

# Contact Information

If you are interested in knowing more about our project or participating in it as an end-user, please contact the coordinator of the applicable country:

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# Project Partners



# VISIONLESS SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK



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# Project Goal

*The goal of the project is to support the **daily living of blind and visually impaired people** in challenging tasks like participating in **urban mobility**, providing a simple, effective and affordable **door-to-door navigation and mobility assistance solution**.*

This system will be an **indoor navigation system**, specially designed for **visually impaired and blind individuals**, to aid with finding one's way when in an **unknown indoor environment**.

## What is an unknown indoor environment?

It could be any indoor environment with which the individual using the system is not familiar, from a **public office building** to a **train station**, from a **mall** to an **airport**. These are places in which people generally **search for something specific** - i.e. a boarding gate at an airport - and in which it's **difficult to navigate** when visually impaired or blind.

In order to provide a truly **door-to-door navigation** service, which is currently **missing from the market**, we will design and develop a service framework in which existing outdoor navigation services can be easily "plugged in". Thus, the already familiar applications can be used in concordance with the proposed indoor mobility service, leading to **cheaper and more effective door-to-door mobility assistance solution**.

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# Problematic Environments

As found in a recent EBU report ("A Tale of Three Cities", EU PROGRESS project, 2007-2013), here are several **barriers elderly, visually impaired individuals** faced when **accessing their community**:

- **Outdoor spaces and buildings**: problem when environments change without warning, public building entrances must be somehow emphasized, clear indication and separation of ramps and stairs
- **Transportation**: having access to a door to door service; affordability of the service; accessible information in relation to timetables, destinations and locations
- **Social Participation**: having trained people or a companion to provide personal assistance; access to opportunities for integration as well as to specialist groups
- **Information and communication**: having a person and not a machine on the other end of the helpline; people should ask what help is needed.

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# Facts about Blindness

The European Blind Union (EBU) estimates **30,000,000 visually impaired individuals in Europe**, taking into account the prevalence of sight-loss amongst an increasing population of elderly people. According to EBU nearly **70% of all blind and partially sighted Europeans are over the age of 60**, and two thirds are over the age of 65. The World Health Organisation (WHO) **expects further growth in the number of older people experiencing sight loss, as much as 30-50% within the next 10-15 years**, figures attributed to aging and Diabetes.

An ageing population facing age related sight loss will have a **significant impact on health and social care services of the future**. Serious sight loss can lead to a **decrease in the quality of life, reducing the activities of daily living and physical mobility**, ending up in **possible social exclusion and depression**.

