



2014 Italian
Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



CONFERENCE ON eHEALTH

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

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TRAINING THE HEALTH WORKFORCE

7th- 8th October, 2014, Rome



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THE eHEALTH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

- Established in 2012
- Includes a broad range of European stakeholders active in the eHealth sector
- Contributes to the development of legislation and policy related to eHealth, such as interoperability, health inequalities, telemedicine, and...

«eSkills for the health workforce»

(led by EFN, to be approved 13 October 2014)

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eHEALTH POTENTIAL

Societal challenges
(increasing ageing population, chronic diseases, etc.)



Need to shift towards integrated care models



ICT can support this shift and health services delivery



ICT can support healthcare professionals' daily work

BUT...

Health workforce needs to be eSkilled

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THE EU POLICY ACTION

- 2007: Communication on eSkills for the 21st century
- 2007: Council Conclusions on eSkills strategy
- Many EU initiatives followed, such as:
 - eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020
 - Joint Action on EU Health Workforce
 - Digital Agenda, etc.



**To identify and plan future skills and eSkills
for the health workforce**



THE ROLE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

eSkills are crucial in the context
of the healthcare system reform



Health professionals need to be involved in:

- *ICT tool design*
- *Educational policies (curricula and CPD)*
- *Health policies*



**Health professionals to accept new ICT tools and organisational changes
in their daily activities**



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EU LEGAL TEXT

The entire health workforce needs to be eSkilled!

- ❑ Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Dir. 2005/36/EC, modernised by Dir. 2013/55/EU)
 - Physicians
 - Dentists
 - Pharmacists
 - Nurses
 - Midwives
- ❑ Continuous Professional Development
 - ➔ DG SANCO study on CPD mapping

BUT...

Traditional curricula do not equip health professionals with the required knowledge and skills to use eHealth efficiently

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CHALLENGES

- Lack of knowledge and skills needed to use eHealth;
- No common methodologies at EU level for health workforce planning and forecasting;
- Health professionals risk to be excluded from the design process;
- Implementation of EU Directive 2013/55/EU must be enacted;
- CPD should include eHealth topics;
- Complexity of multi-national health activities.



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**Let's transform these challenges
into opportunities!**

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Draft RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need to embrace the entire health workforce, and upgrade the eSkills of all professionals, who deliver cure and care to patients and citizens;
- eSkills of healthcare professionals need to be up-scaled accordingly and effectively integrated in their education at both undergraduate and postgraduate level as well as in CPD;
- Implementation of EU Directive 2005/36/EC, amended by Directive 2013/55/EU. Member States will need to transpose the EU law into their national systems;
- Coherent development of eSkills at EU level and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders on this topic to map common eSkills for an appropriate use of eHealth services;
- Sharing practices can help learning from different approaches and using what has proven to be effective in terms of advancing eSkills of the health workforce;

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Draft RECOMMENDATIONS

- Common methodologies at EU level for health workforce planning and forecasting (future skills needs);
- There is a need to put in place strategies to promote eHealth literacy and to give the possibility to health professionals to participate in the process;
- Healthcare professionals should be involved in a strict scientific review process of eHealth and mHealth solutions before these are made available to patients and other users;
- The healthcare workforce, consisting of various healthcare professionals, needs to accommodate changes in the delivery of care, including the use of eHealth and mHealth technologies, higher consumer expectations (quality and safety), new health threats and rising costs, which must be counterbalanced with cost-effective approaches to care.

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