



AAATE 2019
è Bologna



News from across Europe

2018-19 AT News
selected by the AAATE national contact persons

You can find this document online here :

www.aaate.net/ncp-news

AAATE News contributions received by Country



- [Austria](#)
- [Cyprus](#)
- [Estonia](#)
- [Finland](#)
- [France](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Greece](#)
- [Hungary](#)
- [Iceland](#)
- [Ireland](#)
- [Italy](#)
- [Netherlands](#)
- [Norway](#)
- [Poland](#)
- [Portugal](#)
- [Slovakia](#)
- [Slovenia](#)
- [United Kingdom](#)



AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *NCP Klaus Miesenberger - IIS – JKU* , Klaus.Miesenberger@jku.at, AUSTRIA (AT)



AAATE-SIG on Standardisation

Austrian AAATE members promote a SIG on standardisation

- Comment, annotate and influence standards which are in process of updating
- Cross-referencing eAccessibility and AT standards
- Online-platform for access and cooperation
- Initial workshop during AAATE 2018 in Sheffield
- A preparation workshop held in Vienna March 2019
- **Come and join the Workshop during the AAATE Confrence in Bolongna!**
29.08.2019 (Conference day 2), 9.00-12.00, Room Q

Web Accessibility Certificate Austria

Independent certificate promoting web accessibility

- www.waca.at
- Hosted and run by the Austrian Computer Society
- Supported by industry and accessibility experts



Zertifiziert von OCG nach WCAG 2.0 - AA
www.waca.at



ICCHP 2020, icchp.org



International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs

- A unique platform for users, researchers, practitioners and experts: Assistive Technology (AT), eAccessibility enabling independent life, participation, inclusion and improved services and support for people with disabilities and older adults
- Scientific Presentations, Workshops, Meetings, Young Researchers Consortium
- Organize, chair and publish your own Special Thematic Sessions
- Peer reviewed publication (SPRINGER LNCS)
- Springer Keynote on Accessibility & Usability

Proceedings ICCHP 18: ([LNCS 10896 - ICCHP 2018, Part I](#)), ([LNCS 10897 - ICCHP 2018, Part II](#))

ICCHP 20: Politecnico di Milano Polo Territoriale di Lecco, Italy, SAVE THE DATE: September 9-11, 2020; Pre-conference September 7-8, 2020. **Come and get involved!**

International Camp for Communication and Computers

ICT – AT – Accessibility – Peers - Studying – Work - Social Skills – International Exchange – Advocate for your own interest - FUN!!!

- www.icc-camp.info
- 10 days event every year for blind and low vision youngsters aged 16-20
- 26 countries
- 30+ 3h workshops on important and cool topics



Web Accessibility Expert Certificate

A certification for experts in Web Accessibility for quality consulting, development and evaluation

- <https://www.incite.at/de/zertifizierungen/certified-webaccessibility-expert/>
- Launched by Incite, a company of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce
- Certificate provides access to publicly supported consulting on accessibility in industry and administration



IKT-Forum www.iktforum.at



- Annual German spoken event on AT, eAccessibility and Inclusion
- 300+ participants
- 50+ presentations and workshops
- A unique place for exchange for users, practitioners, policy makers, administration, experts, researchers, ...
- A model for an inclusive event
9. - 10. Juli 2019, Johannes Kepler University, Linz



Country Index





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *K. Mavrou*, k.mavrou@euc.ac.cy *Cyprus*



European University Cyprus

Assistive Technology Lab

The Assistive Technology Lab is a collaboration between the Department of Education Sciences and the Department of Health Sciences (Programme of Occupational Therapy). The Lab focuses on the interdisciplinary nature of the Assistive Technology field, and it aims at the development and implementation of innovative and effective approaches to research, instruction, learning and rehabilitation with the use of assistive technology for people with disabilities of all ages.



On the 8th of December 2018 the Lab held an Assistive Technology Open Lab event. The open lab was an AT awareness

event open to the public including schools, families, users, academics and other stakeholders for using, familiarizing and testing assistive technology equipment.



Project: MI-Tale

AAL Programme

The MI-Tale project runs from May 2017 until November 2019 and is funded as part of the AAL programme. The project develops an interactive web-based game that will trigger and record the memories of the personal story of people with dementia. [Partners are from Austria, the Netherlands, and Cyprus](#)



During May – July 2019 in Cyprus the pilot of the BETA Version of the app is implemented with 15 participants including elderly, cares and families.

Legislation

Inclusive Education Policy Reform

In January 2018, the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus announced a process of public consultation for the development of new policy and new legislation for the education of children with disabilities. The consultation concluded, and Cyprus is at the process of designing new legislation, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2019, which however currently holds a number of conflicts and debates.





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *Hille Maas*, hille.maas@tootukassa.ee *Estonia*



Social Insurance Board

AT department



In 2018 the Social Insurance Board implemented the interRai (Resident Assessment Instrument) assessment tool in order to merge services provided to people with long term chronic illnesses and need for care. The data system named STAR (Social Services Data System) is planned to draw together electronically and without human assistance the health centered data from the Health Information System and social service needs from other sources (local county government etc). As a result the client`s functional profile and needs for services, including need for AT devices, should be available from one source. The data system provides information about AT device`s functional reasoning, assessing professional, assessment time and suggested use timing. STAR information will be available to the client, all professionals involved including their General Practitioner and any other medical professionals.

<https://www.sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/en/projects#Pilot%20project%20for%20person-centered%20special%20welfare%20services%20model>

Unemployment Insurance Fund

Workability Assessment Department



Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund has functioned as work-ability assessment authority since 2016. Submissions of application can now be using a dedicated digital environment. Part of decision of work-ability scope are suggestions about suitable working conditions and assistive technology equipment improving client`s everyday functioning. AT suggestions are made by work-ability assessment expert doctor using ISO 9999 AT classification on the second or third level codes. The fund is financing all the AT devices and working environment adaptations for client with reduced work-ability. Working conditions and assumptions are assessed by Expert doctor using O-Net classification. O*NET Data descriptors are categories of occupational information collected and available for O*NET-SOC occupations. Each descriptor contains more specific elements with data ratings.

