



Express to Connect



Overview

Express to Connect (E2C) is a development project funded by the European Commission under the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint Programme. The project started in March 2010 and will run for 36 months.

The Express to Connect project addresses the European-wide challenge of ageing. It is estimated that by 2050, the number of people over the age of 80 will double in Europe. Being old increases the risk of becoming lonely and isolated.

Researches show that recollection increases the mental wellbeing of senior citizens. Express to Connect aims to boost remembrance with a new innovative service that encourages elderly people to capture their personal history, memories and stories - and share them with others.

The end-users and the SMEs will be integrated into all steps of the project, either directly present or indirectly through ethnographic research and the business 'idea market' and commercialisation.

Objectives

The overall objective for the Express to Connect consortium is **to develop, test and deploy a web-based service which stimulates and facilitates personal storytelling**. It also enables interest-based connections and communications among elderly people, hereby empowering them and enriching their lives.

End-user involvement

The primary aim of the AAL Joint Programme is to foster solutions that meet the end-user needs. It is important to recognise the contributions that technology and service advancements can make to improve the quality of life for older people. Therefore, end-users are the drivers for development and practical application of these advancements.

The Express to Connect project is based on a user-driven methodology. Key aspect of this methodology is the iterative involvement of end-users, not only as reviewers but also for development process. The ongoing involvement results in new insights that ensure value-creation for end-users and therefore enhances implementation. »





Work packages

The Express to Connect project is divided into seven work packages (WP), each one having a responsible leader.

WP1	Insights and opportunities
WP2	Prototyping
WP3	Deployment and test
WP4	Evaluation of the preventive impacts on loneliness and isolation
WP5	New business model and commercialization
WP6	Project management and coordination
WP7	Dissemination

Partners

Express to Connect has partners in the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and Denmark. The consortium includes both companies and research institutions.

- Copenhagen Living Lab – Denmark
- Substanz A/S – Denmark
- Forum Virium Helsinki – Finland
- Laurea University of Applied Sciences – Finland
- Waag Society – The Netherlands
- Heutink ICT – The Netherlands
- Multi Media Tables BV – The Netherlands
- Halmstad University – Sweden
- Halmstad Municipality – Sweden
- Öresund IT – Sweden

Follow us

www.express2connect.org
www.facebook.com/express2connect

Subscribe to E2C newsletter

www.express2connect.org/newsletter

Coordinator

Copenhagen Living Lab

Njalsgade 106, 2.
DK-2300 Copenhagen S
Denmark
www.copenhagenlivinglab.com

Contact persons

Denmark

Thomas Hammer-Jakobsen
Copenhagen Living Lab
+45 20 23 22 05
hamm@copenhagenlivinglab.com

Finland

Marianne Dannbom
Forum Virium Helsinki
+ 358 40 502 6158
marianne.dannbom@forumvirium.fi

Anne Äyväri
Laurea University of Applied Sciences
+358 40 7592 643
anne.ayvari@laurea.fi

The Netherlands

Sabine Wildevuur
Waag Society
+31 20 557 98 98
sabine@waag.org

Sweden

Maria Åkesson
Halmstad University
+46 35 167 318
maria.akesson@hh.se

