

Unlocking the Potential of ICT to Enhance the Quality of Life of Older Persons – The AAL Joint Programme

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Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme I

Joint research and development (R & D) funding activity by 23 European Member States and Associated States with the financial support of the European Community.

- The AAL Joint Programme is a Member state driven programme.
- Member States and Associated States act on the pre-existing basis of existing or envisaged national R&D programmes which provide the framework for the national participations.

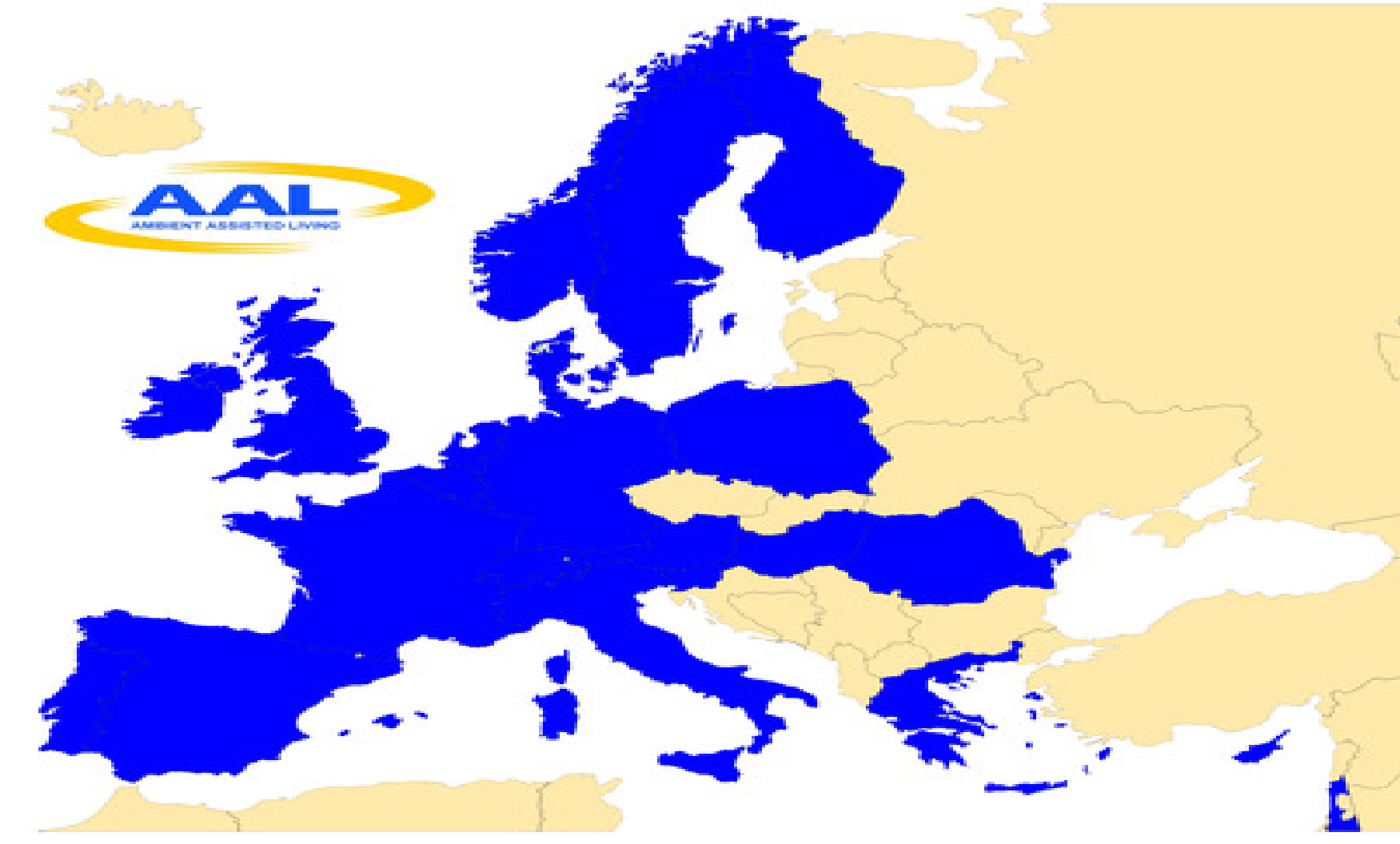


Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme II

- EC participation based on article 169 of the EC treaty (25 M€ / year), concerning the participation of the Community in research programmes jointly undertaken by several Member States, including participation in the structures created for the execution of those programmes.
- 2008 – 2013, total scope 600 M€ of which 50% public funding (contributions of the national programmes and the EC contribution), 50% private funding from the participating organisations.
