

AAATE General Assembly 2026

Online
22 September 2026

AAATE Board 2026-27



Dominique Archambault (FR)
President



Silvio Pagliara (IT)
President-Elect



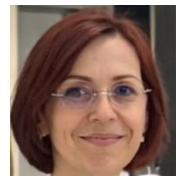
Pedro Encarnação (PT)
Past-President



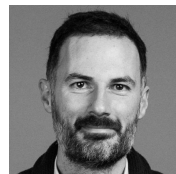
Annalu Waller (UK)
Treasurer



Tone Øderud (NO)
Secretary



Merita Hoxha (AL)
Project Officer



Lorenzo Desideri (IT)
Communication Officer

Staff members



Secretary General: Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf



Project team: Sabine Lobnig



Project team: Elena Salvador



Secretariat Linz: Manuela Aichinger

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening
2. Minutes of the last General Assembly
3. Report from the treasurer and the auditors. Relief of the Board
4. AAATE activity report and highlights
5. Short announcements from members
6. Any other business
7. Meeting closed

Approval of the minutes of the 2025 General Assembly



Minutes of the AAATE General Assembly 2025

Date/time: Thursday, 11th of September 2025, at 17.00-19.00 EEST

Place: European University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

Online: It was possible to follow the Assembly remotely: <https://zoom.us/j/9056550031>

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening
2. Minutes of the last General Assembly
3. Report from the treasurer and the auditors. Relief of the Board
4. AAATE activity report and highlights
5. Elections of the Board
6. Short Announcements of members
7. Any other business
8. Meeting closed

Minutes

1. Welcome and opening

The President, Pedro Encarnação, opened the General Assembly and welcomed the 42 members, one member connecting remotely.



Report from the treasurer

Introduction to 2025 Financial Report

- New format based on the accounting software used by the Office.
- Easier to assess the result.
- Allows for comparison between the years.
- Reflects the accrual of project funding to be spent and funding still to be received.

Profit & Loss Account

Total income	Total expenditure	Surplus for the year
EUR 86,825.87	EUR 73,635.29	EUR 13,190.58

Income	2025
Membership and other recurring income, net	EUR 13,427.50
Conference income	EUR 38,514.33
Project income recognised	EUR 34,884.04
Total income	EUR 86,825.87

Expenditure	2025
Project delivery	EUR 36,264.04
Conference and governance	EUR 15,756.50
Secretary General, communication	EUR 12,640.78
Office administration	EUR 8,973.97
Total expenditure	EUR 73,635.29

Result	2025
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	EUR 13,190.58

Balance Sheet

Total assets	Liabilities	Closing balance
EUR 196,146.23	EUR 42,817.01	EUR 153,329.22

Assets	2025
Income receivable	EUR 3,095.00
Conference income receivable	EUR 38,514.33
Bank account at end of year	EUR 154,536.90
Total Assets at end of year	EUR 196,146.23

Liabilities	2025
Accounts payable	EUR 9,368.32
Designated funds	EUR 33,448.69
Liabilities at end of year	EUR 42,817.01

Cash at bank / closing balance	2025
Opening balance at 1 January	EUR 140,138.64
Surplus / (deficit) for the Year	EUR 13,190.58
Closing balance at end of year	EUR 153,329.22
Net Assets at end of year	EUR 196,146.23

Budget Comparison

Budget result	Actual result	Result variance
(EUR 42,303.70)	EUR 13,190.58	EUR 55,494.28

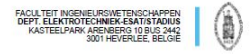
Reporting line	Budget	Actual 2025	Fav. / (unfav.)
Membership and other recurring income, net	EUR 14,400.00	EUR 13,427.50	(EUR 972.50)
Conference income	EUR 17,500.00	EUR 38,514.33	EUR 21,014.33
Project income recognised	EUR 42,794.08	EUR 34,884.04	(EUR 7,910.04)
Total income	EUR 74,694.08	EUR 86,825.87	EUR 12,131.79
Project delivery	EUR 41,355.31	EUR 36,264.04	EUR 5,091.27
Conference and governance	EUR 21,000.00	EUR 15,756.50	EUR 5,243.50
Secretary General, communication	EUR 49,834.48	EUR 12,640.78	EUR 37,193.70
Office administration	EUR 4,808.00	EUR 8,973.97	(EUR 4,165.97)
Total expenditure	EUR 116,997.79	EUR 73,635.29	EUR 43,362.50
Annual result	(EUR 42,303.70)	EUR 13,190.58	EUR 55,494.28

