

Toolkit - Resources for trainers

Good Practice - SDG Nr. 3

Telemedicine in Greece - Greece's health and care system organisation

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Goal number 3 relates to good health and well-being, fighting disease, poor health and mortality rates across the world.

Social Goals

With regards to telemedicine, Greece's national health authority has a Chronic Care Management strategy and a Health IT strategy, both adopted in 2008. Greece has only basic legislation that deals specifically with telemedicine. There is no legislation that is considered an obstacle to the implementation of telemedicine service. More legislation is required to promote the further implementation of telemedicine services in Greece.

The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity in July 2013 launched an effort to establish the Greek e-health ecosystem and the new "national e-health strategy 2020", following the respective EU initiatives. The social goals are to prevent health issues from deteriorating, keep routine controls over patients and allow patients in rural areas access to medical personnel. Telemedicine is mostly used for the routine check-ups and discussion with doctors and nurses on health symptoms and questions patients have in order to prevent any health deterioration

What need does it cover?

Greece has an extensive coastline and hundreds of islands which are difficult to reach in case of a medical emergency. This means that when a person living in a remote island is in need of medical attention, they can communicate online, synchronously with a medical doctor or nurse and receive the medical attention required. If deemed necessary, the patient is referred to a nearby hospital (air transfer) or further more elaborated medical examinations.



<p>How was it founded?</p>	<p>Healthcare in Greece is provided by the state through a universal health care system that is funded mostly through a system of national health insurance, although private health care is also an option available to a large percentage of the population. Healthcare in Greece is provided by the National Healthcare Service (or ESY). The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is the main governmental agency for health policy, although there is some involvement of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance in the sector of welfare and social care. Regional health authorities coordinate the health services on a regional level, with the administrator appointed by the Ministry and not by the local region's elected authorities (although this policy is expected to change in the coming years).</p>
<p>How does it relate to SDGs</p>	<p>It directly contributes to public health and well-being for people who cannot reach a medical center or a hospital where they live. They directly communicate with doctors and nurses taking care of everyday check-ups and routine examinations in order to prevent more serious health problems.</p>
<p>Good practices</p>	<p>Tele-medicine can be extended to any place where internet is available and the use of smart phones to be able to communicate</p>

How to work on it

It serves to show how ICT integrated with health advice can work towards decreasing health issues and problems for people living in rural or secluded areas such as islands, Tele-medicine or any other sector which can be transferred through online media, can serve as an example of use.

