

CALLIOPE

A European Thematic Network for implementation of Interoperable eHealth solutions

The CALLIOPE Thematic Network is about producing value for decision makers in the field of eHealth. It is a targeted effort to establish an appropriately governed, composed and structured open forum. It supports Member States to implement interoperable eHealth solutions in close collaboration with the key stakeholders: users, industry, and payers.

Interoperability – the Major Challenge in connecting eHealth

Health services are knowledge intensive and technology dependent environments. The rapid growth of knowledge and technology potentially makes healthcare better, more effective and efficient. Yet it creates specific challenges for service continuity, organisation and management.

Europe's eHealth landscape is characterized by very different systems. In the past there was a clear focus on the IT-support of organisations such as hospitals and health insurance schemes. However, this perspective is rapidly changing as patient documentation (e.g. health care record systems) and the exchange of clinical knowledge and experience become more and more important. This complexity needs well organized networking environments such as the CALLIOPE Thematic Network to support and enable them to work well.

In the course of European integration, citizens' and patients' mobility is gaining in importance. There are wider calls for interoperability in eHealth – especially in terms of different vocabularies and languages; also called semantics.

As a result of Europe's ageing populations, mirrored by growing empowerment of its patients and citizens, demands on the Union's health and social care are continuously rising. Interoperable eHealth applications offer significant advantages. They can provide enhanced information to providers and citizens, including accessible and timely availability of medical data, and improved workflows. The transformation of the delivery of healthcare through information and communication technologies can of course provide better care. Ultimately, each of these applications can also lead to improved quality and efficiency of care, a reduction in adverse events including errors, and cost containment.

Objective

CALLIOPE aims at establishing an appropriately governed, and structured open forum. Its focus is to support Member States in implementing interoperable eHealth solutions, in close collaboration with the key, relevant actors.

The network is expected to (1) deliver a Roadmap to achieve eHealth Interoperability based on national existing developments; (2) formulate a propo-

sal for updating the 2009 Commission Recommendation on Interoperability of Electronic Health Record systems and (3) contribute to standardisation activities in eHealth.

CALLIOPE operates in close collaboration with cross border eHealth initiatives in Europe. It supports knowledge exchange throughout a broad community. It is also a major source of news and information about EU level activities in the field of eHealth interoperability. This is supported by dissemination activities such as the CALLIOPE newsletter.



The Approach

CALLIOPE contributes to the standardisation activities in eHealth interoperability. It is in close liaison with the relevant standardisation bodies. It also provides input to the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, Programme to Support Policy about how to focus future programme activities more effectively on cross border eHealth.

In a first phase of CALLIOPE's work, its network governance and infrastructures were developed so that they now work very successfully. In a second

phase, CALLIOPE has focused on its more immediate goals. It is due to public a plan for a common "Interoperability Road Map" in mid-2010. It has reviewed the state-of-play of the EU eHealth interoperability recommendation. It has facilitated the development of eHealth standardisation processes through liaison with the European standardisation development organisations.

Participants

CALLIOPE has 28 beneficiaries. They represent 8 Competence Centres, 9 National Authorities and 11 professional organisations which are composed of Doctors, Health Insurers, Industrialists, Patients and Pharmacists. Today the network has many additional members contributing and sharing their knowledge.

The CALLIOPE project has a total budget of 500.000 euros. The project runs over a period of 30 months. Half of the project is funded by the European Commission's Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, Programme to Support Policy.

Dissemination and awareness raising

The project works in close cooperation with other Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, Programme to Support Policy projects such as epSOS (Smart Open Services for European Patients) and STORK (Secure Identity Across Borders Linked) to ensure that eHealth benefits can be shared among all stakeholders and Member States.

The CALLIOPE Thematic Network takes part in numerous events and conferences. It contributes to raise awareness and create consensus around the overall issue of interoperability of eHealth services.

KEYWORDS

eHealth interoperability, eHealth governance,
eHealth implementation in member states,
Knowledge sharing, Standardisation liaison



CALLIOPE

Creating a European coordination network for eHealth interoperability implementation

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Partners:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

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