



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

FP7-ICT-2009.7.2

Accessible and Inclusive ICT

Virtual and Augmented Environments and
Realistic User Interactions To achieve
Embedded Accessibility Design
<http://veritas-project.iti.gr/>

Starting date: 1 January 2010

Duration: 48 Months



Editorial Newsletter N° 7

The second last VERITAS newsletter focuses on the contributions of beneficiaries to the project: the VERITAS User Forum as well as the pilot sites with older people and persons with disabilities are presented. In addition, latest dissemination activities and exploitation strategies find their place in this issue which looks beyond the lifetime of the project. As always, news from research, policy and practice find can be found in the last part of our bi-annual newsletter.

Each issue is available both in accessible PDF format via:

<http://veritas-project.iti.gr/category/dissemination/newsletter/index.html>

A newsletter about:

- Project news
- Current policy developments
- Upcoming events
- Relative initiatives

Upcoming Events

AAATE 2013

19-22 September 2013
Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal
International Congress on
Design, Research
Networks, and Technology
for All

23-25 September 2013
Madrid, Spain

AAL Forum 2013

24-26 September 2013
Norrköping, Sweden
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
Interactive Technologies
and Games Conference

(iTag)

17-18 October 2013
Nottingham, UK

Final VERITAS Beneficiaries Forum

“Accessibility design at the service of age-friendly environments”

The 3rd VERITAS Beneficiaries' Forum “Accessibility design at the service of age-friendly environments” took place on 16 May 2013 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting targeted older people and people with disabilities, the beneficiaries of the VERITAS-designed tools and applications, and gathered about 30 participants to discuss the project approach to Design-for-All from the end-users' perspectives. Hosted as a workshop within AGE Platform Europe's General Assembly and annual Conference “[Towards an age-friendly EU by 2020](#)”, the event focused in particular on senior citizens, with AGE members ensuring the representation of older people in the meeting.

The agenda of the Forum was intentionally designed to target beneficiaries and to allow time for explanations and interaction. The forum allowed the VERITAS Consortium to cross-check its methodology and its findings through exchange on real life experiences by end users.



Figure 1 Snapshot from the last VERITAS beneficiaries forum

First, the project coordinator, Manfred Dangelmaier, introduced VERITAS highlighting its contributions to age-friendly environment and accessibility engineering and explaining how the user models have been built in order to fit into the VERITAS simulation platform. Next, Thanos Tsakiris from CERTH-ITI showed a number of demos informing the audience on how the VERITAS tools work in practice. The issue of user involvement has been taken on board in the project and the implication of real users in VERITAS has been consequently presented by Simon Edwards, presenting the first preliminary results of the pilot sites.

Then Rood Bond from the Netwell Center in Dublin explained the links between design, accessibility and age-friendly environments and how it is possible to improve the trial and error process in this context, moving from designing principles to the changing processes. He also stressed the lack of end-user involvement. The last presentation by Cesar Mediavilla Martinez from ATOS approached the business case for VERITAS, calling for a holistic approach able to integrate the economic and market dimension in the age-friendly debate. Moreover, during the discussion issues of standardization, affordability, usability and aesthetics came into the discussion, all of which will feed into the project's final phases and will be communicated to the European Commission as concrete conclusions and recommendations.

For more information you may contact [Ilenia Gheno](#) or [Nena Georgantzi](#).

VERITAS Pilots with beneficiaries

Pilots with beneficiaries are being conducted at locations in Germany, the UK, Spain, Greece, and Italy. Beneficiaries are the people who ultimately use the products and services i.e. older members of the public, many of whom experience one or more impairments.

The first phase of the pilots is taking place between April – June 2013. This is the phase where the applications (automotive, smart living, workplace, infotainment, healthcare) are tested without the specially-developed VERITAS tools which enhance accessibility of the products and services for older people. The findings from this phase will be made known to the VERITAS designers who will then improve the applications accordingly and make available the tools for the second phase. The phased approach to trials ensures that older people's input is taken into account throughout the development process. Phase 2, with the improved applications and tools takes place in August-September 2013.



Figure 2 Beneficiaries working together during the pilot testing

In Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) the phase 1 pilots have been completed. They involved 20 people using the infotainment and workplace applications. The trials consisted of an

introductory workshop and focus groups (9 & 10th April) followed by trial activities arranged at convenience of the participants throughout April-June. The workplace and meta-verse trials take place on PCs and the collaborative games trials on iPads. The participants have reasonably high levels of ICT use, most live independently, and they exhibit a range of impairments/ illnesses, although the trials consisted primarily of older people with visual and hearing impairments.

