



AIAS BOLOGNA ONLUS - AUSILIOTECA TEAM
&
EMILIA ROMAGNA'S REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY

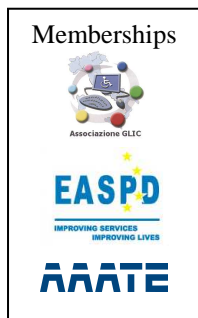


Emilia Romagna's Regional Centre
for Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology, public service delivery, end users representation

AIAS Bologna is a medium-size organisation (with approximately 100 staff members) for people with disabilities and their family members. It has more than 30 years of experience in working with end-users and AT. As a governing principle it always puts the interest of disabled people at the heart of its practice. Both End-user representation and technical competence are important factors for successful project work.

Assessing and supporting people of all ages with reduced functional autonomy are among the core activities of AIAS Bologna. Its Assistive Technology (AT) Team operates an AT Centre (Emilia Romagna's Regional Centre for Assistive Technology) that has become a leader and model of its kind in Italy, serving the needs of clients from a large geographical area (Emilia Romagna and beyond). The centre functions as a key hub in the Regional Government's strategy of providing quality services aimed at fostering and



supporting the independence of disabled people and the elderly. The AT team (20 professionals) is multidisciplinary, and comprises of experts with specialized experience in one of a wide range of areas, such as technology (AT & ICT), education, social, health and architecture. The team has accumulated long-term experience in clinical and project work. The Centre is entirely funded with public money and has no commercial interest. It is thus in a position to provide independent informed advice to people for whom the right technology, adaptation or strategy can make the difference between

exclusion and participation. Every year an average of 350 end-users and 1000 professionals refer to the Centre for advice, assessments, loans and personalisation of equipment, home adaptations, training and in-situ support. Some of these contacts have now been ongoing for more than 10 years. These contact figures will certainly rise in very near future: in June 2007 the team moved to Corte Roncati, a new purpose designed centre. In itself an example of inclusive building, Corte Roncati is equipped with three assessment rooms, a permanent showroom, and two apartments with integrated domotic solutions to support assessments and life projects for people of all ages.



AT team members have recently been involved in the development and assessment of eye gazing software and hardware solutions, brain computer interfaces, devices and services for satellite supported navigation, service delivery systems and models, and with professional development in the AT field. Over the last five years the organisation has been funded as contractor for larger consortiums under the Anti discrimination and Social Inclusion Programme, the Leonardo Programme, the Daphne Programme and the European Social Fund. AIAS participates as a partner in many regional, national and European projects. The team thus operates in close contact with colleagues and academics in Italy and abroad. Its list of partners in the AT field include: Thales Alenia Space, the Universities of Bologna, Pisa and Ferrara, numerous Italian AT centres, the Central Remedial Clinic and the National Disability Authority in Dublin, the ACE Centre in Oxford, University College in London, the University of Leuven and the Modem Computer and Communication Centre in Antwerp. The AIAS AT team was a founding member of the GLIC Italian Network of AT centres; it has recently joined the EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities) and some of its members are active in AAATE (Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe) and in ISAAC.

The web site www.ausilioteca.org is currently under revision.

Contact

*Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf, Corte Roncati, Area Ausili, Via Sant'Isaia 90, I-40123 Bologna
 Tel.: + 39 051 525174. Fax.: + 39 051 6597737. E-mail: hoogerwerf@ausilioteca.org*

