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I. Introduction

The Foundation Millennia2025 Women and Innovation, PuF\(^1\), is the pursuance of the Millennia2015 "Women actors of development for the global challenges", a foresight research process launched and implemented in 2007 by the Destree Institute. The Destree Institute is a European pluralist research centre based in Wallonia, NGO official partner of UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (consultative status) and in special consultative status with the ECOSOC, United Nations Economic and Social Council since August 2012\(^2\). It is committed to highlight the crucial role of women in global health and telemedicine, as well as their unrecognized capacity as builders of alternative futures. The latter is based on women’s innate future orientation, their ability as social actors to mediate and network at all levels, and to face natural catastrophes and human conflicts by saving lives and creating solidarity among women.

In this context, nurses are root workers whose endless efforts and worldwide commitment to patients are still insufficiently recognized. To address this gap, “Connecting Nurses”\(^3\), an initiative supported by Sanofi, in partnership with nurses’ organizations, provides a forum where nurses from around the world can share ideas, advice, innovations, and enhance the leading role of the nursing profession in advancing Patient Support Programs.

Acknowledging that women remain a forgotten group in many countries, Connecting Nurses and the Foundation Millennia2025 joined forces in September 2012 to launch the Women Observatory for eHealth or WeObservatory\(^4\), an innovative Digital Inclusion Platform dedicated to

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\(^3\) See: [www.connecting-nurses.com](http://www.connecting-nurses.com)

\(^4\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory](http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory)
women’s global eHealth challenges and Patient Support Programmes. The overall objective of the WeObservatory is to serve as a unique resource centre on eHealth and telemedicine, to promote women’s and patient empowerment through the access to and use of advanced technologies, combined with innovative integrated collaborative leadership. More specifically, the WeObservatory seeks to:

- Accelerate patients and women’s access to and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the provision of eHealth, mHealth and telemedicine services, especially to those living in the developing world, within the context of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 and 5;
- Optimize connections, generate creative solutions, and contribute to the drastic reduction of maternal and child mortality by 2015 and 2025; and
- Support patients and healthcare professionals in engaging all generations in the use of advanced technological tools, to promote access to eHealth and telemedicine for the improvement of women’s and family health.

By making all ICT tools and services fully accessible, the WeObservatory improves communication, facilitates access to healthcare services and Patient Support Programs, and provides cost effective connections.
II. Activities

The WeObservatory activities cover three sections:

1. The “Submit your project” section, presents a selection of projects submitted to the Care Challenge for one-year collaboration. Selected projects benefit from obtaining high international visibility, presentations at conferences and publications.

2. The “Innovate and Care” section presents information on and provides access to innovative multilingual mobile applications.

3. The “Share and Learn” section provides access to a selection of Massive Open Online Courses (WeMOOCs), mentoring for the next generation of nurses (WeMentors), empowerment of patients in eHealth with WePatients, and the WeLibrary.

The projects are selected from among those posted by participating nurses to Care Challenge—the ideas-sharing website of the nursing community worldwide, created by Connecting Nurses⁵. Since 2013, the WeObservatory Steering Committee⁶ has selected 13 Care Challenge projects, seeking to improve patient empowerment and education through the use of telemedicine and eHealth services. The inclusion of these projects in the WeObservatory aims to expand their visibility and aid their founders in establishing new connections.

The portal of the Millennia2025 Foundation has been viewed by 1.5 million visitors in 2014, and by an additional 1.2 million as of September 2015.

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⁵ See: http://care-challenge.com
⁶ See: http://www.millennia2015.org/weobs_team
A. Submit your Project: Selection of Projects

The selection of projects for the WeObservatory is based on the five criteria that must be reflected in the description of the proposed activities: innovation, uniqueness, low cost, re-usable, and multilingual frameworks. The projects are developed in their original language (English, French, or Spanish) and come from four continents—as illustrated in a world map posted on the WeObservatory webpage—the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. These projects cover themes that the Women and eHealth Study 2010–2012, presented at Medetel 2013, found to be of interest to women, including: Mental health, HIV, ePrevention programs, mWounds apps, foot diabetes, video training, child diabetes, maternal health, emergencies during natural disasters, research on the elderly and telehealth, as well as mobile multilingual applications. They cover all ages of patients’ lives, from birth, childhood, adolescence, adult age and the elderly.

The Steering Committee selects projects along the year, and submissions are screened on a monthly basis. The Steering Committee selects projects along the year, and submissions are screened on a monthly basis. The collaboration for one year long initiated after a common agreement is stated in a joint collaboration document that serves to define the content of the webpage for the project. On average, the parts have reached an agreement within two months, but some projects have needed additional time due to their technical complexity (mobile applications) or to administrative procedures (Hospitals, Universities).

