

eHealth

priorities and strategies
in European countries



Fact sheet

Greece

March 2007

Towards the Establishment
of a European eHealth
Research Area





Greece

Strategic perspective

The national eHealth Roadmap was launched in June 2006 by the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, as part of the National Strategy for Quality and Safety of Healthcare Services in the Knowledge Society. It was based on a critical review of the national 2002 – 2006 ICT Action Plan and includes re-orientation where appropriate to accelerate national progress, incorporate new policies and align to the European eHealth Action Plan.

The 2006 eHealth Roadmap sets out priorities and encompasses both strategy and action plans for the period 2006 – 2015 in the strategic areas of quality and safety of health services, which constitute the overriding strategic objectives. The strategy is to establish the National Health Information System (NHIS) i.e. a national system for organising health related information. The implementation of an Electronic Patient Record system is the major objective and priority of the NHIS.

IASYS is the central IT infrastructure of the NHIS and provides the national interoperability framework intended to enable Greek health organisations seamlessly access and share health related information. The National Integrated Shared Care Record, together with the protocols agreed across the multitude of public and private health care organisations and services, are key elements of the IASYS strategy.

Implementation of the ten year eHealth Roadmap is split into three major phases:

2006 – 2007

Strengthening standardisation and communication infrastructures, and creating widespread market preparedness through strategic pilots (health cards, ePrescription, eCare), and legislative interventions;

2007 – 2012

Large-scale pilots, demonstrating and enabling Health Networks and integration at the regional level;

2012 – 2015

Integration at the national level.



Implementation perspective

The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, together with other direct beneficiaries are implementing the 2006 – 2007 programme, which comprises:

- further development and/or deployment of the 17 regional Integrated Information Systems already in progress,
- standardisation activities,
- a Health Portal which serves both as the interface to the NHIS and as a platform for eHealth services to citizens,
- a study on the National Telemedicine Service, that will define support mechanisms (e.g. contracts and agreed protocols) for the coordinated delivery of telecare across different health service delivery provision points,
- an eHealth Forum representative of all major stakeholders as a mechanism to address issues of national importance and for making shared informed decisions,



Greece

- an eHealth Forum Portal for professionals, which provides access to important professional tools and information (e.g. on health standardisation).

Associated projects, such as:

- smart card-based health insurance project for civil servants,
- information system for the national ambulance service,
- information system for organ-transplantation coordination and control,
- information system covering transactions on patient charges between hospitals and insurance organisations,
- EDI-based hospital procurement,
- national blood-bank information system,
- primary care information system,
- medical libraries information system,
- telemedicine.

Future activities

The ten-year action plan is outlined in the strategic perspective section. It is intended to progress the following healthcare systems issues in each of the three implementation phases.

- 1 Information distribution infrastructures and systems, which will enable decentralised public health and welfare services to be based more effectively on evidence and operational data. These new systems will include emphasis on:
 - health prevention and promotion,
 - advanced tele-medicine applications,
 - a National ICT framework for biomedical technology management.
- 2 Health networking and telematics services, which are based on a secure data network linking health and social security bodies, and healthcare, community-care and social-security professionals. These services

include ePrescribing; eReferrals; eLabs together with adequate provisions for appropriate accreditation, testing and certification. Such projects may be taken up in partnership with the private sector.

- 3 Development of information systems to improve the services provided by welfare and mental health bodies to the elderly and people with special needs.

Core resources

Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity

http://www.mohaw.gr/gr/index_html

IASYS - the Integrated Information System for Health Care: Master Plan

<http://www.mohaw.gr/gr/europe/kps/IASYS.pdf>

Observatory for the Greek Information Society

<http://www.observatory.gr/>

Managing Authority of Operational Programme Information Society

<http://www.infosoc.gr/infosoc/en-UK/default.htm>

About eHealth ERA

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