

**Stakeholder Group News: Healthcare Authorities (HCA): Bonn (DE) meeting**  
**Healthcare Authorities Stakeholder Group of EHTEL had a successful meeting in Bonn**  
*By Hannu Hämäläinen, EHTEL Board Member.*

EHTEL's Healthcare Authorities Stakeholder Group (HCA) held its second meeting of 2004 in Bonn (DE) on 25-26 October.

The two-day meeting brought together 25 participants from 17 countries representing national or regional health care authorities. The meeting was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Health and Social Security, coordinator of the group, and by the private company GWI and organised by EHTEL.

The meeting provided an opportunity to present the state-of-the-art and developments of eHealth in Member States, focusing in particular on national strategies and roadmaps and the possibilities and challenges for future co-operation.

The following is a short description of the meeting:

1. Follow up to current activities on European level
  - **EHTEL activities**, including Task Forces and other stakeholder groups were presented by Marc Lange and Hannu Hämäläinen.
  - Gérard Comyn, Head of unit **ICT for Health in DG Information Society**, presented the follow up to the Action Plan of the eHealth by Commission (COM(2004)356)the preparations of the **7<sup>th</sup> framework program** for research and development. All of the Member States present gave their comments and reactions to the Action Plan.
  - Pascal Collotte presented **eTEN's R&D-program**.
2. **Monitoring progress in regard to interoperability**
  - **Health cards** on the way to e-versions, were discussed, with an introduction to the [Net@cards](#) project by Giuseppe Solomita of Regione del Veneto.
  - **Common European eHealth Infrastructure**: the work and results of the CEN/ISSS **eHealth standardisation** Focus Group were presented by its chairperson Bernd Blobel. Stephan Schug reported on the **eHealth interoperability** workshop of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004 and Karl Stroetmann from EMPIRICA gave an overview of the I2Health project(Interoperability Initiative for a European eHealth Area).
3. **Coordination actions and collaboration projects**
  - The group evaluated very high the need for furthering interoperability and a European eHealth Research Area. The projects and project proposals concerning these issues were discussed and HCA stated its willingness to operate as a management group for these projects.
  - Participants stated the importance of this group and of EHTEL as a vital forum for the development of eHealth.
4. **Organising future activities of HCA**
  - HCA discussed the themes of the future work and decided to have following meetings:
    - 4-5 April 2005 in Budapest, Hungary,
    - 13-15 June 2005 in Norway
    - October 2005 in Netherlands
    - Spring 2006 Finland

**For more information, please contact**

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