



Outcome assessment in interventions of Home Adaptation and Assistive Technology

The Emilia Romagna Region has created an innovative **network of local services in all provinces**, with direct access by the elderly and disabled citizens and the health and social services. The **Centres for Adaptation of the Home Environment (CAAD)** with multidisciplinary teams provide information and training, environmental assessment and consultation for the elimination of architectural barriers, adaptations of plants, home automation, furniture and AT devices for daily life functions. They are a free of charge resource for citizens wishing to adapt their homes, and a support for local institutions that wish to use public resources more efficiently. The network is coordinated by the **Emilia Romagna's Regional Centre for Assistive Technology (CRA-Bologna)** and the Regional Information Center for environmental well-being (CRIBA-Reggio Emilia).



STEP 1 The investigation in Bologna

Home Adaptation and Assistive Technology: COST or INVESTMENT?

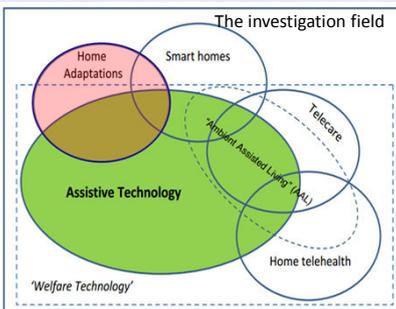
The making of cost assessments seems crucial in this phase of drastic reductions in public and private spending. Today, more than ever, it is worth verifying what others in the field have found and what common sense tells us to be true: that despite their initial costs in terms of equipment and procedures, solutions making for greater autonomy can lead to significant savings in terms of social costs.

The Sample: 41 users of age 60+



Suggested solutions

Mobility	6
Uplift and transfer	9
ADL (Activity for Daily Living)	6
Ergonomics and posture	5
Communication	2
ICT access	1
Environment control and domotics	1
Out-door accessibility	10
In-door accessibility	20
Furniture and fitting	2
Plants	5



The tool: SCAI

(Siva Cost Analysis Instrument)

Provides a means of carrying out a long term economic analysis of the impact of AT on care, calculating costs in the context of projects designed for the promotion of autonomy, safety and well-being.

Social costs: the sum of the costs incurred by all the actors in a given situation, in the sense of how much is spent (cash disbursement) or in the sense of the economic value of resources committed with reference to: aids (purchasing, leasing, renting etc.); maintenance/use; services related to the use of the aid by the user; human assistance (assessed according to the expertise of the caregiver); costs incurred by a public body (with reference to gross costs in standard operator contracts), or those represented by the assistance provided by family caregivers estimated with reference to salary (in this study reference is made to standard contact costs according to health and social care worker national labour contracts); cost of the processes involved (the evaluation of aids, training etc.).

Results: the first results indicate that adapting the living environment to better cope with disability leads to **important savings** both in the resources deployed by the family and those committed by governments. It further **increases the quality of life**.

Recommending Assistive Technology and Home Adaptations require highly specialised competences: **Consultancy Centres** that operate without commercial interests and independent from the providers, may guarantee an appropriate and personalised intervention, in response both to the needs of citizens, as well as to the needs to reduce and **qualify public spending**.



STEP 2 Expanding the investigation

- Multicenter investigation - Regional level
- Client satisfaction

Goals: Building further on the results obtained by the Regional Centre for Assistive Technology and the Centre for Adaptation of the Home Environment, the Regional Government of Emilia Romagna has decided to extent to the regional level the investigation concerning the impact on the social costs of interventions in this domain. The regional network of CAAD services will have a keyrole.

Furthermore in Bologna the investigation will be extended to include more systematically end user feedback in order to assess :

- **The perceived effectiveness** of AT and HA solutions and their impact on **"activity and participation"** Tools: QUEST, Ad-hoc form based on ICF
- **The satisfaction** related to the services provided by the **Consultancy Centres** and the wider **Service Delivery System** Tools: KWAZO, QUEST