



Healthcare Matters!

Swiss Digital Acceleration Plan

Country Digital Acceleration Context

Healthcare remains one of the top priorities of the Swiss government. With ever-increasing costs and an aging population, maintaining the high quality of the Swiss healthcare system, while at the same time keeping costs in check remains a key challenge. Several trends such as personalized health, data-driven medicine, and hospital consolidation affect the Swiss healthcare ecosystem. While the number of hospitals and consequently the number of beds dropped through consolidation from 44000 in 2002 to 33000 in 2017, the number of hospitalizations grew from 1.3 million to 1.4 million putting more pressure on the healthcare system. On the other hand, hospitals specialize more in specific medical areas

rather than covering all disease areas. To reduce this pressure on the healthcare system several approaches are considered. With growing data and technological means personalized medicine is in the spotlight to make prevention and treatment more efficient. Joined forces of key stakeholders including the political leadership, industry, and academia are necessary to tackle this societal problem. While novel technologies are developed at research institutions, brought to the market by industry players, the political leadership needs to prepare the ground and the right conditions for deployment.

The current situation in Switzerland

Today, Switzerland has the second most expensive healthcare system in the world. According to the Federal Statistical Office, **12.2% of the GDP was spent to keep the healthcare system running as figures of 2016 show. In 2016 alone**, Switzerland had spent CHF 80.5 billion on healthcare, which makes a whopping CHF 9600 per year per Swiss inhabitant. Costs have gradually increased since the sixties: 1960 (5.2% GDP), 1980 (7.7% GDP), 2000 (9.8% GDP), 2015 (11.9% GDP), 2016 (12.2% GDP). Future prognostics taking the current situation into account are predicting increasing costs.

Many factors are contributing to the global as well as local trends. While some factors such as aging are global trends and as such hard to tackle, other factors can be addressed by technological developments. Factors contributing to increased costs that can be addressed by technology are disconnected stakeholders including patients, payers, and providers. Other factors are fragmented processes and workflows leading to loss of time and resources and as such contribute to the higher healthcare costs.



Alignment with government priorities

To **maintain the high standard of the Swiss healthcare system**, digital solutions are providing a unique opportunity. Optimizing and streamlining work processes offer the opportunity to keep the costs in check. Digitization offers an opportunity with means of deep and machine learning, artificial intelligence, IoT and wearables. The foundation, however, is a secure network infrastructure to connect all stakeholders.



With

1.4 million

hospitalizations in 2017 in Switzerland, workflow optimization will reduce the intense pressure on hospitals and strengthen Switzerland's excellence in healthcare and medicine.

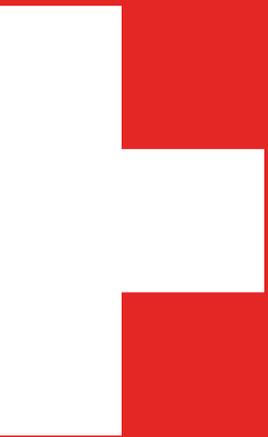
Projects

Cisco is at the forefront to develop solutions with its technology and partners to address the need for an efficient and securely connected healthcare ecosystem in Switzerland. With 1.4 million hospitalizations in 2017 in Switzerland, workflow optimization will reduce the intense pressure on hospitals. To optimize workflows and processes in the healthcare system, we are pioneering solutions such as utilizing wearables to monitor patients around the clock with our partner hospitals to keep the patients safe and at the same time reduce the workload of nurses and doctors. To optimize communication

channels of the hospital personnel including nurses, medical doctors, administration and the patients, we are piloting multiple projects at different Swiss hospitals. With ever complex systems and a constantly growing number of connected devices in hospitals, the security and manageability of IoT raise questions. Keeping track of equipment, patients and doctors as well as keeping the infrastructure safe remains a big challenge and one of our top priorities. We develop solutions with our partner hospitals in Switzerland and beyond.

Let's create the future of healthcare together

With many stakeholders involved an optimal solution can only be created together. Be part of the journey, reach out to us to learn more about our solutions and partnerships how we can work together.



Contact

Garif Yalak, Dr. sc. ETH
Head of Healthcare & Education,
CDA Switzerland

E-mail: gyalak@cisco.com

