

# International activities and projects



**medcom**  
International

Rugårdsvej 15,2  
DK-5000 Odense C  
Tel. +45 6543 2030  
[www.medcom.dk](http://www.medcom.dk)

## MedCom International

MedCom is a co-operative venture between authorities, organisations and private firms linked to the Danish healthcare sector. In the 1999 financial agreement between the counties and central government, it was decided that MedCom would be made permanent, with the following objective to contribute to the development, testing, dissemination and quality assurance of electronic communication and information in the healthcare sector with a view to supporting good patient progression.

The main focuses of the international unit of MedCom are telemedicine and telehealth, eInclusion, infrastructure used for telemedicine services, and standardisation of electronic communication in the health sector. The activities in the international unit of MedCom range from project managing and participation in EU supported projects, expert advice to Danish and European regions, preparation of new project proposals etc.

The activities of are not solely project oriented. MedCom also seeks to disseminate the knowledge which is obtained via participation in projects and in various international conferences. The continual dialog with organisations and cooperating partners in Denmark and in Europe assures that MedCom is constantly updated on the development within the field of eHealth and telemedicine/health.

### **Employees in MedCom International:**

Chief Consultant Christina E. Wanscher (mat. leave)	<a href="mailto:cew@medcom.dk">cew@medcom.dk</a>	+45 2325 1989
Chief Consultant Jan Petersen	<a href="mailto:jap@medcom.dk">jap@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2029
Project Assistant Jennie Søderberg	<a href="mailto:jsb@medcom.dk">jsb@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2014
Consultant Lotte Beck	<a href="mailto:cbe@medcom.dk">cbe@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2053
Consultant Signe Dyrehauge (maternity leave)	<a href="mailto:sch@medcom.dk">sch@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2029
Consultant Casper Marcussen	<a href="mailto:cma@medcom.dk">cma@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2057
Junior Consultant Mette Atipei Craggs	<a href="mailto:mac@medcom.dk">mac@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2032
Junior Consultant Lenna Maria Broberg	<a href="mailto:lmb@medcom.dk">lmb@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2035

### **External Consultants:**

Consultant Jane Clemensen PhD	<a href="mailto:jcl@medcom.dk">jcl@medcom.dk</a>	+45 3057 6717
Consultant Niels Rossing MD	<a href="mailto:nr@medcom.dk">nr@medcom.dk</a>	+45 2178 2191
Project Assistant Mie Matthiesen	<a href="mailto:mima@sdsd.dk">mima@sdsd.dk</a>	+45 6543 2030
EU Consultant Hasse Petersen	<a href="mailto:hasse.petersen@regionsyddanmark.dk">hasse.petersen@regionsyddanmark.dk</a>	

**For further information, please visit [www.medcom.dk](http://www.medcom.dk)**

## International Projects

### **BREAST HEALTH** (<http://www.crossborderbreasthealth.net>)

***Optimisation of cooperation across the border between Denmark and Germany concerning breast cancer.***

Breast Health is an IINTERREG IV A project with the aim of creating cross-border cooperation in prevention, examination and treatment of breast cancer in the Region of Southern Denmark and Slesvig-Holstein, Germany. The project is set to last 18 months.

The main focus of the Breast Health project is to create a mutual foundation for the construction of a Cross-border Breast Cancer Centre. The centre shall advance cross-border medical services in prevention and treatment of breast cancer. The German "KV SafeNet" has now been connected to the health data network, and thus the technical platform has been constructed.

The project brings together 13 partners, consisting of two Danish partners, MedCom and the Region of Southern Denmark, and 11 German partners. MedCom's task has been to introduce the Danish Health Data Network to the German partners, which was achieved by July 2009, and to assist in administrative reporting for the Danish partners.

Contact person:                      Lotte Beck                                      [cbe@medcom.dk](mailto:cbe@medcom.dk)                                      +45 6543 2053

### **CALLIOPE** ([www.calliope-network.eu](http://www.calliope-network.eu))

***CALL for InterOPERability: Creating a European coordination network for eHealth interoperability implementation.***

This project is an ICT PSP programme as a thematic network. The CALLIOPE network brings together 27 organisations from 15 European countries and is part of the epSOS project, which is driven by MS health administrations. CALLIOPE represents a targeted effort aiming to establish an appropriately governed, composed and structured open forum, with the focal goal to support MS in implementing interoperable eHealth solutions, in close collaboration with the key stakeholders, including users, industry and payers. MedCom is a partner in the CALLIOPE project. The project was launched in June 2008.

The CALLIOPE project has continued working on the establishment of a network of countries not yet a part of epSOS, but wishing to be so. Currently, there are 12 countries and 11 large professional organisations, besides the epSOS members, admitted in CALLIOPE. A special co-operation between epSOS and CALLIOPE, called CALlepSO, has been established in order to function as a "phase-in intermediary" for the new candidate countries.

