

Preface

The habitats of tomorrow will be connected through networked, autonomous, and assistive systems. Houses, apartments, offices, transport, or public spaces are converting into health places. Assistance technologies enable a smooth transition from comfortable health support to medical or nursing care. To enable this, Active Assisted Living (AAL) combines a whole range of innovative key technologies from these domains. Nowadays, we can recognize the trend that precisely this community is discussing domain spanning system concepts to integrate seamlessly and spontaneously the various components and solutions into an overall system approach.

While this potential has been recognized for some time, breakthroughs in terms of widespread availability and deployment of solutions have 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.

To follow these goals, a conference series has been established as an annual showcase event for the people involved in this community: the AAL-Kongress (Congress for Active Assisted Living) with its purpose is 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 & homecare”, “safety & privacy”, “maintenance & 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 had been 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 1000, still addressing economic

challenges and trendsetting applications on innovative technology. In 2013, the sixth AAL-Kongress was focussing on “quality of life in times of changing demography and technology”. Within the thematic topic “Better Life with Assistive Technologies” the congress addressed in 2014 the basic human needs in the different areas of housing, mobility, work, health and care. In 2015, the format of the conference series has been changed by combining the AAL-Kongress with the fair “Zukunft Lebensräume” to bring AAL closer to the people.

In 2016, the series continued in the combined format and with 750 participants the congress was again a great success with its excellent platform to exchange knowledge between all stakeholders, from developers, manufacturers and users, service providers, end users and representatives from politics, industry and associations. This time the congress focussed on technology for assistance in health, independence and comfort. Close to 500 authors from six different countries had submitted contributions where 108 papers had been accepted. After a solid review process, 14 papers 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 36 reviewers of the Reviewing Committee, all the authors, the organizers of this event and the conference participants who helped to make this congress a success.

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