

# *Baltic eHealth*

- *empowering regional development in the Baltic Sea Region*

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**Cross-border eHealth in the Baltic Sea Region**  
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# The idea - 1



Introduction of  
eHealth in rural areas

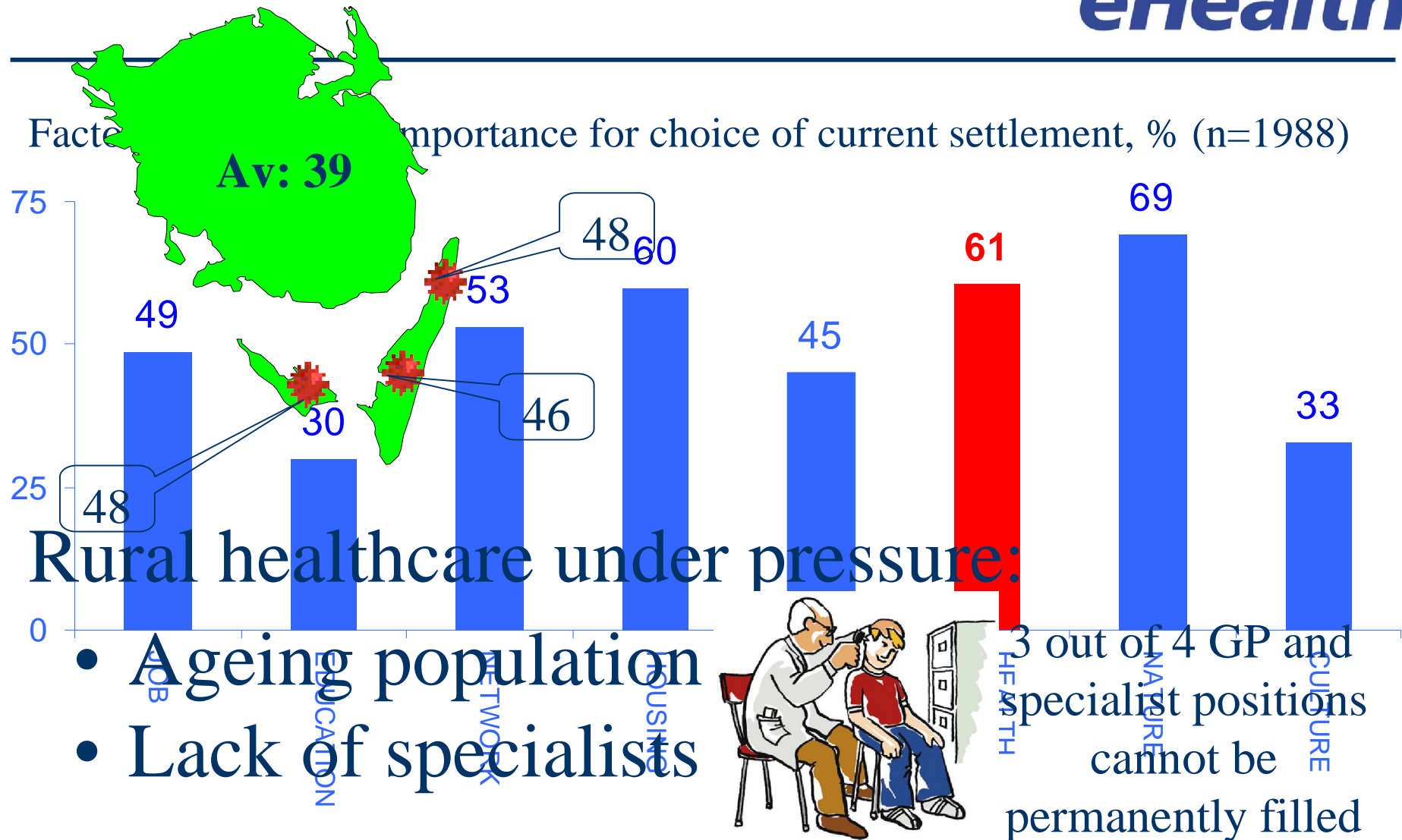
Better access to  
specialised healthcare

Healthcare and  
migration

Less out-migration  
from rural areas



# Healthcare and migration



# The idea - 2



Introduction of  
eHealth in rural areas

**Aim:**  
Provide  
tools that  
facilitate  
eHealth

Better access to  
specialised healthcare

Less out-migration  
from rural areas

## Facts:

- **Ten partners**
- **Five countries**
- **Start: 2004**
- **End: 2007**
- **Budget: 2 M€**



# Objectives

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- To create tools to enable cross-border eHealth
- To investigate and document the influence eHealth has on migration from rural areas



# Results

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- ü Tools to enable cross-border eHealth:
  - ü Cross-border eHealth infrastructure (BHN)
  - ü Guidelines on how to overcome barriers for eHealth
  - ü Best practise examples (eUltrasound & eRadiology)
  
- ü eHealth's influence on migration:
  - ü Rural eHealth Report



# Results: eHealth Infrastructure



# Results: Guidelines on barriers to eHealth

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- Legal issues
- Reimbursement issues
  - Contract template
- Organisational issues
- Cultural / linguistic issues



# Results: eUltrasound pilot



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- A map of the Baltic region (Norway, Sweden, and Finland) with a light blue background. Three blue dots mark the locations: Västerbotten in Sweden, Mid-Norway in Norway, and the Norwegian Centre for Fetal Medicine in Norway. Dashed blue lines connect the dots in Västerbotten and Mid-Norway to a circular inset image of a fetus. The text "Norway" and "Sweden" are also visible on the map.
- Classical second opinion approach:
    - Midwives and doctors in Västerbotten
    - The Norwegian Centre for Fetal Medicine



# Results: eRadiology pilot



# Interesting finding: Acceptance of cross-border remote reporting

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A: “If I can get a faster treatment in Denmark, it is all right if a doctor in a foreign country does the reading of my X-rays”

B: ”I do not feel comfortable with having a doctor in a foreign country read my X-rays”

**72 % agreed in statement A => high acceptance**

**(n = 1988, Danish telephone survey, Oct. 2005)**



# Results: Rural eHealth Report



- Healthcare access important for residents in rural areas!
- Development and implementation of eHealth solutions - still in an emerging phase!
- Little documentation on eHealth and migration!
- Proof that eHealth counteracts out-migration from rural areas is at this stage circumstantial!
- Prudent conclusion = eHealth is a relevant factor in counteracting out-migration from rural areas!



# Visions

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## Today

- Basic infrastructure
- Point-to-point
- Guidelines on paper
- Baltic Sea Region

## Future

- eHealth marketplace
- Many-to-many
- Guidelines integrated
- Europe



# *Cross-border eHealth in the Baltic Sea Region*

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- eRadiology / eUltrasound pilots (session A)
- Rural eHealth Report (session B)
- Guidelines on barriers to eHealth (session C)
- Technical infrastructure / BHN (session C)



Thank you for your attention  
and enjoy the conference!



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[www.Baltic-eHealth.org](http://www.Baltic-eHealth.org)

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