

WORKSHOP

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Future AAATE
19 and 20 April 2007

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REVIEW:

Version	Date	Reviewer	Conclusion

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1 INTRODUCTION

The AAATE is partner of the CWST project and responsible for the organisations of workshops within this project.

This workshop organised by the AAATE in Zandvoort, the Netherlands, is a special one. This can be seen as an internal workshop within the project to support the AAATE in future policy making and planning of activities.

For this workshop the CWST project hired a moderator to lead the discussion and manage the agenda of the day.

2 Agenda of the workshop

DAY I – Thursday 19 April 2007 – led by Erik Duijsens

12:30 hrs. Lunch

13:30 hrs. Opening and welcome

Introduction of participants

AAATE current situation. Short presentations:

- Membership and membership development, by Niels-Erik Mathiassen
- Ongoing AAATE activities, by Ger Craddock
- Organisation of AAATE, by Harry Knops

AAATE future policies:

- Membership
- Publications
- Conference
- Organisation
- Lobby work
- And so on

18:00 hrs. Closure Day I

19:30 hrs. Dinner

DAY II – Friday 20 April 2007

08:00 hrs Breakfast

09:00 hrs Consequences of policy statements for AAATE organisation

Preparing policy documents

Communication and interaction with AAATE members

12:30 hrs Lunch

14:00 hrs End of meeting

3 Participants

Participation in the workshop was possible by invitation by the Board of the AAATE. The following people participated in the workshop:

- FTB/Christian Bühler
- FAST/Keren Down
- King's College/Ruth Mayagoitia
- iRv/Thijs Soede
- IFAC/Pier-Luigi Emiliani
- CRC/Ger Craddock
- STAKES/Anna-Liisa Salminen
- iRv/Harry Knops
- EDC/Erik Duijsens

4 Presentation on current situation

4.1 Membership

The AAATE renewed their procedure of updating of memberships. Using the new procedure the current status is that there are 140 members of good standing. The profile of the AAATE members is that they are mainly coming from research & development. One of the raised questions is if the existing profile (R&D) is the right profile for the future. The basis for this question are developments in the field of Assistive Technology and Disability policies like in- or exclude Design for All, in- or exclude Service delivery, Industry, etc.

Another remarkable point is the low fee for membership and a low subscription fee to the journal.

4.2 Activities of AAATE

The AAATE organises a lot of activities for its members. It is clear, that these activities are based on existing policies and historical development of the association.

The following activities are organised by AAATE:

- Bi-annual conference following circulation principle; organisation in the hands of members and their organisations.
The Lille conference was not very successful. Dublin, Ljubljana, Düsseldorf and Stockholm were of good quality. The same expectation we have for the conference to be organised in San Sebastian.
- Bi-annual workshop. This is a smaller event and closely related to the General Assembly. There is a specific focus for these workshops and the last years is the organisation supported by the CWST project. It is organised on voluntary basis and is organised by members of the association.
- Journal. The Journal Technology and Disability is published by IOS Press and the AAATE has a cooperation agreement with them. The Journal is highly appreciated by the members.
- Newsletter. The Newsletter of AAATE is now for practical members moving from paper to an electronically version.
- Website. The website is hosted by ICS Forth in Greece. It is a weak point in the communication of the association, due to the fact that the maintenance of the website is difficult.
- Projects. Since two years AAATE is partner in the CWST project. The focus of this project supports fully the mission statement and goals of the association. This project supports the profile of the association. The discussion “should AAATE be partner in EU-projects?” always stays on the table.
- Lobbying. During the last 5 years AAATE is more and more seen as a non-governmental organisation that can support European policies and programming because of their European network, international contacts and knowledge of the field of Assistive Technology. This is a interesting position for the association. This makes possible that AAATE can bring the right topics forward to the EU policy makers.

5 Organisation of AAATE

The AAATE is an association with a Board, where different positions can be identified. Within the Board we have a president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer. Besides this management committee we have contact persons for national contact points and special interest groups.

Beside the Board we have members representing AAATE in standardisation committees, editor-in-chief and website contact point.

At the moment AAATE has 2 committees: a publication committee and a nomination committee.

The AAATE has signed the TOKOSHIMA agreement with their sister organisations of USA, Japan and Australia.

6 Future policies

During the workshop based upon a list of topics future policies and strategies were discussed. The following paragraph summarises these topics:

- The scope of the association only Assistive Technology or also accessibility and design for all.
- The profile of members is now restricted to R&D; should we broaden this to policy, service delivery, industry, etc.
- What do we offer to the members? Do we have to extend our level of services to become more interesting for members and potential members?

The following tables give a first impression about the relation between membership profile and AAATE service levels.

