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## Project description

PaeLIFE is a European Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) Project and joins a consortium of 8 partners, located in Portugal, France, Hungary and Poland. Our Project focuses on individuals who are recently retired and who are used to some level of technology usage and who want to keep themselves active, productive and socially engaged.

PaeLIFE is our proposal for a Personal Life Assistant, a new solution of Human-Computer Interaction, making the elderly relationship with computers and technology easier and more natural.

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## Partners

- [Microsoft Corporation \(Portugal\)](#)
- [Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Investigação e Desenvolvimento em Lisboa \(Portugal\)](#)
- [Budapest University of Technology and Economics \(University, Hungary\)](#)
- [The Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. \(R&D Institute, Hungary\)](#)
- [Knowledge Society Association \(Secondary End User, Poland\)](#)
- [Genitech \(Company, France\)](#)
- [University of Technology of Troyes \(University, France\)](#)
- [Universidade de Aveiro \(University, Portugal\)](#)

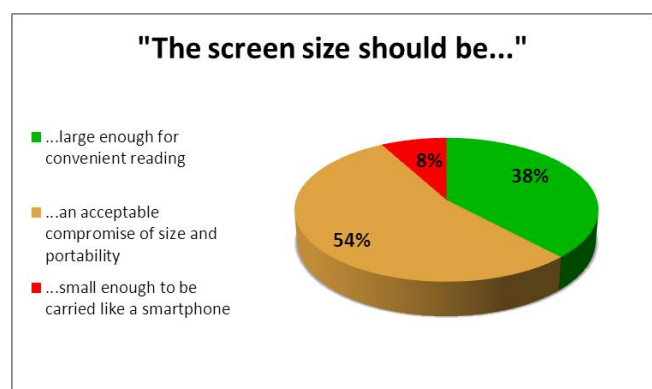
## Ongoing activities

### Key results of the surveys realized so far

After having analysed results of the questionnaire surveys of Hungary and Poland as well as the Hungarian

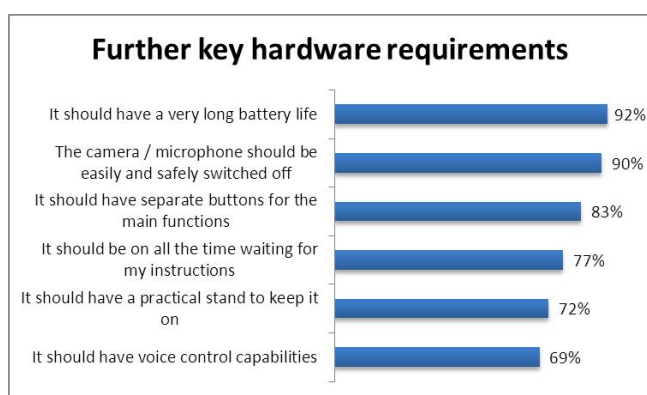
workshops, let us summarize the most interesting area of these studies: **Let us see how an ideal personal assistant should look like.**

Concerning its outfit, the majority of our respondents voted either for a device installed at one point of the flat (like a PC or a television), or for the portable version, or for the combination of the two. It practically means that a combined solution would fulfil the needs of 72% of the respondents. Although the tablet type device turned out here to be less popular than the smartphone type, it seems that the lack of knowledge about a “tablet” played an important role here, as the very next question about screen sizes proved the importance of a large enough screen (see on the chart).



After trying out large touchscreen devices at the workshops in Hungary, almost all participants of the workshops agreed that a bigger screen, even with a little more weight, is much better than a smaller (smartphone size) screen and less weight. A smaller screen renders the device useless for many of them.

The functions considered as ‘definitely’ or ‘probably’ important in such a device are related to **health issues**, to **obtaining and organizing information**, and to **communication**. Social networks turned out to be overstuffed with redundant and unwanted information, the lack of which would make them much more attractive to the age group in concern. As of entertainment functions, new, intelligent, TV voice-controlling was very popular with the group members at the workshops, which lets us to believe that less positive replies in the questionnaires refer rather to past experience, but not to new entertainment-related functions that will be added in the future.



The above diagram displays the percentage of those who agreed with the listed statements. Although 73% of the survey respondents also agreed that the device should have a physical keyboard, a large touchscreen, according to workshop results, would be most probably an acceptable (or even welcome) substitute for the physical keyboard.

Concerning human-computer interaction types, **voice** was the most popular interface, and there has been a revealing finding about the use of **voice intonation**. According to our results, if there is any kind of intonation in the voice sample, the listener tends to feel the voice natural, irrespective of the actual quality of that intonation, and at the same time, tends to lose some of the message in the heard text, if intonation is not good enough. The **(multi)touch** screen was also very popular – with the larger screen of the tablet. The **Kinect** system gained popularity as an impressive instrument for entertainment, and although still a novelty, with accurate planning it has the potential of being an alternative modality to touchscreen gestures when the information is displayed on a TV screen out of reach of the user.

In October the research activities concerning the Paelife project will continue, now in Portugal and in

France. For each country a questionnaire survey will be applied as well as several workshops with end-users. The applied methodology will be the same as the one previously used in Poland and in Hungary and will let the Paelife Project know more about their target users. In the (remove) Portugal the research studies will be led by the Microsoft Language Development Center (Microsoft Portugal R&D center) and in France the same activities will be done by the University of Technology of Troyes.

## Speech Data Collection

The Speech Data Collection campaign for Paelife, as the name itself reveals, refers to the collection of speech provided by people, using an online platform recording tool. This campaign has already started and counts with the participation of an estimated 1200 speakers to donate their voices in Hungary, Poland and France. These speakers must be over 60 years old and should be active citizens with good reading skills. The Speech Data Collection will be extremely important and necessary for the development of Paelife final product, since it will allow to train and test speech recognition models aimed at the elderly population.



If you correspond to the criteria mentioned above and would like to participate on these campaigns, then please contact the main coordinators for the following countries:

- **Hungary:** Tibor Fegyó [fegyo@tmit.bme.hu](mailto:fegyo@tmit.bme.hu)
- **Poland:** Artur Kolesiński [artur.kolesinski@ssw.org.pl](mailto:artur.kolesinski@ssw.org.pl)
- **France:** Pauline Hourseau [pauline.hourseau@utt.fr](mailto:pauline.hourseau@utt.fr)

These coordinators will be able to give you further information and guide you through the process. As we depend on many elderly people to provide their voices, it would be great and immensely appreciated if we could have you on board and count with your participation!"

## Further information:

In order to be informed regarding the paelife community and its activities online, please join us on:

-  [Twitter](#)
-  [Linked In](#)
-  [Slideshare](#)
-  [Blog](#)

