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YUSTEM - Telemedical System of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

In this paper the main results of the General Project of introducing telemedicine in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) are presented.

The first part of the paper deals with the presentation of the status of the health care system in FRY. Main statistical data are given concerning the existing primary, secondary and tertiary health care institutions. Although insufficiently equipped and not well organized, the health care system in FRY provides good possibilities for substantial improvement by introducing information and communication technologies.

In the second part, general aspects of introducing telemedicine in FRY are discussed. Starting from the main motivations, together with the actual experiences, the principal aims of the whole project are formulated.

In the third part of the paper the main lines of the concept of the Telemedical System in FRY (YUSTEM) are presented. YUSTEM contains six main functional subsystems: TELEMEK (primary health care), TELEHES (social medicine), TELEHOS (hospital care), TELEHIT (emergency medicine), TELEDENT (dentistry) and TELEFARM (pharmacology). The emphasis is placed on the main services within TELEHOS (teleradiology, telecardiology, telepathology, teledermathology, etc.). Main aspects of introducing telemedicine in rural areas of FRY are discussed.

The fourth part of the paper deals with financial-economic aspects of introducing telemedicine in FRY. It is demonstrated that by following a combined bottom-up/top-down methodology the implementation of YUSTEM within the next ten years offers important benefits, including i positive financial effects starting from 2006.

KEY WORDS: Telemedicine; Strategy of development; FR Yugoslavia

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