By 2015, 13 projects of Connecting Nurses had been selected to empower nurses and their patients by the use of innovative digital solutions, reaching nine countries in four continents, in three of the UN official languages.

Short description of the selected projects

The projects are presented by region, following the world map visual in this report’s cover, moving from the Americas to Asia, indicating the project’s launch year and language. For six projects the one-year collaboration is extended for one or more years. These are highlighted with titles in green, and those on their way to be “Success Stories”, highlighted in purple.

AMERICAS

Répertoire des guides cliniques pour l'élaboration des plans thérapeutiques infirmiers en santé mentale, Canada\(^8\) (2013, French): Mental healthcare remains an unrecognized topic in many places. Marie Josée Poirier, nurse in Quebec, with five local institutions, has elaborated therapeutic guidelines to ensure adequate and qualitative care for these patients. The guideline on consumption of psychoactive substances has been adapted to the local context of mental healthcare in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, thanks to the commitment of local Millennia2015 members and medical and nursing professionals of the Centre Neuro Psycho Pathologique de l’Université de Kinshasa (CNPP/UNIKIN).

Printed copies (50) were delivered to Dr Germain Manzelele Bin-Kitoko, CNPP Kinshasa at the International Nurses day 2014 at Sanofi Headquarters in Paris, and presented at international events in Canada\(^9\), Switzerland, the United States and Luxembourg.

\(^{8}\) See: [http://www.care-challenge.com/fr/ideas/r%C3%A9pertoire-des-guides-cliniques-pour-l%C3%A9laboration-des-plans-th%C3%A9rapeutiques-infirmiers-en-sant%C3%A9-ment](http://www.care-challenge.com/fr/ideas/r%C3%A9pertoire-des-guides-cliniques-pour-l%C3%A9laboration-des-plans-th%C3%A9rapeutiques-infirmiers-en-sant%C3%A9-ment)

\(^{9}\) See: [http://weobservatory.com/2015/06/12/world-congress-for-francophone-nurses-our-experience/](http://weobservatory.com/2015/06/12/world-congress-for-francophone-nurses-our-experience/)
**TaVie Women, Canada**\(^{10}\) (2013, *French, English*): HIV treatment adherence remains a challenge. In this project, José Coté and the nursing team of the CHUM (Hospital of Montreal) developed the Virtual Nurse platform with online videos that provide continuous support to patients living with HIV\(^ {11}\). In 2016, women living with HIV will benefit from having access to videos specifically adapted to their needs during pregnancy and lactation\(^ {12}\). The project has been presented at international events in Canada, Switzerland and the United States.

The printed brochure\(^ {13}\) is widely distributed and has attracted the interest of organizations that would like to generate mobile applications using this content in 2017. CHUM plans to conduct a patient survey in 2017 within the WePatient\(^ {14}\) initiative to collect their opinion of the videos and information on their adherence to the treatments. A recent promotional video of TAVIE includes the logo of TAVIE Women\(^ {15}\).

**Reducing social isolation for our residents in long term care via Skype, a best practice, Canada**\(^ {16}\) (2015, *English, French*): Lorraine La France and Claire Babin, nurses in Quebec, Canada, developed a system of communication using Skype that allows residents, regardless of their level of cognition, to virtually interact and bond with families and loved ones, across generations, living anywhere in the world, without leaving the comfort and familiarity of their own room. To share their experience with this project, Lorraine and Claire developed a virtual guide, in French and English, where they provide recommendations for other nurses aiming at


\(^{13}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/images/contenu/WeObs/Tavie/Flyer_Tavie_women.jpg](http://www.millennia2015.org/images/contenu/WeObs/Tavie/Flyer_Tavie_women.jpg)

\(^{14}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/WePatients](http://www.millennia2015.org/WePatients)


\(^{16}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/skype](http://www.millennia2015.org/skype)
connecting their patients with their families. Three hundred copies of the guides were printed and distributed at conferences in Canada. Infirmier.com\textsuperscript{17}, a famous nursing online journal in French, published an article on the project.

**TeleNurse Network, USA\textsuperscript{18} (2015, English):** Marisela Cigliuti, nurse in Newark, is developing a Patient Web-Based Application that permits users to connect with specialty nurses and advanced nurse practitioners via a HIPPA compliant audio/video chat, inclusive of EMR, and E-Prescribe. The application offers access to community-based wellness events and support services through collaboration with hospitals, same day surgery healthcare facilities, and community centres\textsuperscript{19}. TeleNurse Network aims to improve access to care by using telehealth technologies for remote diagnosis, chronic disease education, and patient monitoring.

