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European ePractice Newsletter N. 401 – 20 December 2011

Winter Break

The ePractice Team wishes you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! The next issue of this newsletter will be disseminated on **Tuesday 10 January 2012**.

Assisted Events

>> Assisted event - eProcurement: Benefits - Costs - Savings

This workshop will take place in Austria, on **28 March 2012**. It will focus on benefits, costs and savings of eProcurement in the pre-awarding phase. The topics to be addressed include: Process costs, Security & Identification, Supranational procurement processes, and Technique & Language.

For more information, please visit the [ePractice announcement](#) or the [main event's page](#).

Is your Project on ePractice?

ePractice provides the ideal platform to tell others about your cases and projects. We are always on the lookout for new cases, so if you wish to have yours published, you simply need to provide the information through a link or email attachment (in any European language) and we will take it from there. Our editorial team will create a case draft and upon your approval, we will publish it on ePractice. The case production does not incur any cost or other obligation from your side.

Case proposals should be sent to info@epractice.eu with the subject "Case production proposal".

Alternatively, if you wish to submit your case online, you are welcome to do so at <http://www.epractice.eu/en/mygpcase/new>.

Latest Cases

- [MSV project](#) | 19 December 2011 | Italy | Spain | United Kingdom | EU Institutions | North America | Oceania
 - [LENVIS - Localised environmental and health information services](#) | 12 December 2011 | France | Italy | Netherlands | Poland | Portugal
 - [In-Time Project](#) | 8 December 2011 | Austria | Belgium | Czech Republic | Germany | Italy | Netherlands | Norway | Romania
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MSV project

In recent years, various terms the Virtual Physiological Human (VPH), Integrative Biology, Physiome Research have been used to describe the trend in biomedical research towards the consideration of systemic processes. These phenomena are commonly observed in living organisms but cannot be explained within a single sub-system but reflect, rather, systemic outcomes that result from the interaction of multiple sub-systems. Traditionally, when confronted by the complexity exhibited in biomedical problems, researchers have been forced to focus purely on individual sub-systems; the most common boundary separating these has been spatiotemporal scale.

The current interest in VPH is demanding greater concentration on the study and simulation of biological systems at multiple scales, and multiscale data collection and multiscale modelling have recently become synonymous with integrative research. The many VPH projects that will start to demand multiscale visualisation in the coming years suggests that this area should receive urgent attention. The Multiscale Spatiotemporal Visualisation (MSV) project aims, by international cooperation between the European @neurIST and VPHOP integrated projects, the US National Alliance for Medical Imaging Computing (NA-MIC), and the New Zealand-based IUPS Physiome initiative:

- to define an interactive visualisation paradigm for biomedical multiscale data,
 - to validate it on the large collections produced by the VPH projects
 - to develop a concrete implementation as an open-source extension to the Visualisation Took Kit (VTK), ready to be incorporated by virtually any biomedical modelling software project.
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LENVIS - Localised environmental and health information services

There is a growing demand for real time and integrated environmental and health risk information. Provision of location-based services linked to the state of the environment at particular geographical locations is necessary for improving the quality of life. This is essential for mitigation of environmental-related health threats associated to water quantity and quality, and outdoor air pollution.

The main goal of the Lenvis project is to develop an innovative collaborative decision support network for the exchange of location-based environmental and health services between stakeholders. Lenvis includes health indicators as an integral part of the environmental management. Lenvis furthermore aims at supporting governments in communication with the general public and in particular to address the young generation Y, by entering popular digital social networks. This is done by the development of a generic ICT solution on the basis of service-oriented architecture (SOA), providing data, information and modelling services.

The approach will be validated through test cases on fresh surface water and outdoor air quality in the Netherlands, Portugal and Italy. Lenvis facilitates collaboration between different stakeholders, such as environmental protection agencies, health institutions and service providers, policy makers, citizens in general and environmental communities in Europe.

In-Time Project

In-Time (Intelligent and Efficient Travel management for European Cities) focuses on Multimodal Real Time Traffic and Travel Information (RTTI) services with the goal to reduce drastically energy consumption in urban areas across the different modes of transport by changing the mobility behaviour (modal shift) of the single traveller. In-Time provides mainly 3 services: Business-to-business services will enable European-wide Traffic Information Service Providers (TISPs) to get access to regional traffic and travel data and services of the single pilot cities via a harmonised standardised open interface. This will enable the TISP to provide interoperable and multimodal RTTI services (e-services) to their end-users. E-services will influence the on-trip travel behaviour by optimising journeys taking the energy consumption into account. The community will be the users of mobile devices or navigational devices. Web based interoperable and intermodal pre-trip information will be provided by the pilot operators and has the potential to influence the travel behaviour in the trip planning stage by taking environmental aspects into account. The typical users are persons that are planning an urban trip on short term. Central part of the In-Time concept is an interoperable and multimodal Regional Data/Service Server (RDSS) which can be seen as a service-oriented middleware infrastructure providing a number of data/services, covering individual traffic, public transport, weather, location based services, intermodal transport planning, and enables the operation of the In-Time services. The In-Time solution with the commonly agreed standardised interface will be set up at 6 European pilot sites to ensure the easy access of real-time multimodal traffic data for external TISPs. This model ensures the easy access to all urban traffic related data within one region resulting in the distribution to the end-users via several consistent information channels.