<https://www.tootukassa.ee/eng/content/work-ability-reforms/working-ability-assessment>





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from Anne Kanto-Ronkanen, *Finland*
anne.kanto-ronkanen@stm.fi



National Guidelines for Assistive technology

Experts in and users of assistive technology field have been developing together National Guidelines for Ground Rules to Lending Assistive Technology Devices. The group is working with Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The main purpose is to unify the practices around the country so, that the users have equal opportunity to access assistive technologies and not depending on where they live.

The first version was published in September 2018. The group is updating the Guidelines at the moment, because there are new devices coming on the market or because the guidelines need to be more specific for some devices.

Guidelines are classified by ISO 9999 Assistive products for persons with disability -- Classification and terminology.

Digital and distance service

Citizens in Finland have the right to receive their Assistive Technology Devices (ATD) without any cost if they have difficulty in their functional ability or participation due to illness/disability found on medical grounds. Local authorities provide basic health care services, including most of the Assistive Technology Device Services. Many districts have merged their small device centers for one district AT Service Centre. These centers together developed different ways to deliver AT services and supply information to citizens and experts.

An example combined resource is the website www.terveyskyla.fi developed by all the University Hospitals in Finland. One part is the AT services showing information e.g. legislations, service delivery or introductions on how to use devices.

Some centers have projects to develop distant/remote service and assistance for AT users and also distance education for professionals working in the AT field.





AAATE 2019
à Bologna

News from *Dom*, dominique.archambault@chezdom.net

France

with the help of *Dr Gérard Uzan*, Président of **IFRATH**



IFRATH is 21 years old

In France, most labs working in the field of AT are members of IFRATH, “Institut Fédératif de REcherche sur les Aides Techniques pour les personnes Handicapées”. IFRATH organises 3 workshops every year, a conference every two years, and a young researcher seminar every other year.

<https://ifrath.fr/>



Handicap 2020

Organised by IFRATH and University Paris 8-Vincennes-Saint-Denis, the 11th French speaking conference *Handicap 2020* will take place in June in Paris (June 10-12). The conference will celebrate its 20th birthday !

Works about Assistive Technologies will be presented : characterisation and modeling of situations of autonomy loss, development of technologies for autonomy and health, methodology (re-education, stimulation, ...), ergonomics of AT, Humanities and Social Sciences, and more.

Deadline for papers in French around February, keep connected on <https://ifrath.fr>.

The conference is located in conjunction with the big exhibition Autonomic Paris, Porte de Versailles from June 9 to 11.

Back to the 80s

In 2005, France was moving forward, from WHO ICH (1980) to ICF (2001). 15 years later we are back. The questions of disabilities would go back to the health sector only.

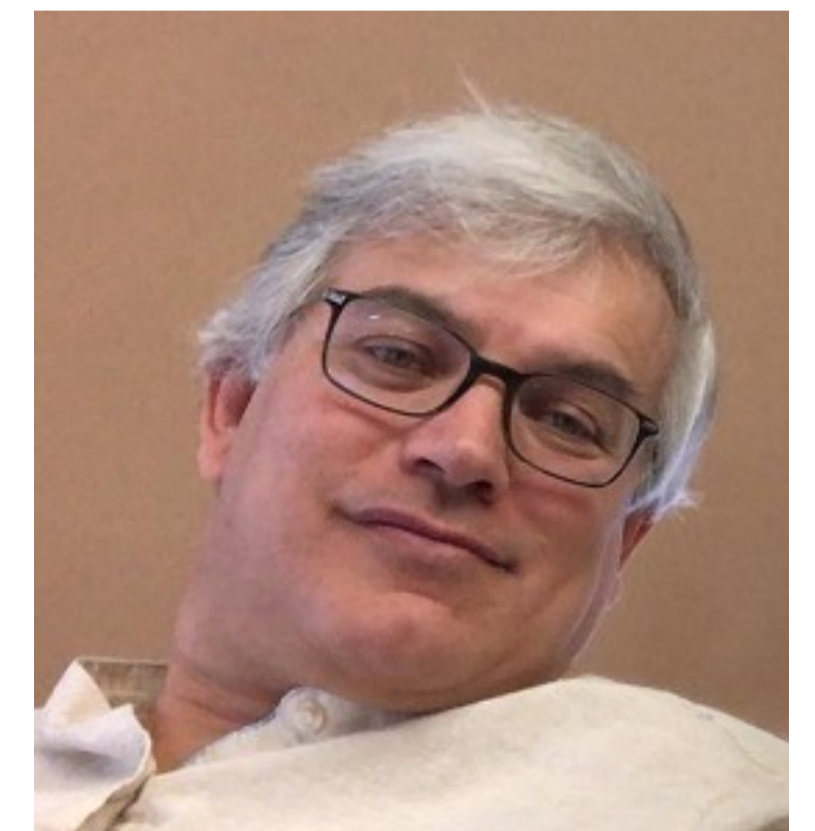
Will decision-makers in the domain of Science finally understand that research on AT is an extraordinary field of investigation and experimentation, which could lead to innovation and creation of value for all, or will they still consider people with disability as a micro-group of consumers, who should be happy of refurbished old technologies ?

Master Technologies and Disabilities

The Master Technologies and Disabilities started with the academic year 2001/2002 – it has the administrative form of a Master since 2006.

Based on series of lectures and conferences about disabilities and their consequences on life, on one hand, and on practical teaching of technologies development (including mobile, electronics, web), and on accessibility, the Master trains students to different kind of professional activities from research to software development, but also specialists of digital accessibility or AT specialists.

