

Thematic Network on Quality Labelling and Certification of EHR systems

EHR-Q^{TN} is a Thematic Network project that intends to better prepare the health community across Europe for systematic and comparable quality assurance and certification of e-Health products, more specifically of the Electronic Healthcare Record systems (EHRs).

Objectives of the Project

Problem or Context:

Most national health authorities are willing to improve the quality, the functionality and the interoperability of the existing EHR-systems on their market. Users of those systems would like to rely on a quality label when acquiring such an EHR system. Suppliers of the systems understand that quality assurance is profitable for their business. Starting certification nevertheless requires political will and perseverance as it is difficult to deploy. EuroRec is offering services and tools to facilitate this deployment.

Project:

EHR-Q^{TN} promotes certification by organising national workshops in 27 different European countries, by validating the EuroRec functional statements (over 1.600 statements), translating a substantial set of them in over 20 different European languages and by validating the EuroRec certification tools and procedures. The focus will be on validating and translating functionalities in relation with medicinal product prescriptions, medication management, summary records and on generic statements regarding reliability and trustworthiness of the systems as well as on security and access management.

EHR-Q^{TN} will also deliver, for each of the countries involved, an EHR market overview. Another report will document possible roadmaps toward sustainable certification at national or even cross-border level.



Project Description

EHR-Q^{TN} fits with objective 1.6 of the 2nd Call for Proposals for the CIP-ICT PSP program: “Improving certification of eHealth products”, more especially where the work programme refers to the “good practice requirements as elaborated by EuroRec”, bringing the work done by the Q-REC consortium a step further towards the acceptance of the principles and procedures of certification thereby managing the diversity of the healthcare settings in the Member States.

The specific objectives of EHR-Q^{TN} are:

- To validate and customise for each of the countries the work done in the Q-REC project, benchmarking national language versions while addressing for all the countries the same domain of application in order to progressively increase interoperability of the systems;
- To produce a database of all stakeholders with an interest in high quality EHR systems (suppliers/vendors, authorities, user organisations and academics);
- To organise coordination meetings between national instances involved in certification in order to exchange experiences, to harmonise procedures and to progress towards the mutual recognition of certified systems (possibly including intercontinental harmonisation and cross recognition);
- To organise at least one annual International Conference, preferably together with other major conferences (e.g. the Annual Strategic Ministerial e-Health Conference, the World of Health IT Conference);
- To organise in each country at least one national workshop per year, respectively on:
 - an EHR Market Overview, hereby also disseminating the EuroRec Certification approach as well as the Recommendations from the Commission related to Certification of EHR Systems;
 - the validation of the content of the EuroRec Repository, the tools and the EHR descriptive statements;
 - the validation of the procedures for EHR quality labelling and certification.
- To translate a selected set of EuroRec Statements in the national language.

Expected Results & Impacts

The outcome of EHR-Q^{TN} is expected to be both documentary as well as practical/concrete by creating a favourable context for a more professional

and - up to a certain level - cross-border certification of e-Health products and services. Reports will address experiences and problems encountered regarding both the criteria and the formal procedures for certification.

The short term impact of the Thematic Network is crucial for the generalisation of EHR systems' Quality Labelling and Certification in Europe. It is expected to reduce existing but hidden obstacles for EHR systems certification.

The long term impact will mainly be the higher quality of professional EHR systems and related e-Health products. This will on its turn reduce the existing market fragmentation.

The results of the project will also be instrumental for conducting real pilots and later the full roll-out of European certification based on a common set of functional descriptions and certification procedures.



EHR-Q^{TN}

Thematic Network on Quality Labelling and Certification of EHR Systems

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- Italy
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- United Kingdom

Timetable: from February 2009 to January 2012

Total cost: € 789,000

EC funding: € 741,000

Instrument: ICT Policy Support Programme TN Thematic Network

Project Identifier: 238912

KEYWORDS

Electronic health records, Semantic interoperability, Quality labelling, Certification, Functional specifications