

# Digital Agenda

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## for Europe



# New opportunities for the elderly and the disabled

**In an ageing society especially, eHealth is a key area for innovation that can deliver better results for disabled or elderly people.**

For example, thanks to EU funding, **Ambient Assisted Living** (AAL) technologies put ICT into action to ensure that the digital society permits a more independent and dignified life for people who are frail or suffer from chronic conditions and for persons with disabilities.

The AAL programme promotes innovation and the deployment of ICT in areas such as fall prevention (this affects more than one third of people over 65 in the EU) or to support the more than 7 million EU citizens who suffer from dementia, memory loss, lack of attention or the inability to solve small problems. The Digital Agenda will aim at doubling the take-up of independent living arrangements for the elderly by 2015.

150 million Europeans – some 30% - have never used the internet. This group is largely made up of people aged 65 to 74 years old. Accessibility and usability are also problems for Europeans with disabilities. Bridging this digital divide can help members of disadvantaged social groups to participate on a more equal footing in the digital society (including services of direct interest to them such as eLearning, eGovernment, eHealth) and increase their employability and quality of life.

**Want to know more? Check [http://europa.eu/information\\_society/digital-agenda](http://europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda)**

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