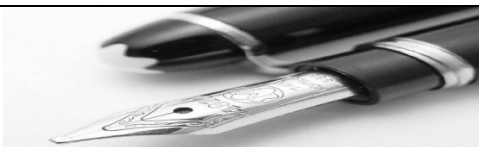




The Newsletter aims to provide our readers, partners and all interested visitors, with highlights and insights from the project perspective, animate internal and external discussion, and contribute to consensus building on scientific issues and achievements in the Assistive Technology arena; it also stimulates participation to the project Forum and dissemination of the results. Additionally it reviews ICT Inclusion events, congress and conferences, detailing contributions from the project and results achieved. Many thanks for your contribution and we hope you will enjoy it!

## Editor's Note



### Welcome to the third issue of the MARE Newsletter

This third edition of the MARE newsletter focuses on the new Dynamic Project Repository available on the MARE website. The Dynamic Repository consists of a database of European and National programmes and projects in the sector of Assistive Technology.

### MARE DYNAMIC REPOSITORY

This section allows the access and the research into the Dynamic Repository of the MARE Project; the Dynamic Repository consists of a database on European and National programmes and projects in the sector of Assistive Technology.



by ACRONYM  
and/or TITLE



by COUNTRY  
and/or SUMMARY



by ICF  
and/or SUMMARY

[www.mareproject.eu](http://www.mareproject.eu)

Three different ways of search are available in the MARE database:

1. you can select the name of the project from a drop-down menu or insert a free keyword which will search in the projects' titles;
2. you can select the country involved in the project from a drop-down menu and/or insert a free keyword which will search in the summary of the projects;
3. you can select one of the nine domains of the WHO ICF classification from a drop-down menu and/or insert a free keyword which will search in the summary of the projects.

The outcome of the research will be a table listing one or more projects satisfying the specified criteria. The table shows the full title of the projects, their status (ended or active) and the type of programme (national or financed by the European Commission).

*(continued on page 2)*

### MARE FORUM JUST LAUNCHED !



We are pleased to invite you to join the new MARE Forum, which has recently come to light.

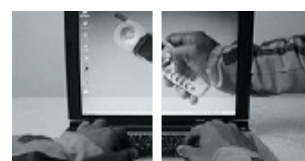
Our objective is to create a meeting point for discussions, debates, exchange of opinions and information about the field of Assistive Technology. We will rely on the professionalism and expertise of our Expert Group, the precious participation of the

MARE User Community and on all those who would like to join a valuable instrument for discussion and dissemination of ideas.

Subscribe soon at the MARE website ([www.mareproject.eu](http://www.mareproject.eu) – Menu: User Community - Forum) and feel free to invite whoever else may be interested in joining our Forum!

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*(continued from the first page)*

Double-clicking on a project, will open it. In the project details table you can find the summary of the project, together with some information about its classification according to the ICF, the countries involved, the type of programme the project belongs to (national, FP6 or FP7), its status (active or ended) and the official website. In case of national projects names of participants are also specified. In case of European projects further information are present, such as the project's coordinator and the reference call.

A direct link has been established from the Dynamic Repository page to the EASTIN system (<http://www.eastin.info>) that is the Assistive Technology European Network, presenting information on AT products and companies. This link is of utmost importance for the visitors of MARE because they can obtain easily together with information on AT European Projects, National Programmes and Projects, also information on AT products and companies.

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## MARE USER COMMUNITY

The MARE User Community is also constantly growing as new associations join the MARE network for representing the AT market stakeholders:

- AbilityNet
- AGE - The European Older People's Platform
- AIAS Bologna Onlus
- Associação Valorização Intergeracional e Desenvolvimento Activo-VIDA
- AUTISM-EUROPE
- Czech National Disability Council
- DaneAge - Ældre Sagen
- Disability NOW
- EAPD European Parkinson's Disease Association
- EASPD European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities
- EDE European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly
- EMA European Medical Association
- iCentres Association
- Inclusion Europe
- INFORUM
- Kommunförbundet Vasternorrland
- MODEM communication and computer centre
- Smart Homes
- Tartu Parkinson's Disease Society

## ONLINE SURVEY ON ACCESSIBLE SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATIONS IN THE EU FP7 PROJECT ACCESSIBLE!!!

The online survey of the ACCESSIBLE EU FP7 project is still ongoing. It addresses Developers, Accessibility Assessors, Elderly and Disabled People, Public Bodies, and Service Providers. The questionnaire (<http://www.accessibleproject.eu/index.php/questionnaire.html>) has been designed to identify the user needs. Its evaluation will be the basis to implement appropriate tools and methodologies in order to increase awareness and need for accessibility.

The questionnaires are completely anonymous, and are available in German, Greek, Portuguese, Italian, English, and Bulgarian.



