OLDES - Bologna Pilot

The trial in Bologna is going to involve 100 elderly people: 90 of them for testing the OLDES tele-accompany services platform, the remaining 10 for testing telemedicine/tele-assistance services. The Savena territorial District of the Municipality of Bologna has been selected for the trial, namely the elderly people who are going to be involved in the pilot, are living in that area of the city.

The pilot project in Bologna is implementing two key aspects, related to the concept of integrated health and social care for older people.

- Tele-accompany system: The OLDES project aims to develop innovative communication channels for senior citizens, through the mesh of social networking and entertainment. Through their INK computer (a user-friendly, and low cost PC device) elderly people can access several entertainment services:
  o Audio/video/text content,
  o Discussion groups: Using an adapted handset connected to the INK, the elderly persons are able to actively participate to special interest forums supported by animators,
  o Voice-over-IP calls: The elderly persons can call their relatives and friends connected to the OLDES system using their INK and their handset.

The 90 older people oncoming "testers" of the OLDES tele-accompany services platform are being selected by the Social Services Unit of Savena District (Municipality of Bologna) together with an ad hoc established tele-accompany working group composed of "technical" representatives of the local partners (Cup2000, the Local Health Authority of Bologna, in addition to the Municipality of Bologna) and in co-operation with some territorial social aggregations and volunteers associations interested in taking active part in the project.

In this way these local social realities can involve within their organisations further elderly people, possible users and "testers" of the OLDES platform.

This greatly contributes to an important aspect of the OLDES services relating to the direct communication among end users.

Moreover, the involvement of end users in OLDES activities, within the same social aggregation or community, does foster the direct management of the entertainment software system by these organisations.

- Tele-assistance/telemedicine system, consisting of sensors for remote monitoring of physiological parameters (body weight, blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation, ECG). The INK computer installed in elderly homes automatically collects the data measured by these devices and sends them to a central repository in a secured way.

The 10 elderly patients affected by chronic heart failure, under treatment at the Cardiology Division of Bellaria Hospital of Bologna are going to be enrolled by the Cardiology Division of Bellaria Hospital in Bologna .

These patients are taking part in both tele-accompany and telemedicine trial. So, they are going to receive the tele-accompany home system and a set of portable, easy-to-use medical devices for home self-monitoring clinical parameters.

Moreover the INK computer will also be used for the detection and transmission of the clinical data; and the television set will also be used for the visualisation of the clinical questionnaire to be answered by the patients; a remote control switch will also be used for the selection of the answers to the clinical questionnaire.