

Preface

Ambient Assisted Living is a research area with the potential for significant economic and social impact. While this potential has been recognized for some time, breakthroughs in terms of widespread availability and deployment of solutions are yet to be achieved. The EU and the AAL Association have funded activities in this area for some years, and some of these are now at a stage in their development where direct hands-on involvement of development companies is the best way to make sure that this work produces results that are effective and applicable in real industrial settings.

For this reason a conference series has been established as an annual showcase event for the people involved in this community: the AAL-Kongress (Congress for Ambient Assisted Living) with its purpose to exhibit and demonstrate ICT solutions, promote networking within the community, provoke debate on various topics and highlight new or emerging developments in the area to inform the AAL community and discuss the problems and challenges we have to face in the common years. The first AAL Kongress 2008 had the focus on applications of intelligent assistive systems within the areas of “health and homecare”, “safety and privacy”, “maintenance and housework” and “social environment”. At the second AAL-Kongress more than 520 participants attended. It focused on use cases to support the manufacturing of products adjusted to the needs of the user. In 2010, the third AAL-Kongress was organized with close to 600 participants also with the focus on use cases. In 2011 it advanced to the leading congress for AAL with 870 participants. In 2012 the focus was laid on technologies in a self-determined life and the number of participants passed over 1,000, still addressing economic challenges and trendsetting applications on innovative technology. In 2013 the sixth AAL-Kongress was focused on “quality of life in times of changing demography and technology”.

This 7th German AAL Congress in 2014 was entitled “Housing—Care—Social participation”. It provided an excellent platform for the innovative field of Ambient Assisted Living and allowed a qualified information and knowledge exchange between researchers and developers, manufacturers and users, service providers, end users and representatives from politics, industry and associations. The focus

had been on technical solutions and concept studies from tomorrow to the next decade.

Within the thematic topic of this conference “Better Life with Assistive Technologies” the basic human needs had been addressed in the different areas of housing, mobility, work, health and care. Intelligent assistance systems help people to lead an independent life. Innovative applications have been developed for all life stages and situations and brought to market in recent years.

From the large number of contributions from the call for papers a selection was made with topics such as: Interaction and Robotics, Assistive Technologies, Monitoring and Interoperability. To underline the research priority the research papers have been evaluated more restrictively. More than 170 papers have been submitted to the seventh AAL-Kongress. After a solid review process nine papers and six posters were accepted to be included in these scientific proceedings of the conference. Three independent reviewers were matched by their expertise area to the topic of each paper.

In closing, I would like to thank the reviewers of the Reviewing Committee, the organizers of this event and all of the paper presenters and conference participants who helped to make AAL-Kongress 2014 a success.

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