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## European ePractice Newsletter N. 313 – 16 February 2010

### >> Workshop on Telemedicine and Legal Aspects

ePractice encourages members to attend the European Commission workshop on “Telemedicine and Legal Aspects” which will take place in Brussels, Belgium, on March 2, 2010. This event will promote the sharing of good practice in the area of Telemedicine, particularly addressing the legal and logistical dimensions of Telemedicine, including among other issues, the legal liability of practitioners; patient data privacy/protection and the reimbursement of services.

The deadline for abstract submission is **February 18, 2010**.

For more information and free-of-charge registration, please visit the workshop’s page announcement at: <http://www.eppractice.eu/en/workshops/telemedicine>.

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### Latest Cases

- [Health-EU portal](#) | 15 February 2010 | EU Institutions
  - [SMARTMUSEUM](#) | 8 February 2010 | Bulgaria | Estonia | Finland | France | Italy | Malta | Sweden
  - [EU Imminent - Immigrants into entrepreneurship](#) | 8 February 2010 | Germany | Ireland | Poland | Romania | United Kingdom
- 

### Health-EU portal

Health-EU is the official Public Health Portal of the European Union in 22 languages launched on 10 May 2006. It provides a single point of entry where citizens, administrations and health specialists can find and exchange reliable health related information and data from EU, national and sub-national levels, NGO international organisations. It has also a newsletter published every two weeks which has more than 6 000 subscribers.

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### SMARTMUSEUM

The objective of the SMARTMUSEUM project is the development of an IT mobile platform for users enabling personalised access to existing digital content. The platform understands the users’ preferences and identifies and recommends points of interests in outdoor environments and most relevant artefacts during museum visits. The content is therefore customised on the users’ specific needs and it is accessible through a personal smartphone. At the same time, SMARTMUSEUM allows a simple reuse of existing digital content with detailed users’ feedback

information.

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## EU Imminent - Immigrants into entrepreneurship

EU-Imminent is an Interactive Business Start-up Guide for Immigrant Entrepreneurs. It is a European Union Leonardo da Vinci funded initiative, established to design and pilot a web-based information/training resource specifically for immigrant entrepreneurs looking to set up their own Business. It will be developed taking into account the specific needs of Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in establishing a business.

EU-Imminent is a partnership, offering expertise in both business and immigrant issues. It constitutes an ideal platform for the development of a high quality-training tool for immigrant entrepreneurs. Together we comprise two SME support organisations in the UK and Ireland; a migrant rights network focusing on social and economic inclusion of migrants in the UK; Romania's national and international association for small business and entrepreneurs; the largest Polish Chamber of Commerce; and a business training and consultancy provider from Northern Ireland. It is anticipated that the resource tool will provide interactive information/training materials for new and existing businesses consolidating current resources into one easily accessible vehicle.

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**Editor's Choice of the week:** [Welcoming Argument Visualisation to Europe](#)

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## Latest News

- [ES: University of Zaragoza develops platform to monitor environmental parameters](#) | 16 February 2010 | Spain
  - [INT: New Memorandum of understanding for collaboration on Meteorology Standards](#) | 16 February 2010 | International Organizations
  - [EU: Social networking - Commission brokers agreement among major web companies](#) | 15 February 2010 | EU Institutions
  - [EU/US: Osteoporotic Virtual Physiological Human project gets international](#) | 15 February 2010 | EU Institutions | North America
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  - [IT: Rome's San Giovanni Hospital is well engaged in the 'paperless hospital' bet](#) | 11 February 2010 | Italy
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## ES: University of Zaragoza develops platform to monitor environmental parameters - 16 February 2010

A new sensory platform, able to monitor forest fires and level of pollution in the streets as well as other kind of environmental parameters has been recently developed by researches of the [University of Zaragoza](#).

The new platform, named Wasmote, is the result of 2 years of research and has been created with the scope to develop a wireless sensors' network to be used in different fields; its sensors are in fact able to record the CO, CO2 and noise levels produced by the street traffic or in case of forest fire.

The platform can be also used in the agricultural field in order to monitor and record specific parameters such as moisture and soil temperature and to determine when the optimum level of water by irrigation has been reached. Its sensors are in fact synchronized and able to communicate with each other simultaneously even from long distances, with reduced consumption and long autonomy.

Wasmote has a versatile structure which allows its use by private companies in different application fields and by researchers to test its integration with other experimental sensors.

**Further information:**

- [Original news item - Information Service and Scientific News website](#) (in Spanish)
  - [University of Zaragoza website](#) (in Spanish)
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## **INT: New Memorandum of understanding for collaboration on Meteorology Standards - 16 February 2010**

**A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance the development and use of geospatial standards has been signed between the Open Geospatial Consortium and the World Meteorological Organization.**

The MOU in question establishes the collaboration between the [Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. \(OGC\)](#), and the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#), the United Nations' authoritative voice on weather, climate and water. The two organizations will in fact collaborate on the development, application, and promotion of standards and best practices for the content and exchange of environmental data for the benefit of the worldwide scientific and operational communities of meteorologists and hydrologists.

