



# **EHETEL**

## **European Health TELeMatics Association**

# **Interoperability in eHealth**

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## Goals of healthcare (skills needed)

1. **Cure** (knowledge mgt)
2. **Care** (relationship mgt)
3. **Health management**  
(information, communi-  
cation and coordination)



# Need for interoperability

1. Healthcare is information intensive
2. ICT are a major tool for information intensive sectors as healthcare
3. The use of ICT in healthcare is eHealth
4. The full exploitation of the benefits of eHealth technologies requires a robust, secure and **interoperable** infrastructure

# Knowledge-based clinical workplace





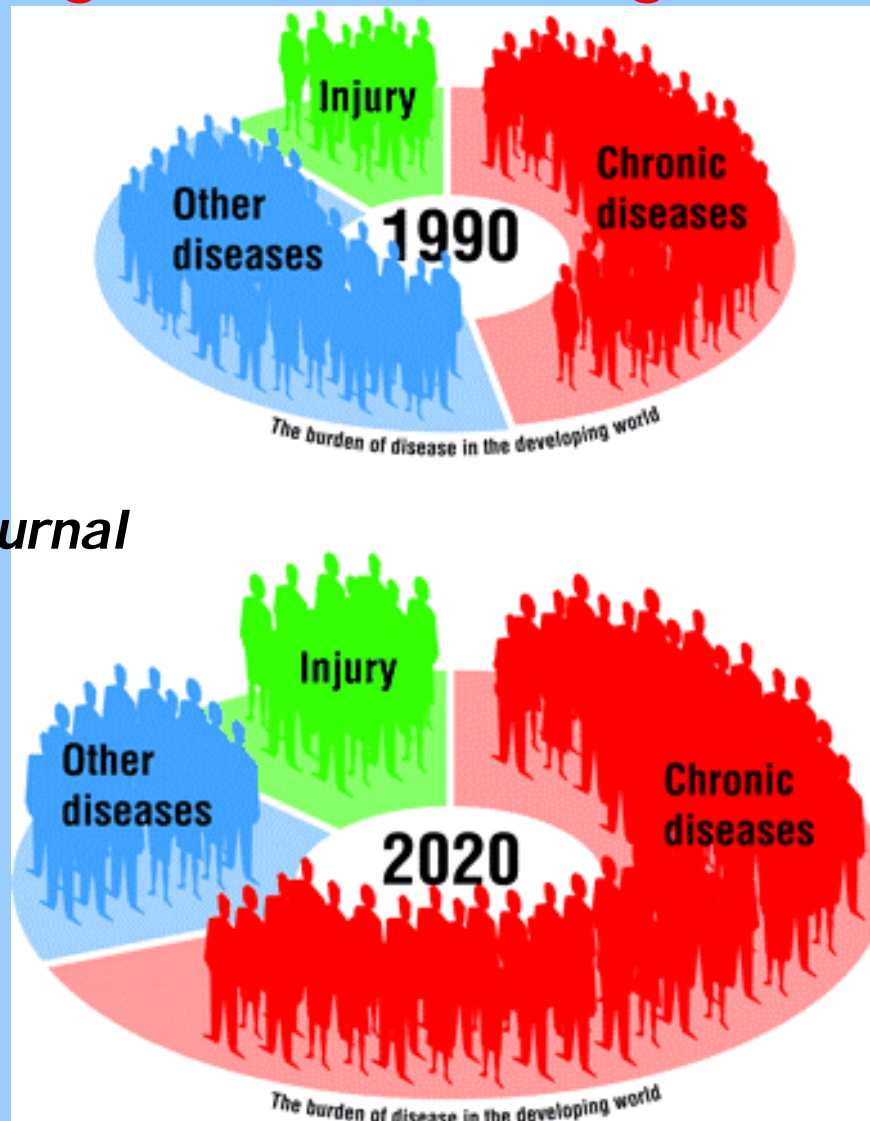
## Enabling tools and necessary skills

Improvement in access and quality of care, cost benefits and productivity gains will only be possible, if eHealth technologies are applied as

**enabling tools for re-organisation and supported by the necessary skills**

Source: E. Liikanen, Commissioner, Brussels, 22 May, 2003

# Organisation, logistics of care



*British Medical Journal*  
26 October 2002

*Chronic diseases  
in a changing world*

Source: Harvard Public School of Health's  
project on the global burden of disease