	R&D	Policy	Industry (S&D)							
Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information exchange • Networking • Publications • Exhibitions <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>++</td> <td>+</td> </tr> </table>	++	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dito <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>+</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	+	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dito <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>--</td> </tr> </table>	-	--	•
++	+									
+	-									
-	--									
workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange through themed discussions <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> </table>	+	+	•	•	•				
+	+									
Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication opportunity • Knowledge exchange • Information <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> </table>	+	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge exchange • information <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • information <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			•
+	+									
Lobby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the European R&D agenda • Expertise recognition <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>++</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	++	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise provision to EU <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> </table>	+	+				
++	-									
+	+									
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On EU Activities • Newsletter • (International) contacts <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>--</td> </tr> </table>	-	--	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dito <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dito <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			
-	--									
SIG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			•
Incentives Discounts	•	•	•	•						
Recognition	•	•	•	•						
Awards	•	•	•	•						
Training/ Education	•	•	•	•						
	•	•	•	•						
	•	•	•	•						

Based upon this first global analysis and discussion a first draft of a new AAATE policy document was constructed.

7 AAATE policy document

AAATE policy paper

7.1 Introduction

The AAATE was founded The initiative was taken by a group of researcher organizing the ECART conference every 2 years.

The AAATE was founded to become the interdisciplinary pan-European association devoted to all aspects of assistive technology, such as use, research, development, manufacture, supply, provision and policy.

After 2 decades the environment of the AAATE is changing and members and potential members are seeking for their position and added value of the AAATE. This has led to an intensive discussion within the board about the future of the AAATE.

This document is supposed to be a starting-point for a discussion about the AAATE which will be finalized in San Sebastian where our conference 2007 is organized.

In this document we will discuss the following issues:

- Scope of the AAATE
- Typology of the AAATE
- Membership
- Activities
- Organization

7.2 Scope of the AAATE

In the policy document of 2003 as a reaction on the first publication of the 6th frame work program, the scope of the AAATE was described as **assistive solutions**.

In today's society, AT (sometimes labelled also as *enabling* or *empowering* technologies) and DfA (sometimes labelled also as *inclusive* or *universal* design) should be regarded as components of a continuum whose primary aim is to exploit the individual's capabilities at their fullest. Although there is favourable discussion around the idea that the people's needs should be met as far as possible by means of DfA solutions -and sometimes the exact border between what should be considered "for all" and "assistive" is not always well defined - nevertheless it is generally acknowledged that AT solutions will continue to be needed to address a wide range of functional problems.

As part of a continuum, mainstream and assistive technology should work together and thus be complementary and compatible. The same expertise on users' needs should guide the development of both. On the one hand, resources should be allocated to the development of DfA concepts that guide the development of a living environment accessible to everybody, i.e., where products are *inclusively* designed from the earliest (concept) stages of development (barrier-free technologies). On the

other hand, resources are required for the advancement of the AT domain, in order to overcome the present situation of fragmentation and unequal distribution across countries, and support developments that enable individuals to exploit their capabilities to their fullest in the knowledge-based society. We may label it ***Technology based assistive solutions***.

7.3 Typology of the AAATE

The AAATE is a non-profit organisation. It is an organisation of and for its members and relies on their efforts to put its mission into practice. All individuals supporting the mission of the AAATE as reflected by the constitution can become members. The Board is elected by the members at the annual assembly.

The AAATE is driven by its members and the functions within the association are on voluntary basis.

For some activities (administration, publications etc.) service contract are made with professional contractors.

7.4 Members of AAATE

Membership is open to all interested persons and organisations.

Within AAATE we have different types of membership:

7.4.1 Individual membership

There is an ongoing discussion who the members of the AAATE are.

In our workshop in the Netherlands we identified **that all the professionals active in R&D, knowledge transfer in the field of TBAS are potential members of the AAATE.**

These professionals are working in different environments of: Universities, Service delivery, Industry, Research centre, Policy development etc.

Honorary members

The members of AAATE have or had a great value for the association and the advancement of the sector. They are appointed by the board and become a lifelong free membership of the association with all the rights of an individual membership.

7.4.2 Corporate membership

In the last 20 years of the 20th century we have faced the development of a European scene on technology and disability. Programmes as HELIOS, the TIDE phases, the key actions of the Life Science Programme on the ageing population and generic research on disability have stimulated lots of contacts and co-operations in the field all over Europe. In many European countries prominent institutes are active in this domain and are involved in this development. However, these institutes mostly maintain only bilateral relations or project based co-operation with other institutes. With regard to the prominent national role, and the richness of experience with high potential for cross-fertilisation on European level, the contributions of the institutes could be improved. On the other hand the ongoing European developments, which

influence national policies require a European response. Ideas of the CEU like the creation of networks of centres of excellence need an appropriate positioning of the leading institutes.

Concluding from this: **Organisations with a focus on R&D and knowledge transfer in the field of TBAS are the potential corporate members.**

7.4.3 Affiliate Members

Sponsors, Companies supporting of the mission and goals of AAATE may apply for Affiliate I membership. These members are supporting the AAATE but have no elective force.

