PROJECT PERIODIC REPORT

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Project acronym: BRAID

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Periodic report: 1st X 2nd □ 3rd □ 4th □

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PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

Bridging Research in Ageing and ICT Development (BRAID) seeks to provide a coherent and robust road map to guide future research and investment in the area of ICT and Ageing. It is widely recognised that the conglomeration of projects addressing e-inclusion in the EU, particularly those funded under the FP6 and FP7 programmes, has resulted in a fragmented approach to the issue of ageing and ICT. Furthermore, this fragmented approach will not adequately improve the social inclusion of seniors and older people in Europe, as described in the Riga Declaration. BRAID seeks to respond to these deficits by producing a vision for ICT and Ageing which will support wellbeing and socio-economic integration of senior citizens across Europe, characterising key research challenges and strengthening stakeholder consultation and engagement.

A consortium comprising members from nine organisations in seven different countries (Australia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands and UK) BRAID is a two year project that commenced in March 2010. Co-ordinated by Queen's University Belfast, BRAID is the product of an amalgamation of four important EU ICT and Ageing road mapping projects *The European Ambient Assisted Living Alliance* (AALIANCE), the *International Support of a Common Awareness and Knowledge Platform for Studying and Enabling Independent Living(*CAPSIL), *Extending Professional Active Life* (ePAL) and *Social, Ethical and Privacy needs in ICT for older people: a dialogue road map* (SENIOR). AAliance and CAPSIL had previously focused on ICT and independent living and healthy living; ePAL's activity was related to promoting a balanced active life for retiring and retired professionals in Europe and SENIOR was focused on cross cutting themes including the Social, Ethical and Privacy Needs in ICT for older people. The eclectic and multidisciplinary composition of the Consortium results in a unique and rich collective body of knowledge and experience in the field of ICT and ageing.

BRAID's three main objectives are to:
1. Create a dynamic ICT and Ageing roadmap that addresses older people's needs not otherwise well met, identifies and benefits from best practices in the EU and elsewhere, and analyses current and potential gaps in knowledge and execution;
2. Instantiate a strategic research agenda that tracks and builds upon existing, emerging and disruptive technologies and responds to the changing socio-economic conditions of stakeholders;
3. Expand the BRAID networks of contacts to build a self-sustaining co-ordination mechanism which is viral, ubiquitous and reaches out across the heterogeneity of stakeholders.

In pursuit of these objectives the BRAID activities and deliverables are divided into eight inter-related work packages with lead responsibility spread across the members of the Consortium. Tthe NETWELL Centre in Dundalk contributes across the various work packages.

1. Taxonomy and Trends, Global Security Intelligence: Global Security Intelligence (GSI)
2. Stakeholder identification and needs analysis: VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH
3. Mechanisms for stakeholder co-ordination: Trilateral Research and Consulting LLP, London

4. Scenario development and consolidated Vision: UvA, Brussels
5. Engaging Stakeholders: CSSC, Rome
6. ICT and Ageing Roadmap: UNINOVA, Lisbon
7. Dissemination and Impact Creation: University of Tasmania
8. Project Management: Queen's University Belfast

Over the past year BRAID has made steady progress towards its goal and in the process has successfully met all project milestones and deliverable deadlines. An international advisory group was established in November and workshops with stakeholder have been held in Spain (February 2011) and Italy (April 2011).

The nine project deliverables have been completed and published along with other BRAID related publications on the project website. The deliverables include a glossary of terms relevant to ageing and policy; taxonomy of ICT and older people; trends analysis; stakeholder analysis; stakeholder co-ordination mechanism; stakeholder engagement; vision of ICT and ageing and an interim road map. Reflecting BRAID's commitment to stakeholder engagement and consultation the content of the reports will be refined and modified to ensure that the final product best meets the needs of the EU commission and its citizens. Although responsibility for individual work packages lies with different organisations the members of the Consortium have worked closely to ensure that there is coherence across the various strands of the project. This collaboration is fostered and facilitated through regular SKYPE team meetings, email exchange/discussion of draft documents and in joint facilitation of stakeholder workshops. This investment in relationship building and cross-sectoral collaboration has helped overcome the challenges inherent in working across disciplines, cultures and sectors and enhanced the quality of work produced. The coalescence of the various work packages is evident in the content of the reports and in activity on the BRAID website. For example peaks in website activity correlate directly with BRAID activities such as publishing reports and newsletters and stakeholder workshops. The aim of the BRAID workshops is to involve a broader "constituency" of European stakeholders in the BRAID roadmap and when inviting people to participate in the workshops CSSC refers them to the website. Significantly the dates for the BRAID workshops in Spain and Italy correspond with peaks in web site activity.

In the year ahead the BRAID vision, roadmap and stakeholder engagement mechanism will be refined and finalised to ensure that they meet the needs of the EU citizens and Commission. This work will be informed by three important stakeholder workshops which will be held in Denmark (June), Dublin (September) and Italy (November). The final BRAID report will be submitted in February 2012.