Our aim

This project will create four SENSE-GARDENs in Belgium, Norway, Portugal, and Romania, where images, videos, music and scents will be used to stimulate the different senses for older people living with dementia.

The SENSE-GARDEN will stimulate memory, communication, and physical activity for the person with dementia. The aim of SENSE-GARDEN is to reconnect the individual with their sense of self, improving the quality of life for person with dementia and also for their loved ones.
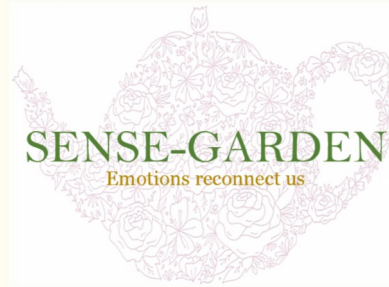
The project team

This multidisciplinary project consists of a high-quality team of universities, researchers, health care professionals, architects, technology developers, and more, across Belgium, Norway, Portugal, and Romania.

SENSE-GARDEN CONSORTIUM

Full details on the team can be found on our website www.sense-garden.eu

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SENSE-GARDEN
Emotions reconnect us

We would love to hear from you...

If you would like to know more about the project or get involved in our activities, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are eager to share research, resources, and ideas. Thank you!

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For all the latest SENSE-GARDEN updates, follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

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EUROPEAN UNION

AAL PROGRAMME

Introducing:
SENSE-GARDEN

SENSE-GARDEN
Emotions reconnect us

Emotions reconnect us
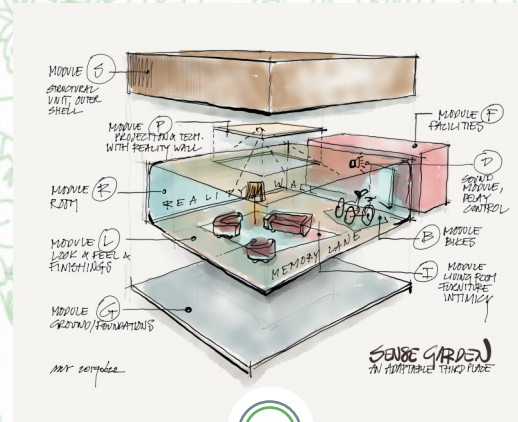
One Room. Six Elements. Endless possibilities.

SENSE-GARDEN combines six components to create one immersive, adaptable experience for the person with dementia.

A room is filled with familiar music, videos, and photos from known places and with known people. Pictures and videos are combined with music, sounds, and smell to provide an immersive space automatically adjusted to each visitor.

The SENSE-GARDEN will stimulate memories from the person's past, helping them to reconnect with their identity, and with others.

Memory Lane

A medium-sized touchscreen is dedicated to showing personal media such as photos and videos of family, friends, or hobbies. The use of haptic feedback will be investigated to allow the indiviudal to interact with this personal media, empowering them to explore their life story and reconnect with their sense of self-identity.

Sound surrounds me

A surround sound system is used to provide an immersive, sonic experience based on the person's life story. The individual is surrounded by their favourite music, or perhaps songs which hold personally significant meaning to them.

Reality Wall

Whether it is a forest, a beach, or a village– the Reality Wall can immerse the individual in an environment of their preference through panoramic display. This unique experience is complemented by the use of sound and smell.
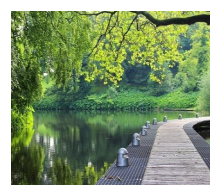
Scent to Memories

Scents are combined with the imagery in the room. For example, a forest shown on the reality wall can be paired with the scent of pine trees to enhance the sensation of being outside in the woods.

Life road

A film is projected in front of a stationary bicycle, and will start when the user begins to pedal. The film will pause in response to the user stopping to look and talk about particular buildings or places of interest. Not only does this experience promote physical wellbeing, but it also acts as a mental (cognitive) exercise for the individual.

Keep my balance

Balance is connected with all of the other senses, and therefore it is important promote healthy balance in people with dementia. Additionally, balance training may reduce the risk of falling in later stages of dementia, offering an improved quality of life.

Approach

The SENSE-GARDEN Project consists of five work packages:

WP1: Project management and coordination

This will cover administrative and coordination activities, as well as quality assurance and dissemination.

WP2: End-user integration and system design

We are working closely with users to identify their requirements for SENSE-GARDEN, as well as listening to their ideas and suggestions for the project.

WP3: System development and technical support

The SENSE-GARDEN technical platform will be implemented using a co-design approach, in which users are constantly involved in the development of the work.

WP4: SENSE-GARDEN trials

The SENSE-GARDEN system will be validated in group sessions, controlled individual sessions, and a pre-trial phase. A coherent and robust system will then be tested in a 12 month long trial.

WP5: Business planning and dissemination

Progress of the SENSE-GARDEN project will be constantly shared with both scientific and public audiences.

Word cloud from user responses to SENSE-GARDEN