



**Coordination Action for the follow-up to the
European e-Health Action Plan**

**Towards establishing a
European e-Health Research Area**

e-Health ERA

Dr. Karl & Dr. Veli Stroetmann

empirica Institute for Communications-
and Technology Research



Background

Communication from the European Commission (COM(2004)356) 30.4.2004
“e-Health – making healthcare better for European citizens:
An action plan for a European e-Health Area”

Interoperability of health information systems:

- *“Member States have expressed the need to support actions that cover the development of standards addressing the interoperability of diverse systems and services and*
- *to explore in particular the possibilities of open source applications to achieve this objective. ...*
- *The exchange of experience in the use of open standards and open source solutions among health administrations in Member States should be promoted.”*



Project start: April 2005

Project duration: 24 month

Consortium:

- ***empirica* Gesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Technologieforschung, Germany - *Coordinator***
- **National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Finland**
- **Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy**
- **Centre of Innovation, Technology Transfer and University Development (CITTRU), Poland**
- **Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo, Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISC), Spain**
- **Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, (EPSRC) UK**
- ***(Informal) Steering Committee of National Health Authorities (SC) – representatives from the Ministries of Health of 30 countries (EU MS, CC, EEA) responsible for eHealth***



Strategic goals

- to coordinate national innovation-oriented e-health RTD planning and roadmapping,
- stimulate bilateral and multilateral *joint activities (Article 169)* and take steps towards further integration of RTD planning and results implementation across all Member States,

thereby

- establishing an effective European Research Area for e-Health,
- supporting the development of interoperable regional, national and trans-European e-health infrastructures (Action Plan support)

HealthGrids are mentioned in the EU AP but not in the National eHealth programmes – get Grids on the agenda of the Healthcare Authorities

I2-Health

Interoperability Initiative for a European e-Health Area

Support Action for the eTEN Programme

Objectives:

- **identify interoperability and connectivity issues and priorities, barriers and gaps, and solution approaches**
- **focus on fundamental interoperability issues (identification of actors, organisations, adequate measures to achieve interoperability, integration tests and certification)**
- **analyse similarly key topics relating to e-prescribing and messaging**
- **develop a roadmap and concrete projects involving all relevant actors - guided by an open discussion process amongst Member State Health Authorities**

Complexity of interoperability

Interoperability requirements	Applications requiring interoperability																		
	Health and clinical services				Common infrastructure services				Public health		Admin		R&D						
	EHR / EPR	messages / requests	imaging	workflow	...	Identification		terminology	Security, PKI	citizen health info	surveillance / epidemiology	statistics	Q.A	reimbursement	supplies	HRM	knowledge management	guidelines	...
						doctors: - license - speciality - place of work, ...	institutions - hospitals - pharmacies, ...												
1. Standards:																			
- Basic /technical																			
- Functional / syntax																			
- Semantic																			
- Templates for contents / optimal data sets																			
- Localisation (Integration into national & other contexts)																			
2. Implementation guides & regimens																			
3. Certification																			
4. Organisational rules																			
- authorisation / institutional responsibilities																			
- finance / reimbursement																			
- accreditation																			
- legal incl. security & privacy																			
5. Global coordination																			
a) Institutional setting																			
- European coordination body for National e-health infrastructure institutions																			
- legal basis																			
- financing																			
b) Generic European e-health framework architecture																			
c) MS roadmap integration																			
c) WHO: global perspective																			

Overview of interoperability dimensions and issues - II

Interoperability requirements	Applications requiring interoperability																		
	Health and clinical services					Common infrastructure services					Public health			Admin		R&D			
	EHR / EPR	messages / requests	imaging	workflow	...	Identification		terminology	Security, PKI	citizen health info	surveillance / epidemiology	statistics	QA	reimbursement	supplies	HRM	knowledge management	guidelines	...
						patient	doctors: - license - speciality - place of work, ...												
1. Standards:																			
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- Localisation (Integration into national & other contexts)																			
2. Implementation guides & regimens																			
3. Certification																			

Overview of interoperability dimensions and issues - III

Interoperability requirements	Applications requiring interoperability															
	Health and clinical services				Common infrastructure services				Public health		Admin		R&D			
4. Organisational rules																
- authorisation / institutional responsibilities																
- finance / reimbursement																
- accreditation																
- legal incl. security & privacy																
5. Global coordination																
a) Institutional setting																
- European coordination body for National e-health infrastructure institutions																
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- financing																
b) Generic European e-health framework architecture																
c) MS roadmap integration																
c) WHO: global perspective																

Questions

- What should be the *main messages* from the Health Grid community to the Healthcare Authorities
- What are the most advanced applications / projects ready for *implementation*, what does really work in a clinical environment
- All MS are developing roadmaps / action plans for eHealth, investing in building the infrastructure for implementations - What should be in a roadmap/action plan from your perspective
- Are there specific issues related GRIDs to be considered by National institutions, like NICTIZ in NL or NPfIT (now Connecting for Health) in UK, responsible for planning and setting up the eHealth infrastructure (secure infrastructures, at local, regional, national, or European levels, upon which clinical data and information may be *securely exchanged and shared*), e.g., *standardisation*
- What are the most important *research issues* related to implementation to be tackled in short term

Questions

- What are the main *interoperability* issues for implementing GRID technologies, solutions examples
- Can GRID technologies contribute to solving semantic interoperability problems, e.g., mapping complex terminologies, classifications and ontologies, dealing with multilingualism ...
(increasing awareness with Healthcare Authorities re importance of semantics, looking for cost effective solutions)
- Are there any studies on *cost-benefit analysis*; evidence, best practice examples
(e-Health IMPACT study: *Economic assessment of eHealth*)

Please contact
Veli@empirica.com