This collaboration will support the implementation of the WMO Information System, which aims at creating a single global infrastructure to collect and share information concerning WMO and related international programs.

On this occasion, Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC said: "OGC benefits from the WMO's application of OGC's open standards and direct WMO community involvement in OGC standards process. Members and stakeholders of the WMO will benefit greatly from open standards that improve discovery, sharing and application of diverse collections of information to address important issues related to meteorology."

From his part, Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, added "the joint activities of OGC and WMO will be instrumental in promoting and advancing technology interoperability for the discovery, access and use of information related to weather, climate and water."

**Further information:**

- [Original news item - OGC website](#)
  - [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\) website](#)
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## EU: Social networking - Commission brokers agreement among major web companies - 15 February 2010

On 10 February 2010, 17 leading web firms signed for the first time a European agreement to improve the safety of under 18s who use social networking sites.

Social networking sites are an emerging social and economic phenomenon, attracting 41.7 million regular users in Europe and changing the way people interact with each other on the Web. The use of social networks has grown over the past year by 35 % in Europe and is expected to more than double to 107.4 million users by 2012. To make sure that social networks continue to grow, young users need to feel safe when expanding their networks or sharing any personal information.

The agreement signed in Luxembourg at the Safer Internet Day organised by the European Commission intends to empower teenagers to deal with potential risks they may face online, like cyberbullying or revealing personal information.

"The Commission applauds this first European agreement on Social Networking. It is an important step forward towards making our children's clicks on social networking sites safer in Europe," said Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. "Social networking has enormous potential to flourish in Europe, to help boost our economy and make our society more interactive - as long as children and teenagers have the trust and the right tools to remain safe when making new 'friends' and sharing personal details online. I will closely monitor the implementation of today's agreement and the Commission will come back to this matter in a year's time."

Europe's major social networking sites came together for the first time to recognise their responsibility and identify potential risks on their sites for under 18s. These include cyberbullying (harassing children on Internet sites or via mobile messages), grooming (when an adult befriends a child with the intention of committing sexual abuse) and risky behaviour like revealing personal information. They aim to limit these risks by:

- Providing an easy to use and accessible "report abuse" button, allowing users to report inappropriate contact from or conduct by another user with one click.
- Making sure that the full online profiles and contact lists of website users who are registered as under 18s are set to "private" by default. This will make it harder for people with bad intentions to get in touch with the young person.
- Ensuring that private profiles of users under the age of 18 are not searchable (on the websites or via search engines).
- Guaranteeing that privacy options are prominent and accessible at all times, so that users can easily work out if just their friends, or the entire world, can see what they post online.
- Preventing under-age users from using their services: if a social networking site targets teenagers over 13, it should be difficult for people below that age to register.

Social networking sites will inform the Commission about their individual safety policies and how they will put these principles in place by April 2009.

### Further information:

- [Original press release - European Commission](#)
- [Press pack](#)
- [Making the most of social networking - European Commission](#)
- [keepcontrol.eu](http://keepcontrol.eu)

## EU/US: Osteoporotic Virtual Physiological Human project gets international - 15 February 2010

2010 will see two satellite projects kicked-off to further strengthen the [Osteoporotic Virtual Physiological Human \(VPHOP\) Project](#) cluster.

The first is called NMS Physiome, where NMS stands for NeuroMusculoSkeletal, and define a three years cooperation between some partners of VPHOP and some partners of [SIMBIOS](#), the USA National Institute of Health (NIH) Center for physics-based Simulation of Biological Structures established at Stanford University.

The second project, named MSV, aims to extend the Multimod Application Framework (MAF) software that shall be used in VPHOP to develop the end-user applications with capabilities to provide interactive visualisation of data defined on radically different spatiotemporal scales.

The above goal is pursued in collaboration with [NA-MIC](#), the USA NIH National Alliance for Medical Image Computing Center.

The MAF software is distributed as open source and makes it possible to develop fairly complex computer aided medicine applications by quickly combining powerful Import-export, visualisation and data processing components pre-programmed inside the framework

### Background information

VPHOP is a research project which aims to develop a multiscale modelling technology based on conventional diagnostic imaging methods that makes it possible, in a clinical setting, to predict for each patient the strength of his/her bones, how this strength is likely to change over time and the probability that the he/she will overload his/her bones during daily life. With these three predictions, the evaluation of the absolute risk of bone fracture will be much more accurate than any prediction based on external and indirect determinants, as is current clinical practice. These predictions will be used to:

- Improve the diagnostic accuracy of the current clinical standards;
- Provide the basis for an evidence-based prognosis with respect to the natural evolution of the disease, to pharmacological treatments and/or to preventive interventional treatments aimed to selectively strengthen particularly weak regions of the skeleton.

The VPHOP Project will run until August 2012. It is partially funded by the European Commission under the Information Communication Technologies Programme.

