

12 March, 10:45 – 12:15

Session Title: “Step change results from FP7 projects”

Organizers: Cécile Huet, Bjoern Juretzki, Franco Mastroddi (EU Commission)



**CYBERLEGs**



Vrije  
Universiteit  
Brussel



University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of *Electrical Engineering*

**Fondazione  
Don Carlo Gnocchi  
Onlus**

## Step change results from CYBERLEGs project

Nicola Vitiello, on behalf of the CYBERLEGs consortium



# CYBERLEGs project

## CYBERnetic LowEr-Limb CoGnitive Ortho-prosthesis



**Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – SSSA**  
Project Coordinator: Dr. Nicola Vitiello



**Université catholique de Louvaine – UCL**  
Prof. Renaud Ronsse



**Vrije Universiteit Brussel – VUB**  
Prof. Dirk Lefeber & Prof. Romain Meeusen

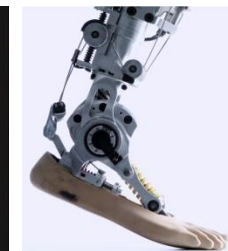
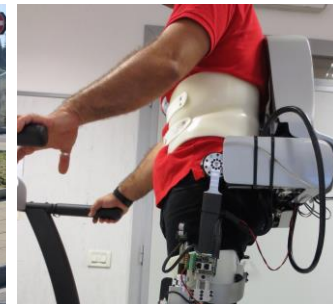
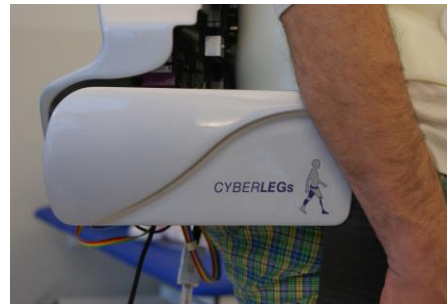


**Univerza V Ljubljani – UL**  
Prof. Marko Munih



**Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi - FDG**  
Dr. Raffaele Molino Lova

**CYBERLEGs** is an artificial cognitive **ortho-prosthesis** for dysvascular trans-femoral amputees lower-limb functional replacement and assistance in daily living activities



**Duration:** 3 years  
**Start date:** February 1, 2012  
**Budget:** 3,45 M€  
**EU Contribution:** 2,54 M€  
**Project Coordinator:** Nicola Vitiello  
**Leading institution:** The BioRobotics Institute,  
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

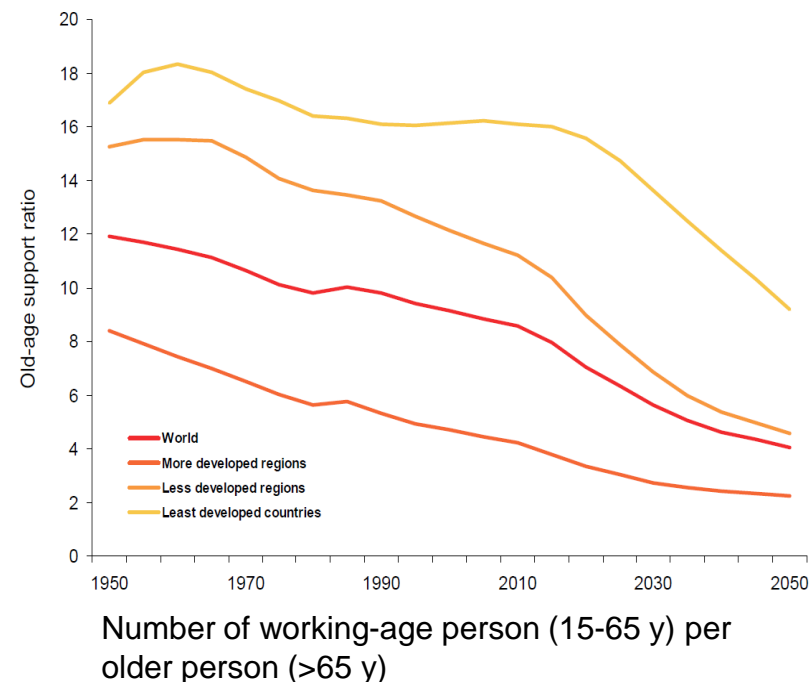
[www.cyberlegs.eu](http://www.cyberlegs.eu)

# World population ageing

The proportion of those that require **support for active aging** or care to improve quality of life in their old age **is increasing**, while the proportion of those that are asked to provide this support is declining. In other words, **an ageing society leads to concrete problems** that could threaten the sustainability of our welfare and economic system.



