Project Overview

VUK is a European Active and Assisted Living Programme project made up of a consortium of 9 partners located in Hungary, Austria, Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The project focuses on elderly blind and visually impaired individuals and their caregivers, with a basic (or above) ability to use technology, a population currently lacking a suitable navigational aid for everyday urban mobility. **Visionless sUpporting frameworK (VUK)** is a new urban mobility solution enabling visually impaired individuals to be more independent and active, while decreasing caregivers' workloads and increasing comfort on both sides. It also aims to assist people in establishing relationships with others facing a similar situation and offers users the opportunity to be support their surrounding community.

Project Objective

The project goal is to support blind and visually impaired individuals in the challenging task of urban mobility through providing a simple, effective and affordable indoor navigation and mobility assistance solution. This system will guide the user on journeys through unfamiliar indoor environments such as subway systems and through complex buildings like shopping malls and business centers. The envisioned service would also be suitable for companies and public organizations in which blind and visually impaired individuals work or visit, assisting to integrate said individuals in an open community.

Project Progress

The VUK project is now at the end of its first year. Below you can find an overview of the partners' progress.

TSB

Transdanubia's tasks during the first quarter of 2017 included the co-ordination and compilation of the 2016 Dissemination Report, as well as providing accessibility requirements for the VUK app including, but not limited to, design, layout and contrast requirements. TSB's team reviewed the first versions of Deliverable 3.7 Testing of Core Technologies and gave input to help insure the accessibility of the design. The examination of a test app was also carried out, parallel to that done by Infoalap, in order to ensure the viability of the design platform being used. Testing of the Android speech input and speech output is additionally being undergone TSB and Infoalap.

INFOALAP

With the leadership of the IT Foundation for the visually Impaired a detailed user requirement analyses has been carried out in Austria and Hungary, the foundation also performed a gap analyses and a use cases report, that have been finalized in 2016.

In the first months of 2017 Infoalap was heavily involved in the finalization of Ethical and privacy report and contributed to the Technical specification document as well. The experts of the foundation have elaborated the Evaluation methodology report and also took part in the preparation of the Agiled evaluation report.

INOVA+

INOVA+ has concluded the first version of the Technical Specification deliverable. Changes were discussed after due date and an agreement of technical partners was achieved during London Meeting. The changes applied were targeting critical specifications (architecture, modules and functionalities) and the consortium decided that those must be included in the final version of the Technical Specification document. With the continuous progress of each partner on the development of the VUK application, technical specifications have become clearer.

INOVA+ also started to work on the development of the Privacy and Data Security module on VUK, consisting of a demonstration on how the auditing, authorization and authentication integrated in the VUK system by assuring technical aspects from the VUK's Technical Specification, following the Ethics and Legal Constraints and put in practice the Privacy and Data Security processes defined in VUK Framework. The tests of communication are currently ongoing, and at the same time the functions related with authentication of the users on an initial platform are being finalised.

ESL

In November 2016 Erlang Solutions (ESL) hosted the VUK consortium face-to-face meeting in London which was a great opportunity to brainstorm and further refine our group thinking. We reviewed end user use cases and functionalities in the scope of the project that enabled the technical partners to effectively conceive practical solutions and sketch an action plan.

Having reviewed the state of the art technologies ESL began developing a backend solution to demo with our technology partners. Based on this work it was agreed in January 2017 how the technology would be accessed by the various consortium partners in delivering final end user experiences. This included elements such as security, content access and editing as well as managing search requests across the VUK infrastructure. This work is far from complete and is expected to take the remainder of 2017 to fully test and refine.

HI-Iberia

As a technical partner, HI-Iberia has started the development of the Social-based Assistance/Guidance Service by carrying out a first integration with the infostructure database, and by designing a first mock-up of the VUK Web User Interface. Furthermore, HI-Iberia has a relevant role in the business part and, thereby, it has continued identifying possibilities of exploitation for the project outputs and defining the best method to launch the VUK project to the market, what is giving as a result the exploitation plan and the first iteration of the business model plan.

BZN

During the last few months VUK consortium was working actively on some important end-user and development related tasks. First the evaluation methodology was carried out, while the main ethics and privacy issues related to our target groups were gathered. Informed consent form was also finalized, which will be used during the agile evaluation and field trials. In the first agile evaluation report we gathered the results of the first tests, which were involved end-user partners or the project: evaluation of the website and the mock-up design. Partners, with high involvement of end-users again, with the leadership of BME were also designing the user interface of the VUK mobile and web platform with a main focus on visually impaired or blind people needs regarding design.

Development has also continued: based on the ethics and privacy issues document INOVA+ created a document, which ensures the privacy and security issues from the development side of the project as well. The VUK Framework and general development such as development of the infostructure, localization, navigation, social-based module and TTS, STT solution continued. The first version of the module will be presented in the 1st midterm review, which will take place in Brussels on the 21st of June in the AAL CMU premises. Before the review the consortium will be having its 3rd physical meeting.

VUK has also been shown in several events like in the CeBIT in Hannover and in a conference in China.

VUK at CeBIT conference in Hannover

Conference in China

Beside reading this Newsletter we encourage everyone to visit our website or follow us our VUK Facebook to see the latest news about VUK.

Partner Contacts

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Contact

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

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Further information

In order to be informed regarding the VUK community and its activities, please visit our site (http://www.vuk-project.com) or join us on Facebook (VUK - Visionless Supporting Framework).