### Further information:

- [Original article - European Commission](#)
- [VPHOP Project](#)
- [SIMBIOS](#)

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## MK: Enabling faster and more efficient data exchange between state institutions - 11 February 2010

The Ministry of Information Society of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and an IT provider signed on 21 January 2010 an agreement in view of the connection of the state institutions' registries and databases to an interoperable system. This will speed up and enhance the efficiency of the exchange of data between government institutions and bodies.

During its pilot phase, the project will be implemented in five state institutions, namely: the Customs Administration, the Ministry of Interior, the Central Registry, the Tax Administration and the Cadastral Administration.

"The five associated institutions will, within six months, benefit from an accelerated mutual information exchange and from unduplicated and error-proof data" said Information Society minister Ivo Ivanovski.

According to the Minister, the interoperable system sets the foundations for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to reach an advanced stage of the eGovernment chapter. Ivanovski believes that this project will improve the effectiveness of citizen services, with less money spent on exchanging data by traditional means.

The minister used the example of the Tax Administration which currently needs three days to obtain a list of properties from the Cadastral Administration. With the interoperable system, this information will become available to the Tax Administration in only three seconds.

Once the six-month pilot phase is completed, the project will be implemented in the remaining government institutions. Ivanovski added that in future, the project will enable the connection to the system of private organisations belonging to the banking, telecommunications and insurance sectors.

It is worth highlighting that a [Law on Electronic Governance](#) was passed in order to enable the mutual electronic exchange of data between the state institutions. This law of 18 August 2009 regulates the use of electronic documents by the state institutions, the provision of administrative services by electronic means and the mutual exchange of electronic documents and data. It specifies which institutions have to keep the information and to deliver it to other institutions.

The development cost of the project by the selected bidder is MKD 49 million (approx. €800 thousands).

#### Further information:

- [Original press release - Ministry of Information Society \(in Macedonian\)](#)
- [Law on Electronic Governance of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia \(in Macedonian\)](#)

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## EU/IN: Launch of biotechnology and health Networking Pilot Programme - 11 February 2010

A [consortium](#) of European and Indian Science & Technology (S&T) organisations has launched 'NEW INDIGO', the initiative for the development and integration of Indian and European research on biotechnology and health.

The objective of this Networking Pilot Programme (NPP) is to establish a joint infrastructure for advanced research in the field of biotechnology and health.

NEW INDIGO succeeded the 'Action to observe and understand different approaches in Euro-Indian research programmes' (AOUA) project that ended in 2008. Supported under the 'Coordination of research activities' priority of the Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA) scheme of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), AOUA targeted identification of bilateral S&T projects between EU Member States and India.

Despite the fact that EU Member States and India have been strengthening their bilateral scientific ties in recent years, there is room for improvement in multilateral S&T cooperation. Experts have also pointed out that a dedicated coordination programme between the EU and India is missing.

The NEW INDIGO partners plan to offer both parties a framework that will enable Indian researchers to access the ERA, and European researchers to strengthen their presence in the Indian scientific area. The novel networking

tools, established by the European Commission, will also prove beneficial for S&T cooperation between the EU and India.

Projects launched under the NEW INDIGO must ensure the involvement of at least two European and one Indian partner so as to realise multilateral research cooperation. They will also focus their activities on bioinformatics for health, biomarkers and diagnostics, and structural biology for health. Funding for these multilateral projects is a given, particularly as they will encourage mobility and workshop participation.

Officials from the Indian Department of Biotechnology at the Ministry of Science and Technology - NEW INDIGO's partner - said that the promotion of research cooperation with Europe is high on India's agenda because of the rapid expansion of its research and development (R&D) know-how. Also significant is the fact that India has developed into a leading country in Asia for its scientific expertise.

According to the local media, officials also stated that "The substantial number of established bilateral programmes with most European countries, combined with the large funding instruments by the European Union, lays a strong basis for Indian-European cooperation."

The NEW INDIGO has been funded with almost €2.5 million under the 'Horizontal actions and measures in support of international cooperation' (INCO) priority of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Coordinated by the French [National Centre of Scientific Research](#) (CNRS), NEW INDIGO brings together researchers and policy-makers from Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, India, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

#### Further information:

- [Original Press Release - European Commission - Directorate-General for Research](#)
- [NEW INDIGO Portal](#)
- [French National Centre of Scientific Research](#) (in French)

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## IT: Rome's San Giovanni Hospital is well engaged in the 'paperless hospital' bet - 11 February 2010

The San Giovanni Hospital of Rome is on its way to becoming the first entirely paperless hospital in Italy. The medical records are planned to be digitised in all the hospital's units by the end of 2010.

The hospital complex of San Giovanni-Addolorata is seeking to become the first healthcare institution in Italy to fully manage clinical and administrative processes by electronic means. The digital bet it took started with the implementation of the data centre; the information system is core to both the delivery of services to the patient and the organisation of internal work.

The Hospital's CEO, Luigi d'Elia, unveiled the institution's plans, indicating that digitisation in his hospital is now a strong trend; some units such as the emergency line, the operating rooms and the outpatient clinics have been already been digitised. All other units will follow by the end of 2010.