<http://master-handi.fr>





News from Christian Bühler, christian.buehler@tu-dortmund.de Germany



FTB - Research Institute Technology and Disability



The FTB team has been involved in a wide range of research projects related to assistive technology and accessibility . Recent projects concentrated on web accessibility education for companies, monitoring of accessibility of websites, easy to read in public

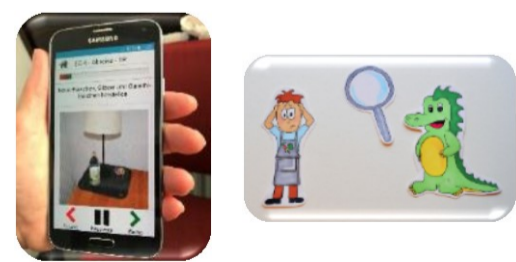


administration processes, support of people on the move, apps for supported employment and multimedia training and support systems.



Research Cluster TIP

TU Dortmund



The Research Cluster [Technology for Inclusion and Participation – TIP](#) is expanding. Currently the selection of a professor for **Assistive Technology** is ongoing. The call for a new professorship for **ICT and Education** is expected in fall 2019. The call for another new professorship **eAccessibility and Intelligent Systems** is scheduled for 2020.

International applications are welcome.

EU Web accessibility directive in Germany

The EU web directive on accessibility has triggered activities in **Germany** at the level of the **Federal Gov** and **the ovs of the Bundesländer**. Firstly, existing legislation had to be changed for compliance with the directive. The Federal Gov appointed the ombuds function and installed its monitoring with “Bundesfachstelle Barrierefreiheit” in Berlin. Further ombudspersons had to be assigned in all of the Bundesländer. The process of establishing monitoring bodies in the Bundesländer is ongoing.



Cognitive Accessibility

TU Dortmund



TU Dortmund is part of the **EU Easy Reading** project, contributing especially with a new methodological approach towards peer research in software development.

The **Easy Reading** project aims at designing a framework, user interfaces or content that fully embrace cognitive accessibility requirements. (<https://www.easyreading.eu/>)





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *Iosif Klironomos*, FORTH-ICS, Greece (iosif@ics.forth.gr)



Ambient Intelligence (Aml): the Concept

Intelligent intuitive interfaces embedded in all kinds of objects and an environment that is capable of recognizing and responding to the presence of different individuals in a seamless, unobtrusive and often invisible way.

FORTH – ICS Aml programme

- The [Ami Programme](#) of FORTH-ICS is a platform for cooperative research towards developing and studying Aml-related technologies and assessing their impact upon the individual & upon society as a whole.
- It is a long-term horizontal interdisciplinary RTD Programme
- The underlying vision is to improve the quality of life of people through the creation and provision of safe, efficient and user-friendly technologies, to support the needs of every individual in a seamless, unobtrusive and invisible way
- Emphasis is on greater user-friendliness, more efficient services support, user-empowerment, and support for human interactions



Aml in Healthcare | National funded projects

Co-financed by Greece and the European Union - European Regional Development Fund

Quality of Life II project (Sep. 2017 – Sep. 2020)

- Part of the strategic development plan of FORTH
- An integrated multidisciplinary approach of four Institutes, to develop new methods and technologies to improve the quality of life of elderly, the sick and people with disabilities in smart environments.
- Medical treatment protocols for reduced hospital treatment duration, and home monitoring / support for specific conditions
- Development of key technologies, materials and sensors to support and improve everyday life in hospital / rehabilitation.
- Prototyping systems and services to support the improvement of quality of life.

MyHealthWatcher project (July 2018 – July 2021)

- Improving the well-being of the elderly population is closely related to assisting them to effectively cope with anxiety, psychological distress, and chronic illnesses that often coexist with aging
- The project proposes the creation of a self-adaptive system for monitoring the health and well-being of the elderly.
- The goal is to understand the user's situation and needs using non-intrusive ways of interacting
- Emphasis is on natural voice interaction (automatic voice recognition using vocabulary and grammar) and processing of audio signals to detect pathological conditions through sound.





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *Cecilia Sik-Lanyi*, lanyi@uni-pannon.hu Hungary



<http://isg4competence.com/>

University of Pannonia, Veszprem

Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education,
Eötvös Loránd University
Budapest

Brigitta Miksztai-Réthey

(mrb@barczi.elte.hu) started (2018-)

cooperating with Bethesda Children's

Hospital in order to support the

children in the intensive care and

rehabilitation with assistive

technology devices and knowledge to

ensure their communication rights.

Other long-term goal is to evolve the

communication directives.



Country Index



The European project called “**Intelligent Serious Games for Social and Cognitive Competence**” was finished. Our main goal with the project was to make serious games with the aim to develop social and cognitive competence of children with learning difficulties and to educate them about social skills, basic skills, key cognitive competence skills and work skills.



ARIADNÉ guide system for the mobility of blind and visually impaired people

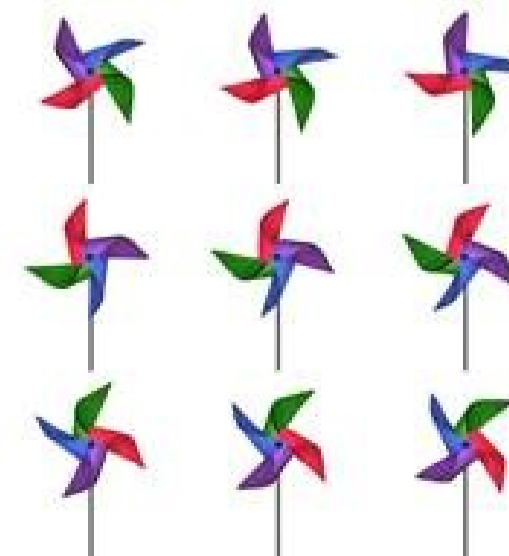
Óbuda University, Budapest

The system consists of a traditional white cane which is equipped with an electronic sensor. The cane interacts with a special guiding strip, the other part of the system, to help the user get to their destination independently. The cane relays information about one's surroundings through sound and vibrations. Read more at: <https://dailynewshungary.com/groundbreaking-hungarian-invention-help-blind-visually-impaired/>



