

eHealth Strategies on the Move: Researching State of the Art

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Introduction

Vienna, is a growing and modern city, building on a rich historical heritage of culture, medicine and technology. The city uses strategic approaches to carefully support continuous and innovative development, while preserving valuable achievements. The task of this work is to provide a literature- and cutting-edge based basis for refining the eHealth strategy of the City of Vienna [1].

Material & Methods

Selected national and regional European eHealth strategies were reviewed to provide an overview of political views, implementation projects and emerging technologies on a large scale, with a focus on eHealth and telemonitoring. The following 10 strategy documents have been taken into the review process:

- Ireland, Switzerland, Lithuania, Slovakia
- Netherlands, Germany, Scotland, Sweden
- Denmark and Austria

In order to review the state of the art from a scientific point of view, the papers published in the proceedings of the following four national and international conferences were included in the literature survey:

- International Conference on Wearable Micro and Nano Technologies for Personalized Health, phealth 2015 in Vasteras, Schweden
- eHealth Summit Austria 2015
- eHealth Week in Riga 2015
- Medical Informatics Europe Conference 2015, Spain

From the strategies, the following items were collected for further consideration:

- Definitions of the term “eHealth”
- Measures and recommendations
- Other items of interest

From the scientific literature, the following items were collected for further consideration:

- Emerging technologies
- Experiences from implementations



Taken from [2]

Results

Measures and Recommendations:

The analysed European countries and regions show parallel developments in some topics, but also clear differences in many others.

- 10 countries implement electronic health records and IT infrastructures
- 8 countries apply semantic interoperability in form of structured and harmonized document formats
- 6 of the analysed strategies include the actual application of integrated healthcare and support of medical workflows
- In 5 of the countries the strategies name the increase of quality as one of the major goals
- 4 of the countries include application plans for self- and Telemonitoring systems

Topics of scientific literature:

- A wide range of mHealth and pHealth implementations have been reported.
- The clinical benefit in diagnostics, prevention, monitoring, research and education was substantiated by strong evidence.
- The topic of privacy and security approaches towards decentralized management of identities, authorization and access policies with a special focus on cross-border communication.
- The issue of anonymization and pseudonymization for research purposes is considered to be of high importance by most authors because it facilitates secondary use of data.

References

- [1] Stadt Wien, Wiener eHealth Strategie 2016/2017 – Wiener eHealth Strategie-Board, May 2016, Magistratsabteilung 24 - Gesundheits- und Sozialplanung
- [2] Stadt Wien, E-Health Portfolio 2015 – Wiener E-Health Projekte, May 2015, Magistratsabteilung 24 - Gesundheits- und Sozialplanung