

The City of Bolzano, IBM and Dr.Hein launch the Abitare Sicuri - Sicheres Wohnen (safety living) project

The City of Bolzano chooses IBM and Dr.Hein to enable new solutions for elderly citizens

Bolzano, Italy – October 1st 2010 – As a first outcome of the strategic initiative signed by IBM with the city of Bolzano and TIS innovation park in late 2009 with the aim of creating a Smart City, today IBM and Dr Hein Healthcare GmbH, launch the first of a kind project named Abitare Sicuri - Sicheres Wohnen (Safety Living).

The 6 months pilot project will involve a group of thirty 75+ years old people. The aim of the project is to introduce and experiment new systems of telemonitoring and tele-assistance for people in need of in-home assistance, a growing trend of an estimated 5 million target users only in the 14 EU.

The Sensor System has been developed by IBM with the support of TIS innovation park. It is based on a net of integrated zigbee sensors broadcasting data about the assisted person and home environment via an architecture developed on Websphere Application Server, DB2 and MQ Telemetry Transport for reliable messaging. Information is displayed on a dashboard in the control room and on the operator's Android mobile devices via email, sms or twitter.

Based on Dr Hein's telemonitoring and tele-assistance system "EvoCare" the solution allows interaction with the end user, providing suggestions on a series of activities, including tutored physical training, exercises to stretch mental faculties, or the direct contact with a health worker. The data are collected and analyzed in the control room and, if necessary, a dedicated team by the Bolzano Social Services Department is alerted.

Involving also the Bolzano Health Services-Geriatric Dept, the aim of the project is to enhance the quality of the elderly's life, providing greater independence and integration into society, while, at the same time, lowering public spending through more accessible and less invasive technologies.

The Abitare Sicuri - Sicheres Wohnen solution was developed with the technical support of Eurotech, Huawei and PPM Technologies.

In the future, based on the outcome of the pilot phase, the municipality will be looking to extend the project to a wider audience, in the mountain remote areas inside the city limits.

"The strategic initiative with Bolzano is part of IBM's strategy that aims to leverage available technologies in a smarter way. It's what we call smarter city, improving the quality of life for all citizens, in a cost-effective way" said Dr. Christina Farioli, IBM Italy.

IBM is working on smarter solutions with many other cities around the world. These solutions are already making a real impact, the first steps towards creating smarter buildings and smarter neighbourhood within smarter cities.

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