



ENVIRONMENTS SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT  
LIVING AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE



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For more information, visit our web page <http://ylivieska.centria.fi/isto>



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*Taking into account accessibility marks appreciation of human values and versatile services. Being a forerunner in developing accessibility can also be a competitive edge.*

ISTO project concentrates on environments that support independent living and opportunities to participate. The project strives for developing those functions that support meaningful everyday life. Another goal is to improve accessibility of the service entities in the field of travel and tourism so that they would meet better the needs of the elderly. A pilot group of elderly people will be set up and it will test the pilot sites.

The targets for the evaluation concerning the services and products that maintain the functions of a meaningful everyday life include service solutions related to, for example, small scale gardening. On the field of tourism the targets of development are outdoor activities such as nature trails and hiking trails, fishing, boating and canoeing in the Oulu south region.

The evaluation of the service entities also includes testing the suitability and usability of technical equipment. The service products will be designed and tested in order to make them more user-oriented and more accessible. This will be done in cooperation with the users, entrepreneurs and experts.

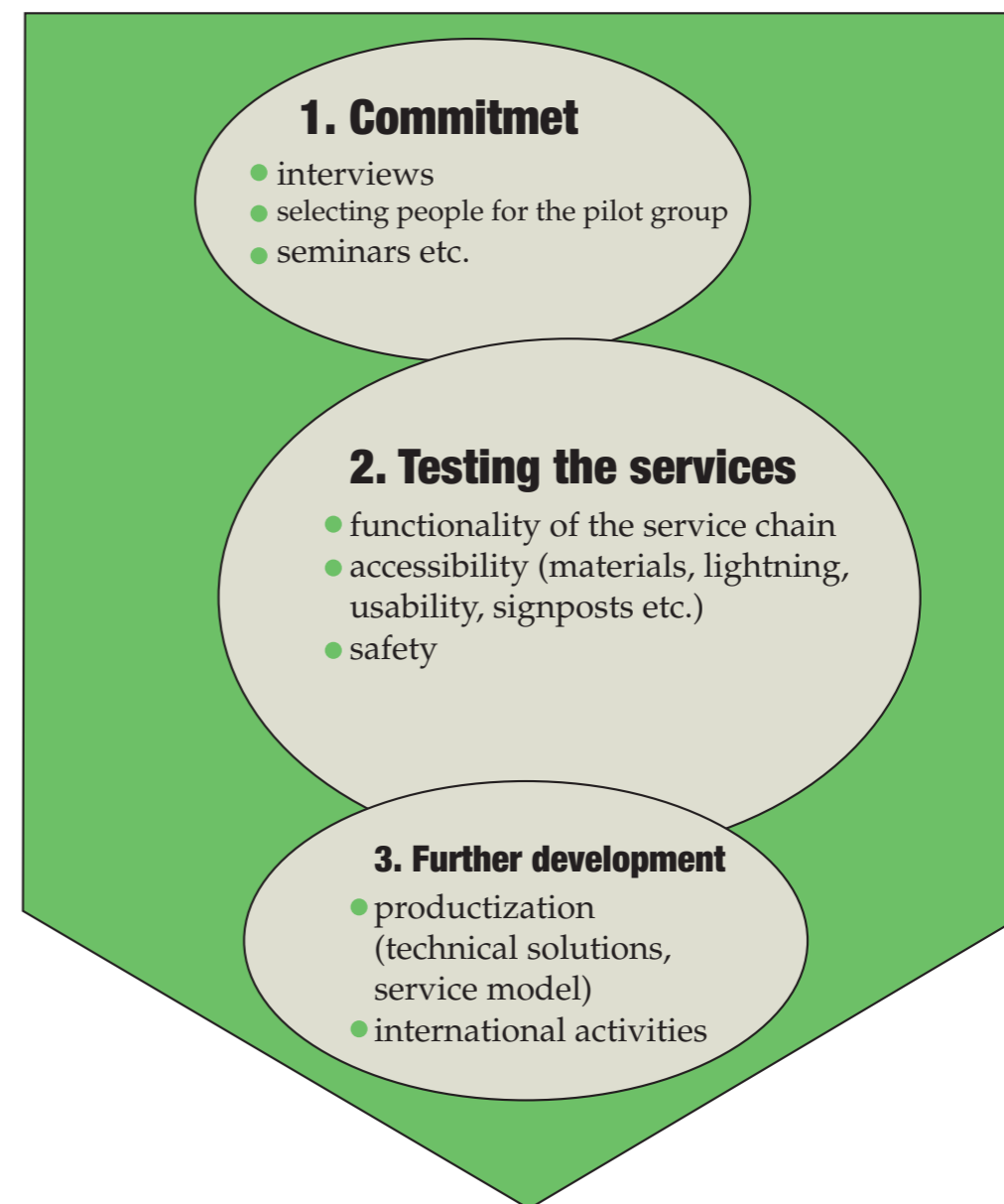
ISTO project will train a part of the pilot group to evaluate and give feedback on the assistive devices and usability with the help of an evaluation model. As a result, the companies will get valuable user-oriented feedback and an important expert view on service development.

ISTO project was initiated on **1 August 2006 and it will last until 30 June 2008.**

The project is administrated by CENTRIA, which is the research and development unit of Central Ostrobothnia University of Applied Sciences, located in Ylivieska.

The project is funded by X-Branches programme of Council of Oulu Region, the municipalities of Oulu south region and the cooperating companies.

## The steps of ISTO project



**"Independent living refers to an individual's ability and opportunities to act in a community as a competent and equal member of society"**

-Timo Ekroos