



AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING

THE R&D FUNDING PROGRAMME ADDRESSING DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING IN EUROPE

The Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme

is a new joint research and development (R&D) funding activity by 23 European Member States and Associated States with the financial support of the European Community provided on the basis of article 169 of the EC treaty.

The overall objective of the programme is to enhance the quality of life of older people and strengthen the industrial base in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The motivation of the new funding activity derives from the demographic change and ageing taking place in Europe, which implies not only challenges but also opportunities for the citizens and the social and healthcare systems as well as industry and the European market.

The AAL Joint Programme has the following aims:

- ▶ To foster the emergence of innovative ICT-based products, services and systems for ageing well at home, in the community, and at work, thus improving the quality of life, autonomy, participation in social life, skills and employability of older people and reducing the costs of health and social care.
- ▶ To create critical mass of research, development and innovation at the EU level in the areas of technologies and services for ageing well in the information society, including the establishment of a favourable environment for participation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



- ▶ To improve conditions for industrial exploitation of research results by providing a coherent European framework for developing common approaches, including common minimal standards, and facilitating the localisation and adaptation of common solutions which are compatible with varying social preferences and regulatory aspects at the national or regional level across Europe.

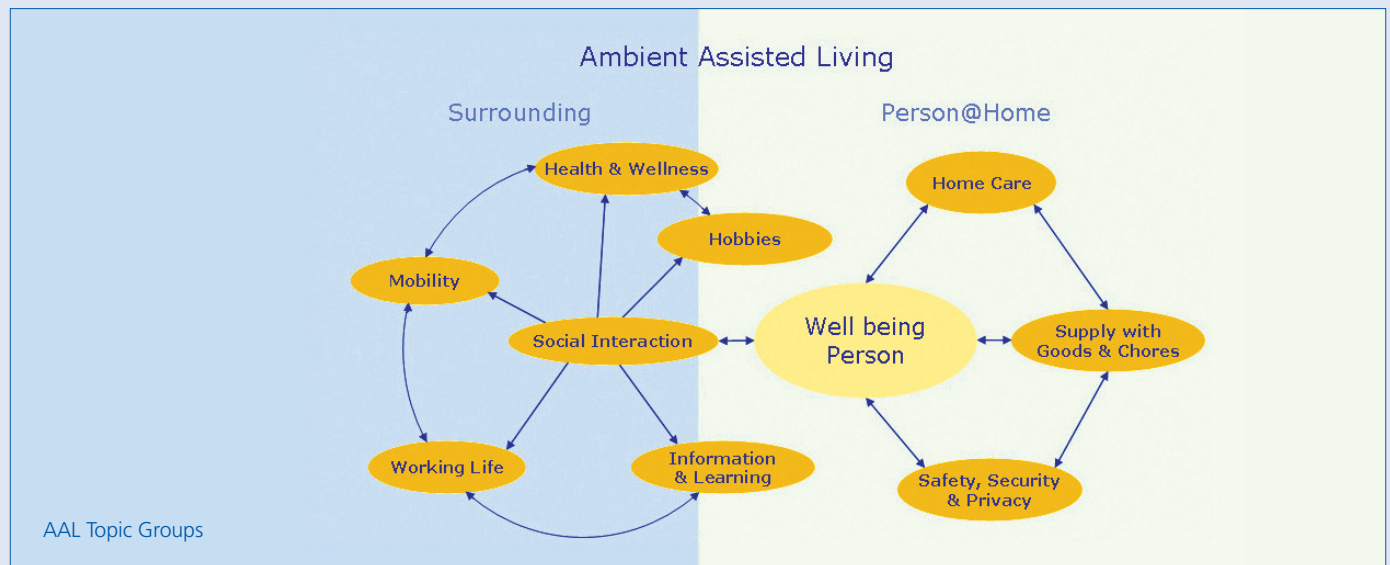
The AAL Joint Programme is initially a six-year funding programme (2008 – 2013), with a planned total budget of about 700m €, of which 50% is public funding and 50% private funding from the participating organisations. The public funding consists of contributions from the AAL partner states (approx. 210m €) and from the European Community (max. 150m €) for the duration of the AAL Joint Programme.

