



Newsletter no. 3, June 2006

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“Cross-border eHealth in the Baltic Sea Region – Healthcare delivery for the patients of today and tomorrow”.

In May 2007 the final conference for the Baltic eHealth project will be held. The conference will be held in collaboration with another INTERREG III B project *eHealth for Regions* (www.ehealthforregions.net). Both projects pursue the vision of “Health for all” citizens.

The common conference “Cross-border eHealth in the Baltic Sea Region” of the two projects will show the project results, challenges, strategies and the projects of the future. The aim is to bring together persons from the health sectors, who are involved in the health processes in the close sense, but also persons from fields such as IT, business, policy, administration, spatial planning and education.

The final conference will be held in Stockholm on the 21st and 22nd of May 2007. Register for the conference on www.ehealthconference.info

Can a health care institution join the Baltic eHealth project?

The objective of Baltic eHealth is to facilitate the use of eHealth across national borders in the Baltic Sea Region. One of the major results of the project is a secure Internet-based infrastructure - the Baltic Health Network - which connects all hospitals and many other health care institutions from Denmark, Norway and Sweden (plus East Central Tallinn Hospital and Vilnius University Hospital). The Network now connects more than 200 hospitals, which now very easily (from a technical point of view) can initiate collaborations with each other using the Network.

Any healthcare institution in the Baltic Sea Region is welcome to join the Baltic Health Network if they 1) can assure that their own network is secure (the Baltic Health Network’s security consists of a VPN-network of secure networks) and 2) have a reason to be on the Baltic Health Network. The second condition means in practise that they should have a communication need with one or more of the hospitals already connected to the Network.

Further information can be found by looking at the project web site or contacting the Baltic eHealth project at info@baltic-ehealth.org

Opening the Service Portal

The Service Portal, which is one of the deliverables of the Baltic eHealth project, has recently been released on the open Internet. The Service Portal is an important tool to reach the aim of the project; to provide digital healthcare communication so that it assists in preventing a negative development spiral in outlying, rural areas.

The mission of the Service Portal is to bring useful information to all partners in the Baltic eHealth Project and partners on the Baltic Health Network in providing an effective and efficient service to all the customers in line with the policies and procedures for transnational services. The Service Portal will be a common place for eHealth providers, for hospitals selling or buying eHealth Services and for vendors and the industry. Through the Portal all should be able to get the necessary information needed. The Portal will be based on the model with Yellow pages on the open Internet where potential suppliers and demanders of telemedicine services outside the consortium can access the Portal to find each other. The target group is in other words any medical institution from the BSR and not only the 10 participating partners.

The Service Portal can be found on www.worldehealth.net

The future Baltic eHealth project - Creation of a European marketplace

Most of today's eHealth services must be characterized as point-to-point pilots driven forward by fiery souls. Instead – for eHealth to reach its full potential – eHealth should be facilitated in a pan-European eHealth Marketplace where supply and demand of telemedicine services are matched in a number of interconnected highly controlled brokering systems.

The group behind the Baltic eHealth project suggests that resource sharing and problem solving should be facilitated in dynamic and multi-institutional virtual settings with equal participation by medical professionals and patients and the Baltic Health Network is the first necessary step. By creating an eHealth Marketplace, it will be possible to solve major interoperability problems as more than 200 hospitals from the Baltic Sea Region are already connected.

However, many additional steps are needed to reach the goal of a pan-European eHealth Marketplace. Virtual brokering systems are already commercially available, but they need to be interconnected and also integrated with EHR, PACS etc. Standards and terminology for this integration are largely defined but there is a lack international consensus on how to use these. Another major issue that needs attention at international level is accreditation of medical professionals and services – this is crucial when the demand side has no personal experience with the supply side.

Further information:

Baltic eHealth www.Baltic-eHealth.org

Final conference www.ehealthconference.info

Danish Centre for Health Telematics www.cfst.dk

Baltic Sea Region Interreg III b www.spatial.baltic.net

