



Dear All,

It's a while that AALOA governing board is not livening up the discussion on this mailing list, and also the dissemination of the Manifesto has suffered for quite a while.

Nevertheless, behind the scene the governing board has worked to build some support around the ideas of the Manifesto, e.g.,

- as many of you may know, the ideas from the Manifesto found a natural continuation in the Lecce Declaration during the AAL Forum 2011
- after the publication of the EIP-AHA's Strategic Implementation Plan and its Operational Plan earlier this year, where AALOA and the Lecce Declaration were referred to, the governing board decided to follow the related "Call for Commitment" and got involved in the action group C2 of the EIP-AHA.

Now, we believe that it's time to renew the AALOA governing board and hence decided to report about those activities in order to give all of you a good view of what we have done, with the expectation that new people and organizations decide to become an AALOA promoter and new ones from among the AALOA promoters are motivated to join the governing board.

In the following, after a brief list of past actions, we also share our ideas about plans for the next years.

Things to know

- **AMB'11 and Lecce Declaration.**
These two events should be very well known to the mailing lists because we could keep the community informed during the organization. Also the results are very well documented and available under <http://aaloa.org/workshops/amb11> and <http://www.aalforum.eu/group/leccedeclaration>. Both are among very successful AALOA activities with "real world effects" (see a short summary below).
- The **AMB'11 workshop** focused on the problems that have been experienced by companies trying to establish business in the young AAL market and discussed possible solutions: AMB '11 on June 7, 2011, was organized by AALOA¹ and eInclusion² and

¹ <http://www.aaloa.org/>



supported by AALA³. This workshop brought together representatives from technology and service providers in the AAL ecosystem, representatives from AAL platform projects and representatives from European funding agencies, all in all 42 participants (including 20 representatives from private companies.). The goal of the workshop was to identify topics for newly funded, joint projects that would lead to faster, cheaper or more flexible product development of AAL products and services, as well as obtain feedback from the industry on the form and content of possible new funding measures in the AAL area. Since the premise of this workshop was that all stakeholders in the AAL market would greatly benefit from a widely adopted platform, this workshop tried to achieve its goals by focusing on existing platforms suitable for AAL, analysing the barriers for the widely adoption of a platform by the industry and trying to define measures to increase the adoption of at least one platform. In particular, the industry was asked to nominate existing and emerging platforms as candidates to serve as porting target in new funded projects.

In alignment with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, the main motivation behind the workshop was to evaluate the idea of **funded European projects** for partnership in **porting a wealth of applications to candidate platforms** as an instrument to have such platforms show their practical usefulness, to spread the knowledge, to create an initial portfolio that helps to penetrate the market, and to seek consolidation opportunities.

- **Legacy of Lecce Declaration**

The Lecce Declaration, presented in Lecce during the AAL Forum in September 2011, has been a cornerstone of the dissemination activities of AALOA. It aimed at identifying key aspects and guidelines for a common AAL service infrastructure and, more generally, at improving the AAL research program. It is addressed to EC policy makers who define the strategic implementation plan for a European innovation partnership dedicated to active healthy ageing (AHA).

In the preparatory workshop organized by AALOA and the European Commission, which took place in June 2011 in Brussels, AALOA was charged of preparing a declaration that would be made public and discussed in a dedicated workshop during the AAL forum event in Lecce. The governing board of AALOA appointed a committee to this purpose. The draft was then discussed in the AAL forum website where five consecutive versions were proposed, and it was finalized and presented at the AAL Forum in Lecce.

