

An exchange platform for Alzheimer's patients

Munich - 20 January 2021 - The “BuddyHelper” exchange platform for Alzheimer's patients and their relatives was developed by a student team at MUAS with the help of the DTLab. It helps Alzheimer's patients to organise their everyday lives more independently and with more variety. They can use the app to exchange information with other patients and to organise meetings or ask for help in emergency situations. It also promotes the willingness of users to rely on and to accept support from others and forms a simple introduction to the use of technical aids. The release date will be announced in spring 2020.

A major problem when it comes to the support of Alzheimer's patients is the patients need for individual help, due to the many different manifestations of the disease. Because of this, the team at MUAS decided to provide an app that would enable those affected to request help in a variety of ways, both from other sufferers and from relatives.

"I think the network is great because it solves two big problems: On the one hand, it counteracts loneliness and on the other hand, it makes it easier to enter the digital world," says Mr. Heise (65), an Alzheimer's patient.

The Alzheimer's disease can unfold in many ways. Those affected are therefore dependent on very individual help, both from relatives and from state or non-profit organisations. The first contact to helpers as well as to technical aids is not easy. “BuddyHelper” tries to support the affected persons at exactly this point. It is an intuitive and easy-to-use exchange platform for patients, relatives and anyone who wants to help. Every user can register with an account, describe his or her situation and search for helpful contacts. This way, patients can receive pastoral care by fellow sufferers or a quick purchase by other helpful members, for example.

Within the application, there are both search and messenger functions that allow the user to meet others and to make new contacts. Private groups can be set up, both by seminar leaders of the German Alzheimer's Association and other users, to maintain contact over time. Finally, “BuddyHelper” is also intended to be a gentle introduction to technical aids for Alzheimer's patients.

The app will be available at the Google Play Store as well as on the homepage of MUAS and of the German Alzheimer's Society after its release. Its use will be free of charge and any costs will be covered by the German Alzheimer's Association. The German Alzheimer's Association will also offer introductory seminars for patients and relatives as well as a written introduction and video instructions to download on their homepage.