**PLEASE VOICE YOUR OPINION BY COMPLETING THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE!**

### AGEING - A RENEWED STRATEGY TO TACKLE EUROPE'S DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE



Europe's population is living increasingly longer and in better health, a huge achievement that we have every reason to be proud of. However, ageing populations also pose major economic, budgetary and social challenges. While the first priority is to make the current recession as short as possible, we must not lose sight of the policies and reforms needed to ensure that the elderly have decent pensions and access to health and long-term care without putting an unsustainable burden on future generations. It is within this framework that the ECOFIN Council invited the Commission to update the long-term budgetary projections by the end of 2009. On 29 April, the European Commission adopted a Communication which presents the age-related expenditure projections on the basis of new population projections provided by Eurostat for up to 2060. The accompanying Ageing Report, commissioned by the EU finance ministers, was prepared jointly with the Economic Policy Committee. It takes an in-depth look at the economic and budgetary impact of an ageing population over the long-term until 2060. According to this report the challenges of ageing should be tackled by building on the policy frameworks put in place over the last few years, in particular the Lisbon strategy, which provides the overall framework for action. With regards to health care and long-term care, the report says: *"In order to limit the expected increase in public expenditure, policy measures which can either reduce disability, limit the need for formal care amongst elderly citizens with disabilities, favour formal care provision at home rather than in institutions or, more generally, improve the cost-effectiveness of long-term care provision, e.g. through introduction of eHealth and telecare, must be developed"*. Further information can be found at:

- Communication COM(2009) 180. Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU (2009 Ageing Report)
- The 2009 Ageing Report: Economic and budgetary projections for the EU-27 Member States

### ANALYSING AND FEDERATING OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ICT INDUSTRY

The MARE Assistive Technology analysis and foresight that is based on a User Requirement Approach, is taking into consideration the study commissioned by the European Commission "Analysing and Federating of the Assistive Technology ICT Industry". The study team of the MARE project is using the results of this study as a basis for its foresight analysis. This study is now completed and available on the website [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=4897](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=4897). The global objective of the study has been to gain a complete and accurate view on the AT ICT industry in terms of products and players in the 27 Member States of the EU. The study was carried out in two phases: first, initial hypotheses regarding the AT ICT industry in Europe were formed through database analysis, desk research, industry events attendances and interviews; then the hypotheses testing phase was carried out in various lines: extensive structured telephone interviews with 25 companies in the EU AT ICT industry; a workshop at an industry event to gain direct feedback on the initial conclusions; a final questionnaire sent to over 58 representative companies of the AT ICT industry in Europe. Finally, conclusions and recommendations were developed as to what steps can be taken to improve the competitiveness of the companies which form this industry.



If you are not yet registered and you wish to receive future publications of the MARE Newsletter, which will be disseminated by e-mail, please subscribe by sending an eMail to: [infodesk@mareproject.eu](mailto:infodesk@mareproject.eu) Thank you.

## FOCUS ON AT WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

### **The Expert meeting on Assistive Technology & eAccessibility Workshop 25 March 2009**

*Brussels, Belgium*

Three members of the MARE Expert Group - David Banes, Pier Luigi Emiliani and Carmen Pastor – were speakers at this workshop, where the main goal was to explore the better ways to implement ICT assistive features in different aspects - technical, market, legal, by connecting the perspective of relevant constituencies - users, industry, authorities. Moreover, in this workshop the European Commission wanted to facilitate an exchange of views and experiences in view to identify possible coordination or supporting actions, including at European level.

Speakers from all constituencies gave short presentations of the status and way forward.

The closing discussion argued that research activities should be scaled down from large-scale long-term science-focused projects to smaller, short- or medium-term projects with focus on achieving results which can be used in real life. This would make transition from the pre-competitive phase into the business phase easier than today, where projects often end in a stop or delay. It was also noted that some dimension seems to be missing in the EU financing mechanism. A link is missing between national research and EU level research. Some issues on the agenda for research might be distributed to the Member States or to regions.

For more information from the report, please see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/einclusion/events/workshop\\_at\\_09/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/events/workshop_at_09/index_en.htm)

### **First AEGIS (Open Accessibility Everywhere: Groundwork, Infrastructure, Standards) project's User Forum and Workshop**

*4 - 5 June 2009*

*Slough, United Kingdom*

The AEGIS User Forum and Workshop attracted over 100 participants from over 20 countries. The successful event provided the opportunity to the project to get feedback from the core end-users (people with disabilities, expert users, developers), while also core stakeholders in the Assistive Technology field were present, allowing for an animated and very productive discussion. The compiled feedback will be made available later on the project website <http://www.aegis-project.eu>, and will also be taken onboard to further enhance and strengthen the project's planned outcomes: making cell phone, PDA and rich Internet applications fully accessible by default.

For more information, please contact Mr. Karel Van Isacker ([aegis@epr.eu](mailto:aegis@epr.eu))

## UPCOMING RELEVANT AT EVENTS

9/13 June 2009 PETRA'09 - Corfu, Greece

5/9 July 2009 19<sup>th</sup> IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics - Paris, France

6/7 July 2009 SEN Resources Summit - London, UK

20 /22 July 2009 IAHSA 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference – London, UK

31 Aug/2 Sep 2009 10<sup>th</sup> AAATE 2009 conference - Florence, Italy

2/5 Sept 2009 9<sup>th</sup> European Sociological Association Conference – Lisbon, Portugal

14 /17 Sept 2009 European Seating Symposium incorporating Assistive technology – Dublin, Ireland

29 Sep/1 Oct 2009 The European Ambient Assisted Living Forum 09- Vienna, Austria

14/17 Oct 2009 REHACARE International 2009 – Dusseldorf, Germany

4 /6 Nov 2009 Telehealth and Assistive Technology 2009 – Massachusetts, USA

9 /10 Nov 2009 USAB 2009 - Usability & HCI for inclusion at the University of Linz, Austria

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