Editor's Choice of the week: [Nephron+ - ICT-enabled Wearable Artificial Kidney and Personal Renal Care System](#)

Latest News

- [FI: eArchiving system for electronic patient records - First pilot at Kuopio city](#) | 20 December 2011 | Finland
 - [EU: STORK 2.0 to start in January 2012](#) | 19 December 2011 | Austria | Belgium | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Iceland | Italy | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Portugal | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | United Kingdom | EU Institutions
 - [EE: Health Insurance Fund wins Quality Innovation Award 2011 for its ePrescription system](#) | 19 December 2011 | Estonia
 - [DE: eID card celebrates first anniversary](#) | 16 December 2011 | Germany
 - [UK: Telehealth campaign launched to help 3 million people](#) | 16 December 2011 | United Kingdom
 - [EU: Commission launches open data strategy to boost the economy](#) | 15 December 2011 | EU Institutions
 - [SE: eRemiss - Intermediate phase launched](#) | 15 December 2011 | Sweden
 - [DE/EU: German hospital first in Europe to get top rating for paperless, digital workflows](#) | 14 December 2011 | Germany | Pan european
 - [BG: Ministry of Health to begin development of national health information system](#) | 14 December 2011 | Bulgaria
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FI: eArchiving system for electronic patient records - First pilot at Kuopio city - 20 December 2011

Since 15 November 2011, the use of the centralised eArchiving system for electronic patient records (eArkisto, in Finnish) is being tested in [Kuopio](#), one of Finland's main cities.

Kuopio's healthcare establishments (namely the Harjula outpatient clinic's reception, asthma and diabetes units, and the homecare and nursing units of Puijonlaakso service centre) will be the first ones to access and use the nation-wide healthcare information network.

The staff of the units involved in the pilot will log gradually (and be able to access) the following patient information in the eArkisto system: personal data, medical records, diagnoses, summaries, lab test results, X-ray images as well as referrals, medication information and risks of medical concerns, etc.

The patient data thus stored will be made accessible to the patient and the staff of the participating healthcare units, while the patient's separate consent will be required to grant access to their information to administrative units.

The eArkisto system is expected to improve the flow of information relating to patient treatment as healthcare staff will view the patient's information immediately, and thus avoid duplicate exams and treatment.

Patients will be able to view their own medical records in eArkisto through the website of KanTa, the National Archive of Health Information, at www.kanta.fi. When a person wishes to make use of this service, their identity will be verified.

Since 2008, the city of Kuopio has been committed to serve as a testing ground for the eArkisto system. The technical testing started in autumn 2009, while the archiving client testing and the production deployment project were launched by the city's social affairs and healthcare department in July 2010.

"We planned the use of the necessary electronic archives, we documented them and we implemented the measures required from the organisations joining the eArkisto service. The pilot phase will last from 15 November 2011 to 15 February 2012. Our goal is to continue and expand the use of eArkisto after the pilot phase," said project leader at the City of Kuopio, Pauli Kuosmanen.

The Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is responsible for the eArkisto strategy, legal aspects and inter-sectoral collaboration. The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) is in charge of operational and functional specifications, as well as processes.

The social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) is responsible for communication with citizens, as well as for the system's technical implementation, testing and specifications. To introduce eArkisto, Kuopio also received support from a software provider as well as the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira).

The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (Kunnat) has been supporting healthcare organisations in the use of ePrescription since its introduction. For instance, the Association has been producing operations models and training material. As from 1 January 2012, such responsibility will be transferred to THL.

The deployment of the eArkisto system will be performed gradually in different parts of Finland, and patient information will be logged in it under different stages too. Kuopio's experience will benefit other authorities when the use of the system is expanded.

Finnish law provides for the compulsory use of the system by September 2014 for public healthcare centres, and by September 2015 for private ones.

Further information:

- [Original press release - KanTa \(in Finnish\)](#)
- [KanTa](#)
- [City of Kuopio \(in Finnish\)](#)

EU: STORK 2.0 to start in January 2012 - 19 December 2011

After three years of operation, the **STORK project** (Secure idenTity acrOss boRders linKed) is coming to an end. It was recently announced in an IT magazine that **STORK 2.0**, its successor, will start in January 2012.

STORK has been aimed at developing an architecture that ensures interoperability between all European identification systems. As such, it is one of the facilitators of the 'Digital Single Market', which is a founding pillar of the [Digital Agenda for Europe](#).

"Regardless of the activities they carry out, one must first introduce themselves. This is such a basis that STORK 1.0 set up," said Frank Leyman, International Relations Manager at [Fedict](#) (Belgium's Federal Government Department for ICT), one of the STORK's 32 consortium partners.

Coming back on STORK's achievements during the past three years, Mr Leyman added: "We have built an architecture that we tested within a few pilot projects. They all work properly, but in a pilot context. The conclusion of the final report will be the following: from a technological point of view, it works, but several question marks remain, in particular from a legal point of view," Mr Leyman explained.

STORK 1.0 only identified citizens; STORK 2.0 will expand this scope. "Starting in January 2012, we will provide additional 'attributes' to citizens so that they can identify themselves in the framework of their professional environment. We will also add business identification," he said.

The goal is for member states to implement STORK rapidly. Mr Leyman went on: "The European Commission does not want to wait for the end of STORK 2.0. The purpose is to start inviting countries to implement [it] by 2013." STORK 2.0 has already attracted the interest of 19 countries and over 50 partners.

Background information

STORK is intended to establish a Europe-wide eID interoperability platform that enables citizens to securely use their national electronic identities in any Member State in order to access public eGovernment services, in full compliance with data protection and privacy principles. STORK 1.0 includes 17 EU Member States and Associated Countries, with a total of 32 consortium partners.

Further information:

- [Original news article - DataNews.be \(in Dutch\)](#)
- [Original news article - DataNews.be \(in French\)](#)
- [STORK project](#)
- [Related ePractice case - STORK](#)
- [Related ePractice news article - EU: STORK project wins EPSA 2011 Best Practice Certificate](#)

EE: Health Insurance Fund wins Quality Innovation Award 2011 for its ePrescription system - 19 December 2011

The Estonian [Health Insurance Fund](#) received a Quality Innovation Award 2011 in the category 'public sector organisations' for the creation and implementation of the Estonian ePrescription system.

