

AAATE 2015 SPECIFIC THEMATIC SESSION

PROPOSAL: INCREASING INDEPENDENCE OF INFORMAL CARERS (IIC 2015)

THEME

Informal carers, independent of their age, health condition, or job situation, are often exposed to huge responsibilities and long-term multi-layered hard work. Among other things, they have to learn/know how to take care of their care receivers, organise their treatment and care properly, be responsible for everyday activities, manage financial and legal issues, and especially being 100% available for their care receivers around the clock (Chwalisz and Kisler 1995; Given *et al.* 2001; Brouwer *et al.* 2004; Cranswick and Dosman 2008). In particular, the organisation of their everyday lives depends on the different social relations involving not only the care receivers, but also other informal carers, and professionals like home care assistants, nurses, physiotherapists, etc., who provide them with some sort of external help (de Carvalho *et al.* 2014). This often results in heteronomous relationships in which the carers are required to act according to the care receivers' needs and desires or the availability of the people sharing or helping them with their care responsibilities.

This special session looks for contributions addressing issues of increasing the independence of informal carers. Particularly submissions are welcome on the following themes, but not limited to:

- Self organisation and self management of care processes
- Coordinating care - with professionals, with family members, with other supporters
- Integration of social network systems
- Virtual vs. real presence and contact
- Pervasive connection and information exchange
- Increasing acceptance of IT solutions
- Mobile user interfaces and interaction mechanisms
- Design methods and user involvement
- Requirements and challenges for ICT based independence increase systems
- Support mobility and autonomy
- Enhanced awareness of the current status of the care receiver
- Increase well being of informal caregivers

We particularly encourage submissions of position papers reporting on:

- Best practices, case studies, challenges
- IT solutions
- Research project results
- Guidelines and frameworks

We would highly appreciate if submissions contain a section on "Lesson Learned".

SUBMISSION FORMAT

Participants must submit a 3 to 4-page paper adhering to the AAATE abstract submission format: <http://www.aaate2015.eu/abstract-submission/>.

REVIEW PROCESS

Contributions will be peer-reviewed by members of a Program Committee (soon to be announced) and selected on the basis of their quality, compliance with the session theme, and the extent (and diversity) of their backgrounds in terms of fieldwork, design, and technology.

ORGANISERS

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- Chwalisz, K. and Kisler, V. (1995) "Perceive Stress: A Better Measure of Carer Burden", *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*, 28, 88-98.
- Cranswick, K. and Dosman, D. (2008) "Eldercare: What we know today", *Canadian Social Trends*, (86), 10.
- de Carvalho, A. F. P., Tellioglu, H., Schinkinger, S. and Breskovic, I. (2014) "Designing for Informal Carers' Social Coordination Needs", in *Workshop on The Role of Artefacts in Social Coordination at the 11th International Conference on the Design of Cooperative Systems (COOP 2014)*, 27-30 May, Nice, France.
- Given, B. A., Given, C. W. and Kozachik, S. (2001) "Family support in advanced cancer", *A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, 51(4), 19.