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European ePractice Newsletter N. 354 – 14 December 2010

>> Winter Break

The European ePractice Editorial Team wishes you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! The next issue of this newsletter will be disseminated on **Tuesday 11 January 2011**.

>> ePractice.eu assisted workshop - FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop

The FASTeTEN (Fully Automated Secured Transactions Services) secure infrastructure workshop, an [ePractice.eu](http://epractice.eu) [assisted workshop](#), will be held in Brussels on **20 December 2010**. It will consider how secure infrastructures for electronic document exchange can be deployed by public authorities, using the experience of the FASTeTEN project as an example. The workshop will give a technical overview of secure infrastructure FAST and examine the pilot deployments in detail; it will also be an opportunity for other public bodies to learn about this recognised good practice case.

For more information and free-of-charge registration, please visit the workshop's page announcement at: <http://www.epractice.eu/en/events/2010-fasteten-secure-infrastructure-workshop>.

>>Call for articles for the 11th and 12th Editions of the European Journal of ePractice

The 12th edition of the European Journal of ePractice will be devoted to the theme '**The Openness of Government**', aiming to determine what is an appropriate openness strategy for government. Given the broad scope of the openness topic, the call for papers for this edition provides a list of non-exhaustive topics for potential authors to think about. The Issue Editors are [Trond Arne Undheim](#) and [Paul Waller](#). Contributions of both an empirical and theoretical nature, from policy, organisational and/or technical perspectives are welcome. The submission deadline is **30 December 2010**.

Please, note that paper submissions are still accepted for the 11th Edition of the European Journal of ePractice entitled '**eGovernment for the Economic Crisis**'. The Issue Editor is [Jeremy Millard](#).

For more information, both calls are available at <http://www.epractice.eu/en/node/288847>. Proposed papers can be submitted at epractice@eurodyn.com or at editorial@epractice.eu.

Latest Cases

- [European Spatial Data Infrastructure with a Best Practice Network](#) | 2 December 2010 | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Hungary | Netherlands | Norway | Romania | Sweden | United Kingdom
 - [eQSF - European Quality Framework for ICT in Learning](#) | 26 November 2010 | Ireland | Italy | Poland | United Kingdom
 - [Participatory Immigration Policy Making and Harmonization](#) | 19 November 2010 | Austria | Estonia | Germany | Greece | Italy | Spain
-

European Spatial Data Infrastructure with a Best Practice Network

ESDIN aims to be a bridge between the theory and the practice - from the INSPIRE Directive towards implementation and usage of interoperable geographical data by Spatially-enabled Societies

The European Commission's ambition to build a European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI) on the National Spatial Data Infrastructures in Member States, for which INSPIRE is the legal instrument, is currently at the conceptual stage. The ESDIN project will focus on helping Member States, candidate countries and EFTA States prepare their data for INSPIRE Annex I themes and improve access to them. Specifically the project will:

- Aggregate data through development of web-based services for several INSPIRE themes at different levels of resolution from the European to the local level;
 - Implement services which will support the aggregation of "interoperable" data in a more cost effective and efficient way;
 - Build sustainable best practice networks to ensure the organisational development necessary to achieve the goals of the project and its continuation afterwards;
 - Spread best practice in the integration of local (large scales) reference information with pan-European (medium/small scales) reference information, and interoperability with other data themes.
 - Test INSPIRE Implementing Rules and specifications in a live operational environment and recommend improvements where identified.
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eQSF - European Quality Framework for ICT in Learning

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays an increasing role in education and learning. Research shows that ICT has a great potential to significantly increase learning outcomes for students. The majority of education and training providers already use some form of ICT in teaching. However, there is evidence that many education and training providers use ICT in an ad-hoc rather than strategic way that does not necessarily add quality to the learning experience for learners or worse, may even be detrimental to it.

eQSF is a new Quality Standards Framework for the use of ICT in learning that aims to ensure that ICT in learning and education is being explored to its full potential. eQSF supports training and education providers in a process of assessing, reviewing and improving the way they make use of information technology in their work.

eQSF Quality Standards

eQSF consists of 13 interrelated standards across three different pillars that were developed and tested by training and education providers across four different Member States in a European project funded under the European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme.

Project Resources

eQSF project partners have developed a range of useful tools that support an organisation during the eQSF process. The following resources are available:

- The **eQSF User Guide** explains in detail the different steps of the eQSF self-assessment process. It includes a range of useful templates that organisations can use, such as planning templates or a template for a SWOT analysis;
- The **eQSF Standards Framework** describes the different quality standards for effective education provision using ICT in teaching and learning;
- The **eQSF Online Tool** allows an organisation to do the self-assessment and planning online.

Participatory Immigration Policy Making and Harmonization

EU-wide harmonization of immigration policies is a long standing and challenging issue, given the need to compromise numerous national immigration policy proposals, practices and procedures towards common, balanced, harmonized and effective EU policies.

The challenge stems primarily from the legal, political, technological and societal differences in the various Member States, as well as from the isolation of legal immigrants from the policy making processes and the formulation of balanced migration proposals. Collaboration between various stakeholders including politicians and decision makers, but also citizens and the civil society, is deemed essential to alleviate the heterogeneity of the various policies, regulations and viewpoints. Despite this need, nowadays there are no proven and easy ways to ensure the participation and collaboration of all stakeholders, while current policy making processes barely take this need into account.

Latest ICT developments, such as Web2.0, collaborative knowledge management, provide numerous opportunities for participatory governance and citizen-generated policy making. Furthermore, they can boost innovation in terms of both policy making models and decision support tools. In view of these developments, ImmigrationPolicy2.0 will pilot tools, techniques, solutions and overall services for collaborative development of immigration policies, as well as for supporting related decisions.

The project will pay emphasis in the provision and piloting of ICT infrastructures enabling identification, modeling, analysis, visualization, monitoring and harmonization of diverse policies and viewpoints in a secure and reliable fashion. Overall, ImmigrationPolicy2.0 will effectively integrate ICT tools in existing policy making and decision support processes, while at the same time focusing on reshaping these processes in order to ensure active participation from all stakeholders.

Editor's Choice of the week: [Secure idenTity acrOss boRders linked](#)

Latest News

- [GR: Tele-assistance devices for the elderly and citizens of the 'Assistance at Home' service of Trikala who live alone](#) | 14 December 2010 | Greece
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- [DE: 'Partnership for the Heart' project results unveiled - Telemedicine extends and improves life](#) | 14 December 2010 | Germany
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- [UK: Smartphone application empowers patients to better manage their health](#) | 13 December 2010 | United Kingdom
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- [UK: Expectant parents to rate maternity services online](#) | 10 December 2010 | United Kingdom
- [EU: 'Renewing Health' project to launch telemedicine trial in nine European regions by February 2011](#) | 10 December 2010 | Austria | Denmark | Finland | Germany | Greece | Italy | Norway | Spain | Sweden | EU Institutions
- [EE/LT: Lithuania will use Estonia's experience in order to develop eHealth system](#) | 9 December 2010 | Estonia | Lithuania
- [NO: Further testing of digital prescriptions use](#) | 9 December 2010 | Norway
- [LT: The Lithuanian student registry - A comprehensive and accessible electronic archive](#) | 9 December 2010 | Lithuania
- [PT: An innovative portal on diabetes prevention, diagnosis and treatment by Coimbra's Hospital Centre](#) | 8 December 2010 | Portugal
- [DK: More and more IT-enthusiastic elderly](#) | 8 December 2010 | Denmark
- [EU: Commission wants broad-scale adoption of eInvoicing by 2020](#) | 8 December 2010 | EU Institutions
- [EU: SPOCS to be present at the 'Lift-off towards Open Government Conference'](#) | 8 December 2010 | Austria | France | Germany | Greece | Italy | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Netherlands | Norway | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Slovenia | Sweden | United Kingdom | EU Institutions

GR: Tele-assistance devices for the elderly and citizens of the 'Assistance at Home' service of Trikala who live alone - 14 December 2010

At the end of October 2010, the inter-municipal management company of digital technologies for the 11 Municipalities of central Greece, offered the Municipality of Trikala 10 tele-assistance paging devices. These tele-devices, offered in the context of the 'Assistance at Home' service, are destined to the elderly and the citizens who live alone, for use in case of an emergency.