This strategy is an optimal health solution that ensures “specialty care”, which is not usually accessible due to high cost or transportation barriers. To address the needs of Hispanic patients in the New York area, and later, in the United States, TeleNurse Network is considering the development of a Spanish version of the application by late 2016. A webinar entitled “A First Look at Virtual Nursing Practices” discussing the multi-state licensing compact rules and regulations with a key presenter Mr. Elliot, Vice Director, Government Affairs National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) took place on 12 November 2015\textsuperscript{20}. Webinars for preventative care education on topics like hypertension, addiction, are planned for 2016.

**ePrevention in Latin American and Caribbean, Peru\textsuperscript{21} (2014, Spanish, English):** The primary benefit of telemedicine stems from facilitating remote

\\textsuperscript{17} See: www.infirmiers.com
\textsuperscript{18} See: http://www.millennia2015.org/telenurse
\textsuperscript{19} See: http://www.telenurse.co/
\textsuperscript{20} See: http://weobservatory.com/2015/11/09/free-webinar-for-nurses/
access to **Health Prevention** and care. With the support of nurse Lady Murrugarra in Peru, ePrevention and the Global Network of Women in Telemedicine at the Millennia2025 Foundation, also known as WeTelemed\(^\text{22}\), made telemedicine courses available to remote Peruvian communities to train healthcare professionals on tropical medicine and the treatment of dengue. A survey conducted among 400 nurses from four Andean region countries on the use of ICTs provides evidence of the willingness and interest of health professionals in using ICTs to seek health information and build their capacity to address key health issues affecting their countries\(^\text{23}\). The survey was published in the Journal of International Society of Telemedicine and eHealth (JISfTeH) in April 2015\(^\text{24}\). ePrevencion was presented at numerous conferences and events in Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United Stated, Peru, and Brazil. An article was published in Infirmier.com\(^\text{25}\).

Further to the selection at the WeObservatory, Lady Murrugarra was nominated as the Coordinator of the Peruvian Telemedicine Research Centre in Lima and leads the Hispanic Working group at the International Society of Telemedicine and eHealth (ISfTeH)\(^\text{26}\). This is a success story of the WeObservatory and Connecting Nurses.

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\(^\text{22}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/WeTelemed](http://www.millennia2015.org/WeTelemed)

\(^\text{23}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/files/files/M25_WeObs_Projets/Peru/eprevention_a_survey_on_the_status_of_ict_access_in_selected_countries_in_lac.pdf](http://www.millennia2015.org/files/files/M25_WeObs_Projets/Peru/eprevention_a_survey_on_the_status_of_ict_access_in_selected_countries_in_lac.pdf)


\(^\text{26}\) [http://www.isfteh.org/working_groups/category/e_hispanic](http://www.isfteh.org/working_groups/category/e_hispanic)
EUROPE

**iPansement, France** (2014, French): This multi-service mHealth platform is dedicated to the **wounds** and healing field in France. Scientifically approved content is under consideration for the development of modules dedicated to women’s wounds and diabetic foot care. The organization has already contacted several universities and hospitals in France, but so far they show limited interest and have raised complex intellectual property issues.

**Diabetic Foot Care, Kosovo** (2014, English): The methods and materials used for treating **diabetic patients** are sophisticated in developed countries, but rarely adapted to areas with limited resources. Targeting these areas, the Diabetic Foot Care project has already obtained promising results in Kosovo with the innovative guide on Diabetes Foot Care, in Albanian, authored by nurse Vjolca Kola. Her patients at the clinic receive the printed guide, illustrated with photos and recommendations for their wounds. The project and the guide were presented at international events in Luxembourg and Switzerland.

The project coordinators plan to conduct a patient survey in 2017 within the WePatient initiative to collect their opinions on the guide and obtain information on their adherence to the treatments.

**5’ (minutes) Program, Spain** (2014, Spanish): This program provides continuous **capacity building** through the development and use of short

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videos elaborated by nurses of the hospital San Juan de Deu in Barcelona. To date, 156 videos are available in Spanish\textsuperscript{31}. Six of those videos are included in the online course on ICTs for Midwives for the Centro para los Adolescentes de San Miguel de Allende A.C. (CASA) in Mexico\textsuperscript{32}, which will benefit midwives in Central and South American countries in the near future. This is the first collaboration between two projects selected at the WeObservatory. The results are promising and contribute to dynamism of the initiative between the regions.

