> ☒ 2<sup>nd</sup> ☐  
Period covered: from month 1 to month 18 (01/10/2011 - 31/03/2013)

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## 1 Publishable summary

### 1.1 Summary and Objectives

Rising life expectancy and continuous birth rates below the replacement level have led to a clear shift in the population's age structure. This shift is often referred to as demographic change. It is one of the most determining megatrends all over the world. Whereas only a few nations/world regions show a juvenescence of their societies (e. g. Arabian countries, India but as well Ireland), the majority of countries is marked by ageing populations. Many countries that were typically characterised by high birth rates have turned – sometimes rapidly – into the opposite. Yet it is still entirely open to our societies and our actions whether the projected old-age dependency ratio of today (see fig. 1) expresses future burdens and strains – or chances for progress and development. It should be one of the major tasks of scientific research to provide for the knowledge for better lives and the economic and social potential of demographic change.

Some of the most dramatically changing nations are European (Figure 1). Hence, the perspective of the European regions, of each Member State and consequently that of the European Union as a political, economic and social entity will be affected by this transition processes.

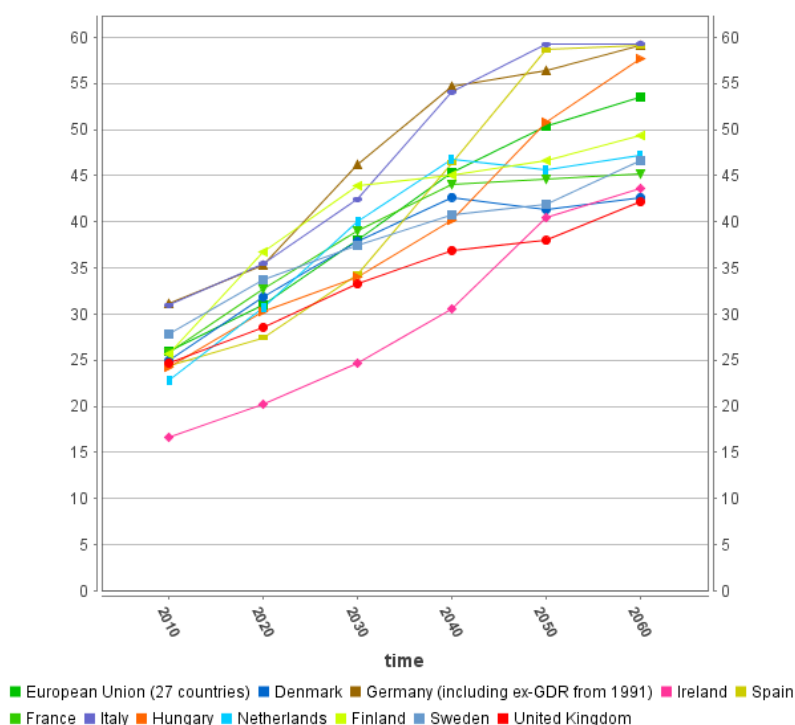


Figure 1 – Projected number of persons aged 65 and over expressed as a percentage of the projected number of persons aged between 15 and 64

In the future older people will be more active and their health conditions will be better. Their social behaviour and lifestyle as well as the identity of the individual will change if current trends continue. Their consumer behaviour will change both in quantitative and qualitative terms. With higher expectancies of life and raising retirement ages in European countries, the proportion of elderly people at work will increase as well as the number of elderly people participating actively in

social life. But also the number of elderly people with major illnesses and chronic diseases will raise accompanied by the wish of the overall majority of older people to live independently at home at long as possible.

Although various segments of older people in the future will remain self-sufficient for a longer time, more people will need high intensity care in the end-of-life period and more people will need support in daily life operations prior to this phase due to more or less intense disabilities. Increasing life expectancy is at the same time accompanied by an increasing prevalence of age-related diseases like cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, musculoskeletal impairments, and by mental health problems as well as dementia, as e.g. the Alzheimer disease. The number of people reporting to be hampered in daily life activities will increase. As for labour markets, pension systems and social schemes in general, we have to consider that demographic ageing means that the number of older people is growing while the share of those of working age is decreasing. Not only will the income side of social schemes be affected but also expenditures: health care systems will be concerned as an ageing population will lead to an increase in the proportion of people with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Thus, health care systems and social care in general – which is typically organised on national level and characterised by national differences as for the institutional design – will have to cope with increasing requirements both in quality and quantity and thus increasing expenses. At the same time these developments are accompanied by changes in how healthcare and care is organised in society in some countries – e.g. the trend towards more decentralised care models in local care centres and at home and the rising importance of self-managed care.

The topic of ageing at work is related to the 2nd age (in contrast to the 3rd and 4th age) and the years before retirement and before insense care is needed. There is a clear policy rationale in most European countries to keep people longer in work due to demographic developments and introduce necessary pension system reforms. More and more employers also realise that the sudden loss of older experienced employees severely harms their business („senior brain drain“). This sets new requirements on the management in the work places. On the other side, work (the activity and the networks it involves) is an essential part of active living for people as they grow old and is appreciated as such. Therefore AAL technologies could play a vital part in keeping older persons in the work place longer and in improving their working conditions – based on part-time models which most of the older people prefer. It should not be forgotten that work is not only a valued activity, but could also be a cause for burdens. AAL solutions could give necessary support ere when mental and physical capabilities decline. This is relevant also for situations of “informal” work.

