

Ambient Assisted Living

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Editors

Ambient Assisted Living

Italian Forum 2013

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ISBN 978-3-319-01118-9 ISBN 978-3-319-01119-6 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-01119-6

Springer Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

Library of Congress Control Number: 2013954025

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Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Preface

The concept of “Ambient Assisted Living” (AAL) has become deeply relevant for the present and future challenges. This is strongly motivated by the fact that the annual growth of the older population is significantly higher than that of the total population. For this reason, good aging and AAL activities are the focus of many national and international R&D projects. In this regard, the European Commission has proposed extended funding for doing research on Ambient Assisted Living, which will run alongside the new Horizon 2020 program. The new proposal suggests that Ambient Assisted Living Joint Partnership (AAL JP) will receive over €700 million between 2014 and 2020.

AAL needs to involve and combine multidisciplinary research fields, such as cognitive sciences, computer science, industrial design, user interfaces, electrical engineering, etc., in order to extend the time older people can live in their preferred home environment. Their use of ICT products and remote services will allow them to be more autonomous and assist them in carrying out activities of daily living, thereby enhancing their quality of life.

The Fourth Italian Forum on Ambient Assisted Living (ForItAAL2013), held in Ancona, Italy, in October 2013, was the annual showcase event, which brought together developers, producers, service providers, carriers, and end user organizations working in the different fields of technology and applications of AAL. This book summarizes the main results of the Italian Forum and addresses the issues and new technological developments, which support the autonomy and independence of individuals with special needs through an innovative and integrated approach, designed to respond to the socioeconomic challenges of an aging population. AAL is seen here from different perspectives and within different topical areas. The knowledge and insights provided in this book can not only help researchers but also all people involved in the AAL to understand the new societal trends, the new technological developments and pressing and future challenges concerning Ambient Assisted Living.

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Contents

Part I Sensor Technologies in AAL

A Low-Cost Sensor for Real-Time Monitoring of Indoor Thermal Comfort for Ambient Assisted Living	3
Gian Marco Revel, Marco Arnesano and Filippo Pietroni	
A Novel Device for Contactless Detection of Small Body Movements Dedicated to People with Severe Mobility Impairments	13
L. Fanucci, M. Malavasi, F. Iacopetti, M. Turturici, F. Sciarra and F. Lupi	
Improved UWB Radar Signal Processing for the Extraction of Vital Parameters	23
Giovanni Pelliccioni, Susanna Spinsante and Ennio Gambi	
Near Field Communication Technology for AAL	33
Valeria di Credico, Simone Orcioni and Massimo Conti	
Remote Measurement of the Respiration by Electromagnetic Sensing	43
Lorenzo Scalise, Valerio Petrini, Paola Russo, Alfredo De Leo, Valter Mariani Primiani, Valentina Di Mattia and Graziano Cerri	

Part II Robotic Assistance for the Elderly

Robot Interface Design of Domestic and Condominium Robot for Ageing Population	53
Niccolò Casiddu, Filippo Cavallo, Alessandro Divano, Irene Mannari, Emanuele Micheli, Claudia Porfirione, Matteo Zallio, Michela Aquilano and Paolo Dario	

Autonomous Assistive Robot for Respiratory Rate Detection and Tracking	61
Flavia Benetazzo, Alessandro Freddi, Andrea Monteriú, Panu Harmo, Ville Kyrki and Sauro Longhi	
Telepresence Robot at Home: A Long-Term Case Study	73
Roberta Bevilacqua, Amedeo Cesta, Gabriella Cortellesa, Alessandro Macchione, Andrea Orlandini and Lorenza Tiberio	
A Multi-Agent Expert System Simulation for Ambient Assisted Living: The Virtual Carer Experience	87
Paolo Sernani, Andrea Claudi and Aldo Franco Dragoni	
 Part III Elderly People Monitoring	
Expert System for Wearable Fall Detector	99
Gabriele Rescio, Alessandro Leone and Pietro Siciliano	
Quality of Kinect Depth Information for Passive Posture Monitoring	107
Enea Cippitelli, Samuele Gasparrini, Ennio Gambi and Susanna Spinsante	
A Wearable Multi-sensors Device for AAL Environment	117
Francesco Montalto, Valentina Bianchi, Ilaria De Munari and Paolo Ciampolini	
RGBD Sensors for Human Activity Detection in AAL Environments	127
Emanuele Frontoni, Adriano Mancini and Primo Zingaretti	
MyCmon: Cloud-Based Smart Home Monitoring for Elderly People and People with Disabilities	137
Paolo Mongiovì, Ferdinando Grossi, Valentina Bianchi, Agostino Losard, Guido Matrella, Ilaria De Munari and Paolo Ciampolini	
 Part IV Living with Chronic Conditions	
Cognitive Home Rehabilitation in Alzheimer's Disease Patients by a Virtual Personal Trainer	147
Andrea Caroppo, Alessandro Leone, Pietro Siciliano, Daniele Sancarolo, Grazia D'Onofrio, Francesco Giuliani, Antonio Greco, Riccardo Valzania and Massimo Pistoia	

