EPF eHealth Seminar

The way towards large scale deployment of eHealth: where do patients stand?

Date and Venue

Hotel Bloom, Brussels, 23 January 2013.

Background and premise

Over the last four years EPF has been participating in various eHealth projects with the twofold objective gathering evidence-based patient perspective and ensuring that patients' needs and expectations are thoroughly integrated in eHealth policies, strategies and services right from the onset.

Through projects like the Chain of TRUST[1], RENEWING HeALTH[2], SUSTAINS[3], CALLIOPE[4], the eHealth Governance Initiative[5], as well as through EPF involvement in the eHealth Task Force[6] and eHealth Stakeholder Group[7] we have managed to amass a good wealth on knowledge on patients views, requirements, and expectations in relation to eHealth.

Time has now come for a thorough assessment of these findings through an inclusive dialogue with the wider patient community with a view to promoting more patient-centred eHealth policies and services at EU, national and regional level.

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[1] Led by the European Patients' Forum the Chain of TRUST project undertook an overall assessment of the perspective of patients and health professionals on telehealth.

[2] RENEWING HeALTH is an European project aiming at implementing large-scale real-life test beds in 9 European Regions for the validation and evaluation of innovative telemedicine services by means of a patient-centred approach and a common rigorous assessment methodology.

[3] SUSTAINS is an EU project deploying a basket of services in 11 European regions providing patients with direct online access to their medical records.

[4] CALLIOPE was a Thematic Network set up in 2008 to operate as an open forum to support Member States in implementing interoperable eHealth solutions, in close collaboration with the key relevant actors.

[5] The eHealth Governance Initiative (eHGI) is political initiative launched in 2011 aiming to establish a sustainable platform to provide to the Member States, the EC, health authorities, competence centres, user groups, industry and other relevant stakeholders a European interoperability framework to facilitate involvement and usage of the work in the defined policy areas.

[6] The eHealth Task Force was set up in 2011 to advise the EC on how to unlock the potential of eHealth for safer, better and more efficient health care in Europe and also explore the relationships between eHealth, telemedicine and social policy. EPF President has been involved in the Task Force since the beginning.

[7] The eHealth Stakeholder Group was set up in 2012 following the merging of two groups, i.e. the eHealth User Stakeholder Group, where EPF had been participating since its establishment, and the eHealth Industry stakeholder Group. The new Group will contribute to the development of legislation or policy related to eHealth, by providing for example reports, opinions and relevant data.

A STRONG PATIENTS' VOICE TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE

Target group

This Seminar will involve approximately 60 participants who are patient leaders from across the EU who wish to become more engaged in the eHealth agenda at national and European level.

Objectives of the eHealth Seminar

The objectives of the EPF eHealth Seminar have been identified as follows:

Objective 1: To explore advances, and the 'state of the art' on patient involvement in eHealth at policy, strategic and operational level from the perspective of different patient communities.

Objective 2: To draw on developments in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, the eHealth Governance Initiative, and the High Level Task Force on eHealth, as well as a number of different EU projects on eHealth in which EPF is involved (Chain of Trust, Renewing Health, and Sustains) in order to assess and increase awareness of benefits and potential risks of eHealth as well as of the role trust and acceptance play in fostering large scale uptake of eHealth services by patients.

Objective 3: To explore how patients and patient organisations can become more involved in eHealth policies as well as in the design, implementation, and assessment of eHealth services.

Objective 4: To investigate the potential contribution of eHealth to patient empowerment and explore how eHealth affects patient health professional relationship, and the leadership and "connectivity" required to ensure that patients really benefit.

Expected outcomes

The eHealth Seminar is expected to generate the following outcomes:

- Greater awareness among the patient leaders and advocates regarding the policy implications of eHealth and European initiatives in this area that are of relevance to their work a national and or disease specific context

- Discussion and proposals regarding the potential contribution of eHealth to empowerment of patients and patient-centred healthcare

- Seminar conclusions and recommendations are integrated into patient organisations and other stakeholders' policy positions on eHealth.

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Detailed structure

Time	Title	Speaker
08.00 - 09.00	Registrations	

Time	Title	Speaker
09.00 - 09.10	**Welcoming notes**	Anders Olauson, EPF President
09.10 - 09.35	**Introduction to eHealth**	Tamsin Rose
09:35 - 10.15	**Setting the scene**	
15 mins	Understanding eHealth its benefits and potential risks for patients	Nicola Bedlington, EPF
15 mins	The view of DG CONNECT	Robert Madelin, Director General DG CONNECT
10 mins	Q&A session	All
10:15 - 11:25	**Examples of eHealth services and opportunities for patients**	
15 mins	Example 1: RENEWING HeALTH: telemedicine services for people with long-term health conditions	Silvia Mancin, Arsenàl, Veneto Region (Italy)
15 mins	Example 2: SUSTAINS: patient accessible Electronic Health Records	Josu Xabier Llano Arnaiz Basque Country (Spain)
15 mins	Example 3: epSoS cross-border exchange of personal health data (patient summary and ePrescription)	Fredrik Linden, SALAR, Sweden
10 mins	Reaction from DG CONNECT	Mr Ilias Iakovidis, Acting Head of Unit, ICT for Inclusion, DG Connect
10 mins	Q&A session	All
11.25 – 11.45	**Coffee break**	
11:45 – 13:15	**Parallel sessions round A**	

Time	Title	Speaker
Session A1	A1: Assessing eHealth services: patient outcomes	**Moderator:** Walter Atzori, EPF **Speaker**: Anna Kotzeva, Catalan HTA Agency
Session A2	A2: eHealth and patient empowerment	**Moderators:** Rose-Mharie Åhlfeldt, University of Skövde, DOME Project
Session A3	A3: eHealth and patient-health professional relationship	**Moderator:** Jurate Svarcaite, Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)
13.15 – 14.15	**Lunch**	
14:15 – 15:00	Reporting panel and Q&A	Moderators and rapporteurs
15:00 – 16:15	**eHealth policy landscape**	
20 mins	EU-level eHealth policies	Zoi Kollitsi, eHealth Governance Initiative
20 mins	National level – action plans	Peeter Ross, e-Tervis, Estonian eHealth Foundation
20 mins	Regional level: developing eHealth services for the patients.	Camille Bullot, Assembly of European Regions
15 mins	Q&A	All
16:15-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:15	**Setting up a multi-stakeholder platform on eHealth**	Elena Bonfiglioli (Microsoft) Nicola Bedlington (EPF)
17:15 - 17.30	**Closing remarks: the way forward**	Anders Olausson (EPF)

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