Auditors Report

Auditors:

Jan Engelen

Susanne Dirks



To the board of AAATE

 JE/AAATE

September 18, 2026

AAATE: audit of the financial report covering the year 2025

LS,

ONO KENNERK
 UIR KENNERK
 HEVERLEE

I have received from the AAATE secretariat a series of financial sheets covering the fiscal year 2025 incorporated into a large XSLX file.

The file is called AAATE_2025_Financial_Report_GA_Editable.xlsx and contains all the documents (reports, bank statements, membership details, overviews) used to produce the main results:

As explained in previous reviews, AAATE uses to have strongly fluctuating financial results, mainly due to the biennial conferences.

In order to improve transparency of the bookkeeping, it was decided in 2024 to switch to double-entry bookkeeping on the income side. Project income is now allocated to the year in which it is expected to be used. Conference income is allocated the year the conference took place.

Some details.

Referring to the "Profit and Loss" sheet in the above mentioned overview file, it can be seen that - there is on the income side a positive difference of almost 50 000 euros in comparison to 2024, due to the conference income and an increase in membership fees.

- expenditures have increased by appr. 6 000 euros, mainly due to the higher cost for implementing the conferences.

The "Balance" sheet shows that the assets at the end of 2025 amount to 196 146 euros i.e. almost 28 000 euro higher than at the end of 2024

In my opinion, the figures of the financial report are correct and represent the true financial position of the Association at the end of the year 2025 and are indicative of almost a nearly status quo.

Setting additional goals for association can be envisaged if new sources of income, e.g. (European) projects, can be acquired.

Jan Engelen, KU Leuven
 Elected AAATE auditor
 KU Leuven
 jan.engelen@esat.kuleuven.be


 technische universität
dortmund

Fakultät
Rehabilitationswissenschaften
Rehabilitationstechnologie



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 https://rt.reha.tu-dortmund.de

To the AAATE Board

Audit of the AAATE financial report 2025

Ordnung	Abkürzung	Ort	Datum	Druckgröße/Seiten
		Dortmund	20. September 2026	EF 50; Raum 4.452

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to respond to the request to review the financial report for 2025. I have checked the following document, which I received from the treasurer of AAATE:

AAATE_2025_Financial_Report_GA_Editable.xlsx

This document contains all the reports, bank statements, membership details and overviews used to produce the main results.

I have also checked the following files:

- Konto_5357 A14H 2025
- Copy of Kontoauszug_001_2026.pdf
- Copy of Kontoauszug_002_2026.pdf
- Copy of Kontoauszug_003_2026.pdf
- Journal_BA Bank Account 2025.pdf
- Konto_5100 Implementing our conferences 2025
- Konto_7500 AAATE Office 2025
- Konto_5800 Communication & Dissemination Team 2025
- Konto_5700 Secretary General 2025
- Konto_4155 A14H income new 2025
- Konto_4151 SEURO income 2025
- Konto_5354 SFURO 2025
- Saldenliste Sachkonten Jahresvergleich 2022_2025
- Betriebserfolg 2025
- Saldenliste Sachkonten 2025

The balance sheet as of 31 December (part of the 2025 financial report) shows net assets of €168,840.37 at the end of the year. The profit and loss account shows a positive change in profit of €41,501.34 compared to 2024.

The budget comparison sheet shows a positive result of €13,190.58, mainly due to positive income from the AAATE conference, as well as secretary general and communication expenditure.

After careful review, I conclude that the financial report provided is accurate and reflects the true financial position of AAATE at the end of 2025.



Susanne Dirks

Auditors' conclusions

In my opinion, the figures of the financial report are correct and represent the true financial position of the Association at the end of the year 2024 and are indicative of almost a nearly status quo.

