

P. Mallea, A. Franco. French National Reference Center (CNR) for home care and autonomy. *Gerontechnology* 2009;8(3):184; doi: 10.4017/gt.2009.08.03.012.00 In France, different organisations work on the assessment of products for older adults^{1,2}. The French Ministry of Economy & Industry has erected a new organisation (CNR) to encourage the development of technologies for health and autonomy for aged and restricted persons and the chronically ill. The mission of CNR includes innovation by giving all the necessary information for development of solutions and diffusion to all actors of the home care value chain. Aim is a better care for a better price. In this valorisation it differs from earlier French endeavours. **Technical description** Under the auspices of the French Ministry of Industry, four French regional industrial clusters for competitiveness (called in French 'Pôle de Compétitivité Industrielle') gathering all the economic actors as industry, services, academic and research forces, are allied to their proxy teaching Hospitals (CHU) in the regions of Limoges, Toulouse, Nice and Grenoble. They take part in this reference centre, as well as industrial partners from the domains of telecom, pharmacy, building construction, and building services, with the Nice hospital taking the lead at the National level. The National Center's activity focuses on autonomy and telehealth applications. According to the Secretary of State who established the center (*Figure 1*), the most important part of the activities is the focus on gerontechnologies and home adaptation to answer the needs and maintain the same quality of life for dependent people as for independent ones. Ensuring mobility inside and outside the home is also part of the scope. The center has a board of directors that includes representatives from (i) companies offering home care and home assistance, (ii) universities, (iii) healthcare workers, (iv) users, (v) financing bodies, such as insurance companies, and (vi) representatives from the French Ministries of Economy & Industry, Public Health, Education & Research, Work & Social Affairs, and Family & Welfare. In this way CNR facilitates the dialog among academy, industry, healthcare and users. **Organization of work** The CNR for home care and autonomy will organize its work according to four viewpoints: (i) A *structuring vision* to encourage mobilisation and exchange among the different industrial and academic actors for a strategic innovation based on a proper match between demand and supply; (ii) An *open organization* with actors at different levels to quickly form a national database of experts in the domain of health, care, and ageing-in-place in full autonomy, and to support diffusion of innovation to Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs); (iii) A *collaborative way* of functioning to support the development of a competitive economic infrastructure for SMEs, and (iv) An *international ambition* by participating in international events and stimulating international technological and commercial exchange. This program was accepted by the French government in June 2009, and the formation of the board of directors is the first step taken.

References

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Figure 1. Christian Estrosi, Mayor of Nice (left), and Luc Chatel, Secretary of State in charge of Economy and Industry (right) announcing the creation of the French National Reference Center for Home Care and Autonomy, Nice, May 22, 2009