

Global eHealth Policy: Towards Capacity Building in eHealth

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Health Related MDGs

- Reminder -

- MDG 4: Reduce child mortality
- MDG 5: Improve maternal health
- MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- MDG 8.E: Access to affordable essential medicines

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Health Related MDGs

- Achieving the MDGs ~ How ? -

Strengthen the health systems

e-Health

- Achieving the MDGs ~ How can eHealth Help? -

Strengthening health systems:

- a) Expanding the primary health-care workforce (***e-teaching***)
- b) Enriching skill levels of the existing primary health-care workforce (***e-learning***)
- c) Upgrading and broadening HCP infrastructure and logistics (***telehealth***; referral tools)

e-Health

- Achieving the MDGs ~ How can eHealth Help? -

Strengthening health systems:

- d) Providing affordable access to drugs and medical supplies (drug registries; stock control)
- e) Improving health decision-making (DSS; HIS)
- f) Early warning (bio-surveillance)

Health Informatics

e-Health

- Expanding the Primary Healthcare Workforce ~ Raising Skills -

African continent lacks:

1 M physicians, nurses and midwives

Reliable basic medical services

e-Teaching and e-Learning –
“indispensable to develop human resources ...”

e-Health

- Expanding the Primary Healthcare Workforce ~ Raising Skills -

- AMREF ([African Medical and Research Foundation](#)) in Kenya
 - Most of 40,000 nurses are enrolled nurses (certificate level only) – upgrade 26,000
 - Reality - they run many rural health facilities; first (only) HCP patients see
 - Traditional classroom - 150 years
 - **e-Teaching** (at work) – 5 years

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But ... e-Health Policy !

- Expanding the Primary Healthcare Workforce ~ Raising Skills -

Where is the capacity to build the capacity??

e-Health

- Upgrading and Broadening HCP Infrastructure ~ Telehealth -

Swinfen Charitable Trust:

- A low-cost international e-referral network

Thailand:

- Pill reminders for TB treatment are sent by phone to patients

But ... e-Health Policy !

- Upgrading and Broadening HCP Infrastructure ~ Telehealth -

Inter-jurisdictional Telehealth

What happens when we cross borders ??

e-Health

- Health Informatics Solutions -

Belize Health Information System (BHIS):

Documentary:

<http://www.paho.org/Video/belize.aspx>

Brochure:

<http://health.gov.bz/moh/pdf/BHISBooklet02.pdf>

But ... e-Health Policy !

- Health Informatics Solutions -

Bend (2004):

"Solid evidence of a positive impact in practice is still quite scarce"

Lucas (2008):

"'Technological fixes' often deliver far less than promised when confronted with the chaotic and sometimes corrupt health systems in many countries"

"Initial small-scale success does not guarantee sustainable large-scale benefits."

e-Health Policy !

- Back to Basics -

Country level 'eHealth Strategy'

e-Health Policy

- Example 1 ~ Who Has 'Strategy' or other 'Policy'? -

- EU:
 - Roadmaps for eHealth
 - Developers of the roadmaps and those that are responsible for e-health Policy?
 - Same for 5 of 27 Member States
 - Other 22 Member States - additional Ministries and special interest groups involved

• Hamalainen,P., Doupi, P, Hypponen, H. The European ehealth policy and deployment situation by the end of 2006. Deliverable 2.2 of the eHealth ERA project. 2006:1-187.

e-Health Policy

- Example 2 ~ Who Makes eHealth Policy? -

Country	Health Policy	e-Health Policy
Cyprus	Government, Min of Health	Government Min of Health Min of the Interior Min of Communication and Works Min of Finance
Czech Rep.	Min Health	Min of Informatics Min of Health
Estonia	Min of Social Affairs	Min of Social Affairs Estonian e-health Foundation Estonian Health Insurers Fund Health care providers
Finland	Min of Health and Social Affairs	Prime Minister's Office Min of Health and Social Affairs Min of Finance Min of Foreign Affairs Min of Interior Min of Transport and Communication

