
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 \(Secondary End User, Poland\)](#)
- [Genigraph \(Company, France\)](#)
- [Troyes University of Technology \(University, France\)](#)
- [Universidade de Aveiro \(University, Portugal\)](#)

Intro about the end of the Project

The amazing journey of the PaeLife Project is unfortunately reaching its end. Although the consortium is unhappy to have to end the Project we are also very proud of the several achievements that were completed throughout the course of this initiative. These achievements can be read with more detail in this last newsletter. We tried to synthesize the most important actions to give you, the reader, a more in depth and overview information regarding our major accomplishments. Our initial main goals were achieved and we couldn't be prouder of the Work that we developed in the course of these last 3 years.

Meeting in Troyes

The PaeLife final meeting was held at Troyes University of Technology, the 22nd and 23rd September. On the first day, the consortium worked fruitfully to finalize pending topics, like the last bugs to be solved in AALFred's final version, scientific and popularized dissemination of our activities, exploitation plans and business model for AALFred. The second day, a workshop was organized at UTT's Living Lab ActivAgeing, bringing together different participants : senior "Friends of the Living Lab" who have been actively involved in the PaeLife project, researchers from UTT, and the local press. The PaeLife

consortium made a presentation of the project and of the activities and tests made with the senior elders' participation, as well as a demo of AALFred. The day following the workshop, the PaeLife project figured on the first page, and the whole page 2 of the local newspaper L'Est éclair.



Final meeting in Troyes

Project overall actions and major accomplishments

AALFred

AALFred is the Personal Life Assistant that **simplify the access to today's Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** and improve its usability for the elderly in order to improve their life quality by making them more active, more social and less isolated. This software is the final product of the joint effort of the all PaeLife partners with the following features available: Agenda, Messaging, Contact Management, News Reader, Weather Forecast and Services Finder. **All this features are presented in a Unified Way** making AALFred a single contact point with different technologies. For example, Searching for a nearby Pharmacy has the same procedure as searching for a Railway Station; or Sending a Facebook message can be done using the same interface used for sending emails. The **interfaces are simple and intuitive** and take older adults' special needs and requirements into account, unnecessary complexity is hidden and **content is presented in a simple and straight forward way that encourages the use of features** and doesn't require extensive learning. In a nutshell, AALFred makes it really simple to make the benefits of today's ICT services available to the elderly helping them to **fight isolation, to stay in touch with their loved ones and promote social inclusion**. AALFred will soon be available for tablets and regular PCs via the windows apps store.

Multimodal interaction (highlighting speech and gesture)

Computers must know their owners' needs and communicate in the most natural way for the users. To ensure

this, AALFred offer **Multimodal Interaction to improve even more the usability** of the app and to make it a great experience. Users can interact via **touch, speech, gestures or simply by using the traditional mouse and keyboard**. The modalities can be used synergistically or as an alternative to each other. This allows users to choose the interaction modality that feel more natural to them or that work better in a particular context. For example, users can use speech to ask AALFred to show their receive messages or use gestures to scroll the list of contacts. **All these modalities can be operated uniformly throughout the interface and similar interactions** will be possible in similar situations, even if in different AALFred services (ex: navigating a list of contacts, news or messages works in the same way). **This makes the learning on how to use our platform simpler**.

2nd and 3rd month of the field trials in Hungary and Poland

In August and September the field trials were continued in Hungary and Poland. In each month and in both countries 2-2 end-users helped to test the available versions of AALFred. Researches met participants regularly and helped them during these two months with the use of the application, devices. Also they showed the changes, developments at the time when the collague of BZN and SSW installed the newer version of the application on the laptop. Thanks to the elderlies the PaeLife team (and especially developers) got relevant feedbacks and suggestions about the way how AALFred was created and how it should be developed further. Suggestions were for example to have a kind of warning if a user has an appointment for the day or has unread messages. These feedbacks let us to have a real user-friendly application. Generally elderlies had many fun and liked participating in the field trials. They are also curios to see the final product of the PaeLife, which will be shown in Hungary, Budapest at the BZN (1116, Budapest, Kondorfa utca 1) during the PaeLife Panel Session on the 30-31st of October. You are more then welcome to come to this event where you can meet others and try out the final version of AALFred! For further information please contact Petra Csobanka (petra.csobanka@bayzoltan.hu)

Conclusion

And this is it. This was the final newsletter of the PaeLife Project. It's always sad to say goodbye but the actions, product and main ideas of this Project will live-on. Further collaborations and initiatives are being aligned and planned for the near future. The work developed will continue and will be improved to allow the user to be "be more productive, independent and to have a more social and fulfilling life". This was and still is the PaeLife's Consortium main goal.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this final newsletter. Please let us know what you think. We appreciate

your feedback and support.

Off course this action could not be done without the fundamental help of the AAL Association and the local NCP's in each. To them we are grateful for this opportunity.

Further information

In order to be informed regarding the [PaeLife](#) commu-

nity and its activities online, please join us on:

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

