

Global Telemedicine and eHealth Updates: Knowledge Resources

Vol. 8, 2015

Editors

Malina Jordanova and Frank Lievens

ISfTeH

International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth

Publisher

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International Society for
Telemedicine & eHealth

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Vol. 8, 2015

Editors: Malina Jordanova and Frank Lievens

ISSN 1998-5509

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Preface

Dear Reader,

The eighth volume of the series “Global Telemedicine and eHealth Updates: Knowledge Resources”, is now in your hands.

With 105 papers from 34 countries (Fig. 1), the book presents a collective experience of experts from different continents all over the world. Papers reveal various national and cultural points of view on how to develop and implement Telemedicine/eHealth solutions for the treatment of patients and wellbeing of citizens.

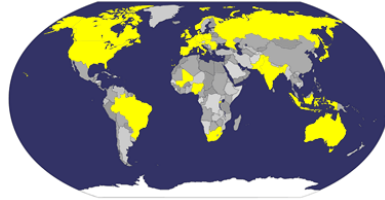


Figure 1.

Year after year the series “Global Telemedicine and eHealth Updates: Knowledge Resources” provide a glimpse and summarize the most recent practical achievements, existing solutions and experiences in the area of Telemedicine/eHealth.

Brought to life by contemporary changes of our world, Telemedicine/eHealth offers enormous possibilities. The technological solutions are available and ready to be implemented in healthcare systems. If carefully realized, taking into account the needs of the community, Telemedicine/eHealth is able to improve both access to and the standard of healthcare, and thus to close the gap between the demand for affordable, high quality healthcare to everyone, at any time, everywhere, and the necessity to control the increase in healthcare budgets worldwide.

Telemedicine/eHealth is already a must, a fantastic challenge for the future, but it must be based on cooperation and coordination at all possible levels. It requires networking and planning, readiness to learn from others, and avoiding re-inventing the wheel. The main challenge is to be sure that available options are used optimally and in a coordinated manner as to ascertain that the desired effects do come true and the resources are indeed not diverted away from basic needs.

We are convinced that this book will provide useful information to those who are preparing to introduce Telemedicine/eHealth in their regions or countries. It will allow them to rely on the experience of others and will make them aware of the benefits and problems that were encountered during and after implementation of systems or services, and as such help them to avoid mistakes and reduce potential problems.

Yet, it is necessary to underline that:

- The content of the book is divided in chapters covering various areas of eHealth;
- Chapters, and papers in each chapter, are listed alphabetically;
- The original style of the authors was respected as much as possible;
- In the content, after the title of papers, a maximum of 3 co-authors are listed, while the rest are marked as “et al.”;
- “How”, “Where”, “When” and especially “How Much” – are only part of the questions that authors are trying to answer.

We hope that everyone involved in Telemedicine/eHealth will find this book not only interesting, but most valuable as well.

Enjoy your reading!

Editors

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Editors gratefully acknowledge the work of all reviewers that dedicated lots of efforts, time and high expertise, and with their valuable advice, supported both authors and editors in the process of selecting, correcting and preparing for publication all papers included in this book.

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