



Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Product Design,
Dr. Martina Maria Keitsch

SSA: KARI

A framework for defining quality of life indicators for product design and use – Older people and information technology

AAL for the ageing Society
Brussels, 30st January 2006



The research group for KARI

M.A Hilde Berntsen,
PhD Scholar, Sociologist.
I am interested in communication theories, stakeholder involvement, design and planning theory.



PhD Kristin W. Støren
Industrial designer.
Research on how product service systems can contribute to a sustainable development and increase quality of life. Transfer of humanistic and systems approach to the details in design expression, product functions and material qualities.

Dr. Jóhannes B. Sigurjónsson Associate professor, Mechanical Engineer.
Research Interests: Methods and practices in design education. Models and prototypes in product-design and development.



Dr. Trond A. Øritsland
Associate Professor, Industrial Designer.
I am interested in the embodied mind perspective on cognition and action and product semantics applied to issues connected to creativity, aesthetics and activity mediated by products and the environment.



Dr. Martina M. Keitsch
Project Leader, Philosopher.
I am interested in ethics and public participation appliances related to new product solutions. Further, in the ontology and epistemology of design and architecture as research and education subjects.



Objectives and partners

The main objective of this SSA is to develop a framework for defining quality of life indicators for product design.

The SSA put the quality of life experiences of the users in the focus, specifically senior users and their everyday experiences of quality of life by using ICT products and services.

In order to achieve more detailed information on quality of life measurements for product design and to pinpoint trends in the field, KARI will relate physical, empirical measurable attributes to qualitative interpretations within three dimensions of quality of life: sensual perceptions, emotional experiences (such as happiness, comfort, autonomy) and social issues (such as inclusion, participation and learning).

Partners

CURE- Center for Usability Research & Engineering, Vienna, Austria
DECODE Research group, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland



Activities

1. Examine background, development and applications of QL measurements in the fields of ethics, usability design, sociology, biometrics and ergonomics.
2. Review different methods of QL measurements in the fields (e.g. user focus on quality of life vs. focus on product functionality)
3. Examine quality of life related to changes of lifestyle and consumption of senior users
4. Discuss quality of life experiences with diverse senior users
5. Organize a workshop with participants from different fields of QL measurements and users.
6. Integrate the different QLIs within the three dimensions (physical, emotional, social)
7. Summarize the results from 1-6 to draft a framework, which is feasible for future QLI development in product design.
8. Discuss possibilities and uncertainties of implementing the framework for future development of QLIs in product design.
9. Spread knowledge related to the use of QLIs as methodical tool in design.





Our needs:

1. How can we find more partners from academia and other organizations, who are interested in the same topic and (hopefully) already have some competence and experience in this area (design, life quality, well being, design for older adults etc.)?
2. How can we enlarge the scope of cases?
3. Can we join existing teams, project proposals which go in the same direction?

Thank you for your attention !

Please contact: martina.keitsch@ntnu.no

