European Momentum for
Mainstreaming Telemedicine Deployment in Daily Practice

Momentum is a thematic network to share knowledge and experience in deploying telemedicine services into routine care. Working together, Momentum's members from all corners of Europe will develop, test and finalise a Blueprint for telemedicine deployment that offers guidance for anybody who seeks to move telemedicine from an idea or a pilot to daily practice.

Objectives of the project

Momentum will advance the adoption and deployment of telemedicine in routine care. It is widely accepted that the remote provision of healthcare services via information and communications technologies can meaningfully complement healthcare service delivery, improve patients' quality of life, and reduce cost. But telemedicine services have yet to gain their place in routine healthcare. Pilots and trials dominate the field. Important roadblocks remain.

Momentum will provide a platform where practitioners share their knowledge and experience in deploying telemedicine services into routine care. Working together they will build a body of good practice for telemedicine deployment.

The central objective of the Momentum project is the collaborative development of the European Blueprint for Telemedicine Deployment. The Momentum Blueprint will feature a consolidated set of methods supporting telemedicine implementation. It will be validated with stakeholder groups and tested in a real life setting before it will be presented to the public. The final Blueprint will provide guidance to new telemedicine implementations, document obstacles, and make policy recommendations to create a better enabling environment.

Through outreach and dissemination, Momentum will grow the network, involve additional stakeholder groups, actors, and regions, and build awareness about the benefits of telemedicine.

Momentum's lasting legacy will be a vibrant and sustainable network of telemedicine stakeholders.

Project description

Telemedicine services are not yet widespread in Europe. Significant roadblocks remain. The introduction of telemedicine services requires changes in clinical and social care practice which the stakeholders sometimes resist. They have raised knotty legal questions about professional responsibilities, liability, security and privacy. Perhaps most importantly, telemedicine has struggled to fit into existing regulations and practices for payment and reimbursement.

As a result, only few healthcare providers routinely use telemedicine. Services often depend on financial incentives and whither when these incentives are withdrawn. Sometimes telemedicine supplements existing service provision with its own dedicated infrastructure, leading to multiple infrastructures operating in parallel that deliver neither discernible clinical results nor efficiencies. The dearth of clinical evidence further inhibits deployment.

Momentum's ultimate goal is turn telemedicine into a sustainable mechanism.

Momentum has, at its heart, building a European momentum for telemedicine. The project will develop a European-wide multi-stakeholder platform. At the core of the platform are the practitioners of telemedicine – those involved with its day-to-day delivery. Its wider community includes stakeholder groups, other actors and the broader public.

Momentum is about creating a platform across which the key players can share their knowledge and experience in deploying telemedicine services into routine care so as to build a body of good practice. Working together, they will define a Blueprint that validates a consolidated set of methods supporting the telemedicine service implementation process.

Momentum's outcome will be a vibrant and sustainable network of telemedicine stakeholders. Their responsibilities are to develop and maintain a *European Telemedicine Deployment Blueprint for Telemedicine Deployment* that will achieve three results:

(1) It will assist countries and telemedicine practitioners in their telemedicine implementations, and validate the work of past initiatives.
(2) It will document the roadblocks – the lack of robust methods to support telemedicine implementation being one of them – that obstruct telemedicine implementation in daily practice.
(3) It will propose a set of policy recommendations: these will help to create the enabling environments needed to accelerate overall telemedicine deployment in Europe.

It will be a core tool: it will be fundamental to assessing the legal and organisational issues to be addressed in mainstreaming telemedicine at European, regional and local levels. Hence, it will deal with base-line legislation through to local practice guidelines.

Momentum's ultimate goal is to turn telemedicine into a sustainable mechanism.

Dr Rosi leads the cardiology department in a mid-size hospital in Southern Europe. He has seen many patients with chronic heart disease stay longer than necessary, and come to the hospital for follow up care and routine tests that could be performed remotely. A telemedicine solution could help, but it would require substantial work. Dr Rosi is not sure where to begin.

