Initiated in 2003, the ICOST conference aims to develop an active research community dedicated to explore how Smart Homes and Health Telematics can foster independent living and offer an enhanced quality of life for ageing and disabled people. In the past six years this community has grown, with conferences held in Europe, Asia and north America. For its seventh edition, ICOST is back in France where it was created. This will provide the opportunity to reflect upon the past 7 years in addition to looking forward to plan for the years ahead.

A Smart Home can be considered to be an augmented environment with the ability to consolidate embedded computers, information appliances, micro/nano systems, and multi-modal sensors to offer people unprecedented levels of access to information and assistance from information and communication technology. Health Telematics makes the most of networks and telecommunications to provide, within the home environment, health services, expertise and information and hence radically transform the way health-related services are conceived and delivered. We believe that in the future ageing and disabled people will use smart assistive technology to perform daily living activities, socialize, and enjoy entertainment and leisure activities.

Current advances in enabling technologies coupled with evolving care paradigms allow us to foresee novel applications and services for improving the quality of life for ageing and disabled people both inside and outside of their homes. The conference will present the latest approaches and technical solutions in the area of Smart Homes, Health Telematics, and emerging enabling technologies. Specifically we wish to provide the opportunity to present the latest results in the successes of real deployment of systems and services. This addresses technical and social solutions beyond the home environment and covers the use of assistive technologies in the heart of the community. Technical topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Intelligent Environments with emphasis on Smart Homes
- Personal Medical Data Collection and Processing (Health Vaults)
- Devices, Systems and Algorithms for Vision/Hearing/ Cognitive/Communication Impairments
- Home Networks and Residential Gateways
- Human-Machine Interface and Ambient Intelligence
- Home Health Monitoring and Intervention
- Wearable Sensors / Integrated Micro/Nano Systems
- Tele-Assistance and Tele-Rehabilitation
- Assistive and Rehabilitative Robotics and Smart Wheelchairs
- Context Awareness/Autonomous Computing
- Middleware Support for Smart Home and Health Telematic Services
- Modelling of Physical and Conceptual Information in Intelligent Environments
- Real-World Deployments and Experiences in Smart Homes, Hospitals, and Living Communities
- Elder Perspectives on Smart Home Technologies
- Assistive Technology to Improve Quality of Life for Older Adults and their Caregivers
- Gerontechnology, Social Science and Health Care Technology

Each year ICOST has a specific theme. ICOST2003 focused on usability. The theme was "Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly People." The theme for ICOST2004 was "Towards a Human-Friendly Assistive Environment." The ICOST2005 theme was "From Smart Homes to Smart Care." For ICOST2006, it was "Smart Homes and Beyond" and ICOST2007 had the theme of "Pervasive Computing Perspectives for Quality of Life Enhancement". Last year the theme of ICOST2008 was "Gerontechnology: Enhancing the Quality of Life for Rural Elders". ICOST2009 will focus on the extension of the home environment towards open living spaces within the city. The theme of the Conference this year will therefore be "Ambient assistive health and wellness management in the heart of the city".

ICOST2009 will have the focus on the deployment of technology and usage with the involvement of both industrials and end users. Demonstration sessions and brainstorming sessions with users will be organised in addition to regular paper and poster presentation sessions.

Tours is proud to extend its hospitality to the international core community in assistive technology, so let us use this opportunity to improve our research and innovation strategies to provide a strong impact at a societal and economical level with the core objective of improving the quality of life of dependant people world-wide.

Submission

There will be a combination of presentations including scientific papers, posters and technology demonstrations. Prospective authors are invited, in the first instance, to submit papers for oral presentation in any of the areas of interest for this conference. The initial submission for evaluation should be in the form of a 4-8 page paper outline. Authors are strongly recommended to submit the full 8-page English language version. Springer LNCS format should be used for submission.

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