

## 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 who have a basic or above level of technology usage ability, 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 helps people in establishing relationships with others facing a similar situation and offers users the opportunity to be support their surrounding community.

## Project Partners

	<b>Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research</b>  <i>Hungary</i>	R&D	<a href="http://www.bayzoltan.hu">www.bayzoltan.hu</a>
	<b>Budapest University of Technology and Economics</b>  <i>Hungary</i>	R&D	<a href="http://www.bme.hu">www.bme.hu</a>
	<b>IT Foundation for the Visually Impaired</b>  <i>Hungary</i>	End-user Partner	<a href="http://www.infoalap.hu">www.infoalap.hu</a>
	<b>Transdanubia Nikolai Ges.m.b.H.</b>  <i>Austria</i>	SME	<a href="http://www.tsb.co.at">www.tsb.co.at</a>

 <p><b>ISCTE IUL</b> Instituto Universitário de Lisboa</p>	<p><b>Instituto Universario de Lisboa</b></p> <p><i>Portugal</i></p>	<p>R&amp;D</p>	<p><a href="http://www.iscte-iul.pt">www.iscte-iul.pt</a></p>
 <p><b>inova</b> Adding INNOVATION to your IMAGINATION</p>	<p><b>INOVAMAIS – Servicos de Consultaoria em Inovacao Tecnologica S.A</b></p> <p><i>Portugal</i></p>	<p>SME</p>	<p><a href="http://www.inovamais.eu">www.inovamais.eu</a></p>
 <p><b>HI iberia</b></p>	<p><b>HI Iberia: HI- IBERIA Ingeniería y Proyectos SL</b></p> <p><i>Spain</i></p>	<p>SME</p>	<p><a href="http://www.hi-iberia.es">www.hi-iberia.es</a></p>
 <p><b>Erlang</b> SOLUTIONS</p>	<p><b>Erlang Solutions</b></p> <p><i>United Kingdom</i></p>	<p>SME</p>	<p><a href="http://www.erlang-solutions.com">www.erlang-solutions.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Hilfsgemeinschaft</b> der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs</p>	<p><b>Hilfsgemein- schaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreich</b></p> <p><i>Austria</i></p>	<p>End-user Partner</p>	<p><a href="http://www.hilfsgemeinschaft.at">www.hilfsgemeinschaft.at</a></p>

## 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 Start: BZN

The VUK project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2016 and will last for 30 months. Partner collaboration, however, began in the winter months to finalize the consortium agreement, which has been signed by all partners. As a first step BZN brought the partners together, created a platform for their collaborative online work. Every second week the consortium is having a skype meeting to discuss the actual status of the project and the

ongoing tasks. The first tasks are the creation of the basic dissemination materials such as website, logo and project templates as well as the examination of the user-requirement analysis, which helps us to identify the real needs of the project`s the target group. TSB designed the VUK logo and created the project website, which is available in five languages. In both of the designs TSB – as an expert working with visually impaired people – they considered our target group so it is accessible for them in different ways. The user requirement analysis was carried out by the end-user partner (Infoalap and HGB). The first results can be found below.

## **Kick-off Meeting: Miskolc, Hungary**

The official kick-off of the VUK collaborative project took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 at Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. For Applied Research in Miskolc, Hungary and was attended by all VUK project partners. In the meeting the initial ideas for the VUK project were discussed, the project logo and website was released and a plan for the first months of the project was created. On the second day technical partners gave demonstrations of previously created inventions. End user partners expressed their expectations and needs as visually impaired and blind individuals . The meeting united the partners for the first time and a great time was had by all. The team is really looking forward to working together!



