



Information Society
Technologies

Stakeholders group background

Unit H1 – ICT for Health

Directorate ICT for citizens and businesses

DG INFSO

EU Commission



European Commission

Overview

- **Rationale**
- **From research to implementation**
- **eHealth Action plan**
- **eHealth Working Group activities**
- **Roadmap up to the 2007 Recommendation**
- **Role of Stakeholders Group**
- **Specific topics**
- **Discussion**



Rationale

- **Rapid advances in biology, medicine, an aging population,** increased **mobility** across Europe and **increasing number of medical specialties** involved in the care of each individual make rapid effective exchange of information essential
- **Increasing costs** of health care services
- **Inadequacy of infrastructures** at national and local level characterised by widespread **lack of interconnection** and interoperation, legacy, task-specific, stand-alone systems.
- Efforts on interoperability are **fragmented** : Electronic Health Records (EHRs), terminology & ontology, messages, care pathways, security, system architectures...

These fragmented initiatives must come together in a comprehensive policy for interoperability.





Benefits to be gained from achieving interoperable eHealth applications

- **Health Professionals** could make better informed clinical decisions more efficiently, adverse events would be reduced and unnecessary procedures could be avoided;
- **Administrators** could make more efficient and effective use of resources;
- **Researchers** could more effectively analyse disease pathways and the effectiveness of various interventions to help inform health policy and practice;
- **Policy makers and finance providers** could more effectively direct their funding towards interventions that produce the most effective health outcomes;
- **Patients** – particularly those with chronic diseases – would benefit from improved health outcomes, better access to their own health information, and less complex interactions with providers across the healthcare sector



20 Years of eHealth R&D Context

PAST 10 years (1991-2002)

NEXT 10 years (2003-2014)

'89-'91

'91-'94

'94-'98

'98-'02

'02-'06 **Research activities**
(200 Mil. €)

Computer Applications for Doctors
Telemedicine systems and services

Regional Health Info Networks
Home-care systems
Personal Health Systems

Biomedical Informatics
- informatics for Genomic Medicine
- Virtual Physiological Human

-HealthGrid

Personal health systems (Wearable & Implantable)
based on new biosensors
Decision Support Syst./Patient Safety

Budget
20M €

Budget
100M €

Budget
140M €

Budget
200M €

Projects
30

Projects
63

Projects
158

Projects
125

Results
Feasibility Study

Results
AIM Community

Results
1st batch of Products

Results
EU Health Telematics Industry

Currently preparing activities for '06-'10





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Telemedicine systems and services

Regional Health Info Networks
Home-care systems
Personal Health Systems

Many good results are

- Not known /understood
- Not assessed
- Have no favorable conditions (legal, organisation, leadership, industrial issues)

Support to deployment

I2010 (eEurope) initiative

eHealth COMMUNICATION & Action Plan
COMM (2004) 356

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Launching eHealth: a high-level initiative

**'e-Health – making healthcare better for European citizens:
An action plan for a European e-Health Area': COM(2004)
356 final**

**Main objective: to accelerate awareness and uptake of
beneficial eHealth systems & services**

- Approved by Commission, 30 April 2004
- Discussed, noted and specific recommendations issued at the EPSCO [Health] Council, June 2 2004
- part of a package of three Communications: the two others were on open method of co-ordination and on patient mobility

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/health/policy_action_plan/index_en.htm