Furthermore, CALLIOPE works in seven work groups with standardisation, the EU Commission's recommendation on eHealth interoperability and a "Roadmap for the eHealth development", which was presented at WOHIT in March, among other things.

Contact person:                      Jan Petersen                                      [jap@medcom.dk](mailto:jap@medcom.dk)                                      +45 6543 2029

### **DREAMING** ([www.dreaming-project.org/](http://www.dreaming-project.org/))

***EIDeRly-friEndly Alarm handling and MonitorING = DREAMING.***

This is a pilot type B project under the CIP programme. The project brings together a set of ambient assistant living (AAL) services which, when integrated in everyday life, allow for extending the

independent life of elderly people while providing them with an equivalent level of safety as they would enjoy in a protected environment such as an elderly home. In addition, the DREAMING services facilitate the management of chronic conditions in a home setting, thereby reducing the need for hospital stays and the likelihood of aggravation of the disease.

The AAL services comprise a range of environmental or vital monitors, such as blood pressure meters, motion sensors, fire alarms, etc. all connected wirelessly via Bluetooth to a portal that sends the measurements via the Internet to medical specialists assigned to the project. In this way, the elderly citizens can save a time-consuming trip to the hospital meanwhile feeling in control of their own medical situation. The DREAMING system also enables the elderly to stay in contact with relatives, friends, the GP, and so on via a videoconference system. This system runs on a wireless Internet connection via a webcam and the elderly citizen's own TV. The system furthermore enables the medical specialists to guide the elderly in the use of the technical equipment from a distance.

When the elderly citizens take the vital and environmental measurements on their own, the visiting nurses will have more time to interact socially with them. The AAL technologies provided by DREAMING thereby release time resources to the care of the elderly. When the equipment is installed, data is collected via an internet portal, which is run by the local visiting nurses, who are already attending to the care for the elderly citizens, as well as the representatives from MedCom.

Danish partners are the Region of Southern Denmark, represented by MedCom International, as well as Langeland Municipality. The municipality will be one of 6 pilot sites in Europe. The project was initiated in May 2008 and will run for four years.

Contact person: Casper Marcussen [cma@medcom.dk](mailto:cma@medcom.dk) +45 6543 2057

### **epSOS – European Patients - Smart Open Services ([www.epsos.eu](http://www.epsos.eu))**

#### ***Large scale co-operation in the EU concerning the development of ePrescription and ePatient Summary.***

This project is a large scale EU project submitted under the CIP programme, co-financed by the EU Commission. epSOS aims at Smart Open Services; that is an open eHealth initiative for a European large scale pilot of patient summary and electronic prescription. 12 European countries (15 regions) as well as an industrial consortium participate in the project that was initiated in July 2008 and will run for three years.

epSOS is lead by the National Centre for Coordination of eHealth in Sweden. Information and communication technologies (ICT) are deployed on a broad scale in healthcare by most member states. In view of its key priorities of citizen mobility and borderless healthcare, a supportive approach by the European Commission outlined in the eHealth Action Plan shall help to ensure seamless pan-European flow of information between interoperable national systems for the benefit of patients. It is a precondition for the project that as many as possible existing solutions are employed.

Danish partners are MedCom and the National Board of Health. MedCom has delegated a considerable amount of its tasks to SDSD. In the project, intense work is put into converting the two use cases' demands into possible technical solutions, which can be realised in some (or all) of the approx 30 localities, including Denmark/ Copenhagen, that have been selected as pilot sites. SDSD expects to be able to find synergy between the European solutions and the Danish "Shared Medication Record" and the "NPI". Furthermore, the already existing ePrescription solution is expected to function as a model for others. The project will run till the end of 2011.

Contact person: Niels Rossing [nr@medcom.dk](mailto:nr@medcom.dk) +45 2178 2191



The objective of MAST is to create a standard model for the evaluation of mature telemedicine solutions, and there is great interest and need for a model of its kind in Denmark and the rest of Europe. The model will be tested in an EU project called RENEWING HEALTH, where the evaluation of large scale implementation of telemedicine in nine European regions will be based on MAST.

The project is led by MedCom in co-operation with the Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine (NST). Furthermore, the project is assisted by the Norwegian Centre for Knowledge, WHO Observatory (LSE Enterprise), and Stirling University. Management of the project has been delegated to Odense University Hospital and Claus Pedersen.