**Teo The Duckling, Spain\textsuperscript{33}** (2015, Spanish, English, Catalan): The story of Teo, authored by nurse Norma Grau in Barcelona, targets young children living with diabetes, teaching them strategies to address issues relating to the disease that might take place while attending school. The tale is developed with illustrated videos in Spanish\textsuperscript{34} and English\textsuperscript{35}. The girls’ version is adapted as Tea the Duckling\textsuperscript{36}.

The videos are displayed at the paediatric Unit\textsuperscript{37} of the Hospital San Juan de Deu in Barcelona. The book version is planned to be printed in 2016, with the support of Sanofi’s office in Spain. Norma Grau participated to the International Nurses Day 2015 at Sanofi’s office in Barcelona and was interviewed on the collaboration with the WeObservatory\textsuperscript{38, 39}.

\textsuperscript{31} See: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCE1125336F297118](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCE1125336F297118)
\textsuperscript{32} See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/casa](http://www.millennia2015.org/casa)
\textsuperscript{33} See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/Teo](http://www.millennia2015.org/Teo)
\textsuperscript{34} See: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7w6ux5HQto&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7w6ux5HQto&feature=youtu.be)
\textsuperscript{35} See: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCrYDt9ziKU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCrYDt9ziKU)
\textsuperscript{36} See: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on9JUi0xBvg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on9JUi0xBvg)
\textsuperscript{39} See: [http://weobservatory.com/2015/05/13/tea-the-duckling-launched-during-international-nurses-day/](http://weobservatory.com/2015/05/13/tea-the-duckling-launched-during-international-nurses-day/)
AFRICA

Save our Mothers, Nigeria (2013, English): Limited progress has been made in improving maternal health in Nigerian communities. Using mobile phones, nurse Chimnoso Ibe, CEO of the Traffina Foundation, is addressing identified challenges by targeting pregnant women who are victims of dangerous practices. Women participating in the project receive weekly messages, via bulk short message service (SMS), with information about pregnancy and the dangers of harmful practices; this increases awareness and helps save lives during childbirth. Due to the conflict situation that arose in northern Nigeria, this project has been expanded to include the manufacture of 50,000 Clean Birth Kits, which will be distributed among pregnant mothers until 2017.

Further to the selection at the WeObservatory, Chinomso became a member of Wagner College’s 2015 cohort in the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Africa 54, Voice of America’s daily Africa television news program interviewed her. This is a success story of the WeObservatory and Connecting Nurses.

ASIA

pod.RN - The Nurses' Podcast Project, Philippines (2013, English): The use of radios remains a favorite communication tool in isolated communities. The Alliance of Young Nurse Leaders and Advocates (AYNLA) in Manila is scaling up its initial podcast project with video podcasts that integrate YouTube, social media and micro blogging sites, reaching a larger audience. A special fund for emergencies contributes to support pregnant


41 See: http://weobservatory.com/

adolescents facing natural disasters, such as the Hagyan Typhoon in 2013. With the support of the WeObservatory, AYNLA submitted a youth scholarship application to attend the Women Deliver Conference in Copenhagen in 2016; the application was accepted.

eHealth will be an important topic covered during the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) day celebration on 12 December 2015 in Manilla. The WeObservatory will support AYNLA activities during the event.

Research-based Community Telehealth Center, Philippines (2013, English): Nurse Michael Dino, Director of the Research, Development and Innovation Center at Our Lady of Fatima University, in Valenzuela City, Philippines, is investigating the views of the elderly regarding lifelong learning through telehealth technologies; results were published in the JISfTeH Special issue on Women in eHealth in April 2015. The MOU with the university, reconducted for the period 2016-2017, will expand telehealth, and women and eHealth research studies to West Visayas State. The research provides evidence of the interest of the elderly in telehealth in the Philippines, as well as of their learning and education needs. This is a success story of the WeObservatory and Connecting Nurses.

Cloud babies tele-stethoscope, Australia (2015, English): Nurse Fiona Marlow is confronted to limited access to healthcare services in aboriginal communities in Australia and in Timor Leste. She has designed a stethoscope that attaches to the headphone jack of a normal mobile phone to ensure communication at a distance with medical experts. It is expected to be low cost and disruptive device, as it combines technologies already available. A prototype is under testing while administrative registrations are investigated to ensure the intellectual property of the device before production and commercialization, which is expected to take place in 2017.

