

# The Challenges of concrete National eHealth Strategies: the case of Turkey

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by

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These days we come across lesser arguments and little doubt that the appropriate cost-effective “eHealth Support” is a major step towards a concrete translation of the slogan of “Equitable Access to Quality Health Care” into actions and services. But, the choice and development of such “eHealth Support” is always a challenge. It becomes a major challenge when it is aimed at a Nation-wide coverage of the health care services.

There are the challenges of the applications themselves, their respective competing priorities and availing and training the human expertise to use and maintain these. There are the challenges of the rapid evolution and changes in the methodologies and technologies of computing, networking and communications as applied to the various aspects of health care – from managing a hospital, health centre or a laboratory, to tele-providing Continuing Professional Development courses, to conceiving, introducing and managing eMedical Records, to meticulously guarding the Security of all the digital transactions involved. And, there are the challenges of financing and managing the resulting eHealth services, from the institutional to the national levels.

This presentation will (a) describe the processes followed in putting together a National eHealth Strategy for Turkey, in the light of the Health Transformation Project; (b) argue the rationale behind the choice of the specific approaches followed, particularly for the priority topics; and (c) gives a brief summary of the resulting National eHealth Strategy.