

T. Petäkoski-Hult, J. Merilahti, M. Ermes, M. van Gils. *The development of ICT-based services for ageing people needs co-operation. Gerontechnology 2008; 7(2):188.* Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) and Technical University of Tampere, Finland (TUT) started three years project, 'Smart Home in a Suitcase, new technologies supporting telemedicine, home care, rehabilitation and safety at home' in December 2005¹. The project will end by the end 2008. Already in the project planning phase research institutes realised that it will be important to carry out this project together with different kind of partners. The aim was to find out both public and private organisations which are interested in developing services and technology for ageing people. The idea was to develop and establish a new network between partners which will join the project consortium. Partners representing public health care in the project are the Pirkanmaa Hospital District Area, Tampere University Hospital and Lempäälä Health Care Centre. Private companies are representing Information technology point of view, building development for seniors, technology assisting independent living and home care. A company providing first aid (ambulance) and safety services and a company interested in balance and walking problems joined the project during spring 2007. **Aim of the project** The aim of the project is to develop a general technical platform for personally adaptable solutions that will support a person in different living conditions at home. It should support a person to follow up his or her physical condition during home exercises or at a training centre. One basic objective is that health care personnel can support an outdoor patient at his homecare after hospitalization phase. **Methods** In the project has used different kind of research methods from the viewpoints of technical, medical and human sciences. For example following: (i) Management group meetings as a guidance tool and a platform for interactive conversations; (ii) Interviews (focus groups, representatives of presumed users); (iii) Scenario method; (iv) Workshop; (v) Participators were members of research groups and representatives from interested companies, and (vi) Testing the prototype with out patient and elderly people. **Results and discussion** Preliminary results show that it is beneficial if ICT applications and services meant for elderly people are developed in co-operation with different kind of actors. Because the need of services varies a lot among elderly people we took into account physical, mental and social factors when developing new technical solutions. It is also very important to take into account the opinions and expectations of patients and elderly people if the aim is that they also will use new technology-based services.

Reference

1. www.rgi.tut.fi/uute/

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