

## Telemedicine Project Description

For the purposes of this application, we are using the term "telemedicine" as the delivery of healthcare services, where distance is a critical factor, by healthcare professionals using information and communications technologies (ICTs) for the exchange of valid information for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases and injuries, research and evaluation, and for the continuing education of healthcare providers, all in the interests of advancing health and their communities.

Description. This event will be a three day workshop with international experts from NATO members and partner countries presenting practical information that can be used in participant countries. Individual panel discussions will be moderated and the goal is to have substantive exchange of information among NATO member and partner country speakers and non-speaker participants. For this reason, the meetings will be live-streamed on the internet and a set of Proceedings will be published after the meeting and posted on the internet. The three day workshop will include a live demonstration of the implementation of telemedicine in a NATO member country as well as the presentation of advances in technical equipment and ICT systems with particular application to NATO operations by equipment and ICT companies.

It has been shown that "there appears to be no single best telemedicine model although all models share the same challenges. The choice of technical solution and mode of delivery is highly dependent on the institutional framework within the country, financing options, the characteristics of the population being served, the characteristics of the primary care medical community, and local expertise." However, coordination among member and partner countries will be necessary to deliver a smoothly operating system. For this reason, prior to the event, the Organizing Committee will conduct a benchmarking survey among Eastern European and selected participant countries to measure each country's telemedicine system against a set of established metrics. The results of the survey will be presented at the event.

The workshop panels will address the following issues:

1. Cyber security for the implementation of telemedicine: Threats; Best practices; Information sharing.
2. Improving healthcare capabilities of deployed and local medical, equipment and ICT personnel through the use of telemedicine technology: Learning methods; Standards and protocols, Information sharing among local professionals to improve community capacity.
3. The use of telemedicine for the preparation, prevention and control of infectious diseases.
4. Best practices of telemedicine among NATO member and partner countries: Defining and measuring best practices; Integration of telemedicine across regions and borders
5. The results of the Benchmarking Survey among participating Eastern European countries.
6. Demonstration of successful telemedicine system.
7. Telemedicine technology: Models of telemedicine implementation; Appropriate equipment; Appropriate ICT systems

Justification: NATO officials already are trying to develop a multinational telemedicine platform that can be launched to provide medical care during natural or man-made disasters when immediate medical access is not readily available and to reduce the numbers of personnel needed in the field. (iHealthBeat)

As NATO continues to expand its membership and concomitant deployment of troops, such as those to the countries of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania, it will be faced with the need for additional medical treatment capabilities, including specialized treatment and consultations on a regular basis which are not available locally among socially disadvantaged populations who lack access to primary and specialty care because they are socioeconomically disadvantaged or live in rural areas (eHealth Initiative)