

# APOLLON

## Scope and Objectives

One of the main strengths of the Living Lab approach is its ability to merge research and innovation processes with the local, real-life context. Over the past years, an increasing number of Living Labs have started operations throughout Europe, and are forming a vibrant and still growing community. It is clear that networking and federation at a European scale is needed in order to fully leverage the strength of these locally embedded labs. Current initiatives focus e.g. on the exchange of general principles and best practices for individual Living Labs.

The APOLLON project will take the next step in networking and harmonising Living Lab approaches throughout Europe. It will evaluate the positive impact of domain-specific cross-border Living Lab networks. This approach enables SMEs to test and experiment their products and services outside of their home market and gain access to a true European market space, while being supported by large industrial companies, academic centres and other Living Lab stakeholders.

APOLLON selected four domains in which ICT products and services innovation may benefit most from cross-border Living Lab networking: Homecare, Energy Efficiency, eManufacturing and eParticipation through Social Media.

The main objectives of the APOLLON project are (1) to conduct cross-border Living Lab pilots, aimed in particular at SMEs, (2) to harmonise methodologies and tools for cross-border Living Lab projects, and (3) to create sustainable cross-border domain-specific Living Lab networks.



**Contract number**

Under negotiation

**Type of project**

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme

ICT Policy Support Programme

**Project coordinator**

IBBT

**Contact person**

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**Project website**

[www.apollon-pilot.eu](http://www.apollon-pilot.eu)

**Community contribution to the project**

4 Million Euro

**Project start date (envisaged)**

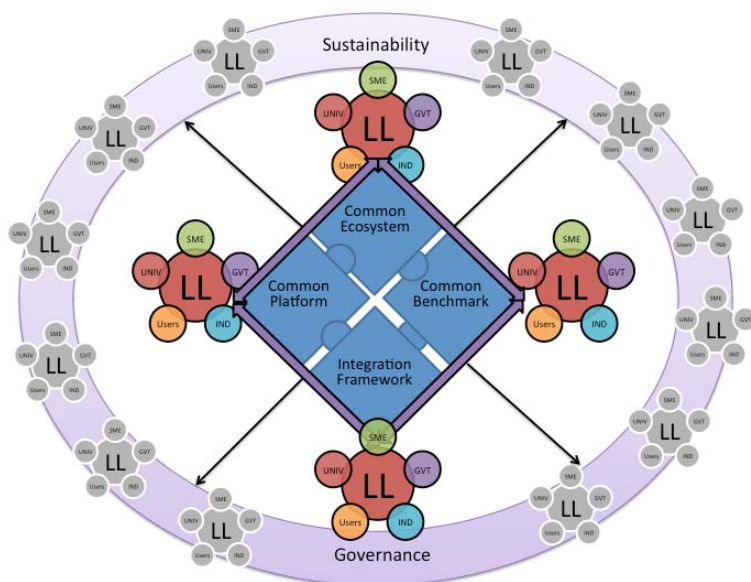
1 November 2009

**Duration**

30 months

## Technical approach

APOLLON is leveraging current experiences and on-going investments to supplement cross-border pilots with best-of-class methods for setting up, developing and operating sustainable networks of Living Labs.



The project consists of four cross-border Living Lab experiments, i.e. in the Homecare and Independent Living, Energy Efficiency, eManufacturing and eParticipation domain. These will focus on validating the added value of a cross-border Living Lab network, both in terms of SMEs gaining access to new markets, as in terms of achieving collaboration breakthroughs in the development of pan-European domain-specific solutions.

