

Press release

Launch of the engAGE AAL Project

January 13, 2022

The kick-off meeting of the Active and Assisted Living (AAL)¹ European project engAGE (Managing cognitive decline through theatre therapy, Artificial intelligence and social robots driven interventions) took place Wednesday 12.01.2022. **engAGE** is a European project with a total budget of about 2 million euros coordinated by the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca. The consortium consists of 6 partners from 4 countries:

- Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania² (coordinator)
- Iris Robotics, Romania³
- Tellu AS, Norway⁴
- Karde AS, Norway⁵
- University Hospitals of Geneva, Switzerland⁶
- IRCCS INRCA, Italy⁷

engAGE Identity Card

- **Title:** Managing cognitive decline through theatre therapy, Artificial intelligence and social robots driven interventions
- **Call:** AAL Call 2021
- **Duration:** 30 months
- **Start date:** 01 December 2021
- **EU + National contribution:** 1.269.090 Euro (Total cost: 1.921.930 Euro)
- **Partners:** 6
- **Country Coverage:** Romania, Norway, Switzerland, Italy

engAGE in a nutshell

Initially considered a normal effect of aging, **mild cognitive impairment** is a syndrome that affects older adults (not only) and causes changes and decline of their cognitive abilities. To manage such negative effects on wellbeing and health there is a strong need for innovative ICT technologies to engage, support, and coach older adults in training their cognitive function in a rather personalized manner considering their cognitive state, preferences, and wishes.

The goal of the engAGE project is to **combat and slow down cognitive decline progression**, to **enhance the intrinsic capacity of the users**, and to **support the wellbeing of older adults with mild cognitive impairment** by providing an ecosystem of services that integrates: (1) **holistic monitoring of the ability to conduct activities of daily living and wellbeing using IoT devices**, (2) **machine learning for detecting the potential cognitive decline** and (3) **social robot driven interventions using coaching and cognitive stimulation**. The interventions will be done by engaging the older adults (and their caregivers) in theatre and storytelling by sharing narratives about lived events and memories or by dialog and drama role playing. Theatre and storytelling may improve the quality of life and well-being



¹ <http://www.aal-europe.eu/>

² <https://www.utcluj.ro/en/>

³ <https://irisrobotics.ro/#>

⁴ <http://www.tellu.no/>

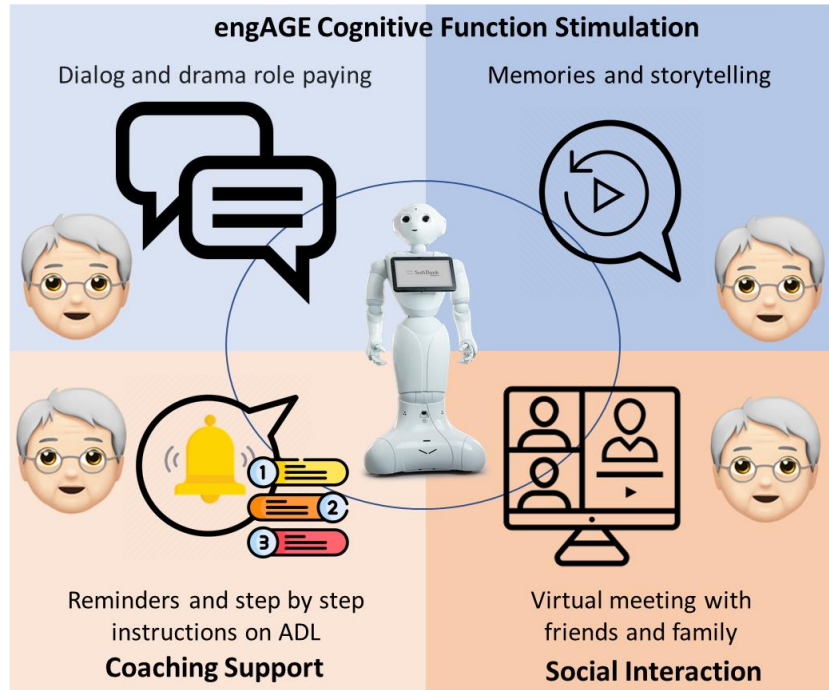
⁵ <http://www.karde.no/>

⁶ <https://www.hug-ge.ch/sciences-information-medicale/equipe-du-service-sciences-information-medicale>

⁷ <http://www.inrca.it/>

allowing older adults to preserve their identity, to reduce stresses, memory loss, or communication challenges.

To bring to market the innovative system envisioned a co-creation development methodology will be adopted involving over 200 end-users such as **older adults with mild cognitive impairment, family caregivers** and **healthcare professionals**. The evaluation trials will be setup and run by University Hospitals of Geneva in Switzerland, Karde AS in Norway and by the National Institute for the Care of the Elderly in Italy.



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