e-Health Policy

- Example 2 ~ Who Makes eHealth Policy? -

Country	Health Policy	e-Health Policy
France	Min of Health	Min of Health Min of Interior
Greece	Min of Health and Social Solidarity	Min of Health and Social Solidarity Min of Economy and Finance Min of Employment and Social Protection Min of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization
Hungary	National Government Min of Health Health Insurance Fund	Min of Health Min of Informatics and Communication Prime Minister's Office
Italy	Committee of Regional and Local Authorities State-Regions Conference	Min of Health Min of Innovations and Technologies Inter-ministerial conference for economic planning
Latria	Min of Health	Min of Health Secretariat of Electronic Government Affairs

e-Health Policy

- Example 3 - Commonality Amongst EU Roadmaps? -

• Improving efficiency and quality of care in health system performance	n = 11
• Healthcare system reform	n = 10
• Citizen oriented, patient centred health care	n = 10
• Quality of care	n = 10
• Better data for system management	n = 9
• Better communication between stakeholders	n = 7
• Efficiency	n = 7
• Access to care	n = 7
• Promoting quality of life	n = 7
• Improve economy via e-health technology	n = 6

e-Health Policy

- Example 4 - Current Health Strategy Documents -

- African Union Ministers of Health. Africa Health Strategy: 2007-2015
- The new partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) health strategy. 2003
- "Approach Paper: Strategic Directions to Achieve Vision 2030" – February 2006 (Pakistan)

These documents fail to mention e-health, telehealth, telemedicine, or health informatics

e-Health Policy

- Spectrum of Issues -

99 eHealth policy issues identified !!

Khoja S, Durrani H, Fahim A. *Scope of Policy Issues for eHealth: Results from a Structured Review*. Available at: http://www.ehealth-connection.org/files/conf-materials/ScopeofPolicyIssuesforeHealth_0.pdf

e-Health Policy

- What is the reality? -

A very complex and poorly developed area !

Urgently needed to maximise ehealth impact
and facilitate MDG goals

Need for a GLOCAL approach to developing
GLOBAL eHealth Policy

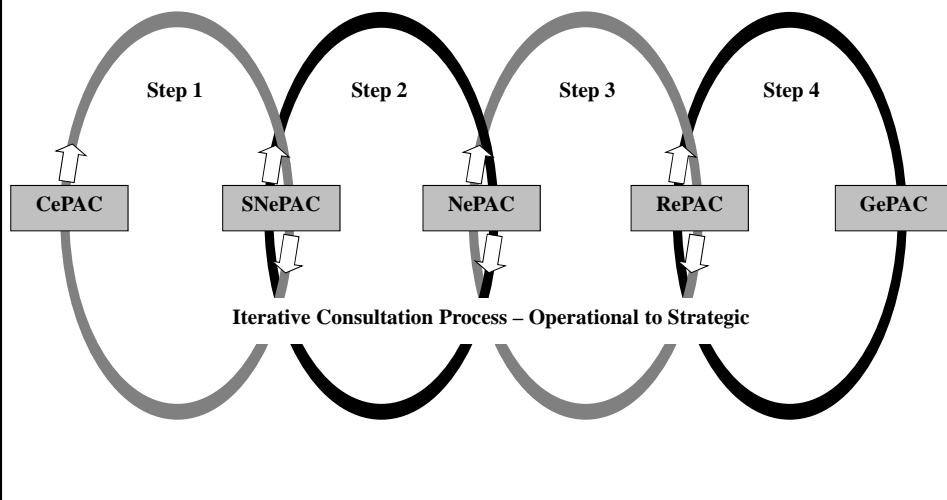
Global e-Health Policy

- Options -

- Retrospective
 - Digital Divide - - - Digital Split
 - Policy re-alignment
- Prospective:
 - Global eHealth Convention
 - Global eHealth Policy Development Conceptual Framework

Global e-Health Policy

- Development Framework -





Global e-Health Policy

- Development Framework -

“e-Health must be integrated into domestic and global health care systems at both practical and policy levels.”

Scott RE. Global e-Health Policy – From Concept to Strategy. In: *Telehealth in the Developing World*. Eds. Wootton R, Patel N, Scott RE, Ho K. Royal Society of Medicine Press. February 2009, pp 55-67.

Mars M, Scott RE. Global e-health policy – a work in progress. *Health Affairs*. 2010;29(2):1-7.