- Complements the 7th Framework Programme of the EU.



AAL JP Partner States





Overall objectives ...

"The overall objective of the AAL joint programme is to enhance the quality of life of older people and strengthen the industrial base in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)."

- Quality of life of elderly people
- Strengthening the industrial base in Europe
- Use of ICT

Specific aims ...

"Foster the emergence of innovative ICT-based products, services and systems for ageing well at home, in the community, and at work, thus increasing the quality of life, autonomy, participation in social life, skills and employability of elderly people, and reducing the costs of health and social care;"

- Products, services and systems
- At home, in the community, at work

Specific aims ...

"Create critical mass of research, development and innovation at EU level in technologies and services for ageing well in the information society, including the establishment of a favourable environment for participation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);"

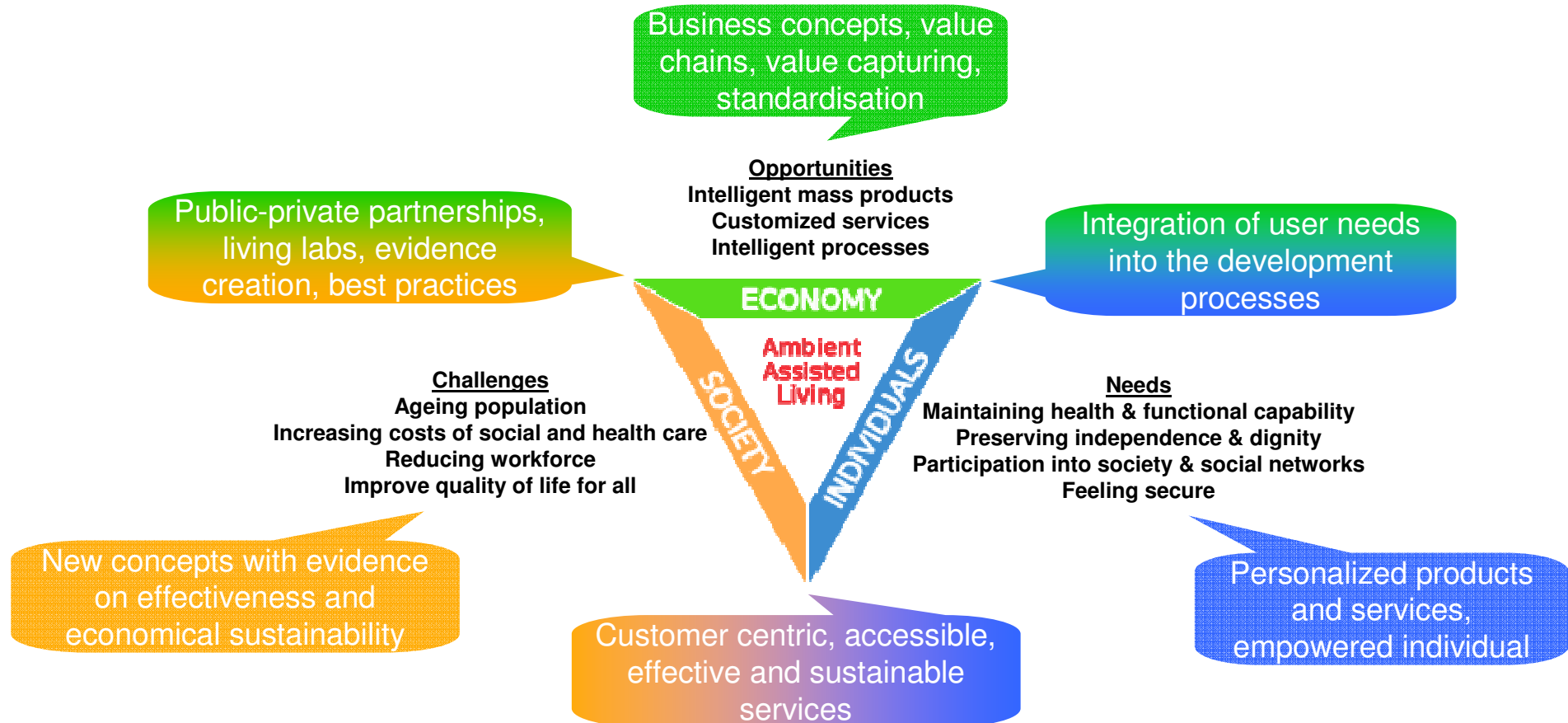
- Boost R&D activities at EU level
- Implementation that improves SME participation