The devices - product of the OTEAlert service -, are connected to the telephone line of the user's house and through a portable remote control the user can page the tele-assistance call center, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The beneficiaries of the application were selected from the 'Assistance at Home' service of Trikala. During a modest ceremony that took place at the city's cultural centre the mayor of Trikala, Mr. Michalis Tamiolos, distributed the respective application packages to the users. "The safety of our excluded citizens constitutes the first priority of the municipality's social policy and the expected optimisation of their quality of life is our ongoing goal," said Mr. Tamiolos.

Mr. Manolopoulos, chief executive officer (CEO) of the inter-municipal management company added: "Digital technology now offers great potential to our fellow citizens who are socially or geographically isolated. The OTEAlert application was chosen for the security it offers through the telephone centre of the system and constitutes the beginning of a series of tele-assistance applications..."

The second expected application is the wireless transmission of patients' medical data (heart measurements, blood pressure, etc.) to the doctor without the physical presence of the patients at his office.

The company believes that digital technology can assist the welfare policy of every municipality and that its user friendliness constitutes a tool for the optimisation of the quality of life of the beneficiaries.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Cities Net - Digital Cities of Central Greece \(in Greek\)](#)

ES/CA: New brain study software developed - 14 December 2010

Researchers from the Biomedical Informatics Group (Grupo de Informática Biomédica - IBIME, in Spanish) of the [Polytechnic University of Valencia](#) have developed new software for studying the human brain.

The IBIME Group was led by Dr. Montserrat Robles and it is part of the research and development institute 'ITACA' of the University. The new human brain study software makes it possible to know in an objective and automatic way the state and the evolution of brain tissue affected by any neurological disease.

As it is based on open source code, the new software will be made available to all the community of clinicians and researchers. At the moment, it is one of the most accurate and advanced of such software in the world; it represents a new milestone for the diagnosis, evaluation and clinical monitoring of diseases such as Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, multiple sclerosis or any other central nervous system diseases.

To work jointly on the development of this software were the researchers of the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Dr. Luis Martí-Bonmatí - the head of the radio diagnosis unit of the Quirón Hospital of Valencia - and experts from the Montreal Neurological Institute, Canada.

The software takes the images obtained from magnetic resonance (MRI) and first removes random 'noise' produced by the resonance equipment. Subsequently it homogenises the image and extracts from it what forms the brain itself, thus eliminating muscle, bones (etc) and then classifies the brain tissue.

Each image of the brain is analysed pixel by pixel; the software determines the exact amount of cubic milliliters of gray matter, white matter, and cerebrospinal fluid in the brain structure. Based on the results, the software generates a sheet describing the volumes of the different brain areas. Thanks to this sheet, doctors can make more objective reports of their patients' conditions.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Polytechnic University of Valencia \(in Spanish\)](#)

DE: 'Partnership for the Heart' project results unveiled - Telemedicine extends and improves life - 14 December 2010

At a press conference in the German Federal Ministry of Economics and technology (BMWi), the consortium partners of the 'Partnership for the Heart' project presented the results of an up to now worldwide unique clinical study on the effectiveness of telemedicine in chronic heart failure.

The study results outline the medical and the economic benefits of telemedicine on a recognised objective basis. They show that the use of telemedicine, combined to guideline based medical care allows a clear improvement of both the quality of life and the life expectancy of specific risk patients.

During the two-year project, a total of 710 chronically weak heart patients from Berlin / Brandenburg and Baden-Württemberg took part in the study. These patients' hearts, in part, achieved less than half of the normal pumping capacity. In addition, such conditions can cause dangerous water retention in the body, requiring frequent hospital admissions.

Under the clinical study, the weight values, blood pressure values and electrocardiogram (ECG) values of half of the patients were sent daily by means of mobile radio to the tele-medical centre of the Charité or to the Stuttgart Robert Bosch hospital and were evaluated there. In cases with striking changes, the medical specialist staff could contact the affected persons or their doctors in a timely manner. For this group, the cardiovascular mortality rate was reduced significantly. Moreover, the number of hospitalisations for heart failure dropped off noticeably.

The other half of the patients served as a control group and was treated conventionally over the same period of time, but received no telemedicine support.

The investigation was controlled by the Charité - Medicine University Berlin ([Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin](#), in German); it involved a number of German private companies. Together with the Federal Minister of Economics Rainer Brüderle, the representatives of the consortium members discussed the economic and health consequences of the study.

"The study established that this therapy management with the help of telemedicine is of particular use with unstable patients. Now it falls to the committees of self-government and politics to provide the crucial points, so that this innovative solution can quickly be of benefit for the affected patients in Germany", explained Prof. Einhäupl, chairman of the board of the Charité.

"This study clearly shows the impressive potential of telemedicine." said Dr. Siegfried Dais, deputy chairman of a technology-based corporation, which accompanied the study as technical lead manager.

Also involved in 'Partnership for the Heart', were a private equipment manufacturer an eHealth software provider. Together with health providers and political policy makers the consortium will now strive to make telemedical care available to as many patients as possible in Germany. In other countries, telemedicine is already used in the treatment of diabetes, severe lung disease or stroke rehabilitation.

Further information:

- [Official news article - Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin](#)

EU: 100 000 Europeans to get online in a week - 13 December 2010

Telecentre-Europe is running a Europe-wide campaign between 28 February and 5 March 2011, aiming to get more than 100 000 new computer users online. The campaign will help people benefit from computers and the Internet; those who have already started to benefit are being encouraged to bring a friend or two along to start their journey. National, pan-European and international organisations and companies are invited to join the campaign, as supporters, stakeholders or national coordinators, by visiting the campaign website www.getonlineweek.eu launched on 10 December 2010.

Following the success of Get Online Day 2010 when 68 000 people were reached, Telecentre-Europe is organising a new campaign in 2011 - Get Online Week. Telecentres, public authorities, public libraries, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) companies, as well as schools and students from the entire European region will come together to organise a range of exciting events, training sessions, competitions and more, to highlight the essential role of ICT skills in today's society.

Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, saluted the 2010 success during her speech at the Telecentre-Europe Summit in Budapest in October 2010, but also laid down a challenge for European Telecentres: "We have to match that figure [68 000] every single week for the next five years to meet my target of halving the number of Europeans who have never been online".

The pan-European initiative will continue to focus on bringing people online and will be coordinated by the Telecentre-Europe Board, being implemented with the assistance of national Telecentres partners. Gabi Barna, one of the Board members of Telecentre-Europe, said: "Get Online Week aims to bring new people online, and focuses on offline Europeans, those who have never accessed internet before. We are aiming to raise awareness of the importance of digital skills, and to promote and increase usage of Telecentres across Europe."

Ian Clifford, another Telecentre-Europe Board member, added: "We really want to demonstrate the impact that Telecentres can have at a European level. We hope that there will be well over 100 000 beneficiaries from at least 20 nations this year, and we want to set it as a major campaign that helps people to get online and learn about the benefits of the internet."

Further Information:

- [Get Online Week Campaign 2011 - Telecentre Europe](#)
 - [Telecentre Europe](#)
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DE: Tele-devices to remotely monitor patients suffering from lung diseases - 13 December 2010

A German telehealth company has launched a series of telemonitoring devices that will be used in a trial to explore how climate change can affect lung diseases.

The company, which is showcasing the devices at [Medica](#) exhibition in Düsseldorf on 17-20 November 2010, has partnered with two medical device manufacturers to provide flexible modules within its traditional telemonitoring systems.

The two year trial will see the Pneumology Department at [University Hospital 'Charité'](#), Berlin, use the technology as part of a study which monitors chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cystic fibrosis patients in terms of lung function, physical activity and their own self-assessment.

The company has integrated the electronic asthma monitor into its traditional telemetry platform. The data, which is produced by continuously monitoring the patient, is then automatically transferred to a mobile medical assistant with special software equipment and is then made available to the medical care centre.

The new medical device combined with nebulizers will enable physicians to check whether the prescribed daily inhalation treatment for cystic fibrosis patients is implemented correctly and regularly. The device signals the date and time, duration and correct completion of each inhalation treatment.

