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**Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry**

University of Hospital of North Norway

**Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area**

Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine (NST)

**City** Tromsø **Reference Number** NOR-18

**Title** WHO Collaborating Centre for eHealth and Telemedicine

**Report Year** 09-2014 to 09-2015

**1. Please briefly describe the progress made in the implementation of your agreed workplan as WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (or the reporting period listed above). Please report on how each workplan activity was implemented, if any outputs have been delivered, if any results have been achieved and if any difficulties have been encountered during this time. If an activity has previously been completed, has not started yet, or been placed on hold, please indicate this.**

**Activity 1**

Title: Provide assistance to WHO on telemedicine & National eHealth strategy development activities.

Description:  Facilitate telemedicine and e-health development by assisting with WHO activities at country level.

- Disseminate lessons learnt from country implementation of the WHO-ITU National eHealth Strategy Toolkit.
- Assistance with delivery of 1 regional training/workshop in accordance with the curriculum presented in the WHO-ITU National eHealth Strategy Toolkit.
- Develop indicators for telemedicine and e-health for country monitoring and assessment.

The NST has continued its e-health strategy and development support to the Republic of Moldova under the bilateral health agreement between Norway and Moldova. A joint workshop was organised during the Tromsø e-health week 9-10 June 2015.

The long term collaboration with Northwest Russia has further developed and expanded to the Nenets Autonomous Region (NAO) and additional subject areas, in particular mental health, public health and information security.

The NST has proposed assistance with dissemination and implementation of the WHO-ITU National eHealth Strategy Toolkit according to the work-plan. The work is delayed on the WHO side until further clarification of the need/functionality is made.

The NST work with developing e-health indicators based on the analysis of the Global eHealth Observatory Survey (GOe, see activity 3) and through "the Nordic e-health research network". The Norwegian MoH and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) represent Norway in "the Nordic e-health research network". The network conducts searches and develops common Nordic indicators for eHealth functionalities and services and tests them to produce Nordic eHealth benchmark data for use by national and international policy makers and scientific communities to support development of Nordic welfare. The Nordic eHealth Research Network set on 15.02.2012 by the Nordic Council of Ministers as a subgroup for Nordic Council of Ministers eHealth group. The group collaborates with the eHealth indicator task forces.

The NST is hosting and facilitating study visits on telemedicine and e-health.

**Activity 2**

Title: Continuing development of the EURO Health Atlas

Description: This is an ongoing software development activity since 2012. Major phase is planned for release of new software version during this biennium.

The Health Atlas has been finalised as agreed and was formally handed over to the WHO on 11 June 2015.

**Activity 3**

Title: Contribution to the 2014-15 Global eHealth survey led by WHO/HQ.

Description:  Providing assistance for conducting the survey as well as joint-development of a specific regional analysis report with WHO/Europe (as the NST did for the 2009 survey).

The NST has provided support to the 2014-15 Global eHealth survey led by WHO/HQ by conducting a comparative analysis of the data from the European region. The NST has translated / proof-read the Russian version of the questionnaire. The NST has assisted the Norwegian Directorate of health with data entry for Norway. Finally, the NST has agreed to review the European GOe-report.

**Activity 4**

Title: Facilitate collaboration with WHO-CCs in ICT and health

Description: Organize a joint Who Europe - WHO CC workshop / event every 2nd year for WHO -CCs and other WHO agencies working in the area of telemedicine and e-health.

The NST organised several international workshops during the Tromsø e-health week, 9-12 June 2015 targeting the telemedicine and e-health community and WHO-CCs working in the field. One workshop was addressing patients access to Electronic Health Records (EHR), another mechanisms for approving health apps as part of the Be He@lthy, be Mobile initiative, and one on telemedicine in the inaccessible regions of the far North. Full program and more information is provided on:

<http://telemed.custompublish.com/programme.5735939-347657.html>

**Activity 5**

Title: Assist WHO with issues on standardization and interoperability through the Norwegian Health directorate.

Description: Provide assistance to WHO in their implementation of standards for eHealth interoperability and data exchange including facilitating ongoing work with the EU in this area.

- Attend global eHealth interoperability forums.
- Assist WHO with communication to Member States so that activities are transparent and they are made aware of options for eHealth standards adoption.

Apart from the bilateral agreement between Moldova and Norway, there has been no specific requests on standards and interoperability from WHO or Member States in the period.

**Activity 6**

Title: Support the mHealth initiative for non-communicable diseases (NCD) proposed by WHO & ITU.