The Lecce Declaration is about the use of an open platform for AAL. A platform can be defined as a computing architecture including software and hardware that serves as a

² http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/index_en.htm

³ <http://www.aal-europe.eu/>

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foundation to application programmers. Since a platform separates specific features implemented by a small community of system experts from application features implemented by a larger community of developers, it allows much easier development of applications. The development of the platform was undertaken in several projects of the AAL research program (Soprano, Persona, MPower, MonAMI, OASIS, I2Home, ...) until universAAL was launched with the objective of federating the previous efforts. However, the creation of ecosystems based on a common platform involves long term support and coordination issues. For instance:

- There is a need for long term coordination to allow the integration of transversal features such as quality of service, liability, security, privacy, trust, quality of service, scalability. Such features are developed also in many R&D programs other than those on AAL. Hence, the coordination with other non-AAL platform developments is needed.
- There is a need for long term coordination between research and products. AAL platforms should allow for the integration of novel features that are perhaps not yet ready for deployment, thus the research program is vast and with long terms and has to cope with many research challenges. For this reason, two threads of activities are needed at the same time: the integration of research features into a platform that meets research requirements, and the integration of components in a platform that meets industry requirements.
- There is a need for long term coordination on interoperability. Given the complexity and diversity of the domain, interoperability is a challenging feature to integrate into AAL systems. Individual collaborative projects need to be coordinated according to an interoperability framework. Under this respect, consensus building is needed.

On the base of these observations, the workshop dedicated to the declaration in the AAL forum focused on different types of measures: identification of topics and priorities that can be addressed through today's funding instruments, measures which necessitate coordination within the program, and measures which would require changes in the program. Examples of measures relate to the ecosystem building based on a common platform, to the definition of an interoperability framework based on this platform, to long term support of a recognized body supporting the use of the platform in the future ecosystem, and to long term support of a consensus building process.

After the publication of the Lecce Declaration and its discussion at the workshop at the AAL Forum, over 40 research project in Europe and organizations agreed on the declaration guidelines. Furthermore, the Lecce Declaration was included in the Strategic Implementation Plan and Operational Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Active Healthy Ageing.

The official address of the Lecce Declaration is:

<<http://www.aalforum.eu/group/leccedeclaration>>

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- **EIP-AHA involvement**

The Lecce Declaration was included in the Strategic Implementation Plan and Operational Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Active Healthy Ageing, published at the end of 2011⁴. This led to the creation of the C2 action group focusing on interoperable and flexible ICT based solutions for independent living. AALOA submitted a commitment for participation and was active in the definition of the C2 action plan made official on 6th November 2012⁵ including in particular the following deliverables:

- Interoperability process recommendation for EIP-AHA and recommendations for standardization
- Set of good practice documents for the implementation of independent living solutions
- A self-sustainable repository of information, practice and evidence to promote the deployment of independent living solutions

AALOA has been identified as the coordinating entities for technical interoperability.

- **Liaison with ETSI and IEC for a standardization process in AAL**

After having organized the Track F of AAL Forum 2010 in Odense <http://aaloa.org/Documents/AALForum2010/TrackF_proceedings>, connections had been created with the ETSI department on New Initiatives. In the context of AAL Forum 2011, more concrete discussions took place about the creation of an ETSI Industry Specification Group (ISG) for AAL; however, in parallel news about the creation of a Strategic Group for AAL at IEC known as IEC SG5 were published <http://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:85:0::::FSP_ORG_ID,FSP_LANG_ID:8761,25>, so that we decided not to initiate any competing group but try to get connected to IEC SG5; we could proceed by referring to their agenda for “a roadmap with a timeline that includes a reference architecture and prospective standardization projects” using the example of the universAAL project and its results in terms of AAL reference use cases and requirements, uAAL reference model, and uAAL reference architecture. We try to keep this link alive in the context of community activities, such as the C2 action of EIP-AHA above.

