

re:publica: entering a connecting world

re:publica can surely be considered as one of the largest and most exciting conferences about digital culture in the world. And exiting it was for us and our innovation factory team to be a part of this innovative crowd and having the opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of digital technologies in delivering health care in low and middle income countries.

On our stage session 'connecting health - systemic mHealth solutions for better pregnancy and birth giving care' Steven Wanyee - Kenya, Mwawi Mlekano - Tanzania, Annie Feumba - Cameroon and Titus Kühne - Germany showcased their unique and highly systemic eHealth ideas developed within the framework of the GIZ innovation factory. Whereas digital health solutions are ever so often developed in "silos" in single island fashion, and while being successful, they often don't have the power to make a change to the health systems or create synergies, the ideas the teams presented illustrated that indeed it is possible to develop systemic solutions that are owned by a partnership, if ideation processes are participatory and openly designed.

The ensuing debate with the audience and panel confirmed that the ideas the team developed were right to the point. Common to all was the notion that only if we manage to think more systemic and integrative, if we open up knowledge and create a mind-set change towards common solutions to global challenges, can digital technologies bring a sustainable and efficient change to health care delivery.

[For more information visit the re:publica website.](#)



Angelika Pochanke-Alf, Steven Wanyee, Salome Ngata, Anne Talk, Friederike Paul-Fariborz, Annie Feumba, Titus Kühne, Mwawi Mlekano, Stefanie Schädlich (left to right)

ISQua 2017

At the ISQua conference in London Dr Sylvia Sax and Prof Michael Marx presented a follow up on the 3rd QI Forum for Health in Heidelberg. This follow up session drew on [the key messages and statements](#) produced by experts at the QI Forum around the integration of patient safety into QI.

[More on the ISQua conference here.](#)

Launching a public private partnership in Algeria

Kicking-off with a workshop in February 2017, AQUA and evaplan have launched a public private partnership to improve the quality of health care in Algerian hospitals.



Prof Michael Marx, Dr Mahmoudi & team
Hospital Chahid Mahmoudi, Tizi Ouzu Algeria 2018

Co-financed by SEQUA, over the past months, the partnership has established individual conventions with eight major (semi-)private hospitals all highly committed to improve their quality of care. Based on our successfully tested systemic GAIN Quality Approach, these hospitals will be supported in establishing respective quality structures, in carrying out regular assessments and strengthening their in-house capacities. While the first assessments have been successfully completed, we are working towards accreditation of the system and eventually hope to offer certification to our partnership hospitals.

3rd Heidelberg Quality Improvement Forum for Health: How to fit patient safety into QI mechanisms?

The 3rd Quality Improvement Forum for Health, organized by evaplan, took place from 15-16 June 2017 and discussed *How to fit Patient Safety into QI mechanisms in low and middle income countries (LMICs)?* This year evaplan partnered with the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua), AQUA Institute, and Institute of Public Health at the University of Heidelberg to organize this event.

Vibrant discussions took place around four key areas: context and generalizability; hidden patient safety issues; whether current quality improvement interventions reflect patient safety; and role of standards to meet safety needs. The two-day program demonstrated the breadth and depth of discussion ranging from what is quality improvement to defining what it takes to be safe. Following multiple group work sessions, each group moderator presented three draft statements and key messages in relation to the different levels of the health system on the second day of the QI Forum for Health. Amongst [these](#) were calls to .

- ⇒ Harmonize and link sources of data related to quality improvement and patient safety and use for evidence-based decision making.
- ⇒ Create awareness of the importance of Patient Safety in Quality Improvement at the patient-level, provider-level, and policy-level.
- ⇒ Always consider the context in quality improvement to ensure that safe care is being provided to patients within their own context (beliefs, culture, traditions, personal preference, family considerations etc.).

Discussions were followed up during the 34th International scientific conference on quality and safety in health care, which took place in London 1 -

4 October 2017 in a lunch time session (see below). Further discussions and more experts will be invited to speak and present during the Patient Safety Web Conference that evaplan will be organizing in the nearest future.

See Peter Lachman's—CEO ISQua, feedback on [LinkedIn here](#).



HubBerlin - breakthrough innovations in healthcare from Tanzania and Kenya

Moderated by Friederike Paul-Fariborz - evaplan, the digital health network of the expert network of the GIZ Innovation Factory showcased some breakthrough digital health innovations from Tanzania (Mwawi Mlekano - ITIDO) and Kenya (Steven Wanyee - Intellisoft) at this year's HubBerlin:

[Click to watch the whole session on youtube](#)

Latest publications

M. Marx. **Ebola Epidemic 2014-2015: Taking Control or Being Trapped in the Logic of Failure - What Lessons Can Be Learned?** in L. Vierck / P. A. Villarreal / A. K. Weilert [eds.] **The Governance of Disease Outbreaks. International Health Law: Lessons from the Ebola Crisis and Beyond.** Nomos. Baden-Baden 2017

M. Marx. **Gesundheitssystem, Gesundheitspflege und Gesundheitsökonomie in Endspurt Klinik. Querschnittsfächer Skript 20. Allgemeinmedizin, Medizin des Alters, Palliativmedizin, Prävention, Rehabilitation, Gesundheitsökonomie, Epidemiologie, GTE.** 2nd Edition. Georg Thieme. Stuttgart / New York 2017