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B. Innovate and Care: Innovative Applications

The WeObservatory is supporting the development of innovative healthcare solutions that address multilingualism, a key barrier to women’s access to healthcare information, as identified in the Women and eHealth Study 2010-2012. In partnership with UniversalDoctor\(^45\), the Foundation launched the application “UniversalWomen” in September 2013, at the Women Leaders Forum, in New York. This new multilingual mobile application, available for download, provides medical translations on pregnancy, childbirth and overall maternal health in six different languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Romanian, and Arabic)\(^46\). Expanding on this concept, the application “UniversalNurse” was launched during the Special Women Session at Medetel 2014, to support multilingual communication of nurses with their patients.

In 2015, UniversalDoctor addressed the needs of millions of refugees by adapting the mobile application RefugeeSpeaker, and offering free access. UniversalWomen and UniversalNurse will offer similar services by the end of 2015\(^47\).

In 2016, the WeObservatory and the Foundation will pursue the development of mobile applications, in collaboration with iPansement and TAVIE Virtual Nurse, to address women healthcare needs.

\(^45\) For additional information on UniversalDoctor, see: http://universaldoctormysite.wordpress.com/2013/01/17/new-partnership-on-universalwomen-and-universalnurse-speaker/


\(^47\) See: http://weobservatory.com/2015/10/16/refugee-speaker-by-universaldoctormysite/
C. Share and Learn: International Visibility

_WeMOOCS, a Selection of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)_

The _Women and eHealth Study 2010-2012_ revealed that capacity building is a key factor for women’s empowerment in telemedicine and eHealth. To facilitate learning, the WeObservatory is selecting online and massive open online courses (MOOCs) in English, Spanish and French that are accessible to all, free of cost, which cover the themes of women, health and digital technologies. In 2014, an initial list of 93 courses displayed on 6 MOOC platforms, from 5 countries in America (1) and Europe (4) is provided after the analysis conducted by the Steering Committee members\(^{48}\). In 2015, the list was updated to include 340 courses displayed on 21 MOOCs platforms, from 18 countries in America (6), Europe (8), Asia (2), the Middle East (1), and Oceania (1). MOOCs referring to mobile health were referenced with a specific icon. In 2016, the new selection of WeMOOCs will target nursing, midwifery, and patient empowerment.

In addition, the WeObservatory and WeTelemed provide links to a selection of online telemedicine courses in Spanish and French. In particular, the course “Introduction to Health Informatics and Telemedicine”, developed with the University of Technology of Panama, provides foundational information on the use of telemedicine for infectious diseases prevention in Panama and Latin America. Limited to 25 students, the first course received more than 300 inscription requests, demonstrating the vast training needs and high interest of healthcare workers in this area.

_WePatients, Patients Commons for eHealth_

With this initiative, the WeObservatory aims to support patient empowerment in the self-management of chronic conditions, pregnancy, disaster preparedness and ageing. The objective is to raise awareness of behavioral change models and tools that can be applied to improve patient

\(^{48}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/weobs_team](http://www.millennia2015.org/weobs_team)
adherence and patients' health outcomes. WePatients provides information on seven eHealth projects focused on patient empowerment along the stages of life, as well as resources, publications and patients' stories in three languages: English, French and Spanish. We are making contact with Universities of Patients in France and the European Network on Patient Empowerment (ENOPE)\(^{49}\) to design a qualitative survey on patient empowerment in 2016.

**WeLibrary, the WeObservatory Library**

The WeObservatory Library aims to provide access to articles and publications related to women involved in eHealth and telemedicine. Currently, this section provides access to 99 selected publications listed in the *Women and eHealth Study 2010-2012*\(^{50}\), as well as to the four WeHealth Guides, and links to recent publications and events. This section is periodically updated and worthy of being consulted.

**WeMentors, Preparing the Next Generation**

In pursuance of the *Women and eHealth Study 2010 – 2012*, conducted by the Millennia2015 WeHealth IWG, the Mapping of Women's involvement in eHealth has been completed with a new dimension: Women as Mentors in eHealth, to educate young girls in health technologies. Mentoring is a recognized powerful instrument to motivate girls to study engineering, telecommunication or informatics for health. Women reaching high-level positions provide an incentive to young girls by giving them a positive image of exciting jobs. WeMentors benefits from the PROMIS@Service, which has recently entered in alliance with the Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation (PUF), sharing the WePROMIS® eMentoring platform to support and advise women through eSkills. With WePROMIS® as an eSkill enabler instrument, the objective of the alliance between PROMIS@Service and the


\(^{50}\) Selected publications listed for the Women and eHealth Study 2010-2012 are available at: [http://www.millennia2015.org/files/files/WeHealth_Research/wehealth_list_of_references.pdf](http://www.millennia2015.org/files/files/WeHealth_Research/wehealth_list_of_references.pdf)
Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation is to achieve action plans in favor of women and girls for their empowerment and for gender equality.