The study, which will begin at the start of 2011 and will include more than 200 patients, will correlate the data collected with climate data to help scientists assess the impact on the disease by climate change and to find approaches for improving the intervention and medication.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - E-Health Europe](#)
 - [University Hospital 'Charité' \(in English and German\)](#)
-

UK: Smartphone application empowers patients to better manage their health - 13 December 2010

Former Health Minister, Professor Lord Ara Darzi and a team at Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust developed a smartphone application, the so-called [Wellnote app by Dr Darzi](#) that allows users to rate services and create a basic medical record they can share with health professionals.

The Wellnote app also allows users to find out information about and locate their nearest medical services. The information is sourced from the NHS Choices and is updated daily. The team at Imperial College said that the app is not a commercial venture and will not carry advertising. The free app also allows the user to rate the service anonymously and the scores, along with the official ratings from the Care Quality Commission, are then made available for other users to see and compare.

Professor Darzi, said: "Wellnote will empower the public by giving them the tools they need to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing." He went on: "We want the public to use the application in a similar way to how they use online hotel and restaurant rating sites."

Users can use the app to enter sensitive medical information including allergies, recent diagnoses, operations, vaccinations and family history in order to create a mobile personal health record. A user can then email medical information to a person of the patient's choice including their GP, or show it to a clinician in the event of an emergency. However, sensitive information is not password secured.

Dominic King, clinical research fellow in the department of surgery and cancer who helped to develop the app, told journalists: "We've had lengthy conversations about the security settings and want clinicians to be able to access the information in an emergency but we don't want others to come across the information if the phone is lost or stolen." He added: "We eventually decide it would be up to the individual to secure their phone, however there is advice on the website that advises users to password protect it."

In addition to the medical records and ratings service, Wellnote also allows users to choose from a list of more than 2 000 medications and sets up alerts to remind them when to take specific tablets as well as add appointment directly into their smartphone calendar. King added that they will release another version in the coming weeks which will take users' feedback on board, address some of the bugs and password protect the app.

According to King, Professor Lord Ara Darzi has been heavily involved with the development of the app. "Lord Darzi found that there are very few products like this that are innovative, informative and user friendly. So among other things he helped to decide what features to include, for example research shows that found 50 % of people take their medicines incorrectly, so he decided what medicines we should incorporate and highlighted the need for a medications alert. Not only is the Darzi brand on there for quality assurance he has actually played an active role."

However, King also pointed out that the app, which has been in development for six months, is not a commercial venture. "It's completely free of charge and not for profit, we received funding from imperial but there is no advertising and no revenue associated with it."

Imperial will work to develop the app to providing greater integration particularly between the appointments and the calendar as well as allowing hardware to be used alongside the smartphone such as devices to monitor blood pressure.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - E-Health Insider](#)
- [Related Article - Imperial College London](#)
- [Wellnote by Dr Darzi](#)

HR: e-Croatia enhances cooperation with Croatian State Archives - 10 December 2010

On the occasion of the traditional Archives Celebration Day in Croatia, the [Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia](#) and the Croatian State Archives signed a cooperation agreement on the effective management of digital archives and their contents.

The core objective of this cooperation is to improve the legal framework for the management of electronic records and their long-term archiving, preservation and accessibility.

During the ceremony, the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia has been granted recognition for its cooperation with the State Archives in the field of legal and other regulations pertaining to the long-term preservation of digital records.

On that occasion, the State Secretary of the State Administrative Office for e-Croatia, Igor Lučić said: "Preserving our digital heritage for future generations is an important task ahead for the Croatian State Archives. In order to preserve the digital heritage, this Agreement accurately determines prerequisites for the effective management of state archives and their contents which we must meet to ensure their long-term preservation and their availability for future generations."

The Archives Celebration Day began at 12:00 am in the presence of the Minister for Culture, Bože Biškupića.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia \(in Croatian\)](#)
 - [Croatian State Archives](#)
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UK: Expectant parents to rate maternity services online - 10 December 2010

Expectant parents can now compare and rate maternity services on a new online comparison service launched on 2 December 2010 by [the United Kingdom's] Public Health Minister Anne Milton.

The Government recently set out proposals to extend maternity choice to include pre-conception, antenatal, and postnatal care. A new tool that will help parents-to-be make that choice is now available at www.nhs.uk to give people all the information they need to decide which maternity service is right for them.

With thousands of visits to maternity services every month, and similar to other internet comparison websites, the tool will make it easier to find key information in one place, such as opening times and additional facilities and services offered by the maternity services.

Patients will also be able to read other people's comments about:

- How highly they would recommend the service;
- How well patients are treated by staff; and,
- If patients felt they were involved in decisions about their care.

Anne Milton said: "Expectant people having babies have a lot to organise anyway, let alone trying to find the right maternity services for them. It is vital we help people get enough information to make the right choice for themselves."

"The NHS should make sure that patients have some way of finding out about services they can get. Businesses and companies are increasingly using the internet to invite people to feedback their experiences and ideas. The good companies then respond to those ideas to improve how they work. NHS organisations should be doing this too." she added.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists [RCOG] President Dr Anthony Falconer said: "The RCOG welcomes the launch of the new comparison service and feedback on maternity services and believes that these tools will make it easier for expectant women and their families to make decisions about their birth."

The Government recently launched a consultation on how information can help people take more control of their health and make the best choices for themselves and their families.

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Further information:

- [Original press release - Department of Health](#)
- [NHS Choices](#)

EU: 'Renewing Health' project to launch telemedicine trial in nine European regions by February 2011 - 10 December 2010

Under the 'Renewing Health' (REgIoNs of Europe WorkINg toGether for HEALTH) large-scale pilot project, one of the largest ever telemedicine trials, nine European regions that have teamed up in this trial will go live by 1 February 2011.

The aim is to generate data for European healthcare systems so that telemedicine can be adopted as part of regular care for chronically ill patients. Renewing Health is a highly ambitious clinical trial that will involve close to 8 000 patients in the intervention groups with cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or diabetes from the nine participating regions.

The Veneto region in Italy is leading the project. Other regions involved include Southern Denmark, Northern Norway, Norrbotten in Sweden, Catalonia in Spain, South Karelia in Finland, central Greece, Carinthia in Austria and Berlin in Germany.

"In times of economic turmoil and with the demographic changes ahead, telemedicine is certainly a promising way to optimise the use of resources in healthcare," says Marco d'Angelantonio, Managing Director of a company specialised in the field of Social and Healthcare services and Project Manager of Renewing Health on behalf of the Veneto Region. Telemedicine, says d'Angelantonio, allows the treatment of chronically ill patients to be shifted from hospitals to the patient's home. "This increases the quality of life of the patients and reduces costs for the healthcare system."

The 'Renewing Health' project will try to quantify the benefit of telemedicine in terms of health economic outcomes: "We have defined various indicators like, for example, number and length of hospital stays and the number of accesses to the emergency department. This data should make it easier for healthcare systems to invest in personal health systems and telemedicine infrastructure."

In order to generate convincing evidence, a reasonable scale is necessary; this is something which many other telemedicine trials in the past have not been able to provide. Renewing Health is different in this respect, since it is an extremely large scale trial project: "We will have 8 000 patients in the study group and an almost equivalent number of patients in the control group. With this amount of patients, we will be able to fulfil the European Commission's explicit demands to provide a critical mass in order to produce convincing data," says d'Angelantonio.

Renewing Health also differs from conventional telemedicine trials in other respects. For instance, there was an explicit requirement to start from existing telemedicine services. "What we certainly do not want is to develop technology," d'Angelantonio explains. Renewing Health also takes place in nine different European countries. "This means that we will be able to evaluate telemedicine in very different healthcare system contexts and provide genuinely pan-European data."

The project was officially launched in February 2010. It is scheduled for 32 months in total. "By 1 February 2011, all regions will have gone live," says d'Angelantonio. The results of the Renewing Health trial, which is co-financed by the European Commission and the regions involved, are expected by fall 2012.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - HealthTech Wire](#)
- [Related ePractice Article - EU: 'RENEWING HEALTH' project launched](#)
- [Renewing Health Project](#)

EE/LT: Lithuania will use Estonia's experience in order to develop eHealth system - 9 December 2010

During the international eHealth Conference '[E-Health Tallinn 2010](#)', held on 13-15 October 2010, Asta Meškerevičiūtė, the Director of the General Affairs Department at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania met with representatives from Estonia, among other countries, and praised the Estonian experience of implementing an eHealth strategy.

