The Lecce Declaration

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<u>Supporting projects / organizations:</u>

1. CASALA & CASALA Living Lab, Ireland National Project, http://www.casala.ie/
2. APSIS4all, CIP Project, http://www.apsis4all.eu/
3. ATIS4all, CIP Project, http://www.atis4all.eu/
4. HOMEdotOLD, AAL JP Project
5. VITAL, FP6 Project, http://www.ist-vital.org/
6. SeniorEngage, AAL JP Project, http://seniorengage.eu/
7. Easy Line+, FP6 Project, http://www.easylineplus.com/
8. OASIS, FP7 Project, http://www.oasis-project.eu/
9. MonAMI, FP6 Project, http://www.monami.info/
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12. DOMEO, AAL JP Project, http://www.aal-domeo.org/
13. IS-ACTIVE, AAL JP Project, http://www.is-active.eu/
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15. Osteolink, AAL JP Project, http://www.osteolink.org/
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17. REMOTE, AAL JP Project, http://www.remote-project.eu/
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19. V2me, AAL JP Project, http://www.v2me.org/
20. WohnSelbst, German National Project, http://www.wohnselbst.de/
21. AALuis, AAL JP Project, http://www.aaluis.eu/
22. RAALI, German National Project, http://www.raali.de/en/home
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31. openURC Alliance, http://www.openurc.org
32. M3W, AAL JP Project
33. i2home, FP6 Project, http://www.i2home.org/
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35. CompanionAble, FP7 Project, http://www.companionable.net/
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38. eVITA, Hungarian National Technology Platform, http://evitaplatform.hu/en/
39. SRS, FP7 Project, http://www.srs-project.eu/
40. Join-In, AAL JP Project, http://www.join-in-for-all.eu/
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42. AQUEDUC, French National Project, http://www.projet-aqueduc.eu/
43. SAAPHO, AAL JP Project, http://www.saapho.eu/
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The Lecce Declaration

Organized by the AAL Open Association – AALOA

The European Council endorsed the European Commission's proposal for an Innovation Union in February 2011 [1], in particular the launch of a pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing [2] as well as the new Joint Programming Initiative of European States "addressing a global megatrend" called *More Years, Better Lives* [3].

As a contribution from the side of the AAL community, we, the signatories of this declaration, would like to provide these initiatives with recommendations that are directed at achieving an Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) market breakthrough based on an analysis of market barriers investigated in [4].

1 The Proposed Target: Creating Ecosystems around Common Open Platforms

Current AAL research programmes are characterized by a lack of proper interaction between demand (seniors, professional and familial caregivers, insurance companies) and supply (innovative industry, SMEs, research). This results in counter-productive efforts in current R&D projects where not all stakeholders can be represented properly. Moreover, the few available AAL solutions are currently provided in a fragmented market in which the AAL industry cannot yet rely on a well-established community of major industrial stakeholders that invest in and agree upon common standards.

Experience in similar domains has shown that common platforms and ready-to-use enablers help demand-supply interactions grow into a full ecosystem of artefacts that regulates itself in a self-organizing way. For example, it is inconceivable that the PC market would have reached its current state if POSIX had not provided a reference specification for operating systems, and if UNIX/Linux, Windows and MacOS had not reached their levels of popularity. Similarly, the Apache Server as a reference implementation for Web servers played a decisive role in the emergence of the Web, in addition to the standard specifications for HTTP and HTML.

Building upon the AALOA Manifesto [5], we, the signatories of this declaration, call for *targeting the creation of AAL ecosystems based on open common platforms* that facilitate the development of AAL products and services, while ensuring interoperability, financial sustainability, and overall support of end user needs within the ecosystem.

2 Proposed Measures

Accordingly, we, the signatories of this declaration, recommend that:

- *New funding activities should be directed at bridging the gap between R&D and bringing new products to the market* (for SMEs in particular), e.g., by promoting the convergence of similar results into established and reusable concepts, then relating the established concepts to each other in order to provide coherent views on AAL systems.

- *New programmes should include activities such as testing of competing technological enablers with respect to their usability and reliability under real-life conditions (e.g. by using living labs), providing tool support, and facilitating lean development processes.* This will help R&D results to mature and provide evidence of reusability.