**International Visibility: 24 Conferences and 6 Publications**

One of the main activities at the WeObservatory is to provide international visibility to selected projects and applications. Through its participation at 24 international events, and the organization of four of them, the projects are widely disseminated throughout the four continents. Annual events include Medetel in Luxembourg of the ISfTeH, with four participations since 2011, and the organization of special sessions on Women and eHealth; the Women Leaders Forum in New York with ADA Foundation, in parallel to the UN General Assembly; and the Global Forum in Geneva and Oulu.

Thanks to these events and conferences, we have achieved impressive outcomes, including six publications in 3 languages, as well as extended collaborations with prestigious institutions and NGOs, such as the Diplomatic Council and Giving Women. New collaborations are underway in 2016.

**III. 2015 Achievements**

The results achieved so far by the selected projects are impressive, and local projects responsible are highly active. They are involved during the 12 months of collaboration, and for some of them, even longer, as their projects have become real “Success Stories”. By the end of 2015, of the 13 projects selected, **11 (85%) have completed the planned activities**\(^\text{51}\), described in the **Achievements section** of the website. Nevertheless, this does not mean that their activities have concluded. For the majority, the contact with the Foundation continues and the results from their projects are planned to be presented at international events during 2016. The

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remaining two projects (15%) are in progress, delayed by technical or administrative issues.

Two web and iPad applications are available: UniversalNurses and UniversalWomen, which will improve multilingual communication between patients and nurses. Both will be made available by the end of 2015 on mobiles, upon the request of several nurses. To respond to the migration crisis, the Refugee Speaker application was made available for free in German, French and Arabic.\textsuperscript{52}

The Foundation is currently considering the best “Exit Strategy” to use after the one-year collaboration with the organizations managing the selected projects (project managers, hereafter) is over. During that intense work period, the interaction between the Foundation and the project managers develops into a close relationship, thanks to monthly Skype calls and the continuous exchange of emails. This relationship is difficult to stop as soon as the results are achieved. Consequently, the WeObservatory Steering Committee is currently reflecting on how to address this issue, taking advantage of the experience gained through the current projects.

\textbf{IV. Considerations and Recommendations}

\textit{Local Crisis Contexts}

The progress of two of the projects was affected by unexpected local events: The rise of social conflict in northern Nigeria, and the effects of Typhoon Haygan in the Philippines. As a result, the project activities have been realigned, and the increased costs have surpassed their initial budget. This experience highlights the need for the one-year collaboration to be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances.

\textsuperscript{52} See: \url{http://weobservatory.com/2015/10/16/refugee-speaker-by-universaldoctor/}
Committed Project Managers, Millennia2015 Members

Several projects have benefitted from having committed local managers (Canada, Peru, Philippines, Nigeria, Spain). This is a key finding, although difficult to apply as a recommendation, as project managers are not known before the selection process. Moreover, the availability of Millennia2015 members in the area where projects are being implemented has been a significant factor contributing to the projects’ success (Canada-D.R. Congo, Spain).

eHealth, Telemedicine and Mobile Applications

These applications are complex to develop due to technical, legal and commercial requirements. The costs are higher than expected and need to be compensated by sales. However, patients and healthcare professionals have great expectations about the development of such applications.

Scientific Research

Research activities take more time than expected, but have benefitted from the participation of committed project management, such as in the case of the Philippines. The research findings can be shared and promoted through publications in scientific journals.

Dealing with Commercial Agreements with Private Companies

One project is delayed due to commercial considerations (TAVIE Women). During the collaboration phase, the CHUM delegated the whole project to a commercial private company, 360Medlink. As a result, it was necessary to hire a specialized consulting company to review the collaboration document to translate it into a contract; this process increased the costs beyond the initial budget. The project remains very promising, in collaboration with CHUM’s nursing team.
V. **WeObservatory Management**

**A. Human Resources**

The *WeObservatory*, Initiated by Sylvie Coumel (Sanofi Corporate) and Veronique Ines Thouvenot (Foundation Millennia2025), has grown into a substantial team that includes since February 2014, two international managers (Doyna Zharavina and Cyril Frankel) and a Steering Committee composed of dedicated international experts on a voluntary basis\(^{53}\).