"The strategy of Estonia is fully in line with our vision, so it is very important for us to take their experience and use it. Estonia's success is based on a strong competence centre, strict legal regulations and progressive eHealth service development," said Asta Meškerevičiūtė, Director of the General Affairs Department at the Lithuanian Ministry of Health.

Currently, Estonia has a national record system, which contains the full medical history of patients. Technically, any doctor can access patients' health records, but only for healthcare purposes. Since January 2010, Estonia has implemented an electronic prescription system and around 85 % of the medical prescriptions have gone digital.

An emergency system, which electronically transmits medical data from the ambulance to the hospital, has been developed. Additionally, a national picture archiving and communication system (PACS), which can store medical images from all the Estonian health care institutions, has been implemented. According to Estonian law, any person may prevent access to their own health records, however, the effect on further treatment would then be the patient's responsibility. Patients can view logs of who accessed their records and when. For all these projects Estonia has spent around €12 million.

The eHealth Foundation is responsible for eHealth development in Estonia. It was set up five years ago by the Ministry of Social Affairs, together with social partners - hospitals and associations. The Foundation is managed by a board and it currently employs 22 staff.

"Being in the start position, Lithuania can use our experience and avoid highly expensive mistakes. We are ready to assist Lithuania in developing eHealth", said Madis Tiik, Chief Executive Officer of the Estonian eHealth Foundation. According to Mr. Tiik, the most important thing is to implement a simple system, in phases, by introducing new functionalities gradually.

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania \(in Lithuanian\)](#)
- [Related ePractice event announcement - E-Health Tallinn 2010](#)
- [Estonian eHealth Foundation](#)

NO: Further testing of digital prescriptions use - 9 December 2010

In mid-September 2010, the [Norwegian Directorate of Health](#) began testing the use of digital prescriptions in the medical practices and pharmacies of the Larvik municipality (Vestfold County). Digital prescriptions are expected to contribute to the safer use of medicines, simpler procedures and socio-economic benefits.

This initiative in Larvik actually marks the second phase of testing the [eResept \(ePrescription, in English\) Programme](#), which aims to establish a national, fully electronic information chain for drugs and medical supplies prescriptions in Norway. The Programme has been under pilot phase since May 2010; it started with the testing of ePrescriptions in municipality of Os (Hordaland County), where feedback has proven positive. According to estimates, by the end of 2010, the doctors of Os and Larvik will have issued approx. 50 000 digital prescriptions.

As part of the eResept Programme, the Norwegian Medicines Agency (NoMA) has developed a medicines database named '[FEST](#)'. "The database provides a whole range of quality-assured and updated drug information and a data structure enabling rich functionality for the benefits of the users of the system," said Tor-Arne Eeg Vilnes, the head of the FEST-unit at NoMA.

"Digital prescriptions create greater safety for the patients, doctors and pharmacies," explained Kristian Skauli, head of the eHealth unit at the Directorate of Health. "Doctors also have a better overview of the drugs used by their patients. Information security is, moreover, given major weight and digital prescriptions are practically impossible to forge." he added.

In addition to preventing time-consuming and dangerous misunderstandings between doctors and pharmacies, digital prescriptions also contribute to the electronic chain aimed at streamlining financial costs relating to pharmacy and surgery supplies. Pharmacies in Norway dispatch about 25 million sheets of paper and faxes per year, therefore even small improvements will have major positive consequences.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Norwegian Medicines Agency \(in Norwegian\)](#)
- [Norwegian Directorate of Health](#)
- [eResept Programme \(in Norwegian\)](#)
- [Related ePractice news article - NO: Digital prescription takes first steps](#)
- [Information on the FEST Database \(in Norwegian\)](#)

LT: The Lithuanian student registry - A comprehensive and accessible electronic archive - 9 December 2010

At the beginning of December 2010 the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science started collecting student data into a single registry. The purpose is to gather and maintain the records of all students, both from national higher education institutions and locally operating branches of foreign educational institutions.

The first data was uploaded in early December 2010 and the fully operational database will be available to users in early 2011.

The registry will store students' personal data, information on the school a student is studying at, as well as detailed information on the study programmes. Universities and colleges will be obliged to fill in the appropriate information into the registry regularly. The registry contents, except for the specific personal details of each individual, will be available to the public through other existing databases, i.e. the 'Open Information, Counselling and Guidance System' (Atvira informavimo, konsultavimo, orientavimo sistema - AIKOS, in Lithuanian) and the 'Education Management Information System' (Švietimo valdymo informacinė sistema - SVIS, in Lithuanian).

By introducing the student registry, a large part of the documentation relating to grants, loans and distribution of financing across educational institutions becomes virtual. On the one hand the registry will help educational institutions create required statistical reports for governmental bodies, and on the other the students will no longer have to collect and submit various certificates themselves.

The Student Registry will be linked to other public information systems and managed by the Centre of Educational Information Technology.

Further Information:

- [Original news article - Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science \(in Lithuanian\)](#)

PT: An innovative portal on diabetes prevention, diagnosis and treatment by Coimbra's Hospital Centre - 8 December 2010

On the occasion of the [World Diabetes Day](#) on 14 November 2010, the Internal Medicine Department of the Coimbra Hospital Centre (Centro Hospitalar de Coimbra - CHC, in Portuguese) launched an innovative and unique [portal](#) that provides specialised information about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diabetes.

The Day Hospital for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases of the Internal Medicine Department, Coimbra Hospital Centre, presented the portal that - among other features - allows patients to interact with health services directly. It also serves as the first national interactive platform between patients with diabetes and doctors.

The portal's objectives are to:

- provide user-centric information;
- create a direct interface between patients and the doctors;
- build synergies with other health professionals.

The concepts that guided the creation of the portal were innovation, quality of content, flexibility and user-friendliness.

Patients can consult specialised information about food-related matters and about counting their carbohydrates; they can also have access to information the various consultation times available and send to their doctors registered files with self-monitoring blood glucose levels.

In the portal's interactive area '[My Hospital](#)' - whose purpose is to offer complementary resources to specialists the field of diabetology at CHC - the patient is a central element for a set of specialised services. Moreover, this is a section where users can post their questions on diabetes issues.

The portal also includes news, informative videos about the disease, a calendar of events, links to societies of diabetology and a set of specialised information about the disease, with special emphasis on prevention.

Furthermore, users can find information as about the names of doctors, hours of operation, location, their telephone contact details and email addresses. Several files were designed containing simplified information available for the patient to download.

The launch of the portal took place in the auditorium of the General Hospital of CHC and its presentation was attended by Carlos Mendonça, from the Board of Director of CHC, Hélder Ferreira, from the Health Administration of the Centre Region, Ana Figueiredo, Director of the Department of Internal Medicine of CHC, and Aníbal Batista from the Diabetic Association of the Central Zone, among other health professionals and members of the civil society.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - Health Portal - Ministry of Health \(in Portuguese\)](#)
- [Diabetes Portal - The Day Hospital for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Internal Medicine Department of the Coimbra Hospital Centre \(in Portuguese\)](#)
- ['My Hospital' - The Day Hospital for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Internal Medicine Department of the Coimbra Hospital Centre \(in Portuguese\)](#)

DK: More and more IT-enthusiastic elderly - 8 December 2010

Danes increasingly use the Internet and the considerable growth of the seniors' computer skills largely explains this positive development. Today, 65 % of the 60-74 years-old uses the Internet whereas this figure was only 54 % in 2008.

In Denmark, the development of the elderly's IT skills is at full speed. This is the conclusion that the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Ms. Charlotte Sahl-Madsen could draw after visiting the Egen Pensioners' Association, in Als (an island in the Baltic sea), on 15 November 2010.

One reason for this is that the elderly can take IT learning courses in the 'data rooms' (datastue, in Danish) in the organisations of senior citizens spread across the country. Denmark counts over 150 of these data rooms. In the Egen Pensioners' Association, seniors come once a week to learn to use emails, spreadsheets, social networking sites and image editing.