The findings are currently being analysed prior to dissemination to the application developers. It is expected that as far as possible the same participants will return for Phase 2 of the pilots with beneficiaries to provide consistency of analysis throughout the VERITAS pilot process.

VERITAS proposal for the ICT 2013 Event

The VERITAS team has sent an exhibit proposal to the ICT 2013 Event, which will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 6-8 November 2013. More than 4000 researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, industry representatives, young people and politicians are expected to visit the ICT 2013 Event. This year, the event will focus on "Horizon 2020" - the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2014-2020. The VERITAS exhibit proposal includes a summarized demonstration of the implemented accessibility assessment tools. More specifically, the VERITAS innovative features and vision around the accessibility assessment for the future products will be presented if the proposal will be eventually accepted. An emphasis has been given into describing the idea behind the Virtual User Models, as well as the underneath supporting simulation platform that has been developed under the last three years.

More information on the ICT 2012 Event can be found at: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict-2013>

VERITAS Business model

The business strategy of VERITAS outcomes is based on the use of the pieces of knowledge, the software, the hardware, and the human expertise cumulated during the project in a final holistic service for designers and developers. Thus, the business model considers the offer of technical solutions together with implementation guidelines, as well as training and consultancy services.

Combining the strong points of VERITAS research outputs, we could offer the market a more robust value proposition, as well as address different custom segments. In some cases, part of VERITAS outcomes could be offer for free: benefits → diffusion / knowledge. In other cases, the entire VERITAS toolkit plus specific services will be offer for a fee: benefits → revenues (see Figure 1).

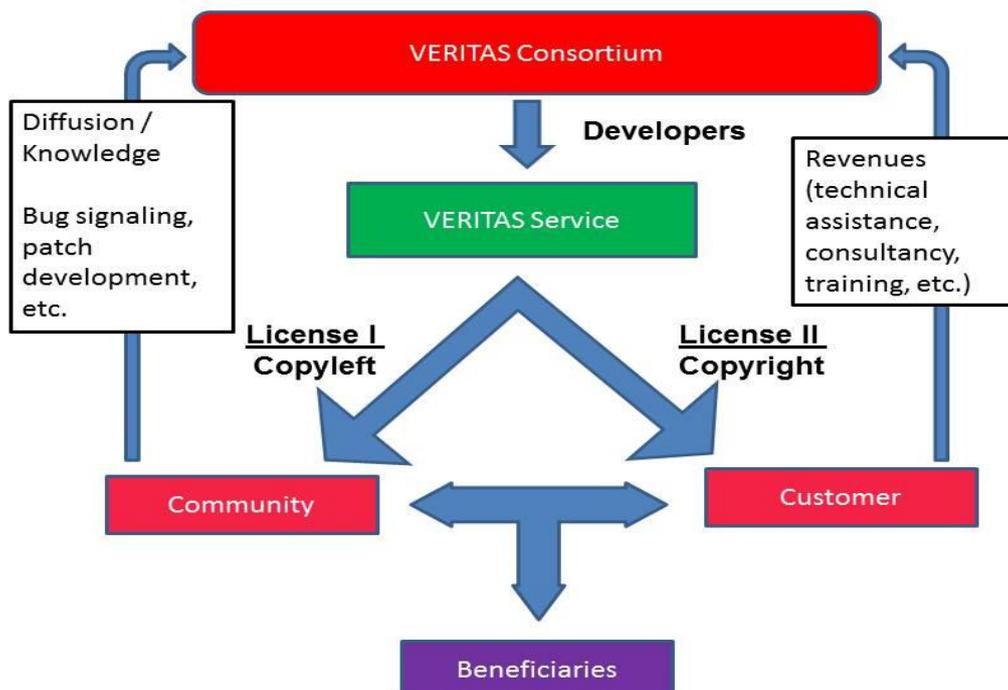


Figure 3 VERITAS business model

Instead of the one-shot sale of a mere product, the consultancy services are right way to deliver value to customers. The provided consultancy services could be:

Services/Solutions	How	Why
Technical solution and Guidelines Provide and help the implementation of VERITAS toolkits.	By offering an easily implementable software architecture embedded in the design and development environments used by designers/developers. Support is also provided by means of guides and process handbook.	The use of VERITAS at early design and development stage, when costs are compatible and accessibility solutions by design can be found, is much more cost-effective than adopting after market or through adaptations. Lessons learnt allow to overcome implementation difficulties.
Organisational and Technical consultancy Provide counseling to improve the accessibility of ICT and non-ICT Products and Services (P/S).	By offering a set of theoretical and practical tools that can be adopted by designers and developers from several fields to increase the quality and coverage of the accessibility P/S that are offered.	Cover a universal potential market. The constantly increasing number of people with disabilities is creating new opportunities Indirect benefits in the “design for all” (mainly through governmental measures). Additional challenges and applications developed according client needs.
Training and diffusion Customised trainings (on-line and face to face) according to client background about VERITAS Toolkit. Diffusion of alternative services offered by VERITAS.	The system can be adopted by corporations adding value to their design process. VERITAS training allows an easy integration of the toolkit in the design routine.	Technical components installed and evaluated by clients. Personalised training on how to adopt and implement VERITAS services: smooth, easy and quick acceptance of the tools.

The value potentially for product manufacturers by the VERITAS consultancy service consists in:

- the saving of time and effort in the process of designing accessible products that will be enabled by the use of VERITAS tools and knowledge
- the opportunity to cover a market segment (consisting in older people and people with disabilities) that was not previously covered, so generating a growth of potential market size.

Potential customers of such a consultancy service could choose the most suitable services for their business, ensuring the design 4 all in (at the moment) the following sectors: automotive, motorcycle sector, living spaces and software apps.

Consortium members have the capacity to engage with industry experts, researchers and developers, policy makers and other stakeholders to provide customised advice and support. At a first step, the idea is to draw on core competencies of direct response consulting and support services and collaborate with local or known partners to offer a breadth of targeted professional services, among others.

Integrated CAE solution for motorcycle rider comfort evaluation considering Virtual User Models

Digital human modelling is used in the Automotive and Powered Two Wheeler (PTW) industry for (physical) ergonomic design of cars and motorcycles. Currently available models and environments allow, among others, for simulation of basic human perception (e.g. visual) and interaction with the environment (e.g. reach) but do not concern the vibrational comfort of PTW riders.

Within the VERITAS project, LMS and Piaggio have been cooperating, for the development of digital models based on VERITAS Virtual User Models for ergonomic design of PTWs focusing on rider vibrational comfort. The outcome of this collaboration has been a method based on simulation that can be used to objectively evaluate the vibrational comfort during normal ride with a PTW using a detailed three-dimensional virtual

“Rider – PTW Model Assembly” developed in LMS Virtual.Lab Motion and validated through measurements (see figure below, centre).

Obtained results have been published in two conference papers:

[1] Erdélyi, H.; Kirchner, M.; Manzato, S.; Donders, S.: “*Multibody simulation with a virtual dummy for motorcycle vibration comfort assessment*”, Proc. ISMA 2012, Leuven, Belgium, Sept. 17-19, 2012 (http://www.isma-isaac.be/isma_conf/objectives.html).

[2] Manzato, S.; Kirchner, M.; Erdelyi, H.; Baglini, G.; Pieve, M.: “*Numerical and operational identification and assessment of motorcycle dynamics and comfort*”, Proc. ICEDYN 2013, Sesimbra, Portugal, June 17-19, 2013 (<http://www.icedyn.net>).

The ISMA2012 International Conference on Noise and Vibration Engineering [1] provided a forum for engineers, researchers and other professionals active in the field of modelling, analysing, testing and improving the noise and vibration characteristics of mechanical systems and civil structures and as such has been a perfect opportunity to publish the simulation method for vibrational comfort assessment, developed within the framework of the VERITAS project (see figure below, left).

Results of the measurement and validation campaign performed together with Piaggio have been presented at the ICEDyn2013 International Conference on Structural Engineering Dynamics conference [2] (see figure below, right), which was an excellent forum for discussions related to the area of Structural Engineering Dynamics (see figure below, right).



Figure 4 Snapshots from the two conferences

External news & policy developments

Commission proposal for a renewed Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP)

The European Commission has proposed a follow up to the [Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme \(AAL JP\)](#) for 2014 – 2020, to continue the success of the present programme in applied research for ageing well with ICT. The aim of the AAL JP is to support industry, in particular SME to bring digital innovative products and services for ageing well to the European market. Alignment with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA) could further boost deployment at European scale. More information can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/tackling-demographic-challenge-create-growth-and-jobs-commission-proposal-renewed-ambient>

Mobile accessibility database

The MMF-Mobile Manufacturers Federation, a network of mobile manufacturers, have developed the Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI) project providing a centralized information systems to help consumers with particular needs identify phones with the features that may assist them. This initiative, being carried out by several companies, is not linked to any specific brand, although it does not cover the whole mobile market (smaller manufacturers are not mentioned). This database is available in several languages: www.mobileaccessibility.info