Setting additional goals for association can only be envisaged if new sources of income, e.g. (European) projects, can be acquired.

Jan Engelen, 19.09.2026

After careful review, I conclude that the financial report provided is accurate and reflects the true financial position of AAATE at the end of 2025.

Susanne

Susanne Dirks, 20.09.2026

Relief of the board

for the financial report 2025

Please vote here:



Budget 2026-27

Budget	Provisional Jan 26	Provisional Sept 26	Provisional 2027
Income			
Carryover from previous year (restricted funds/accrual)	€ 19 898	€ 19 898	€ 14 924
Membership Fees	€ 10 260	€ 3 210	€ 16 000
Conference	€ -	-	€ 30 000
Project Income	€ 39 462	€ 39 462	€ 52 000
Total Income	€ 69 620	€ 62 570	€ 112 924
Production Expenses			
Website & Other Costs	€ 150	€ 150	€ 150
Conference organisation	€ -	-	€ 12 000
Secretary General	€ 29 951	€ 20 000	€ 29 000
Communication Team	€ 14 900	€ -	€ -
Other Staff members	€ 5 750	€ -	€ -
Project related expenses	€ 6 000	€ 25 900	€ 20 000
Board Meeting Costs	€ 10 000	€ 4 500	€ 6 000
Association External Liaison	€ 2 000	€ 2 000	€ 2 000
Administration Expenses			
Secretariat	€ 6 700	€ 6 700	€ 6 700
Other Expenses	€ 2 082	€ 2 902	€ 1 680
Charges for Journal	€ 2 000	€ 2 000	€ 2 000
Financial Transaction Charges	€ 550	€ 550	€ 550
Advertising & Promotional Costs	€ 80	€ 80	€ 80
Total Expenses	€ 80 163	€ 64 782	€ 80 160
Project additional fees (JKU)	€ 2 243	€ 2 762	€ 3 640
Deferred income (restricted funds/accrual)	€ 14 150	€ 14 924	€ 15 000
Result	-€ 26 936	-€ 19 898	€ 14 124

Approval of the budget

Please vote here:



Membership: *Current Members*

Membership	06/2022	08/2023	07/2024	07/2025	08/2026
Institutions	38	38	40	41	42
Individuals	187	224	206	223	223
Among which:					
Individuals in the framework of an institutional membership	119	120	125	128	129
Individual members not in the framework of an institutional membership	58	89	65	67	62
Individuals with discount (students, seniors +65),..	10	15	16	21	23
Free (from sister organisations) and Honorary members				7	9

NB: biannual membership is preferred by 60+% of institutions and individual members (80+% of members with discount)

AAATE Activity Report

- Strategic development (Dominique)
- National Contact Persons (Pedro)
- Project participation (Evert-Jan)
- International networking and collaborations (Evert-Jan)
- Communication affairs (Lorenzo)
- Publication affairs (Dominique)

Strategic Development

Objectives:

1. to intrinsically strengthen the association
2. to improve the organisation's external and internal communication
3. to increase the impact of the Association
4. to activate resources

*From: AAATE strategic development plan edition 2026-2027
(discussed by the Board on 08.01.2026, Paris Board Meeting)*

1. To intrinsically strengthen the association

- Organizational improvements
 - Complete the secretariat transition
- Workshop in Krakow : Nov 12-13, 2026
- Research aperitivi
 - Showcase your research and get constructive feedback from a wider, interdisciplinary AT community!
- Preparations for the conference in 2027

International Workshop “Innovative Assistive Technologies and Accessibility in Higher Education”

12–13 November 2026, Kraków, Poland

- Accessibility of higher education
- Accessibility of student services
- Pedagogical and digital accessibility
- Support models for students with disabilities
- Assistive technologies
- AI applications in accessibility
- Universal design and inclusive education

Organised by
AGH University of Krakow
In cooperation with
AAATE

AAATE 2027

Assistive Technology creating Impact: connecting
People, Research, Practice and Policy