This was the first participation of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund in the Quality Innovation Awards competition, which is a joint project between Estonia, Finland and Sweden.

Hannes Danilov, chairperson of the Health Insurance Fund and Erki Laidmäe, head of the ePrescription project received the prize from the hands of the President of the Republic Finland, Ms Tarja Halonen, at a ceremony held in Helsinki on 10 November 2011. The Estonian Minister for Economic Affairs and Communications, Juhan Parts, also attended.

In the Quality Innovation Awards contest, the proposed projects first compete at national level. The Estonian Association for Quality thus evaluated the Estonian projects, based on the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) methodology as well as a peer review process. Two national finalists were then selected in the categories 'public organisations' and 'corporations' respectively, and submitted to the quality assessment of the Finnish Excellence Award Jury who selected the winners.

According to Ms Tiia Tammaru, the chairperson of the Estonian Association for Quality, the Estonian ePrescription system was chosen because "it is a world-class technological innovation that significantly enhanced the drug prescription and purchase system, bringing ease of use to all parties."

"We are pleased to say that we have a digital prescription system that is a model for other countries," Hannes Danilov said. "On behalf of our employees, the Health Insurance Fund would like to thank all partners with whom we share this success. The ePrescription project will not be the last one, and we will certainly provide more new, innovative projects," he added.

Background information

The Quality Innovation Awards competition is open to the participation of Estonian, Finnish and Swedish organisations. It is the fifth time that the event is organised in Finland, and Estonian organisations participated in the contest for the second time in a row. There were a total of 80 public and private sector contestants, eight of which from Estonia.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Estonian Health Insurance Fund \(in Estonian\)](#)

DE: eID card celebrates first anniversary - 16 December 2011

Since 1 November 2010, almost 9 million new electronic ID cards have been issued, and this number will reach about 10 million by the end of 2011. In the convenient size of a credit card, these cards enable the reliable identification of their holders online.

The German eID card makes it possible for individual card holders to access online services anywhere and anytime with the use of a secret PIN. Optionally, the card can be used for signing electronically digital documents such as contracts or proxies. The use of the online identity function is voluntary.

It is planned that in the next few years, the German eID card will be established as the standard proof of identity on the Internet, making the use of the services provided by government and companies significantly safer and easier.

Among the first cities that have increasingly enabled the use of the card's online ID function for administrative proceedings on the Internet are Munster, Hagen and Ingolstadt. Moreover, a popular public service requiring the use of the eID card is that for accessing pension-related information from the German state pension insurance scheme.

According to a recent survey, around 60 % of the public authorities, including local governments, are planning to use the new ID card; they see them as an important contribution to the modernisation of government and the increase of efficiency.

"The new identity card is the world's most secure and modern ID document. It enhances the security of citizens on the Internet. The German eID infrastructure meets the high national and European data security and privacy requirements. At the same time, the new ID card offers great potential for companies and authorities", explained Dr. Hans-Peter Friedrich, Federal Minister of the Interior, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the card.

"The new identity card has enormous efficiency potential. The insurance industry is at the forefront of its use, having already integrated the new ID card into many applications of its services. Moreover, many governments shift to eGovernment services (...)", the Minister continued.

The introduction of the new ID card is one of the largest IT projects in the German public sector. A total of approximately 23 000 employees in more than 5 300 ID card authorities have been trained for the new work processes.

At international level, the German eID card "enjoys a high reputation and is considered to be a particularly innovative and privacy-friendly solution", according to the article of the Federal Government Commissioner for Information Technology. In the near future, EU member states will join forces to develop interoperable solutions and cross border applications for electronic ID cards. "The newly agreed cooperation [between Germany and] Poland is an important first step and it is exemplary in Europe", the same article reports.

Background information

The digital data printed on the card as well as the photograph are stored in the chip of the card. It is also possible to include two fingerprints - on a voluntary basis - in order to make it easier for authorities to associate the identity card with the card holder even more reliably. These biometric data are accessible only to the government and are not transmitted over the Internet.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Federal Government Commissioner for Information Technology \(in German\)](#)
- [German ID card website \(in German\)](#)
- [Related ePractice news article - DE: New identity card with electronic functions released](#)
- [Background information - ePractice eGovernment Factsheet for Germany](#)

UK: Telehealth campaign launched to help 3 million people - 16 December 2011

On 5 December 2011, the UK [Department of Health](#) announced a campaign to provide telehealth and telecare services to three million people over the next five years. The announcement came as it published an [interim report](#) on its Whole Systems Demonstrator (WSD) programme and a [review of innovation](#) in the NHS.

The WSD programme is a randomised controlled trial that was launched in May 2008. It aims to investigate the capabilities of telehealth and telecare, and to provide a clear evidence base to inform important investment decisions and show how the technology supports people to live independently, take control and be responsible for their own health and care. It is the largest trial of its type in the world, involving more than 6 000 patients and 230 general practitioner (GP) practices in three locations across England.

The WSD interim report shows that, if delivered properly, telehealth can produce substantial reductions in mortality rates and the demand for hospital services. More specifically, it would reduce:

- mortality rates by 45%;
- Accident and Emergency (A&E) visits by 15%;
- emergency admissions by 20%;
- elective admissions by 14%;
- bed usage by 14%; and
- tariff costs by 8%.

The report concludes that "at least three million people with long term conditions and/or social care needs could benefit from using telehealth and telecare". To achieve this, the Department of Health is launching its 'three million lives' campaign in partnership with industry, the NHS, social care and professional partners.

The Department of Health said in a separate statement that it would deploy remote medical devices to three million people over the next five years. These would include home-based equipment for at-risk patients which can send their vital medical data to doctors.

The WSD report nevertheless stresses that the new campaign is not a national target or government guarantee: "Instead, it is more about the department providing national leadership, strategic direction and advice to NHS and social care organisations, with support from industry [which] would be responsible for creating the market and working with local organisations to deliver the change." The report adds that a detailed work plan for the campaign is in the early stages of development and further information will be provided at a later date.

