TELEMEDICINE:
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL APPROACH

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Region?
Geographical concept

An area of land or water, smaller than the whole areas of interest (e.g., the world, a nation, a river basin, a mountain range, etc.), or larger than a specific site.

Each region may be seen as a collection of smaller units or as part of a larger whole.

Regions can be defined by:
- Physical characteristics,
- Human characteristics (cultural, religious),
- Functional characteristics (infrastructure).
Regional Approach
To promote sharing of ideas, resources and actions to achieve specific objectives,

To avoid overlaps,

To optimize synergies
Advantages

- Ensures efficient and effective allocation of limited resources;
- Enables the capacity building to focus on those areas where the optimal effect will be achieved;
- Facilitates the design of regional policies and various infrastructures that are key to sustainable development;
- Uses the ‘bottom – up’ approach;
- Seeks advantages at regional level that
  - could not be derived solely from a national or international level approach
  - could not be achieved through global or small scale approaches;
- Respects and considers cultural and religious diversities when implementing new solutions
- …

It opens the door for partnerships and results in a Win-win situation!
Characteristics

- **Heterogeneity**
  - Regions are not homogeneous
  - As a result, a regional approach will differ according to the specificity of the area

- **Local information**
  - Information needed for setting priority is largely available locally
  - Requires active participation of local stakeholders
Principles for a Regional Approach

- Partnership
- Coordination
- Participation
Regional Approach in Telemedicine
Regions vary in geography, human resources, economic status, infrastructure, culture and religion, disease burden, funds dedicated to healthcare …

United Nations Geoscheme
Public Expenditure on Health as % of GDP for 2004

- North America: 12.5%
- Western Europe: 6.9%
- Eastern Europe: 4.6%
- Central America: 3.7%
- South America: 3.59%
- Southern Asia: 2.77%
- Central Africa: 1.84%
- South-Eastern Asia: 1.5%

Other countries:
- Bangladesh: 0.9%
- Bhutan: 3%
- India: 0.9%
- Maldives: 3.2%
- Nepal: 1.5%
- Pakistan: 0.4%
- Sri Lanka: 2%
Some Success Stories
Telemedicine for the Amazon Region

Brazilian eHealth project - assisting urban and Indian populations with skin and mouth lesion complaints in the region of Ji-Parana City, Rondonia, Cardoso et al., 2009, www.medettel.eu

Siberia (Russia)

- Mobile hospitals – trains, 9 wagons each, traveling East-West and North-South
- Mobile solutions


Solutions for remote areas, Russia Selkov 2008
www.stil.bas.bg/FSR/
Tele-nursing
Volga Region (Russia) and Maine Coast (USA)

- Volga region: 250,000 km², ~6 millions people
- Tele-nursing in Saratov Railway Clinic (534 beds, 560 nurses) - tele-education, monitoring patients at home, preventive checking of cardiology patients using SMS and MMS

- Maine Coast (The State of Maine, USA)
- Tele-nursing - 75-foot boat cruises among four small islands - Frenchboro, Matinicus, Swans and Isle au Haut, that do not have resident physicians

Telenurse provides care for “Seacoast Missions” Medical boat, Castelli Med-e-Tel 2009

Karchenova, Kazimov Med-e-Tel 2009
Rural Regions, India

- Mobile unite equipped with X-rays, ECG, microscopy, recording vital parameters
- Operating on diesel fuel, solar panels, batteries
West Coast of Sweden (Bohuslän)

24-Hour Anonymous Teledermatology Service Using the Mobile Telephone

- Take a photo
- Include information
- Send it

My daughter had a rash over the stomach when she woke up this morning. We have gone through what she ate yesterday and nothing out of the ordinary. Fever 37.6

Borve, Molina-Martinez
Central and South-East Asia
Philippines, Pakistan, Indonesia

Web and SMS-servers for Safe Motherhood Program and in-house training of personnel
Regional Tele-Pediatrics

- California (USA)
  - 40% of emergency departments (ED) lack 24/7 access to pediatricians
  - Children make up 27% of all ED visits, but only 6% of EDs in the US have all of the necessary supplies for pediatric emergencies

- Donetsk (Ukraine)

Parsapour 2007, www.medetel.eu

CATEL
The "Francophonie"
Cooperation and Networking
NGO in Official Relation with WHO

Mission Statement

The ISfTeH exists to facilitate the international dissemination of knowledge and experience in Telemedicine and eHealth and to provide access to recognized experts in the field worldwide!
Already 50+ Countries Participate in ISfTeH!
ISfTeH Structure

**Membership**
- eHealth Councils
- National
- Associated
- Institutional
- Corporate
- Individual
- Students
- Nurses

**Working Groups**
- Education
- Students
- Telenursing
- Good Practice Models and Nomenclature
- Communication
- …
International Relations

- WHO
- ITU
- UNOOSA
- EU
- ...
For more information

www.isft.net
Med-e-Tel

Med-e-Tel (The International Educational and Networking Forum for eHealth, Telemedicine and Health ICT)

www.medetel.eu
Med-e-Tel

- Truly international with more than 50 countries attending every year
- Broadly educational with CME accreditation by the EACCME
- Extensive program on a wide variety of topics
- Versatile exhibition of products and services
- Focusing on practical experiences and results
- Supported by major international organizations
- Important media partnerships to reach a global audience
- The ultimate networking event in telemedicine and eHealth
Format

- Exhibition
- Educational program
  - Plenary session
  - Parallel sessions
  - Satellite symposia
  - Workshops
  - Project meetings
  - …
- Media corner
Med-e-Tel 2009

- >200 presentations from 54 countries
- 42 media partners
- Exhibitors and presentations available at www.medetel.eu
- Highly evaluated by attendees

Countries represented at Med-e-Tel 2009

Have I learned something from this event? (%)

Will the event change my practice? (%)

Follow-up
Accreditation

- Med-e-Tel provides many educational opportunities through its extensive program of presentations, panel discussions, workshops and satellite symposia.
- For the third consecutive year Med-e-Tel was accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to provide maximum of 18 hours of European external CME credits for medical specialists.
- EACCME credits are also recognized by the American Medical Association towards the Physician's Recognition Award (PRA).
- >120 medical doctors have already received CME credits at Med-e-Tel.
See you at the next edition!

14-16 April, 2010

Do not forget to tell your friends!
THANK YOU!