Activities under the AAL Joint Programme

The most important activity under the AAL Joint Programme is the regular publication of AAL calls for proposals mainly for research and development projects and possibly for accompanying measures.

The subject of each call for proposals will be predefined, i.e. a top-down approach is followed. The call publication text is a comprehensive document that describes the background of the call and the expectations that shall be met by AAL projects. Each call shall address specific focus and/or application areas. Each call will support a specific theme or topic from the AAL topic groups (see figure below).

The application of the **national funding rules** means that an Austrian partner will be administratively managed by the Austrian funding agency, a Danish partner by the respective Danish agency, a Romanian partner by the Romanian agency and so on. Among the few central requirements for AAL project partners, the most important one relates to central progress reporting.



B U T N O T A N E W „ E U R O P E A N F U N D I N G P R O G R A M M E “ !

Legal background of the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme

The Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme is an initiative of several states from Europe which have agreed upon the topical context and a few binding requirements. However, all AAL partner states have joined the AAL Association and thus commonly implement this new funding programme.

The following overview provides a picture of “who is doing what” in the AAL Joint Programme:

Central AAL level (AAL Association)

- ▶ Common definition and central publication of the AAL calls for proposals
- ▶ Adoption of central eligibility criteria for AAL projects, e.g.
 - organisations from at least 3 AAL Partner States must be involved
 - at least one SME partner
 - at least one user organisation
 - central submission of a common proposal for all consortium members
- ▶ Definition of central evaluation criteria
- ▶ Conduction of the evaluation
- ▶ Provision of central programme services, e.g. maintenance of websites, partnering tools, submission systems, templates, etc.
- ▶ Central collection of AAL projects’ progress reports
- ▶ Distribution of the EC co-funding via the national AAL Programme Managing Agencies
- ▶ Central administration of the AAL Joint Programme, e.g. central reporting, relations to EC, etc.
- ▶ Conduction of AAL events with a European dimension

National level (AAL Partner State organisations)

- ▶ Nomination of a national funding programme that specifies
 - the eligibility of organisations
 - the funding conditions for AAL partners (funding quota, eligible costs, etc.)
- ▶ Commitment of an annual funding budget for AAL calls for proposals for the funding of national project partners
- ▶ Participation in the general AAL programme management via the AAL National Contact Point
- ▶ Nomination of national evaluation experts for the central evaluation process
- ▶ Negotiation with national AAL project partners after the project was recommended for funding
- ▶ Administration of national AAL project partners in various AAL Joint Programme aspects
- ▶ Conduction of national AAL events

The AAL Association

The legal body of the AAL Joint Programme – and responsible for its implementation – is the AAL Association. This international, non-profit association according to Belgian law with its official seat in Brussels was founded on 19 September 2007.

The AAL Association is governed by the Executive Board that is constituted by:

- ▶ The President of the AAL Association, Dr. Gerhard Finking (Germany, Federal Ministry of Education and Research)
- ▶ Vice-President Dr. Nakita Vodjdani (France, Agence Nationale de la Recherche)
- ▶ Vice-President Reinhard Goebel, (Austria, Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology)
- ▶ Vice-President Pekka Kahri (Finland, Tekes)
- ▶ Treasurer Dr. Rafael de Andrés Medina (Spain, Instituto de Salud Carlos III)
- ▶ Vice-Treasurer Leo Van de Loock, (Belgium (Flanders), Instituut voor de Aanmoediging van Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie in Vlaanderen).

The address of the AAL International Association is

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As the AAL Joint Programme is a new and highly networked programme, all interested persons are requested to contact their respective AAL National Contact Point.

All information on the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme is regularly updated on

www.aal-europe.eu