

The basic aim of UISEL is to leverage processes of independency and individual empowerment of Senior Citizens through the use of mobile devices that allow an almost ubiquitous access to the information and communication.



Beyond raising awareness for the benefits of person aged 50+ in using this equipment, this project intends to achieve practical apprenticeship by this target group on how to take the best advantages out of it. The benefits for the senior citizens can be huge, regarding fiscal obligations and social security issues, localization in case of emergency situations, medical monitoring and control, combating isolation, while simultaneously contributing to leisure and time occupation. This aim will be achieved through the definition, development and implementation of a two-stage learning methodology:

1. A training phase based on immersion in mobile contents and a multimedia environment which requires collaborative efforts from the transnational groups of trainees. This stage is destined to trainers and caretakers that are in direct contact with senior citizens. It will take place through a blended learning methodology integrating f2f sessions and mobile multimedia contents with the support of an e-platform for collaboration and communication
2. The transfer of the mobile technology appropriation to the senior citizens. This will be achieved through direct training by the trainers and caretakers with support of mobile multimedia modules that will also have a self-learning model so that senior citizens can, later on, recall how to use any of the mobile devices functionalities.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The first project meeting took place in Porto, Portugal, on the 3rd and 4th of February 2014, organized by Virtual Campus. During these first months the project's tasks focused on the research and specification work (WP3). Each partner has completed their national research reports based on desk and field research on the state of the art, contributing for the draft of the Pedagogical

Model that will support the proposed training model. The Pedagogical Model shall be validated during the next project meeting, which will take place in Vienna, Austria, on the 30th of June and 1st July, organized by partner University of Vienna. After this second meeting the partnership will be ready to actively engage in the content development work.

Senior Citizens and ICT

Life expectancy is growing. So there is an equally growing need to fully integrate senior citizens in the Knowledge Society where ICT tools play a crucial role. Their current exclusion, due to technological illiteracy, prevents them from fully exercising their rights but also prevents Society from benefitting from their large experience, life-wisdom and know-how. Furthermore, with the advent of mobile devices (smartphones and tablets), this problem was aggravated, as more and more information, communication and formal duties are being designed and processed for that context.



Info-exclusion in adult citizens aged 50 and above relates partially to some reluctance towards change and, particularly, towards new technologies but also to the lack of attention given to the specific needs of this target group. But this is not a verdict or doesn't have to be a verdict. The difficulties that this generation experiences in the access and use of new ICT tools should not be excuse for generating inequality and increasing the risk of exclusion. It is necessary to raise awareness and to train the operators that work with senior citizens towards the benefits of using mobile devices. A different approach is needed to ensure that senior citizens know exactly how to use efficiently those devices, be it for their personal tasks or their societal requirements.

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) supports learning opportunities from childhood to old age in every single life situation through different programmes as Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, Jean Monnet, and transversal key activities.

GRUNDTVIG (sub-programme)

Grundtvig aims to provide adults with ways to improve their knowledge and skills, keeping them mentally fit and potentially more employable. It not only covers learners in adult education, but also the teachers, trainers, education staff and facilities that provide these services. These include relevant associations, counselling organisations, information services, policy-making bodies and others involved in lifelong learning and adult education at local, regional and national levels, such as NGOs, enterprises, voluntary groups and research centres.

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FEATURED PARTNERS

Virtual Campus, Lda is a consulting, training and ICT development private company in the field of Technology Enhanced Learning, located in Porto, Portugal. VC aims to actively promote the development of the Knowledge Society, through the use of digital environments for Education and Training.

Our activities are developed in three main areas: e-learning/e-training, interaction and games, and consulting. We customize e-platforms, organize e-courses, design and develop contents, produce multimedia contents, define learning strategies and promote virtual communities of practice. We also focus on the use of serious games and virtual environments for education and training, including mobile technology. Our consulting services include lean office guidance and external evaluation.

Our target public is wide: we partner with public and private entities and our audience goes from children at school to seniors, students and vocational trainees, trainers and professionals from different sectors. With our partners we have developed products and tools for language learning, entrepreneurship and innovation, health and wellbeing, and also for specific industries, such as footwear design.

Our team has wide experience (over 10 years) in managing EU funded projects and we have established a good network with universities, public institutions, enterprises' associations, non-profit organizations, among other, at national and European level.

The University of Vienna was founded in 1365 and is the oldest university in the German-speaking world and one of the largest in Central Europe. At present, about 91,000 students are enrolled in more than 180 courses at the University of Vienna.

The University of Vienna is also the largest teaching and research institution in Austria with 9,400 employees, 6,700 of whom are scientists and academics. The Faculty of Social Sciences offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programmes. It comprises the following subunits: Department of Methods in Social Sciences, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Department of Nursing Science, Department of Political Science, Department of Sociology, Department of Communication, Department of Government, Department of Social Studies of Science and the Project: Family Studies in Austria.

The Department of Sociology has a range of diverse research interests which are the foundation for empirically oriented research, advancement in theoretical analysis, and regularly offered academic courses. In view of its historical development, the Department is influenced by the tradition of the Viennese School that focused on social problems, empirical methods and their application. The Institute of Sociology has a longstanding research experience in social gerontology. It is the first scientific institute in Austria concerning empirical research on ageing and the life course and has been providing expertise in this field to several affiliates from the private and public sector.

Past Events

The University of Vienna has participated in the **eHealth 2014** conference that took place in Schloss Schönbrunn, Vienna, Austria, on 22-23 May, 2014. This event was organised by, among others, IMIA's Member Society in Austria, the Working Group Medical Informatics and eHealth of the Austrian Computer Society (OCG) and the Austrian Society for Biomedical Engineering (ÖGBMT).

www.ehealth2014.at

Upcoming Events

Growing the Silver Economy in Europe

This one-day event will take place in **Brussels** on the **23rd September 2014**. The EC invites in particular industry and SMEs, but also policy, research, care professionals, service providers and consumers to join and share their views on what it takes to make Europe the world leader in the silver economy. What can policy makers and governments at regional, national and EU level do more to help? What should industry do? How to best mobilise the consumers?

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/news-room/cf/dae/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=16520

Online Educa Berlin: 20th International Conference on Technology Supported Learning & Training

The largest global E-Learning Conference for the Corporate, Education and Public Service Sectors will take place in **Berlin**, Germany, on **3-4 December, 2014**. Every year, **ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN** attracts over 2,000 learning professionals from more than 100 countries world-wide, making it the most comprehensive annual meeting place on ICT-enhanced learning and training.

<http://www.online-educa.com/>

LLP and Erasmus+

The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) was designed to enable people, at any stage of their life, to take part in stimulating learning experiences, as well as developing education and training across Europe. LLP programme ran from 2007-2013. The activities of LLP continue under the new Erasmus+ programme from 2014-2020.

The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training, and Youth work. Erasmus+ brings together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training, and Youth; it will for the first time provide support for Sport.

Erasmus+ will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among Education, Training, and Youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and bridge the worlds of Education and work in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe. It will also support national efforts to modernise Education, Training, and Youth systems. In the field of Sport, there will be support for grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