Based on an optimistic vision for future Europe societies AALIANCE<sup>2</sup> will continue the development of a vision for Ambient Assisted Living in Europe building upon

*“RTD roadmap and stakeholder coordination on ICT for “Ageing Well”, as well as strengthening development of standards and international cooperation with North America and Asia. This should take into account work already started under the AALIANCE innovation platform (ref <http://www.aaliance.eu>)”<sup>2</sup>.*

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<sup>2</sup> FP7 ICT Work Programme 2011-2012, p. 69

AALIANCE2 will continue the successful work done in the former AALIANCE project including a roadmap<sup>3</sup> and strategic research agenda<sup>4</sup>. By that AALIANCE2 continues to provide orientation for industry and public research in terms of a coherent R&D and innovation strategy.

The coordination action further more sees itself as an input provider for policy makers as the representatives of the AAL Joint Programme<sup>5</sup>, the European Commission (in the Active and Healthy Ageing Innovation Partnership and other relevant programmes like the Framework Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)) and national (and regional) governments, i.e. in the context of the Joint Programming Initiative on Demographic Change currently prepared by 13 European States<sup>6</sup>.

The activities of the AALIANCE2 working groups comprise:

- enhancing the sustainable network of AALIANCE involving the major actors (technology and service providers vendors and user groups) from European Member States.
- Further development of the AALIANCE2 roadmap and strategic research agenda for future technologies and applications - as the basis of all subsequent tasks
- the coordination of the various activities of European industry and research institutions in the field of Ambient Assisted Living,
- providing policy recommendation for political decision makers at European, national and regional level, and particular for those implementing the AAL Joint Programme and the Pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (AHAIP) as part of the Innovation Union of Europe 2020<sup>7</sup>
- addressing standardisation issues in Europe and worldwide as well as initiating corresponding standardisation activities
- investigating the current state-of-the-art and market developments in AAL in North America and Asia and establishing links to relevant stakeholders in these regions
- development of a pan-European, trade specific cost/profit models and business models for the implementation of Ambient Assisted Living solutions and to put forth these models to the relevant European companies and industry associations through the members of AALIANCE2
- increasing political awareness and intensifying activities for the enhancement of new technologies, e.g. in the context of the European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012. The main objectives of this highly political year will be to mobilise all relevant stakeholders to contribute to creating an environment that will support active ageing (at work, in the community and independent living on old age) and to promote cooperation and solidarity between generations to achieve a society for all ages. The ALLIANCE2 project seeks to support the EY 2012 objectives by its content work and by organising and participating in relevant events to promote the contribution of technology in approaching to these important societal challenges.

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<sup>3</sup> AALIANCE Ambient Assisted Living Roadmap (Volume 6 Ambient Intelligence and Smart Environments), Editors: G. Van Den Broek, F. Cavallo and C. Wehrmann, March 2010, IOS Press, Amsterdam

<sup>4</sup> Both available at <http://www.aaliance.eu/public/documents>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.aal-europe.eu>

<sup>6</sup> Joint Programming Initiative “More Years, Better Lives – The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change”, <http://www.jp-demographic.eu>

<sup>7</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm?pg=intro](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?pg=intro)

## **1.2 Description of work and results on the first reporting period**

During the first periodic report (month 1-18), the AALIANCE2 Project was mainly focused on the following specific activities:

1. Update of the AALIANCE Roadmap published in 2010 (D2.3), collecting information on state of art of AAL technologies and identifying new trends in research and development by means of appropriate workshops organized with all AAL stakeholders (D2.1, D2.2);
2. Analysis of the current AAL Market in Europe, comparing different healthcare and social service organizations in some EU countries (D3.1) and identifying possible sketches for AAL business models (D3.2);
3. Development of a repository for AAL Standards (D4.1) through a deep analysis of current standards that could be associated to the AAL technologies and consolidation of the repository by means of a workshop with experts (D4.2);
4. Enlargement and consolidation of the AALIANCE Network, analysis the AAL stakeholders' landscape in Europe (D5.1) and Asia/US (D5.2) and disseminating the AALIANCE2 results through the public website (D6.1), brochures (D6.3) and newsletters (D6.2 and D6.4).

## **1.3 Expected results and potential impact**

The situation of elderly people - the way they are enabled to live independently and the way our social and care systems are organised in the future - will have a significant impact on the society as a whole, and future societies will have to be measured according to how they face and master the challenges deriving from demographic change.

The vision of an "active and healthy life in old age" will become one of the major social challenges in Europe and other highly industrialised regions of the world in the upcoming years. EU Member States are in charge to develop new solutions, policies and strategies for dealing with ageing and to implement them. Research and development are a fundamental cornerstone when it comes to tackling of challenges and benefits as well as to the exploitation of the potentials and capabilities of an ageing society. And Ambient Assisted Living Technology has the potential to contribute substantially to this societal change.