"The new data centre (...) is equipped with a high capacity server processing the data and the images from the over 1 000 PCs of the clinical and management units, the 120 laptops of the clinical units and the radiological/ electro medical equipment that are networked to archive patient images and data. On another note, we have started completing the electronic health record, from the admission of the patients to their discharge, from both the clinical and the management side, so as to facilitate the gradual phasing out of paper within the hospital complex." he added.

The implementation of the data centre is the fulfilment of an investment journey initiated in 2005 with the objective of re-engineering of clinical and management processes. The aim was to create a relational data warehouse and reporting systems that are accessible online.

The speeding up of the digitisation process - a focal point of the '[E-government plan 2012](#)' - has also been facilitated thanks to the support of the internal virtual campus of the hospital. The structure is provided by a primary star centre and two secondary centres which allow the interconnection of the entire complex - which is in turn structured around dedicated optical fibre cables - and mobile communications through WiFi.

The paperless hospital programme is accompanied with telemedicine projects. "The technological leap initiated with the spreading in the clinical processes of solutions for the internal communication of data and images prompted us to implement and to built ulterior rational prospects centred on the patient" D'Elia explained.

"To complement the framework and to offer an alternative to the hospitalisation, it has become necessary to experiment operational models which ensure safe diagnosis and adequate therapies. Examples of this are the cardiologic telediagnosis in connection with health centres in Tanzania, and the remote assistance to those fragile patients who where discharged, which prevented the hospitalisation of users with cardioverted atrial fibrillation, heart failure, Parkinson's disease, tumours, diabetes, hypertension, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease." he pursued.

D'Elia also said that other telediagnosis projects have been dedicated to the patients of community psychiatric services and to the professional training and refresher courses of the hospitals' doctors and nurse staff.

The operational telemedicine unit will have its own environment in the Hospital's complex; this environment, once conveniently connected, will be launched in the first half of 2010.

#### Further information:

- [Original news article - Corriere delle comunicazioni.it \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Presentation of the E-government plan 2012 \(in Italian\)](#)

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## DK: Public-private partnership on innovative solutions for the chronically ill - 10 February 2010

**A new partnership between scientists, public and private actors will develop new assistive devices to help persons with diabetes and other chronic illnesses to live a more normal life.**

People with diabetes are struggling daily to control their blood sugar level in order to avoid life-threatening injuries. The new, unique partnership aims to develop new portable alarms, blood sensors and telemedicine solutions designed to give patients greater certainty that their blood sugar is under control. At the same time, it will seek to provide a more coherent solution for the patients and the carers to better monitor developments and to prevent or treat them, if needed.

Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Helge Sander, welcomed the new partnership:

"Welfare Technology is developing rapidly and it is with good reason. All scientific disciplines are here united towards identifying practical solutions which can help the individuals in their daily lives. In this case, new technology will benefit the public sector, the taxpayer and the patients with chronic diseases alike. This is the purpose of public-private innovation."

Carl Holst, Chairman of the Regional Council of Southern Denmark added: "There are great prospects in this new partnership. This is also why the Region of Southern Denmark has chosen to co-finance the initiative which supports the welfare technological bet of South Denmark. It will create more jobs and help to put the citizen at the centre while boosting innovation and development, in an interaction between the municipalities and the regions."

The development of new tools for diabetes patients is just one example of the solutions envisaged by the new partnership. It will develop broad solutions for citizens with chronic diseases which may also include

cardiovascular diseases, musculoskeletal disorders or smoker's lung, while keeping government spending in check. The cost of the treatments of chronic diseases currently accounts for most of the public health costs.

The partnership, entitled 'Innovative solutions to the chronically ill', will be placed under the leadership of the dean of the University of Southern Denmark, Per Michael Johansen. It includes 12 other scientific institutions (10 from Denmark, 2 from abroad), a number of municipalities, three regions (Region of Southern Denmark, Central Denmark Region and the North Denmark Region), hospitals and 20 private companies.

The partnership has a total budget of approx. DKK 130 million (about €17.5 million). DKK 42 million (circa €5.6 million) have already been allocated; DKK 23 million (about €3.8 million) have been provided by the Danish Council for Technology and Innovation and a similar amount has been mobilised by the partners. The partnership expects to attract additional funds in the coming years from various public and private sources.

"We will particularly focus on the development of new coherent solutions based on patient involvement and homecare technology. (...) Technologies must, among other things, generate new workflows and ease the patient's life, and not just enhance the efficiency of existing processes," says Per Michael Johansen.

**Further information:**

- [Official press release - Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation \(in Danish\)](#)
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## **ES: Health information on-screen in Andalusian hospital - 10 February 2010**

**The Hospital of Puerto Real in southern Spain (Andalusia) has put at the disposal of its patients and visitors a set of 19 TV screens providing health information and advice.**

Thanks to this initiative, the Hospital and the associated speciality centres of El Puerto and Chiclana join the '[Informarse.es Salud](#)' multimedia platform, a multi-channel system established by the health ministry of the Regional Government of Andalusia. The platform aims to disseminate health information of interest to the citizens via TV screens located in the waiting rooms of healthcare centres and in hospital rooms, but also through the Internet and third generation mobile phones.

