

SPES proposal

- Support to Patients through E-service Solutions -

Project submitted in the third call for proposal of the “Central Europe” Transnational Cooperation Programme (European Regional Development Fund).

Priority 2.4: “Promoting Information and Communication Technologies and Alternative Solutions for Enhancing Access”.

Partnership:

- ENEA, Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (IT),
- Province of Ferrara (IT),
- Local Health Authority (AUSL) of Ferrara (IT),
- Cup 2000, Bologna (IT),
- Fonds Soziales, (municipality of Vienna) (AU),
- University of Vienna (AU),
- Municipality of Kosice (SK),
- Technical University of Kosice (SK),
- Czech Technical University (CZ),
- DEEP, Brno (CZ),
- CETIC (BE)

Associated partners:

- Municipality of Brno (CZ)
- Caritas Archdioceses of Vienna (AU)

Partners location:



Project summary

Greater social cohesion in the Central Europe area may be attained through activities in several sectors, telemedicine among them. Cooperation with international partners and regional forerunners and facilitation of transnational cooperation through health, may lead to innovative and shared solutions in the field of telemedicine, thus contributing to geographical integration among the involved regions. Further, the European Commission has set the goal to move towards a "European eHealth Area" through cross-border and regional cooperation through the adoption of the eHealth Action Plan: "Drawing on best practices and experience from across the EU" is expected to facilitate the move towards a European eHealth Area and the development of common approaches to shared problems". The deployment, testing and adoption of scalable and portable e-health instruments at regional/local level becomes a priority for health services providers.

The OLDES project (Older People's e-services at home, www.oldes.eu) funded by the EU 6th Framework Programme, has developed a new technological solution, designed to ease the life of older people in their homes, by creating a platform able to provide the elderly an easy to use entertainment and health care platform. Through 2 pilots implemented in the municipality of Bologna and Prague, it has been possible to test and evaluate the exploitability user acceptance of the whole system. The involvement of local authorities such as the Municipality of Bologna and the Local Health Authority of Bologna has played a key role in the local realisation of the project, through the involvement of the right stakeholders, the preparation of the piloting and the enrolment of patients. The project contributed to raise the awareness, for local authorities, to adopt modern and reliable e-Health services able to lower costs, traffic and administrative burdens both for patients and services providers.

OLDES platform is based on low cost pc and "friendly" graphical user interface, providing the patient with a user entertainment system interacting with the call centre through a central server and a telemedicine system, collecting medical data through sensors deployed at the patients' home. Devices such as a sphygmomanometer, a glucometer, some ECG belts, some food and personal scales and some ambient sensors make part of the original platform. Among the innovative aspects developed by OLDES, the federative approach used for designing the platform, its graphics and functionalities, carried out through the involvement of key-actors like service providers, health authorities and end-users.

SPES proposal aims at transferring the approach and results achieved in the implementation of the OLDES platform into 4 new geographical contexts (**Ferrara, Vienna, Brno and Kosice**), focusing on new target diseases (respectively **dementia, handicapped people, respiratory problems and social exclusion**). Patients will be supported in their homes by means of networked connections and services, contributing to the quality and the cost-effectiveness of their care, as well as to their independence. By enabling patients to access medical services through a remote way, traffic will be lowered and environmental conditions improved. The analysis of pilots' results, will feed the works of a platform on Central Europe eHealth, composed by main social/health stakeholders of the involved regions, together with those of a Strategic Political Committee, involving decision makers. The outcome of the proposed initiatives, together with the results obtained through OLDES, will serve to identify constraints, needs and opportunities for the development and adoption of a telemedicine solution, easily deployable at transnational level. Current discussion on eHealth interoperability among Member States will receive a sound contribution through the testing and discussion activities realised by the project

The proposal is a **3 years project** . If funded, the project start is foreseen at the beginning of April 2011, lasting till March 2014.