Mechelen (Belgium)
September 8 to 10, 2027
<https://aaate2027.eu/>

Call for contributions will be published
by the end of September

**THOMAS
MORE**

Timeline

- September 30th – December 31st 2026: Special Thematic Sessions (STSs) submission period. This is a rolling process.
- January 31st 2027: Deadline for all Research Strand contributions
- March 16th 2027: Research Strand notification of acceptance following peer review
- January 1st 2027 - May 16th 2027: Inclusion Forum contributions submission period.
- May 16th 2027: Deadline for submission of camera ready for all Research Strand contributions and presenters' registration
- June 1st 2027: Preliminary Programme announcement
- June 15th 2027: Early bird registration deadline
- July 15th 2027: Conference final programme announcement
- September 6th-7th 2027: Pre-conference events
- September 8th-10th: Conference

Conference structure

As in previous conferences there will be two major pillars:

Research: presentation scientific outcomes, theoretical, conceptual perspectives

Inclusion forum

- Policy sessions
- Educational session
- Innovation Area

2. To improve the organisation's internal communication

Quarterly newsletter

2025-2026 issues:

27/03/2025

27/06/2025

06/10/2025

19/01/2026

19/03/2026

16/06/2026

Aperitivi

10/02/2025

26/05/2025

20/08/2025

27/11/2025

02/07/2026

20/10/2026 (tbc)

15/12/2026 (tbc)

General Assemblies

11/09/2025

22/09/2026



3. To increase the impact of the Association

- New partnerships
 - European Disability Forum
 - European Network of Independent Living
- Close collaboration with GAATO
- Initiative for implementing three new Board SIG's (interested members welcome!):
 - AI in AT (Dominique and Annalu)
 - AT in humanitarian crises (Tone and Evert-Jan)
 - AT policy (Pedro and Evert-Jan)
- Contribution to WHO Roadmap for access to AT (on role AT organisations)
- Contribution to EDF study on market barriers to AT in Europe
- Continuation Global Think Tank on Ageing and Technology
- Planning of initiatives during the AAATE 2027 conference

4. To activate resources

- Increase the participation of members
 - Journal
 - Projects
 - Board committees (SIG's)
- Apply for projects and structural funding
- Join international consortiums
- Active participation in international networks

National Contact Persons

The full list is on the
website of AAATE (See QR code for link)

Recent changes:



IRL: Thomas O Shaughnessy
taking over from Siobhan Long.

We still don't have NCPs in
Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and
Herzegovina, Finland, Kosovo,
Latvia, Liechtenstein,
Luxembourg, Moldova,
Monaco, Montenegro,
Palestine, Russia, San Marino,
Turkey, Vatican



European Project Activities

An important opportunity to strengthen the organisation and to create impact

Projects concluded in 2025

- SEURO (Horizon 2020 Person-centred technologies for integrated care)

Projects started in 2025 and still running in 2026

- AI4HomeCarers (Erasmus+) More information on next slides
- UPGRADE (Erasmus+) More information on next slides

Projects that will start in 2026

- Next Steps with AI: Preparing for Work, Transitions, Independence and Safe Digital Futures (Erasmus+)

→ Consider AAATE as a
project partner

See: <https://aaate.net/activities/projects/>

Artificial Intelligence for Home Carers



Funded by
the European Union

2024-1-PL01-KA121-ADU-000236730

Main objective

To improve the level of knowledge of informal caregivers about existing solutions based on AI for the daily caring activities.

Result 1.

An AI4H training path for informal caregivers

The methodological framework of the AI4H training path for informal caregivers covers a general understanding of AI as applied in products and solutions available in the market, going deeply into specific aspects crucial for their application in caring contexts.

<https://ai4homecare.eu/>

Result 2.

An open AI4H training platform

An open AI4H training platform based on the methodological framework of the AI4H training path, with focus on the practical element so that the career can understand what the solution is, how to use it in daily care, what the limitations are, etc., with examples of in-practice application, explaining the processes, pitfalls, and results.

