

Assistive devices in Europe

what people with a disability should know

Gert Jan Gelderblom

Zuyd University, Research centre Technology in Care

Board member AAATE



EMSP Annual Congress, 12-13 May 2011

www.aaate.net

Topics



- The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe
- The AT European approach and future trends

AAATE - Our Aim:



To stimulate the advancement of assistive technology for the benefit of people with disabilities, including elderly people.





AT definition

- Assistive technology (AT) is to be understood in its widest sense as any product or technology based service or solution that enables people of all ages with activity limitations in their daily lives, work, education and leisure.
- Beside more traditional areas of AT, this definition embraces fields of interest that reflect a wider orientation on disability, technology and inclusion such as eAccessibility, Ambient Assisted Living, Design for All.

AAATE



- Pan-European
- Interdisciplinary
- Multi stakeholder
- Independent
- Non-Profit
- Personal and institutional membership

*"AAATE is a member driven organisation
based on the active participation of its members"
It is not a project or a network, but an association that exists since 1995.*

Advancement of AT ?



Increasing the number of people with activity limitations who *effectively use AT* for activities and participation.

- technological research;
- the development of new products and services, their production and distribution;
- the identification of appropriate technology for each individual (guidance, assessment, support);
- adequate funding ;
- training of professionals and end users;
- follow up and after sales.

Advancement of AT



- The key strategy for advancement is “innovation” in all areas of the field
- AAATE therefore focuses on innovation, now and in the future.

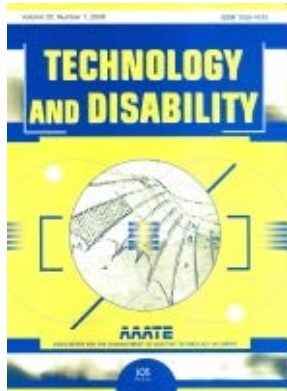
Fields of activities



- Interest group activities (networking, exchange, partnerships.....)
- Promotion of R&D
- Creation of awareness
- Knowledge exchange
- Dissemination of results
- Policy development/support
- Project development/participation

Services for Members

- AAATE Conferences
- Journal „Technology and Disability“
- Workshops & Seminars
- Special Interest Groups
- Education & Job
- Community & Exchange
- (Global) Partnership



RESNA (USA)
RESJA (Japan)
ARATA (Australia)
ISAAC (global)

Membership



Community & Exchange



- www.aaate.net
- Newsletter (4 issues a year)
- Document Repository
- News & Links
- Contact Points in 20 European countries
- Institutional members group

AAATE is a unique source to reach stakeholders all over Europe!

Project participation and support

- ETNA
- eAccess+

Come and get involved!



See you in Maastricht!

11th AAATE conference

31 August – 2 September 2011

Maastricht, the Netherlands

www.aaate2011.eu



2011

Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe



EU policy context



Fragmentation → Harmonisation

- From Directives to national legislation
- Valorising best practice

Disability policies are essentially the responsibility of Member States, but Community policies and actions impact in many ways on the situation of disabled people.

UN Convention

Human Rights model of disability

- Antidiscrimination legislation
- Mainstreaming
- Accessibility
- Civil society



EU long term disability strategy

Key objective:



Equality of opportunity to enable disabled people to enjoy their right to dignity, to fulfil their capabilities, to equal treatment, to independent living and to participation in society and in the economy.



EU long term disability strategy



The EU strategy is built on three pillars:

- EU anti-discrimination legislation and measures, which provide access to individual rights;
- eliminating barriers in the environment that prevent disabled people from exercising their abilities, and
- mainstreaming disability issues in the broad range of Community policies which facilitate the active inclusion of people with disabilities.



EU Disability Action Plan (DAP) 2004-2010



The EU Disability Action Plan (DAP) - established by the European Commission in 2003 has provided a dynamic framework to develop the EU disability strategy.

Three operational objectives were central to the DAP:

- full implementation of the **Employment Equality** Directive;
- successful **mainstreaming of disability issues** in relevant Community policies; and
- improving **accessibility for all**.



European Disability Strategy 2010-2020



A new framework for action

- empowerment of people with disabilities to fully enjoy their rights
- elimination of barriers

8 areas for action:

- Accessibility :Ensure accessibility to goods, services and assistive devices for people with disabilities.
- Participation
- Employment
- Education and training
- Social protection
- Health
- External action





Key challenges for the sector

- From good intentions to effective use of technology by people with disabilities in real life situations
- User centredness, user driven processes, empowerment of end users
- Right balance between different strategies to advance technology for the benefit of people with disabilities and elderly:
 - Design for all
 - Accessibility
 - AT devices and their market
 - Special solutions for very special needs

Key challenges for the sector II



- Access to independent professional advice in the choice or in the building of solutions
- Affordability and sustainability of solutions
- Training of staff at all levels (appropriate levels of competence)
- Gearing approaches and services based on traditional medical models towards more human rights based approaches
- Research into outcomes
- Information and cultural awareness
-

Example

- Eastin: European AT database network



- de** Europäisches Netzwerk mit Informationen zu technischen Hilfsmitteln
- da** Europæisk hjælpemiddel informationsnetværk
- en** European Assistive Technology Information Network
- es** Red Europea de información sobre Tecnologías de Apoyo
- it** Rete di informazione europea sulle tecnologie per la disabilità e l'autonomia
- nl** Europees Hulpmiddelen Informatie Network
- fr** Réseau Européen d'Information sur les aides techniques

bg cs el et fi hu it lv mt pl pt ro sk sl sv



© Eastin Association - Vat Code 05556280963 / Hosted by Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi Onlus

