

## **Introduction to the Methotelemed workshop**

The Methotelemed team are very pleased that you have set a side time to participate in the first expert work shop of the project. In this letter you will find some information about the project background, results of the work so far, the process for the workshop and the expected outcomes.

### **Our aims and expectations for the work shop are:**

1. To present the aims, procedures and preliminary results of the review study;
2. To gain knowledge about explicit needs for knowledge, documentation and evidence to guide decisions about the use or non-use of telemedicine applications from the various important stakeholders that are represented.

To achieve this we have planned a work shop in two steps. First you will be presented with the findings of the literature review so far and get an introduction to the Health Technology Assessment framework.

Then we will divide you into two groups and we ask you to bring all your knowledge and experiences to the table, but your usual professional roles behind. We will ask you to act as if you were a member of the decision making body of a health organisation, such as the board of a big hospital or a regional authority, that has been approached by an enthusiastic doctor with a brilliant idea for a telemedicine solution. Your job is to determine what kind of information and of which quality, you would need from an evaluation of a pilot project in order to be able to say yes or no to an implementation of the service.

To feed the discussion each of the groups will be presented with a case that the enthusiastic doctor wants to implement.

We hope that you will help us to bring your explicit knowledge back into the ongoing review process. By analysing the methodologies involved in the work published so far, we hope to reach an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of current use of methods, including HTA-approach, in the field of telemedicine assessments. This understanding will serve as the base for the MethoTelemed Guidance.

The outcome of the process will be a proposed framework for assessing the effectiveness of telemedicine services that can support the decision process in European healthcare organisations.

The framework will be based on an array of methods to assess telemedicine applications, their research foci and strategies, and their strengths and weaknesses for obtaining appropriate evidence which supports stakeholders in making informed decisions about telemedicine. The framework will be systematic, research based, interdisciplinary and focused on decisions makers' needs.

We hope that you will enjoy participating in the process and allow the Methotelemed team the full benefit of your knowledge and experience.