

CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING TECHNOLOGY

Organized within the Health and Care department of the City of Aarhus, Center for Assisted Living Technologies (CAT) is the primary driving forces of the innovative and organizational work done with assisted living technology in the city.

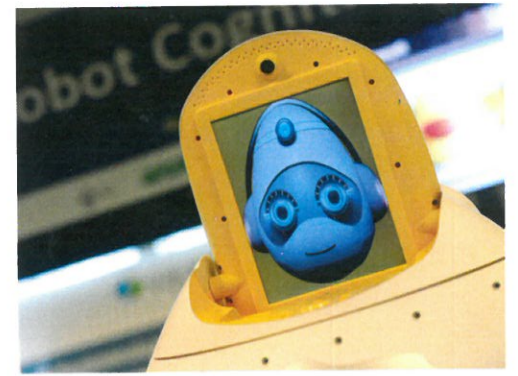
At CAT we test the latest assisted living technology and implement the technologies that show potential on a large scale. In doing so, CAT has attained deep knowledge of potential barriers in implementing new technological solutions, and how to realize the potentials of such solutions in a complex, public organization.

Our competencies

The staff at CAT is composed of a variety of professional backgrounds and skills; from healthcare assistants, therapists and technology engineers to academics working with project development, networking and communication. Most of the employees have relevant academic secondary education within the field of assisted living technology and extensive experience from research- and development projects.

For more information on CAT please check out our website

www.velfaerdesteknologi-aarhus.dk/english



The four focus areas of CAT

During the past years CAT has successfully worked within the entire scope of assisted living technology; from development to evaluation. Our primary field of experience and expertise are:

- 1 **Development** of assisted living solutions that meets the needs of the citizens and care workers in the City of Aarhus. This is done in cooperation with private companies
- 2 **Testing** of assisted living technologies in real environments to see how the technology actually works and benefits the citizens and employees alike.
- 3 **Implementing** assisted living technology on a large scale in the municipality. When we have discovered and/or co-developed the technology we need, we then facilitate a successful implementation process.

- 4 **Evaluation** of the effects of implementing specific assisted living technologies; how the technology affects the life quality of the citizens, the work environment of the staff etc.

Furthermore CAT is hosting a row of arrangements to promote assisted living technologies and to widen our network. An example is CareWare which is an annual conference where we bring together important players in the field of assisted living technology. This is everyone from professionals who works with disabled or elderly on a daily basis to product developers and innovators who seeks idea generation or inspiration with professionals in order to develop new groundbreaking technology.

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Assisted living technology in the City of Aarhus

The City of Aarhus is the second largest city in Denmark with a growing population of more than 320.000 people. Since 2007 Aarhus has dedicated a great focus and effort to assisted living technologies. This investment has made the City of Aarhus the leading public body in Denmark – and amongst the leading public bodies in Europe – within the field of assisted living technology.

This is partly due to the great concentration of innovative and technology minded institutions in Aarhus. The city houses a large number of innovative private companies, the leading teaching hospital in Denmark, a strong university environment and a number of research institutes who all work to strengthen and qualify the use of assisted living technology.



Evaluation

We continuously conduct both qualitative and quantitative evaluations of the assisted living technological solutions in our municipality. These assessments focus on mainly three points; a) how does the solution influence the life quality of the citizen, b) how does the solution effect the work environment of the staff and c) what effects will an implementation have on the economy of the municipality. These evaluations will serve as a qualification of the decision process that determines which solutions will be implemented in large scale in our municipality.



Strategy

In general, the work done with assisted living technology in the City of Aarhus is guided by four strategic objectives:

- 1 **Give our citizens the responsibility and competence** to use assisted living technology in their every day lives.
- 2 **Be pioneers** within the use of assisted living technology.
- 3 **Create a framework** where innovative development and business strategy can join forces within the area of assisted living technology.
- 4 **Increase the number of private jobs** in companies that work with assisted living technologies in the City of Aarhus.

work with Aarhus

As a public body in one of the leading cities in Europe within assisted living technology, we are a partner that offers:

Experience and a tradition of being a project partner in regards to development, testing, implementing on a large scale and the evaluation of technological solutions. Extensive knowledge about the needs and wants of the end user

Insight and experience in getting the technology to work and hence create the value and benefit needed in a complex service organization

An extensive network of research institutions, private companies and other public bodies

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Development

We cooperate closely with private companies and research institutions on the development of new innovative technologies. For us the two main criteria for these technologies are that they can be used in a complex public service organization, and that they meet the needs of the end user. In practice, the new innovative service is created in an interactive process between the possibilities of new technology on one side, and on the other side the need for an increased efficiency of the public services. This process of development ensures that the outcome products are useful solutions that can be used by ourselves and public bodies like us.



Implementation

We have conducted multiple large scale implementation processes with several assisted living technology solutions - both in our care facilities and in the private homes of our citizens. Through this work we have accumulated great experience with how to master a process that leads to a successful implementation. This entails not only the physical framework of installing the technological solutions but in fact to a much greater extent the ongoing effort to empower and educate our staff, develop workflows for correct screening of and support for citizens, as well as a development and adjustment of the technology to meet the individual needs of each citizen at all times.

Testing

We constantly monitor the market for new technological solutions and initiate projects to test the potential of products in a public service organization. In this way we examine whether the product is relevant, and to what extent it provides value for both our citizens and staff. Further, we develop the organizational structures necessary to best benefit from the technology. This may include distribution of tasks and responsibilities, further education of the staff working with the technology etc. Based on the above we outline a Business Case which in turn is decisive to whether the technology will be implemented or not.