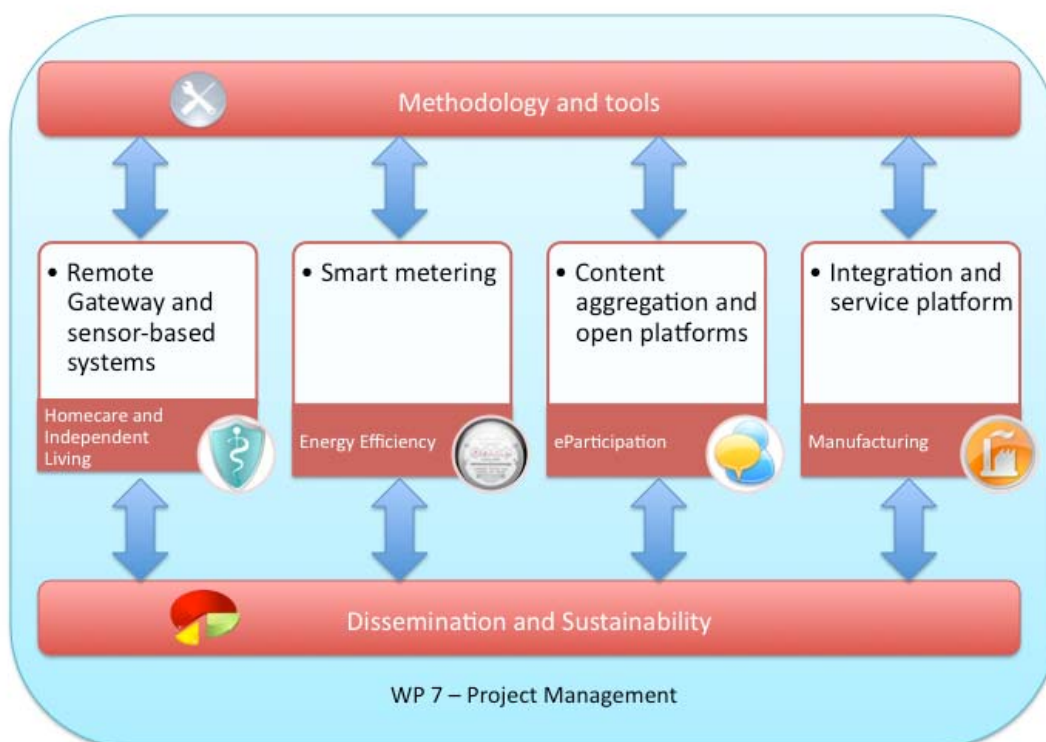
Each experiment focuses on a specific cross-border harmonisation and networking aspect:

- 1. A common eco-system model**  
(Homecare and Independent Living experiment)  
In the first experiment a homecare solution, which is being piloted in a local Living Lab, will be transferred to one other Living Lab belonging to the network. The focus of this experiment is to determine what kind of ecosystem, value network and common approach needs to be in place to conduct cross-border pilots and to what extent these pre-requisites helps to do this faster, easier and more efficiently.
- 2. A common benchmark framework**  
(Energy Efficiency experiment)  
This experiment will develop a common benchmark framework that will be deployed in all Living Labs taking part in the Energy Efficiency experiment. The main focus here is to assess the scalability of the Living Lab network, its services, and the comparability of research data within cross-border projects.
- 3. A common technology platform**  
(eManufacturing experiment)  
In this experiment a common technology platform will be introduced and used by each of the domain specific Living Labs. The objective of this experiment is not only to see to what extent the use of such a common platform facilitates the creation of services between Living Labs but also to investigate whether this stimulates new forms of collaboration between different partners.
- 4. An integration framework**  
(eParticipation experiment)  
This experiment transfers and integrates several locally tested applications into each of the different Living Labs that are active in the network. By piloting the integration of applications developed by SMEs in all the Living Labs we can test how integrated eMedia technologies can encourage eParticipation and what are the advantages, best practices and limitations of cross-border activities within the network.