Gait disorders lead elderly people to an **inactive life** that bring several major consequences, like **poor cardio-fit** and sometimes a cognitive impairment.



## UN Ageing Report 2013:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WorldPopulationAgeing2013.pdf>



# Peripheral artery diseases lead to lower-limb amputations



*Diabetes affects more than 285 million people globally and that number is expected to grow by more than 50 percent in the next 20 years to 438 million people.*

- The most impairing comorbidity factor are dysvascular diseases that leads to **gait disorders** or even **amputation**.
- Difficulty and pain in walking brings to an inactive lifestyle that generates a **vicious circle** with the disease progression.

**Global SHERPA:** <http://www.globalsherpa.org/nutrition-market-obesity-malnutrition>

**WIKIPEDIA:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stroke>

- ▶ Lower-limb loss is a disabling condition
- ▶ Incidence of all-cause lower-limb amputations
  - ▶ 0.4 over 10,000 in Japan
  - ▶ 10 over 10,000 in Native American communities (e.g. Navajo Region, US)
- ▶ Vascular diseases are the main cause of lower-limb amputation: ~80% in US
  - ▶ ~60.000: new transfemoral amputees per year in US & EU28
- ▶ Ageing is a risk factor

## Transfemoral amputation is challenge

- ▶ More energy, less speed: 40% of the speed, 2.5 times more energy
- ▶ Steps, Stairs and other ups & downs
- ▶ More “mental energy”, less gait stability

# CYBERLEGs long-term vision

**CYBERLEGs**



## Market needs

- ▶ energetic, cognitive and stability challenge are not fully overcome by any passive or active prosthesis
- ▶ most (around 80%) of dysvascular amputees do not use any prosthesis
- ▶ **GOAL**, a new set of wearable robotic (orthotic and prosthetic) technologies
  - ▶ to help amputees to recover a more efficient gait/locomotion
  - ▶ intuitive/user friendly (low cognitive load)

**Patent pending**

N. Vitiello, et al., "Technological aid for transfemoral amputees", PCT/IB2013/055065, 2013.

# 3 years of project activities

---

Official video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0BEv-wa36Q>



# Case study #1: active pelvis orthosis (APO)

With reference to:  
**Robotics 2020 Multi-Annual Roadmap**,  
Release B 06/02/2015

**Gait Assistant for  
energy-efficient locomotion**

- Safe & ergonomic interaction
- Adaptive control (user drives)
- Inter-subject/inter-day variability
- High-force/high transparency

**Configurability**  
Level 3

**Run-time Self Configuration**  
Intra-, inter-day change of the  
assistive strategy configuration

**Adaptability**  
Level 3: parameter  
Level 2: component

**Multiple-parameter adaptation**  
Assistance adapts following the  
user performance  
**Adaptation of individual  
component**  
Adaptive self-aligning  
mechanism

**Interaction ability**  
HRI: Level 2  
HRI Safety: Level 7

**Direct physical interaction**  
Control through physical  
interaction  
**Dynamic safety**  
Strong forces but recognizes  
risky conditions

**Dependability**  
Level 4

**Graceful degradation**  
Recognise the impact of failures

**Market need**

**Requirements**

**Target abilities**

**Capabilities**

**Step change**

**Technologies**

**(X) Level 1**

**(v) Level 3**  
**(v) Level 2**

**(v) Level 2**  
**(x) Level 6**

**(x) Level 2**

**Novel Series-Elastic  
Actuator (SEA)**

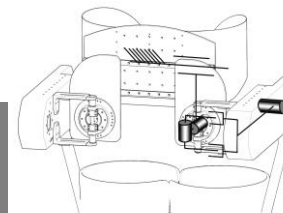
“Ideal” torque source  
New Actuator concept

