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 approaching its ending. Below you can find an overview of the partners' progress.

INFOALAP

In the last six months of 2018, Infoalap has continued the end-user oriented agile evaluation of the VUK application and related software tools, focusing more on the accessible user interface and speech-based features. Infoalap has concluded negotiations about adequate locations and necessary terms for the field trials with the managements of administrative and commercial sites in Hungary, and has started in home tests in its own premises. Infoalap participated in LESEK 2018, the biggest conference and exhibition in Hungary in visual aid devices and presented VUK there.

VIDEBIS

VIDEBIS has continued to test the web UI, mobile app and speech recognition of the VUK application and suggest improvements. Dissemination was again a key part of VIDEBIS' role in VUK: 7 appointments Austria-wide took place during October and December 2018. The most exciting dissemination event VIDEBIS took part in in the last six months was the Austria's Leading Companies Award 2018. Viennese companies were recognized for their outstanding achievements throughout the year, and VIDEBIS was able to present VUK, amongst several of our current projects. The preparation for and coordination of the Austrian field trials in has rounded out VIDEBIS' participation in VUK the last few months.

INOVA+

INOVA+ participated in the internal tests of the platform, collection different test measurements in its office. Also from the technical perspective, INOVA+ has been currently monitoring the security module of VUK.

ESL

Erlang Solutions were happy to support the consortium of partners through the testing phase of the project. The infostructure and database stores location data on buildings and routes. We look forward to scaling this solution with our partners and providing a new platform for VUK users.

HI-Iberia

As a technical partner, HI-Iberia has finished the development of VUK Web User Interface, paying special attention to improve its accessibility and usability according to the feedback provided by end-users, and the development of the Social-based Assistance/Guidance Service by refining all features previously developed. Moreover, HI-Iberia also has a relevant role in the business part and so, it has chosen the best business model to commercialize VUK, defined the final version of the business case including a detailed analysis of the potential revenues and the CAPEX and OPEX costs, which is reported in the deliverable D5.6, and updated the exploitation plan to follow after the end of the project, which is reported in the deliverable D5.5.

BME

BME-TMIT continued developing the mock-up of the VUK Mobile User Interface based on the end-user feedback from Infoalap and HGB. Both the graphical and the speech user interfaces were improved as part of the agile evaluation process. The integration between other components (login server, web user interface, infostructure database) was completed. We coordinated the testing of each of the core technologies (e.g. VUK framework, localization, web and mobile user interfaces, STT and TTS solutions), and finished writing deliverable D3.8 from the results."

BZN

Porto Meeting

The last and final consortium meeting of VUK was held in Matosinhos, Porto at INOVA premises, on the 29th and 30th of November 2018. The meeting was centered mainly on performing live tests of VUK platform, planning the pilot trials and discussing new inputs and refinements on the Business Plan.

Dissemination activities:

BZN:

This year the first event of the Alzheimer Café was held in the House of Arts Café on January 21st, 2019 from 16:00 in Miskolc, organized by the Őszidő Foundation and the Miskolc Unified Social, Health and Child Welfare Institute - Őszi Napsugár Nursing Home, in connection with the Interprofessional Dementia Basic Program.

