
Project description

PaeLife is a European Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) Project with a consortium of eight partners from 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 it easier and more natural for elderly to interact with computers and technology.

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 \(University, Portugal\)](#)

PaeLife Mid-term review (25th March)

The PaeLife mid-term review meeting took place at [Microsoft Portugal](#) in Lisbon on March 25th 2013. All partners were present at the review that was conducted by the [AAL Joint Programme](#) commission, plus two external evaluators hired to assess the Project's progress. In

this meeting the results from the first year of the PaeLife Project were presented and discussed with the EU Commission. A demonstration of the preliminary PaeLife system was also given to show the current development status of the PaeLife product.



Overall, the Project's evaluation was considered positive and some suggestions were underlined by the EU Commission to take into account in the next steps of the PaeLife Project. The multimodal and multilingual Human computer Interface (HCI), proposed by the PaeLife Project and dedicated to the elderly, was considered very interesting and innovative.

Ongoing activities

Evaluation

The preliminary evaluation of the prototype is about to start in France and Hungary, and will involve 4-6 participants in each country. The objective is to question the usefulness of the services that are already available – email, videoconference, social network, agenda. This phase will consist of very simple “tests” where the users will discover the application and achieve some tasks. These will be completed by in-depth qualitative interviews, to understand the current use that the participants have of technologies and their perceived benefit of it. The idea is to gain insights on how the PLA could effectively support the activities of older adults, in a way that is coherent with their way of life and values.

Dissemination activities



AAL Forum - Sweden

The first results having been produced and Speech Recognition technologies being refined, we are starting dissemination activities. PaeLife has two papers accepted at the AAL Forum, which will be held in Nörrköping, Sweden, the 24-26 September: a first paper presenting the project and the results of the user needs analysis, and a second paper presenting the evaluation. The paper talks will be given as part of the A2 panel – Social Interaction.



E-health Trophies - France

PaeLife was one of the 70 projects competing for the e-health trophies, in the category “autonomy and maintaining independence at home”. The e-health trophies reward innovative projects and were held in Castres, France, from the 3-5 July 2013. PaeLife was represented by one of the French partners, Genigraph.



DSAI 2013 - Spain

PaeLife has also been invited to submit a paper for the special track “New Applications and Services for Ambient Assisted Living and Older Adults”, part of the 5th International Conference on Software Development and Technologies for Enhancing Accessibility and Fighting Info-exclusion – DSAI 2013 (November 13-15, 2013, in the University of Vigo – Vigo, Spain). We will present how empirical studies, done as part of the evaluation, produce useful insights for the design of social-oriented AAL applications.



eVita Forum - Hungary

Our PaeLife project has been introduced by the Hungarian partners in a forum on ‘infocommunication in the service of everyday life’ called eVITA, held in Budapest, Hungary on the 23rd of May. The aim of the monthly events is to draw the attention of economic stakeholders, society, entrepreneurs, families and the public sector to the opportunities offered by ambient assisted living applications (medical instruments, portable medical monitoring devices, telecare, homecare and telemedicine services, prevention and management of chronic conditions, ICT-enabled wellness, etc).

During the year many AAL Joint Programme projects like Paelife had the possibility to introduce their project, activities and achievements. BME and BZN showed the results of the users’ requirements, the selected services and the overall PaeLife System Specification. After the presentation there was an open-roundtable discussion with different interesting questions about the speech data collection and the services. In general Paelife project was found very interesting and useful in providing a solution to the problems associated with an ageing population and its isolation.

Development

Now that development of the first prototype has finished, we’ve started development of the final application. All of the user interface is being constructed using the Windows 8 app development platform, formerly known as “Metro” and “Modern UI” in order to ensure a complete integration with the Windows 8 eco-system. Backend services are also undergoing migrated to a cloud platform to ensure better maintainability.

At the moment, the application supports two features: Unified Contacts, to enable management of all the user’s contacts from several sources (i.e. email and social media); and Unified Messaging, that allows the user to receive and send messages in an integrated way via email, Facebook and Twitter. Soon we plan to develop features to manage multimedia content and display weather information as well as integrating the speech interaction modality to make the application controllable through the user’s voice.

Speech Data Collection

The Speech Data Collection Campaign, which involves the collection of speech provided by people using an online platform tool, is now ongoing in France, Hungary and Poland. We are confident of reaching the aim of 100 hours of pure speech (speech without pause) over the next few months of the project.

The Speech Data Collection Campaign, which involves the collection of speech provided by people using an online platform tool, is already finished in Poland and still ongoing in France and Hungary. Nevertheless, we are confident of reaching our initial goal in France and Hun-

gary over the next few months of the project.

The Speech Data Collection is essential for the development of the PaeLife final product, where speech will form an important part of the multimodal interface. Therefore, we are always looking for people who would be willing to contribute and be a part of this project.



Speech data collection in Hungary

The requirements for participation are to be over 60 years old, to be born in one of the countries stated below, and to have good reading skills.

If you are interested in participating in this project, or know anyone who would like to donate their voice and who meets the criteria above, please contact the main coordinator of the following countries:

- **Hungary:** Tibor Fegyó - fegyo@tmit.bme.hu
- **Poland:** Artur Kolesiński - artur.kolesinski@ssw.org.pl
- **France:** David Hewson - david.hewson@utt.fr

These coordinators will be able to give you further information and guide you through the process. As we require 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!

After the data collection recordings are complete we will start the PaeLife data validation procedures to assure the quality of the recorded data. This will involve a data transcription and annotation process based on clear guidelines that were defined taking into account the PaeLife Project high quality standards.

In order to be informed regarding the [PaeLife](#) community and its activities online, please join us on:

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

Further information

