

AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING

The Newsletter of AAL



EDITORIAL NOTE

The CompAAL consortium presents you the latest developments on professions, skills and competences in the domain of Ambient Assisted Living (AAL).

The ageing of Europe's population is creating concern over the increasing cost of social and health care. However, an ageing population is also a great opportunity. ICT can empower older people by giving them control over their lives. This is why Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) is a rapidly growing economic sector creating new jobs. In order to develop AAL solutions, AAL specialist skills are needed in many professions, in which the job requirements have changed under these fast-evolving technologies.

[CompAAL](#) aims at developing Job Role Profiles in the field of AAL. Focusing on the development of well-trained employees, which will ensure high quality of services and care for elderly people, the project will contribute to the Active and Health Aging (AHA) goals of the European Commission.

engAGEnt: Skills and competences for an AAL Specialist/Consultant

In the second CompAAL newsletter, you were informed of the launch of [engAGEnt](#), a project, which aims at developing a harmonised European curriculum for vocational training that will qualify people for the job role of an AAL Specialist/Consultant.

The partners of engAGEnt carried out research in their countries to find out which skills and

competences will enable an AAL Specialist/Consultant to analyze the living situation of an elderly subject and develop strategies that will improve the living conditions of the elderly and disabled population. In this newsletter, we are happy to present you an overview of the outcomes of this research.

An AAL Specialist/Consultant is the middleman between the specific needs of the AAL product/solution user and the company that develops the particular item/product. S/He should be able to combine basic knowledge in the following subjects: gerontology, demography, marketing, budgeting and law with multidisciplinary, advisory skills and empathy. The AAL Specialist/Consultant should define the most recent AAL methodologies, the state of the art AAL technicalities and their AAL applications, as well as a detailed and continuous description of their use and adaptation to recent solutions. Furthermore, s/he should have the capacity to analyse the specific market and the future trends and to identify the target group necessities, needs, uses, hobbies etc. The AAL Specialist/Consultant will, therefore, reinforce the improvements of the stakeholder's R&D departments encouraging research.

contact us:

e-Jobs Observatory
contact@e-jobs-observatory.eu
www.e-jobs-observatory.eu



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ACTIVITIES

CompAAL was present at the PETRA Conference, Rhodes Island, Greece!

On 29-31 May 2013 Rhodes, Greece welcomed around 100 participants in the 6th International Conference on Pervasive Technologies Related to Assistive Environments (PETRA).

This has been a very important opportunity for raising awareness on AAL professions and spreading the word about the work carried out by the CompAAL consortium. During the conference, CompAAL was presented in two sessions:

Tools, Infrastructures, Architectures and techniques for Deploying Pervasive Applications in Assistive Environments

- Exploring Ambient Assisted Living Job Profiles, Achilles Kameas (Hellenic Open University)

How Ambient Assisted Living influences the job market - a European view, moderated by Aspasia Theodosiou and Achilles Kameas (Hellenic Open University)

- [Emerging AAL jobs and competence needs identified by the CompAAL project](#), Adriana Baer (Euproma)
- [e-Jobs Observatory: Promoting European standards in qualification for AAL jobs](#), Aikaterini Sylla (EMF-The Forum of e-Excellence)

(...) The PETRA Conference brings together different types of technology to address an important social and healthcare issue: as the world's population ages, there is growing interest in solutions for the in-home care of the elderly as well as for the care of people with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other disabilities or traumas. These people will increasingly rely on technology to be able to stay in their homes.

This year the focus was on technological solutions for the in-home care of the elderly, as well as the care of people with chronic disorders.

[More information about PETRA.](#)

Digital Agenda Assembly 2013, Dublin, Ireland

The Dublin Castle opened its doors on 19-20 June 2013 to welcome approximately 650 representatives of authorities from Europe and beyond, European Union institutions, civil society, industry, training and education institutions and related stakeholders from cross-cutting sectors that participated in the [Digital Agenda Assembly \(DAA\) 2013](#).

During the [Workshop "Digital skills for jobs and learning"](#), participants voiced their perceptions with respect to new ways of learning and highlighted the drivers and opportunities of learning in the digital age. Questions of how today's learners are equipped for future jobs and how to best match market needs with trainings were also tackled.

EMF, CompAAL partner, presented Role Profiles for Ambient Assisted Living (AAL), an emerging sector with great potential for the generation of growth and jobs. The CompAAL results, i.e. Role Profiles for AAL Functions and Training Guidelines, will contribute to close the gap between education and market needs in capacitating ICT professionals and social care people in this specialized field. This will, subsequently, lead to diminishing the skills shortage in the AAL field.

During the session the fusion of ICT and e-Skills was highlighted as prominent not only for ICT professions but also for vertical professions, such as those in the field of AAL. CompAAL was identified as frontrunner of innovation in the latter category.

[More information about DAA 2013.](#)

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ROLE PROFILES

Role Profiles for AAL Functions

You were informed of the identification of the following 5 AAL Role Profiles in the newsletter, published on February 2013:

- [AAL System Architect](#)
- [AAL Solution and System Developer](#)
- [AAL Maintenance Specialist](#)
- [AAL Consultant](#)
- [AAL Community Manager](#)

Since then, external experts evaluated these and, currently, the expert group of CompAAL on the Role Profiles is working towards the final version. Please have a look of these on the [AAL area of the e-Jobs Observatory](#)! We are happy to receive your comments!

The AAL Role Profiles are an innovation in the AAL field, as they reflect the market needs and are aligned with EU frameworks such as the European e-Competence Framework. This represents a first step towards Europe-wide harmonized profiles that will support AAL and the job market alike.



Training Guidelines for AAL Functions

The Role Profiles for AAL Functions are accompanied by Training Guidelines for AAL Functions. These are directed to:

- training institutions to support them in training AAL Specialists/Consultants;
- companies to support them in evaluating candidates and employees and identifying lacks which need to be fulfilled by trainings, in order to fit better the market needs and
- employees and job seekers for self-evaluation.

The partners of CompAAL are currently working on the first draft of the Training Guidelines for AAL Functions. As soon as these are ready, they will be uploaded on the [AAL Focus area of the e-Jobs Observatory](#) from where you will be able to evaluate these



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Finally, we are pleased to inform you about the following upcoming related events:

■ **Work, Wellbeing and Wealth: Active Ageing at Work – 26-28 August**

The International Conference on "Work, Wellbeing and Wealth: Active Ageing at Work" is organized by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) and its aim is to bring together researchers, experts and European networks in the area and to present and discuss the major R&D needs and solutions.

[More information here.](#)

■ **AAL Forum 2013 – 24-26 September 2013, Norrköping, Sweden**

AAL Forum is the official and major annual meeting of the AAL JP, which is funded by the European Commission and 22 countries. This is the place where projects, solutions and results will be presented and exhibited. In addition, important policy discussions will be held regarding barriers and opportunities as well as future measures and programme contents.

[More information here.](#)

■ **Dem@Care Summer School on Ambient Assisted Living – 16-20 September, Chania, Creta**

The program of the Dem@Care Summer School on Ambient Assisted Living (DemAAL) is high-quality and interesting including both lectures and lab sessions. A balance is kept between ICT and clinical related speakers both from inside and outside the Dem@Care project (FP7).

DemAAL Summer School is primarily intended for postgraduate (PhD or MSc) students, postdocs and researchers investigating clinical and technical aspects related to Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) technologies for remote health management, ageing well and independent living.

[More information here.](#)

Thank you and enjoy an inspiring read!

The COMPAAL consortium