

## Emergency Hospital – information and communication system for acute emergencies of aged people (MA-RIKA)

Since the beginning of 2013 a project-cooperation of young companies and research facilities has been in existence to develop several smartphone applications, sponsored by the MGEPA with European funds. The main objectives of the applications are to simplify the communication in-between rescue services and to accelerate the process of finding the next specified clinic for citizens and rescue services.

Germany as well as Europe have a clear problem with demographic change. Due to rising life expectancy and hence the upside down population pyramid there has been a drastic increase in acute diseases and injuries of aged citizens. Stroke, heart infarction and severe injuries are life-threatening and highly acute conditions with only a small time slot to start therapy and prevent permanent damage or need for care. Several clinical trials have shown the importance of focused and optimized therapy immediately after the occurrence of symptoms. The affected patients need to be transported to a specialized clinic (e.g. stroke unit, chest pain unit), so they can be treated by specialists using the required equipment and having the expertise and experience to prevent long-term damage.



The MA-RIKA project uses the Münsterland region as a test area. The developers collect and provide important information for acute pre-clinical and clinical care of aged people in life-threatening emergencies, so that the rescue services can identify and navigate to the next suitable clinic using only a smartphone application. A customized application will be available for citizens. The local mobile search for specialized (certified) clinics or emergency rooms uses freely available data and is

expected to promote the transparency of the clinics to the public.

The application enables the rescue services to set up a fast and direct communication-line with the medical specialist in the clinic headed for. Each special clinic (neurology – cardiology – trauma center) will have its own phone-hotline to guarantee the direct communication with the emergency physician. Keeping the fire department's headquarters in loop, the patients receive the fastest and most direct transport to the specific emergency room without losing time by unclear communication channels. An additional benefit of the hotline will be the more efficient on-site care for the patients by the rescue services.

Finally the project facilitates the provision of better infrastructure inside the emergency hospitals and contributes to improve utilization.

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