Conclusion of the kick-off Meeting

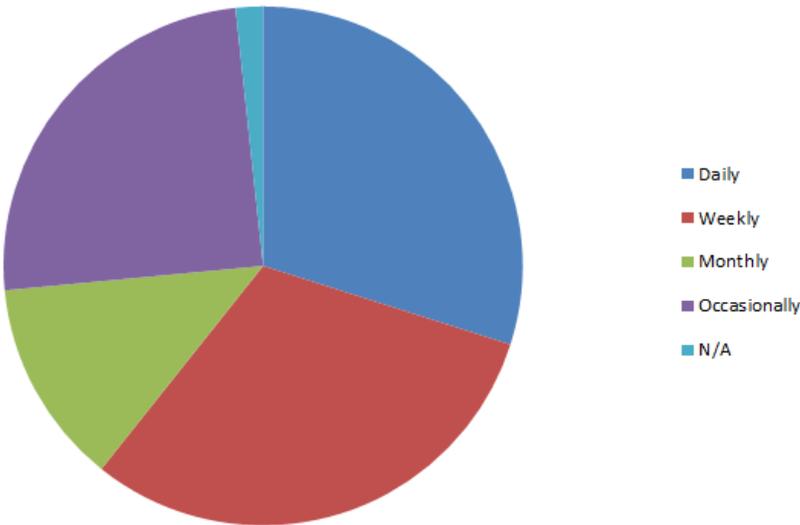
## **First Results: User Requirement Analysis**

The objective of the user requirements analysis was to assess real user requirements from end users in two countries (Hungary and Austria) through a quantitative and a qualitative analysis to define the main characteristics of the services, usability requirements, and main functionalities to be offered.

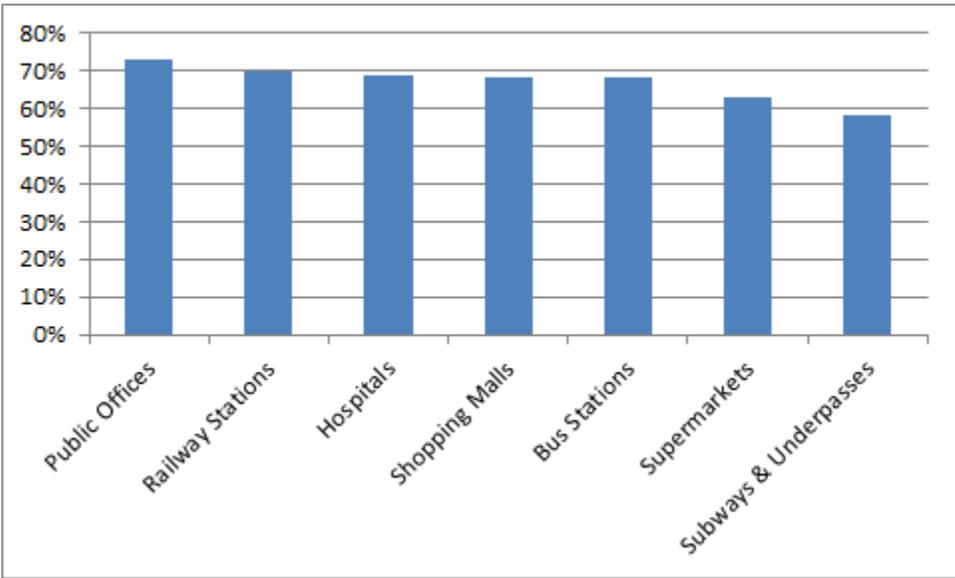
Results appear to generally remain in line with the project objectives and underpin that the VUK initiative addresses genuine expectations of potential future users who are visually impaired and elderly. The two analyses are based on surveys conducted in the two countries. Feedback for the quantitative survey was obtained from more than a total of 100 volunteers in the two countries. Peer-to-peer style interviews yielded qualitative results from 12 individuals from both countries.

Participants appear to be very optimistic about the software's potential to increase their level of autonomy, their future reduced mobility costs and its contribution to their integration into society. The overall opinion of VUK's cost benefits is much more positive than that of existing outdoor navigation solutions currently used by the study participants.

### Frequency of Navigational Difficulties Experienced due to Visual Impairment



### Locations at which Study Participants would Use Indoor Navigation Software



## 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:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	Katalin Sebestény	sebesteny.katalin@infoalap.hu	+36 1 273 3182
<b>Austria</b>	Daniele Marano	marano@hilfsgemeinschaft.at	+43 1 330 35 45 41
<b>Spain</b>	Diego Fuentes	dfuentes@hi-iberia.es	+34 91 458 51 19
<b>Portugal</b>	Miguel Dias		+351 962 093 324
<b>United Kingdom</b>	John Samuel	john.samuel@erlang-solutions.com	+36 309 642 534

## 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](#))?