**Mechatronics Actuators**

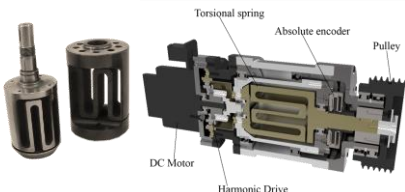
**Novel passive  
mechanism for  
ergonomic interaction**

Basic pHRI architecture  
Low-weight device  
Adaptive control strategy

**Human-Robot Interaction**



**3-DOF passive chain**  
**Collocated Abd/Add and Int/ext rotation**  
Patent App.: FI2015A00002



Weight: ~700 g  
Peak/cont torque: 22/12 N·m  
Paras. Stiff.: ~1 N·m/rad  
Patent App.:  
PCT/IB2014/062735



# Case study #2: active transfemoral prosthesis (ATP), whole-body awareness control (WBAC)

With reference to:  
**Robotics 2020 Multi-Annual Roadmap**,  
Release B 06/02/2015

## Above-knee prosthesis for human-like locomotion

- Safe & ergonomic interaction
- Intuitive control (no training)
- Adaptive control (user drives)
- Human-like movement (beyond passive mechanics)

### Configurability Level 3

**Run-time Self Configuration**  
Intra-, inter-day change of the control/assistive strategy configuration

(X) Level 1



Weight: ~5 kg  
2 powered DOFs  
SEA for knee joint  
VIA for ankle joint



### Adaptability Level 3: parameter Level 2: component

**Multiple-parameter adaptation**  
Control/injected energy adapts following the user performance  
**Adaptation of individual component**  
Adaptive rest position of knee flexion spring

(v) Level 3  
(v) Level 2

### Interaction ability HRI: Level 2 HRI Safety: Level 7

**Direct physical interaction**  
Control through physical interaction  
**Dynamic safety**  
Strong forces but recognizes risky conditions

(v) Level 2  
(x) Level 2

### Dependability Level 4

**Graceful degradation**  
Recognise the impact of failures

(x) Level 2

### Cognitive ability Level 3

**Sense driven action**  
Sensor-data fusion and action

(v) Level 3

### Novel ATP

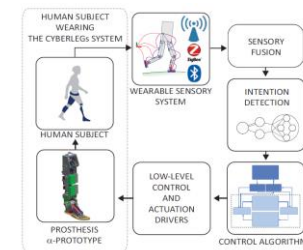
New actuator concept  
Variable-impedance actuator

### Mechatronics Actuators

### Non-invasive WBAC-based HRI

Novel kinds of interfaces  
Sensor data fusion to “propose” assistive activities to the user based on observed situation

### Human-Robot Interaction



**3 locomotion tasks**  
**100% success rate in GLW**  
Ambrozic et al., IEEE RAM, 2014

## Market need

## Requirements

## Target abilities

## Capabilities

## Step change

## Technologies





## Impact on healthcare domain ...and beyond healthcare

- ▶ CYBERLEGs technologies are ready to start an innovation process, addressing clear market needs
  - ▶ Rehabilitation and assistive needs
  - ▶ More than amputees: all lower-limb mild gait impairments
- ▶ Currently, this topic is being discussed with **Össur**, represented today by Freygarður Þorsteinsson
- ▶ A sector of the EU-27's non-financial economy which is **significantly affected by the ageing of the population and work force is the *construction sector***, (third largest workforce, some 15.0 million persons, and the third highest level of value added, about 600 B€) Eurostat yearbook 2012
  - ▶ construction is a physically demanding industry
  - ▶ construction is the sector most affected by fatal accidents (13 workers per 100.000 against 5 for the all sector average)
  - ▶ compared with white-collar workers, construction workers experience increasing chronic health conditions over time, and
  - ▶ although older workers typically have a lower frequency of workplace injuries, their injury-related costs are higher than of younger workers (Shuford and Restrepo, 2005)
- ▶ Currently, this topic is being explored with colleagues from **ACCIONA Infraestructuras**, represented today by Manuel Palomino Garcia



# Thanks for the attention

---

...questions?

Contact: **[n.vitiello@sssup.it](mailto:n.vitiello@sssup.it)**  
**<http://www.cyberlegs.eu>**