- *Some work should be directed at building sustainable ecosystems through targeted work*, e.g., on ecosystem design, ecosystem compliance and interoperability tests, ecosystem marketing, and life-cycle management of products and services.

- *The sustainability of the common platforms that underpin ecosystems should be promoted by supporting open, not-for-profit associations of stakeholders,* such as AALOA, to take on the role of a recognized body that guarantees for sustainability of ecosystems through platform maintenance.

- *Work on creating open specifications for building blocks of the envisioned common platforms should be facilitated* so that their interfaces and interaction protocols are publically known and agreed upon in the ecosystem.

- *AAL platforms should position themselves in relation to other platform initiatives such as the Future Internet PPP* [6]. It must be possible to use technology building blocks developed elsewhere in related domains; the AAL community has to avoid the trap of relying on isolated technology that is incapable of being integrated into the wider realm of future technologies.

- *A long-term consensus building process should be initiated in the AAL community, aimed at making it possible for applications built on top of common platforms to provide value to each other.* In open distributed systems, sub-components of applications will be able to contribute to several distributed applications without even knowing all of them beforehand.

- *Education and training should be developed or adapted to take account of what results from the above recommendations* in order to train workforces that know the underlying technological enablers readily, thus reducing the long-term uptake costs for stakeholders.

- *Efficient IPR management strategies should be developed in parallel wherever stakeholders are supposed to exchange knowledge during the implementation of the above measures,* e.g., when dealing with convergence of similar results, reusability of building blocks and their APIs, positioning of AAL platforms in relation to the wider realm of future technologies, and interoperability of applications.

3 Background of the Declaration for the General Public

Ageing populations are expected to escalate costs for the related social systems (see, for example, the OECD forecasts for Europe [7]). By using ICT to provide ambient assistance for ageing well and living an independent life, AAL can help to support older people at home, on the move, at work, and in the society [8], as well as to mitigate the forecast costs to society. With a growing market potential in terms of both demand (a growing population of customers) and supply (a large variety of applications), AAL systems constitute a significant economic opportunity in addition to being a social necessity (cf. also estimations in [7], e.g., about the wealth of Europeans over 65 having a revenue of over € 3000 billion, and about the market for smart home applications to triple between 2005 and 2020).

Accordingly, AAL systems are integral parts of the Digital Agenda for Europe [9]. Further to the 2006 Riga Ministerial Declaration on e-Inclusion policy [10], the European Commission defined an ageing well action plan [11] and a European strategy in ICT for Ageing Well [7]. The result is a series of measures that involve more than one billion Euros in research and development between 2006 and 2013: the Seventh Framework programme [12] funds longer-term R&D, the AAL Joint Programme [13] is dedicated to market-oriented R&D, and the ICT Policy Support Programme within the Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP ICT PSP) [14] supports initiatives with deployment priorities.

These complementary R&D funding programmes have supported the development of numerous proof-of-concept activities in the field of AAL. However, breakthroughs in terms of widespread availability and deployment of AAL systems are yet to be achieved. The EIP on AHA and the new Joint Programming Initiative *More Years, Better Lives* seem to be the political answer to this situation. The AALOA Lecce Declaration tries to provide them with related feedback stemming from the hands-on experiences of the AAL R&D community.

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History of this declaration

The workshop *Support for Companies with AAL solutions to Achieve Market Breakthrough*[1] (AMB'11) decided to further consolidate the *ideas discussed in the workshop*[2] in an *open forum*[3] towards a declaration signed by a significant part of the AAL community. AMB'11 was organised and supported jointly by the AAL Open Association (*AALOA*[4]), the eInclusion unit of the EC, and the CMU of the AAL JP. It took place on June 7th in Brussels. The organization of the initiative for the Lecce Declaration was mandated to AALOA. The governing board of AALOA created a Declaration Organizing Committee (DOC) consisting of Antonio Kung, Francesco Furfari and Saied Tazari who worked out a draft published on July 1st 2011 followed by four further revisions (19-Jul-11, 2-Aug-11, 22-Aug-11, and 09-Sep-11) after each round of comments.

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[1] http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/events/aal_market/

[2] http://aaloa.org/workshops/amb11

[3] http://www.aalforum.eu/group/leccedeclaration

[4] http://aaloa.org/