



TOILET4ME

Study on personalised toilets supporting active living in (semi-) public environments

WHAT IS TOILET4ME ABOUT?

The area of personal hygiene and toilet use is an important area in daily life which unfortunately has not yet found much interest in the AAL community. Toilet4me addresses ageing people and persons of all ages with impairments/disabilities and their needs when using a toilet outside home in public or semi-public environments (e.g. in community centres, shopping malls, theatres, hotels etc.). The aim of Toilet4me is to elaborate and verify a detailed concept for a potential future larger RDI project for actually implementing and evaluating the envisaged assistive Toilet4me system.

BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

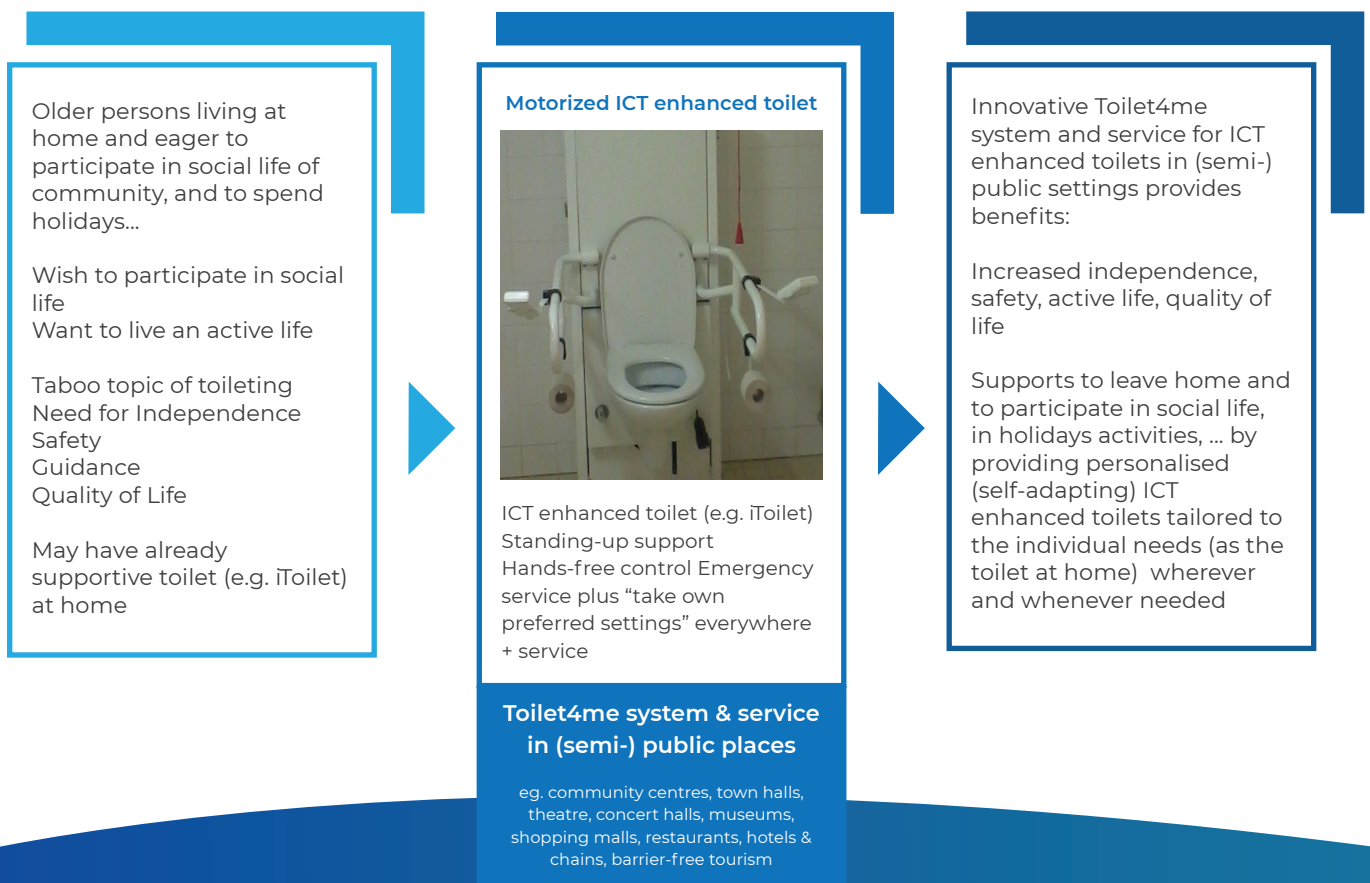
Toilet4me is based on the findings of the successful AAL project “iToilet” – see www.itoilet-project.eu, which developed and field tested ICT enhanced motorised tilt and stand-up support toilets, able to adapt themselves to the individual needs and preferences of the older person using the toilet. The main idea of Toilet4me is simple but challenging: As iToilet already demonstrated the benefits for supporting persons during toilet use at home, we now want to proceed and explore a totally new way of offering this type of supportive toilet in places outside the own home. Offering the support in places which older persons frequently visit or would like to visit (currently unable to do due to lack of suitable toilet facilities) will allow people to participate in society more, which will contribute to their independence and quality of life. With a service which allows the user to always “take his/her own preference settings with him/her in the pocket”, a lot of new possibilities can be offered to several user groups. Toilet4me together with end users will elaborate the requirements for such service.

AIM

The Toilet4me proposal addresses these needs of older (or physically challenged) persons when using a toilet outside their homes in semi-public places by envisioning a supportive ICT enhanced toilet adapting to the individual user needs of older end-users. The project also addresses the needs of care persons when providing assistance to primary users in the toilet room.

SCOPE

A height and tilt adjustable care toilet module serves as base for adding several significant enhancements and services, e.g. control via voice, automatic recognition of and adaptation to user preferences when entering the toilet room, recognition of potentially dangerous situations (e.g. a fall) and other functionalities (e.g. interface to care documentation, providing guidance to persons).



Toilet4me creates new toilet services to empower older persons to leave their home and participate in social life by providing self-adapting ICT enhanced toilets for (semi-) public places

USER CENTRED APPROACH

Toilet4me follows a strictly user centred approach with primary and secondary users of two project partners in The Netherlands and Portugal. Tertiary users are involved right from the beginning for eliciting user requirements and developing the business plan.

RESULT

The Toilet4me project, being a short cooperative study project, will elaborate and verify a detailed concept for a potential future larger RDI project for actually implementing and evaluating the envisaged assistive Toilet4me system.

EXPECTED BENEFITS OF THE TOILET4ME SYSTEM CONCEPT FOR A FUTURE PROJECT

- For older persons and persons with impairments/disabilities improved body stability by optimal sitting height, supporting sitting-down and standing-up transition, cleaning and drying function, improved safety and thereby motivation/empowerment to leave home and participate in social and active life.
- For secondary users reduced workload, and enhanced possibilities of providing for outside activities.
- For institutions, hotels, other semi-public places offering better service for community, enter important emerging market (accessible tourism).



Toilet4me concept: Toilet room with automatically adjustable and ICT enhanced toilet

The business model to be developed aims at a modular product with scalability and customisation of the functionality and services according to the individual customer's needs and wishes.

TOILET4ME PROJECT CONSORTIUM



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TOILET4ME

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ZonMw



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