

# *CompanionAble*

**Integrated Cognitive Assistive & Domotic  
Companion Robotic Systems  
for Ability & Security**

[www.companionable.net](http://www.companionable.net)

Atta Badii (UoR), Carmen Pastor (TECNALIA)

Through the graceful semantic integration of **Robotics** and **Ambient Intelligence technologies**, CompanionAble provides the AAL solution with an integrated care support architecture including remote monitoring, socialisation support and cognitive stimulation and therapy management for the care-recipient. This is mediated by a robotic companion (mobile facilitation) working collaboratively with a smart home environment (stationary facilitation).

Strategic Objective: ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and Ageing

EU Funding: € 7.800.000,00

Project Start Date: 1.1. 2008, 48 months

Partner Countries: France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, UK (18 partners)

Project Coordinator: Prof. Atta Badii (University of Reading, UK)

# 18 Project Partners (7 countries)



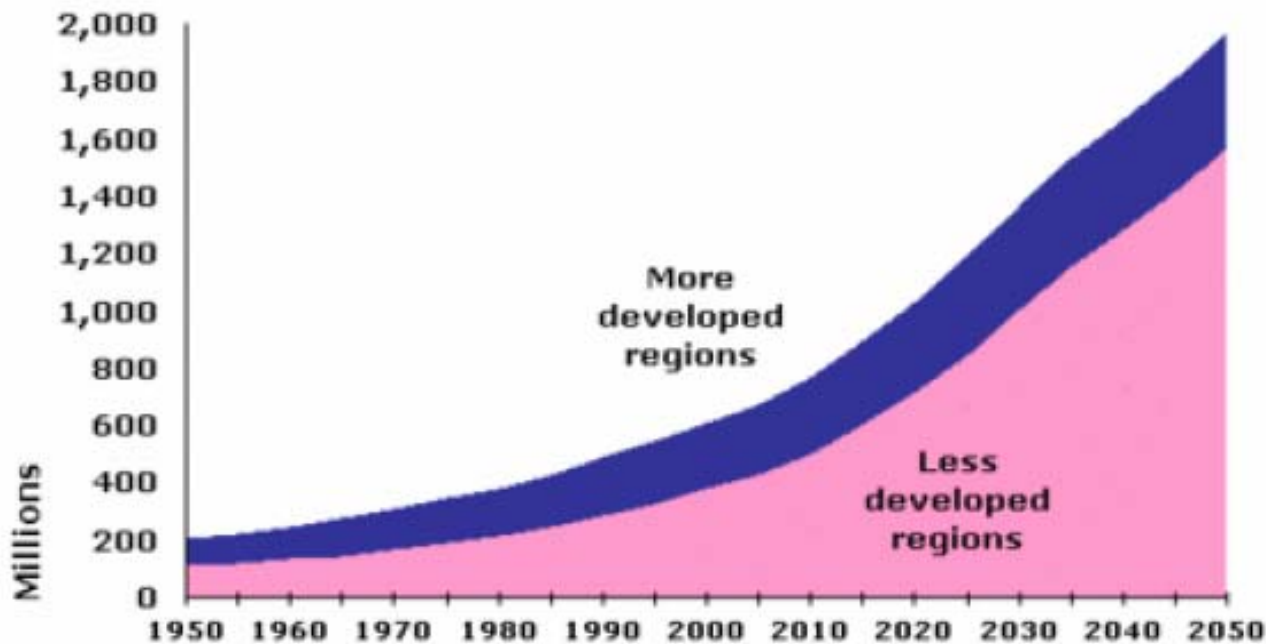
Smart Homes



In-HAM vzw



# Aging – A Global Demographic Imperative

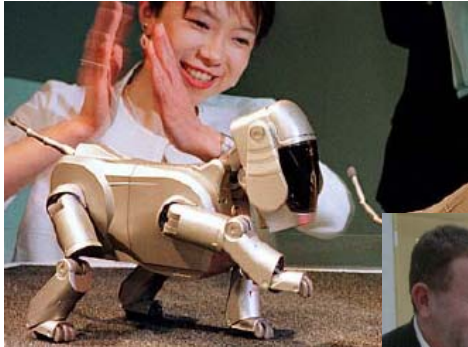


Population over 60 by region

Source: [www.helpage.org](http://www.helpage.org)

