The European potential for robotic use in care for older people
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Purpose High expectations and large investments have long driven the implementation and use of technology in home care. Today robotization is discussed as an opportunity to improve work efficiency and to improve the quality of life for older people. Despite huge investments the uptake is low and very few of existing applications meet the expectations, but rather what social, cultural and ethical aspects that in different ways are crucial to how technology is received and perceived in the elderly care (Östlund et al., 2015). Why is this? Statistics show that 36 % of home care tasks could be automated in the light of predictable and unpredictable tasks, but which ones (McKinsey, 2017). Results from the European project Inclusive Robotics for a Better Society - INBOTS – will be presented and discussed related to robotization of the care sector (http://inbots.eu/the-project/). **Methods** Best practices of robotization were collected from companies and research groups in Europe and analysed according to the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL). **Results & Discussion** Preliminary analysis show that while the care sector has the potential to be successful in the use of robots, the sector is lagging behind other sectors such as industry, who has been the leader of robotization for a long time. Why is this? What is the explanation of care work lagging behind? Hardly the lack of interest in the benefits of robots at home in older individuals who buy consumer products robotic vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers. Second, older populations, especially in the Nordic countries, is well prepared for increased automation due to a high degree of digitization. A third suggestion of why the care sector is lagging behind is the lack of understanding of how robots can best be used in home care organizations. A fourth explanation is that the care workers are not involved enough, but will that make a difference?

References
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