Specific aims ...

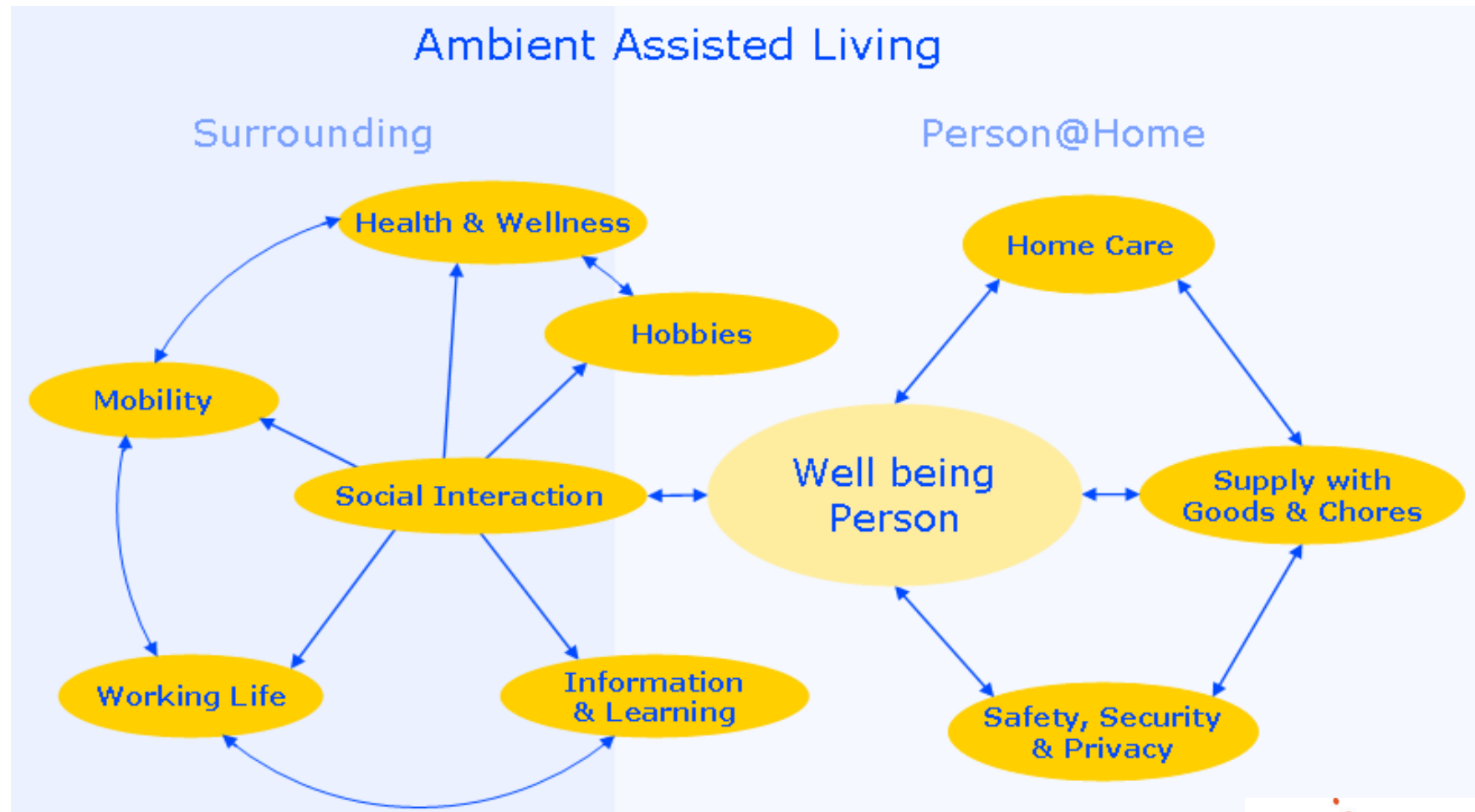
"Improve conditions for industrial exploitation by providing a coherent European framework for developing common approaches and facilitating the localisation and adaptation of common solutions which are compatible with varying social preferences and regulatory aspects at national or regional level across Europe."