Paul Ranschburg' Research Lab at the ELTE University, Budapest

The objective of this R+D project is designing, implementing and validating a software system for screening for high functioning cases of autism at kindergarten age. The system is based on a social serious game, and combines mouse state, gaze focus and emotional facial expression data, as a basis for the estimation of the risk of the presence of autism in the player. <http://gyorimiklos.web.elte.hu/shakes.htm>





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *Björk Pálsdóttir*, bjork.palsdottir@sjukra.is *Iceland*



Icelandic Health Insurance's Assistive Technology Centre

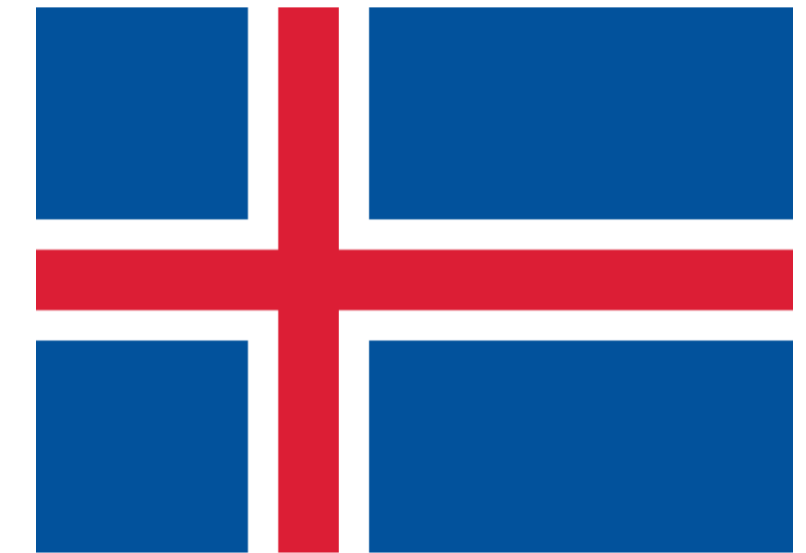
The AT Center has been developing its services to increase collaboration with healthcare professionals in the local community. Occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other professionals working with users of assistive devices are given an increased mandate to order assistive devices and access to AT Center's electronic storage system and to obtain their own inventory for delivery of devices quickly and efficiently. This is primarily done to meet the growing number of applicants due to the growing number of senior citizens.

Icelandic Health Insurance's Assistive Technology Centre

The AT Center has established a team of expert consultants for applications for specialized communication aids. The team consists of occupational therapists, speech therapists and health engineer. This group has received training and skills in specialized communication solutions for different individuals and provides independent and impartial advice. Specialized communication aids include more complex devices for easy communication such as computer equipment (including special software) with special controls such as specially equipped switches or eye controls. This is based on experience from Finland and collaboration with Tikoteekki Center in Finland.

University of Iceland

University of Iceland has in June 2019 produced two Thesis for the degree of Master of Science in Physical Therapy: **Mobility aids for stroke survivors in Iceland - Satisfaction, participation and cost** and **Mobility aids for children with mobility disabilities - Use, pleasure and effect**. In both studies Quest assessment tool was used (Quebec User Evaluation and Satisfaction with assistive Technology) as well as other research questions. Research results will be presented and taken into account in the ongoing development of assistive technology services in Iceland.





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from NCP G. Craddock gmcraaddock@nda.ie,
Ireland



An Operational Review of the Effectiveness of Section 25 of the Disability Act 2005

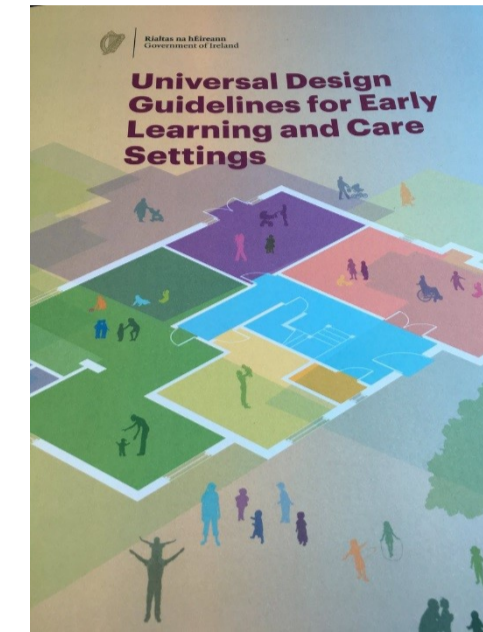


An operational review of the effectiveness of Section 25 of the Disability Act 2005 was carried out by the National Disability Authority (NDA) Section 25 of the Irish Disability Act states that a public body shall ensure that its public buildings are, as far as practicable, accessible to persons with disabilities. It covers many types of buildings and facilities from public offices to public transport stations and public toilets and from arts buildings to libraries.

The review looked at how this obligation was understood and being implemented by public bodies on the ground. The role that Assistive technology played in compliance with the Act is also covered.

<http://nda.ie/Publications/Environment-Housing/Environment-Publications/An-Operational-Review-of-the-Effectiveness-of-Section-25-of-the-Disability-Act-2005.html>

Launch of Government's Universal Design Guidelines for Early Learning and Care settings



Technical guidelines on the design of new or retrofitting exiting early years settings including the application of technologies and assistive technologies in these settings.

The guidelines are available on www.aim.gov.ie



UD HEIT 2018



- Universal Design and Higher Education in Transformation Congress
- Four day Congress at Dublin Castle 30th Oct –2nd Nov 2018
- In partnership with Dublin Institute of Technology and IT Blanchardstown
- Full papers and abstracts are available though the following link:

<http://udheit2018.com>



5th International Conference on Universal Design 2020, University of Aalto Helsinki

15th -17th June 2020
Ud2020.aalto.fi



European Seating Symposium – Incorporating Assistive Technology

The 7th European Seating Symposium is taking place in the historic Croke Park Stadium, Dublin, from the 10th-12th June 2020 with a Pre-Symposium Workshop on 9 June 2020.