Description: Contribution to WHO Global and Regional efforts in the Be He@lthy, Be Mobile initiative by supporting implementation efforts in target countries. This is a priority area for Norad.

- Joint collaboration under the 'Diabetes4Life' proposal
- Proposed countries: Norway, United Kingdom, Tanzania, and Republic of Moldova

NST is a partner in the Norwegian BHBM initiative led by the Norwegian Directorate of Health. The NST has contributed to the discussions within the innovation track, the health services track and has a special responsibility for the description of the innovation and research part of the Norwegian project. The NST hosted a workshop "Self-Declaration System for Norwegian Health-Apps" June 11, 2015 and participated to a national project workshop in September 2015 in Oslo, and provided input to the working document of the Norwegian Directorate of Health. The research part of the initiative has been delayed due to ongoing coordination of monitoring and evaluation in the Directorate. A COPD project is in the making and NST will have a role in planning monitoring, evaluation and research related to this project.

The research project proposal "Diabetes 4 Life" was not granted funding.

The NST is collaborating with the UK (BHBM-initiative) and Moldova (bilateral agreement) in the field of mHealth. There has been no specific requests from Tanzania in the period.

### **Activity 7**

Title: Facilitate capacity building and collaboration in e-learning

Description: Facilitate study visits and workshops on e-learning. The centre has planned one workshop on e-learning methodologies to be organized in Poland in spring 2015. In 2014 the centre has facilitated study visits from the Nenets Autonomous region in northwest Russia. The centre plans to facilitate more study visits on e-learning in various thematic fields, one planned for Portugal (on rare diseases).

A joint workshop on telemedicine and e-learning was organised in Tromsø on 9 March 2015 for the Polish Society for Health Programmes in Gdansk.

Initial contacts have been made with a Portuguese centre for rare diseases, 'Raríssimas - Associação Nacional de Deficiências Mentais e Raras Portugal' in collaboration with 'Frambu', Centre of rare diseases in Norway.

The NST has proposed to assist with developing e-learning tools for the WHO-ITU National eHealth Strategy Toolkit. The work is delayed on the WHO side until further clarification of the need/functionality is made.

**2. Please briefly describe your collaboration with WHO in regards to the activities of the WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (e.g. means of communication, frequency of contact, visits to or from WHO). Please feel free to mention any difficulties encountered (if any) and to provide suggestions for increased or improved communication (if applicable).**

The NST has frequent contact with WHO through scheduled virtual meetings every month in addition to telephone and e-mail exchange on various topics. Fysical meetings have taken place in the framework of workshops and conferences.

January 13-14, 2015. Global mHypertension Workshop hosted by The George Institute for Global Health and The Skoll Centre, Said Business School at the University of Oxford under the BHBM-initiative: Dr Temo Waqanivalu, Dr Najeeb al-Shorbaj and Virginia Arnold, WHO-HQ and Mr Per Hasvold, NST.

11-13 March 2015. The Guideline Development Committee of Electronic Health Record, UN City, Copenhagen: Tove Sørensen participated in the meeting organised by WHO-HQ and hosted by WHO-Euro.

9-11 June 2015: Tromsø eHealth Week. Mr Clayton Hamilton, WHO-Euro, participated in four thematic workshops, gave a key-note speech at the e-learning conference and met with the NST management team. Mr Sameer Punjari, WHO-HQ, participated via video-link in the Be He@lthy - Be Mobile, WHO & ITU initiative on mHealth for Non-Communicable Diseases International perspective on self declaration of health apps.

**3. Please briefly describe any interactions or collaborations with other WHO collaborating centres in the context of the implementation of the above activities (if any). If you are part of a network of WHO collaborating centres, please also mention the name of the network, and describe any involvement in the network during the last 12 months.**

The NST has frequent contacts with Geneva University Hospital through the 'Satellite-enhanced eHealth for Sub-Sahara Africa' (ended January 2015) and the joint efforts of providing patients access to their EHR. Dr Antoine Geissbuhler gave a presentation during the Tromsø eHealth week.

The NST has regular contacts with The King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Saudia Arabia.

**4. Please briefly describe any type of technical, programmatic, advisory or other support received from WHO during the past 12 months for the implementation of the agreed activities listed above (if any).**

Mr Clayton Hamilton contributed to the Norwegian e-learning conference in Tromsø on 11 June 2015 with a keynote on WHO's contribution in the area.

WHO funded the Tove Sørensen's participation in the meeting on Guideline Development Committee of Electronic Health Record in Copenhagen.