The Danish IT and Telecom Agency (ITST, in short) provides support to the '[Data rooms for the mobilisation of the elderly](#)' through the '[Learn More about ICT Network](#)' (Lær mere om it-netværket, in Danish), whose goal is to enhance people's IT skills by making the provision of IT courses more user-focused, coherent and widespread, so that everyone can succeed in an increasingly digital society. The ITST's support consists of providing training, education materials for the data room teachers and marketing material.

Overall, the Region of Southern Denmark has taken the biggest step in terms of Internet use compared to the four other Danish regions. From 2009 to 2010, the number of people using the Internet daily or almost daily increased by 8 percentage points, from 68 % to 76 %. Internet use in Southern Denmark now forms part of this national average.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation \(in Danish\)](#)
- [Learn More about ICT Network - IT and Telecom Agency \(in Danish\)](#)
- [Data rooms for the mobilisation of the elderly \(in Danish\)](#)

EU: Commission wants broad-scale adoption of eInvoicing by 2020 - 8 December 2010

The European Commission (EC) wants to see electronic invoicing (eInvoicing) become the predominant method of invoicing in Europe. In the Communication '[Reaping the benefits of electronic invoicing for Europe](#)' it adopted on 2 December 2010, the EC identifies a set of tangible actions to make the uptake of eInvoices in Europe easier.

Currently, the exchanging of eInvoices is often complex and costly, in particular across borders and for SMEs. The Commission Communication addresses these obstacles; it is complemented by a [Commission Decision setting-up a European multi-stakeholder forum on eInvoicing](#), adopted on the same day.

Businesses could greatly benefit from the generalisation of eInvoicing, in terms of shorter payment delays, fewer errors, reduced printing and postage costs. Most importantly, structured eInvoices facilitate business process integration from purchase to payment, in that invoices can be sent, received and processed without manual intervention.

Existing rules governing eInvoicing in Europe are not uniform. Hence the potential benefits of eInvoicing still remain to a large extent unexploited. As part of its flagship initiative entitled '[A Digital Agenda for Europe](#)', the EC is focusing its efforts on removing barriers to the broad-scale adoption of electronic invoicing in Europe. The four key priorities pertaining to eInvoicing are:

1. Ensuring a consistent legal environment for eInvoicing;
2. Achieving mass market adoption by getting SMEs onboard;
3. Stimulating an environment that creates maximum reach between trading partners who exchange invoices;
4. Promoting a common eInvoicing standard

For each of these priorities, the Commission Communication sets out a number of specific actions, such as:

- In 2011, the EC will propose a revision of the eSignature Directive to provide cross-border recognition of secure eAuthentication systems;
- The EC will launch two new projects in the framework of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) to help specific sectors to agree on interoperable processes for the electronic exchange of data and documents along the different steps of the supply chain (including eInvoicing);
- The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) should develop a Code of Practice including consistent terminology and clearly defined roles and responsibilities for actors involved in eInvoicing.
- The CEN should design implementation guidelines for a Cross-Industry Invoice data model and collaborate with international standards organisations, such as UN/CEFACT (United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business) and ISO (International Organization for Standardization).

In order to facilitate the monitoring and implementation of these actions, the Commission invites Member States to establish national multi-stakeholder fora on eInvoicing by June 2011. The Commission will complement this by setting up a multi-stakeholder forum on eInvoicing at EU level.

Michel Barnier, Commissioner in charge of the Internal Market and Services, said: "E-invoicing has the potential to make a big difference, for businesses, consumers, and European trade as a whole. The benefits in terms of saving time and money are fully in line with our Europe 2020 strategy and with the Digital Agenda for Europe in particular."

Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship added: "Revolutionising the way we pay bills, eInvoicing will boost the overall competitiveness of European Companies, especially SMEs."

Background information

According to a study carried out on behalf of the EC in 2008, replacing regular paper invoices by eInvoices across the EU could result in approximately €240 billion in savings over a six-year period. The environmental benefits of eInvoicing in terms of reducing paper consumption and energy costs are also significant.

As the invoice precedes the payment in any purchasing transaction, there is also a strong link with SEPA ([Single Euro Payments Area](#)). SEPA aims at integrating and standardising electronic payments across the EU. SEPA and the further standardisation of eInvoicing therefore have mutually reinforcing benefits.

To address the multiple technical, legal and operational barriers to the mass uptake of interoperable eInvoicing solutions, the Commission established an independent eInvoicing Expert Group, which came forward with a [final report](#) at the end of 2009. The Communication and Decision adopted on 2 December 2010 are based on a public consultation on the final report of the expert group.

Further information:

- [Original press release - RAPID - Europa](#)
- [What is the European Commission doing about eInvoicing? - Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry - European Commission](#)
- [About SEPA](#)
- [ePractice related publication - EU: Final report of the Expert Group on e-Invoicing](#)
- [ePractice related publication - EU: A Digital Agenda for Europe - Commission Communication](#)

EU: SPOCS to be present at the 'Lift-off towards Open Government Conference' - 8 December 2010

The Simple Procedures Online for Cross-border Services ([SPOCS](#)) project will be present at the Conference entitled 'Lift-off towards Open Government', hosted by the Belgian Presidency of the European Union in Brussels, on 15-16 December 2010.

The main theme of the '[Lift-off towards Open Government Conference](#)' concentrates on Open Government and the implementation of cross-border interoperability (demonstrated by Large Scale Pilots). eGovernment is being shaped and implemented at national as well as international level; the [Malmö declaration](#) is being translated into a concrete 2015 Action Plan, which will be officially presented during the conference. The President of the European Council, Commissioners, Ministers and internationally recognised Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) will confirm the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and of the Digital Action Plan. An exhibition will also demonstrate live various cross-border applications.

The SPOCS project will have a booth (No. 40), where visitors will be able to share knowledge and exchange good practices. SPOCS will present its key achievements: the completion of the open consultation and common specifications, the initial work on modules, the project's enlargement to 9 new countries (Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom) pending final contractual arrangements, its collaboration with similar large scale pilots and further new projects to be launched. Moreover, visitors will be able to learn about SPOCS' next steps: finalisation of modules, preparation of pilot activities, work on sustainability and standardisation etc. The project's new demonstrator will be also available at the booth.

Mr. Dinand Tinholt, SPOCS Project Director, will also present SPOCS achievements and next steps during the Plenary Session 6 entitled 'Putting the internal market in practice' on 15 December 2010, at 5:00pm. The programme of the entire session can be found on the website of the Conference: <http://www.opengov2010.be/schedule>.

Background Information

SPOCS is a Large Scale Pilot project launched by the European Commission in May 2009. It aims at improving the competitiveness of European Businesses and particularly Small and Medium-sized Enterprises by enabling all businesses - national and European - to benefit from available, efficient and interoperable electronic procedures. SPOCS will provide seamless electronic procedures by building cross-border interoperability based on existing systems and solutions.

Further Information:

- [Original news article - SPOCS](#)
- [Related ePractice event notice - BE: Lift-off Towards Open Government Conference](#)
- [Lift-off towards Open Government Conference](#)
- [SPOCS](#)
- [Related ePractice publication - EU: Malmö Ministerial Declaration 2009](#)

New Factsheets

A new release of the eInclusion factsheet for Romania (2.1) is now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [FR: 6th Edition of 'Words of Elected Representatives'](#) | 30 November 2010 | France
- [EU/GL: eHealth Monthly Focus on Advancing Clinico-Genomic Clinical Trials on Cancer \(ACGT\)](#) | 17 November 2010 | Belgium | France | Germany | Greece | Italy | Netherlands | Poland | Romania | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | EU Institutions | Asia | North America
- [EU: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Commission Communication on eSkills for the 21st Century](#) | 4 November 2010 | EU Institutions
- [DE: Open Statecraft - Better Politics through Open Government?](#) | 31 October 2010 | Germany

- [EU: Interoperability Challenges in the Health Management of Patients with Implantable Defibrillators](#) | 26 October 2010 | Austria | Germany | Greece | Spain | Turkey | EU Institutions
 - [EU: iCARDEA - An approach to reducing human workload in cardiovascular implantable electronic device follow-ups](#) | 25 October 2010 | Austria | Germany | Greece | Spain | Turkey | EU Institutions
 - [EU: Final report of the Hearcom research project](#) | 21 September 2010 | Belgium | Denmark | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Netherlands | Poland | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | EU Institutions
 - [UK: Careering through the web](#) | 31 July 2010 | United Kingdom
 - [GR/EU: Electronic identity and public policy options & infrastructure - the European experience](#) | 30 June 2010 | Greece | Pan european
-

FR: 6th Edition of 'Words of Elected Representatives' - 30 November 2010

Description (short summary):

This book is the 2010 edition of 'Words of Elected Representatives', a collection of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) initiatives, carried out by local public communities in France and in Europe.