The Momentum Blueprint provides needed guidance, and offers a path for deployment. It helps interested parties ask the right questions whether the regulatory, legal and strategic conditions are in place; how to engage colleagues, co-workers and patients; and what questions to ask from vendors and suppliers.
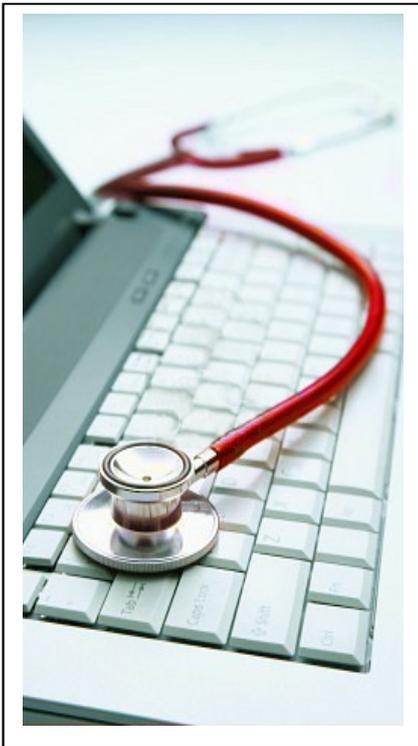
Results & Impacts & Preliminary Results Expected

Momentum will be an open and collaborative process. All stakeholder groups in healthcare will be involved, and their views and concerns considered and addressed. As a result, the Momentum outcomes will have been tested and validated through broad consultation and participation.

Three outcomes are expected:

- **Comprehensive stakeholder engagement**: Momentum will use a consensus-based approach to create a sustainable network of telemedicine champions in European telemedicine – including practitioners, policy makers and industry.
- **A collection of deployment good practices**: They will illustrate methods for telemedicine deployment in routine care
- **A European Telemedicine Deployment Blueprint**: It will serve as both a benchmarking tool for existing services and a framework for telemedicine quality

Combined, these resources will provide new impetus to the deployment of telemedicine services in Europe and contribute to their increasing use.

In European policy terms, Momentum will contribute to the realisation of the second part of Key Action 13 of the Digital Agenda "to achieve by 2020 widespread deployment of telemedicine services" as set in the Communication of the European Commission of 19 May 2010 (COM (2010) 245).

On a practical level, more telemedicine services and increased use of Information and communication technologies in healthcare will **improve quality and safety** of healthcare delivery by supporting healthcare professionals and by reducing medical error. They will make healthcare delivery **more accessible** for patients in remote areas. They will make healthcare systems **more sustainable** by streamlining medical processes where it makes sense.

Demand for telemedicine services will spur research and innovation in telemedicine technologies, and contribute to the overall competitiveness of European industry in the world.

Momentum

Title of project
Momentum: European Momentum for Mainstreaming Telemedicine Deployment in Daily Practice

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- Union Européenne Des Médecins Spécialistes-UEMS (Belgium)
- Fédération Européenne Des Hôpitaux Et Des Soins De Santé (Belgium)
- Continua Health Alliance (Belgium)
- Comite Permanent Des Médecins Européens (Belgium)
- Association Internationale De La Mutualité (Belgium)
- Region Syddanmark (Denmark)
- Association CATEL Club des Acteurs de la TELemedecine (France)
- Zentrum für Telematik Im Gesundheitswesen (Germany)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Gesundheitstelematik (Germany)
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- European Health Management Association (Ireland)
- Universitetssykehuset Nord-Norge Hf (Norway)
- Polskie Towarzystwo Telemedycyny Stowarzyszenie (Poland)
- Eesti E-Tervise Sihtasutus (Republic Of Estonia)
- Fundacio Ticsalut (Spain)
- Norrbottens Läns Landsting (Sweden)
- Schweiz. Gesellschaft für Telemedizin (Switzerland)
- Nederlandse Vereniging Voor E-Health (The Netherlands)
- Telecare Services Association (United Kingdom)
- NHS 24 (Scotland) (United Kingdom)

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EC funding: €0.50m

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