

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

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<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/RDF/Regional-Development-Forum.aspx>

CONTRIBUTION BY World Health Organisation

TITLE: European mHealth Knowledge and Innovations Hub

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Europe Regional Initiative: EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

Years of implementation: 2019, 2020, 2021

Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) are working together with a group of governmental, academic and private sector institutions from across Europe to establish the European mHealth Knowledge and Innovations Hub.

The overall objectives of the Hub are the following:

1. To collect and disseminate research and experiences related to the large-scale implementation of mHealth programs;
2. To support European Member States in setting up large-scale mHealth programs.

As part of the first objective, the mHealth Hub will produce a set of Knowledge Tools, providing advice on large-scale implementation of mHealth services and interventions. The tools focus primarily on prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, cancer or mental health, but will also cover broader topics, such as development of mHealth assessment frameworks and integration of innovations into healthcare systems.

The second objective, the development of national mHealth interventions in a number of selected European Member States, will be executed by WHO and ITU together with the newly established Hub. Countries interested in working together with the Hub will be encouraged to join through an open call for the Expression of Interest, which will be announced later in 2019.

The Hub is funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020, under action “Establishing EU mHealth Hub including evidence for the integration of mHealth in the healthcare



systems". The project is coordinated through the WHO-ITU Be He@lthy, Be Mobile initiative on mHealth for NCDs. The implementer is Fundacion Publica Andaluza Progreso Y Salud, Spain.

Over long term, it is expected that the Hub will become an independent and self-sufficient entity, which will keep providing support for countries to scale up their own national mHealth services.

Proposal

The ITU Office for Europe region is requested to collaborate to promote the project through the ITU Membership for Europe region and to bring in interested parties who wish to host workshops/events in line with the activities detailed in the project plan during implementation phase. Once the mhealth hub is in place, collaboration to promote usage of the mhealth hub services would be requested.