The LCD (liquid crystal display) screens are 32 inches. 17 of them are placed in the waiting rooms of the Hospital's emergency department, consultation rooms and surgical area, while the remaining two are located in the El Puerto and Chiclana centres respectively.

Through the use of ICT, the health ministry brings the citizens closer to a platform providing useful information in a language that is straightforward and close to the social reality of Andalusia, in an aim to improve the health, quality of life and well-being of the citizens of the region.

The content provided via the platform and the TV screens covers the most frequent health problems, the prevention of diseases and the promotion of healthy habits and living, as well as health advice that is tailor cut to the needs of specific groups and the self-care.

**Further information:**

- [Original news article - Health Portal of the Autonomous Government of Andalusia \(in Spanish\)](#)
  - [Informarse.es Salud portal \(in Spanish\)](#)
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## FI/DE: SMS-based services facilitate hospital appointment booking - 10 February 2010

In Finland and Germany, SMS-based Pre-Call services improve the efficiency of hospital appointment booking and encourage the patients' involvement in accessing healthcare.

In the [North Karelia Central Hospital](#) (PKKS) in Finland, a SMS-based Pre-Call Request service has reduced the cancelled appointments rate by 20 %, a percentage equivalent to the annual workload of nine nurses who are now able to focus on delivering patient care. More precisely, according to preliminary results, the new process saves about 10-15 % of the working hours per nurse who are dealing with booking appointments at the otorhinolaryngology clinic. Similarly, at the paediatric outpatient clinic, the SMS Pre-Call system has significantly reduced the number of phone calls by a third and phone calls regarding rescheduling by over 60 %.

The specialist in the development of this service stated: "Our SMS services contribute to making sure that healthcare professionals cope at work - and at the same time they can improve patient services. Increased efficiency in hospitals is a significant factor as well. When SMS services boost efficiency by 17 %, €100 becomes €117."

When a hospital is using the SMS Pre-Call Request service, each patient is requested about the suitability of the appointment date before booking the appointment or sending an invitation letter. Via the SMS-service, the hospital makes sure that the offered appointment date is suitable for the patient and thus reduces the need to reschedule appointments.

As far as patients' benefits are concerned, the SMS services enable them to take responsibility for their own access to care and make the appointment booking process more patient-oriented. This service eases the daily routines of healthcare professionals, improves organisational productivity and customer service and speeds up access to care.

Finnish public healthcare organisations have been running SMS-based citizen services for several years. An interactive SMS solution has also been launched in Germany. The German service does not only support appointment confirmation and patient reminder processes, it also finds and reaches a suitable patient to replace a cancelled appointment.

Further information:

- [Original news article - eHealthNews.eu Portal](#)
- [North Karelia Central Hospital](#) (in Norwegian)

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## ES/PT: Portugal and Spain interconnect public eServices - 9 February 2010

As from the end of February 2010, several Portuguese and Spanish eGovernment services will be interconnected, thus allowing any citizen of one of the two countries to access and use the services of the other country.

This development has been made possible under the framework of a collaboration agreement concerning the validation of their respective electronic identity certificates, which Portugal and Spain signed in September 2009.

According to a press release of the Portuguese Government, starting end of February 2010, "the Portuguese citizens will be able to use the online services of the Spanish Government" and *vice versa*. This is the first step towards achieving the objectives set out in the aforementioned agreement, the press release states.

Under the first stage of the collaboration, the Portuguese businesses operating in the field of civil construction in Spain will be able to register their workers with the Spanish Ministry of Employment and Immigration online, using a citizen card [[Cartão do Cidadão](#) in Portuguese]. Likewise, the Spanish citizens will have the possibility to

set up a company online through the Portuguese [Enterprise's Portal](#) after identifying with their national eID card [[DNI electrónico](#) in Spanish].

The Portuguese Government specified that this initiative "aims to contribute to promoting foreign investment in our country while bringing the two countries closer and creating the conditions of a better environment for commerce and an easier life for the citizens".

The initiative was presented on 2 February 2010 at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Lisbon, in the presence of the Portuguese Secretary of State for Administrative Modernisation, Maria Manuel Leitão Marques, and the Spanish State Secretary for the Public Service, Carmen Gomis Bernal.