Contact person: Janne Rasmussen [jar@medcom.dk](mailto:jar@medcom.dk) +45 6430 2017

### **PERSONA** ([www.aal-persona.org](http://www.aal-persona.org))

***The PERSONA project will ensure that elderly citizens can live in their own homes and in their own communities as long as possible by the aid of IT support.***

PERSONA is a research and development project under the sixth framework programme bringing together 20 partners from Europe. The purpose of the PERSONA project is to develop welfare technological solutions for assisting elderly persons and chronically ill by preventing dangerous situations, ensuring early detection of health problems, social inclusion, and mobility. The objective is to make it possible for the elderly and chronically ill to live more independently in their own home, create a basis for more self care, and create standards for wireless communication and integration between different services. The project runs over a 3½ year period and focuses on the body, the home, the immediate environment, and the urban environment. Among the 20 project partners, two are Danish: the Region of Southern Denmark, represented by MedCom International, and Odense Municipality.

Odense Municipality contributes to the project by allowing a senior citizen home to be used as a test site. Odense municipality will also contribute with information and identification of needs in the care for the elderly. The test site will function as a “playground” for the PERSONA project. During the project period, the residents will be involved to the extent they themselves wish to be so.

Pilot testing is expected to be initiated at the beginning of 2010 in Odense Municipality.

Contact person: Casper Marcussen [cma@medcom.dk](mailto:cma@medcom.dk) +45 6543 2057

### **RTF: Regional Telemedicine Forum**

***Telemedicine network forum for European regions.***

Nine regions in Europe take part in a proposal for the INTERREG IV C-programme concerning the establishment of a “Telemedicine Forum” for regions in Europe. The purpose of the project is to exchange experience in telemedicine, both within the clinical and the policy area.

Because of the project’s character, it has been turned over to Region of Southern Denmark. Because the project is closely related to the project ICT for Health, which is run by MedCom on behalf of Region of Southern Denmark, an informal co-operation agreement has been formed between the two projects.

Contact person: Lotte Beck [cbe@medcom.dk](mailto:cbe@medcom.dk) +45 6543 2053

## RENEWING HEALTH

### ***Evaluation of large scale dissemination of telemedicine.***

The RENEWING HEALTH project is a CIP – pilot A proposal bringing together nine European regions to disseminate tested and matured telemedicine solutions and carry out large scale effect measuring and evaluation of them. The evaluation will be based on the result of the MethoTelemed project.

The Region of Southern Denmark is one of the regions in the proposal and will focus on home treatment of COPD patients by means of the COPD suitcase as well as telemedical ulcer assessment. MedCom takes part in the proposal as a national competency centre and sub-supplier for the region.

The project will begin 1 February 2010 and will run for 32 months. Odense University Hospital is the project leader, and this is where the clinical anchorage and evaluation will take place.

Contact person: Janne Rasmussen [jar@medcom.dk](mailto:jar@medcom.dk) +45 6543 2017

## "SUND VÆKST" (Healthy Growth)

### ***SUND VÆKST – Creation of growth in the Region of Southern Denmark through public and private collaboration of industry and service within "the healthy life".***

SUND VÆKST brings together 22 parts and is a three year project, launched in September 2008 and expected to finish in August 2011.

MedCom International is the project leader of two of the six main activities: Robot technology in the form of the "therapy tile" as a tool for rehabilitation and prevention of apoplexy patients and IT supported home treatment of patients with COPD (smokers' lung decease) by the aid of the "COPD suitcase".

The "COPD suitcase" project arises from the Better Breathing project. The project runs parallel to the roll-out of the suitcase at OUH. In general, the projects are difficult to separate, but the project can be regarded as one step further because of the cooperation with the municipalities to ensure a coordinated course of action for the citizens. In the long term, the results and experience from cooperating with the municipalities are to be integrated into the running of the project. The first patients were included in September. After a period where the home care has been involved in the project, the focus is now on exchange of experience and writing of articles. Simultaneously, a randomised study starts, which includes 266 patients. The project is running according to plan.

The "therapy tile" project concerns the development a clinical tool – robotic tiles – for the rehabilitation of apoplexy patients. This takes place in cooperation with the company Robotic Entertainment and Odense University Hospital, South Jutland Hospital as well as the rehabilitation departments of Svendborg Municipality. The tiles light up and make sounds, are easily assembled by magnets, and are set up either on the floor, a table or a wall. Depending on the patient in question, the therapist can choose between different games, where the patient uses either the feet or the hands. In this way, it is possible to focus on the particular patient exercising the paralysed side with either the hand or the foot.

Contact person: Lotte Beck [cbe@medcom.dk](mailto:cbe@medcom.dk) +45 6543 2053

## UniversAAL

### ***Pan-European open IT platform for welfare technology.***

The UniversAAL project is a FP7-project, in which the Region of Southern Denmark is joining a consortium with 16 partners from 9 European countries in order to develop a finished pan-European open IT platform for welfare technology systems.

