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Affective Robotics for Assisting Elderly People

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Abstract

There are widely acknowledged imperatives for helping the elderly live at home (semi)-independently for as long as possible. Without cognitive stimulation support the elderly dementia and depression sufferers can deteriorate rapidly and the carers will face a more demanding task. Both groups are increasingly at the risk of social exclusion. This article presents the work under development in the project CompanionAble. It will provide the synergy of Robotics and Ambient Intelligence technologies to provide for a care-giver's assistive environment. This is mediated by a robotic companion working collaboratively with a smart home environment. CompanionAble addresses the issues of social inclusion and homecare of persons with chronic cognitive disabilities prevalent among the increasing European older population. A participative and inclusive scenario validation approach will drive the efforts, involving care recipients and their close caregivers as well as the wider stakeholders.