



PORTUGAL 2007

Lisbon Research and Policy Workshops
on
“Science, Technology and Social Change”

Workshop 4

Technologies, contents and services for social inclusion: Facing the digital divide and the emergence of ambient assisted living

Jointly organized with the UTAustin-Portugal Program and Fraunhofer-Portugal Program

29-30 October 2007

Venue: Portuguese Communications Foundation, Museu das Comunicações, Lisbon

Education determines the extent to which people perceive and derive benefit from using ICTs. Several recent studies and research analysis focused on the evidence found on the correlation between ICTs usage and the educational and social/economical conditions of citizens and families, which condition the type of their activities, hobbies and behavior. These approaches conclude that the involvement of citizens and families in Information and Knowledge Society (IKS) is path dependent, and rarely the role of technology has influenced educational and social change just by itself. The rationale is that the activities carried on the digital world are basically the same activities that people had before. Thus, there is a need to better understand how ICTs can accelerate bridging the digital divide in the future, by involving more people with fewer qualifications in the IKS, namely by promoting the use of innovative applications and devices, and how the regular use of ICTs can provide a framework for qualifying these citizens on a regular basis. Recent developments in the field of human-machine interaction, namely new interfaces and applications for 3D-visualization for gaming and entertainment, can be applied to develop innovative tools for education and training that stimulate active learning and thus enhance the effectiveness of traditional learning environments.

Which applied R&D on technologies, applications and services to exploit how ICTs can contribute to close up the digital divide and to improve the quality of life of all citizens? The workshop will contribute to discuss the potential role of IKS in promoting innovative ways to deliver ubiquitous access to ICTs, as well the extent to which it has fostered the steady deployment of innovative content, applications and services for all and promote life-long learning through emerging forms of edutainment, seeking to help and contribute to the definition of future policies in the EU context. Particular attention will be paid to discuss the needs of citizens with low qualification, the elderly and citizens with special needs, who traditionally lag behind in what concerns the advent of the IKS, and on how these people can understand the advantages brought by ICTs and become included. Emphasis will be given to new technologies and services for places where many people convene, such as shopping malls, parks or others, and on new technologies and content for virtual, augmented and simulated reality, with application to ambient-assisted living as well as to health-care devices. Achieved developments in this area will be discussed in terms of their impact to enhance the active capacities of the elderly, to increase the access of people with low qualifications or disabilities to the benefits of information society and to enrich learning environments.

Monday, October 29, 2007

Registration: 15:30

Session 1: 16:00-19:00

Chair and Introduction: Manuel Heitor, MCTES, PT

Invited Speakers:

- Dieter Rombach, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, DE – **“Ambient Assisted Living: Towards Solving the Aging Society Challenge?”**
- António Câmara, UNL and UTAustin-Portugal Program, PT – **“Interfaces for All”**

Initial Discussion by:

Luís Magalhães, UMIC, PT

Miguel Leocádio, MCTES, PT

Artur Pimenta Alves, FEUP, INESC Porto,PT

19:00 – Reception and Visit to the Communications Museum

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Session 2: 9:30-11:00

Chair: António Câmara, UNL and UTAustin-Portugal Program, PT

Invited Speakers:

- Brian Loader, University of York, Department of Sociology, UK - **“Towards the Co-Construction of Web 2.0 with Older Users?”**
- Kieron O'Hara, University of Southampton, UK - **“Digital Divides and Web Science”**

Initial Discussion by:

Rui Santos, FCSH, UNL, PT

José Luis Moutinho, PT

Coffee Break: 11:00-11:30

Session 3: 11:30-13:00

Chair: Luis Magalhães, UMIC, PT

Invited Speakers

- Lusitana Fonseca, Aveiro Digital, PT - **“The Aveiro Digital Internet Spaces to face the educational divide”**
- Sharon Stover, UTAustin, USA - **“Taking Stock of the Digital Divide”**

Initial Discussion by:

José Vítor Malheiros, Público, PT

Gustavo Cardoso, ISCTE, PT

Francisco Godinho, UTAD, PT

Closing: Manuel Heitor, MCTES, PT

Lunch: 13:00