Peer learning sessions of the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region

Presentation of policy practices as a basis for the peer learning discussion

Session 4.2. Digital Transformation for SDG implementation

Title of intervention, country and name of presenter	**European Mobile Health Knowledge and Innovation Hub, Andalusia (Spain), Prof. Isaac Túnez, General Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation at the Regional Ministry of Health and Families, Andalusia, Spain**
Brief description	The European mHealth Innovation and Knowledge Hub is established to collect and share national experiences on mHealth and to support countries and regions in setting up large-scale mHealth programmes. It is a EC funded initiative, led by ITU, WHO and the Regional Ministry of Health and Families of Andalusia, in collaboration with 20 partners from 12 countries.
Policy goal(s) or challenge(s) to be addressed	Strengthening the national capacities in implementing mobile health in the European region and developing solutions to manage the COVID-19 outbreak. Sharing experiences in the field of mHealth, facilitating the wider development and uptake of mHealth solutions. The mHealth Hub will facilitate patients' accessibility to healthcare, improving healthcare provided and overall health outcomes, allowing more effective and efficient healthcare systems. mHealth solutions have contributed to a better healthcare response during the Covid-19 outbreak, facilitating the connection between patients and healthcare professionals.
Instruments and proposals	The mHealth Hub is currently working in different areas: mHealth assessment frameworks, Evidence-based mHealth solutions on NCDs, Integration of mHealth into health systems, Support for large-scale implementation of mHealth programmes, Contributions to policy frameworks on mHealth topics and Ethics. In the area of mHealth Assessment Frameworks, the Hub has reviewed the different Health Apps Assessment Frameworks in Europe and has developed a repository of Health Apps in Europe. Its contribution to policy frameworks on mHealth topics include a number of case studies on how mHealth is incorporated in healthcare systems (e.g.: Austria, Portugal, Italy), fostering the digital transformation of health and care. During the Covid-19 crisis, many governments, companies and citizens movements have developed mHealth initiatives to keep the population informed and help manage the crisis situation. The mHealth Hub has included a specific Covid-19 Apps Hub Repository, as a preliminary, living, non-exhaustive list of some initiatives developed in Europe, compiled with high efforts within a short time frame. To disseminate its work, the mHealthHub organises dialogues on different topics related to its working areas.

Constraints and difficulties	Healthcare systems are facing an unprecedent situation due to the Covid-19 crisis which have added greater challenges to the existing ones, such as the demographic change and the increase in chronic diseases. New solutions, such as mHealth and eHealth, are needed. Different healthcare models and financing (reimbursement) schemes may difficult the incorporation of mHealth solution in the current practice. A common and agreed model for assessment and accreditation of mHealth solutions is needed, supporting patients and professionals' safety.
Lessons	A wide variety of mHealth solutions are available for patients and professionals, and the mHealth Hub has reviewed the different Health Apps Assessment Frameworks in Europe and has developed a repository of Health Apps in Europe. Several case studies on how mHealth is incorporated in healthcare systems are included as a contribution to policy frameworks on mHealth. The Covid-19 Apps Hub Repository included in the mHealth Hub.
Links to additional materials	https://mhealth-hub.org