Consortium:



fundacja
MAŁOPOLSKA IZBA
SAMORZĄDOWA



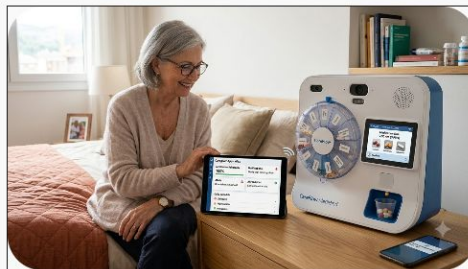
Pragma
Engineering



Tag: *Assitive Technologies*



Using AI-driven robots

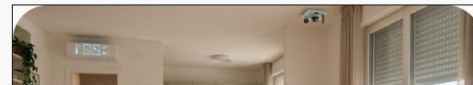


AI for monitoring and
safety



AI-powered robots and
assistive devices

Introduction to
Caregiving Technologies:



UPGRADE



Funded by
the European Union

Start: 1.09.2025

Main objectives

- Empower young people by leveraging video games as tools for social inclusion, accessibility awareness, and personal development.
- Equip youth workers with practical knowledge and methodologies to support young people in making gaming an inclusive and empowering experience.
- Develop digital skills and employability through gaming-related activities, particularly for youth at risk of exclusion.
- Promote responsible gaming

LEAD Partner:
HILFSGEMEINSCHAFT DER
BLINDEN UND SEHSCHWACHEN
ÖSTERREICHS VEREIN (AT)

Activities

- An online community hub for inclusive gaming and skills development.
- Training units on accessibility challenges in gaming, on game-related skills acquisition for enhanced employability, and digital ethics.
- Hands-on Living Labs, where participating youth and youth workers co-create solutions, test adaptive gaming setups and contribute to the content creation for the community hub .
- Peer-led workshops, engaging youth workers and accessibility experts.

Other partners: Thomas More Kempen (B), AIAS Bologna (IT), e-Nable, (GR), Politecnica Slaska (PL), University of BERGAMO (IT), AAATE (AT)

Results

- A digital interactive Platform (UPGRADE Community Hub).
- A structured and applicable strategy for using video games for skills development and inclusion.
- Co-created training resources and guidelines to support youth workers.

The project will contribute to:

- The acknowledgement of **gaming as a tool for inclusion and informal education**.
- The **capacity of youth workers** to increase the employability of young persons with disabilities.



🏠 Home

📄 About

🎓 Learning Pathways

👤 ⌵ Community

GB



UPGRADE Platform

Accessible Gaming Education for
Everyone

Unlocking Potential through Accessible Gaming & Digital
Empowerment

🎓 Explore Platform

📄 About Project



We care about your privacy.

This platform uses anonymous, cookie-free analytics to count visits and improve content. No personal data is collected. [Read our Privacy Policy](#)

I understand

International networking and collaborations



The Global Alliance of Assistive Technology Organizations

www.gaato.org

81 Av. Louis Casai, 1216 Cointrin, Switzerland

GAATO members



Formal relations with:



**CREATE
Asia**



INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR PROSTHETICS
AND ORTHOTICS



Affiliate organizations



News from GAATO



A new strategic document is ready to be launched

Vision: A barrier-free world where everyone has equitable access to assistive and rehabilitation technology, enabling them to reach their potential, live with dignity and independence, and fully participate in society.

Mission: To empower and support assistive technology organizations worldwide in creating equitable access to assistive and rehabilitation technologies, enabling people of all ages to live with dignity, independence, and full participation in society.

Priority Goals

GOAL 1 To **advocate for Assistive technology** as a human rights enabler

GOAL 2 To **provide an open global platform**

GOAL 3 To **build partnerships** with international organisations

GOAL 4 To **strengthen our members and grassroots assistive technology organisations**

News from GAATO



The **General Assembly** will be held on October 19th, 2026 (online)
-13.00-14.00 Public (All AAATE members welcome).

