The HDC (Health and Demographic Changes) project is an Interreg 4b project involving several partners from 5 different countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and The Nederlands). The evaluation of the gerontechnology market was one of the targets. After a market overview, three different domains have been defined: RTLS (location system), actimetry and technologies improving social link for olders. RTLS systems have been tested in hospital (CHU Liège, CHLuxembourg) and have demonstrated their usefulness for patient and care givers. The acceptance level of the system (bracelet) is high probably because it is coupled with an alert system, which could allow the hospital not to use physical contention for some patients. Actimetry can also be used as an alarm device but has also helped in the diagnostic process (i.e. fall detection, delirium, …). This has been tested in the CHU Liège and Strasbourg but also at home and in a nursing home. The system looks like a watch and is then easily accepted. It gives information about patient activity. It can also study several other parameters, for example, the assessment of the quality of sleep. Social link technologies are used in the hospital through bedside terminals or at home via “tablet like” devices. At home, the tests demonstrate that olders are able to use that kind of system due to the design of the interface and like it. However, problems can occur, with family members, who don’t realize the interest of such systems. In the hospital, patients use the device and often ask if they can bring it at home. First studies show that age doesn’t influence the level of acceptance. The project ended with recommended actions. First of all, these technologies should be taken into account for the treatment and care of the elderly people. In order to do this, information has to be provided to the healthcare professional about the possible uses of these technologies. For every new project, privacy and ethical factors must be reconsidered. Another recommendation concern the start of partnerships with providers in order to define and develop technologies dedicated to old people.

Keywords: gerontechnology, ageing, quality, telemedecine, actimetry