



International Support of a Common Awareness and
Knowledge Platform for Studying and
Enabling Independent Living

Summary

The CAPSIL Coordinating Support Action (CSA) team is a strategic international coalition of University and Industrial partners that already have extensive teams developing hardware/software/knowledge solutions to independent living based on user requirements. All partners of CAPSIL are already members of regional and national centres on aging engaged in the process of helping to establish public policy and international standards. This support action is to launch initiatives, coordinated and disseminated by a series of workshops in the US, EU, and Japan (two per year for two years), with three fundamental goals:

- * to develop a detailed CAPSIL Roadmap for EU research to achieve effective and sustainable solutions to independent living based on an in-depth analysis of independent living requirements and the ICT scenarios developed or under development in the EU, as well as the US and Japan (societies where the aging of the population are currently on par or exceeding the challenges that will be found within the EU).

- * to support aging research by proposing procedures to incorporate all of these diverse solutions into WiKi entries (CAPSIL WiKi). These CAPSILs will enable researchers and the ICT industry to get the information they need to quickly and easily test solutions for prolonging independent living within the many and various heterogeneous communities. Only with this knowledge will the relevance and efficacy of technological solutions be maintained and be empowered with the capability to be adapted for various cultures.

- * to use the CAPSIL Roadmap and the CAPSIL Workshops to help policy makers in the US and Japan coordinate research agendas and funding efforts across the three continents.

At this stage in the project we have established a clear picture of funding and policy mechanisms in the U.S.A. and E.U. and are currently completing this picture for Japan.

Representatives from CAPSIL have participated in numerous workshops and conferences at which they have met policymakers and contributed to policy discussions.

We are currently organising further meetings with policymakers in the U.S.A. and E.U. (targeting both European Commission and member states) to take place within the next 2 months and identifying the relevant people to contact in Japan.

Project Objectives for Period

Assesment of current policy directions in the E.U., U.S.A. and Japan.

Assesment of current funding mechanisms in the E.U., U.S.A. and Japan.

Identifying key policy makers in the E.U., U.S.A. and Japan to achieve possible coordination of funding plans and research agenda.

Initiating contact with the key people and organisations as identified above.

Meeting with key policy makers in the E.U., U.S.A. and Japan to achieve possible coordination of funding plans and research agenda.

Presenting the CAPSIL project to researchers, industry and policymakers in order to encourage co-operation and co-ordinated research, funding and policy agendas.

Work Progress and Achievements during the Period

The initial months of the project were spent reviewing and establishing the structures of the policy and funding landscapes. This was made difficult by the differing governmental structures between the 3 target jurisdictions and the further fragmentation of responsibilities within E.U. and U.S.A. states. Unraveling the funding and policy structures in Japan has proved difficult due to cultural and linguistic difficulties in searching for information. To this end we have asked our Japanese partners to provide us with a clearer picture, still under development.

It is crucial that CAPSIL members have a clear overview of the issues and challenges in this field before approaching informed policymakers and we have been working towards building this picture. To this end we conducted an extensive literature review examining studies from the academic, industrial and political arenas. This work will of course be on-going but we are now nearing this goal.

We have a good picture of the current research and funding landscapes which has allowed us to identify key research areas and gaps in that research. We have also identified policy initiatives related to ageing in each jurisdiction and are concerned at the lack of coherent and concrete policies relating to independence and inclusion for older adults. Identifying the key policymakers and organizations in each jurisdiction is still on-going.

CAPSIL representatives participated in development of a policy document with the British Medical Association (NI) titled 'Care of Older People on the island of Ireland', a joint document with the Irish Medical Organisation (Belfast, UK, April 08).

Representatives from CAPSIL also attended the FP7 & ICT for Inclusion workshop (Brussels, Belgium, April 08).

CAPSIL representatives also participated in and presented at the 'Connected Health Symposium' (Boston, U.S., October 2008) which introduced ICT-enabled business models to the medical community. A similar event organised by the Netwell Centre in Dundalk (Aware Homes/Aware

Care, November 2008) saw CAPSIL representatives present opportunities for collaboration and research to SMEs.

Representatives also attended the ICT-08 EU organized networking conference, at which the project was presented during the panel session 'Health@Home'. This event was a valuable opportunity to meet and talk with many people involved in independent living for older people, from technologists to policy makers and contacts from this conference are currently being followed up.

The work of CAPSIL was presented to a variety of guests from academia, industry and government who were invited to attend the CAPSIL meetings/workshops (London, Tokyo, Lyon).

CAPSIL is also currently organising meetings with U.S. policymakers and representatives from governmental and civic organisations, to take place in March alongside the next meeting of the CAPSIL executive, as well as organising meetings with E.U., U.K. and Ireland policy departments. It is also hoped that E.U. representatives will attend some of these meetings in order to meet with their US counterparts.

This objective is somewhat 'top-heavy' as it was very important for all CAPSIL partners to establish a clear picture of the current state of international co-operation and ageing policy before identifying potential areas for change or collaboration and presenting these to policymakers. We now feel that we are in a position to begin this process in earnest and have begun to contact relevant parties (although more effort is needed re: Japan).