The aim of the project, and especially the platform, is for companies and other players to be able to, free of charge, use the UniversAAL platform for building-in in intelligent systems for e.g. housing for the elderly, nursing homes or hospitals and in this way open up for having more digital services and products within the welfare technology area.

The project was initiated in February 2010 and will run for four years. MedCom handles all tasks and cooperates with DELTA, which functions as a third party.

Contact person:	Casper Marcussen	<a href="mailto:cma@medcom.dk">cma@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2057
	Jan Petersen	<a href="mailto:jap@medcom.dk">jap@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2029

### **WelfareTechRegion**

#### ***The Region of Southern Denmark and Welfare Technology.***

WelfareTechRegion is a commercial development project run by the Region of Southern Denmark. The project is an offshoot of MedCom's co-operation with the venture of the Region of Southern Denmark in the welfare technology area ([www.velfaerdsteknologi.nu](http://www.velfaerdsteknologi.nu)).

The aim of the project is to create an international power centre for developing, implementing and disseminating welfare technologies in the social and health care area. The project will prepare the ground for trade development and growth in welfare technology in the Region of Southern Denmark.

MedCom takes part in the proposal with networking to European partners, and it is expected that part of the work can be coordinated with the conference AAL-forum. The project will begin in January 2010 and will run for three years.

Contact person:	Lotte Beck	<a href="mailto:cbe@medcom.dk">cbe@medcom.dk</a>	+45 6543 2053
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## EU Projects that ended in 2009

### **HEALTH OPTIMUM I.D. ([www.HealthOptimum.info](http://www.HealthOptimum.info))**

#### ***Optimisation of health services by means of telemedicine in five regions of Europe – including the Region of Southern Denmark.***

The Health Optimum I.D. project was a two-year project, which ended on 31 August 2009. Hereafter, it was handed over to the Region of Southern Denmark where it has been based. The project brought together 5 regions in Europe (Denmark, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Romania) and the main objective has been to support already implemented telemedicine initiatives in order to stem increasing expenses within the healthcare system. Furthermore, the project has initiated communication across borders in order to spread valuable experience among all participating countries.

During the project period, nine projects have formed part of the Health Optimum project: Tele-neurosurgery, Tele-coronary arteriography, Tele-thrombolysis, Tele-endocrinology, Tele-cardiology, Telemedical preparation for operation, Tele-dialysis as well as Tele-alcohol rehabilitation and Telemedical discharge conference.

A report has been completed describing the results in the Region of Southern Denmark, as well as how telemedical solutions may be implemented in an organisation. This can be obtained by contacting the office.

### **R-Bay ([www.R-Bay.org](http://www.R-Bay.org))**

#### ***Establishment of eMarketplace for exchange of radiological services***

The purpose of the project was to establish a secure platform for the exchange of radiological tasks and expert knowledge across European national borders. The project involved all parties – from hospitals, IT suppliers, security experts, legal experts to market and business case experts. R-bay ended in May 2009.

The project obtained great attention from, among others, the European Commission, the radiological clinical companies and suppliers (both IT/system suppliers and suppliers of health services) because of its new way of thinking business model for the radiological area. This means going from a point-to-point traditional teleradiology to a many-to-many access of radiological services, resulting in increased flexibility and simpler working procedures. At present, the legal and cultural barriers for an open radiology market are too great for a direct pan-European dissemination of an R-Bay platform. The individual partners have formulated plans for regional or national dissemination and several are in the process of establishing a national R-Bay solution, e.g. in Estonia. The Region of Southern Denmark and Odense University Hospital are working on continuing the project in their own way and are still very interested in co-operation across national borders, as the problem with the lack of specialists in radiology is great.

### **Better Breathing ([www.BetterBreathing.org](http://www.BetterBreathing.org))**

#### ***Better treatment and improved quality of life for chronic COPD patients***

Four pilot hospitals in Denmark, Spain, Wales and Northern Norway have clinically tested different technical solutions and have evaluated solutions concerning the aim of improved quality of life for COPD patients, release of resources, and optimised course of treatment.

Results of the project indicated that there are great advantages in ICT solutions in connection with the patients and that it was possible to reach the objectives. Both patients and healthcare professionals

were very satisfied with the way to receive and provide services – whether it concerned continuation of hospital treatment in the home, rehabilitation over a distance, or support of healthcare professionals by specialists. All in all, improved quality of life and better treatment of patients were obtained. Satisfaction has been so great that several pilot sites have continued using the solutions in day-to-day operation and offer treatment via ICT to COPD patients. Also, the project has clarified advantages for health-ICT suppliers and contributed to the establishment of two companies in Denmark and Spain, respectively.