This 6th edition presents 53 ICT initiatives from the metropolitan and overseas French territories, led in all the domains of local public action: economic development, local authority management, health and social care, public services, tourism, culture and education.

The 'Services to the public' chapter is focused on how to enhance the public service accessibility at a local level; it includes a brief presentation of the [iSAC6+](#) project deployment and implementation in the city of Saint Médard en Jalles. iSAC6+ is an innovative ICT solution especially designed to improve the efficiency of existing services with attentions to the citizens.

Number of pages: 99

EU/GL: eHealth Monthly Focus on Advancing Clinico-Genomic Clinical Trials on Cancer (ACGT) - 17 November 2010

Description (short summary): Information arising from post-genomics research, and combined genetic and clinical trials on one hand, and advances from high-performance computing and informatics on the other is rapidly providing the medical and scientific community with new insights, answers and capabilities. The breadth and depth of information already available in the research community at large, present an enormous opportunity for improving our ability to reduce mortality from cancer, improve therapies and meet the demanding individualisation of care needs. A critical set of challenges, however, currently inhibit the capacity to harvest these opportunities.

ACGT has been an Integrated Project (IP) funded in the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission under the Action Line 'Integrated biomedical information for better health'. Its high level objective has been the development of methods and systems for improved medical knowledge discovery and understanding through integration of biomedical information (e.g. using modeling, visualisation, data mining and grid technologies).

Number of pages: 2

EU: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Commission Communication on eSkills for the 21st Century - 4 November 2010

Description (short summary):

This document is the final deliverable of the study Evaluation of the Implementation of the Communication of the European Commission on 'e-Skills for the 21st Century' or in short 'eSkills21'. It places particular focus on ICT practitioners and on citizens' digital literacy.

The study provides an overview of national and European policies, initiatives and activities, multi-stakeholder partnerships of industry, associations, training organisations, trade unions, and other actors and further activities. It includes initiatives with respect to formal and industry-based education and deals with e-skills which include 'ICT user skills' (in particular the digital literacy of citizens) and 'ICT practitioner skills' and 'e-business skills'.

The study has been carried out against the background of an increasing lack of e-skills in the European workforce resulting in a growing shortage of highly qualified ICT practitioners and still insufficient digital literacy levels among workers and citizens in many countries, which is acting as a barrier to economic growth, competitiveness and employment in these countries.

Since e-skills shortages in the European workforce will result in an excess demand for ICT practitioners in 2015 (384 000), insufficient digital literacy levels among citizens will impede growth and employment. 198 million Europeans still do not have any ICT user skills and are some distance away from being digitally literate.

The Member States had different starting points at the time of the adoption of the Communication. Since then, the Commission has launched a series of well targeted actions which are rated very positively by experts throughout Europe. Some Member States had already been active with policies to promote and foster 'digital literacy' but there is a huge variation of activities according to national governments and other stakeholders. In some Member States national e-skills strategy and their implementation are still in their infancy. Frontrunners are Scandinavian countries.

Implementation takes time and further efforts are required to translate all Member States commitments into practice. Several national governments still need to reach higher levels of activity and the ICT industry should further develop the activities started. Expert satisfaction with the status of implementation and the achievements of national activities are lower when comparing these to those of the European Commission. Result visibility needs to be improved to create a larger-scale impact and activities need to be undertaken at a much larger scale and to be significantly allocated more resources to have a necessary stronger impact. A stronger focus on 'e-leadership skills' is needed which can best be defined as 'a new 'hybrid' of technology and business skills sets'.

Widespread mistrust could be identified in the commitment of politicians to foster the longer term e-skills policies needed for the transformation of European workforce and economy. However, a longer-term commitment is needed otherwise no decisive impacts will be achieved.

The recommendations given by the study team include the need for a continuous monitoring of progress and better coordination and synchronisation among the Member States and other stakeholders.

Number of pages: 322

DE: Open Statecraft - Better Politics through Open Government? - 31 October 2010

Description (short summary): How can concepts, with buzzwords such as 'Open Government' and 'Open Statecraft', which have already been separately tested and used, be integrated into Germany's political culture? The Internet & Society Co:*llaboratory* (Internet & Gesellschaft Co:*llaboratory*, German) had been busy between July and September 2010 trying to answer this question; in this report it presents the results found by its expert group.

To investigate this topic the *Co://laboratory* brought 30 experts from civil society, academia and the business sector. Short profiles of the participants can be found at the end of this report. The interdisciplinary team addressed the issues, did research and prepared a workshop, in which the experienced *Co://laboratory* experts discussed with participants from the government and ministries. The final report on the Open Government Initiative summarises the findings of the working group in three chapters.

Number of pages: 59

EU: Interoperability Challenges in the Health Management of Patients with Implantable Defibrillators - 26 October 2010

Description (short summary): Patient empowerment frameworks engage citizens in their healthcare. Heart patients undergo the implantation of Cardiovascular Implantable Electronic Devices (CIEDs) that support remote monitoring, hoping to live a longer healthier life. Electronic Health Records (EHR), remote device monitoring, and lifestyle data can supply patient context to computerised guidelines, so that health events are timely assessed and effectively treated, before they become life-threatening. In this way, lives may be saved, health care resources be optimised and hospital visits be reduced saving time, hassle, and money.

iCARDEA aims to provide health professionals with such an adaptive care planner offering decision support through semi-automated clinical guidelines integrating data from CIEDs, EHRs and Personal Health Records (PHRs). The enabling standards and interoperability initiatives are presented underlining barriers that need to be overcome, before such eHealth innovations become widely adopted.

Number of pages: 4

Related ePractice publication:

[EU: iCARDEA - An approach to reducing human workload in cardiovascular implantable electronic device follow-ups](#)

EU: iCARDEA - An approach to reducing human workload in cardiovascular implantable electronic device follow-ups - 25 October 2010

Description (short summary): The iCARDEA project aims at developing an intelligent platform to semi-automate the follow-up of cardiovascular implantable electronic device (CIED) patients using adaptable computer interpretable clinical guideline models. For this purpose, data from hospitals' electronic health records (EHR), from patient maintained personal health records (PHR) and current generation of CIED devices provided by the remote monitoring services offered by all major vendors are collected and correlated.

This article provides an overview of the project that has started in February 2010.

Number of pages: 4

Related ePractice publication:

[EU: Interoperability Challenges in the Health Management of Patients with Implantable Defibrillators](#)

EU: Final report of the Hearcom research project - 21 September 2010

Description (short summary): The report provides a public overview on the outcomes of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) project HearCom (Hearing in the Communication Society) that was conducted from 1 September

2004 until 28 February 2009. One of the main achievements of the project has been the provision of advanced hearing screening tests by telephone and Internet. It was aimed at the harmonisation of hearing diagnostic tests within Europe.

For this, the concept of the Auditory Profile has been developed with several tests for various languages. The project also developed the HearCompanion tool, an online tool for supporting new hearing aid users in their hearing rehabilitation process.

Number of pages: 36

UK: Careering through the web - 31 July 2010

Description (short summary):

This publication, commissioned by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, improves the understanding of the uses and potential of the Internet for providing career development and career support services. The analysis within this review provides a summary of current Internet resources as well as suggestions that may help inform future UK Commission for Employment and Skills recommendations on the topic.

This publication highlights the role of web literacy in determining how much benefit people derive from the Internet when making career choices or seeking support. It highlights the role of metadata and online communities in sifting and highlighting the array of information available. Trends towards a multiplicity of online communication formats and increased online interaction are also discussed.

The UK Commission has been charged with identifying cost-effective methods for improving the provision of careers information, advice and guidance. This publication serves to introduce and analyse some of the key topics relating to the Internet's role and potential in this task.

