



EHTEL

European Health TELematics

Association

Dr.med. Martin D. Denz
EHTEL AWG Health Authorities
Swiss Medical Association FMH





Beginnings and Objectives

- A neutral, non-profit association of members
- For all healthcare actors
- For the promotion of the (widespread) use of telematic solutions in healthcare
- Across Europe
- Created in October 1999
- With the support of the European Commission through the IST Programme of R&D.



Policies and Guidelines

- EHTEL is a **members-driven association**.
- EHTEL is a **neutral place** with a balanced representation between actors of all categories of the healthcare arena.
 - Healthcare authorities & government services
 - Healthcare professionals (hospitals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, ...)
 - Patients/Citizens/Consumers and their representative associations
 - Industry groups (ICT industry, pharmaceutical industry, ...)
 - Insurance (compulsory and optional, public and private)
- EHTEL delivers **services to its members**.
- EHTEL offers **its services to consortia** in the 6th FP.

The contractual relationship of EHTEL with the European Commission will not put at risk the neutrality of EHTEL and its relationship with the EHTEL members.



Services to EHTEL Members

For all members:

- Networking
- Market information
- Shaping European policy (e.g., through the European Health Policy Forum, participation & writing of position papers)
- Input to Working Groups
- Umbrella for subgroups
- Publicity and promotion of member organisations (e.g., through EHTEL website, newsletter)
- EHTEL workshops and annual conference

Additional paid services:

- Detailed studies
- EHTEL exhibitions
- Specific services, as requested (e.g., research on particular topics)
- PR and promotional projects



EHTEL Working Groups

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)



A1: Healthcare Authorities

Objectives:

To exchange experiences and point of views in order to develop a common understanding between the different countries on strategic, policy and legal issues which will assist in the development of the Health Telematic Market and to contribute to the development of a coherent administrative and legal framework in Europe that allows the development of the health telematics market

Available Results:

The present forum include representatives of 12 European National Ministries of Health and Norway (direct or indirect representation) ; it meets twice a year and works on its own agenda

Expected results:

Representation of all countries presently in the EU and of several new applicants

Development of feed back with the work of other working groups in particular the Thematic working groups



A2: Healthcare Professionals

Objectives:

To facilitate exchange of experiences and point of view on the use of Health telematics in healthcare (development of awareness and knowledge)

To create critical mass of users having the same needs and point of view which could be addressed by industrial solutions

Available Results:

The WG started with some representatives of associations of physicians and hospitals from 5 European Countries

An action plan is proposed highlighting the importance of Identification of the actors in Europe

Expected Results:

Involvement of other categories of users : pharmacists, nurses, dentists and other healthcare professionals

Involvement of more countries



A4: Patients/Citizens/Consumers

Objectives:

To identify and establish a network between representatives of Patients Association in Europe, knowledgeable in IT and concerned with the development of IT in healthcare To prepare and discuss recommendations for the use and acceptance of telematic solutions for the benefits of the patients across Europe

Available Results:

Creation of a virtual network of Patients/Citizens/Consumers Associations involving associations from 6 countries with an agreement on the role of the WG

Creation of a core team of 3 actors able to manage the working group

Expected Results:

Discuss and implement an action plan for the Working group (October 2001)

Make the opinion of the Associations heard by the other European healthcare actors

Increase the number of members of the network



A4: Patients' Charter for eHealth Information Systems (1 of 2)

- The right to appropriate information
- The right to expect eHealth information systems to function and operate correctly
- The right to have information stored, processed and managed to the highest possible standards
- The right to access information
- The right to privacy and confidentiality



A4: Patients' Charter for eHealth Information Systems (2 of 2)

- The patient is to be considered the master of his or her medical records
- The right to be protected from unsafe and poor quality products and services ordered via the Internet
- The right to complain
- The right to receive compensation



T1: Standards and Interoperability

Objectives:

To promote and demonstrate interoperability between all applications used in the Healthcare domain

To select, recommend and promote the standards necessary to reach this interoperability

Expected Results:

Physical demonstrators of interoperability presented during national and international events

Forum to discuss how to speed the standardisation process involving all concerned parties (CEN TC251, ISO, HL7, DICOM....) and pragmatic initiatives

Co-operation with "Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise" IHE-Europe (COCIR), French Demonstrator and TB 11 (Health Cards)



T2: eHealth, Telemedicine

Objectives:

To promote the concept of eHealth across Europe and ensure that the technologies and solutions to facilitate their uptake have widespread exposure both to key decision-making individuals in the healthcare sector and to European citizens

Available Results:

An EHTEL website as a European Portal to present demonstrations of best practices of eHealth and data bases of health telematics solutions at worldwide level

Position papers on the development of eHealth across Europe

Expected Results:

Operational Demonstrators and Access to Data Bases of health telematics solutions at world wide level



T6: Legal Security, Privacy and Ethics

Objectives:

To catalyse action to minimise or remove the legal, ethical and security issues that present barriers and impediments to the evolution and use of health telematics in Europe in at least two core areas:

- technical and data security standards
- reimbursement

Available Results:

A Green Paper with collection of comments and complements from the various European Countries

A White Paper: Security Platform

Expected Results:

Handbook on Privacy and Security

Reimbursement of telemedicine activities



WP3: EHTEL-Like Organisations (ELOs)

Objectives:

- To stimulate the creation of EHTEL-Like Organisations (ELOs) and EHTEL-Like mechanisms (neutral forum, participation of categories of actors in health, ...) in several countries and at several levels (local, regional, national):
 - Sweden, France, Germany, UK
 - specific action in Spain
 - specific action in the CEE countries: CZ, HU
 - Specific action in Switzerland: cantons, regions



Contact EHTEL

- Visit our web site @ www.ehtel.org
- Contact Céline Van Doosselaere
 - e: celine@ehtel.org
 - t: 32 (0) 2 230 96 50
 - f: 32 (0) 2 230 77 73