**Further information:**

- [Official press release - Citizen's Portal \(in Portuguese\)](#)
  - [ES/PT: Collaboration agreement signed on validation services for eCertificates - ePractice news article](#)
  - [Cartão do Cidadão \(in Portuguese\)](#)
  - [Enterprise's Portal \(in Portuguese\)](#)
  - [DNI electrónico \(in Spanish\)](#)
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## Latest Publications

- [ES: Strategic lines on ICT for health in Spain](#) | 9 February 2010 | Spain
  - [EU: eHealth for a Healthier Europe!](#) | 1 July 2009 | Czech Republic | France | Netherlands | Spain | Sweden | United Kingdom | EU Institutions
  - [US: National Telemedicine Initiatives: Essential to Healthcare Reform](#) | 1 July 2009 | North America
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### ES: Strategic lines on ICT for health in Spain - 9 February 2010

**Description (short summary):**

This document aims to bring to the attention of the public the strategic lines proposed by the non-profit scientific Spanish Society of Health Informatics ('Sociedad Española de Informática de la Salud' in Spanish) to promote the development of ICT for health in Spain, taking into account the specific characteristics of the National Health System, the participation in the building of a European eHealth space and the global dimension of the society of today.

**Number of pages:** 6

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### EU: eHealth for a Healthier Europe! - 1 July 2009

**Description (short summary):**

The Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs launched an initiative in 2008 to enhance the understanding of how improvements in healthcare can be supported by technology and how these technologies are connected to political goals. This was accomplished by using a new benefit model in which benefits of continued implementation of technologies are calculated based on current medical and technology status. Six member states participated in the study: the Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the work undertaken, the results and the conclusions reached.

The report shows that there is a significant healthcare improvement potential using eHealth as a catalyst. For the five political goals used in the study, the technology adoption is lower than 30 %. The potential improvements are of such magnitude that they demand both attention and action from all member states.

Examples of quantified potentials include:

- 5 million yearly outpatient prescription errors could be avoided through the use of Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions
- 100 000 yearly inpatient adverse drug events could be avoided through Computerised Physician Order Entry and Clinical Decision Support. This would in turn free up 700 000 bed-days yearly, an opportunity for increasing throughput and decreasing waiting times, corresponding to a value of almost €300 million.
- 9 million bed-days yearly could be freed up through the use of Computer-Based Patient Records, an opportunity for either increasing throughput or decreasing waiting times, corresponding to a value of nearly €3.7 billion. The challenge of locating reliable data was a key issue when performing the study. In medicine, the demand for evidence has always been high and in that light it is paradoxical that key metrics related to healthcare quality, efficiency and availability of care are tracked in a scattered way, if measured at all.

The authors of the report stress the necessity for each of the member states to:

- Prioritise eHealth initiatives based on political goals and documented benefits;
- Improve measurement and collection of healthcare statistics related to eHealth;
- Continue to improve and develop present systems, and work on the communication of delivered success;
- Develop methods to evaluate, track and reduce medical errors and wastage of resource;
- Create a culture, which promotes development and praises success.

Number of pages: 84

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## **US: National Telemedicine Initiatives: Essential to Healthcare Reform - 1 July 2009**

### **Description (short summary):**

This article reflects the strongly held views and perspective of a diverse group of healthcare academicians, researchers, providers, and industry representatives from across the country [the United States] who share a belief in the necessity of healthcare reform and the centrality of telemedicine - or information technology - enhanced healthcare - in that reform.

The need for reform stems from long-standing problems in the USA's health system, and the central role of telemedicine derives from an ever-expanding body of research and experience that attests to its merit in addressing these problems. Despite the fact that the United States spends more on healthcare than any other country, both in absolute numbers and on a per capita basis, the health status of Americans ranks relatively low when compared with that of people in other developed nations. Moreover, the general discrepancy between expenditures and health status indicators in the United States masks significant differentials among segments of the population, based on socio-economic, geographic, cultural, ethnic, and other factors. Hence, people continue to suffer from inequities in access to healthcare, inefficiencies in the delivery of care, escalating costs, and the prevalence of adverse lifestyles that exacerbate these problems.

Much attention has been devoted to the utility of the electronic health records (EHRs) as a means to improving the healthcare system. Yet, despite its potential benefits, the EHR represents only a partial solution to the problems the USA face. A broader focus on telemedicine (also frequently referred to as telehealth or e-health)

that incorporates EHRs is a more prudent and effective approach. The authors of the article believe that an exclusive concern with developing system-wide EHRs, while laudable and potentially valuable in improving one sector in healthcare delivery, would ultimately increase the cost of care without contributing to necessary changes in the rest of the system.

Number of pages: 12

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## ePractice Workshops

- [Service Oriented Architecture pushed to the limit in eGovernment](#) | 17 February 2010 | Belgium
  - [Uptake of pre-awarding phases in eProcurement](#) | 22 February 2010 | Austria
  - [eProcurement in Large International Organizations](#) | 23 February 2010 | Luxembourg
  - [Telemedicine and Legal Aspects](#) | 2 March 2010 | Belgium
  - [Efficiency & Effectiveness](#) | 17 March 2010 | Belgium
  - [eHealth Procurers services](#) | 25 March 2010 | Belgium
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## Upcoming Events

- [UK: Conference on Information and Knowledge at the point of care](#) | 24 February 2010 | United Kingdom
  - [PT: IADIS e-Society 2010 Conference](#) | 18 - 21 March 2010 | Portugal
  - [LU: IPSA International Conference 2010](#) | 18 - 20 March 2010 | Luxembourg
  - [DE: Pervasive Health 2010](#) | 22 - 25 March 2010 | Germany
  - [ES: Tecnimap 2010](#) | 06 - 09 April 2010 | Spain
  - [FR: European eAccessibility Forum](#) | 12 April 2010 | France
  - [UK: Healthcare IT Exchange 2010](#) | 03 - 05 October 2010 | United Kingdom
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## UK: Conference on Information and Knowledge at the point of care - 24 February 2010

Mobile and wireless technologies offer the opportunity to secure the delivery of more patient-centred care. Better access to knowledge at the point of care also increases overall efficiency and reduces costs.