Activities of the AAATE

The activities of AAATE can be divided into 6 groups:

1. Exchange of knowledge

This is one of the most important activities of the AAATE. We offer to the AAATE community a platform for the exchange of knowledge. The main activities are:

- a. Organisation of the Bi-annual AAATE conference and
- b. the organisation of a bi-annual workshop
- c. Journal technology and Disability

2. Information

Information about developments inside and outside the AAATE is important for the members. It creates added value. The AAATE organises the following activities to provide information to its members:

- a. Newsletter on regular basis
- b. Web-portal with interactive possibilities
- c. Access to Dfa resource centre
- d. Matchmaker: Job bank for the sector in Europe

3. Networking

Networking and community building is an ambition of AAATE. The AAATE want to be the European community in the described field. Until now the activities are rather poor but have to become an important objective for the near future. In this domain the following activities can be organised:

- a. Web-portal with “community facilities”
- b. National contact points with active annual programmes in countries
- c. Special interest groups on diversity of topics.

4. Discounts members

Beside the intellectual benefits the members of AAATE should also become financial benefits from the membership. These benefits are mostly a result from co-operation with other organisations and institutes. Types of benefits could be:

- a. Reduces subscription fee for the journal Technology and Disability
- b. Membership discounts on workshops and conference organised by AAATE
- c. Membership discounts on other conference organised by cooperation partners: Resna, ICCHP, ARATA, CSUN,

5. Lobby and representation

In the last 5 years AAATE has become an important contact point for policy makers and stakeholders. Also the participation of AAATE is requested in several activities on the EU level. For AAATE it is an important cluster of activities to

advocate the role of AT and Dfa in Europe. There for a set of activities should be continued and developed:

- a. Participation in the DATSCG
- b. 7th framework program development
- c.

6. Projects

AAATE is active in EU projects. At the moment is AAATE active in CWST and FEDAT project. These projects bring resources to the AAATE. It is also good to be visible in the EU scene with the AAATE network as most important value. AAATE should have an active policy towards participation in projects without competing members and their institutions.

7. Cooperation

Cooperation with other organisations active in the same area is very important. It supports the position of AAATE in the field and creates benefits for the members. There are 2 important domains of cooperation:

- a. European umbrella organisations: EDF, IEEE, ..
- b. Cooperation with sister organisations. The basis for this is the TOKOSHIMA agreement with RESNA, RESJJA and ARATA
- c. Cooperation with other professional organisations like:
 1. ICCHP
 2. ISAAC
 3. ...

Organisation of the AAATE

Until now the board is the central point of action. The position of president is in most cases initiating activities and processes. The board is based upon voluntary work and support by the Office in Denmark for administrative and financial support.

The organisation is depending on the time, motivation, ambition, skills, etc of the board members. The near past has shown that this is an extreme risk for the continuity of the organisation.

To fulfil the ambition in activities of the AAATE as described a more professional organisation is needed.

In the next paragraph a proposal is presented to change the organisational structure of the AAATE to be more efficient and attractive for members.

Possibilities for the future

Split the organizations in two parts:

1. **Members driven part:** the formal organization of AAATE with voluntary board positions based on the constitution: responsible for all the activities of the AAATE.
2. **Office of the AAATE:** The office is more than the current function in Denmark. It is a support unit for all the AAATE activities:
 - a. Management and control
 - b. Membership administration
 - c. Coordinating exchange activities: workshops, conferences
 - d. Web management

- e. Publications
- f. Projects

The Office is not a real place but can be organized as a virtual one. As it is now others can be involved in the execution of the work on voluntary or contract basis. It is important to appoint a director who is responsible for the activities and co-ordinates these and is the primus inter pares with the board.

It also will have financial implications. It is a chicken and egg discussion when we talk about increasing the membership fee for doing this. Members will get more a more quality and it is to the board to convince them.

8 Added value by CWST intervention

It is clear that without the CWST support the AAATE could not fund a two days workshop for their policy development, supported by moderator and secretary. The policy document will be of great importance for the future development of the AAATE. The new Board of AAATE can have an excellent start with this policy document to reorganise and reconstruct the association.

The existence of a European organisation important in the field of Assistive Technology, representing members from different areas in this sector is of high value as well for the individual members and their organisations but also for European policy making and development. The further development of the AAATE as the European partner for the e-inclusion development and programming is of high value. The AAATE has the ambition to incorporate also members from other sectors like industry, service delivery. They create an organisation that has members from the whole value chain. Through this organisation all the actor have the possibility to exchange knowledge and influence the European e-inclusion scene.

9 Financial Information

Workshop 07a / D17	01/01/07	30/06/07	Zandvoort/The Netherlands, 19 -20/04/2007			
Expenditures	non costed		CWST			Detailed description
	IS	AAATE	IS	AAATE	OCG	
Staff costs	0	0	0	396	0	
Management, organization				396		Organisation, preparation, attending and reporting
Travel and hotel costs	0	0	0	4.423	0	
Venue Center Parcs Zandvoort				1.552		
King's College, R. Maiagoitia				218		
Linköpingsuniv., J. Persson				918		
IFAC/NRC, P.L. Emiliani				229		
FAST/K. Down				80		
Moderator E. Duijsens				1.426		
Overheads			0	964	0	
Total expenditures	0	0	0	5.783	0	

Overview	non costed	CWST
Staff costs	0	0
Travel and hotel costs	0	0
Overheads		0
Total expenditures	0	0