A basis for the successful fulfilment of the project idea is the creation of interprofessional Czech-Bavarian student teams made up of students from the study programmes Mechatronics, Robotics and Mechanical Engineering at the Technische Hochschule Deggendorf (THD) and students from the study programmes Design, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy at the University of West Bohemia (UWB). Under the guidance of scholars and researchers from both partner institutions and professionals with practical experience, the students will work on a specific topic related to technical aids aimed at improving the self-sufficiency of elderly people at home.

One of the main innovations will be the establishment of a multi-level, modular, configurable, open-access information system centre that should create a “friendly” environment for a dignified life of seniors. When aging-related changes set in, accomplishing ADLs (activities of daily living) becomes more difficult for seniors and they become dependent on the people around them. That is why the system is designed to help with ADLs, which are linked to the basic physical needs of a person and make their everyday life complete.

Another innovative approach is the students’ work which will be conducted in a logical order. After initial research, the students will conduct tests with seniors in their homes and nursing homes both in the Czech Republic and Bavaria according to standardized methods, evaluate the primary test results, prepare the necessary project documentation, design, produce and test relevant demonstrators, evaluate the final results and propose further solutions.

The project builds on a successful interprofessional student collaboration on specific topics assigned by real clients to the UWB and the THD. The unique international – or more precisely Czech-Bavarian – student cooperation of these two institutions has generated considerable added value. Another extraordinary aspect is that the students get an opportunity learn to work in an interprofessional international team already during their studies and find out more about the general professional and social links between the Czech Republic and Bavaria.