The impact of telehealth is also discussed positively in the recently published review of innovation in the NHS. However, this review warned that the capital investment required for telehealth is "prohibitive". To overcome this problem, it says that the Department of Health will work with industry to identify ways of re-profiling costs, so they can be met from downstream revenue savings.

The introduction of telehealth was also hailed by Prime Minister David Cameron as an example of the UK government's commitment to create a vibrant life sciences industry in the country. "We've trialled it, it's been a huge success, and now we're on a drive to roll this out nationwide," he said in a speech on 5 December 2011. "Dignity, convenience and independence for millions of people. And this is not just a good healthcare story; it's going to put us miles ahead of other countries commercially, too."

The full results from the WSD programme are being analysed by six academic institutions: City University London, Imperial College London, the London School of Economics, the Nuffield Trust, the University of Manchester and the University of Oxford. Their conclusions will be published in the upcoming months and years.

Further information:

- [Original news article - E-Health Insider](#)
- [Supplementary news article - Department of Health](#)
- [Whole Systems Demonstrator programme: Headline Findings, December 2011 - Department of Health](#)
- [Innovation: Health and Wealth - NHS](#)
- [Related ePractice news article - UK: Birmingham City Council launches large-scale telecare system](#)

EU: Commission launches open data strategy to boost the economy - 15 December 2011

On 12 December 2011, the European Commission launched an open data strategy for Europe, in order to realise the economic potential of the large volumes of information collected by the various public authorities and services. The Strategy is expected to boost to the EU's economy by €40 billion each year.

Open data is general information that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone, either for free or for a marginal fee. Studies conducted on behalf of the European Commission show that industry and citizens still face difficulties in finding and re-using public sector information. However, some Member States, such as [France](#) and the [United Kingdom](#), have already adopted policies of open data.

The new strategy aims to enable the exploitation of open data through three measures:

- the Commission will create a new 'data portal' to provide free access to its own data;
- a level playing field will be established for open data across the EU;
- €100 million will be provided to fund research into improved data-handling technologies during 2011-2013.

According to the Commissions' press release, these measures will place the EU as a global leader in the re-use of public sector information, and they will boost the thriving industry that processes raw data into information employed by hundreds of millions of ICT users. This includes smart phone apps, such as maps, real-time traffic and weather

information, price comparison tools and more. Other leading beneficiaries of open data will include journalists and academics.

In 2003, EU [Directive 2003/98/EC](#) on the re-use of public sector information introduced a first set of measures to make it easier for businesses to obtain access and permission to re-use government-held information. It also initiated a process whereby governmental agencies lowered the fees charged for obtaining the information. The new strategy extends access and widens the coverage of this Directive by:

- Making it a general rule that all documents made accessible by public sector bodies can be re-used for any purpose, commercial or non-commercial, unless protected by third-party copyright;
- Establishing the principle that public bodies should not be allowed to charge more than costs triggered by the individual request for data (marginal costs); in practice this means most data will be offered for free or virtually for free, unless duly justified;
- Making it compulsory to provide data in commonly-used, machine-readable formats, to ensure data can be effectively re-used;
- Introducing regulatory oversight to enforce these principles;
- Greatly expanding the scope of the Directive to include libraries, museums and archives for the first time; the existing 2003 rules will apply to data from such institutions.

The Commission has already agreed the contract for the new 'data portal' through which it will make its own data public. The portal is currently in its 'beta version' (development and testing phase) and has an expected launch date in spring 2012. In time this will serve as a single-access point for re-usable data from all EU institutions, bodies and agencies and national authorities.

Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes said: "We are sending a strong signal to administrations today. Your data is worth more if you give it away. So start releasing it now; use this framework to join the other smart leaders who are already gaining from embracing open data. Taxpayers have already paid for this information; the least we can do is give it back to those who want to use it in new ways that help people and create jobs and growth."

In its [Digital Agenda for Europe](#) the Commission identified the re-use of public sector information, alongside fast and ultra-fast internet access, as key to delivering a Digital Single Market.

Further information:

- [Original press release - Europa Press Releases Rapid](#)
- [European Commission Open Data website](#)
- [Commission's Open Data Strategy - Q&As](#)

SE: eRemiss - Intermediate phase launched - 15 December 2011

eRemiss, a nation-wide project intended to establish the basis for the unified electronic management of referrals between healthcare providers, has now entered an intermediate phase which will run from November 2011 until January 2012.

eRemiss is Sweden's first joint project for electronic referral management. It consists of developing specifications for describing the content, processes and concepts pertaining to eReferrals. It is about preparing specifications for information, rather than providing a complete specification or technical descriptions.

The first phase of the project ran between December 2010 and May 2011 and it covered the information structure and the handling of the so-called 'general referral'. The results of this phase may be found [here](#) (in Swedish only).

The newly launched intermediate phase will be aimed at supplementing the results reached under phase 1 with parts that could not be included nor detailed enough so far due to time constraints.

The results will be delivered as national guidelines and templates developed by the Centre for eHealth in Sweden (Center för eHälsa i samverkam - CeHis, in Swedish). The establishment of the unified electronic management of referrals will require (1) that the counties and healthcare providers implement the guidelines/templates produced, and (2) that common issues relating to support services be solved.

Expected benefits are increased patient safety and awareness, better information quality, the availability of referral statistics for health funds and reduced administrative costs for the management of referrals.

The project is commissioned by Centre for eHealth in Sweden, and is carried out by Stockholm County Council, Västra Götaland Regional Council and the Skåne Regional Council. Other counties are also involved either as project participants or as reference groups. The results should be implemented in all counties.

It is worth noting that the actual phase 2 of the project is set to be launched afterwards, during 2012.