- Today: 10% of people are 60+
- By 2050: >20%
- The 60-80+ age groups are growing the fastest
- Diminishing younger population

- Toy / Pet robots: companions, learning capacities, image & speech recognition



- Domotic houses
- Telecare centers



- Provide a new solution: Semantic integration of mobile robotic companion with smart home environment (*Ambient Assisted Living*)
- Integration of personal therapy management
- Homecare monitoring and care support by communication and coordination with professional helpers
- Remote Control Centre Response as required
- Improvement of quality for independent life
- Targeted Users: aged people (55+), living independently, and suffering from *Mild Cognitive Impairment* (“Cognitive impairment that is not severe enough to meet the criteria of dementia”)

## Telecare centers



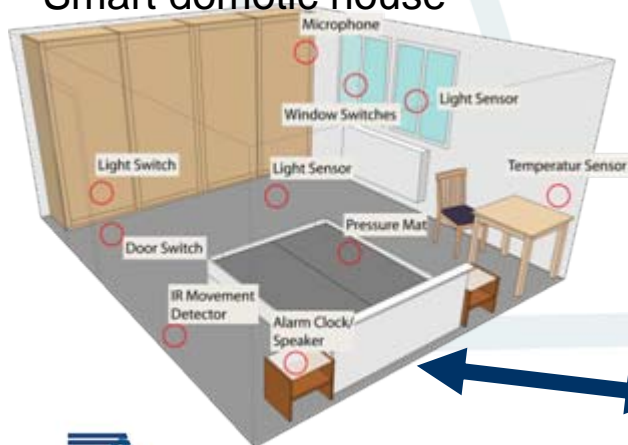
## Interaction partner:

- Anthropomorphic system
- Natural interface (speech, image)
- Human-like behaviour

## Mobility:

- Mobile video conference
- Alarm evaluation
- Remote control

## Smart domotic house



Mobile robot companion



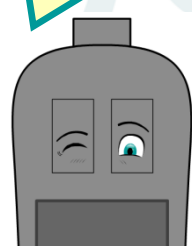
## Cognitive Stimulation-Training, Socialisation and Care Support through:

- Integration of personal therapy management (involving home information such as the home TV screen, healthcare staff, medical professionals, gerontologists)
- Video-Conferencing, to prevent isolation and support social engagement of the care-recipient with his/her carers and the wider social setting
- Day-time activities management (diary-check, agenda setting, appointments/medication reminders as required), cognitive stimulation and training, health analysis
- Providing social inclusion and homecare support for persons suffering from chronic cognitive disabilities.

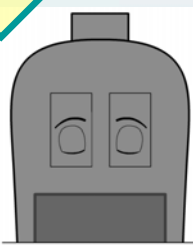


# Emotions and verbal messages


- More user-intimate as matched to user's needs, prioritised user-matched features through usability relationship based design and evaluation (UI-REF), hence higher acceptance.



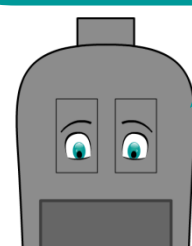
How about doing a little of cognitive training ?



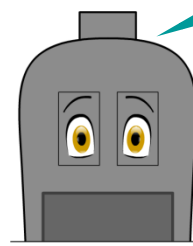
Good night! I will monitor the general state of the house and electric appliances



You can leave your keys and glasses in my tray. I will keep it for you!



Hey! Are you thinking about something special to cook? Remember that your daughter Anna is coming to lunch tomorrow!!