e-Health action plan: main areas of activity

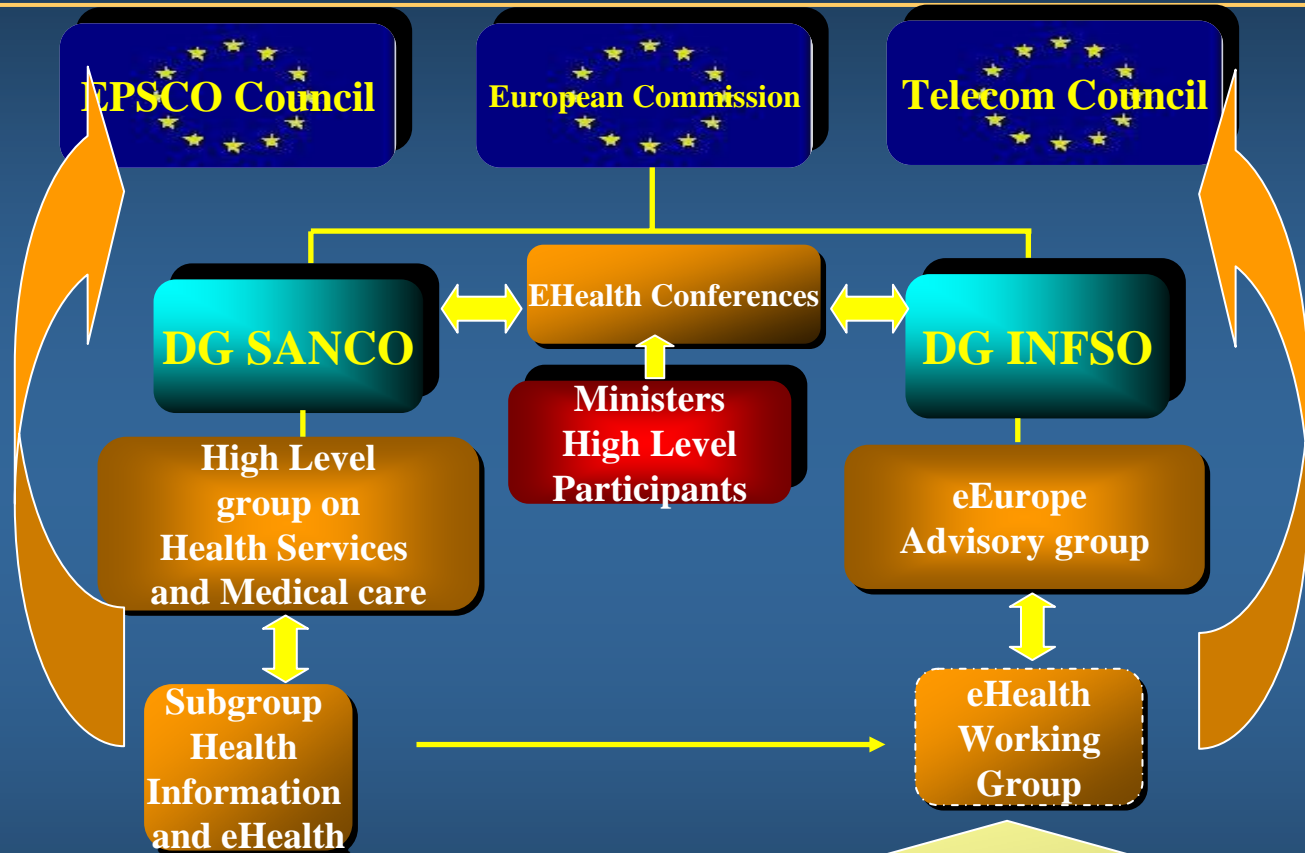
- National/regional roadmaps (MS, 2005)
- Common approaches for patient identifier (EC+MS, 2006)
- Interoperability standards for EHR and messaging (EC+MS,2006)
 - **TMA Bridge, I2Health, Semantic Health, RIDE, Semantic Mining...**
- Boosting investments in eHealth (MS, 2007)
- Conformity testing and accreditation (MS 2007)
- Deployment of health information networks (MS, 2004-2008)
- Legal framework, certification of qualifications (EC+MS,2009)





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Coordination of eHealth Action Plan in Europe



Stakeholders Group
 CEN TC 251, ETSI, CENELEC, ISO TC 215, CEN/ISSS,
 Health practitioners (doctors, nurses, etc.), Patients, Health Managers, Hospitals, Media
 Industry (EHTEL (ind.) , IHE, COCIR, EAR, EUROREC, HINE),
 EU projects (COPRAS, SEMANTIC HEALTH, RIDE, i2HEALTH, eHealth ERA...) and studies



European Commission

History

- The eHealth Working Group was set up in February 2005 as a **subgroup to the eEurope Advisory Group**
- It is **chaired by the Commission**
- Its main objective is: **To provide support to the Action Plan implementation**
- It is a **strategic, not a technical, Group** (technical subgroups can be set up on request)





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Terms of reference eHealthWG

- **members are persons responsible for eHealth in Ministries (either Telecoms/ICT or Health)**
- **reviews and assesses progress on eHealth action plan (3-months)**
- **will accelerate progress of the action plan (6-months)**
- **strengthens further work at EU and MS levels (8-months)**
- **reinforces the coordination with other initiatives**
- **reports to eEurope advisory group/DG INFSO**
- **operates with support from DG INFSO (secretariat, chair, rapporteur, background materials) and of external experts**



European Commission

Current implementation

- **Limit number of meetings/WGs; ensure cooperation between current initiatives**
- **Increase efficiency, and pursue tangible results (from content to process to structure)**
- **Involve all Member States and all relevant stakeholders**
- **Ensure political support**
- **Issue guidelines at EU level (Recommendation in 2007)**



Role of eHealth Stakeholders Group

- To review and assess the current activities in the field of interoperability of eHealth applications at EU- and Member States-levels, within a 3-month period. These activities would draw on initiatives currently being established or under consideration including various projects, studies, and working groups;
- To make concrete proposals to accelerate progress ensuring the implementation of actions that result from the *eHealth Communication and Action Plan COM(2004) 356(final)* in the area of interoperability of Electronic Health Records, within a 6-month period.



Roadmap up to the 2007 Recommendation

- Deliverables
- (a) Commission staff working document (2006)
- (b) Recommendation on eHealth Interoperability (2007)
- (c) Thorough analysis of alternative possible instruments (e.g., Communication, Recommendation, Directive).



Specific topics

Specific topics identified as a priority by eHealth WG can be fully explored by the Stakeholders group such as:

- **Patient summary**
- **Patient/practitioner identifiers**
- **Emergency data set**

including confidentiality and privacy issues