Further information:

- [Original article - Centre for eHealth in Sweden \(in Swedish\)](#)
- [eRemiss project - Centre for eHealth in Sweden \(in Swedish\)](#)

DE/EU: German hospital first in Europe to get top rating for paperless, digital workflows - 14 December 2011

On 26 October 2011, [HIMSS Analytics Europe](#) announced that the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) became the first medical establishment in Europe to achieve the highest possible hospital digitisation rating.

The German hospital attained Stage 7 of the Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model ([EMRAM](#)), the top rating on HIMSS Analytics' scale, which evaluates the digitisation level of a hospital. Stage 7 is awarded for achieving a paperless medical record environment. UKE will be officially recognised for its achievements at the CIO Summit in Geneva on 20-22 November 2011.

Uwe Buddrus, CEO of HIMSS Analytics Europe said that UKE provides a blueprint for transforming healthcare through IT. He added that within three years, the hospital has implemented a hospital-wide IT system based on a clinical information system and an archiving and document management solution supplied by a private company that allows the entire continuum of care to be managed through an electronic patient record (EPR). He further added that patient healthcare can now be delivered more quickly and to a higher standard as a result of IT systems.

Dr Peter Gocke, Head of IT at UKE said: "[...]. The [EPR] enables us to handle all patient documentation free of the restrictions of a paper-based environment and independently of location. Achieving this level of integration and such a high level of data security represents a milestone in healthcare. At the same time the best possible framework is in place for a future in which telemedicine will play a much greater role."

To be confirmed as EMRAM Stage 7, UKE had to prove - among other factors - that it no longer uses paper charts to deliver and manage patient care, but uses a mixture of discrete data, document images and medical images within its electronic medical record environment. In addition, clinical datawarehouses must be in use to analyse patterns of clinical data to improve quality of care and patient safety. Clinical information can be readily shared via standardised electronic transactions with all entities that are authorised to treat the patient.

In May 2011, UKE received the Stage 6 ranking for closed-loop medication administration and a full complement of a picture archiving and communication system (PACS), as well as clinical decision support capabilities providing order sets and protocols for various clinical areas.

"We are very proud that our extensive evaluation of hospitals across Europe has quickly led to the identification of the first EMRAM Stage 7 hospital within a year of the introduction of the model," concluded Mr Buddrus.

Background information:

HIMSS Analytics Europe is a not-for-profit, cause and membership based wholly-owned subsidiary of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).

It collects and analyses data related to healthcare IT processes and environments.

Further information:

- [Original news article - HealthTech Wire](#)
 - [EMRAM](#)
 - [Related ePractice news article - EU: German, Spanish and Swedish hospitals win EMRAM awards](#)
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BG: Ministry of Health to begin development of national health information system - 14 December 2011

The [Ministry of Health](#) has received BGN 9.7 million (approx. € 5 million) for the project 'National Health Information System' under the Operational Programme '[Human Resources Development](#)' (Оперативна програма 'Развитие на човешките ресурси', in Bulgarian). The objective is to develop an Integrated Health Information System (IHIS).

The ministry aims to improve the efficiency and management of healthcare and by extension the quality of rendered health services through the creation of an IHIS. It will allow for better oversight of the healthcare process through the exchange of information in real time.

The IHIS is intended to collect data on the provision of healthcare services in the country, the number of patients treated, the costs for diagnosis and treatment and the screening programmes carried out. This results in the immediate reporting of each medical examination or surgery.

The IHIS involves the creation of an electronic prescription and an electronic patient record, the result of which will form the basis of the electronic health card. It will also connect the information systems of government entities such as the National Health Insurance Fund, the Expert National Medical Commissions and the National Revenue Agency.

During the project, 1 000 health professionals and 7 000 healthcare providers will undergo training on the use of the IHIS.

Funding is provided by the European Social Fund (ESF), and the total duration for implementation is 27 months.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - eHealth Bulgaria Foundation \(in Bulgarian\)](#)
- [OP 'Human Resources Development'](#)
- [Related ePractice news article - BG: Ministry of Health funds the development of the National Health Information System](#)

New Factsheets

The 15th Editions of the eGovernment factsheets of France, the Netherlands and Slovakia are now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [EU/INT: Rationalised Framework for Electronic Signature Standardisation](#) | 8 December 2011 | EU Institutions | International Organizations
 - [NL: Briefing paper on the Government Information Technology Strategy](#) | 15 November 2011 | Netherlands
 - [LT: Information Technologies in Lithuania in 2011](#) | 27 October 2011 | Lithuania
-

EU/INT: Rationalised Framework for Electronic Signature Standardisation - 8 December 2011

Description (short summary):

In line with Standardisation Mandate M/460 issued by the European Commission to the three European Standards Organisations (European Committee for Standardization [CEN], European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization [CENELEC] and European Telecommunications Standards Institute [ETSI]) for updating the existing eSignature standardisation deliverables, the current document establishes a rationalised framework for electronic signature (eSignature) standardisation within the context of the current Electronic Signatures Directive and its possible revision. It provides:

- A rationalised structure for future European eSignatures standardisation documents
- An inventory of existing electronic signature standardisation
- The results of a gap analysis with an assessment of the existing eSignatures standardisation documents
- The proposed future work plan for filling the gaps in electronic signature standardisation identified through the analysis

An inventory of existing standardisation at the International, European and national/sector level is also available.

Number of pages: 41

NL: Briefing paper on the Government Information Technology Strategy - 15 November 2011

Description (short summary):

This document is a briefing paper from Mr. Jan Pieter Hendrik Donner, Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands, to the House of Representatives (lower house of the Dutch Parliament) that presents the National Government Information Technology (IT) Strategy.

The Government IT Strategy [(I-)Strategie, in Dutch] is closely linked to and builds on the computerization plan 'Compact Central Government Programme' and it conforms to the principles of the National Implementation Programme for eGovernment services until 2015 (i-NUP).