Atis4all: Campaign around the launch of the collaborative portal on assistive technologies

The [Atis4all project](#) recently launched a portal of information and knowledge sharing on assistive technologies. This collaborative portal is an open and collaborative portal aiming to offer reliable information on ICT Assistive Technologies, inclusive



solutions and R&D initiatives, and fosters online discussion, exchange of knowledge, expertise and sharing of information among its different portal members. The portal aims to benefit all the key actors in the chain value of ICT ATs and accessibility products (from research centres to the end-users). The portal is live, new content is added daily and new features are planned to improve the user experience.

How can you benefit from the portal? Select your type of organisation to have an overview of the potential benefits for you: [End-user, familiar or carers](#), [Professional or user organisation](#), [University, R&D or standardisation organisation](#), [Industrial organisation](#), [Service, training or Institutional organisation](#), and [Governmental organisation](#).

Updated information on national and European best practices, legislation, market place and funding opportunities are available at <http://collaborativeportal.atis4all.eu>.

Launch of the Access City Award 2014: European Commission calls for entries from accessible cities across the EU

On 21 May the European Commission opened the competition for the fourth "Access City Award", the annual European Award for Accessible Cities, which celebrates cities that are dedicated to providing an accessible environment for all, and for disabled and older people in particular. The Award is part of the EU's wider efforts to create a barrier-free Europe: improved accessibility brings lasting economic and social benefits to cities, especially in the context of demographic ageing. Cities with at least 50,000 inhabitants have until 10 September (midnight CET) to submit their candidacy for the award.

Read more on the Award's website :

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/disabilities/award/index_en.htm

Vodafone Foundation 'Mobile for Good Europe Awards'



After the Smart Accessibility awards in 2011 and 2012, Vodafone Foundation, in collaboration with AGE Platform Europe and the European Disability Forum, is launching a new edition of the EU contest to recognize innovative mobile applications aiming to improve the lives of older people and people with disability and support their social inclusion and participation. The 'Mobile for Good Europe Awards' will reward iOS and Android applications in four categories: accessibility, mobilising public services, health and education. The call for entry is open until 15 October. Read more in the joint press release: <http://www.age-platform.eu/en/age-a-the-media/age-communication-to-the-media-press-releases/1664-vodafone-foundation-launches-first-mobile-for-good-europe-awards>

eAccess+ Survey on eAccessibility

The [eAccess+ project](#) has developed an eAccessibility knowledge HUB, an extensive wiki with information on Web Accessibility, Accessible Digital Television, Total Conversation, Self-service terminals (SSTs) and devices for banking and financial services, public transport, tourism and cultural heritage, e-government, and accessible documents. The project now wishes to know what different stakeholders expect from the eAccess+ network to work on in the next years. If you wish to contribute to shaping the future activities on eAccessibility, you may fill in a short survey indicating the needs and expectations of your organization. The survey is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/eAccessPlus>

The eAccessibility knowledge HUB can be found online: http://hub.eaccessplus.eu/wiki/Main_Page

Zero Project call for nominations of innovative policies and practices in the field of accessibility

The [Zero Project](#)'s mission is to research the most outstanding Innovative Practices and Innovative Policies worldwide by engaging leading experts in the nomination and evaluation process. Following the great success of the second annual Zero Project Conference, entitled Employment Rights: Innovative Policies and Innovative Practices for Persons with Disabilities, held in Vienna at the end of February 2013, the theme of next year's conference is going to be Accessibility as a human right: Innovative Policies and Innovative Practices. The project is now looking for nominations of innovative policies and practices to participate in their research and be presented at the event. The deadline to submit nominations is July 29, 2013, while more information on the process is available on the website: <http://www.zero-project.org/about/nominations/>.

BBC Draft standards and guidelines for mobile accessibility

The BBC accessibility team which works to ensure they deliver web content and applications that are accessible to disabled audiences has recently developed Draft Mobile Accessibility Standards and Guidelines aiming to improve the accessibility of web content for mobile sites and native apps. These are available online: http://www.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/futuremedia/accessibility/mobile_access.shtml. for more information: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/internet/posts/Accessibility-Mobile-Apps>

VERITAS project meetings

The next VERITAS Plenary Meeting will take place in Madrid on 24-25 September 2013.

VERITAS Deliverables

VERITAS released a number of public deliverables, which you can download from <http://veritas-project.iti.gr/category/news/deliverables/index.html>

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