



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

The Barents Programme on New Technology and Methods in Health Care in sparsely populated areas

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Dr.Zaza Tsereteli, MD, MPH – Senior Advisor
Ministry of Health and Care Services, Norway

Programme Coordinator

Programme Aim

- A) Collecting and exchanging information and knowledge on best practices of cost- effective solutions to meet unmet health care needs in rural areas,
- B) Sharing of models (modules) for introduction of health information technology (HIT) in different fields of the health and care systems, including exchanging personell training and education

Programme Objectives

- Improved capacities of facilities and institutions to implement innovative eHealth solutions the application of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to the health sector
- Mapping and identification best practices and innovative eHealth solutions which can be transferred further developed and integrated into a health care system in the partner regions
- Increased cooperation between the countries of the Barents Region in the field of Health care in *sparse populated areas*

Organization of the work of the programme

A steering committee (SC) consisting of representatives from the Barents countries and regions is established to ensure the necessary coordination and exchange of information. The SC reports to the JWGHS.

SC Chair person – Oddvar Larsen (Northern Norway Health Authority)

SC Vice-Chair person – Aniskova Inga, Deputy Minister of Health, Murmansk Region

Programme activities

1. December 8, E-Health Conference
2. February 18, 2021, fourth meeting of the SC on-line meetings organized
3. Development of the project proposal - Assessment of the Digital Governance in the BEAC Region
4. Cooperation with the NDPHS

Main findings

- The technical foundations for telehealth were already available in Barents Region before COVID19
- Finding 1
- The type of telehealth services used has shifted since the coronavirus outbreak
- Finding 2
- Digitalhealth usage shifts from chronic conditions towards more regular (first touch point) use cases
- Finding 3
- The target audience is not restricted to the elderly or the digital natives, it can be for everyone

What are the main challenges regarding the provision of telehealth services in our Regions

- Lesson 1
- Proper funding, better regulations and interoperability are needed
- Lesson 2
- The privacy and security of an individual's healthcare data
- Lesson 3
- Governance in Digital Health Systems - rigid organizational structures and policy settings, experience in digital leadership,

Recommendations

- Patients need to be included as partners and informed about health technologies, with a focus on how access and use of such technologies must be considered to support vulnerable populations.
- To improve health literacy, knowledge about digital technologies, to ensure access to health services for every citizen.
- The healthcare workforce requires expertise and guidance to evaluate new technologies, using processes grounded in real-world evidence.
- Reimbursement models must be designed to support and enable the required changes to clinician workflows, competencies in managing digital models of care

Digital Governance assessment

Digital health governance - is defined as the act of governing e-health, which involves decision making as well as e-health management

Data governance framework that balances data privacy and protection with innovation is also essential. The generation, protection, use, sharing, and international transfer of high-quality data is fundamental to an effective and innovative digital health program

Policymakers need to build interoperability into their frameworks from the start, as many of the benefits of digital health technologies require cross-border transfers of data

Purpose of the assessment

Further assess how the Barents Regions are dealing with the digital transformation of health Care, and how governing e-health, which involves decision making as well as e-health management is organized in the regions

1. Governance & Workforce
2. Interoperability
3. Person-Enabled Health

Examples of questionnes

Have standard policies and procedures about all aspects of data governance and the data management lifecycle, including collection, maintenance, usage and dissemination, been clearly defined and documented?

Are clinicians using secure devices in daily practice routines, to enable collaboration with other clinicians, including secure messaging, consultations, and real time access to patient data, securely managed to protect privacy

Are Individuals the primary decision-makers and use digital tools to self-manage their health and wellness

- **Thank you for your attention**

- **E-mail: zaza.tsereteli@hod.dep.no**