Momentum is a thematic network funded by CIP ICT PSP aiming at contributing to the realisation of the second part of Key Action 13 of the Digital Agenda “[...] and to achieve by 2020 widespread deployment of telemedicine services” as set in the Communication of the European Commission of 19 May 2010 (COM (2010) 245). The project will run over 30 months, from February 2012 to July 2014. More at www.telemedicine-momentum.eu.

The expected outcomes of Momentum’s 30 months of activity are:

- An established and sustainable network of telemedicine practitioners and key stakeholder groups,
- A collection of good practice and experience in methods of telemedicine deployment into routine care,
- A European Telemedicine Deployment Blueprint. Its focus will be the legal, organisational, technical and market-related solutions that can ensure wider telemedicine deployment throughout Europe,
- Widespread awareness of good practices and the European Telemedicine Deployment Blueprint.

The period concerned by this report is the first one out of two and covers 15 out of the 30 months of the project duration. The first two of the above-listed objectives are particularly relevant to the first period, while the last two will be in focus of the 2nd period.

In concrete terms, during this first period, the working practices of the consortium have been organised, and an on-line survey has been set-up to collect data from telemedicine practitioners about how they have addressed the different implementation challenges they had to face. This survey was organised along four themes: (1) Strategy and Management, (2) Organisational and Change Management (3) Legal, Regulatory and Security, (4) Technical Infrastructure and Market Relations. A summary of this extensive questionnaire is available on the project website.

Only those telemedicine or telehealth services were eligible to contribute to the survey which were either successfully deployed in routine care or had failed in doing so. As a consequence, the survey did not collect data about telemedicine services which were (still) at a project stage.

Data from 26 telemedicine and telehealth services have been collected through this on-line survey. They have been analysed and consolidated by the consortium, and enriched through stakeholder feedback and a careful comparison with relevant literature.

All this work has led to the publication of one “initial report” for each theme. They will be made available on the project web site during fall 2013.

These reports are in the initial stage because they will be subject of two other iterations during the life-cycle of the project through additional
stakeholder feedback, involving in an open way more and more telemedicine practitioners and stakeholder representatives external to the consortium.

These four reports will be consolidated and complemented with a set of implementation guidelines for the project to deliver what will be named the “Momentum Blueprint for Advancing Telemedicine Adoption in Europe”.

With this Blueprint – and with the support of the eco-system who developed it – Momentum will bridge the gap that can often be observed, everywhere in Europe, between the project phase of a telemedicine service and its deployment in routine care. Hence, one can consider Momentum and its blueprint as an instrument that can contribute building capacities across Europe in deploying telemedicine and telehealth services in routine care.

In this respect, Momentum will meet the specific expectations of the 2011 call for a thematic network:

- Creating EU wide consensus on common solutions to address legal and organisational challenges on implementation of telemedicine services;
- Disseminating good practices in telemedicine deployment;
- Enhancing legal certainty in telemedicine contributing to wider acceptance.

To conclude on the potential impact of Momentum, one should underline here that the use of ICT in healthcare (i.e. eHealth, telemedicine, telehealth ...) is not considered as an objective in its own right, but as a means to reach a broader objective: modernising the healthcare systems to enable them facing the challenges of an ageing population and a rising demand for quality and accessible care, all this in the context of a shortage of both financial and human resources.