## Target outcomes and benefits

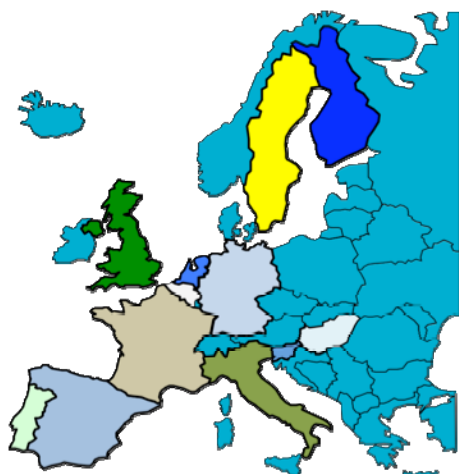
The APOLLON domain-specific experiments aim at a number of results that transcend the domain focus and are useful to any cross-border Living Lab network. APOLLON will draft and validate **a methodology for setting up and piloting cross-border thematic Living Lab networks**. Along with these guidelines on how to create these sustainable networks, APOLLON will recommend **a toolset to support these processes and procedures**.

Also, APOLLON aims at **creating sustainable, cross-border thematic networks** that further explore the added value of connecting different Living Labs into a cross-border network, grouped by a thematic approach. In order to verify the benefits of this approach, APOLLON will provide **an impact assessment** of this added value in terms of results, as well as operational efficiencies.



One of the major challenges in this project is to enable SMEs to gain access to new markets, using the Living Lab environment as a user-driven community, which provides invaluable feedback in the product development of new, innovative services. Since APOLLON is actually piloting concrete services in thematic networks along the way, the project also aims to provide **the success stories of these SMEs**, as well as show how SMEs can best be involved in cross-border Living Lab projects.

Finally, APOLLON will actively disseminate **recommendation and action plans for viable, sustainable and scalable rollouts to further domains and sectors**. These recommendations, based on a dialogue with the thematically structured Living Lab communities, will address the various requirements, governance structure and possible business models for a cross-border Living Lab Network.



The APOLLON Consortium consists of 28 Core Partners in 10 European member states. It involves Living Labs, SMEs, large ICT companies as well as research partners. Through a close co-operation with the European Network of Living Labs, wide dissemination and involvement of the Living Lab community is ensured.

At this stage, APOLLON has already established a large community of interest, not only within the Consortium itself, but also by involving a large number of supporting partners.

At the kick-off of the project, 58 organisations from 22 member states in Europe have expressed their interest in supporting the project.

A current list of the supporting partners for APOLLON can be found at [www.apollon-pilot.eu](http://www.apollon-pilot.eu).

You too can support APOLLON and gain front row access to the development of the project outcomes.

Download your Letter of Support at <http://www.amicommunities.eu/wiki/APOLLON> and send it to:

- Mr Koen De Vos at [Koen.de.Vos@ibbt.be](mailto:Koen.de.Vos@ibbt.be)
- and to IBBT vzw as coordinator of the APOLLON project proposal:  
c/o Pieter Ballon  
Manager, IBBT - iLab.o  
Pleinlaan 9, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Participant organisation name	Country
<b>Living Labs</b>	
<b>IBBT (Coördinator)</b>	<b>BE</b>
Amsterdam Innovation Motor	NL
ESOCE Net	IT
FIAPAL	PT
Forum Virium	FI
Hungarian Vehicle Engineering Cluster	HU
iAvante	ES
ISSY Media	FR
Lisboa E Nova	PT
Manchester City Council	UK
<b>Academic Partners</b>	
Helsinki School of Economics	FI
Luleå University of Technology	SE
Novay	NL
University of Maribor	SI
Université de Paris VIII	FR
<b>Industrial Partners</b>	
NOKIA	FI
SAP AG	DE
<b>SMEs</b>	
3D2+	FR
AlfaMicro	PT
Home Automation Europe	NL
Innoviting	NL
Intelligent Sensing Anywhere	PT
Lulea Energi	SE
NAVIDIS	FR
Process Vision	FI
People's Voice Media	UK
TELEVIC	BE
Ydreams	PT