TELEMEDICINE AND e-HEALTH IN REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND ITS IMPACT IN HEALTH SYSTEM AND MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Telemedicine and e-Health

• Telecommunication has become the major source of fluid exchange of information across the boundaries of our planet since the introduction and development of satellite transmission and land-based topologies (Merrell, 2008)

• Advanced technologies such as computers, diagnostic imaging, robotics, voice-activated machines and remote control capability have changed hospitals and operating theatres in hospitals around the Western World (Latifi, 2008)
What is telemedicine and e-health?

- **Telemedicine** is the use of telecommunication and information technologies in order to provide clinical health care at a distance.

- It helps eliminate distance barriers and can improve access to medical services that would often not be consistently available in distant rural communities.

  - The supportive tool in developing countries
  - The new system of medical connection
  - The major source of overcoming medical disasters
Health Care in Kosova 1999

- The entire medical infrastructure and human capacity destroyed
- No medical standards
- Infant mortality 51.2 per 1000
- Not a single scientific journal in any library
Kosova at a glance

• Nonexistent medical services in many fields
• Outdated techniques and tools
• Hospitals: overcrowded, underfunded, ineffective in meeting patients’ needs
• No quality control mechanisms in place
• No continuous medical education – inadequate knowledge and skills
• No support services – epidemiology, preventive medicine
• No specialized services – emergency care, specialized disease management
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

• Kosova - a post-war example
• The country that has integrated and applied successfully the telemedicine and e-health system

• The inauguration on 10 December, 2002

University Clinical Center of Kosovo
Kosovo - the youngest country in Europe

The crippled post-war medical system
- (was lack of medical standards, policies, funds, professionals where a whole generation was educated in houses, lacking proper practice and total isolation from the health system and a proper management).

The project of Telemedicine and e-Health
- G-8 Telemedicine meeting in Berlin, May 2000
- Telemedicine Association of Kosova - September 2000
- 10 December 2002

Following a successful path - six regional RTC (Peja, Prizren, Mitrovica, Gjakova, Skenderaj, Gjilan)
• Necessary conditions of a successful telemedicine system
  • sophisticated network
  • trained staff and personnel
  • technical support 24h/day
  • system of collecting data

• Data of activities from TmCK

• Publishing opportunities
  (papers/studies about the telemedicine’s system)
The functioning of Telemedicine and e-Health system is based on the main purposes

Establishing and providing distance learning through:

- Lectures
- Teleconferences/Audioconferences
- Video surgeries
- CME – lectures
- Workshops
- Others (seminars, symposiums, congresses, presentations, meetings etc)

Keep up to date on latest news and advances in medical field through:

- Access to research initiative and other medical databases
- Access to over 6000 biomedical journals

Continuous Medical Education for Medical Students, Young Doctors and advancing staff and personnel through:

- CME lectures
- Workshops
- Seminars
Establishing and providing distance learning through:

### Lectures
- Different fields of medicine
- National and international experts
- Total of 117 from 2002-2013

### Teleconferences/Audioconferences and Videosurgeries
- Universities from US and Europe
- Total of 62 Teleconferences/Audioconferences
- Videos transmitted from UCCK and live satellite broadcast from abroad
- Total of 24 Videosurgeries
Establishing and providing distance learning through:

Continuous medical education - CME and workshops

- Access to information related to different fields of medicine
- Providing new information on a certain area of medicine
- Bringing together participants of different regions of Kosova
- Exchanging of information
- Costless

- Total number of CME lectures 47
- Total number of workshops 23

CME lectures and Workshops during 2002-2013

- 2002-2004: 1 CME, 1 Workshop
- 2005-2007: 2 CME, 2 Workshops
- 2008-2010: 19 Workshops, 43 CME
- 2011-2013: 2 Workshops, 2 CME
Establishing and providing distance learning through:

- Seminars
- Symposiums
- Presentations
- Meetings
- Congresses
- Total number 110

- The 5th congress of Telemedicine and e-Health held in Prishtina from 9-11 December 2012, as a special event of marking a decade of the activity of TMCK.

- The educational value
Keep up to date on latest news and advances in medical field through:

- Access to research initiative (HINARI) and other medical databases such as Up-to date, PubMed, MDconsult etc
- Access to over 6000 biomedical journals
- Total number of visitors 64,167

Number of Visitors to e-library 2004 - 2012

![Graph showing number of visitors from 2004 to 2012]
Based on the results, Telemedicine Center of Kosova has held 382 activities since its inauguration (2002-2012)

- including 116 lectures
- 62 video and audio-conferences
- 24 live video-surgeries
- 47 lectures endorsed by Ministry of Health and Continuous Medical Education program
- 23 workshops and
- 110 other activities including 5 international congresses, seminars, symposiums, meetings, consultations, presentations etc.

![Activities of TmCK 2002-2013](chart.png)
Importance of TMC

• Building of network and human capacity
• Free access to information about medical issues and topics
• Educational program
• Exchanging information
• Cost reduction
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

Video included..

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oxg_SXEdwtc
Special thanks

Founder of IVeH
Rifat Latifi, MD, FACS

Acknowledgements
To the IVeH and TmC staff:
Zana, Fatmir and Blerim
THANK YOU!

COUGH PLEASE?

IT WAS AN ON-LINE MEDICAL SITE.