IST application systems for e-accessibility for all

- Reflections from the SeniorWatch Study -

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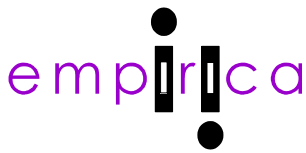

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Demographic Development:

- **Economic implications such as declining labour force**
  (e.g. EU average incr. of 50% in old age dependency ratio by 2030)
- **Societal implications such as risk of "digital divide"**
  (e.g. regular Internet usage: 64% of higher educated youngsters vs. 1,7 % of less educated older people)
- **Increasing prevalence of chronic disease and more people in need of support**
  (e.g. increase of no. of disabled people living at home; 29% in SW and 54% in France by 2020)
- **Mounting cost pressure on public services**
  (e.g. outlays increase by 6,75% of GDP in EU due to combined effect of spending on pensions, health care and education by 2050)

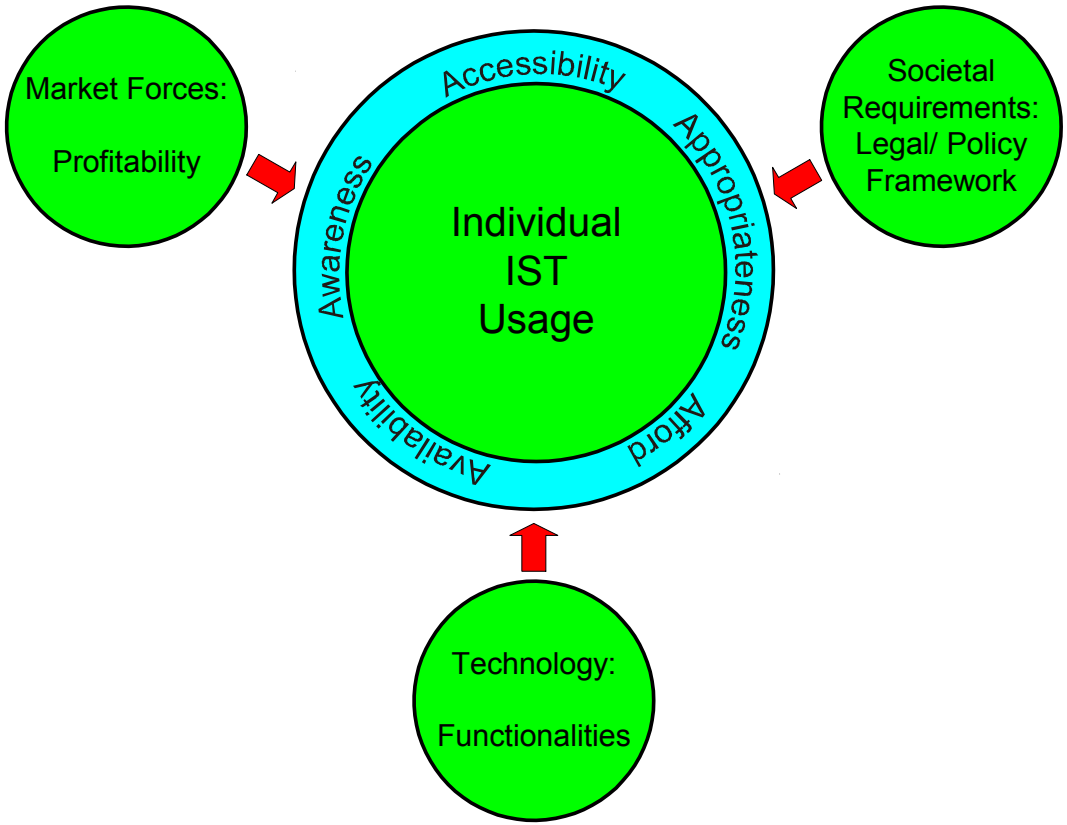
Increasing possibilities through IST:

- Mobile communication devices integrated with AT such as navigation support, alarm functionality and health monitoring systems enhance independent living
- Tele-supported home care in combination with smart home systems increasingly reduces need for living in institutions
- etc.

Lessons to be learned :

- Teleworking - technology-driven scenarios from early 80ies much too optimistic (various studies)
- Telemedicine - huge amount of pilots but during 90ies very limited use in day-to-day routine up to now (SATS study)
- Internet - despite dot.com boom low longer-term acceptance of online services (Cyber Dialogue)

Holistic perspective required:



Prospects re professional IST usage:

- The integration of the care/health processes through telematics is estimated to save 36 billion Dollar per year in the US; estimates for Germany : 10% to 20 %
  (German Expert Report)

- The overwhelming majority of European health care establishments uses IT for internal administrative purposes but not for communicating with other doctors or patients (SATS study)

Outlook:

- Need for a better understanding of the “social shaping” of IST
- Need for a better understanding of the market dynamics
- Need for a better understanding of the possibilities new main stream technologies provide

Holistic SeniorWatch approach:

Tangible outcomes:

Empirical information:

- Representative EU-wide market data
- Country reports (EU, USA, Japan)
- Case studies

Analysis:

- Technology watch report
- Status-quo regarding IST usage in the EU
- Benchmarking of EU versus USA/Japan
- Policy recommendations

Thank you very much for your attention !

In case of further questions please contact:

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