Newsflash May 2015 - ENTELIS

ENTELIS is soon to reach the halfway point of the project!

We are pleased to announce that on June 30, 2015, ENTELIS will reach the halfway milestone of the project lifetime. At this stage, project partners are actively working on the development of the ENTELIS Network and discussing the project's sustainability objectives. These discussions, among other things, have been included in the agenda of the partnership's **First Steering Board Meeting**, which will take place on **June 2 and 3, 2015** in Linz, Austria. The objective of the meeting is not only to discuss the progress on project implementation, but also to take a strategic view on the network's future mission, activities, format and positioning.

Another important agenda item is the discussion related to the **Second ENTELIS Seminar**, which will take place on **November 12 and 13, 2015**. One of the likely hosts of the event is Dublin, Ireland. Project partners will decide upon the content, programme and speakers for the seminar. The local organiser is the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, one of the ENTELIS partners. The partnership kindly invites you to save the above-mentioned dates and to regularly check the website for further information.

- Asel Kadyrbaeva, EASPD

Project SPEECHLESS introduces LormGlove portable communication device

for deaf-blind users

ENTELIS aims to develop a technology enhanced learning in an inclusive society. It aims to help bridge the digital divide in Europe and worldwide by promoting the acquisition of digital skills and abilities to make effective use of assistive technology. The LormGlove for deaf-blind (developed within the project SPEECHLESS, Design Research Lab Berlin, University of Arts) is a prime example of successful combination of know-how, innovative strength and technology: It enables people with disabilities to participate in today's digital world and thus helps to reduce the digital divide.

One of the aims of project Speechless is to enable deaf-blind individuals to access digital information and communication media, in order to foster autonomy and participation, both online and offline. The LormGlove is a portable communication device allowing a deaf-blind user to send and receive messages over a distance. It can interpret Lorm Alphabet signs through pressure sensors and relay them to a smartphone, tablet or desktop computer. It can also receive text from a device and play it back as Lorm Alphabet signs through tactile actuators.

Messages can be translated to and from speech; as well as to and from different languages. Using the LormGlove, a deaf-blind individual can communicate with those not familiar with the Lorm Alphabet, in a group or over a distance. The LormGlove allows deaf-blind users to stay in touch with friends, but also to browse and participate in online social networks.

The LormHand is a public interactive installation through which deaf-blind individuals can post messages online. Users can write Lorm Alphabet Signs on the surface of the LormHand, composing a message which can then be posted on Facebook and Twitter. The LormHand allows deaf-blind individuals to express themselves to a broad and widespread audience. At the same time, it raises awareness towards the deaf-blind cause, both with online communities as well as among visitors on location. The LormHand can also be used as an educational tool, to learn and practice the Lorm Alphabet.

The LormGlove and LormHand represent two distinct approaches towards accessibility of digital media. One is designed for personal use and two-way communication; the other, for public use as an educational tool. Both approaches make it possible for deaf-blind individuals to access digital content and communicate remotely, helping them to understand and take part in the world around them - something which most of us take for granted.

See LormGlove and LormHand video on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW2FoVVrkEg.

Follow @LormHand on Twitter!

- Andrea Solander-Groß, EVBB

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for fellows: ASSISTID-Marie Curie proposals 2015

ASSISTID is a EUR 9 million EU Marie Curie co-fund (www.assistid.eu) which will fund 40 post-doctoral fellows over the next 4 years in research projects into Assistive Technologies for intellectual disabilities and autism. The programme is coordinated by the DOCTRID Research Institute, a research network of all the universities in Ireland together with partners in the UK and USA, the charity RESPECT and the Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services.

The DOCTRID Research Institute invites submissions for research proposals in the area of Assistive Technologies for:

- Intellectual Disability;
- Autism Spectrum Disorders;
- Intellectual Disability with Dementia.

Competitive proposals will address how quality of life, independence, social inclusion and service provision can be enhanced through the use of Assistive Technologies; either by the application or adaptation of existing technologies or by the development of new technologies.

ASSISTID Fellowship benefits:

- Generous Fellowship award (EUR 80,000 to EUR 100,000/year including mobility, training and consumables);
- Fellows will join the prestigious Marie Curie network;
- Training & research opportunities within the international DOCTRID Research Institute.

Social and Behavioural Scientists, Occupational Therapists, Behavioural Psychologists, Speech and Language therapists, Life Scientists, Computer Scientists, Engineers and Healthcare professionals are all welcome to apply.

Deadline for submission of applications:

- Rolling call closes June 30, 2015;
- Second call opens from July 1 to September 30, 2015.

Visit www.assistid.eu for more information on research areas and to submit your application.

Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities

Google.org has launched the **Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities**, an initiative aimed at supporting ideas focused on expanding opportunities and independence for people with disabilities. The initiative is looking for ideas that use emerging technologies to work toward this goal, and through the rest of 2015, it is committing USD 20 million in grants to non-profit organisations to fund them.

If you do not have an idea for the project yet, you are invited to share your questions by submitting a "what if…" on the website if the organisation.

For more information about Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities visit the Official Google Blog.

For more information about requirements, eligibility criteria and a link to apply visit website g.co/OpenCallDisabilities.