

# Preface

Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) has been recognized for its crucial role in determining the quality of life in the future of our society. This principle has been confirmed by such institutions as the European Commission, an organization that clearly sees AAL as the “fundamental block” in addressing the challenges of demographic changes, sustaining people in productive and healthy work, keeping people at home healthy, independent and integrated, and improving the delivery of care where and when needed. These are very demanding challenges for which AAL can guarantee products and services that improve the quality of life for people in all phases of life, combining new technologies and social environments. Recent advances in a number of research areas have helped the vision of AAL to become a reality, and have allowed integration of new AAL technologies into human lives in a way that will benefit all.

All these aspects were explored in September 2014 at Catania, Italy during the Fifth Italian Forum on Ambient Assisted Living (ForItAAL), one of the most important annual showcase events for researchers, professionals, developers, policy makers, producers, service providers, carriers and end user organizations working in the different fields of AAL, who want to present and disseminate their results, skills, prototypes, products and services.

This book presents the refereed proceedings of the Forum and reviews the current status of researches, technologies and recent achievements on AAL. Different points of view, from research to practice, cover interdisciplinary topics, combine different knowledge, expertise, needs and expectations, and thus offer a unique opportunity to all those directly or indirectly interested and involved in the field of AAL.

Moreover, the book discusses the promises and possibilities of growth in AAL. It lays out paths to meet future challenges, and will provide crucial guidance in the development of practical and efficient AAL systems for both our current and future society.

Ambient Assisted Living

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