

Where is E-Health Market?

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Telemedicine is not a new concept. The telephone line was used from the very beginning for different kinds of medical consultation. Of course, today telemedicine or E-Health is much more powerful allowing exchange of any type of medical information at a distance with a required quality.

The interest to E-Health is growing everywhere. Nevertheless E-Health will play a different role in developed and developing countries. There are several strong points in the E-Health concept. At the international telemedicine workshop recently organized by UNIDO, WHO and ITU in Cairo, Egypt, all participants supported the resolution stated that “E-Health should be considered as one of the strategic components in the national health care system because it facilitates the delivery of equitable health-care and educational services irrespective of distance and availability of specialized expertise”.

The developing countries suffer from a severe shortage of health care professionals. Competent medical specialists using state-of-the-art technology, such as scanner and other sophisticated diagnostic equipment, are very rare, and – as a rule – are working in the university hospitals of large cities. The lack of medical specialists and the difficulties of obtaining consultations between doctors in the regional and remote small hospitals with their colleagues in the referral hospitals results in a high number of unnecessary referrals.

For countries with limited medical expertise and resources, E-Health facilities can provide partly a solution on how to improve the access to existing medical resources. Several developing countries after their experience in pilot telemedicine projects are moving now to the national telemedicine programs showing that E-Health market will be much quicker grow in developing countries. As an example, it can be mentioned countries like Ukraine, Egypt, Oman, Uzbekistan, Kenya, etc. During the presentation the evaluation of the market will be provided.