



Monitoring of the elderly with sensors in their homes in rural areas.



Zamora, Spain



Flat and river; Predominantly rural regions, both close to a city and remote regions



Led by: Zamora County Council

Dynamo partner: D3 - Diputación Zamora (Zamora County Council)



Regional funding, 300.000€

Local services, health and wellbeing

Connected devices for care and wellbeing services; Employment and employability initiatives; Education; Bottom-up initiatives for care; Housing

Aim

The solution aimed to provide to the rural communities:

1. Accompanying and monitoring older people who live alone in their rural environment.
2. Increasing security so that these people can stay in their homes for as long as possible.
3. Creation of a new job in the municipalities: a caregiver ("Silver Caregiver") who not only watches over the technology that monitors these people, but also accompanies them and helps them in their daily tasks.

To sum up, on one hand, the solution involves the installation of sensors in different rooms of the houses to monitor older people (with necessary guarantees of privacy and intimacy), aiming to identify and alert possible anomalies that could lead to serious incidents. On the other hand, it contemplates the role of a companion who provides

support to these individuals and interprets the information coming from these sensors.

The implementation of technology in the care and attention of the elderly aims to "ensure the elderly person's continued presence in their own environment" guaranteeing their quality of life and well-being within their own home. Technological tools enable remote care based on the Internet of Things system, as well as monitoring of routines within the home, generating significant, preventive, and real-time attention information. Sensors used are non-invasive that respects the privacy of the individuals

The solution was generated through a participatory process when implementing the Silver Economy Strategy of Zamora County Council (2020).



Stakeholders involved

- Policy stakeholders
- Researchers
- Stakeholders in the industry/ services/ investors domain
- Stakeholders in the public/user domain
- Stakeholders from the third/voluntary sector



Picture Caption

Story

The solution started with a pilot project implemented in the Municipality of Villafáfila (Zamora, Spain) in 2021, where some obstacles appeared:

1. the lack of financial resources that was partially tackled with volunteering support from the Municipality and Zamora County Council employees and the four volunteers companions. For the resistance to change when facing the new technology and digital tools, mainly by the elderly.
2. the heterogeneity of the involved agents.

To address these obstacles, for the solution implemented in the 17 municipalities was necessary:

1. ask for grants at regional and national level.
2. active listening from all stakeholders and beneficiaries involved to support the design of a strong dissemination plan.
3. a detailed planning with clear assignment of roles and responsibilities.

Impact of the solution:

Participating municipalities: 17.

Total intervened users (elderly individuals): 202. 17 women hired as Silver Caregivers.

Training course for Silver Caregivers: 60 trainees (mostly women from rural areas).

Service satisfaction: Users and families: On a scale of 1-10, the overall rating has been 8. Families feel secure and relieved with the system because they can know their family member's situation in real time. Many of the relatives live in other communities or provinces and can thus have control over their family members. The application records provide them with all the information they need. They have information on how and when routines are happening.

Professionals: On a scale of 1-10, the rating in this regard averages 8.5. It is interesting to note that professionals miss a complementary system for instant assistance, and it is also important to refine some sensors that detect animal movements or other environmental vibrations that are sometimes not caused by the user. New funds for new projects in other municipalities.

The management of the solution was transferred to the Regional Public body (Junta de Castilla y León) in order to guarantee the solution's sustainability in the long term.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

Biodiversity



Social justice and inclusion



Climate change mitigation and adaptation



INNOVATION

Social, organizational and governance



Financial and business models innovation



Digital and technological innovation



Technical innovation



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