Number of pages: 43

GR/EU: Electronic identity and public policy options & infrastructure - the European experience - 30 June 2010

Description (short summary): The study presents the European trends and best practice management of electronic identities for Greece to take advantage of the European experience in the view of the forthcoming implementation of its electronic identity card policy.

More specifically, the study addresses the following aspects:

- The electronic cards are necessary for the safe and effective use of citizens' electronic transactions.
- Over the past five years, many of the EU countries have introduced electronic identity cards for citizens in an aim to modernise their public services (e.g. tax authorities, licenses and permits, etc.); the rest of the countries are planning in the foreseeable future to install electronic identification solutions for citizens.

Number of pages: 21

Upcoming Workshops and Events

- [BE: Lift-off Towards Open Government Conference](#) | 15 - 16 December 2010 | Belgium
- [Assisted workshop: FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop](#) | 20 December 2010 | Belgium

- [US: Digital Health Summit and Exhibition at the Consumer Electronics Show 2011](#) | 6 - 9 January 2011 | North America
- [AU: Health Level Seven \(HL7\) International Standards and Education Meeting](#) | 9 - 14 January 2011 | Oceania
- [BE: Continua European Symposium 2011](#) | 17 - 18 January 2011 | Belgium
- [BE: SmartPersonalHealth Workshop](#) | 18 January 2011 | Belgium
- [US: Winter Health IT Summit](#) | 19 - 20 January 2011 | North America
- [IN: e-Gov World 2011](#) | 20 - 21 January 2011 | Asia
- [BE: CPDP 2011 - Event on eHealth and Privacy](#) | 25 January 2011 | Belgium
- [IT: HEALTHINF 2011](#) | 26 - 29 January 2011 | Italy
- [IT: 2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems](#) | 28 - 29 January 2011 | Italy

BE: Lift-off Towards Open Government Conference - 15 - 16 December 2010

'Lift-off Towards Open Government' - A conference hosted by the Belgian Presidency of the European Union

The first ever Ministerial eGovernment Conference was held in 2001; this Conference aims to show the achievements of past European eGovernment efforts to date and their impact for citizens and businesses. The main theme of the conference will be **'Open Government'**, with an emphasis on the implementation of cross-border interoperability in practice.

The conference programme will prominently feature a number of large international projects (Secure Identity Across Borders Linked - [STORK](#); Simple Procedures Online for Cross-border Services - [SPOCS](#); Pan-European Public Procurement Online - [PEPPOL](#); and European Patient Smart Open Services - [epSOS](#)) and present the Action Plan 2015, Europe 2020 and [The Digital Agenda](#). The detailed event programme may be found [here](#).

The organisers expect that the two days full of breakout-sessions, a 'Battle of the CEO's', a gala dinner and an exhibition will ensure that this conference is an excellent networking event.

It is worth noting that a [pre-conference](#) will be held in Ghent on 14 December 2010. Registration for both the pre-conference and the main conference can be performed [online](#).

Event email: secretariat@opengov2010.be

Event website: <http://www.opengov2010.be/>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: Belgium's Federal Government Service for Information and Communication Technology (FedICT)

Assisted workshop: FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop - 20 December 2010

The FASTeTEN project will hold a secure infrastructure workshop in Brussels on 20 December 2010.

The workshop will consider how secure infrastructures for electronic document exchange can be deployed by public authorities, using the experience of the FASTeTEN project as an example. FASTeTEN has carried out the deployment of a secure infrastructure, known as FAST, in four public bodies in the European Union: the municipality of Prato (Italy), the city of Sheffield (UK), the region of South Yorkshire (UK) and the region of Valencia (Spain). Deployment of such a secure infrastructure, which can enable the trusted exchange of electronic documentation, is a crucial issue for any public authority aiming to improve its processes, create efficiencies, and maximise benefits in the back office.

The workshop will give a technical overview of FAST, will examine the pilot deployments in detail, and will be an

opportunity for other public bodies to learn about this recognised good practice case.

The workshop will take place over a half day and is free of charge.

Event website: <http://www.eu-fasteten.eu/>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: FASTeTEN

US: Digital Health Summit and Exhibition at the Consumer Electronics Show 2011 - 6 - 9 January 2011

Digital Health Summit and Exhibition at the Consumer Electronics Show 2011

The Digital Health Summit at the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show (CES 2011) focuses on the booming market of consumer-based health and wellness innovations that sit at the convergence of technology and healthcare.

In addition to diagnosing and battling disease, today's generation of high-tech healthcare products and services will be the catalyst for better managed healthcare, patient/doctor communication, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery time, lowered costs for health insurance, early prevention and detection, digital patient information records, medical attention over distances, and so much more.

This event will expose developers, manufacturers, distributors and service providers to the opportunities, partnerships, business models, distribution channels and standards of the rapidly evolving industry of digital health technologies. The daylong Summit on 7 January 2010 will feature speakers and thought leaders who will provide attendees with an understanding of how their organisation can capitalise on this high-growth market. The conference will also showcase technology to improve patient care, as well as present cutting-edge technologies that empower consumers to take charge of their own wellbeing.

Among other technologies to be presented will be:

- Telehealth Systems
- Therapeutic & Diagnostic Medical Devices
- Remote Monitoring Devices
- Mobile Health Applications
- Secured Wireless Communication Medical Devices
- Medication Monitoring Equipment
- Mobile Health Devices
- Robotic Prosthetics
- Personal Health Records
- Communications Networks
- Telemedicine Systems

The detailed Summit agenda may be found [here](#).

Registration can be performed [online](#) via the CES 2011 registration page.

Event email: summitinfo@digitalhealthsummit.com

Event website: <http://digitalhealthsummit.com/>

Country: North America

City/Location: Las Vegas, Nevada, United States

Organiser: Ms. Robin Raskin, Ms. Jill Gilbert and Ms. Linda Nessim-Rubin

AU: Health Level Seven (HL7) International Standards and Education Meeting - 9 - 14 January 2011

Health Level Seven (HL7) International Standards and Education Meeting

The HL7 International Standards and Education Meeting will provide the forum for more than 50 Work Groups, Committees and Task Forces to progress the following ehealth standards: HL7 version 2.x, CDA v3 (Clinical Document Architecture version3) and EHR (Electronic Health Records). An extensive range of Courses, Tutorials and Workshops will allow participants to hear and learn the very latest developments in EHRs, clinical messaging, terminology, etc. from global experts in ehealth.

The HL7 Meetings are open to anyone interested in ehealth, Health Informatics and Healthcare IT Standards. The education programme of the Meeting includes free introductory sessions as well as tutorials at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.

The Standards development will be undertaken in ~65 different committees that meet throughout the week. The Working Group Meeting information and WG agendas may be viewed [here](#).

The registration site will soon be made available at the event website.

Event email: 2011Help@HL7.org.au

Event website: <http://www.hl7.org.au/Sydney2011.htm>

Country: Oceania

City/Location: Sidney, Australia

Organiser: HL7 Australia Board in partnership with the Department of Health and Ageing, the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA), Standards Australia, HL7 New Zealand and Business Events Sydney

BE: Continua European Symposium 2011 - 17 - 18 January 2011

Continua European Symposium 2011 - 'We're making It Personal - Are You?'

This symposium will bring healthcare professionals, researchers companies, entrepreneurs, policy makers, health ministries and other stakeholders together for an in-depth look at a variety of Personal Connected Health solutions and how these tools and services will fit into Europe's current and future model of healthcare.

The symposium will be divided into three tracks:

- Chronic Condition Management: Are personal health solutions the right prescription?
- Ageing Independently: Can personal health solutions support active ageing?
- Health & Wellness: Are personal health solutions on your menu?

The event will explore the question as to how these areas will impact the current model of healthcare in Europe. Attendees and presenters will also explore emerging business models, preventative healthcare, best practices and examples of personal connected health at work and through policy.

Symposium attendees will be able to register - for free - to the [SmartPersonalHealth workshop](#) on 18 January 2011.