The first Alzheimer Café was established in September 1997 in Leiden, the Netherlands, and the first Hungarian event was held in Győr in September 2014, and the event is regularly held in Miskolc from January 2016.
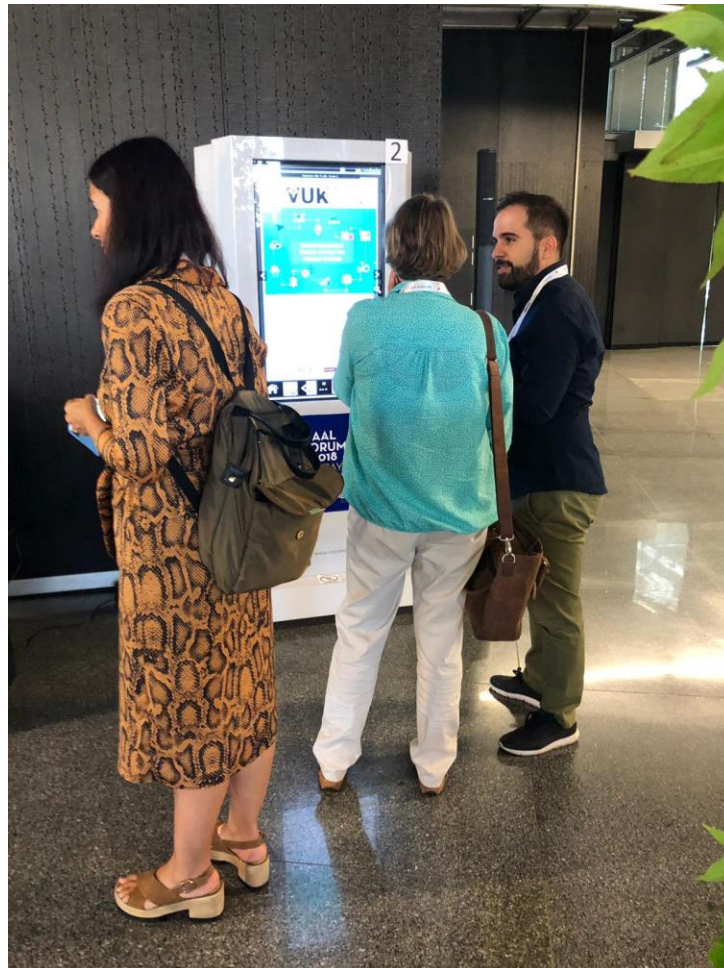
As part of the program of the first Miskolc Alzheimer Café in 2019 the AAL OLA (2015-2017), the AAL VUK (2016-2019) and the AAL IONIS (2017-2020) international research and development projects implemented under the Active and Assisted Living (AAL) program were presented by the experts of the Bay Zoltan Applied Research Nonprofit Ltd., Bay-SMART Division, Mr. Dezső Vass (eHealth Research Group Leader, Clinical Engineer) and Dénes Perényi (Research Fellow).

Dezső Vass (BZN) presenting VUK on Alzheimer Café in Miskolc, 21st January, 2019

INOVA+ participated and presented VUK in the following events:

- Techdays – Event on latest technology innovations from 11 to 13th of October in Aveiro (PT).
- AAL Forum 2018 – VUK Poster Presentation at one of the largest events in the healthy ageing community, on 26th of September in Bilbao (ES).
- Medica – VUK project was disseminated on this leading international trade fair on Medicine, at Dusseldorf (DE).
- Praça da Saúde – event held at the University of Porto (PT) on the 23rd of November, included health screenings, technology shows, lectures and conferences on various topics, such as cognitive stimulation, the importance of physical activity and health literacy.

Marco Duarte (INOVA+) az AAL Forum-on (Bilbao) mutatja be a VUK-ot, 2018 szeptember 26.-án

Besides 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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	Budapest University of Technology and Economics *Hungary*	R&D	www.bme.hu
	IT Foundation for the Visually Impaired *Hungary*	End-user Partner	www.infoalap.hu

	Name	Type	Website
VIDEBIS	**VIDEBIS GmbH** *Austria*	SME	www.videbis.at
ISCTE IUL Instituto Universitário de Lisboa	**Instituto Universario de Lisboa** *Portugal*	R&D	www.iscte-iul.pt
inova Adding INNOVATION to your IMAGINATION	**INOVAMAIS – Servicos de Consultaoria em Inovacao Tecnologica S.A** *Portugal*	SME	www.inovamais.eu
HI iberia	**HI Iberia: HI-IBERIA Ingeniería y Proyectos SL** *Portugal*	SME	www.hi-iberia.es
Erlang SOLUTIONS	**Erlang Solutions** *United Kingdom*	SME	www.erlang-solutions.com
Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs	**Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreich** *Austria*	End-user Partner	www.hilfsgemeinschaft.at

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).