These principles provide guidance for the Government IT Strategy, the implementation of which is planned for the period 2012 - 2015. This strategy aims to put an end to the fragmented ICT infrastructure of the public service, so as to reduce costs and enhance unity and harmonisation. This will be done through the implementation of the Compact Central Government Programme and the further development of/additions to existing policies.

The strategy will seek to enhance control on large ICT projects and to place more focus on increasing ICT knowledge among management and employees, as well as on the in-house development of new facilities and systems.

This briefing paper presents:

- The current situation regarding the management of ICT and information in government
- A definition of the IT strategy
- A general description of the intended targets for the public service's ICT infrastructure and information management
- The approach and the concrete measures required to achieve the final targets.

Number of pages: 11

LT: Information Technologies in Lithuania in 2011 - 27 October 2011

Description (short summary):

This publication provides statistical information about the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector for the years 2006-2010, including data such as output and added value of the ICT sector, exports and imports of ICT goods, the ICT market and the use of ICT in households, enterprises, public administration institutions, healthcare and education. The ICT indicators are presented in comparison with data from European Union countries.

Data from the following institutions were used in this publication: Statistics Lithuania, Information Society Development Committee, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Communication Regulatory Authority, State Patent Bureau, Eurostat.

Number of pages: 149

Upcoming Workshops and Events

- [ES: Vth International Workshop on eHealth in Emerging Economies](#) | 11 January 2012 | Spain
- [DE: OMNICARD 2012](#) | 17 January 2012 - 19 January 2012 | Germany
- [UK: Radiology Information Systems and PACS](#) | 18 January 2012 | United Kingdom
- [IN: e-Gov World 2012](#) | 19 January 2012 - 20 January 2012 | Asia
- [SE: eIdentification Day 2012](#) | 25 January 2012 | Sweden
- [BE: DE-LAN Mid Term Conference](#) | 26 January 2012 | Belgium
- [US: 2nd ACM SIGHIT IHI 2012](#) | 28 January 2012 - 30 January 2012 | North America
- [AE: HBMeU 2012 Annual](#) | 30 January 2012 - 2 February 2012 | Asia
- [ES: eTelemed 2012](#) | 30 January 2012 - 4 February 2012 | Spain
- [AT: CeDEM12](#) | 3 May 2012 - 4 May 2012 | Austria
- [DK: eHealth Week 2012](#) | 7 May 2012 - 9 May 2012 | Denmark

ES: Vth International Workshop on eHealth in Emerging Economies - 11 January 2012

Vth International Workshop on eHealth in Emerging Economies - IWEE 2012

This workshop has the slogan 'Commitment' and promotes free software in public health as one of the main pillars for a sustainable framework for providing eHealth and education for the developing and least developed countries. IWEE is not a pure technical conference. It will focus on the human factor and in raising awareness about the actual situation.

The topics that are going to be discussed include but are not limited to:

- Free software in the health sector
- eHealth in Public Health
- Need for Free Standards in eHealth

Event email: info@iweee.org

Event website: <http://www.iweee.org/>

Country: Spain

City/Location: Granada

Organiser: GNU Solidario

DE: OMNICARD 2012 - 17 January 2012 - 19 January 2012

OMNICARD 2012 - The ultimate Congress for Smart Card/Smart Objects Community - 'The world of smart ID solutions'

This event focuses on the key topic of the identification of persons and objects and is looking at sophisticated systems solutions which can no longer be described solely using the word 'card'.

The topics of the congress are related to security, electronic identities and data protection and include but are not limited to the following:

- Smart grid
- Cloud computing
- eMobility
- eEnergy
- De-mail
- Online banking
- Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA)
- New payment procedures in banking
- Near Field Communication (NFC)
- Smartphone applications
- eGovernment
- eSignature
- International aspects
- Electronic health card and its infrastructural environment

The conference aims to gather management specialists from the industrial sector, decision makers from the worlds of finance and politics and from regulatory authorities and standardisation bodies. It is also well attended by researchers, consultants and representatives of trade associations.

Further information on the conference programme may be found [here](#) while registration is available [online](#).

Event email: contact@omnicard.de

Event website: <http://www.omnicard.de/index.php?m=1>

Country: Germany

City/Location: Berlin

Organiser: Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology

UK: Radiology Information Systems and PACS - 18 January 2012

Radiology Information Systems and Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS)

This conference will deal with several topics including:

- PACS: national update and looking beyond the national programme
- Electronic patient records and the new national agenda: where do radiology management systems and PACS fit in today?
- Extended session: getting the most out of PACS and moving forward
- Enabling the effective sharing of information across the health economy and private healthcare
- Improving the effectiveness of PACS reporting and order communications
- Re-evaluating security controls and information governance with wider sharing of information across the health economy and private sector
- Preparing for the end of the national programme at a local level
- Next generation PACS and PACS migration: preparing for the end of the national programme

Registration for the event is available [online](#).

Event email: clare@healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk

Event website: <http://www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/radiology-information-systems-pacs>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: Healthcare Conferences UK

IN: e-Gov World 2012 - 19 January 2012 - 20 January 2012

e-Gov World 2012 - 'Mobile Governance Applications - Roadmap for deployment of Public Services'

Launched in 2004 as one of the flagship initiatives of The Society for Promotion of e-Governance, this event is a platform for the government practitioners, industry, academia and civil society organisations to share their learning practices and develop the foresight for transforming government services.

The conference topics include but are not limited to:

- Innovative Mobile Applications for transforming public services and roadmap for mobile governance in developing countries.
- Open Data Systems - Strategies for public sector applications deployment
- Cloud Computing - Shared Infrastructure for Government Service Delivery

Possible sub-topics are:

- Open and interoperable business models for mobile government
- Payment models for enabling mobile transactions
- eGovernment and mGovernment integration

- Public and social pressures leading to mGovernment
- mGovernment Technologies as the Infrastructure
- mGovernment Applications and Services
- Participation applications
- Mobile Health
- Context-aware and Location-based Services
- Adoption of mobile internet applications and services
- mCountry cases
- mGovernment Business Models
- The Future and the potential of mGovernment
- Mobile Content, Mobile Devices.

