eHealth:
Lessons from Europe

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European Union

• 25 Member States 450m people
  • (Bel, CZ, DK, DE, Est, GR, Esp, FR, IE, IT, Cyp, Lat, Lit, Lux, Hun, Mal, NL, Ost, Pol, PT, SI, SK, FIN, SE, UK)

• 20 official languages

• Health Europe - public sector

• Commission Parliament Council of Ministers
European Health Systems

Two main challenges:

- **Costs**: explosion in costs of provision – need to find affordable ways to provide

- **Viability**: sustainability to cope with demographic change, demand crises, & growth in expectations
Well known fact: Health challenges

- Cost explosion
- Fragmented delivery
- Rigid structures
- Resource mis-management
- Information overload
Well known fact: Health challenges

- Ageing population
- Unequal access
- Patient dis-satisfaction
- Unsatisfactory outcomes
- Vested interests
Less known fact: eHealth can help to:

- Empower Patients with Information
- Reduce Gaps remote/at risk groups
- Enable continuity of care
- Help information management
- Support autonomy & mobility
Less known fact: eHealth can help to:

- Be cost-effective
- Improve productivity
- Facilitate exchange of best practice
- Improve communication
- Facilitate patient mobility
Vision: Person-centred health systems

Research areas and achievements to date:

**Keep people healthy**
- Information for disease prevention
- Lifestyle management

**Empower patients**
- Personal health systems (wearable, implantable)

**Provide tools to health Professionals**
- Decision support
- Portable med. imaging

**Support reform and organisation:**
- Integrated Regional Health Information Network with
  - Electronic health records,
  - e-prescriptions, e-referrals
  - Telemedicine services
  - Information infrastructure for research & clinical care
Commission Action Plan 2004

*ACCESS *QUALITY *COST *EQUITY

- To strengthen: electronic health records, healthcards, telemedicine, medical imaging, ePrescription
- To stimulate investment & deployment in EU
- To accelerate awareness of eHealth benefits
- To provide Health Information Space & interoperability (by 2008)
Action plan for a EU e-Health Area

3 activities:

• Addressing common challenges
• Pilot action: accelerate actions & implementation
• Encouraging good/best practice

Tools: EC Programmes, EC Promotion regional funds, national funds

eHealth 2006 Ministerial Conference, Malaga, Spain, 10-12 May
Action Plan - examples

• Best practices collection
• National/regional roadmaps
• Common EU patient identifier
• Interoperability EHR & messages
• Boost investment
Work on multi-application single smart cards as a secure personal identification system to access & store medical & health insurance data.
Research activities & achievements

* Personal health support systems for monitoring

* Assisting in:
  - Prevention
  - Autonomy
  - Patient education
  - Lifestyle management
Future research activities

Customised information & treatment

Bringing advances in genomics to health:

- Support new imaging technologies
- Improved understanding of health determinants
- Modelling and simulation:
  - Biological processes, diseases
  - eCell, eOrgan Virtual Human
ICT Research

EUROPE: €80 per capita

U S: €350 per capita
Brakes on eHealth in Europe

- Structural Rigidities
- Language/System/Standard
- Fragmented Service Markets
- National Competitive Tendencies
- Inflexible Labour Markets
- Heavy Regulation/Red Tape
- Lack of Competition
Added Value EU eHealth

- Exchange Best/Good Practice
- Ensure Minimum Conditions
- Act Regulatory issues together
- Data Protection & Privacy
- Allows stakeholders joint action
MESSAGE FROM EUROPE

• Does IT Work in Health Sector?

• Yes, it does, but the roll-out is taking place very slowly!

Thank you for your attention!