

**Committee of Senior Representatives (CSR)  
Twenty First Meeting  
Tallinn, Estonia  
11-12 April 2013**



Northern Dimension  
Partnership in Public Health  
and Social Well-being  
[www.ndphs.org](http://www.ndphs.org)

<b>Reference</b>	CSR 21/3/1
<b>Title</b>	eHealth as a facilitator for quality, efficiency and equality in Health Care in the Baltic Sea Region
<b>Submitted by</b>	eHealth for Regions Network
<b>Summary / Note</b>	The CSR will be invited to consider the information and recommendations included in the paper and decide, as appropriate.
<b>Requested action</b>	For decision

## **eHealth as a facilitator for quality, efficiency and equality in Health Care in the Baltic Sea Region**

### Definition

"eHealth is the use, in the health sector, of digital data - transmitted, stored and retrieved electronically - in support of health care, both at the local site and at a distance." (WHO 2009)

### Contribution to the aims and objectives within EUSBSR

"The prosperity of the macro-region is based on its human capital; consequently a **healthy population** is a critical factor behind **sustainable economic development** of enterprises and societies. Improving people's health and social well-being is particularly important in the context of the **ageing society** and the **growing threat posed by non-communicable** diseases, two of the greatest macro-regional challenges in the 21st century."

(Action Plan for the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, page 94).

See also:

### Digital Agenda

- Key Action 13: Undertake pilot actions to equip Europeans with secure online access to their medical health data (by 2015) and to achieve widespread deployment of telemedicine services (by 2020).
- Key Action 14: Propose a recommendation defining a minimum common set of patient data for interoperability of patient records to be accessed or exchanged electronically across Member States (by 2012).
- Foster EU-wide standards, interoperability testing and certification of eHealth systems through stakeholder dialogue (by 2015).
- Reinforce the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint Program to allow older people and persons with disabilities to live independently and be active in society.

EUSBSR (*EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region*) – Priority Area Health

eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020

eHealth Ministerial Conference 2011 (Budapest)

## eHealth in the BSR/Examples for good practice

The BSR has a leading role in the implementation of eHealth solutions in Europe. There are several successful projects and a lot of applications running in the daily health care services, some as Flagship projects, for example *ICT for Health*. This, in the meantime completed project provides the following results:

- a) SALUDA, a self-monitoring system for elderly with chronic heart failure.
- b) VIVAPORT, a multilingual portal which provides citizen with the medical data all over the BSR.
- c) eHealthforcitizen.eu , a portal which explains what eHealth can do for the citizen in the BSR (applications and benefits).
- d) Results from the eHealth Acceptance Conference in Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## Recommendations/Messages

The BSR has the potential to stay on top of Europe with several good practice solutions. So the BSR could be seen as an eHealth benchmark for all other regions in Europe. The NDPHS should define eHealth as one of the major fields of future activity.

Therefore the NDPHS could support the following activities:

- a) Deployment of good practice eHealth solutions in the BSR, including establishing business models for the use of ICT in Health Care.
- b) Efforts to close the gap between research (Universities) and the eHealth marketplace. Preparing strategies to support political bodies how to implement eHealth in Health Care best.
- c) Political support for preparing new projects (major application fields: AAL, Healthy Ageing, Prevention and Life-Style Management; Patient Empowerment and Participation of citizen through eHealth; Improve Health and eHealth literacy and acceptance); Support of Flagship-Projects.

→ The eHealth for Regions Network, acting in its capacity as a NDPHS Associated Expert Group, is able to take over the responsibility for following activities:

- establish and maintain a data base with good practice eHealth applications
- offer expertise for BSR-regions in relation to planned eHealth projects
- offer project consulting from international experts for eHealth projects
- offer experts for advisory boards in the BSR countries for eHealth strategies and projects
- moderate crossborder eHealth projects also on application level
- maintain a data base related to eHealth related data in the BSR (using a benchmark atlas, developed in the ICT for Health project)

- being an agent to eHealth experts in the BSR from different disciplines, e.g. ICT, economy, medicine, nursing, prevention

The network offers already existing structures that work efficiently and sustainable. A joint effort would be needed regarding the financing since the network could only part-finance the additional work-load by itself.

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