

## **Welcome-speech**

**Peder Jest**

**Baltic eHealth  
14th. September 2004  
Svendborg Hotel**

Good morning.

My name is Peder Jest and I am Medical director here at the Funen Hospital. I would like to welcome you all to the south of Funen, here in Svendborg. I hope you have had a couple of nice hours at the old theatre last night and enjoyed the surroundings, the musicians and the food – I did. And a few pints of beer later in the evening. Unfortunately I didn't!

Here at the Funen hospital, we are looking forward to participate in this project. In these times of globalization and centralism it is getting more and more important to take full advantage of the possibilities within the eHealth area at the national level as well as the international level. Especially as an instrument to secure the health services in the rural areas. A new good word: Globalization and localization combined in glocalization.

In Denmark – as you perhaps know – we are working on a structural reform in which the existing 14 counties are being dismantled and the responsibility, of the delivery of health care services, is placed in the hands of five big regions. It is no secret that this reform constitutes a possible threat to the smaller hospitals in the rural areas. So in this perspective, the application of eHealth becomes even more interesting.

At the Funen hospital we have always made an effort to use the existing technological potential. I would like to mention some of our existing eHealth schemes:

First of all - in our 6 hospitals we have a fully implemented Electronic health record, still unusually in Denmark.

At the radiology area we have a small scale PACS system between Svendborg and Ærø, which we tomorrow are going to see in function. We are looking forward to further develop the use of eHealth in this area, when we get to the eRadiology pilot later on.

Another example is the photo-screenings of the eye-background of patients with diabetes. The pictures are taken here in Svendborg and transmitted out. You will see that tomorrow too. We have recently established video-conferences between Svendborg and the small islands to treat alcoholics. Another project-area is cardiology, where the paramedics before arrival to the hospital, can transmit echocardiograms to the cardiologist at the hospital in Svendborg. Finally we have a highly technological voice-operated operation-theatre placed in Faaborg, which among other things allows videoconferences between the surgeons in Svendborg and Faaborg.

I believe that the right use of eHealth in these various forms can increase the quality as well as the service and the contentment of the patients. It can also contribute to a more equal access to health care services. At the same time you can make better use of the resources by avoiding redundancy, reduce the number of examinations and patient transportations etc.

On the other hand you also have to be aware of the obstacles, which exist when implementing eHealth in the daily routines at the clinics. Of course it requires that the technical, economic and legal conditions are developed and available. Therefore I think it is excellent, that one of the goals of this project, is to find out how to brake down some of these barriers.

However it also requires an adaptability from the employees and the management and a new way of thinking. You have to induce a different perception of division of labour and change the demarcations between the different health care professionals. Education of the staff is also important.

In conclusion I hope we will get a fruitful and productive meeting, discussing the work-packages in the project and end up getting it framed in the right direction.

After todays meeting you are going to see some of our splendid nature and historic culture. We take a boat to Tåsinge - Valdemars Castle, where we are going to enjoy a good dinner. The castle was build in the seventh century and was habitated by one of Denmarks naval heroes; Admiral Niels Juel who, by the way, is famous for his victory over our Swedish friends in Køge Bay in 1677!

Therefore I think it is a quite fitting venue for the kick-off of our new transnational co-operation in this project! If you can't beat them, join them!  
Have a nice day.

Thank you.