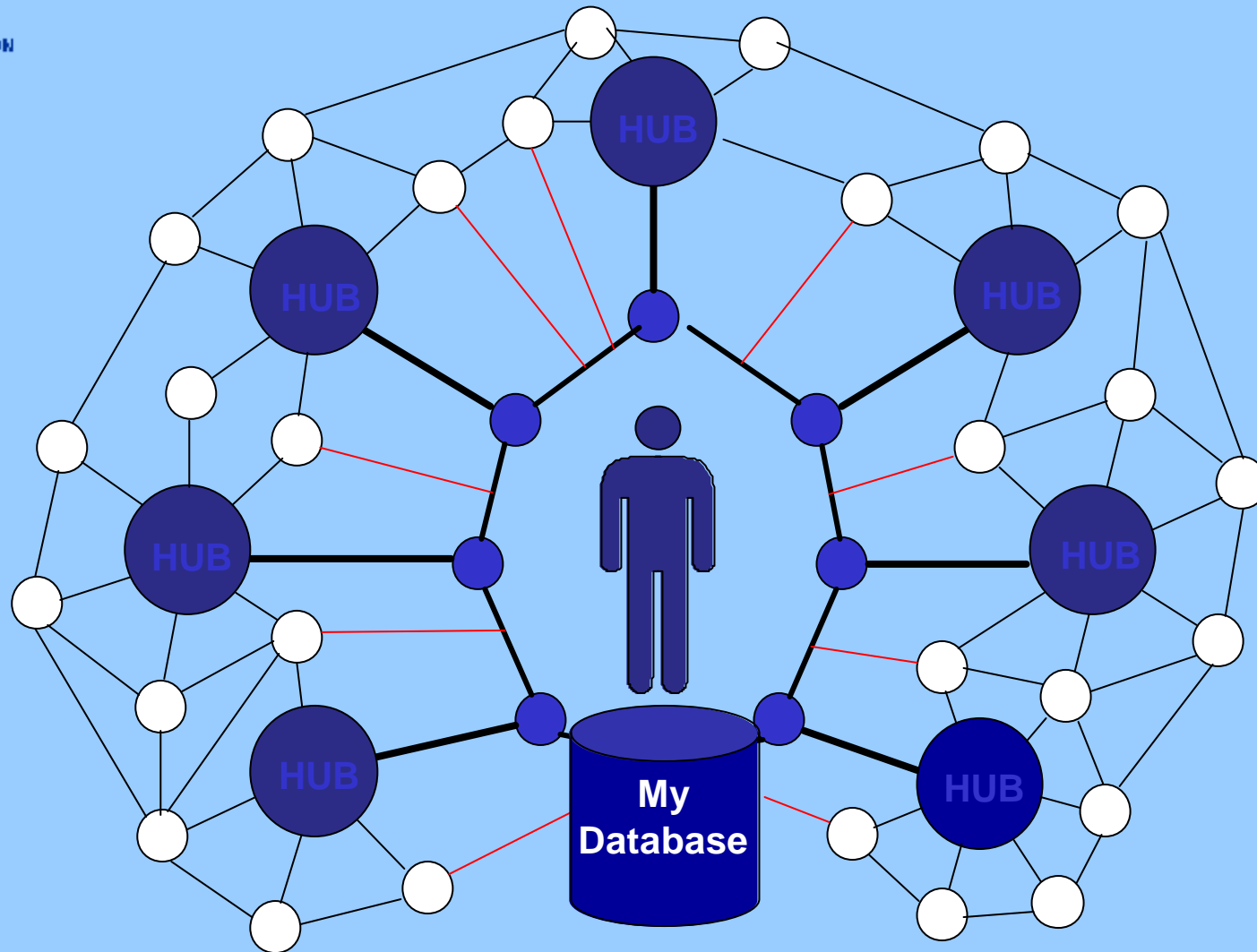


# Ministerial Declaration on eHealth Brussels, 22 May 2003

Full exploitation of eHealth goes beyond local information systems and internet based provision of information to **integrated or linked eHealth systems**, that serve the needs of **citizens, patients, healthcare professionals, health service providers as well as policy makers**