The call of papers is open until 15 December 2011. Further information on the conference programme may be found [here](#). Participants from government, academia institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations do not have to pay a fee. Registration for the event is available [online](#).

Event email: conference@egovworld.org

Event website: <http://egovworld.org/>

Country: Asia

City/Location: New Delhi, India

Organiser: The Society for Promotion of e-Governance (SPEG), Tetra Information Services Privated Limited

SE: eldentification Day 2012 - 25 January 2012

elidentification Day 2012

elidentification Day 2012 is the first edition of a series of annual conferences. The organiser, the E-identification Board ([E-legitimationsnämnden](#), in Swedish) is the authority responsible for supporting and coordinating public sector needs in terms of secure eldentification and eSignature.

The event is primarily aimed at public and private sectors representatives with a decisional or development role within their organisation and who are interested in gaining an insight into how the eldentification infrastructure for the community should look like in the future and how it can affect their organisation.

The event's [programme](#) includes talks, a series of seminars and a final panel discussion.

Registration can be performed [online](#) by 14 Decembre 2011. The number of seats is limited, so participation may be limited to a certain number per organisation.

Event email: bokning@svenskamoten.se

Event website: <http://www.conferencemanager.dk/e-legitimationsdagen>

Country: Sweden

City/Location: Stockholm

Organiser: E-legitimationsnämnden (Swedish E-identification Board)

BE: DE-LAN Mid Term Conference - 26 January 2012

DE-LAN (Digital Ecosystem Learning Application Network) Mid Term Conference

The DE-LAN (Digital Ecosystems-Learning Application Network) project represents an opportunity for participating regions to harness the power of new and emerging technologies and use them to their maximum potential to remain at the forefront of the world economy.

Digital Business Ecosystems (DBEs/DEs) are evolutionary, self-organising systems which create an online, digital market place that seamlessly connects organisations, companies and individuals in business together. They push towards collaboration, innovation, streamlining, competition and growth in a global and dynamic marketplace. Digital collaboration through DBEs/DEs can help small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to:

- promote their products and services widely
- collaborate with other SMEs in developing new products and services and in finding new or niche markets
- undertake effective supply chain management
- streamline working practices
- allow them to become more innovative and to compete in a global and dynamic marketplace.

The overall aims of this event are:

1. To ensure that regional policy makers - not only at project partner level but also across all European regions - are fully aware of both the good practices and also the potential benefits accruing from effective deployment of the new digital technologies and applications.
2. To help all regions to prepare for the transfer of these good practices into the relevant mainstream funding programmes.
3. To help, in turn, local SME's to realise the transformative effects of their ICT investments.

The event is addressed to:

- **Public sector** (policy makers at local, regional, national and European levels, regional economic developers, sector leads, Ministers, managing authorities, European Commission, EC Senior officials, civil society organisations).
- **Private Sector** (SMEs in sectors including creative, construction, marine science, bioscience etc., SME suppliers, key influencers within sectors, Actors within technology sectors).
- **Academia** (Higher Educational Institutions)
- **Other regions and institutions** (Leading Digital Ecosystems, Living Labs etc.).

A preliminary agenda for the event in question may be found on the [event website](#).

Interested participants may register for this open and free of charge event [here](#).

Event email: sophie.lebreton@erisa.be

Event website: <http://www.amiando.com/DE-LAN>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: European Regional Information Society Association (ERISA)

US: 2nd ACM SIGHIT IHI 2012 - 28 January 2012 - 30 January 2012

IHI 2012 - 2nd ACM Special Interest Group on Health Informatics (SIGHIT) International Health Informatics Symposium

This is a forum concerned with the application of computer science principles, information science principles, information technology, and communication technology to address problems in healthcare, public health, and everyday wellness. The conference highlights the most novel technical contributions in computing oriented health informatics and the related social and ethical implications.

It serves as a venue for the discussion of technical contributions highlighting end-to-end applications, systems, and technologies, even if available only in prototype form.

Specific topics of interest for this conference cover various facets of health informatics research, including but not limited to the following:

- Information technologies for healthcare delivery and management
- Health data acquisition, management, and visualisation
- Healthcare knowledge management and decision support
- Healthcare modeling and simulation
- Data analytics, data mining, and machine learning
- Health information system engineering
- Health information systems
- Healthcare communication networks and environments
- Interactions with health information technologies

A tentative programme of the conference may be found [here](#) while registration for the event is available [online](#).

Event email: 2012.ih@gmail.com

Event website: <https://sites.google.com/site/web2011ih/home>

Country: North America

City/Location: Miami, Florida, USA

Organiser: Special Interest Group on Health Informatics (SIGHT)

AE: HBMeU 2012 Annual - 30 January 2012 - 2 February 2012

HBMeU 2012 Annual - 4th eHealth and Environment Conference in the Middle East - Building an Innovative and Competitive Vision for e-Health and Environment

The conference will provide an international platform to the participants to exchange and share their expertise and knowledge in addressing the challenges that are relevant to the excellence of eHealth and related environmental issues globally and locally.

