

**A SOFTWARE PLATFORM TO DELIVER  
SMART, USER EMPOWERING ROBOTIC APPLICATIONS**

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## **Robots and seniors: can they be friends?**

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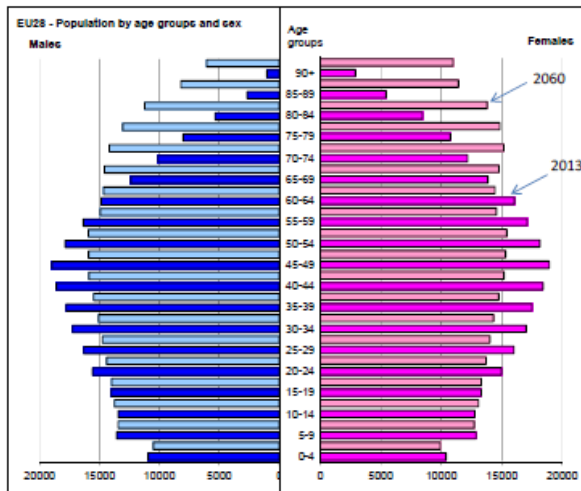
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# Older people – a group with a high risk of social exclusion

- Demographic ageing: 17.5% (2011)      29,5% (2060)
  - The share of those aged >80 is projected to almost triple



## Social inclusion, elderly and robots

A socially inclusive society is defined as one where all people feel valued, their differences are respected, and their basic needs are met so they can live in dignity. (Cappo 2002).

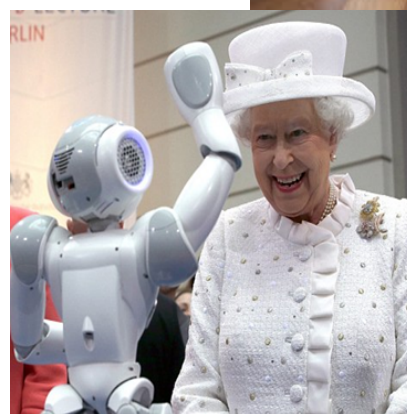
Robots caring for elders is still a work in progress in research labs around the world.

A number of robotic applications for elderly needs have already been developed:

- Rehabilitation robots
- Service robots
- Telepresence robots
- Emotional robots

Issues to deal with:

- Financial
- Ethical
- Social Assistive (yes or no?)
- Acceptance (yes or no?)



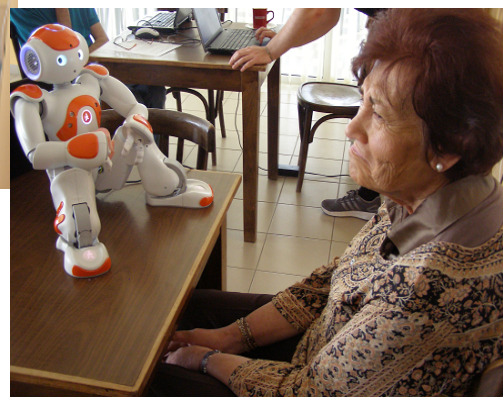
## RAPP project – pilot #1

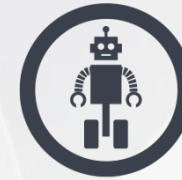


Focus group of Technology Illiterate seniors participated at the pilots (N=6)  
The participants were between 63 and 78 years old.

### Users' comments

- It's small.... This is all??
- Does it think by itself and act independently?
- Who is going to program it for us??
- I like it! I would like to have one! How much does it cost?
- It's cute! Not scary at all.
- It's is like a doll...
- It's just a machine. It can't replace my friends!!
- I don't like to have it as a company! I prefer my friends! Can it clean my house? I only need it for that!





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Robotics for social inclusion

**Thank you for your attention!**

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