

COST Actions

A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for 4 years. COST Actions are typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions and other relevant organisations or interested parties.

Source: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/what-are-cost-actions/>

By focusing on networking activities, COST Actions help to advance knowledge and strengthen the research and development sector, by creating networking opportunities for researchers to meet and discuss ideas, complex problems can be addressed in a targeted way, across a large geographical area.

We present here, two relevant results.

Report on SHAFE policies, strategies and funding

- **SHAFE (Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments) -**

CA19136 - International Interdisciplinary Network on Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments (NET4AGE-FRIENDLY)

The objective of Working Group 4 of the **COST Action NET4Age-Friendly** is to examine existing policies, advocacy, and funding opportunities and to build up relations with policy makers and funding organisations. Also, to synthesize and improve existing knowledge and models to develop from effective business and evaluation models, as well as to guarantee quality and education, proper dissemination and ensure the future of the Action. The Working Group further aims to enable capacity building to improve interdisciplinary participation, to promote knowledge exchange and to foster a cross-European interdisciplinary research capacity, to improve cooperation and co-creation with cross-sectors stakeholders and to introduce and educate students SHAFE implementation and sustainability (CB01, CB03, CB04, CB05). To enable the achievement of the objectives of Working Group 4, the Leader of the Working Group, the Chair and Vice-Chair, in close cooperation with the Science Communication Coordinator, developed a template to map the current state of SHAFE policies, funding opportunities and networking in the COST member countries of the Action. On invitation, the Working Group lead received contributions from 37 countries, in a total of 85 Action members. The contributions provide an overview of the diversity of SHAFE policies and opportunities in Europe and beyond. These were not edited or revised and are a result of the main areas of expertise and knowledge of the contributors; thus, gaps in areas or content are possible and these shall be further explored in the following works and reports of this WG. But this preliminary mapping is of huge importance to proceed with the WG activities. In the following chapters, an introduction on the need of SHAFE policies is presented, followed by a summary of the main approaches to be pursued for the next period of work. The deliverable finishes with the opportunities of capacity building, networking and funding

that will be relevant to undertake within the frame of Working Group 4 and the total COST Action. The total of country contributions is presented in the annex of this deliverable.

SHAFE / NET4Age-Friendly was recognised by the United Nations as a good practice. The United Nations launched an Open call for good practices, success stories and lessons learned by all stakeholders in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. More than 700 submissions were reviewed by a team of experts from United Nations entities and “SHAFE implemented through NET4Age-Friendly” was one of the recognized good practices from all over the world.

Source: <https://zenodo.org/record/5809073#.Y5cr7nZBxD8>



The image shows the cover page of a report. It features a dark blue background with a white geometric shape on the left containing text. On the right, there is a white geometric shape containing the NET4 age-friendly logo. At the bottom, there is a blue triangle containing text and the COST logo.

Working Group 4
SHAFE impact and sustainability:
policy development, funding forecast
and cost benefit evaluations

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NET4
age-friendly

International Interdisciplinary
Network on Smart Healthy
Age-friendly Environments

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Position paper on ethical, legal and social challenges linked to audio- and video-based AAL solutions

CA19121 - Network on Privacy-Aware Audio- and Video-Based Applications for Active and Assisted Living (GoodBrother)

Working Group 1 on Social Responsibility: Ethical, legal, social, data protection and privacy issues launched “Position paper on ethical, legal and social challenges linked to audio- and video-based AAL solutions”.

Experts from diverse disciplines are analysing the ethical, legal, data protection and privacy issues associated with the use of cameras and microphones in private spaces, and how to manage multi-party privacy preferences. They also study the differences according to gender and cultural/societal background in the perception of these issues. This WG aims to establish the core requirements that AAL solutions must fulfil to consider ethico-legal issues and to integrate privacy by design and by default. Those requirements will set up the guidelines for the technical WGs (WG2, WG3 and WG4).

The Workgroup goals are:

- Review the current European and international legislation and the ethical issues that underpin this on the use of audio- and video-based monitoring in private environments.
- Study the differences in the perception of privacy depending on the culture, society, gender and age of the users, and analyse the situations and conditions in later life, i.e. occurrence of a fall, which may affect that perception.
- Investigate the potential benefits and barriers of AAL technology adoption for people in need of care.
- Support the development of privacy-aware monitoring systems by a continuous exchange of knowledge with technological participants in the Action.
- Promote the consideration of ethical, legal, privacy and gender matters in the design of AAL solutions. Inform other WGs on the ethico-legal requirements in the design and development of AAL solutions.

In this position paper, they have used Alan Cooper’s persona technique to illustrate the utility of audio- and video-based AAL technologies. Therefore, two primary examples of potential audio- and video-based AAL users, Anna and Irakli, serve as reference points for describing salient ethical, legal and social challenges related to use of AAL.

These challenges are presented on three levels: individual, societal, and regulatory. For each challenge, a set of policy recommendations is suggested.

Source: <https://zenodo.org/search?page=1&size=20&q=goodbrother>

These publications are based upon work from COST Action GoodBrother – Network on Privacy-Aware Audio- and Video-Based Applications for Active and Assisted Living, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation. www.cost.eu