Welfare Technology in Denmark from a national perspective

- The benefits of a national strategy for welfare technology

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Agenda

• Background

• Joint Public Sector Strategy for Digital Welfare

• The benefits of a national strategy

• An example: National dissemination of telemedicine

• The future
The Danish Agency for Digitisation

- Agency established as part of the Ministry of Finance in 2011
- Approx. 185 staff
- **Goal**: Creating a more digital public sector in Denmark that makes its processes more efficient, frees up resources, and modernises service provision.
- **Responsibilities include**:  
  - Developing policy and strategies  
  - **Ensuring dissemination of digital welfare solutions and digital communications**  
  - IT security, and user experience  
  - Development and management of shared public sector digital infrastructure
Background

- 2008: Welfare Technology Foundation established
  - 3 billion DKK for financial support to projects that tested welfare technology and digital welfare

- 2008 - 2012: 71 local (pilot) projects received funding

- 2013: Joint Public Sector Strategy for Digital Welfare
Background II

• **The Welfare Technology Foundation**
  - Testing of technology with up to 75 percent central government co-financing
  - Underlying principle: ‘Let a thousand flowers bloom’
  - Focus on business cases in areas which had not previously worked in a business case-based manner

• **The political realisation:**
  - The era of a thousand flowers is over – necessary to gear up;
  - Need to share experience – not to reinvent the wheel locally
  - The Foundation for Welfare Technology was closed, and financing is now part of the Strategy for Digital Welfare
“More and better welfare for the money by utilising technology”
The focus in the strategy

- **Clear ambition:** Faster dissemination of documented efficient and effective solutions.

- **Obtain concrete evidence of what works, with a view to disseminating the right solutions**
National dissemination of four Welfare technologies in nursing and caring

• Four well documented welfare technology solutions are being implemented throughout Denmark until 2017

1. Assistance with lifting
2. Shower toilets
3. Better use of aid and appliances
4. Assistive devices for eating in sheltered houses
The benefits of a national strategy

• Agreement on joint objectives across service areas
• Secures decentral ownership of decisions made
• Sow-and-reap dilemmas can be solved
• Coordination between all actors
• Not 5 or 98 different solutions on the local government levels
National dissemination of home monitoring for COPD patients

- An example of going from a pilot project to a national dissemination
TeleCare north – home monitoring for COPD patients in the Region of Northern Denmark

• A large-scale telemedicine RCT project (1,440 patients)

• Region North, 11 municipalities and general practitioners

• COPD patients received IT equipment to support care, treatment and active patient involvement.
The agreement - National dissemination of home monitoring for COPD patients

• On the basis of TeleCare North:
• Based on preliminary business case
• The five regions and the 98 municipalities are responsible for the implementation
• In 2019 the solution is to be disseminated in the entire country
Division of responsibility

- Central government finances costs of a number of projects – 47 mil. DKK

Regions and municipalities finance implementation costs

- The central projects
  - national infrastructure and interfaces/integration
  - indicator project for follow up on benefits realisation
  - business case
  - health guidelines for inclusion of patients and clinical “content”

- The de-central projects
  - service, logistics and support project
  - implementation and local governance
  - tender and procurement
The future

• Focus on dissemination of the pipeline of projects
  • National dissemination of digital training and rehabilitation
  • Use of video in certain areas of social services
  • Internet psychiatry
  • Heart failure

• Dissemination of telemedicine → Ketchup effect?
  • We hope that the dissemination for COPD patients will make it easier for new patient groups to come to the level of dissemination
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