Smart Cities and new technologies at the service of the elderly
A European project coordinated by the Politecnico di Milano

Milan, 19th July 2016 - City4Age is a project funded by the Horizon2020 program and coordinated by the Politecnico di Milano, which aims to detect and monitor various types of data offered by the Smart Cities to identify the onset of frailty and mild cognitive impairment in the elderly population to provide social-healthcare support in order to improve the early diagnosis of risks.

Comparing, analyzing and summarizing information from the various technologies that pervade urban life such as wearable and mobile devices, smartphones, sensors in homes and Smart Cities... City4Age is able to detect changes in the behaviour of the potentially at-risk population, interpreting them as indicator of possible deterioration. Once the frailty is identified, the need for an intervention is recognized, which consists in interaction with the individual also through technologies (mobile devices, TV screens, household robots, various types of messaging...) opening with it a real channel of communication that induces a change in behaviour so as to counter the occurrence of a risk.

For example, if monitoring the movements of an individual through wearable sensors at home and in the city, there is a sudden decrease in mobility, a specific communication plan is activated that includes generic messages such as "You should be more active", empathetic and reassuring messages, but also more specific messages and proposals that take account of the particular context and personal profile of the individual.

City4Age is aimed at: Policy-makers that can identify population segments that need monitoring thanks to the project; Geriatricians and health professionals that can make use of intervention solutions that are less expensive and more effective than traditional ones thanks to this program; lastly, those directly concerned that can really benefit from this type of communication with those who provide assistance.

Testing will begin November 2016 with 6 different pilot groups from different cities: Madrid, Athens, Montpellier, Singapore, Lecce and Birmingham.