

Project title:

Development and Piloting of Innovative Virtual Course 'Global Digital Health' (IVC-GDH) at DIT-ECRI

Aim and Objectives:

The Aim of this project is to pilot a comprehensive innovative online (virtual) course of instruction in Global Digital Health, using effective and efficient study tools, for the study and research on Digital Health approaches, policies and practices in different countries and regions. The specific objectives (and corresponding deliverables) are as follows:

- Conduct a needs assessment for online course in Global Digital Health;
- Build necessary capacity for Innovative Virtual Course Global Digital Health;
- Develop the content of the Innovative Virtual Course Global Digital Health;
- Develop and pilot the virtual teaching methodology and learning portal;
- Communicate project outcomes, and achieve sustainability of the outcomes.

Methods and Activities:

Assessment of the needs and requirements for the course: A needs assessment survey is being conducted as a means to evaluate the existing gap in Digital Health Education and the need to develop standalone study programs in Digital Health. A survey was prepared on the LimeSurvey platform in order to collect responses from participants. This survey was distributed to healthcare and IT professionals, medical and health educators, and all those with a career, knowledge or interest in the field through appropriate channels. The contents of the survey include the assessment of the current state of Digital Health literacy, existing gap in Digital Health education and curriculum, need for Digital Health education and optimal learning practices.

Preparation of the course content: Benchmarking through studying international best practices will provide the basis for the development of course content and teaching methodology. The will be based on provision of an in-depth view of a country's health system and the digital health landscape. This is in terms of the technology used, solutions offered, the uptake of these solutions and the regulatory frameworks that support these efforts. Relevant study material will be compiled and utilized.

Results:

The needs assessment survey is currently being conducted and will determine the knowledge, skills and competencies pertinent to Digital Health education among healthcare and IT professionals, medical and health educators.

The organization of the resultant course includes the use of prerecorded video lectures, live online interactive seminars, info-graphical presentations, textual matter, and discussion fora. A standardized tool to function as an instructional aid for assessing and comparing digital health indicators and analyzing trends using information from credible sources is being planned. The revision of study material will be done at regular intervals. A virtual textbook on Global Digital Health V1 will be prepared.

Conclusion:

This project will build on existing capacity and expertise in studying, researching and teaching global healthcare and digital health practices at DIT-ECRI in the field of Global Digital Health.

Participating Researchers:

Prof. Dr. med. Georgi Chaltikyan

Georgi Chaltikyan, MD, PhD is professor of Digital Health, eHealth, Telemedicine and Healthcare Management at European Campus Rottal-Inn (ECRI), a branch of Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT) in Bavaria, Germany, and president of Armenian Association of Telemedicine (AATM). He has been trained as general surgeon and has extensive experience in healthcare education, research and management. He has more than 14 years of work experience in the field of Digital Health. He has publications on different aspects of eHealth and telemedicine, and is involved in several research and development projects in Digital Health. Since 2019 he is a member of the WHO Roster of Experts in Digital Health.

Ms. Fara Aninha Fernandes

Fara Aninha Fernandes, BDS, MDS, MSc, is a research associate at DIT-ECRI. She is a graduate with a specialization in Oral Medicine & Radiology from Goa Dental College & Hospital in Goa, India, and has worked as dental physician and radiologist. In 2017-2020, she trained in the M.Sc. program in Medical Informatics (MMI) at DIT-ECRI. She currently lectures students in 'Foundations of Medicine' and supports teaching staff in the field of International Healthcare Management, Health Economics, Medical Documentation Systems and the Legal and Regulatory landscape of Digital Health.

Mr. Jishen Moolamkulam Pfeiffer

Jishen J. Moolamkulam Pfeiffer, MBBS is a Medical Informatics student and teaching assistant at DIT-ECRI. He is a medical graduate from Government Medical College Ernakulam in Kerala, India, and has worked in Geriatric and Palliative medicine. He is a working student at DIT-ECRI since March 2019. He assists in teaching activities for bachelor's and master students. Currently he is doing master thesis within DIT-ECRI's research project on Digital Health Education. His working fields are eHealth and Telemedicine, Medical Documentation Systems, and Medical Coding.