

## Evidence Based Guidelines for Nursing and Social Care on eHealth Services

*Welcome to the fifth edition of the ENS4Care Project eNewsletter!*  
*We will publish this eNewsletter on a quarterly basis. For more frequent updates, you can visit our website [www.ens4care.eu](http://www.ens4care.eu) or join our [LinkedIn](#) group ENS4Care and follow us on [Twitter](#).*  
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### ENS4Care Progress

#### **ENS4Care 1st Review Meeting**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015, WP leaders and the ENS4Care Coordinator met the European Commission and two evaluators for the 1<sup>st</sup> review meeting of ENS4Care. The Commission and the evaluators, assessed ENS4Care progress and deliverables submitted. The evaluators got a very clear view on the state of art and recommended to strengthen dissemination actions by the ENS4Care partners on key results from the project. They highlighted the value of the work done and encouraged partners to write down all details of that success. Particular attention was given to the methodology used and some of the practices that ENS4Care has collected. The evaluators recommended to disseminate the methodology used and to envisage a proposal to publish some of the practices. One week after the review meeting, the results of the review were sent to the Coordinator and reported excellent progress for ENS4Care.



### EU guidelines development

Following the successful ENS4Care General Assembly held in Dublin on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, the Work Package Leaders, together with the partners, are compiling the final version of the ENS4Care guidelines. The five ENS4Care guidelines (prevention, clinical practice, advance roles, integrated care and Nurse ePrescribing) will be sent to the European Commission at the end of February 2015. ENS4Care partners have meaningfully contributed to the guidelines elaboration process, fact that ensures appropriate stakeholders' involvement in the guidelines development.



### Validation Panel

A fundamental part of ENS4Care guidelines is its validation process. Following ENS4Care Methodology, the ENS4Care guidelines will be validated by a panel of independent experts. That validation will offer an external review of the

quality of the guidelines and will ensure that they are credible and based on the agreed principles.



### Views of partners

#### **Active Citizenship – Michela Beretta**

In Dublin, the members had the opportunity to actively discuss and share different views on the guidelines for Nursing and Social Care on eHealth services. The interventions of representatives of different professional associations and care providers gave the chance to concretely focus on real advantages and weaknesses of the Guidelines. It was clearly underlined what has been done so far, but also what is to be done in the near future and the impact that all of it could have in the different countries, according to heterogeneous situations we have in Europe.



I also personally believe that having the opportunity to add informal discussions at events, such as during social dinners, is an added value that ENS4Care gave to the Guidelines project. All considered, my opinion concerning ENS4Care and its contents is really positive.

#### **EPHA-Sascha Marschang**

The ENS4Care project and its evidence-based guidelines are of great interest to EPHA given that

until now much of the eHealth work undertaken in Europe has been missing concrete input into how health professionals – nurses and social workers being the biggest group – can and should be using eHealth innovations in their day-to-day practice in order to deliver quality eHealth services. In addition to supporting the eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 and the relevant actions of the Digital Agenda for Europe, over the past years I have also been involved in activities regarding the implementation of the Action Plan on the EU Health Workforce, and eSkills are clearly one element that will need to be nurtured and integrated into professional curricula across Europe. If health professionals don't see the benefits of eHealth and enjoy using it, then it will be difficult to attain critical mass, which means that the public health benefits could also be compromised.



In my role as policy manager I presented the ENS4Care project at the conference 'eHealth – Empowering Patients and Offering Better Connected Healthcare Services' organised by the Public Policy Exchange, which took place in Brussels on 27 January. In line with the report I drafted on behalf of the eHealth Stakeholder Group in 2014, my presentation focused in particular on eHealth's potential to break down health inequalities experienced by patients, health professionals and providers, and members of vulnerable groups. Among other points, I argued for the need to create an eHealth environment that will not only cater to the comparatively 'privileged', but also to various categories of people excluded by the traditional, offline health system. I pointed out the impacts of austerity politics and also explained the vast differences in professional eHealth/mHealth use across Europe and the urgent need to close this gap, as noted in the report 'eSkills and health workforce' prepared by EFN for the eHealth Stakeholder Group. In order to feel truly

'empowered', health professionals will require ongoing support via sustained investment in training, education and competencies, and solutions need to be designed flexibly so they can be tailored to the needs of end users with different skill and literacy levels. This was then linked to the need for more concrete guidance for the deployment of eHealth services as per the objectives of ENS4Care. Finally, I underlined that it is crucial that the outcomes of projects can be scaled up and transferred to different health systems across Europe.



### EU updates on eHealth mHealth report published

The European Commission published on 12 January the results of its public consultation on the green paper on mHealth, undertaken in 2014, to which the EFN provided its input. While recent statistics confirm that national and EU funding initiatives are being successful and that Europe is set to become the largest market by 2018, responses to this consultation indicate that a lot still remains to be done so that EU entrepreneurs can effectively access this market. A series of actions to support mHealth deployment are already foreseen under Horizon 2020 and will be taken into account in future work programmes. mHealth will be one of the key topics on the agenda of eHealth Week 2015 to take place in Riga in May 2015, with the objective to discuss in-depth the key policy actions identified through the consultation and on which we could move forward. ENS4Care coordinator will attend the meeting and will present the progress made and see future actions on ENS4Care.

### The EU looks at Big Data

When looking at deployment eHealth services, progress in Big Data are at the front of the discussions. At the Swedish Local Fiber Alliance Workforce on Big Data, that took place on 20 January 2015, participants agreed on the importance of broadband and IT infrastructure and the need of digitalisation in order to offer citizens welfare service. Data is the resource of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! Yet, health lacks behind in technological issues. Bringing information and guidance on how to deploy eHealth services have to be supported by an adequate IT infrastructure.

### Upcoming meetings



**15 April 2015 - 4<sup>th</sup> ENS4Care General Assembly**, Brussels, Belgium.

**22 April 2015 - Med-e-Tel Conference**, in Luxembourg. The event aims to facilitate the international dissemination of knowledge and experience in Telemedicine and eHealth.

**11-13 May 2015 - eHealth Week**, in Riga: a dedicated stakeholder event on mobile Health with the aim to discuss in-depth the key policy actions that were identified in the context of the COM Green Paper consultation and on how to move forward.

### Get involved

To engage with the ENS4Care Thematic Network, visit the [ENS4Care website](#), join us on [LinkedIn](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#)!