

Warm Technology Challenge

Student Design Competition

Are you up for a challenge to have a positive impact on the lives of people with dementia and make your studies more interesting?



Warm Technology examples: Welthuis kompas (r) and SAM (l)

Incidences of age-related diseases such as dementia are increasing. The societal views on dementia have drastically changed from addressing people with dementia by their symptoms to people with unique life experiences. Attention is shifting to living well with dementia, and how non-pharmacological interventions such as technology can play an important role to support this. However, there are still many challenges ahead. Technology is often devised without full consideration of the target user group, or a thorough understanding of the context in which it is to operate. Furthermore, technology is often perceived as impersonal, complicated, and cold. The recently launched expertise centre “Dementia & Technology” at the University has developed a novel approach to technology design and evaluation that we call “Warm Technology”, which we apply in the domain of dementia.

The warm technology approach to technology design is inclusive, person-centered, and focused on the abilities and aspirations of people living with dementia and their caretakers, rather than merely compensating for the loss of motor function or cognitive ability. Warm technology builds on this perspective by contributing to the well-being of every person through reinforcing dignity, supporting agency, and providing feelings of comfort and safety.

See more of our centre on www.ecdt.nl.

The Challenge

In this student design competition, we challenge students to contribute innovative and ground-breaking examples of warm technology that can have a meaningful impact on the lives of people with dementia and their loved ones. We highly welcome submissions that address the ethical challenges of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), socially assistive robots (SARs), or virtual reality (VR) and expand the notion of warm technology for people with dementia. Submissions can be in the form of mock-ups, functional prototypes, design probes, videos, future ideas, conceptual visions.

The submissions will be judged on:

- 1) impact on quality of life of people with dementia and their social surroundings;
- 2) relevance to the concept of warm technology by supporting inclusion, dignity, and empowerment;
- 3) novel and creative application of emergent technologies such as AI, VR, or SARs.

Selected submissions will be showcased at the exhibition during the **DDAI conference**, *“The first international conference about Dementia, Design and Artificial Intelligence”* on the 24th of February 2022 in Eindhoven. The winners of the student competition will be announced during the award ceremony at the end of the conference. First place will receive 1.000 EUR alongside unique network opportunities and connections with relevant stakeholders facilitated by **Alzheimer Nederland** and personal coaching sessions by experts from EC DT to further develop and refine their concept, product, or idea. The second and third place will be awarded 500 EUR and 250 EUR respectively.

Submission guidelines

You have to submit a document up to two A4 pages explaining the rationale and motivation behind your submission. Video submissions are optional but highly recommended. Students can participate both in groups and individually. The document and optional materials can be sent via email to dementia@tue.nl.

The deadline for submissions is 28th of January.



Warm Technology examples: LivingMoments (r) and Vita Pillow (l)