Technical approach

The Integrated Project consists of 5 Sub-Projects (SPs):

1. **SP1’s main objective** is to agree on a standard format for the provision of content to Mobility Impaired (MI) people on the move, allowing dynamic info provision to them everywhere, according to their particular interests and needs.

2. **SP2’s main objective** is to develop the services that MI people need, all under a structure that allows service localisation, personalisation and integration.

3. **SP3’s main objective** is to provide the tools to adapt the external world, so that ASK-IT services may operate optimally and seamlessly everywhere, and not only within the user’s own micro-world and adapted spaces.

4. **SP4’s main objective** is to validate and visualise ASK-IT services by applying it across Europe, for many user groups, subsequently highlighting their usefulness, efficiency and viability.

5. **SP5** is the “glue” inter-connecting the different ASK-IT SPs and providing them with the necessary operational basis.

Consortium partners

1. SIEMENS S.A. (ES)
2. Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (EL)
3. SC ATC ROM SRL (RO)
4. University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK)
5. Singular Software SA (EL)
6. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (ES)
7. POLIS (BE)
8. National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (FI)
10. NOKIA Italia S.p.A. (IT)
11. Vodafone España S.A. (ES)
12. C.R.F. Società Consortile per Azioni (IT)
13. Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (ES)
14. IDEASIS Srl (EL)
15. Fondazione Telethon Laboratorio Tecnoth (IT)
16. Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (EL)
17. Asociación Instituto de Aplicaciones de las Tecnologías de la Información y de las Comunicaciones Avanzadas (ES)
18. Delft University of Technology (NL)
19. Pouladias Associates Corp (EL)
20. Planung Transport Verkehr AG (DE)
21. Center of Applied Technologies in neuroscience (CH)
22. Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas Institute of Computer Science (EL)
23. Sigma Consultants S.A. (FR)
24. University of Stuttgart, Institute for Human Factors and Technology Management (DE)
25. Institute for Occupational Physiology at the University of Dortmund (DE)
26. Forschungsinstitut Technologie- und Behindertenhilfe der Evangelischen Stiftung Volmarstein (DE)
27. Groupe des Ecoles des Télécommunications-Institut National des Télécommunications (FR)
28. Royal National Institute of the Blind (UK)
29. Information Society Open To Impairments (EL)
30. ComArch SA (PL)
31. HaCon Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH (DE)
32. Delta Singular SA (EL)
33. Network Models R&D Ltd. (UK)
34. Europäisches Microsoft Innovations-Centre GmbH (DE)
35. Technical Research Centre of Finland (FI)
36. TELESPAZIO S.P.A. (IT)
37. Panhellenic Union of the Deaf (EL)
38. ALCATEL SEL AG (DE)
39. SCIONET GmbH TELECOMMUNICATIONS (DE)
40. Technical University of Lisbon (PT)
41. DOMOLOGIC Home Automation GmbH (DE)
42. NETSMART S.A. (EL)

Project partners

42 project partners in total from 13 European countries, with the following backgrounds:

- Industry (mobile phone manufacturers, middleware providers, transportation means manufacturers, assistive device developers, etc.)
- Research Institutes (in transport, psychology, etc.)
- Universities
- Software companies
- Telecommunications companies
- Elderly and Disabled Organisations

Project leader

SIEMENS S.A., Spain
Mr Angel Blanco
+34 91 514 45 85
angel.blanco@siemens.com

Tech./scientific leader

Centre for Research & Technology Hellas / Hellenic Institute of Transport (CERTH/HIT), Greece
Dr Evangelos Bekiaris
+30 210 2693760
abek@certh.gr

Dissemination leader

Information Society Open To Impairments (e-ISOTIS), Greece
Mrs Zoe Apostolopoulou
+30 210 9853194
askit@e-isotis.org

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www.ask-it.org
ASK-IT (Ambient Intelligence System of Agents for Knowledge based and Integrated Services for Mobility Impaired users) aims at developing an extended ambient intelligence space for the integration of functions and services for elderly and disabled people across various environments (car, bus, airplane, home, work, leisure and sport). In its quest to support the user in a holistic manner, ASK-IT focuses on geo-referenced and personalised transport and tourism services. The emphasis is on seamless service provision, independent of the media, user location (i.e. indoors, outdoors, in a city, during a trip, etc.), user type and residual abilities.

The Information Technology (IT) capabilities have seemingly infinite potential usefulness for Elderly and Disabled (E&D) users, given their relatively limited mobility and specific requirements for “assistive” services. This population needs and deserves a “design for all” consideration to access easily both the internet and mobile-based services. This requires:

- Easy to use “one stop shop” service and information delivery sites, offering relevant and integrated content as needed, i.e. age-concerned info on travel, accessible transport and accommodation, events and sites of interest, and “how to” advice on getting there.
- Alternative data delivery methods that will adapt the information context and the user interface to individual abilities, interest and preferences, whether derived from the user profile or implied by the user’s habits.
- Relevant and reliable services that are available on call by the user throughout a journey or service request, providing guidance for coping with regional variations that may affect the specific service needed.
- Geo-referenced services that allow the user to request “nearby” info and services.
- Integrated general-market services that enable access to any information, offering a full choice and ability to purchase the relevant service in a convenient and worry-free way.

The driving vision behind the project is to develop services based on Information Communication Technologies (ICT) that will allow people with special needs (or Mobility Impaired people) to move independently, lead a quality life and as immediate result achieve economic and social integration. These services include the provision of relevant and real-time information, primarily for travelling, but also for use at home, and at work. These services will be implemented in at least 7 European cities, demonstrating how ASK-IT will enhance the socio-economic integration of mobility impaired people. This will be achieved in the following ways:

- Mobility Impaired people will be able to benefit from ASK-IT services during their daily lives, in order to travel/use public transport, organise their leisure time and take part in educational, economic and social activities. Information could include assisting a disabled traveller who when s/he just arrives at the airport is directed to a bus stop and s/he’s guided how to get there and when to get off to find his/her hotel or restaurant with accessible facilities. S/he can even use the ASK-IT system to make a reservation.
- While visiting a town, the user with mobility impairments will be able to use his/her mobile to request information about local facilities, including whether they are accessible to him/her or not. His/her profile, stored on his/her mobile device, may include parameters such as the turning radius of his/her electric wheelchair, so that restaurants meeting these specific needs are selected.

Through the use of ICT systems following the “design for all” ethos, the provision of relevant content, and the advantage of both internet and mobile-based services, ASK-IT aims at addressing specifically the following impairments:

- Lower and upper limb impairment
- Wheelchair users
- Upper body impairment
- Physiological impairment
- Communication impairment
- Psychological impairment
- Cognitive impairment
- Vision impairment
- Hearing impairment