**Assistive Technology: advancing high-quality, sustainable local
production of assistive products**

Speakers: **Shona McDonald** (Founder and Director of Shonaquip
Social Enterprise) & **Sisary Kheng** (CEO, Exceed Worldwide)

Registration needed:

-14.00-15.00 Members only (AAATE board members and official
delegates welcome, please contact Dominique or Evert-Jan)





European Association of Service providers
for Persons with Disabilities



Zero Project

For a world with zero barriers

Other collaborations

@AAATE2025: Empowering care and support networks in the digital era

October 5th, 2026 Participation in the 25th anniversary conference

@AAATE2027: Joint policy session to be decided

@ZeroProject Conference 2025

Boosting Digital and Assistive
Technology Skills for Inclusive
Employment

@ZeroProject Conference 2026

2 Fireside chats: on the Nicosia
Declaration and on Accessibility
in School Policy Documents

@AAATE 2025

Crisis response and its
implications for AT regarding
persons with disabilities

@AAATE 2027

To be decided

Other collaborations

Following previous collaborations in several projects and initiatives, AAATE has strengthened its collaboration with Disabled People's Organizations:



- AAATE became an Associated Member of ENIL
- ENIL became an Institutional Member of AAATE

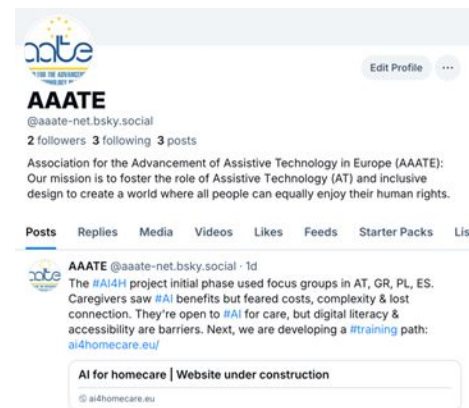
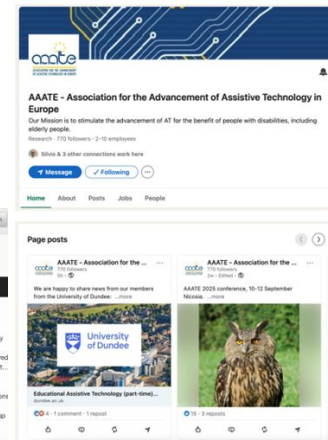
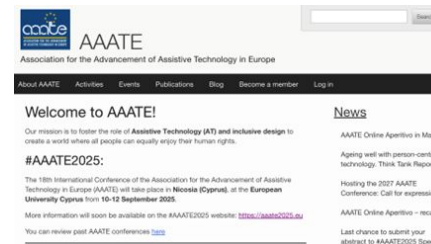


- AAATE became an Ordinary Member of EDF
- EDF became an Institutional Member of AAATE

Communication affairs

Communication channels

- **AAATE website**
 - association news and members update via the blog
 - members login => connect with the AAATE network
 - resources (incl. Access to “Technology & Disability” journal)
- **Quarterly newsletter**
- **Social media & emailings**
 - LinkedIn page (1146 followers) & group (783 members)
 - migrating from Twitter to BlueSky:
@aaate-net.bsky.social
 - regular updates via emailings & quarterly newsletters
- **Exchange and connect**
 - bi-yearly conferences and workshops
 - quarterly online Aperitivos + new Research Aperitivo!



Publication affairs

Recent publications

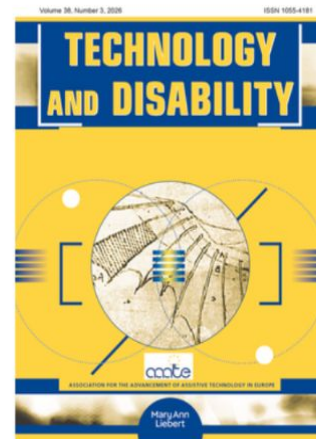
Katerina Mavrou
Pedro Encarnação *Editors*

Technology for Inclusion and Participation for All: Recent Achievements and Future Directions

18th International Conference, AAATE
2025, Nicosia, Cyprus, September 10–12,
2025, Proceedings, Part I



