



Publishable summary

HOME SWEET HOME started on March 1 2010 and trials a new, economically sustainable home assistance service which extends older persons independent living.

The trials are held in four European countries (Belgium, Ireland, Italy and Spain) according to the randomised controlled trial (RCT) methodology. The objectives of the project are to measure organisational, economic and clinical effects and to compare the results between a study group and a control group. Older persons in the control group receive normal care such as is already provided by local health and social services, whereas people in the study group receive additional ICT-based services.

These additional services support older persons in their daily activities and allow caregivers to remotely assess their ability to stay independent. While systems of this kind inevitably represent an intrusion in the older persons' private life, in the case of HOME SWEET HOME particular care has been put to limit to a bare minimum the need for other people to interfere with the older person's private life unless a clear need is detected by the system.

The project comprises the following services:

- Monitoring and Alarm Handling,
- eInclusion,
- Domotics,
- Daily Scheduler,
- Navigation
- and Mental Faculty Maintaining.

The **Monitoring and Alarm Handling** is based on a Decision Support System which analyses in real time data collected from medical and environmental sensors, fall detectors and geopositioning systems. Standard behavioural patterns are established for individuals; sudden, major changes trigger alarms.

eInclusion is achieved through intuitive videoconferencing based on the familiar TV paradigm and adapted to use by people unfamiliar with IT technology.

Domotics and Daily Scheduler help older persons to organise their daily activities and to manage the house in spite of growing physical and mental impairments.

The **navigation system** takes people who got lost to the closest safe place.

Cognitive training is implemented through interactive games based on cognitive adaptive technology. Complexity of exercises is adjusted to the performance and current mental level of the user.

HOME SWEET HOME will measure the differences between control group and study group on:

- evolution in the quality of life (assessed by the SF36 questionnaire at the beginning, midterm and end of the trial period);



- duration of independent life;
- amount of situation of risk;
- changes in the feeling of isolation;
- amount of transfers to older persons homes;
- cost of social care;
- cost of health care.

The project is being implemented by a Consortium of 18 partners, both private and public, with a very strong presence of health and social authorities with budgetary responsibilities for health and older persons care, together with social service providers, healthcare providers, contact centres, healthcare insurers, an older persons people representative association, technology providers and business consultants.

The trial period, which was supposed to start in December 2010, had to be delayed until June 2011 because of difficulties in recruiting older persons willing to participate in the trials.

Project logo:



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