<https://europeanseatingsymposium.eu/>



Universal Design & Higher Education in Transformation Congress

30th October – 2nd November 2018, Dublin Castle

Transforming our World through Diversity, Design and Education



AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from **NCP Renzo Andrich**, renzo.andrich@tim.it Italy



Postgraduate Assistive Technology Courses

- Milano, February-April 2018, at **Fondazione Don Gnocchi**
- Conegliano (Treviso), September 2019, at **Associazione Nostra Famiglia**



A 96-hours course addressed at rehabilitation professionals: physicians, therapists (physio / occupational / speech), AT technicians, engineers, teachers, social workers etc. It provides a broad spectrum of competences and skills to manage the AT intervention, from need assessment to AT provision and fitting, user training and outcome measurement.

ICT Assistive Technology in the National Service Provision Scheme

Bologna, November 6, 2018, jointly organized by **GLIC** (the Italian network of ICT AT centres) and **Assoausili** (the main association of ITC AT suppliers)



A major national event involving AT practitioners, policy makers in the health and social field, AT manufacturers and suppliers, representatives of user and professional organizations. As the recent national reform of AT service delivery still encounters many difficulties in taking wing, especially in relation to the provision of ICT technology, the event was a valuable opportunity for all stakeholders to meet and spot issues and solutions and agree on recommendations.



Country Index



GLIC Summer Schools on ICT Assistive Technology

Paderno del Grappa (Treviso), July 12-14, 2018; and July 11-13, 2019,
at **La Salle International Campus**

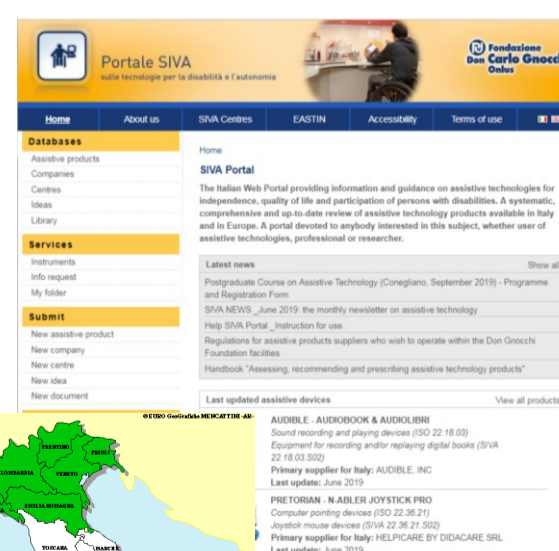


La rete italiana dei centri ausili tecnologici

Three-day intensive workshops for professionals of the Assistive Technology Assessment centres belonging to GLIC, the Italian network of centres specialising on ITC assistive technology. Each year, the programme is built based on the centres contributions and reports of field experience. In 2018 the focus was on assistive solutions for people with low responsivity (vegetative and minimal consciousness state). In 2019 it was on smart home and ambient assisted living solutions.

GLIC is currently working at an online course on ICT assistive technology, based on the contributions of all GLIC centres.

The SIVA Assistive Technology Web Portal and network of AT Assessment Centres



The Italian AT Portal (www.portale.siva.it) has been continuously updated, following strict quality control procedure to ensure contents reliability and comprehensiveness. Currently it contains information on about 4.000 AT products (plus some 6000 discontinued or not-recently updated), 1.800 companies and other AT-related issues.

Within the SIVA project, in 2018 Fondazione don Gnocchi has completed the implementation of 12 AT assessment centres throughout Italy – covering all AT intervention areas (mobility, communication, daily living, self care, leisure etc.) – using the same methods, procedures and tools.





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *Jeanne Heijkers*, Jeanne.Heijkers@zuyd.nl *The Netherlands*



Research centre Assistive technology in Health Care Zuyd University, Heerlen

Research is being conducted and innovation projects are being carried out in collaboration with health-care institutes, professionals, companies, health-care clients, and clients of knowledge institutes, and then applied to education and real-life health care practices.



- Sjoboks: a digital information product about simple assistive technology to be used in everyday problems that elderly could experience in everyday life. Recently Sjoboks is expanded with information for children with disabilities. www.sjoboks.nl
The COM project optimizes implementation and application of communication technology and assistive technology in dyslexia.

- Often these products are not used well after provision. www.dyslexiehulpmiddelen.com



- i2-CoRT project makes sure that knowledge and experience of rehabilitation-centres, knowledge centers, companies, collide to accelerate innovations in technology in rehabilitation. <https://www.i2-cort.eu/>

Legislation NEWS 2020!



Provision and compensation of eHealth technology will be expanded in 2020! Any kind of home care technology like telecare and 24-hour monitoring is allowed, which means that the technology can be more client centered. Also extra compensation will be possible for more supervision i.e. to promote living longer in their own home

Sensors at home and occupational therapy

When using movement sensors in the house in combination with coaching, the quality of the recovery of a hip-fracture is better, compared with conventional methods. This is the outcome of a PhD research conducted by lecturer-researcher Margriet van Pol, at the occupational therapy department of Amsterdam University of applied Sciences.





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from Berit Stølen, berit.stolen@nav.no Norway



