



European Commission
DG Enterprise & Industry



Press Release

“Implementing Users and Citizens perspectives into Healthware” is the title of the workshop organised by the Healthware project¹ in the context of the Med-e-Tel 2006 conference and fair which was organised last April in Luxembourg (www.med-e-tel.lu).

This workshop was particularly well attended since it gathered more than 80 participants from European and non-European (**US, Singapore, Taiwan, Rwanda, Paraguay**) countries belonging to different eHealth stakeholder groups such as doctors and other health professionals, patient representatives as well as the eHealth industry.

The theme of this first Healthware Workshop was **telemedicine with the support of satellite communication as tool for improving social cohesion and access to high quality healthcare**.

This workshop was the first of a row of 3 ones and its objectives were to:

- present the first achievements of the project with pilot sites under implementation or already running in Crete, in Bristol, Cardiff, Ashford, Edimburg, Aberdeen and Belfast (United Kingdom), Toulouse and the department of Hautes-Pyrénées (65) (France) and Brno and its surrounding area (Czech Republic)
- launch a dialogue, in the context of a User and Citizens Open Group (UCOG), with external eHealth experts and patients representatives, on the conditions of a beneficial and sustainable deployment of telemedicine services, supported as far as necessary by satellite communication.

Several representatives of Patients hold a preparatory meeting on the day before in order to prepare an initial statement on their views about Telemedicine and Home care in particular. Their main message is “*We are all citizens and, in one way or another, we can become patients! What we think as healthy citizens we will want as patient may be different when we become a patient. Therefore, don’t assume that professional/technical views of patient benefits are always recognised by the patients themselves!*”

The workshop offered also the opportunity to look **beyond Healthware** thanks to a presentation of

¹ The Healthware Telemedicine project has been launched on the 1st May 2005 for a three-year duration, aiming at validating and promoting the use of a light and cost effective satellite telecommunication technology, the DVB-RCS, in geographic areas encountering difficulties with terrestrial communication networks and missing the necessary high transmission rates for running interactive applications based on video-conferencing, like collaborative staff meeting, tele-expertise, tele-consultation and medical training, as well as exchange of high volumes of data.

- the **telemedicine value chain** as defined by ESA in its Telemedicine Study (www.telecom.esa.int)
- **insight and experience** of clinical telemedicine applications in the North of Norway and the South of Germany, after the last two decades
- the findings of the eHealth impact study demonstrating **evidence on economic impact** of eHealth and telemedicine applications (www.ehealth-impact.org).

The proceedings of this workshop called “book of abstract” are available on the Healthware project web site at <http://healthware.alcasat.net/publications/publications.html>

This workshop will be followed by a second one to be held in Spring 2007 and during which it is planned to

- demonstrate what has been achieved by the Healthware pilot sites,
- discuss their views about the sustainability of the services
- discuss with representatives of Health care Authorities about their policy constraints and conditions for the deployment of telemedicine services.

More on the Healthware project can be found at <http://healthware.alcasat.net>

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