This one-day conference will bring together healthcare IT professionals and clinicians alike to explore how to realise the benefits of mobile and wireless technologies both on the ward and in the community.

The event has been designed for anyone who is keen to learn how to deliver information and knowledge at the point of care, both on the ward and in community settings. It will enable ICT professionals to learn through a combination of practical case studies, keynote addresses, workshops, panel discussions and interactive product demonstrations. The detailed event programme may be viewed at: <http://www.smarthealthcare.com/mobile-wireless-programme>.

Registration is to be performed [online](#) on the event website with the payment of [fee](#).

Event email: [mobilewireless@medivents.co.uk](mailto:mobilewireless@medivents.co.uk)

Event website: <http://www.smarthealthcare.com/mobile-wireless>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: Birmingham

Organiser: SmartHealthcare.com and Kable

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## PT: IADIS e-Society 2010 Conference - 18 - 21 March 2010

The IADIS e-Society 2010 conference aims to address and cover both the technical as well as the non-technical aspects of the Information Society.

The broad areas of interest are eSociety and Digital Divide, eBusiness/ eCommerce, eLearning, New Media and E-Society, Digital Services in eSociety, eGovernment /eGovernance, eHealth, Information Systems, and Information Management. These broad areas are divided into more detailed [areas](#).

The deadline for paper submission is 8 January 2010 and for registration 22 February 2010.

Information regarding the registration fee can be found [here](#) and registration can be performed [online](#) by filling out the respective form. The expected number of participants is around 130.

Event email: [secretariat@esociety-conf.org](mailto:secretariat@esociety-conf.org)

Event website: <http://www.esociety-conf.org/>

Country: Portugal

City/Location: Porto

Organiser: International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS)

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## LU: IPSA International Conference 2010 - 18 - 20 March 2010

European integration has led to the ongoing building of an original model of governance that needs to be assessed and compared with other regional integrations; the impact of European integration on member states and neighboring countries (regarding public policies, law-making processes, political institutions and actors in general) calls for comparative research; triggered by or independent from European integration, new forms of governance (including political participation, delegation, decision-making, evaluation) that emerged in European countries also need to be studied; finally, the building of an original European model of governance may call into question theoretical and methodological approaches usually adopted in political science research.

A total of twelve panels will be organized in English and French around the general theme of the conference. Each panel will consist of a maximum of six panelists, in addition to two co-Chairs, from different universities or institutions, who will also act as rapporteurs. The European Governance program at the University of Luxembourg is responsible for the co-organization of the following six panels:

- European, National and Regional Parliaments and EU Law-making.
- EU Enlargement and its Social and Political Consequences for the New Member States and candidate countries.
- Institutional Systems Theory: Theoretical Perspectives.
- Human Rights in Europe in a Comparative Perspective.
- European Electronic Governance and its Results on Decision-making in a Comparative Perspective.
- The Renewal of Research on Europeanization Processes: Interdisciplinary Perspective.

The deadline for proposal submissions is 30 October 2009. Submissions will only be accepted [online](#). Further information on the schedule of the conference can be found [here](#).

The conference is expected to host around 300 experts. Registration is open and can be performed [online](#) with a payment of a fee.

Event email: [info@luxembourg2010.org](mailto:info@luxembourg2010.org)

Event website: <http://www.luxembourg2010.org/>

Country: Luxembourg

City/Location: Luxembourg

Organiser: The International Political Science Association (IPSA), Luxembourg Political Science Association (Luxpol), The European Governance Programme of the University of Luxembourg

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## DE: Pervasive Health 2010 - 22 - 25 March 2010

Pervasive healthcare is an emerging research discipline, focusing on the development and application of pervasive and ubiquitous computing technology for healthcare and wellness. Pervasive healthcare seeks to respond to a variety of pressures on healthcare systems, including the increased incidence of life-style related and chronic diseases, emerging consumerism in healthcare, need for empowering patients and relatives for self-care and management of their health, and need to provide seamless access for health care services, independent of time and place.

Pervasive healthcare may be defined from two perspectives. First, it is the development and application of pervasive computing (or ubiquitous computing, ambient intelligence) technologies for healthcare, health and wellness management. Second, it seeks to make healthcare available to anyone, anytime, and anywhere by removing locational, time and other restraints while increasing both the coverage and quality of healthcare.

