



# Cross-Border Telehealth Services in the EU **A Dream or a Reality?**

19<sup>th</sup> March, 2021  
14h CET

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eHealthsummit.pt

1 - 2 JUNE, 2021



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Dear Participant,

The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union aims to promote greater cooperation between Member States in the field of digital health.

In order to do so, telehealth has been established as a key strategic area to increase the quality of healthcare and reduce health inequalities to EU citizens.

This said, the question that needs to be answered is:

## **How can telehealth enhance public health cooperation?**

Living in a period of great upheaval in which efforts towards the digital transformation of the healthcare sector are currently at the centre of intergovernmental cooperation, the Presidency wants to bring cross-border telehealth to the forefront of dialogue with partner Countries.

**Crisis are also opportunities.**

**This is the time to think and act towards the advancement of cross-border cooperation in telehealth.**

How do you envision cross-border telehealth services in the EU?

What barriers need to be addressed?

What enablers need to be strengthened?

### **Exact Date and Time**

Friday, 19th March, 2021 at 14h CET

### **Location Details**

The link for the virtual room

(<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/780041901>)

### **Duration of the Event**

Afternoon session, 14h00 - 16:30 CET

Looking forward to meeting you!

## Agenda

**13:45**      **Arrival and connectivity testing**

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**14:00**      **Welcome – PPUE21 Digital Health Initiatives**  
**Luís Goes Pinheiro**, President of the Board of Directors of the Shared Services of the Ministry of Health

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**14:10**      **Cross-border Telehealth Global Overview**  
**Frederic Lievens**, Vice Executive Director of the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth

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**14:25**      **EU Perspectives**

### PORTUGAL

**Duarte Sequeira**, National Telehealth Centre of the Shared Services of the Ministry of Health

### ANDALUSIA, SPAIN (REGIONAL LEVEL)

**Ana M. Carriazo**, Senior advisor at the Regional Ministry of Health and Families of Andalusia

**Ignacio Lage**, Head of the ICT Development and Project Area at the Andalusian Health Services

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**14:55**      **Beyond the EU**

### SCOTLAND

**Martin Whitehead**, Regional Clinical Adviser and Consultant Stroke Physician at the NHS Lanarkshire

### INDIA

**Krishnan Ganapathy**, Director of Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation & Director of Apollo Telehealth Services

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**15:25**      **Coffee Break**

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**15:35**      **Challenges to cross-border telehealth**  
**Brainstorming session**

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**16:25**      **Closing remarks**

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## **Cross-Border Telehealth Services in EU:** a dream or a reality?

The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union aims to promote greater cooperation between the Member States in the field of health to support the capacity of health services to face threats to public health. To achieve this purpose, telehealth has been established as a Digital Health Priority under the Presidency to increase the quality of healthcare and reduce health access inequalities among EU citizens.

The COVID-19 pandemic undoubtedly challenged the sustainability of healthcare systems and demonstrated the importance of international cooperation to properly tackle cross-border public health challenges. Furthermore, it has emphasised the need to apply digital health solutions to healthcare systems worldwide, such as telehealth tools, to optimize hospital resources while ensuring patients' safety and rights to healthcare access.

However, cross-border telehealth faces several challenges at the national and cross-border level. Therefore, it is important to identify the barriers and enablers to cross-border telehealth, as well as ongoing initiatives, and existing infrastructures to evaluate the possibility of a cross-border telehealth service in the EU.

## Objectives

This workshop aims to set the scene for an exchange of views on existing barriers and enablers to cross-border telehealth. In doing so, this workshop will provide a platform to discuss the main hindrances to cross-border telehealth, in an attempt to set in motion a shift towards overcoming existing challenges.

The objective of this workshop (part I of II) is to support a Policy Statement on EU Digital Transformation and the removal of existing barriers to cross-border telehealth, which will be presented to the EPSCO Health and the eHealth Network in June 2021.

## Scope and Methodology

This virtual workshop will raise key questions that shall lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cross-Border Telehealth Workshop, in May. By engaging the eHealth community, this collaborative initiative represents the Part I of an interplay process with the relevant parties to discuss the challenges and enablers to telehealth at the cross-border level.

## Expected Outcomes

From a comprehensive discussion on the following key topics:

- Cross-border telehealth overview
- Identification of barriers at the cross-border level
- Identification of the enablers to cross-border telehealth
- Build the path to overcome existing challenges (2<sup>nd</sup> workshop)

## Addressees

- eHealth Advisors and Experts
- eHealth National / Regional representatives
- eHealth Network Representatives
- Telehealth Competent Authorities
- Telehealth Experts

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