**B. Communication**

- **Internal Communication**

The *WeObservatory* management team participates in weekly calls that permit regular updates on the current projects and rapid adjustments when needed. The team is invited to monthly calls organized with the Connecting Nurses Steering Committee members. This contributes to the exchange of ideas and experiences among the two selection processes, Sanofi Awards and the *WeObservatory* Collaboration. Three projects have been selected by both entities (Nigeria, Spain – Teo The Duckling, and Philippines - Research). Monthly meetings in Paris at Sanofi HQ contribute to monitor the projects, organize common events (Medetel 2013, 2014, 2015, IND 2014, 2015, *WeObservatory* Roundtable 2014) and identify new partners.

- **External Communication**

The *WeObservatory* **website** is the most prominent vitrine, and offers a clear identity, updated information on activities, and easy access to applications and MOOCs. The portal of the Millennia2025 Foundation reached 1,2 million visitors, with 1,5 million accesses in 2014. The results are higher in 2015, with 1,2 million visits by September 2015.

\(^{53}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/weobs_team](http://www.millennia2015.org/weobs_team)
The WeObservatory Blog, as well as Visuals, such as banners, posters, and bookmarks with a QR code, were displayed and distributed at international events. The WeOBlog provides 73 news stories in 29 categories, 10 videos, and 190 illustrative photos of the projects. The International Society of eHealth and Telemedicine (ISfTeH) published an article on the WeObservatory.

Since 2013, the WeObservatory has participated in 24 International Events\(^{54}\) organized by its partners or associated organizations. On 20 May 2014, the WeObservatory organized its first event, the Roundtable on Innovation for Women’s Health in Geneva\(^{55}\), during the World Health Assembly, which gathered 40 eHealth experts, project managers and partners. This successful event highlighted the need to continue the efforts towards involving women in eHealth and innovation.

**C. Partners**

The WeObservatory benefits from the interest of an impressive number of international organizations and companies. Seven are already partners: the International Society of eHealth and Telemedicine (ISfTeH), UniversalDoctor and Tools SL, Université Numérique Francophone Mondiale (UNFM), 360Medlink, Giving Women, Diplomatic Council and OMAEP\(^ {56}\). The Sanofi Espoir Foundation joined the WeObservatory in 2014 and Sanofi Pasteur will do so by the end of 2015.

**D. Budget**

The budget has varied during the last three years, depending on Connecting Nurses global allocation. The continuous support of Sanofi

\(^{54}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObsEvents](http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObsEvents)


\(^{56}\) See: [http://www.millennia2015.org/weobs_partners](http://www.millennia2015.org/weobs_partners)
Corporate to the WeObservatory in a changing context is the best indicator of the corporation’s confidence on the quality of our work. Between 50 and 60% of the funds are destined to support the projects, followed by expenses in human resources and conferences costs. Administrative costs are stable.

VI. Conclusion

Launched in 2013, the WeObservatory has developed activities, projects and tools that serve Patient Support Programs and promote the use of eHealth, telemedicine and mobile applications. Through a combination of projects, applications, MOOCs, online courses, Mentors and a Library, the WeObservatory is expected to become a unique innovative ePlatform at the service of patients, women and health professionals, within the global framework of the UN Post-2015 Agenda. The Millennia2025 Foundation has expanded the WeObservatory activities with Connecting Midwives through
three more projects of the Foundation Sanofi Espoir, with the production of 8 modules of online education on ICTs for midwives in Mexico, 13 multilingual videos for migrant women arriving in Switzerland, and the preparation of the programme for a 3 weeks course and learning materials on obstetrical emergencies for midwives in Ethiopia. With the recent partnership of Sanofi Pasteur, activities focused on immunization and vaccination will be initiated in 2016.

The Millennia2025 Foundation is very grateful to Sylvie Coumel and teams at Sanofi Corporate for the creative partnership with Connecting Nurses to accelerate innovation and eHealth inclusion in Patient Support Programs.
Annex

WeObservatory
THE WOMEN OBSERVATORY FOR eHEALTH

KEY FIGURES 2015

Selected Projects

SANOFI
Patient Centered Solutions

SANOFI
Patient Centered Solutions

SANOFI
Patient Centered Solutions

SANOFI
Patient Centered Solutions

Key Figures

HIGH VISIBILITY
- Millennia2025 Community: 10,500 members in 140 countries
- Millennia2025 Think Tank: 3,553 voluntary researchers in 56 countries
- Millennia2025 Portal: 1.5 million visits in 2014, 3.44% pages
- English, French, Spanish
- 2015 - New EU – Millennia2025 Portal: WePROMIS eSkills