The following themes are suggested in the call for papers:

Environmental Related Issues:

- Environmental awareness for economic competitiveness
- Updates on biomedical waste management
- Innovative techniques to combat desertification and water problems
- Progressing with meeting and enforcing auto emission standards
- Environmental standards and competitiveness of key economic sectors

eHealth Related Issues:

- Enhance competitiveness of healthcare sector through eHealth solutions
- Information infrastructure to improve health and environment
- eLearning and competitiveness in the healthcare market
- Caring for the eCommunity
- Need for eHealth governance to enhance competitiveness
- Responsiveness to patient needs for market competitiveness

The conference aims to gather:

- Leaders and decision makers dealing with Health and Environmental issues
- Representatives from Ministry of Health, Environment and Water Resources

- Senior healthcare executives, Environmental policy makers, Healthcare professionals
- Representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations interested in environmental issues
- Scholars, Faculty, Researchers, Learners
- Healthcare and Environmental industry leaders

Further information on the conference structure may be found [here](#) while registration for the event is available [online](#).

Event email: congress@hbmeu.ac.ae

Event website: <http://congress.hbmeu.ac.ae/ehealth/call-paper-2012>

Country: Asia

City/Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Organiser: Hamdan Bin Mohammed e-University

ES: eTeledmed 2012 - 30 January 2012 - 4 February 2012

eTeledmed 2012 - The Fourth International Conference on eHealth, Telemedicine, and Social Medicine

This event is part of [DigitalWorld 2012](#) and it also features the workshop [Teledmedob 2012](#), the first workshop on telemedicine on obesity, overweight and eating disorders.

eTeledmed 2012 considers advances in techniques, services, and applications dedicated to a global approach of eHealth, including a regard on federated aspects considering the mobility of population, the cross-nations agreements, and the new information technology tools.

The following tracks were suggested by the organisers; they can be discussed in term of concepts, state of the art, research, standards, implementations, running experiments, applications, and industrial case studies:

- eHealth technology and devices
- eHealth data records
- eHealth information processing
- eHealth systems and communications
- eHealth systems and emergency situations
- Telemedicine/eHealth applications
- Telemedicine/eHealth services
- Social and financial aspects
- Classical medicine and eHealth integration
- Preventive eHealth systems
- Challenges of large-scale, cost-effective eHealth systems
- Nurse team applications
- Personalised eHealth
- Clinical telemedicine
- Rural and wilderness eHealth
- Environmental and travel telemedicine

Registration for the event is available [online](#).

Event email: cosmin@iaria.org

Event website: <http://www.iaria.org/conferences2012/eTELEMED12.html>

Country: Spain

City/Location: Valencia

Organiser: International Academy, Research and Industry Association (IARIA)

AT: CeDEM12 - 3 May 2012 - 4 May 2012

CeDEM12 - International Conference for eDemocracy and Open Government 2012

CeDEM12 brings together eDemocracy, eParticipation and open government specialists working in academia, politics, government and business.

In modern democracies, people are to be empowered by means of information and communication technologies. Transparency and access to data, new ways of interacting with government and democratic institutions cause profound changes in society. Social media and the new forms of societal behaviour, including content generation, collaboration and sharing as well as network organisation change our understanding of politics and business. Governmental and private internet services have increased the citizens' independence and flexibility. However, enthusiastic ideas and projects often failed to produce the expected results as technology is only the basis for new forms of organisation and interaction. CeDEM12 seeks to critically analyse present and future developments in eDemocracy and open government.

CeDEM12 will present the following tracks:

- E-Participation
- Government 2.0
- Social Media and Public Administration
- ePolitics and eCampaigning
- European Citizen Initiative
- Participatory Budgeting
- Bottom-Up Movements
- Open Data and Open Access

The conference proceedings will be published with the new Edition of the Danube University; additionally, the complete proceedings will be made accessible online. A selection of best research papers and case studies of CeDEM12 will be published with the Open Access eJournal of eDemocracy and Open Government. (<http://www.jedem.org>).

Useful information about important dates and paper submission may be found on the event website.

Registration for the event will open in December 2011.

Event email: michael.sachs@donau-uni.ac.at

Event website: <http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/cedem>

Country: Austria

City/Location: Krems

Organiser: Danube University Krems

DK: eHealth Week 2012 - 7 May 2012 - 9 May 2012

eHealth Week 2012 - A collocation of the European Commission's High Level Ministerial Conference on eHealth and the World of Health IT Conference & Exhibition (WoHIT12)

eHealth Week is Europe's largest pan-European conference. It brings together two main events: the 10th edition of the eHealth High level Conference co-organised by the European Commission and the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and WoHIT (World of Health IT Conference & Exhibition) organised by HIMSS Europe (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society Europe). In addition, several symposia, workshops and focus groups relevant to eHealth will take place throughout the week.

eHealth Week 2012 will be dedicated to the theme 'The continuity of care and patient centric health services through the use of innovative eHealth solutions'. Focus will be placed on the continuity of care from home to hospital and back to home, demonstrating how information can flow between these different settings. It will include topics such as patient empowerment and chronic disease management involving investment and business opportunities in healthcare IT.

The [10th High Level Ministerial Conference on eHealth](#) will provide a platform where Member States' Health ministers and state secretaries will gather to discuss and advance common actions to move forward the many initiatives in this fast-moving field in the Member States.

Designated as one of Europe's six 'lead markets' for innovation, eHealth is a rising star in the growing EU Economy. WoHIT12 will focus on shaping and developing the use, implementation, and evolution of this pillar of the new European marketplace. The WoHIT 2012 Exhibition will feature new product launches, educational sessions, vendor exhibitions, [interoperability demonstrations](#), as well as an [SME Village](#) (new) where small to medium enterprises will exhibit and bring new ideas, solutions and products to the healthcare IT industry.

The target audience is made of: Chief Information Officers and other C-suite executives; Senior managers; High-level government officials; Academics; Healthcare practitioners, including doctors and specialists; and IT professionals.

The full registration information can be found [here](#), and the event's full programme will be made available [online](#).

Event email: croosen@himss.org

Event website: <http://worldofhealthit.org/2012/>

Country: Denmark

City/Location: Copenhagen

Organiser: European Commission; the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union; and HIMSS Europe

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