The Norwegian assistive technology system

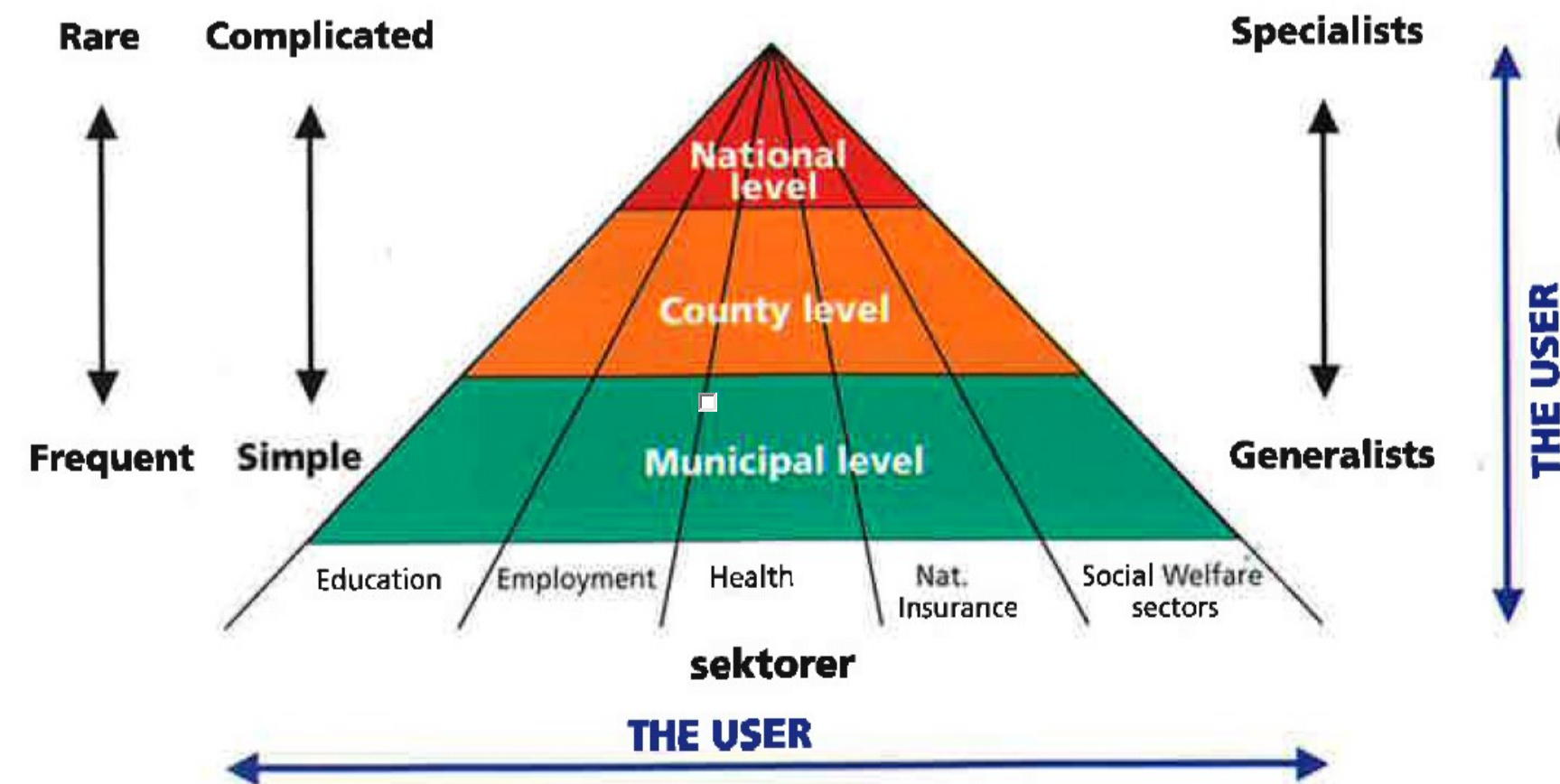
A uniform, national system with one assistive technology centre in each county, working together with the local authorities.

The users have a right by law to be provided assistive devices.

AD are provided free of charge covered by the Act on Social Security, to persons whose functional capacity is permanently impaired.

AD are lent out, returned and then refurbished to new users by the ATC.

Procurement framework agreements for the whole country are made.

