



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

January 2010

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W098 - Intelligent and Responsive Buildings

Report on the W098 Workshop "Intelligence in Assisted Homes"

by

Youri Vandervaeren

The workshop "Intelligence in assisted homes" took place end of September 2009 in Bruges, Belgium and was hosted by CIB Working Commission W098 on "Intelligent and responsive buildings".

The workshop provided a unique forum where scientists, construction industry professionals, the health care industry as well as social care organizations from around the world had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and information in the field of home and building automation. The workshop highlighted the most relevant issues on home assisted living and telecare/telehealth and presented the latest developments in these fields.

Workshop Programme



The first day of the workshop was chaired by Georges Klepfisch, Executive Director of the Belgian Centre for Domotics and Immotics. The workshop started with a keynote lecture on "State of the art of ambient assisted living" followed by a

presentation on the CompanionAble project (www.companionable.net). As the final speech of the morning session, the workshop was addressed by Rodd Bond, Project Manager of the Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The afternoon session gave a product overview on innovative assistive technologies and concluded by a presentation on "Vision of ambient assisted living and home automation".

Prof. Derek Clements-Croome from the University of Reading chaired the 2nd day. The morning program focused on telehealth and telecare. The morning session ended with a presentation on the "European policy on ageing well in the information society. The afternoon session included presentations on home care technology. The two-day workshop closed with a visit of the living labs at In-HAM.



CIB W098 Coordinators Georges Klepfisch and Derek Clements-Croome

Overview presentations

During the two days of the workshop the following presentations were given:

Day 1:

- State of the art of Ambient Assisted Living
- The CompanionAble Project
- Optimising intelligent buildings performance by linking people, systems and buildings
- Computer-aided Facilities Management (CAFM) for Assisted Smart and Sustainable Homes
- Aware homes / aware care - The Louth Age-Friendly County Initiative.
- Vivago - The Intelligent Watch
- Televic - A practical vision on assistive technologies with ICT
- RobuLAB10, a service robot to develop assistance for elderly
- Dynamic human-robot interaction for future assistive technology
- Independent Living in our future care approach: a social sciences perspective on the development of Assistive Technologies and Integrated Care
- Vision on intelligence in assisted living and building automation.

Day 2:

- Developments and Challenges for Telecare Services in the UK
- Testing the effectiveness of telehealth and telecare at scale in England
- Cisco HealthPresence - Transforming Access to Healthcare
- HomeCare Technology - Aspects and issues in implementation
- The In-HAMlivinglab, an experience-based and user-centered testing facility, regarding assistive technology for elderly and disabled people (pdf divided in 2 parts)
- eHealth: enabling Health
- The diversity of challenges for eHealth solutions
- Enabling partners to deliver Health services @ home.

PDF copies of the above presentations can be downloaded till the end of March 2010 [here](#).

Questions and Conclusions

Some important questions on assistive technology were raised:

- The essential role of the end-users with disabilities regarding the design of technology: To which criteria assistive technology has to respond so it can be used in a useful way? Which new services need to be developed supplementary to the assistive technology?

- This technology must be presented to persons with a disability under which conditions? provision of services, payable, the usability, the design, the after sales service,...
- The role of the government. The government can play a steering role in the implementation of the technology at home and organize thus the smooth transition to the residential care.

Two important conclusions at the end of this 2-day workshop were drawn concerning:

- home and building automation: towards a more efficient and user-friendly integration
- Intelligence in assisted homes: taking into consideration the users' needs.

Assistive technologies are present in large numbers on the healthcare market, nevertheless the integration and implementation is rather difficult. The end-user is not enough informed and guided. Companies can improve their knowledge on the healthcare market and the specific end-user needs.

Companies developing assistive technology products could have more successful and efficient product integration by taking into consideration the user's needs. This can be obtained by listening to the end-user and by testing their user-friendly products in real life situations (for example in living labs) before bringing them to the market. A more successful integration of assistive technologies can result in the end in more successful durable product innovation and product modification.

Besides the integration of assistive technology it is also important that every stakeholder (architect, installer, etc.) within the building process has enough knowledge of assistive technologies.

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB W098 please contact the Coordinators: Georges Klepfish georges.klepfish@bbri.be and Derek Clements-Croome d.j.clements-croome@reading.ac.uk.



You also can find more information on the activities of CIB W098 at www.cibworld.nl - Databases - select "Go to Database" - in the shown search engine: type W098 in the field "Commission number".