



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) facilitated the implementation of innovative models for the management of Chronic conditions based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in four different European Regions.

The objective has been the definition of new scenarios of care that, through innovative technological resources and capabilities of the territory, will enable continuity of care for patients.

Main Objectives

In any healthcare system, chronic diseases represent the heaviest cost burden. Aside from the social costs in terms of suffering, it accounts for an average of 70% of public healthcare resources 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.

Richard has allowed the involved regions to deeply investigate their "status of play" in relation to the advances needed in the healthcare sector. The results being integrated in organisational models inspired by innovation calling for a redesign of ICT assisted clinical pathways in an integrated care framework.

RICHARD 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 Key Concept: the Territorial Model



Territorial Models mean 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.

At a Glance

Project

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

Project Coordinator

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

Technical Coordinator

Signo Motus s.r.l. (Italy)

Involved Regions

Tuscany (IT), Vasterbotten (SE), Yorkshire (UK) , Lodz(PL)

Duration: 38 months

Total Costs: € 2.749.999,68

Programme

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

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Further Information

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 Approach

RICHARD's main activities have been tailored at enhancing and promoting the study of new or promising "ICT-assisted" 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 approach has consisted in:

- **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) definition:** improve health-care territorial pathways integrating research topics and research results to create an innovative ICT based chronic care model;
- **Implementation measures:** a shared collaboration framework based on research and innovation;
- **Mentoring:** Mentoring actions to 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.

The Joint Action Plan

The JAP has been developed around 5 main pillars:

1. Definition of shared guidelines to support the uptake of new tele-health programs and shift from pilot to mainstream;
2. To cross adopt best practices for Tele-Health and for Chronic Care management (capitalize models and experiences);
3. To improve the technical framework and foster research opportunities;
4. To improve the regulatory and financial framework to support eHealth and
5. To develop models for service sustainability.

Main Achievements

For European regions:

- A thorough review of success and barrier factors for tele-health;
- A shared general model, focused on the proper integration of primary, secondary care and community resources. Scattering seeds for new organizational and business models;

- The Ready Steady Go telehealth toolkit capitalizing the results of the systematic literature review and SWOT analysis. This tool is available at: <http://www.richardproject.eu/richard/toolkit.html>

For the Involved regions:

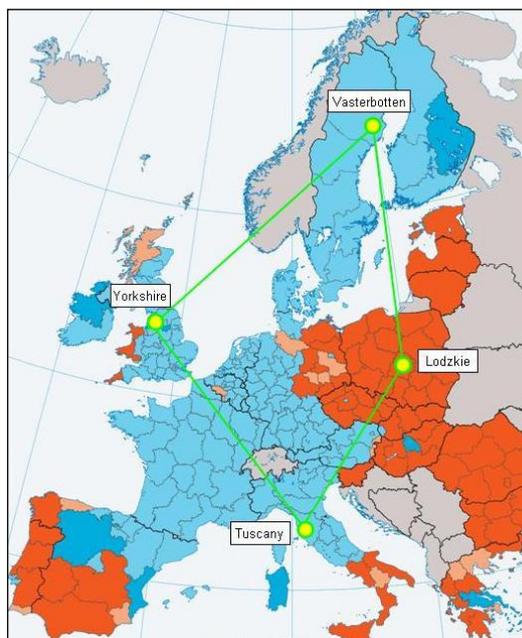
- Awareness of needs for tele-medicine uptake;
- Integration of telemedicine within the regional Health and Social Plan;
- Joint Action plan definition

For the SMEs involved in the Clusters

The four SMEs involved are cooperating on research topics of common interest for the regions.

The Consortium

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



The Consortium Clusters

- **ITALY:** Tuscany Region, AUSL11 Empoli, Signo Motus srl, University of Siena;
- **SWEDEN:** Umea University, County Council of Vasterbotten, Explizit AB;
- **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 SC, University of Lodz, Pirogow Regional Specialist Hospital.