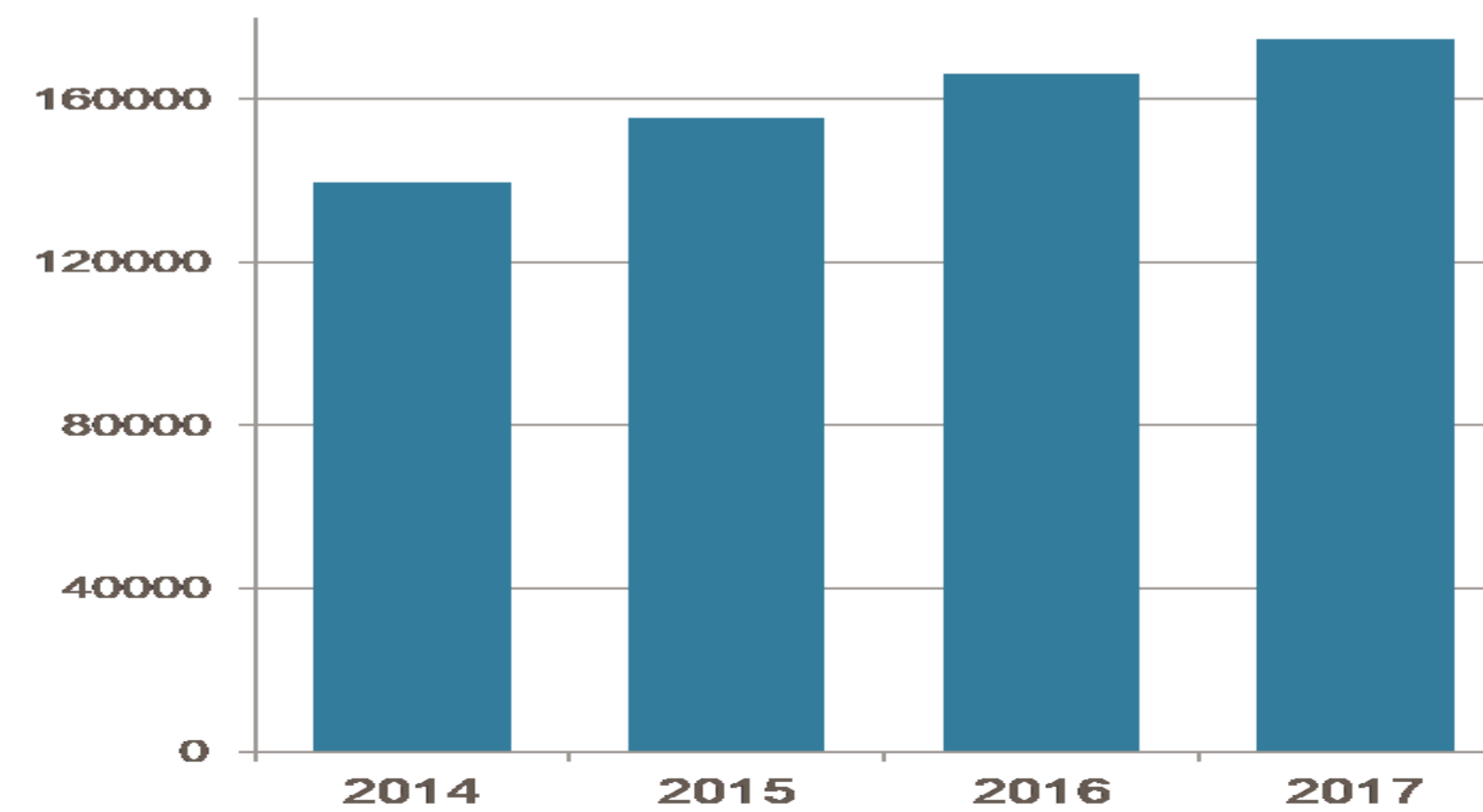


Number of applications for AT is rising in Norway.

NAV Centre for Assistive Technology is experiencing rising demand for the services they offer due to a growing number of elderly people.

The number of AD provided for use in everyday life increased from 439 200 in 2016 to 459 500 in 2017. (increase of 10,6%).

Number of applications for AT





News from *K. Dobosz*, krzysztof.dobosz@polsl.pl Poland



Accessibility Plus

National Centre for Research and Development



18/07/2018 the Council of Ministers approved a programme called **Accessibility Plus** that will aim to redesign public infrastructure on a massive scale.

The government has earmarked some **PLN 23 billion** until the end of 2025 to improve public spaces, with the elderly and people with mobility impairments in mind. Accessibility Plus is provided by the [National Center for Research and Development](#). Changes to public spaces and in public institutions are likely to become visible in the next months and years.

Competition for people with disabilities

State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People



The mission of the [State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People](#) is to create conditions facilitating full participation in professional and social life for persons with disabilities.

The organization conducts competitions that pay attention to the art world, the scientific community on the issues of people with disabilities: "**The Art of people with disabilities**" and "**Open the door**".

Websites without barriers

„Widzialni.org” Foundation



The Foundation's main goal is to allow all citizens free access to online resources regardless of their age, disability, wealth, hardware and software. The Foundation monitors the level of application of **WCAG 2.0** by the Polish administration.

The result is published every year in the **Accessibility Report**. The Foundation provides the AccesTech Conference and runs an annual competition **Website Without Barriers** in the categories of public and commercial websites.

Multimodal access to mobile applications

Silesian University of Technology



In the academic year 2019, the University introduces new courses related to the availability of mobile files: **Game Accessibility** and **Assistive Technologies in Mobile Devices**. During the courses students benefit from innovations in the field of controllers providing alternative ways of interaction.





News from *Pedro Encarnação*, pme@ucp.pt Portugal



SUPERA

Portuguese Society of Rehabilitation Engineering, Assistive Technology, and Accessibility



The new Board of Directors of SUPERA, elected for the biennium of 2019/2021, took office on May 22, 2019. Prof. Francisco Godinho (godinho@supera.org.pt) was reappointed as President of the Board.

Legislation

Website accessibility

Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies was transposed into the Portuguese law by the publication of the [Decreto-Lei n.º 83/2018](#).

Inclusive education

[Decreto-Lei n.º 54/2018](#) was published, replacing Decreto-Lei n.º 3/2008, establishing the principles and norms of inclusive education in Portugal.



[Play for Children with Disabilities \(COST Action TD1309\)](#)

A network of more than 100 academics and professionals from 32 European countries worked for 4 years on the theme of Play for Children with Disabilities. The Action ended on May 2018 leaving, among other deliverables, a number of open access books that can be accessed through www.ludi-network.eu/ludi-books/



National Contact Person



Pedro Encarnação
pme@ucp.pt



Jornadas SUPERA 2019, the biannual scientific event organized by SUPERA, took place last May 2-4 at the Instituto Politécnico de Leiria. Included in the program were scientific communications, workshops, an exhibition of AT devices, and a TOM event.



AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *Dusan SIMSIK*, dusan.simsik@tuke.sk *Slovakia*



[Access Centre \(AC TUKE\)](#)

Dusan SIMSIK, Technical University of Kosice



The AC TUKE team have been involved in a wide range of research and educational projects. Several have resulted in useful guides for good practice in the Inclusion and AT field at Slovak Universities. The most successful research was the international project that resulted in the development of the **SMILING shoes** that help people of all ages to train gait and balance (CP or other mobility disabilities). It is based on a sophisticated mechatronic system and wireless real time monitoring of gait pattern parameters. We were involved in **GATE** lead by the WHO targeting guaranteed minimal level of AT support in all countries of the World. Experience and knowledge from implementation of Inclusion and AT support into Academic environment was used in the TEMPUS project **ASPIRE** for Armenian and Georgian Universities and NGO managements. Team from Faculty of Informatics works on the project **CHECKuP** - Cognitive HEalthCare Platform that is an innovative platform aimed at improving the quality of home care using sensors and IoT technology.

[Council of Ministry of Education for students wit SN](#)

Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Sport, Slovak Republic

Ministry of Education established a special Council for supporting students with special needs (SN) at Slovak Universities. On the basis of the approved methodical documents and organised events devoted to Inclusion and AT implementation in Higher Education, the situation at HE has been significantly improved including services offered and financial support by the Ministry. Several new Supporting Centres have been established at Universities.