- Improve industrial exploitation
- Ensure compatibility with different European regions, cultures and regulatory framework

Needs and opportunities



Thematic areas of the AAL Joint Programme



Calls in the AAL JP

- Each AAL JP call for proposals is predefined to meet a specific subsection of the defined focus area and application areas.
- Each of the calls will address one or more specific theme(s) or topic(s) from the AAL topic group.

E.g. first call 2008: Home Care / Health & Wellness:

ICT based solutions for prevention and management of chronic conditions of elderly people (23 funded projects)



AAL JP Structure: Advantages for proposers

Collaboration of Nationale Programmes offers a relatively low barrier approach:

- **proposers are often already familiar with the national funding schemes,**
 - **communication with NCPs facilitates the participation.**
-
- focus on SME
 - focus on end-users involvement
 - regional differences often of importance



... common European funding activity, national participation rules

... interplay of European and national responsibilities ...

- Central submission of proposals (one proposal per consortium)
- General and national eligibility criteria
- Central evaluation and selection of proposals
- National funding agreements and administration of the funded projects



General Eligibility Criteria (1)

Projects funded under the AAL Joint Programme will be multinational, collaborative and cost-shared.

- Submission of a complete proposal through the AAL electronic submission system, before the deadline, as specified in the Call for Proposals
- English as the language of the proposal
- Adherence to the specifications for structure and technical details (e.g. page count) of the proposal submission



General Eligibility Criteria (2) Consortium Composition

- Consortium composition of **at least 3 independent eligible organizations** (legal entities), **from at least 3 different AAL Partner States** participating in the Call for Proposals
- Consortium must include at least one eligible business partner
- Consortium must include at least **one eligible SME** partner which can be the business partner
(Important: Significant involvement of industry and other business partners, particularly SMEs, i.e.: the budget/effort associated with these partners should be in balance with those of other partner)
- Consortium must **include at least one eligible end-user organization**



Guidelines for AAL project characteristics

Time-to-market perspective of 2 to 3 years after the project end

- Size of the consortium: 3 –10 partners
- Duration of the project: 12 –36 months
- Project total budget: 1 -7 M€
- Maximum funding from the AAL Joint Programme: 3 M€.

- The projects must demonstrate:
 - significant industry involvement, particularly SMEs (i.e.: the budget/effort associated with non-industrial R&D institutions should not outweigh that of the remaining partners)
 - realistic trial set-up at the end of the project
 - proactive end-user involvement throughout the life of the project
 - Defined market segment(s), use cases and target group(s) and address the wishes and needs of these specific groups



What organisations are eligible?

Eligible for funding are only organisations that are explicitly included in the national eligibility criteria (available from the Call website: Information for proposers on the national funding rules).

