



**eHealth Interoperability Workshop
– the Government and Expert View –**

**CEN/ISSS eHealth
Standardization Focus Group,
targets and work plan**

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Standardization Focus Group

Task Description

- The CEN/ISSS eHealth Focus Group is formed to prepare an overview report on current and future standardisation issues in the eHealth domain.
- In that context, all relevant stakeholders have to be involved to highlight priorities and objectives for eHealth standardisation and interoperability.

Scope

- The activities of the CEN/ISSS eHealth Focus Group should cover the concept of eHealth as defined in the context of eEurope – the application of information and communications technologies (ICT) across the whole range of functions which, one way or another, affect the health of citizens and patients, specifically:
 - Delivery of care to patients by healthcare professionals
 - Health-related information
 - Electronic trading of healthcare goods
- The outcoming report shall contain proposals and priorities for e-Health standardisation activities in connection with the eEurope 2005 Action Plan.

Objectives (I)

- To overview current and proposed eHealth related standardisation activities in formal standards developing organisations and industry consortia such as CEN/TC 251, ISO/TC 215, HL7, ITU, IEC, IEEE, OASIS, UNCEFACT, OMG/CORBA, ANSI, DICOM, W3C, IHE, etc., but also in co-ordinating initiatives like Interoperability Summit and the ITU eHealth Standardization Co-ordination Group
- To consider the standards implications of the Ministerial Declaration of 22 May 2003, following the Commission/Presidency eHealth 2003 Conference

Objectives (II)

- To take due account of requirements of the eEurope 2005 Health Online key actions, e.g.:
 - contribution to the empowerment of European citizens in relation to their health and wellbeing
 - endorsement of the eHealth possibilities including the Internet to disseminate, exchange and manage health-related information, to improve administrative processes including public health, to support high quality and efficient healthcare services as well as biomedical research
 - support for citizens' and patients' mobility
 - emphasis of data security and privacy according to European and particular policies
 - emphasis of data integration and interoperability
 - improvement of patient safety
 - identification and dissemination of best practices in eHealth

Objectives (III)

- implementation of a user-friendly, validated and interoperable infrastructure
- quality criteria for health related websites
- establishment of a series of data networks to assist with informed healthcare planning in Member States
- clarification in a communication on the legal aspects of eHealth
- To take due account of other policy and legal requirements in the European context, including initiatives at national and regional level
- To establish European or whenever possible Global standards, which are essential for an open eHealth market
 - to the benefit of both buyers and suppliers
 - meeting the obligations of the EU legislation and WTO principles

Action Plan

1. Kick-Off meeting on 17 December 2003: approval of ToRs for Focus Group and nomination of Chair candidates
2. Election of Chair, launch Call for Editor – January 2004
3. Selection of Editor and appointment of editor for the Report – February 2004
4. Availability of initial proposal(s) for discussion, end April 2004
5. Open Conference on eHealth standardization (proposed), May 2004, Cork, Ireland
6. Availability of Interim Report, June 2004
7. Availability of Final Report for approval by CEN/ISSS Forum, Sept 2004
8. Submission of the Final Report to the European Commission, end of December 2004
9. Promotional Conference, December 2004, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Working Methods

- Analysis of related standards
- Contact to SDOs
- Questionnaires to national eHealth „representatives“
- Overview on national programmes and projects, analyzing them in relation to objectives, methodologies, underlying paradigms, infrastructures, etc.
- Gap analysis
- Report and recommendations

Workpackages of the Focus Group

- Policies for eHealth and strategies for implementations
- Standardisation policies
- Set-up of requirements/use cases/profiles from the stakeholders' point of view
- Review and evaluation of existing relevant specifications and standards development organizations
- Gap analysis to develop proposals and priorities for e-Health standardisation activities

Interoperability Considerations

- Conceptual view
 - legal/organisational, logical, technological
- Evolutionary view
 - Functional, semantic;
sometimes also considered at data, services and knowledge level
- For assuring interoperability, a common information model (classes and associations / elements and relations) including common datatypes and a common vocabulary/terminology/ontology have to be established, forming a semantic model (of data).

Grouping Standards and PAS (II)

- Health application standards
 - EHR communication
 - Message standards
 - E-prescription
 - Device communication
- Infrastructure standards
 - ID services
 - Security services and infrastructure
 - Other common services
 - Terminology
- Methodology standards
 - Modelling techniques
 - MDA
 - Reference models

First Draft Recommendations on Priorities

- The following eHealth applications are considered top priorities to be supported by standards common for Europe
 - Electronic Health Record Communication
 - Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions
 - Electronic Health Cards preferably using existing global Standards
 - Messages for service requests and reports for laboratory investigations and patient referral
 - Digital imaging and associated service requests and reports

Further Needs for Interoperability

- Processes must be included into the considerations.
- Standards and implementations must be accompanied by implementation guides, conformance statements, etc., as well as by evaluations instances to evaluate, to harmonise and possibly certify specifications and solutions. Initiatives such as IHE, DICOM, partially HL7 may serve as example.

Questions?

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