[RoboBraille training module translation into Slovak and Czech languages](#)

Alena GALAJDOVA, Access centre, TUKE Kosice



RoboBraille (Denmark product) is an e-mail and web-based service capable of automatically transforming documents into a variety of alternate formats for the visually and reading impaired. The objective is to support and promote self-sufficiency of people with special needs socially, throughout the educational system and on the labour market.

Access centre TUKE developed Slovak and Czech versions (texts and narrative translated from English original) of Module 2 RoboBraille e-learning Course for the RoboBraille Outreach.



AAATE 2019
è Bologna

News from *Mojca Debeljak*, mojca.debeljak@ir-rs.si *Slovenia*



SAAM project

At URI-Soča we are engaged with 10 partners from 5 EU Member States in the SAAM project - SUPPORTING ACTIVE AGEING THROUGH MULTIMODAL COACHING. SAAM is a complex and ambitious multi-disciplinary project, advancing the state of the art in the fields of machine learning, user profiling and interfaces, affective computing, multi-modal coaching, sensors and data synthesis, and many others. We are doing the pre-piloting measurements in Slovenia.

Initiative of people with hearing impairments for sign language

In Slovenia, this year there was an initiative of people with hearing impairments for the entry of the Slovenian sign language into the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia as the "mother tongue" of deaf people. In sign language, a lot of AT will be needed. Many of them are being developed and were developed by University of Maribor, namely assoc. prof. dr. Matjaž Debevc, Member of the Expert Group on Accessibility and Technology of WFD, Dr. Ines Kožuh and their team in the area of **Accessibility of learning for deaf and hard and of hearing students.**

Adaptation of vehicles for people with disabilities

The Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in Slovenia, by the Law on Equalization of the Possibilities of Persons with Disabilities, prescribes the co-financing of the adaptation of a vehicle to physically impaired disabled persons who can operate the vehicle themselves and to persons with disabilities who do not operate the vehicle themselves and the adjustment is indispensable for the entry of a vehicle disabled and safe driving.

New programme for Alternative and Augmentative Communication - AAC

In Slovenia a new rehabilitation programme for AAC was approved by National Health Insurance, which includes for adults at least two weeks of dedicated training at URI-Soča and the appropriate AAC device right away (renting devices). People with disabilities that have a progressive or unsettled condition/illness will from October 2019 be able to change the AAC device anytime.

New AAC app. Miki Komunikator

Additionally, a new AAC application in Slovenian language has been developed, called Miki Komunikator. It enables Android users to play the pre-set messages or their own. It also supports symbols.



Country Index





AAATE 2019
è Bologna

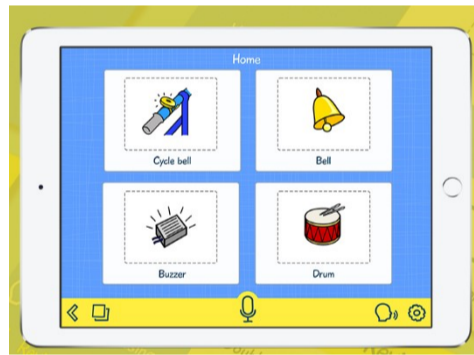
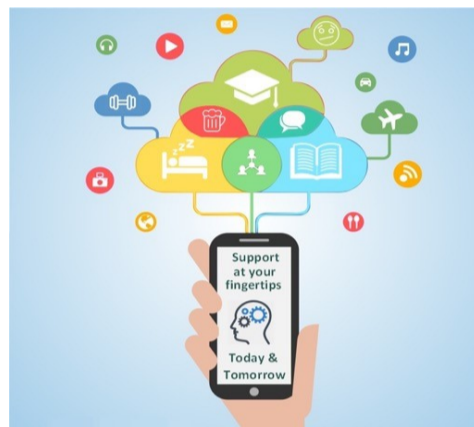
News from *E.A. Draffan*, ea@ecs.soton.ac.uk *United Kingdom*



CATCH

University of Sheffield

The CATCH team have been involved in a wide range of research projects. Several have resulted in useful guides for good practice in the AT field and actual apps. There are too many to list but working with those who have dementia, communication needs and mobility difficulties has resulted the **Emego switch** that accurately detects tiny signals from a user's movements using electromyography (EMG) technology **VocaTempo** for Dysarthria and **StepbyStep** for Aphasia.



CALL Scotland

University of Edinburgh

CALLScotland have produced numerous free resources for practitioners supporting children and young adults with communication, learning and literacy difficulties. These resources including **Wheels of Apps, WordTalk and Symbols for ALL, StudyBar for Dyslexia**



They have worked with educational sectors to provide alternative formats including **Books for All and Digital Exams** and offer a wide range of training sessions



ATiC Assistive Technologies Innovation Centre

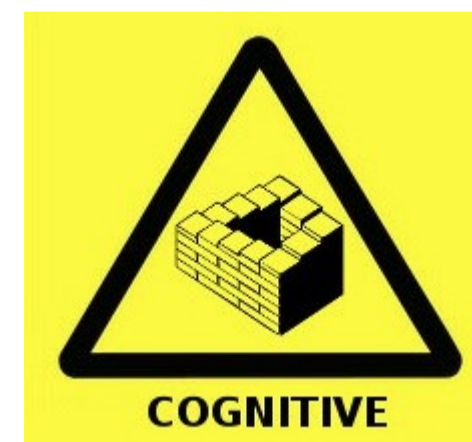
University of Wales



Research and provision of support for well being when living with disabilities using the latest technologies to build solutions such as **bespoke helmets** for riding and **3D printed aids**. Working with [Cerebra](http://www.cerebra.org.uk) who have a portfolio of innovative projects that have provided support for children with brain damage. Providing inspiration for students working in the area of design and technology.

Cognitive Accessibility

Steve Lee, W3C WAI



W3C WAI part of EU **Easy Reading** project, are harmonizing the Cognitive Assistive Technology Framework with **Cognitive and Learning Disabilities Accessibility Task Force** resources.

Work uses and enhances the W3C resources covering background, requirements, gap analysis, and guidance on designing user interfaces or content that fully embrace cognitive accessibility requirements.

