

H.H.M. KORSTEN, F. KLIJN, L. DE MAESCHALCK, L. PEERAER **RECAP: An EEG-initiative concerning remote applications.** *Gerontechnology 2012;11(2):176*; doi:10.4017/gt.2012.11.02.525.00 **Purpose** Intuitively we think that health care for the aging community can benefit from new technological possibilities like fast internet and remote applications for disease-management. There is a proliferation of such initiatives nationally and internationally. However, 'best-practices' and proven technology diffuse slowly. INTERREG IVB NWE is a financial instrument of the European Union's Cohesion Policy¹. It funds projects which support transnational cooperation. The aim is to find innovative ways to make the most of territorial assets and tackle shared problems of EU-countries, regional and other authorities. RECAP is a sub-program of INTERREG IVB NWE, consisting of partners in the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Germany. **Method** In order to achieve the specific objective, the following sub-objectives were determined that also function as the main topics of RECAP: (i) promote a sustainable business environment through stimulation of the uptake and extended use of ICT-tools and intelligent devices (telehealth solutions); (ii) create new, and extend existing, collaboration clusters on a transnational level to intensively engage in sustainable, joint innovative pilot healthcare actions (intelligent organisation of care); (iii) design management models for effective care and cure treatments (Decision support systems); and (iv) define structures for an integrated care model in the form of a transnational health innovation portal. Based on these sub-objectives, the main topics of interest are: (i) analysis of the state-of-art of ICT-healthcare for congestive heart failure patients and its current use in countries to identify further business potentials;(ii) identify, address, and suggest solutions to key barriers in countries to increased market penetration and business uptake of ICT-based healthcare products, services, and solutions; (iii) provide examples of a highly integrative cooperation models with vertical and horizontal spin-off effects, e.g. greater cooperation among healthcare providers, universities, research institutes, local governance and business; (iv) real life testing of some ICT-solutions linked to the 3 hubs (telehealth solutions, intelligent organisation of care and decision supporting mechanisms) at transnational level with continuous knowledge exchange and verification through an established joint implementation methodology and communication platform; (v) capitalise on existing investments in the 3 hubs and make the results available throughout the whole partnership and beyond; and (vi) design and set up a transnational health innovation portal with expanded applications, providing information and services with tangible direct benefits for business, hospitals and other key stakeholders, and indirectly for patients. **Results & Discussion** The project started a year ago with desk research and empirical fact-finding on current methods and models of intelligent organisation of care used in Belgium, the Netherlands, and other North-West Europe countries. Project meetings have been used to exchange knowledge on the use and implications of telehealth homecare solutions and partner networking. Of particular interest is the use of telehealth methods and tools for providing safe, cost-efficient management of outpatients. An overview of the new contacts and promising collaborations of this project will be given. The insights gained will be used in a pilot action and integrated in the transnational health innovation portal.

References

1. INTERREG IVB North-West Europe; 2012; www.nweurope.eu; retrieved February 5, 2012

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