⁴ Strategic Implementation Plan and Operational Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Active Healthy Ageing http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing and http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing&pg=implementation-plan

⁵ C2 action plan http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing&pg=partners-conference and http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/active-healthy-ageing/c2_action_plan.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

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- **Joint project proposals: ENGAGED, ReAAL, and FIPA**

The cooperation between more active promoters of AALOA has already led to joint acquisition of research projects, in which we have tried to reserve resources for helping AALOA to evolve further:

- After publication of the call 6 of CIP ICT PSP in the winter of 2012, the AALOA governing board noticed that Objective 3.7 of this call on “Community Building for EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing” can be used directly for the advancement of the AALOA community; however, before starting with concrete actions, we were contacted by the ENGAGED initiative to join their idea about creating a network of networks with at most two representatives from the AALOA governing board. Finally two of the promoters, namely Fraunhofer IGD and CNR ISTI joined in the name of AALOA, even if only with smaller shares compared to a proposal with a leading role for AALOA. This proposal has been successful; ENGAGED will start on December 1st, 2012.
- The Objective 3.2 of the same call 6 of CIP ICT PSP targeted the delivery of evidence on the value of open platforms for AAL, which had an obvious link to the mission statement of AALOA. As a result, five of the AALOA promoters (Fraunhofer IGD, CNR-ISTI, ITACA, SINTEF, and TRIALOG) started a joint initiative to submit a proposal under Objective 3.2 using the universAAL platform as an example, which was successful. The corresponding project called ReAAL will involve 7000 users in eight European countries to use several different multi-vendor applications to be ported to the universAAL platform. ReAAL will also serve as the main instrument for keeping AALOA’s commitment to the C2 Action Group of EIP-AHA because it is very well aligned with it.
- Within the Future Internet Public Private Partnership, a FP7 call was published in May (call FP7-2012-ICT-FI) calling for vertical use case. The following AALOA promoters (Fraunhofer IGD, CNR-ISTI, SINTEF, TRIALOG) submitted a proposal with pilots to take place in Spain, France, Netherlands, Norway and in the UK. The objective would be to integrate the FI platform with the universAAL platform.

- **Incubated projects**

Three projects are very active in AALOA : EvAAL, ZigBee 4 OSGi, and HOMER.

- **EvAAL** aims at creating a scientific community around the complex topic of assessing the advances in the AAL field by creating benchmarks and establishing recognized metrics to evaluate AAL systems. EvAAL organised two successful editions, with two parallel tracks on “Indoor Localisation and Tracking” and “Activity Recognition” with the support of two Living Labs: CIAMl (Valencia, Spain) and SmarHouse (Madrid, Spain). The 3rd Edition, Chaired by Juan Carlos Augusto and Francesco Furfari, is already working out the Call for Paper and a



new track on “Companion Robots” to be launched in the beginning of 2013. The scientific community around EvAAL is growing, 70 people subscribed to the contest mailing list, with research groups from USA, Canada, Japan and Europe of course.

- **ZB40** is working on the integration of ZigBee sensor networks with OSGi Service Platforms. The software can be used to realise smart gateways based on low-cost hardware like PlugPC, and deployed in smart home scenarios addressed by industrial alliances like Continua Health, HGI and DLNA. Several organizations have shown interest and have started to contribute to this project . It was initially founded by CNR-ISTI and TSB (Spain) in the framework of the FP6 project PERSONA, but the community includes now also the university of Zaragoza, the Goodday company (both from Spain) and the Telecom Italia. Each organization contributing with results derived by other European project like: MonAMI, universAAL and Fi-Ware. The project inspired also the proposal of a new Service Specification for OSGi and a first draft is expected by the next year.
- **HOMER** is a project founded by AIT (Austria). It is another OSGi-based software platform which aims at the integration of various home automation systems (e.g. KNX, ZigBee) and consequential event and situation recognition for smart homes. The project worked on 3 major releases, and a very appealing demo was presented at the last AAL Forum in Eindhoven, with NFC technology and the possibility to create new interaction patterns by using interfaces for a rapid state machine definition. AIT hopes that this will help to create a community around the HOMER⁶ project within AALOA.

Next actions

- Establish Working Groups and involvement of supporters. Possible Working Groups are :
 - EIP-AHA contribution and policy work
 - Standardization
 - Dissemination and Exploitation
 - Working on Bylaws – form AALOA legal entity
 - Steering board renew
- Incubate projects under AALOA based on universAAL exploitable results
- Get a legal entity for a stronger commitment of supporters and promoters

⁶ homer.aalo.org