



A wearable system supporting services to **enable** elderly people to live well, independently and at ease

Introduction

ENABLE is a Specific Targeted Research Project (contract number 045563) co-funded by the INFSO DG of the European Commission within the Research and Technological Development (RTD) activities of the Thematic Priority Information Society Technologies (strategic objective IST-2005-2.6.2. of the 6th Framework Programme).

Purpose

The purpose of this European project is to develop a wearable system that will facilitate support services to “**enable**” vulnerable and elderly people to continue to live independently.

Summary of ENABLE objectives

- Assist in carrying out daily activities;
- Monitor health and activity;
- Improve access in emergency situations;
- Facilitate social contacts;
- Extend independent living at home;
- Improve the quality of life for those involved in care and support;
- Facilitate improved care provision and cost effectiveness;
- Minimise in-hospital stay time;
- Improve the quality of life for elderly people;
- Support for palliative care;

The Challenge

The EU population is an ageing one. It is therefore essential for this sector to have both regular access to medical care and assistance in times of need. According to the ENABLE survey, the use of mobile telecommunications by elderly people varies across the EU. Explanations for this may include a lack of experience with new technologies, lack of knowledge of the benefits or usability issues and also socio-economic factors. The ENABLE project will allow appropriate support services to be realised through use of a user focused device.

This vision offers significant technical challenges for the project team especially in the provision of a device that can be used by elderly people, through vision, touch or speech. The project's user groups will define and validate the application outcomes by testing these in their 'real world's environments'.

Expected Outcomes

The ENABLE consortium will develop a wearable device that integrates a range of service capabilities and functions that are configurable for many of the needs of elderly people and other vulnerable groups as follows:

- Communication and alarm service from anywhere;
- Falls prevention and monitoring;
- Lifestyle monitoring and environment control services;
- Support for people with visual impairments;
- Medication and activity reminders;
- Assist in locating a person who wanders;
- Assistance for people with dementia;
- Long term condition management services.

Pilot trials of the wearable device are being organised in the UK, Greece, the Czech Republic and Belgium with a range of people from different socio-economic backgrounds, with and without medical needs, with varying levels of independence and capability.

Project Duration

42 Months (01/01/2007 till 31/06/2010)

Partners

We list below the organisation of each partner, their country of origin and their website:

Table 1: Project Partners
(has three columns, first row contains headers)

Partner	Country	URL
Technical University of Vienna	Austria	www.is.tuwien.ac.at
DOCOBO Ltd	United Kingdom	www.docobo.co.uk
e-ISOTIS	Greece	www.e-isotis.org
Artec Group	Estonia	www.artecgroup.com
Zivot 90	Czech Republic	www.zivot90.cz
Cardionetics Ltd	United Kingdom	www.cardionetics.com
University of Reading	United Kingdom	www.reading.ac.uk
Code Factory, S.L.	Spain	www.codefactory.es
KI-I	Austria	www.ki-i.at
Vzw Cassiers wzc	Belgium	www.cassierswzc.be

Contact Information

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Project Disclaimer

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