

## Dear members, partners and friends,

With this newsletter you receive the latest news of the eHealth for Regions Network! You will hear about the role of the network in the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS), the latest and upcoming meetings of the network, personnel changes and about the flagship project ICT for Health as well as the running project application PrimCare IT.

## What happened so far?

### Lead Role for promoting eHealth issues within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

In Newsletter N°4 it was announced that the NDPHS offered the eHealth for Regions Network to take the lead role for the eHealth component of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, which the network members agreed upon.

The cooperation between the NDPHS and our network has been very fruitful! Roland Trill had the opportunity to present the work of the eHealth for Regions Network at the 18<sup>th</sup> Committee of Senior Representatives meeting in Oslo on 14 March, 2011. Furthermore, the NDPHS Secretariat wrote a Letter of Support for the running project application PrimCare IT.

For further information about the NDPHS, please visit [www.ndphs.org](http://www.ndphs.org).

### ESC Meeting in Vilnius

The meeting of the Executives Steering Committee took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 9 March, 2011.

The ESC members discussed, inter alia, the further strategic development of the network.

The network will carry out an online-survey to identify the challenges and opportunities in the health care sector in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. Based on the results, the eHealth for Regions Network will support the deployment of eHealth solutions more efficiently over the next few years within the Baltic Sea Region.

If you would like to participate in this survey, please send an e-mail to Ms. Christine von Hielmcrone ([christine.hielmcrone@fh-flensburg.de](mailto:christine.hielmcrone@fh-flensburg.de)).

She will provide you with the link and a password.

### Changes in the PSB and ESC

- Stefan Lamme is the new PSB member of the Region Skåne. He succeeded Henrik Hammar, who retired this year.
- Ane Allermann replaced Kristian Alstrup Baden as an ESC member from the Region of North Denmark.

The network thanks Henrik Hammar and Kristina Alstrup Baden for their high involvement in the development of the network.

### Changes in the Management Secretariat

Since midst of January 2011, the Management Secretariat, which is located at the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, has a new co-worker: Christine von Hielmcrone (31), an international economist with a Master of Arts in eHealth. She has experiences in project work and in the writing of project applications. Besides the day-to-day management, Christine von Hielmcrone will, inter alia, develop strategies for the

future work of the network, network with the EU, and work together with the NDPHS.

For any questions or comments concerning the network, please contact her:

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### **Information Event about the eHealth for Regions Network in Kiel on 30 May, 2011**

The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Health of the Land Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, invited interested persons and organizations to an information event about the eHealth for Regions Network and its work.

Dr. Benedikt Müller-Lucks (Deputy Head of Health Department) welcomed the guests on behalf of Dr. Renée Buck (Head of Health Department and member of the Political Strategic Board of the eHealth for Regions Network).

Prof. Dr. Roland Trill, Management Secretariat, gave a detailed overview of the structure, objectives, and benefit of the eHealth for Regions Network. After a presentation on the running project "ICT for Health" and the planned project "PrimCare IT" (see below) by Prof. Dr. Roland Trill and Christine von Hielmcrone, Management Secretariat, Martin Tretbar-Endres (member of the Executive Steering Committee) informed about networking in the Baltic Sea Region and in the EU.

Many participants commended the event and want to stay in contact with the network in the future.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Virtual Seminar on the Regional Telemedicine Forum**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Virtual Seminar took place on 20 June, 2011, and focused on telemedicine. Christina E. Wanscher from MedCom reported about the activities of the INTERREG 4C project "Regional Telemedicine Forum".

This project consists of nine European regions and its aim is to exchange experiences within the area of telemedicine as this has proven to be an efficient way of tackling the rising demands in health care.

The presentation focused on the results achieved so far in the project and addressed how regions – in particular the Region of Southern Denmark – has implemented telemedicine services for diabetic patients.

The next virtual seminars will be held in September and November 2011.

### **Project News**

#### **ICT for Health – flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region!**

"ICT for Health" has been integrated into the action plan of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy by the EU Commission. This decision ensures strong political support all over the Baltic Sea Region during the project phase. Main aim of the project is to strengthen the social acceptance of telemedicine.

Background:

In October 2009, the European Council gave the starting signal for realizing the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. Thus, an action plan became valid containing concrete projects to improve the wealth of the Baltic Sea Region.

This action plan is updated currently. In its recent version it now includes also the project "ICT for Health".

For more information, please visit  
<http://www.ictforhealth.net> and  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/baltic/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/index_en.htm)

## **PrimCare IT – running project application within the Baltic Sea Programme 2007-2013**

The network submitted a project application for the last call of the Baltic Sea Programme 2007-2013 in March.

The title of this project is PrimCare IT - Counteracting brain drain and professional isolation of health professionals in remote primary health care through tele-consultation and tele-mentoring to strengthen social conditions in remote Baltic Sea Region areas.

The overall aim of PrimCare IT is to raise the attractiveness of remote primary health care for medical professionals by the means of tele-consultation and tele-mentoring. Thereby the project counteracts brain drain and professional isolation in sparsely populated areas for more equal access to primary health care in the Baltic Sea Region.

PrimCare IT is part of the flagship projects ImPrim and ICT for Health. ImPrim focuses on financial incentives and professional development to attract health professionals to primary health care. PrimCare IT complements this approach by elaborating on opportunities of tele-consultation and tele-mentoring. PrimCare IT reuses outputs from ICT for Health, i.e. education courses to raise eHealth acceptance of health professionals.

The project will be supported by 16 project partners from 7 different countries. Lead Partner will be the South Ostrobothnian Healthcare District in Finland.

A decision from the Monitoring Committee is expected in September/ October 2011.

## **What comes up?**

### **Overview about the upcoming events**

- 24/10/11** ESC meeting in Gdansk, Poland
- 25/10/11** PSB meeting in Gdansk, Poland
- X/09/11** 6<sup>th</sup> Virtual Seminar
- X/11/11** 7<sup>th</sup> Virtual Seminar

If you have any comments concerning the newsletter, please contact:

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## **We wish you all a very nice summertime!**