Experimentation of an Integrated System of Services and AAL Solutions for Alzheimer's Disease Patients and Their Caregivers in Marche: The UP-TECH Project	157
F. Barbabella, C. Chiatti, F. Masera, F. Bonfranceschi, J. M. Rimland, K. Bartulewicz, L. Rossi and F. Lattanzio	
Virtual Reality: A New Rehabilitative Approach in Neurological Disorders	167
Laura Di Biagio, Matteo Ferretti, Daniele Cingolani, Luca Buzzatti, Marianna Capecci and Maria Gabriella Ceravolo	
Can the Current Mobile Technology Help for Medical Assistance? The Case of Freezing of Gait in Parkinson Disease.	177
Lucia Pepa, Federica Verdini, Marianna Capecci, Maria Gabriella Ceravolo and Tommaso Leo	
Electromagnetic Sensing of Obstacles for Visually Impaired Users . . .	187
Lorenzo Scalise, Valentina Di Mattia, Paola Russo, Alfredo De Leo, Valter Mariani Primiani and Graziano Cerri	
 Part V Assistive Devices	
Multi-Agent Simulation Model for Evacuation of Care Homes and Hospitals for Elderly and People with Disabilities in Motion	197
Niccolò Mora, V. Bianchi, I. De Munari and P. Ciampolini	
An Inertial and QR Code Landmarks-Based Navigation System for Impaired Wheelchair Users	205
Cimini Gionata, Ferracuti Francesco, Freddi Alessandro, Iarlori Sabrina and Monteriù Andrea	
Towards an Impact Assessment Framework for ICT-Based Systems Supporting Older People: Making Evaluation Comprehensive Through Appropriate Concepts and Metrics	215
Roberta Bevilacqua, M. Di Rosa, E. Felici, V. Stara, F. Barbabella and L. Rossi	
Brain.me: A Low-Cost Brain Computer Interface for AAL Applications	223
Niccolò Mora, V. Bianchi, I. De Munari and P. Ciampolini	
A Speech Interaction System for an Ambient Assisted Living Scenario.	233
Michele Alessandrini, Giorgio Biagetti, Alessandro Curzi and Claudio Turchetti	

Part VI ICT Tools in AAL

A Novel Tracking System for AAL Based on Smartphone Technology	243
Bruno Andò, Salvatore Baglio, Sebastiano Campisi, Cristian O. Lombardo, Vincenzo Marletta and Elisa Pergolizzi	
BAR LIS: A Web Tool for Italian Sign Language Synthesis and Interaction	251
Luca Nardi, Matteo Rubini, Stefano Squartini, Emanuele Principi and Francesco Piazza	
OMNIACARE: A Comprehensive Technological Platform for AAL	263
Paolo Casacci and Massimo Pistoia	
From Sensor Data to User Services in GIRAFFPLUS	269
Amedeo Cesta, Luca Coraci, Gabriella Cortellessa, Riccardo De Benedictis, Francesco Furfari, Andrea Orlandini, Filippo Palumbo and Aleš Štítec	
A WSN Integrated Solution System for Technological Support to the Self-Sufficient Elderly	281
Paola Pierleoni, Alberto Belli, Lorenzo Palma, Michele Palmieri and Luca Pernini	

Part VII Smart Housing

RITA Project: An Ambient Assisted Living Solution for Independent and Safely Living of Aging Population	293
Raffaele Esposito, Manuele Bonaccorsi, Dario Esposito, Massimo Filippi, Erika Rovini, Michela Aquilano, Filippo Cavallo and Paolo Dario	
Smart Technologies in Social Housing: Methodology and First Results of the HOST Project Experimentation Activities.	303
Luigi Biocca, Paolo Casacci, Assunta D'Innocenzo, Davide Di Pasquale, Filippo Fabbri, Marialisa Manuzzi, Marco Padula, Nicolò Paraciani, Massimo Pistoia and Paolo L. Scala	
Smart Object for AAL: A Review	313
R. Bevilacqua, Silvia Ceccacci, M. Germani, M. Iualè, M. Mengoni and A. Papetti	

Living in the Living Lab! Adapting Two Model Domestic Apartments for Experimentation in Autonomous Living in a Context of Residential Use	325
Massimiliano Malavasi, Roberta Augusto, F. Marcella Ioele, Stefano Martinuzzi, Maria Rosaria Motolese and Matteo Rimondini	
Preliminary Findings of the AALIANCE2 Ambient Assisted Living Roadmap	335
Alessandra Moschetti, Laura Fiorini, Michela Aquilano, Filippo Cavallo and Paolo Dario	
 Part VIII Social Implications and Age-Friendly Smart Cities	
The Third Age in the National Health System: A Proposal for Increasing the Spending Effectiveness in Health Care for the Elderly	345
Maurizio Ciaschini, Monica De Angelis, Rosita Pretaroli, Francesca Severini and Claudio Socci	
Active Ageing and Public Space: The Creative City 3.0	361
F. Bronzini, N. Barbini, G. Marinelli, M. Pantaloni and E. Giordano	
“Smart” Social Housing Design: Methods, Tools and Innovation in the Assisted Living Architectural Project	373
Fausto Pugnaroni and Davide Di Fabio	
On the Design of Intelligent Buildings for Ambient Assisted Living	381
Berardo Naticchia and Alberto Giretti	
Architectures for Alternative Mobility and Relational Fields: Innovative People-Oriented Approaches	389
Fausto Pugnaroni and Cecilia Carlorosi	