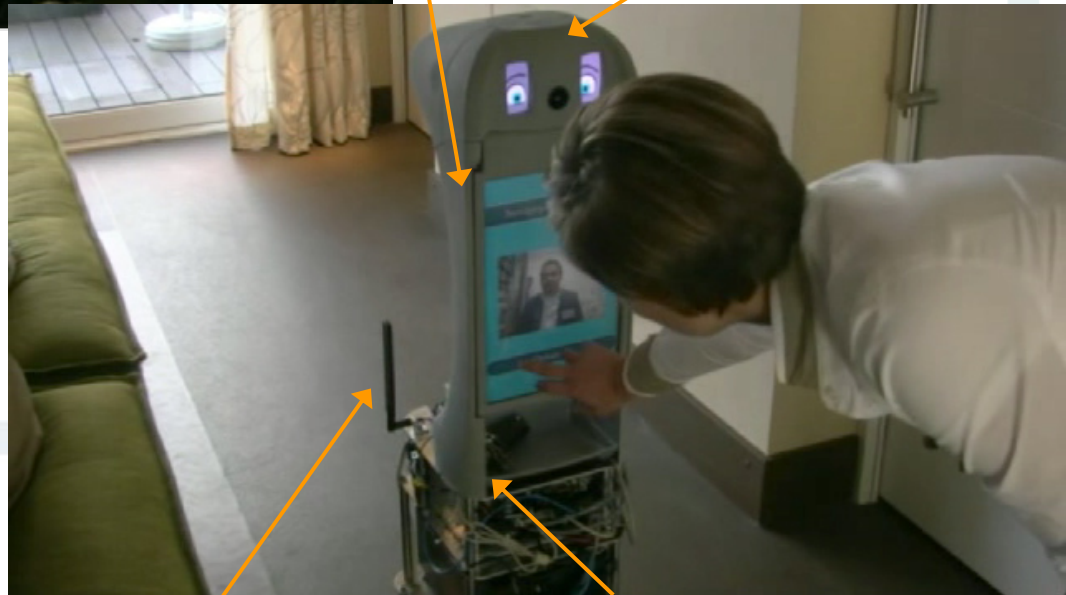


I am afraid you forgot to switch off the oven!



**Touchscreen with Menu options**

**Emotionally expressive (eyes) interface design**



**Tray to keep small items handy**

**Electronics, sensors and driving unit**

- Realisation of an intelligent day-time-management: drug intake, appointments, etc.
- Cognitive training through multiple channels (stationary and mobile).
- Videoconference between user and professionals/ relatives/ friends
- On-line recognition of distress signals/utterances/calls and sound source localisation.
- Visual detection of person's location and position, monitoring
- Basic multimodal and natural dialogue (speech input-output, touch display, gestures);
- Robot can stay at a distance (stand by), follow the user, stand close by or come closer as required by the user

Evaluation tests in progress in Spain,  
Netherlands, France and Belgium



**RCE prototype at the ALTENPFLEGE 2010**

# Results after initial user trials

- Realisation of test involving the smart home and the robot in: Spain, Belgium and Netherlands.
- Some functionalities tested already; others are waiting to be tested
- Applied methodology for prioritisation of affordances: U-REF (Badii 2006/8/9)
- Some users found to be skeptical at first but after trials expressing satisfaction
- Minor improvements are required for GUI and Cognitive Training.

- Changes will be made taking into account the results of user trials.
- Further developments in system modules and integration:
  - Pose and activity analysis
  - Clinically significant fall detection
  - More efficient dialogue management
  - Face / gesture recognition (re :user attention / frustration level)
- Further user trials are scheduled, with more functionalities working.
- Exploitation Planning in progress

Thank you for  
your attention!!



## **Professor Atta Badii**

Chair of Secure Pervasive Technologies

Director, Intelligent Media Systems & Services Research Laboratories (IMSS)

School of Systems Engineering

University of Reading, RG6 6AY, UK

Email: [atta.badii@reading.ac.uk](mailto:atta.badii@reading.ac.uk)

Phone: 00 44 118 378 7842

00 44 118 987 6499

Fax: 00 44 118 975 1994

<http://www.imss.reading.ac.uk>

[www.companionable.net](http://www.companionable.net)