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| Newsletter 21st for EKTG for eTechnology  |

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| Dear << Test First Name >>  Welcome to our 21st Newsletter - December 2020**Up Coming Events**We are continuing our Winter Webinars Season - please book early and join us for:****Technology in Difficult Places – Part II****Date: Wednesday, December 9th 2020 – Now booking!Time: 13.20 - 14.30 BST (14.20-15-30 CET)Registration here:[westsqas@mac.com](http://westsqas@mac.com)**The Webinar Team includes several EKTG International Ambassadors:** * Ai-Llan Lim, International Ambassador, USA
* Sabine Lobnig, International Ambassador, Austria
* Spiros Peristeris. International Ambassador, Greece

We will debate these issues and opportunities with you.Any particular questions you would like our panel of experts to address send them to Maggie Ellis westsqas@mac.com and we will try and get through them during the discussion  ****Develop Collaboration in ICT for Elderly and Technology:********Challenge, Risk, Barriers and Opportunities.****Date: Wednesday, January 2021 – Now booking!Time: 13.20 - 14.30 BST (14.20-15-30 CET)Registration here:[westsqas@mac.com](http://westsqas@mac.com)**The Webinar Team includes several EKTG International Ambassadors:** * Colin Ettinger - EKTG Chairman
* Liz Mestheneos, International Ambassador, Greece
* Rafael des Andres, International Ambassador, Spain
* Monique Epstein of Association e-Seniors, Paris

We will debate these issues and opportunities with you.Any particular questions you would like our panel of experts to address send them to Maggie Ellis westsqas@mac.com and we will try and get through them during the discussion-------------------------------------- **International Ambassadors**------------------------------------------**Some recent information from our International Ambassadors**  * **Brigitte Bührlen  Germany**

The WE! Foundation of Family Carers helps family carers in the Corona Pandemic to make their needs heard in politics and society. We support them to organise themselves via social networks and to post petitions online. We help them to exchange and support each other in virtual rooms. We also try to initiate projects to create digitally organised support networks in neighbourhoods and advise on the development of apps and other support tools.  * **Sabine Lobnig, Austria**

 Sabine works for the Mobile Telephone Manufactures and has been responsible for the excellent service Gari. Read more about recant work here.Here a link to a recent article about updates to GARI: <http://blog.gari.info/2020/11/gari-more-information-on-mobile.html>   * **John Mcgrory, Ireland**

In the Republic of Ireland, we are in the middle of our second COVID lock down of the year to keep a handle on the COVID spread. A kind of disbelieve that it’s still with us. With the dark nights and restrictions continuing morale across young and old is low, but the elder population are really getting the lion’s share of hardship. Anguish is mounting around Christmas travel within the country, and meeting friends and relations. Don’t ask how Santa is going to manage the 14 day quarantine. Primary/Secondary schools and colleges are still operating, but the universities have encouraged distance learning with some minor exceptions. Research is still ongoing with our team in TU-Dublin. We are working on top down policy actions with our research partners to ensure venerable elder members of our population are clearly accommodated and supported with in the national instruments. Some of the team are developing short training material to assist the elderly in maximising their awareness in (SHAFE) Smart, Healthy and Age Friendly Environments. Other members of the team are also actively assessing online access to public services and in particular the effect of services going online will have on our elderly population accessibility to these services.       * **Liz Mestheneos Greece**

Liz Mestheneos, International Ambassador for Greece, has spent the last 3 months being very busy in Jury work  (Smart Ageing,  Access Cities) often undertaken on behalf of Age Platform Europe; with planning meetings for AGE to ensure the future and relevance of this organization for its nearly 100 member organizations; and with work to support  50plus Hellas, an organization she helped start 15 years ago and which is gradually expanding  its work to  promote healthy, active and inclusive ageing policy and practice. Currently a discussion is under way to undertake a small piece of research funded  by the World Bank for the national government and Local Authorities concerning the development of long term care public services which historically have been minimalist. She has also just published her first small book of poems “I don’t eat Fish and other poems” (in English and Greek and available on Kindle.  * **Sofia Moreno-Perez Spain**

The elderly are suffering the pandemic in a very dramatic way, that is why the Soto del Real library provides a telephone reading service to combat the social isolation of older people who live alone or in residences during the pandemic. But to explain what 'Tales by phone' is, it must be framed within another previous project that we called 'Bibliotherapy for the elderly' that was launched in 2013. It is a project to encourage reading organized by the municipal library of Soto del Real destined, as a vulnerable group,  elderly people who lived in the residences.Pedro de Lorenzo Library in Soto del Real, a population of 9000 inhabitants of Madrid has several initiatives involving technologies to reach a broad profile of citizens.The “Tales by phone” program is provided through the library volunteers who regularly participate in the ‘Bibliotherapy for the elderly’ project, and who will now choose the texts in a personalized way, depending on the preferences of each listener. One volunteer per listener.  * **Spiros Peristeris - Greece**