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: admin@continuaalliance.org

Event website: <http://www.continuaalliance.org/events/upcomingIndustryEvents.html>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels
Organiser: Continua Health Alliance

BE: SmartPersonalHealth Workshop - 18 January 2011

Enabling smart integrated care: An interactive workshop to develop and review policy recommendations on promoting interoperability of personal health solutions

Drawing on the experience of the three stakeholder workshops in Barcelona, Belfast and Berlin, the SmartPersonalHealth project has developed draft recommendations for European, national and regional level policy makers to promote the adoption of interoperable personal health systems. The draft recommendations are based on three stakeholder consultations in March, June and September 2010 with healthcare professionals, device and personal health system (PHS) vendors, and procurers.

This workshop is co-located with the [Continua European Symposium 2011](#) and it will re-convene the stakeholders to review and refine recommendations to:

- Improve exchange and cooperation among stakeholders (improving cooperation and information exchange with key stakeholders, especially with groups previously excluded from dialogue);
- Encourage standards adoption and uptake (focusing upon concrete needs and priorities for measures to improve adoption of standards);
- Create a supportive environment (the structures and organisations, measures and processes to support standards development, certification and uptake)

The discussions will start from a diagnosis of the current situation, identify complications and issues, and present recommended actions for regulators, national and regional decision-makers, professional stakeholders, industrial stakeholders, and patients.

Following a welcome and a keynote, there will be three consecutive panels each consisting of an impulse statement and an interactive feedback session with invited panel members.

The preliminary agenda may be viewed at the event website.

The event is invitation-only but those interested in attending are requested to ask to join the waitlist by sending an email to SPH@edelmanthecentre.com.

Event email: SPH@edelmanthecentre.com

Event website: <http://sph.continuaalliance.org/eventsBrussels.html>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: the SmartPersonalHealth project along Continua Health Alliance along with 'The Centre'

US: Winter Health IT Summit - 19 - 20 January 2011

Winter Health IT Summit - Quality, Safety and Efficiency: Transforming Healthcare through Health IT

Attendees of this Summit will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the ongoing requirements and challenges of meaningful use with health care professionals from all over the country in a convivial and professional atmosphere;

- Understand the evolving responsibilities and differences between meaningful use and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for patient privacy and Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) security;
- Collaborate and network with national thought leaders to define best practices for utilising health IT resources to improve patient safety, quality of care and outcomes.

The topics that will be discussed include:

- Meaningful use in action: Leveraging meaningful use to improve outcomes and patient care;
- Managing through the transition of national healthcare reform;
- Connecting with care givers and consumers: Maximising the potential of health information exchange (HIE);
- Securing Electronic Personal Health Information: Strategies for minimising security risks;
- Planning for the Future: HIE sustainability and interoperability;
- Protecting against data breaches: Understanding the evolving responsibilities under the HITECH Act;
- Choosing the right Electronic Health Records (EHR): Understanding the significance of Certification;
- New Frontiers in Telehealth: Mobile applications in the health care continuum.

The full agenda of the event may be viewed [here](#).

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: Robert@ihealthtran.com

Event website: <http://www.ihealthtran.com/hitwintersummit.html>

Country: North America

City/Location: Phoenix, Arizona

Organiser: The Institute for Health Technology Transformation (iHT2)

IN: e-Gov World 2011 - 20 - 21 January 2011

E-Gov World 2011 - the 5th International Summit on e-Governance and Mobile Governance

Started in 2004 as one of the flagship initiatives of The Society for Promotion of e-Governance, e-Gov World is South Asia's first and one of the most reputed platforms for the government practitioners, industry, academia and civil society organisations to share their learning practices and develop the foresight for transforming public services for inclusive development and sustainable growth.

The focus of this year's deliberation will be on Innovative Mobile Applications for Government Services, Open Solutions for Public Administration and Performance Management Strategies. The Mobile Applications Lounge for Showcasing m-solutions and the release of Mobile Governance Roadmap for India are some of the key features of this year's summit.

The key Thematic Areas of the e-Gov World 2011 Conference are:

- Mobile Governance Roadmap for India and global best practices in mobile applications for inclusive development and sustainable growth;
- Open Solutions for Public Administrations;
- e-Governance cooperation framework for South Asian countries - Developing next millennium public services collectively;
- Performance Management of Governance and Development Projects (Workshop).

Details on the important dates regarding the conference can be found on the [event's homepage](#).

Registration for the event can be performed [online](#) until 20 December 2010.

Event email: vikaskanungo@egovindia.org
Event website: <http://www.egovworld.org/>
Country: Asia
City/Location: New Delhi, India
Organiser: The Society for Promotion of e-Governance (SPEG)

BE: CPDP 2011 - Event on eHealth and Privacy - 25 January 2011

Event on eHealth and Privacy in the frame of the Annual Conference Computers, Privacy & Data Protection (CPDP 2011)

CPDP 2011 is a three-day conference where academics, practitioners, policymakers and activists can meet, exchange ideas and discuss emerging issues of information technology, privacy, data protection and law. The Event on eHealth and Privacy takes place on the morning first day of the conference.

On 15 March 2010, during the eHealth week, the [Barcelona Declaration 'European co-operation on eHealth'](#) was accepted by the Member States of the EU. It addressed the following points: political and strategic involvement; work on trust and acceptance; legal and ethical clarity; ensuring the protection of personal data; solutions for interoperability; connecting the eHealth policy with competition, innovation and research and also with cohesion and inclusion policy. The Declaration addresses a number of important legal issues for eHealth, especially privacy issues.

These issues will come back in the topics that are discussed in depth during the panels at the eHealth event. The detailed eHealth event programme may be found [here](#).

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: info@cpdpconferences.org
Event website: <http://www.cpdpconferences.org/index.html>
Country: Belgium
City/Location: Brussels
Organiser: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Université de Namur, the Universiteit van Tilburg, the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique and the Fraunhofer Institut für System und Innovationsforschung

IT: HEALTHINF 2011 - 26 - 29 January 2011

HEALTHINF 2011 - International Conference on Health Informatics, part of the International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies (BIOSTEC)

The purpose of the conference is to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) to healthcare and medicine in general and to the specialised support to persons with special needs in particular.

Databases, networking, graphical interfaces, intelligent decision support systems and specialised programming languages are just a few of the technologies currently used in medical informatics. Mobility and ubiquity in healthcare systems, standardisation of technologies and procedures, certification, privacy are some of the issues that medical informatics professionals and the ICT industry in general need to address in order to further promote ICT in healthcare. In the case of medical rehabilitation and assistive technology the use of ICT has had important results in the enhancement of the quality of life, contributing to a full integration of all citizens in the societies they are also part of.

Some of the conference topics to be discussed include but are not limited to:

- eHealth
- Telemedicine
- Medical and Nursing Informatics
- Design and Development Methodologies for Healthcare IT
- Interoperability
- Semantic Interoperability
- Confidentiality and Data Security
- Knowledge Management
- Databases and Datawarehousing
- Decision Support Systems
- Wearable Health Informatics
- Mobile Technologies for Healthcare Applications
- Therapeutic Systems and Technologies
- Healthcare Management Systems
- Human-Machine Interfaces for Disabled Persons
- Development of Assistive Technology
- ICT, Ageing and Disability
- Practice-based Research Methods for Healthcare IT
- Electronic Health Records and Standards
- Software Systems in Medicine
- Pervasive Health Systems and Service
- eHealth for Public Health
- Clinical Problems and Applications

Further information about the conference topics may be found [here](#).

Event email: healthinf.secretariat@insticc.org

Event website: <http://www.healthinf.biostec.org/>

Country: Italy

City/Location: Rome

Organiser: The Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC)

IT: 2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems - 28 - 29 January 2011

2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems (MIAD 2011)

The 2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems (MIAD 2011) is organised in conjunction with 4th International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies - [BIOSTEC 2011](#).

MIAD 2011 aims to bring together researchers and practitioners working in medical and biomedical images processing domain. The workshop will also offer the opportunity to fill the gap between academic researchers, practitioners and industrial parts.

Authors were encouraged to submit papers describing original work, including methods, techniques, advanced prototypes, recent advances in acquisition devices (CT-Scan, MRI, 3D Ultrasound, molecular imaging), applications, diagnosis systems and tools. The call for papers is now closed.

Event email: biostec.secretariat@insticc.org

Event website: <http://www.biostec.org/MIAD.asp>

Country: Italy

City/Location: Rome

Organiser: Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC)

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