



Regional ICT based Clusters for Healthcare Applications and R&D Integration

The RICHARD project (Regional ICT based Clusters for Healthcare Applications and R&D Integration) intends to define and implement innovative models for the management of Chronic conditions based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in four different European Regions.

The objective is the definition of new scenarios of care that, through the use of technology, integrating of resources and capabilities of the territory, enables patients to be supported outside the hospital, enabling a better quality of life.

Project Main Objectives

For healthcare systems chronic diseases represent the heaviest cost burden. Aside from the social costs in terms of suffering, they account for an average of 70% of public healthcare systems in the EU. A plethora of ICT based applications have been developed in recent years, which has at least allowed a partial tackling of problems related to specific diseases. However, even the most advanced deployments have had limited impact, mostly focusing on pilot applications entailing little or no change on the whole healthcare system.

The applications in the health sector can only be successful if all aspects of the system are taken into account and if all the changes are carefully planned. In particular, the organisational models inspired by innovation and the relationship between ICT and non-technological aspects of the healthcare system have to be examined in depth in order to involve all the parts of the value chain.

The RICHARD project arises from the need to identify, "design", and integrate new efficient and sustainable models for the care and support of patients based on the needs of the territorial models. The main idea of the project consists of "giving guidelines" for the integration of ICT in the health system where the territorial and regional healthcare systems, academics, public or private companies, organised in "Clusters", cooperate to define a joint action plan.

The regions involved are contributing from the beginning of the project with their leading experience in terms of technologies, research results and organisational models and undertake to realise a common model.

The Approach

RICHARD's rationale is to enable the shift from "diseases focused" ICT applications to "sustainable and territorial chronic care models", where innovation is driven by the regional needs. Despite the long-term vision being an integrated Chronic Care Model, a gradual "disease driven" approach is taken, with research and analysis focused around a specific set of diseases. This allows the project to simplify the complexity of changes to the organizational model and to reach important results during the project life. The chosen diseases are:

- Stroke in the Tuscany region (Italy);
- Cognitive diseases and dementia in the Västerbotten region (Sweden);
- Diabetes in the Yorkshire and Humber region (United Kingdom).

At a Glance

Project

Regional ICT based Clusters for Healthcare Applications and R&D integration (RICHARD)

Project Coordinator

Tuscany Region – Directorate General for Rights of Citizenship and General Cohesion (Italy)

Technical Coordinator

Signo Motus s.r.l. (Italy)

Partners

Italy, Sweden, UK, Poland

Duration: 36 months

Total Costs: € 2.749.999,68

Programme

Regions:Regions of Knowledge
FP7-REGIONS-2010-1

Further Information

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http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/ehealth/policy

FP7

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home.en.html>

FP7-REGIONS

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/regions-knowledge_en.html

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The Key Concept: the Territorial Model

Territorial Model means a set of innovative services for the management of Chronic Care, able to exploit territorial facilities and mobilise regional resources. A **patient centric** model accounting for patient satisfaction, service flexibility to individual needs.



Project Activities

RICHARD's main activities are tailored to enhance and promote the study of new or promising ICT-based care models, applied to the management of chronic conditions, and to deal with the need to respond, through ICT research, to emerging needs of healthcare in Europe. The outcomes are:

- **Assessment of existing ICT Based Models:** highlighting benefits and limitations of ICT based models implemented at regional level for the defined chronic diseases
- **Resources Mapping:** identify in each region the main stakeholders of the value chain (public, private, academic) that play a major role in research, development and related business activities in healthcare, including investment possibilities.
- **Common requirements definition:** improve the definition of ICT based models for the management of chronic diseases at regional level;
- **Joint Action Plan (JAP):** improve health-care territorial pathways integrating research topics and research results to create an innovative ICT based chronic care model;
- **Implementation measures:** improve regional and trans-regional cooperation with the design of a shared collaboration framework based on research and innovation;
- **Mentoring:** facilitate the adoption of ICT- based clinical models in each region, and facilitate the entrance of new actors in the value chain for the provision and maintenance of the service to be delivered.

Dissemination Activities

From the first year of the project, an area on the RICHARD web site (<http://www.richardproject.eu>) will be dedicated to dissemination of the scope, objectives and activities of the project.

An intense dissemination activity will be made on local and national press and international journals. Communication tools such as posters, brochures and cluster catalogues will provide information about the project activities to the main actors of the value chain.

Participants

The Project Consortium includes representation from 4 EU regions with 15 beneficiaries:

- **ITALY:** Tuscany Region, AUSL11 Empoli, Signo Motus srl, University of Siena;
- **SWEDEN:** Umea University, County Council of Vasterbotten, Explizit;
- **UNITED KINGDOM:** Bradford Municipality, Advanced Digital Institute, CLAHRC for South Yorkshire, Sheffield Hallam University, Airedale NHS Foundation Trust;
- **POLAND:** Marshal's Office of the Lodz Region, Pixel Technology, University of Lodz, Pirogow Regional Specialist Hospital

