

# Telemedicine: Report to the Arctic Council and Senior Arctic Officials in November 2008

## **Lead Country (ies):**

- USA, Russia

## **Project Coordinator:**

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## **Participating Arctic states and Permanent Participants:**

- USA, Russia

## **Summary of Objectives:**

The goal of the Telemedicine pilot project is to promote the establishment of a mutually beneficial collaboration in telemedicine, telehealth, mobile medicine and distance learning in remote areas of the Russian north. Project implementation sites – Sakha Republic and Khanty- Mansiysk AO.

## **Brief summary of activities during Norwegian chairmanship:**

The series of visits, workshops, and information exchange between 2004 and 2008 resulted in effective promotion and use of telemedicine technology in the two pilot regions. For instance, in Khanty-Mansiysk (KHMAO) telemedicine equipment is in place and operational in several remote areas. KHMAO is currently operating 52 telemedicine stations and a boat with telemedicine equipment that goes up the Ob River to provide basic healthcare to communities with no health clinics. Each year the service is extended to other remote areas of the region. The region provides comprehensive telemedicine training for doctors and nurses. In the Sakha Republic, over 500 patients received medical consultation from hospitals in Russia and abroad. About 146 tele- training sessions have been provided to local doctors and 300 regional videoconferences took place with participation of about 3000 people. In addition, local Medical Institute established an innovative educational program on telemedicine. Sakha Telemedicine experts are continuing to work on practical implementation and use of telemedicine technology in the region. These positive outcomes can be directly linked to project activities that took place between 2004 and 2008.

## **Current Status of work:**

Project participants are continuing to implement what they learned through this project in their regions.

The Northern Forum is planning to hold a final working group workshop to share lessons learned. It was also recommended to invite telemedicine equipment manufacturers to participate in this workshop.

## **Any matters requiring decisions or directions:**

The Northern Forum proposes that the project is finalized within the Arctic Council. Following the final workshop participants may continue to collaborate independently.

## **Anticipated deliverables for 2009 Ministerial:**

- None.