Non eligible Organisations (not eligible for funding according to national rules or not residing in any AAL partner state) may be included in a project

- **without funding from the AAL JP, but they**
- **cannot be crucial for the project's implementation and they**
- **will not be taken into consideration when assessing the project proposal against the eligibility criteria and project characteristics as stated above.**



Country specific information to the 2nd AAL call

Example: Austria (1)

Programme Owner	Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, http://www.bmvit.at
Funding Commitment *	2.5 Mio. € (subject of written approval)
National Programme	Austrian project partners at the 2nd AAL call are administered under the Programme benefit: http://www.ffg.at/benefit
AAL National Contact Person	Dr. Gerda Geyer, Tel:+43(0)5 7755 -4205, gerda.geyer@ffg.at ...
Eligible Institutions and Funding Quota	Enterprises ... research organisations ... Associations ... Public bodies ...



Country specific information to the 2nd AAL call

Example: Austria (2)

Eligible Costs	Personnel costs of research staff members of the project; Costs of hardware and equipment (RTD investments); other costs material costs, travel costs), consultancy costs; Overhead costs of personnel costs ...
Eligibility Criteria	... Please note: All Austrian partners in project consortia will have to submit a complete Form C for Austrian Organisations by the closing date of the call. Companies also have to submit their commercial register number and the balance sheets of the last three years.
Further Guidance	Participation rules and other documents of the Programme benefit can be retrieved from http://www.ffg.at/benefit

... other Country specific eligibility criteria in call 2

- Israel, Luxembourg/luxinnovation, United Kingdom: No funding of Universities and Research Organisations
- Ireland and Belgium: Check the eligibility of research institutions with the NCP
- Denmark: Organisations can only participate if there is at least one Danish SME in the consortium
- Italy: public organisations, universities and research centers must apply for funding together with an industrial partner
- Belgium: eligibility of partners is restricted to the Flemish region
- ...

Evaluation performed by independent European experts

Selection of projects

Guided by the outcome of the evaluation process, the final selection of projects for funding will be made using the following principles:

- Maximizing the total quality of the project portfolio of the Call
- Optimizing the usage of the available funding of the Call
- Ensuring thematic spread / avoiding directly overlapping projects
- Ensuring participation of project partners from as many AAL Partner States participating in the Call as possible

Evaluation Criteria

1. Relevance
2. Scientific and technical quality
3. Quality of the consortium and efficiency of the implementation
4. Potential impact

Each criterion will be scored on a 5-point scale:

5=excellent, 4=good, 3=acceptable, 2=defective, 1=failed

Threshold=3

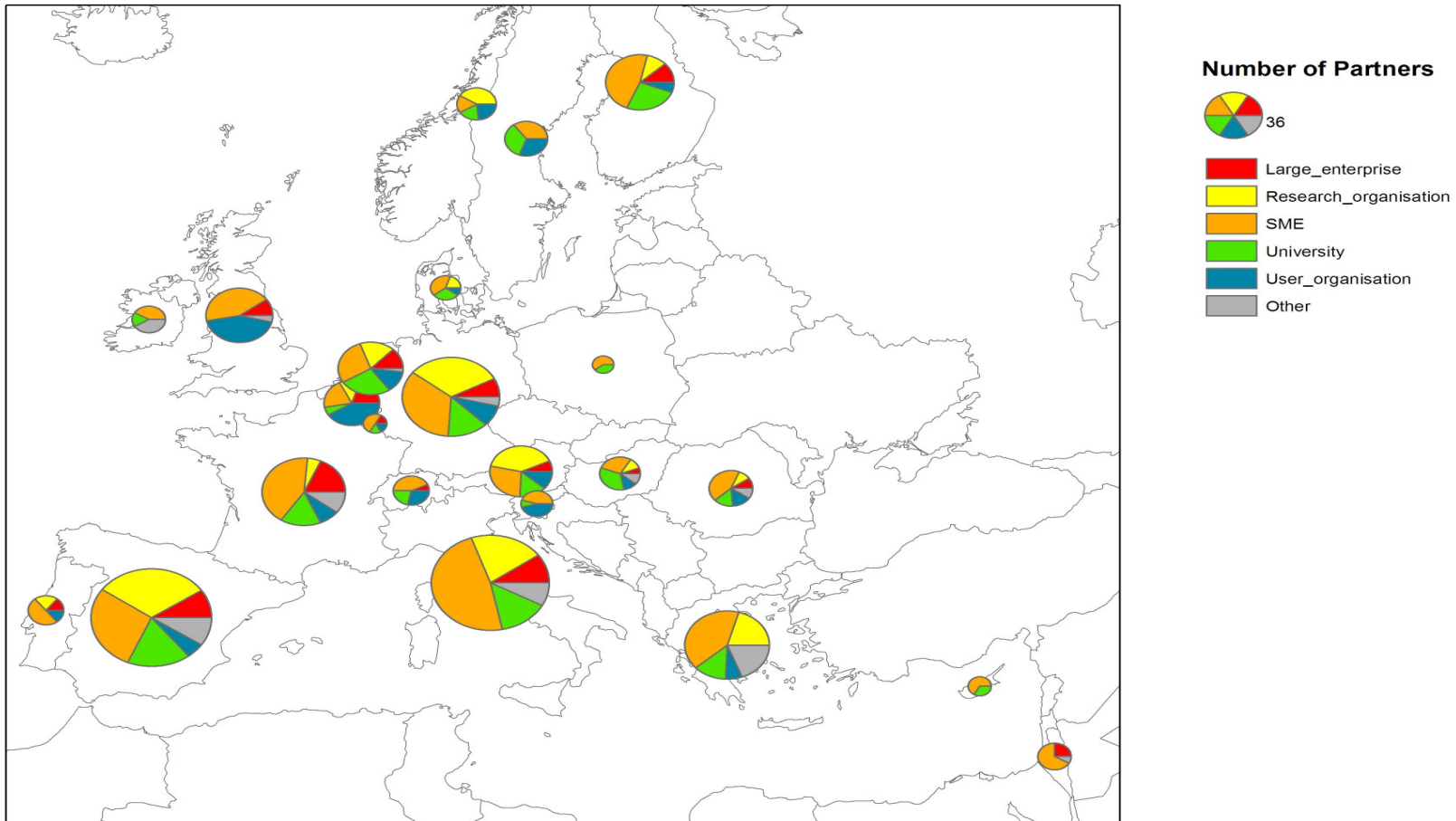
Criterion 1 and 2: weight=1, criterion 3 and 4: weight=2