The 4th edition of the Pervasive Healthcare conference aims to gather together technology experts, practitioners, industry and national authorities contributing towards the development and application of human-centered pervasive and ubiquitous computing technology for healthcare and wellness.

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

Event email: [PervasiveHealth2010@create-net-ml.org](mailto:PervasiveHealth2010@create-net-ml.org)

Event website: <http://www.pervasivehealth.org/index.shtml>

Country: Germany

City/Location: Garching, Munich

Organiser: University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Technical University of Munich, Carl von Ossietzky-University Oldenburg, Georgia Institute of Technology, Aarhus School of Engineering, ETH Zurich, City University London, and many more.

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## ES: Tecnimap 2010 - 06 - 09 April 2010

TECNIMAP aims to share practices and experiences related with the usage of ICT and eGovernment services among Public Administrations. It constitutes the largest Spanish event about eGovernment and the main meeting point between ICT, public and private sector. Due to the coincidence with the Spanish Presidency of the EU, the 2010 event will also encourage the participation of other Member States and European Union Public Administrations.

TECNIMAP is organised around three different kinds of gatherings: expert panels, workshops and communications. These gatherings are organised around various thematic tracks. Due to the recent approval of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, 2010 TECNIMAP will have a track linked to each of the priorities established in the Declaration, namely:

- Citizen and Businesses Services
- The role of eGovernment in the economy
- Efficient and sustainable Public Administrations
- Technical and legal enablers

National and European academics, companies and officials have been invited to take part in the expert panels and workshops, while the [call for papers](#) for the [Communications](#) is open to all the National and European Public

Administrations. An award for the best communication at each Spanish Government level will be given, as well as for the communication received from a European Public Administration.

Besides the expert panels, workshops and communications, an exhibition area called EXPOTECNIMAP will be deployed. In near 200 stands, best-of-the-breed examples of how eGovernment helps in Spain and Europe to overcome the economic, social and environmental challenges will be exhibited.

The website of the event will have an English version in the following days.

The event is open to all. Participation is free of charge for public sector attendees and for invited private sector representatives. Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: [secretaria.tecnimap@zaragoza.es](mailto:secretaria.tecnimap@zaragoza.es)

Event website: [www.tecnimap.es](http://www.tecnimap.es)

Country: Spain

City/Location: Zaragoza

Organiser: Spanish Ministry of the Presidency, Regional Government of Aragon and Zaragoza Town Council

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## FR: European eAccessibility Forum - 12 April 2010

After [three previous conferences](#), the European eAccessibility Forum is organised for the first time in Paris.

The 4th European eAccessibility Forum will provide participants the chance to discuss the complementary aspects involved in making this objective a reality in Europe. It will provide an opportunity to hear at first-hand about experiences from users with disabilities, public organisations and industry. The speakers are specialists involved in organisations representing users and consumers with disabilities, research organisations and companies operating at a European level or worldwide. Keynote speakers include -among others- Mr. Paul Timmers, the Head of Unit for eInclusion, European Commission. The conference will also consider the harmonisation of good practices over Europe.

Some topics to be discussed are the following:

- Needs of citizens with disabilities and aging citizens.
- Examples of accessible services.
- Public policies.
- Tools supporting accessibility.
- Economical aspects.
- Mobile technologies.

Registration to the event can be performed with the payment of a fee. Further information can be found [here](#). Expected participants will be around 200-250.

Event email: [brailletnet@snv.jussieu.fr](mailto:brailletnet@snv.jussieu.fr)

Event website: <http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/evenements/colloques/colloques/index.php?c=62&l=en>

Country: France

City/Location: Paris

Organiser: Brailletnet

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## UK: Healthcare IT Exchange 2010 - 03 - 05 October 2010

The Healthcare IT Exchange has been designed to showcase the leading initiatives in Healthcare Services today, combining practical discussions on cutting edge technologies. The Healthcare IT Exchange has compiled speakers with brand new case studies from some of the largest trusts and experts across the UK and Europe.

Through the conference sessions, discussions will be facilitated on a wide array of strategically driven Healthcare IT issues such as:

### Strategy:

- An update on the Department of Health's plans for the National Programme for IT
- Forward Planning: Making efficiencies and maximising cost savings
- Innovation - selling your ideas to the board
- Engineering an innovative culture within your IT department
- Health IT: Learning from Europe

### Technology:

- Connecting health professionals for a collaborative NHS
- Securing patient information
- Capitalising on legacy systems
- Implementing and realising the benefits of shared services
- Mobile technologies for a mobile work force
- Digitising patient records
- Looking to the future: Does cloud computing have a silver lining?

Senior executives responsible for providing strategic IT guidance to overall business strategy for their trusts will be invited.

The conference programme for the event is currently being developed.

Participation to the event has no cost, however, registration is mandatory and can be performed through [event's website](#). The expected number of the participants is around 150.

Event email: [exchangeinfo@iqpc.com](mailto:exchangeinfo@iqpc.com)

Event website: <http://www.healthcareitexchange.co.uk>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: International Quality and Productivity Centre (IQPC) Exchange

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