Short Papers Collection

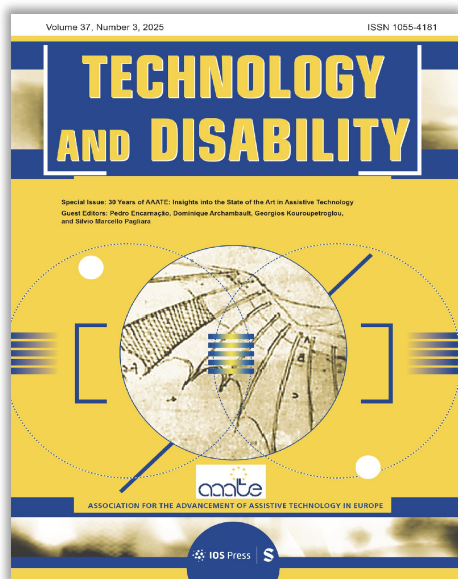


Volume 38
Issue 3,
August
2026

[View issue contents](#) ▾

Publication affairs

Technology and Disability



Editor-in-Chief: Luc de Witte

Indexed in major databases, including
EBSCO, Scopus and Web of Science

- 2-year impact factor: **0.8**
- 5 year impact factor: **1.1**

Free access for AAATE members on
<http://aaate.net/publications/technology-and-disability/>

Submission information on
<https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/TAD>

Join us!

Editorial committee

- **Luc de Witte***
- Dominique Archambault
- Weiqin Chen
- Sara Comai
- Lorenzo Desideri
- Athanasios Drigas
- Pedro Encarnação
- Katerina Mavrou
- François Routhier

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Submit your paper

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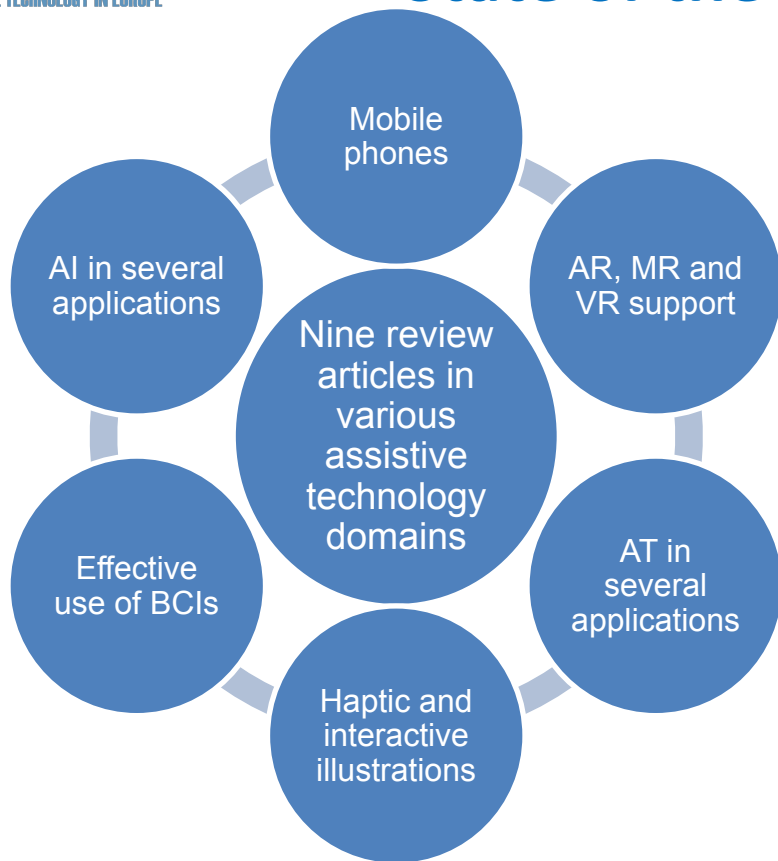
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- Learn through our reviewer mentor

Contact

- Gabriela Ricci (Gabriela.Ricci@sagepub.co.uk)
- Luc de Witte (L.P.deWitte@hhs.nl)

AAATE 30th Anniversary Special Issue: “State of the Art in Assistive Technology”



Read now!

Free access for AAATE members on
<http://aaate.net/publications/technology-and-disability/>

Short Announcements of members

Any other business

