

# eHealth Strategies

## Monitoring Member States eHealth policies - trends and good practices

The eHealth Strategies study surveys the status-quo and assesses the progress made by EU Member States and EEA countries towards realising European eHealth Action Plan goals. It identifies good practices and lessons learned, and develops policy recommendations for speeding-up further eHealth implementation.

### Goal

**Context:** The European Commission as well as Member States have long recognised the potential of ICT-enabled applications to improve citizens' health, healthcare delivery as well as public health services or medical research. In its eHealth Action Plan, published in 2004, the European Commission identified distinct areas of initiatives required to build up urgently needed national and pan-European eHealth infrastructures and to implement solutions in order to move towards an ICT enabled, collaborative, personalised and more efficient model of healthcare.

**Objectives:** The *eHealth Strategies* study describes, measures and assesses to what extent Member States have

- developed national eHealth policies, roadmaps and/or strategies
- implemented key elements of national eHealth infrastructures and solutions
- provided for favourable framework conditions
- achieved progress on such items in recent years, focusing on selected eHealth Action Plan priorities.

Following this assessment, the study will identify European and national actions which may support the further and faster realisation of eHealth Action Plan priorities.

### Study Description

**Contents:** The *eHealth Strategies* study builds upon earlier projects funded by the European Commission, in particular the eHealth ERA study ([www.ehealth-era.org](http://www.ehealth-era.org)) which assessed for the first time the state of EU and EEA States' eHealth policies. The core of the study is a survey structured around five key areas:

- eHealth policy documents, eGovernment strategies referencing also to eHealth, or similar official publications

- concrete eHealth policy measures and implementation initiatives in the domain of, e.g., patient summary, ePrescription and telemedicine as well as ID management
- legal and regulatory framework conditions regarding patient consent and similar issues
- administrative and process support measures
- financial and reimbursement issues.

The empirical survey will also help to further contextualise and update the results of the "Legal framework of interoperable eHealth in Europe" study.

**Methodology:** An expert network of correspondents currently gathers data on national policies and eHealth implementations in an online questionnaire, based on a set of operational definitions. The results are complemented by health system and eHealth benchmarking information.

**The eHealth Strategies methodology allows for a comparative overview while still respecting national particularities.**

The compilation and comparative assessment of the results is informed by concepts from public policy science, notably the policy-cycle paradigm. In addition, where applicable, national evaluation and assessment activities are recorded. This output will be synthesised by simple statistical analyses.

### Expected Outcomes

Towards the end of the project, a summary **European level progress report** will be published. It will include

- comparative, summary evidence on the status-quo and an assessment of progress made by Member States and other European countries towards realising key objectives of the eHealth Action Plan
- lessons learned in this context and good practice cases from national eHealth programme planning and implementation

#### CASE STUDY

In the summer of 2009 the French parliament has passed a new law providing for an important reorganisation of the healthcare delivery process. The law entitled "Hôpital, Patients, Santé et Territoires" sets key conditions for the eHealth infrastructure and notably the further development of the French EHR project *Dossier Medical Personnel*. It also creates a new governing agency to regulate eHealth activities in France, the ASIP: Agency for shared health information systems. In parallel, the plan on hospital reform, the so called "Plan Hôpital 2012", foresees project based investments of € 1,5 billion to support the development of hospital information systems and improved data-sharing between inpatient and outpatient care.

- recommendations on areas where EC support as well as further coordination and collaboration among Member States may be warranted.

This report will be complemented by individual **country reports** focusing on

- status-quo and progress made by the respective Member State towards realising key objectives of the eHealth Action Plan.

The results will be critically reviewed and validated by a final workshop and the team expert Professor Denis Protti, a recognised authority in eHealth research.

The results of this study will be fed back to the i2010 Subgroup on eHealth (representatives of national health and other ministries) and inform the policy debates and strategies of national and regional governments, stakeholder associations, healthcare providers and the European Commission.



## **eHealth Strategies**

**Monitoring eHealth strategies: lessons learned, trends and good practices**

**Email:**

eHealthStrategies@empirica.com

**Project website:**

[www.ehealth-strategies.eu/](http://www.ehealth-strategies.eu/)

**Tenderer:**

empirica communications and technology research

**Contact person:**

Jörg Artmann

Tel: +49 228 98530-0

Fax: +49 228 98530-12

Email: [joerg.artmann@empirica.com](mailto:joerg.artmann@empirica.com)

Website: [www.empirica.com](http://www.empirica.com)

**Partners:**

- THL Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (Helsinki)
- Time.Lex CVBA (Brussels)
- Prof. Denis Protti, University of Victoria (Canada)
- EMC Consulting Group (Brussels)

**Timetable:** from January 2009 to June 2010

**Total cost:** € 300,000

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## **KEYWORDS**

eHealth Action Plan, eHealth Policy, Strategy, Roadmap, Electronic Health Record systems, Patient Summaries, ePrescribing