

**Special Issue:
Innovative ICT-based Products, Services and Systems for Elderly People**

Introduction

The proportion of elderly people in Western countries is increasing forcing governments to consider strategies to support independent elderly living. Due to this demographic change there has been growing interest in investigating the elderly themselves as active content providers for their own everyday life supporting services. Elderly can, instead of a burden, been seen as resource. The consequence of increasing life expectancy and decreasing birth rates is an EU population that is becoming increasingly older. On the social side of this issue, it is important for all these people having the need to be supported in their daily-life-activities to remain integrated in social life - despite of their age and existing disabilities. On the economical side, ageing has enormous implications, since not only the income side of social schemes is affected but also expenditures: health care systems for instance, are concerned. Facing these challenges of ageing societies there exist areas of opportunity, where technological and social-economic innovation can enhance the quality of life of older and impaired people, mitigate the economic problems of an ageing population and create new economic and business opportunities.

Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) includes assistance to carry out daily activities, health and activity monitoring, enhancing safety and security, getting access to social, medical and emergency systems, and facilitating social contacts. Receiving social and/or medical support in various new intelligent ways consequently contributes to independent living and quality of life for many elderly and disabled people. Overall, AAL can improve the quality of life of elderly people at home and reduces the need of caretakers, personal nursing.

The proposed special issue focuses on Innovative ICT-based Products, Services and Systems for Elderly People

Overall Objectives and Mission

The proposed special issue will provide a compendium of terms, definitions and explanations of concepts, processes and acronyms. Additionally, this issue will feature papers (each paper consists of 6,000-8,000 words) authored by leading experts offering an in-depth description of key terms and concepts related to different areas, issues and trends in Innovative Technologies and Systems for Ambient Assisted Living.

The specific aims are to:

- Foster the emergence of innovative ICT-based products, services and systems for ageing well at home, in the community, and at work, thus increasing the quality of life, autonomy, participation in social life, skills and employability of elderly people, and reducing the costs of health and social care.
- Create a critical mass of research, development and innovation in technologies and services for ageing well in the information society, including the establishment of a favorable environment for participation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

- Improve conditions for industrial exploitation by providing a coherent European framework for developing common approaches and facilitating the localization and adaptation of common solutions which are compatible with varying social preferences and regulatory aspects at national or regional level.

The concept of Ambient Assisted Living is understood as:

- to extend the time people can live in their preferred environment by increasing their autonomy, self-confidence and mobility;
- to support maintaining health and functional capability of the elderly individuals,
- to promote a better and healthier lifestyle for individuals at risk;
- to enhance the security, to prevent social isolation and to support maintaining the multifunctional network around the individual;
- to support caregivers, families and care organizations;
- to increase the efficiency and productivity of used resources in the ageing societies.

Recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Innovative E-Health and Telemedicine Services, Applications and Products
- ICT for the Management and Prevention of Chronic Conditions of Elderly People
- ICT based solutions for Advancement of Social Interaction of Elderly People
- ICT-based Solutions for Advancement of Older Persons' Independence and Participation in the "Self-Serve Society"
- ICT based solutions for Advancement of Older Persons' Mobility
- ICT-based Solutions for (Self-) Management of Daily Life Activities of Elderly People at Home
- RFID Technologies for Smart Living Space
- Wireless Technologies and Architectures for Health Monitoring Systems
- Wireless Communication and Sensor Networks in Smart Living Space

Important Dates:

Submission deadline: 30th October 2013

First round review decisions returned to authors: November, 2013

Final decision on acceptance: November 2013

Final manuscripts sent to publisher: December, 2013

Advance online publication: early 2014

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Short Biography:

Dr. Athina Lazakidou currently works at the University of Peloponnese, Department of Nursing in Greece as Assistant Professor of Health Informatics. She worked as a Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Cyprus (2000-2002) and at the Department of Nursing at the University of Athens (2002-2007). She did her undergraduate studies at the Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece) and received her BSc in Computer Science in 1996. In 2000, she received her Ph.D. in Medical Informatics from the Department of Medical Informatics, University Hospital Benjamin Franklin at the Free University of Berlin, Germany. She is also an internationally known expert in the field of computer applications in health care and biomedicine, with six books and numerous papers to her credit. She was also Editor of the “Handbook of Research on Informatics in Healthcare and Biomedicine” and “Handbook of Research on Distributed Medical Informatics and E-Health”, the best authoritative reference sources for information on the newest trends and breakthroughs in computer applications applied to health care and biomedicine. Her research interests include health informatics, databases, clinical decision support systems, hospital and clinical information systems, electronic medical record systems, collaborative systems, web-based applications in health care and other areas.