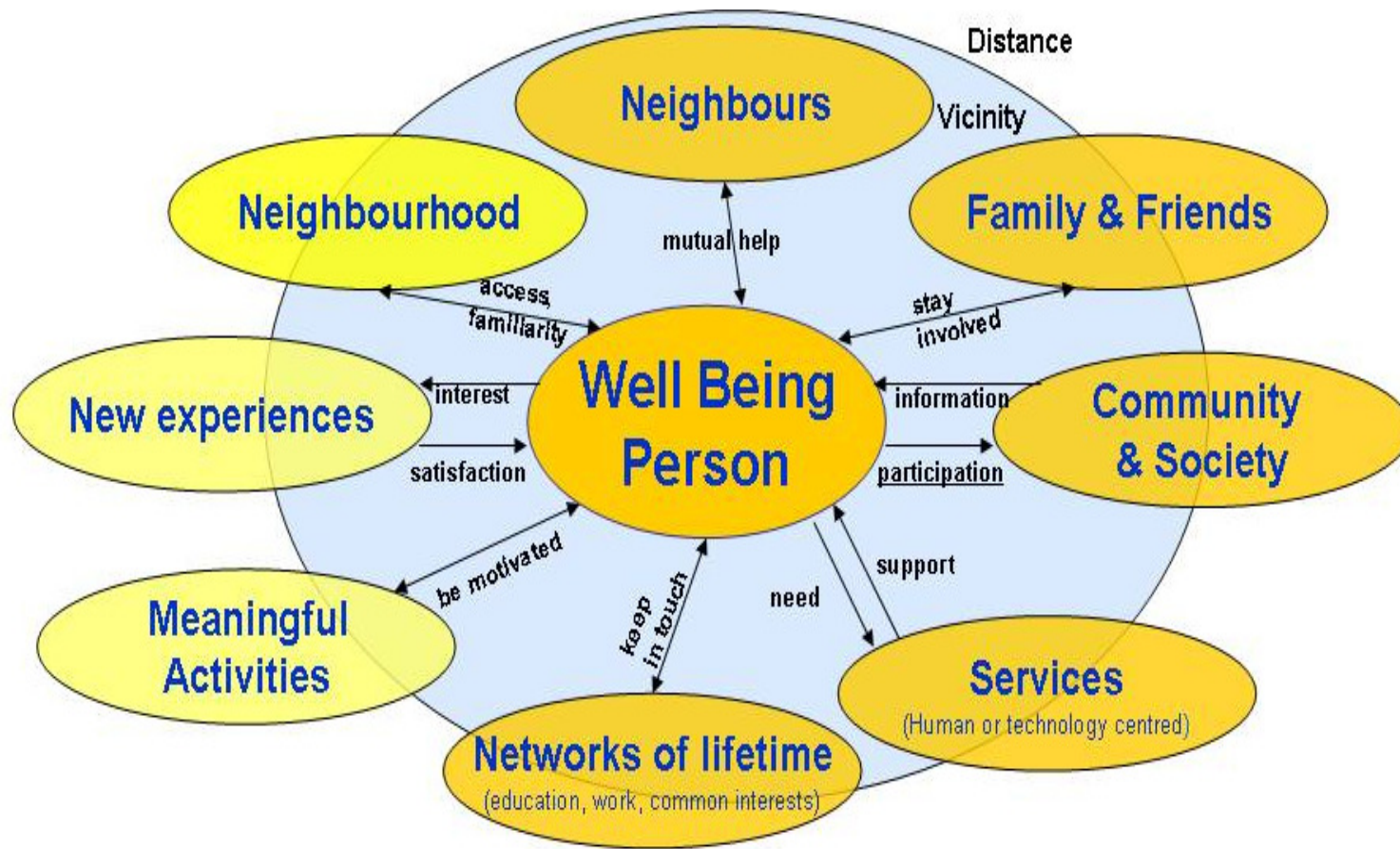
Funding decisions for the selected AAL projects

- Partners in successful project proposals receive the grant agreement from their national Programme Management Agency
 - Funding levels, conditions, reporting, eligible costs, audit etc. according to the national rules
 - Required complementary information to be submitted to the national agency (e.g. financial information)
 - Financial viability check by the national agency
 - No evaluation of the contents of the proposal at the national agency
 - Streamlined process ensuring a common start date

Participation in the First Call for Proposals



Second Call: ICT based Solutions for Advancement of Social Interaction of Elderly People



Call AAL-2009-2 - 104 submitted proposals

104 proposals were received in response to the call and all were evaluated.

- **Call figures**

- Total budget 282 Mio €
- Total requested funding 163 Mio €
- Total available funding budget **60.9 Mio €**
- Average quota requested funding vs. total project costs 61 %
- Total person-months efforts 34,248
- Average costs per person-month 8,443 €
- Total number of partners 762
- Average partners per proposal **7.3**
- Average total budget per proposal **2.71 Mio €**
- Average funding request per proposal **1.57 Mio €**

Information in this presentation is preliminary and thus subject to changes. Read carefully the call documents of Call 3 when they become available

www.aal-europe.eu/aal-2009-3

It is highly recommended to consult with the National Funding Agency prior to submission of a proposal.



Thank you!

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<http://www.ffg.at/aal>, <http://www.aal-europe.eu>

<http://www.ffg.at/benefit>