Source: E. Liikanen, Commissioner, Brussels, 22 May, 2003

# Paradigm shifts





# EHTEL's Working Groups need interoperability...

## 3 active **Actor Working Groups:**

A1: Healthcare Authorities

A2: Healthcare Professionals

A4: Patients/Consumers/Citizens Associations

## 3 active **Thematic Working Groups:**

T1: Standards & Interoperability

T2: eHealth

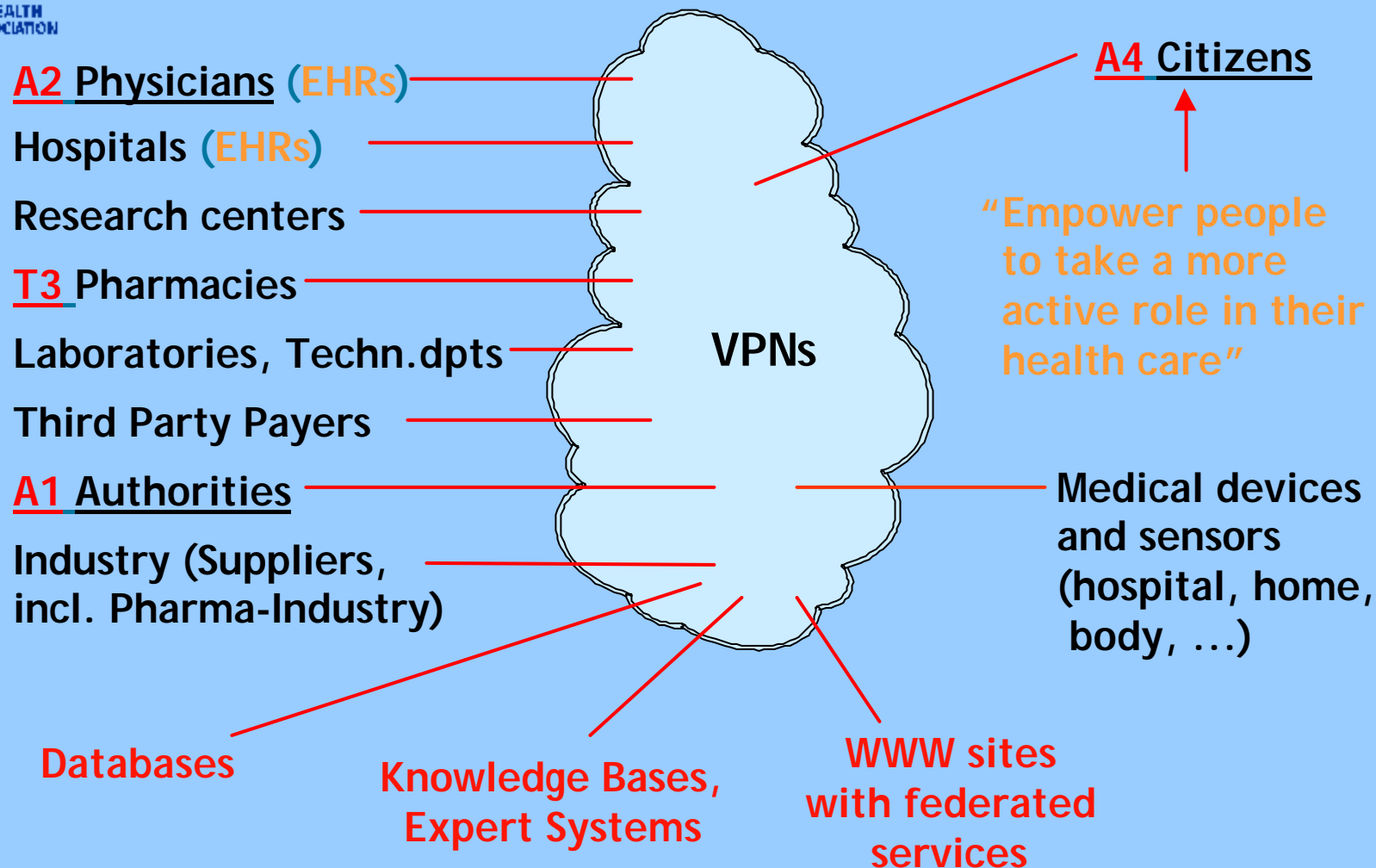
T6: Law & Ethics (including security and privacy issues)

T3: ePrescription (kick-off 17 October 2002)

## **Other groups:**

WP3: EHTEL-Like Organisations (ELOs)

# ...because they need to communicate



Source: Prof. G. de Moor, Brussels, 22 May, 2003



## ICT and systems development

- 1. eHealth is not a technological issue**
- 2. eHealth is change management in health-care by using ICT**



# Standard = negotiation process

A standard is a document established **by consensus** and approved by a recognised body, that provides, **for common and repeated use**, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the **optimum** degree of order **in a given context**. Example:

A skilled professional is one who follows the standards developed and accepted by his profession in his context.

**>>>Consensus does not necessarily imply unanimity<<<**

Source: adapted from de Moor, 2003



# Coherence through models

There is a need for a **general health care data model** , an essential building block for developing comprehensive, robust **application level interfaces**.

If available, such a data model could serve as a key enabling factor in achieving international convergence of the various informatics standardisation efforts.

The greatest impact of those models, initially developed to **improve interfacing of heterogeneous systems**, will come over time from serving as the foundation for a new generation of health care applications with improved functionality, stability, flexibility and **interoperability** at lower cost (*improved efficiency*).

Source: Prof. G. de Moor, Brussels, 22 May, 2003



## Critical success factors

1. Human-human interaction
2. Understanding users need
3. Transcultural management
4. Education and training (skills)
5. Organizational development

## Conclusions

- 1. Emphasize on communication and relationship management**
- 2. Lower the number of competing standards**
- 3. Avoid over-specification of standards**
- 4. Model ICT into healthcare**



## **EHTEL - the European platform**

**[www.ehtel.org](http://www.ehtel.org)**

**The information resource for  
health telematics in Europe**