STRONG CONNECTIONS
- SIDIEF - Télé santé and Nursing – Montreal 2015
- ICN - Observatory on Nursing and eHealth Expert Meeting, Geneva 2014
- AFDET - Capacity building, eLearning
- NPHF – e-Mentoring
- DESG – Nursing in Kosovo, Diabetes Foot Care, 2015

ACTIVE AUDIENCE
- 24 international conferences
- UNESCO, UNGA, WHO
- MedETel, Luxembourg, 1000
- Women Leader Forum: 900
- SIDIEF 2015: 1,300
- DESG 2014: 400
- CATEL 2014: 500
- IND 2014, 2015
- JA-STFAG: 2014: 500
- EU CARER: 600

ACCESSIBLE INNOVATION
- 13 Selected projects, 2 mobile applications in 8 languages, 8 online modules, 3 virtual nursing videos, 1 mobile device
- 5 methodological guides, 4 videos, 1 field study, 2 emergency actions
- Special Issue of the JINSTealth on Women and eHealth, 2015
- Nurses Interviews at Informer.com

EMPOWER NURSES
- WePatients: towards Patient Empowerment in eHealth
- WeMOOCs: ensuring capacity building – 340 MOOCs
- WeBlog: 76 News – 10 videos, 190 photos, 87 tags
- WeMentors: working for the next generation of connected nurses

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**WeObservatory & Connecting Nurses “at a Glance”**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Connect nurses to the international community</td>
<td>Create Innovation for Patients at all ages of life</td>
<td>Gives nurses a way to share resources &amp; knowledge</td>
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<td><strong>GOAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>GOAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>GOAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide opportunities to join the international community</td>
<td>Give nurses a platform to share their stories of innovation and learn from their colleagues innovations worldwide</td>
<td>Ensure worldwide communication</td>
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- **Special Session on Women at MEDETEL Luxembourg since 2012**
- **WeObservatory projects of SIDIF Conference Montreal June 2016**
- **Women Leaders Forum United Nations General Assembly (September 2012, 2014)**
- **International Nurses Day (May 2014, 2016)**
- **CHILDREN**
  - Ted The Declending 4 videos for young children living with diabetes by Nurse Grace
- **ADOLESCENTS**
  - Emergency kits and trainings for adolescents, AYNCA
- **ADULTS**
  - Diabetic Footcare Guide in Kosovo, by Yvanka Roke
- **ELDERLY**
  - Connecting the elderly with their families by Skype, by Claire Bade and Lorraine La France

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**Success Stories of Nurses**

- **Chinomso Ibe**, from Kobo, Nigeria, to Mandela Washington fellowship at Wagner College, NY, USA

- **Norma Grau**, from student work to videos displayed in Child Hospital with Sanofi Spain

- **Marisela Gigiuzzi**, Nurses connecting with their patients by Telemedicine, NY, USA

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**WeBlog**
- 76 news, 10 videos, 29 categories, 57 tabs, 190 photos

**Millennia News**
- connection with the networks and Millennia communities
  - @Connecting Nurses
  - @millennia2015
  - @millennia

**Working Group on Women**
- and Telemedicine at the International Society of Telemedicine and eHealth

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**Sanofi**
- Patient Centered Solutions

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NURSES at the WeObservatory

Participation to CNST monthly calls since 2013

Nicholas Hardiker (ICN)
Felicity Keelher (AFDEI)
Hélène Salatte (SIDIEF)
Veronique Thouvenot
WeObservatory
(Millennia2025 Foundation)
Phyllis Zimmer
(NPHF)
The Team

- **Sylvie Coumel**, Stakeholder & Advocacy Director, Center Of Excellence for Patient-Centricity, Sanofi, Paris
- **Doyna Zharaevina**, BLOG Master, Project Leader, Foundation Millennia2025
- **Lilia Perez-Chavolla**, ICT Applications Consultant, Hilliard, USA
- **Line Kleinebreling**, Scientific Advisor, CEO UNFM, Paris
- **Marie Anne Delahaut**, Head and CEO – The Destree Insitute, Millennia2025 Foundation, Namur, Belgium
- **Thérèse Lethu**, Consultant, Foundation Millennia2025, Geneva Office, Switzerland
- **Cyril Frankel**, webmaster, Foundation Millennia2025, Geneva Office, Switzerland
- **Veronique Thouvenot**, CCO & Scientific Director, Foundation Millennia2025, Geneva Office, Switzerland

[www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory](http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory)

FOLLOW THE NEWS! WeOBLOG

[www.weobservatory.com](http://www.weobservatory.com)