
Session D4

Room: Brookfield, Friday 9.30-12.15

Assessing technologies for health quality and an independent life

Chairs: ITA-OEAW (Leo Capari & Ulrike Bechtold) & ITAS-KIT (Maria Joao Ferreira Maia & Bettina Johanna Krings)

- Ulrike Bechtold & Leo Capari
 - Active Assisted Living (AAL) in the light of technical concepts and social attributions – a comparative analysis of 10 “success stories” in AAL
- Maria João Maia
 - Decision-making process on Magnetic Resonance Imaging technology purchase: the example of the Portuguese Healthcare system
- Linda Nierling¹, Maria João Maia^{1; 2}, Johann Cas³, Leo Capari³
 - Assessing assistive technologies for people with disabilities – user needs and implications for politics and public:
- Erika Mosor & Tanja Stamm
 - Assessing technologies for more autonomy and quality of life by using qualitative research methods:

There is a long tradition about the application of advanced technologies in human support, medicine and care. Due to scientific advancements new technologies are being developed such as service robotics, neurotechnologies, additive manufacturing, synthetic biology, etc., with the vision of “improving” and “supporting” life and health quality. These visions relate basically to systematic and continuous actions focusing on improvement in terms of effectiveness and efficiency in health and care services and arrangements. Within these discourses, however, a demand-centered approach should be taken into account. Some of these technologies have already practical applications in the health field, for therapeutics purposes, but also for diagnosis or care and support related activities. For older adults (AAL) and persons with disabilities, for instance, these technologies should furthermore serve to enhance independency. However, their actual effects, their accessibility and usefulness are sometimes surrounded by controversy. In fact, this topic was already approached in previous European Conferences where several questions emerged in the debates, such as:

- How can indicators for the “quality” of the health and care sector be developed (ELSI)?
- What is the intrinsic motivation for the technology development (e.g. which imaginaries of the future are used)?
- How can the assessment of a technology be improved?
- How can public engagement be addressed? And how to include the different stakeholders in the assessment process?
- How can emerging technologies be assessed if there is still not sufficient information available? Are there already approaches to assess emerging technologies?

The purpose of this session is to understand how the assessment of (emerging) technologies in health and care sector can be conducted and how can this assessment lead to quality improvements in the lives of their users. Furthermore this session intends to bring together researchers that can share practical examples and conceptual approaches of the empirical field of such assessments on how these findings can be integrated into scientific and public debates. Therefore we focus on papers which embrace the notion of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in order to discuss conception approaches on RRI with health care sector. In order to promote a vivid discussion on the topic of the session, participants will be invited to take part in a dedicated interactive discussion slot. These discussion shall shed light on the above posed questions.