These past few months have been heavily stigmatised by two major events. One is my return to Athens, Greece, after a long social service session @ a major refugee camp in Jordan. My job there focused on assisting to the deployment of smart technologies that would make life to both refugees and caregivers easier and allow traceability and automatic documentation to activities. I have been lucky enough not to suffer any serious illness and learned to appreciate little things that we all take for granted during our everyday life. Clean food &water and air conditioning for example. Technology is useless unless the infrastructure deployed allows for its use. Many lessons learned but above all, forever appreciation to all my colleagues, friends and invisible actors that assisted me during this journey.. My advice to all: Be HumanSecond; Covid19 is here to stay! After 7 ( nose painful) negative tests, due to travel requirements, work has begun on a new Health related project enforcing " Safe Distance " through the deployment of badge-like active tags. Prototypes are underway to be tested in real life conditions ( Athens Mall ). As always reality introduces unexpected issues and demands that will make this project even more interesting.Since all Food related shops have been shut down (not always a safety inducing  directive, if you ask me..), making them more "healthy" for a re-open, introduces a number of challenges. Monitoring the Air Quality in such confined (due to winter..) spaces, is a welcome attribute. A web connected PoC (Proof of Concept) prototype is being developed to allow for real time visualisation of QoA (Quality of Air) under a unified (Gov. auditable) Platform, using the latest LoraWan and sensor technologies.   * **Colin Ettinger Chair EKTG**

**"I would like to thank the International Ambassador's for their interesting and thought-provoking contributions to this newsletter. Indeed, their contribution to EKTG is immense.Colin Ettinger. Chair EKTG"**-------------------------------------- **NEWS**-----------------------------------------------------  ****Council of the EU****EU leaders meet online to discuss the EU’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This meeting builds on a European Council meeting held last month, where leaders highlighted the need to strengthen the collective effort to fight the pandemic and focused on testing and tracing policies and on vaccines. [Read More](https://europeanmovement.eu/news/weekly-european-agenda-16-11-2020/#council)**European Commission**The Commission is expected to reveal a strategy on offshore renewable energy that aims to support the EU’s ambitions to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Moreover, the College of Commissioner will discuss legislation on sustainability requirements for batteries in the EU, the European Semester autumn package, the opinions on Member States’ draft budgetary plans, euro area recommendations, the alert mechanism report and a joint employment report.[Read More](http://ps/europeanmovement.eu/news/weekly-european-agenda-16-11-2020/#commission)****European Parliament****The Committee on Budgets will hear from Parliament’s negotiating team on the MFF and Own Resources about the political agreement reached with the German Presidency on the future EU financing. Moreover, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety is discussing the EU’s preparedness and resilience in the field of public health with Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food safety. The debate will focus on the recently published package of initiatives establishing the building blocks of a European Health Union, which includes a proposal on tackling serious cross-border health threats. Also on the agenda: the Pharmaceutical Strategy. Moreover, the Subcommittee on Security and Defence will discuss the impact of disinformation campaigns against Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations. [Read More](https://europeanmovement.eu/news/weekly-european-agenda-16-11-2020/#parliament)**MFF | Offshore Energy  | EUCO** European Parliament’s Budget Committee will hear from Parliament’s negotiating team on the MFF and Own Resources about the recent agreement. Furthermore, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety discusses the EU’s preparedness and resilience in the field of public health. On Wednesday, the Commission is expected to present a strategy on offshore renewable energy. -------------------------------------- **Dr Ian Campbell**-----------------------------------------------------Dr Ian Campbell was appointed Interim Executive Chair of Innovate UK, the UK’s innovation agency, in May 2018, having joined as Director for Health and Life Sciences in 2016. When he was about three weeks into this responsibility, one of the first external Meetings he attended was an EKTG event held at the House of Lords. He told us he was impressed by what he had heard  and looked forward to further links with us.During the following years there were several occasions when Ian gave is advice, provided EKTG with admirable Speakers to join our events. We have been fortunate to work with Ian and his loyal EA Julie Allen.Along the way He also worked with Mike Biddle the previous President of the AAL Forum. Strangely even now Peter Saraga, who is a Member of UKRI has become the latest President of AAL Forum, even though technically the UK is not a full Member of AAL Forum. Peter was also the first Chairman of EKTG.A recent EKTG Meeting with the UK Parliament APPG Committees for Disability and Assistive Technology presented an opportunity for Ian to designate Emily Nott, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Programmes, INNOVATE UK to address the issues of Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and tackling under representation.Recently EKTG has been awarded a share in the CWLG Partnership working on an eight-month Feasibility Study in the City and East End of London looking at the use of Digital Services with the Older Workforce. Peter Saraga is a Member of the Advisory Board for that scheme.During the preparation of this scheme Ian Campbell and his staff have been advising on various details.We now have to report that Ian Campbell has left INNOVATE and moved to LifeArc’s as Chief Business Officer (CBO).Ian will be responsible for LifeArc’s business development and partnerships – a key component in LifeArc purpose of accelerating the translation of life sciences innovation into benefits for patients.EKTG can only wish Ian Campbell the best of good fortune in his new role. We can only hope that soon our paths will cross again.**Seasons Greetings from EKTG**  The Next EKTG Newsletter will include similar material. If you would like to suggest materialplease email Maggie Ellis at *EKTG.eTechnology@gmail.com* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_If you want to know more about us you can download a document that outlinesthe [*background and history of EKTG*](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/67744b2cb64423c16bf1d1207/files/European_Knowledge_Tree_Group.pdf)[*.*](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/67744b2cb64423c16bf1d1207/files/8f12ceb2-789f-4576-a89f-11c415a5a17d/European_Knowledge_Tree_Group.01.pdf) Please Note: The EKTG for eTechnology is not responsible for content from third-party documents and web-sites.    |

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