

## eHealth

priorities and strategies  
in European countries



**Fact sheet**

# Lithuania

March 2007

Towards the Establishment  
of a European eHealth  
Research Area





# Lithuania

## Strategic perspective

The Ministry of Health is the leading ministry responsible for development of eHealth policy in Lithuania. Its strategy document “eHealth Strategy for 2005-2010” aims to modernise the healthcare system nationally using ICT’s to improve efficiency. In order to implement goals included in the strategy document there are plans to create eHealth Information System.

The eHealth strategy is addressed to patients, citizens and all professional groups involved in the healthcare domain.

The underlying emphasis is on the empowerment of patients so that they will be able to participate actively in their own health-supporting activities. Access to information and services enabled with eHealth solutions is a key aspect of this patient centred strategy.

The Lithuanian legislature has addressed the issues of data protection, telecommunications (with regard to data protection and confidentiality) and digital signatures. The legal environment was also adjusted to align more closely with requirements defined under European Union directives and other regulations.

## Implementation perspective

The “eHealth Strategy for 2005 – 2010” addresses the requirements signalled by the main groups involved in the Lithuanian healthcare domain. This includes patients, citizens, health professionals, administrators and decision makers. The most important patient centred aspects being covered and improved by the national eHealth implementation plans are visibility, availability, accessibility, user-friendliness and usability.

Prior to the preparation of the eHealth Strategy, other policy documents had been developed by the Health Economics Centre under a project financed by the World Bank. The relevant project plan, entitled “Lithuanian



eHealth Strategy and Program – year 2004-2010” was published in 2004. This has assisted the Ministry of Health in developing its official eHealth strategy. The main findings signalled in this World bank funded project was that health care reform enhancing effectiveness, quality and accessibility of health care services for patients by the use of a comprehensive eHealth system would also be able to provide information for administrative and clinical decision-making.

The strategy of eHealth development in Lithuania includes the following action areas:

- development of the model for resource management system
- definition of the eHealth priorities and development plan covering issues of telemedicine, clinical decision support, telecare, monitoring, patient health record, distance learning and patient awareness
- proposed model for computerisation and networking of institutions covering GP rooms, outpatient clinics and hospital information systems
- definition of the public health monitoring information system according to the main EU activity areas



# Lithuania

- integration of the health care registers and databases within the integral health information system
- formation of the infrastructure of the eHealth system: safety, technical resources, data transmission infrastructure and data interchange standards.

The Telemedicine Centre of Kaunas University of Medicine is the leading research centre involved in the promotion and provision of telemedicine type solutions and services in Lithuania. The mission of the Telemedicine Centre is to initiate, form and introduce telemedicine developments in the University and in the country, and to prepare policy recommendations for health care institutions and government institutions. Key priorities of the Centre activities include:

- provision of methodical leadership in the application of telemedicine technologies for medical diagnostics, consultation, monitoring and scientific investigations in all stages of related studies;
- navigating through the programmes and sources of financing which could stimulate the development of telemedicine;
- organisation of discussion sessions and conferences on telemedicine;
- organisation and participation in national and international telemedicine projects.

The Telemedicine Centre services range in particular over the following application fields: teleconsultations and second opinion, distance education, image processing, as well as information exchange and creation of international databases.

## Future activities

The future activities envisaged in the “eHealth Strategy for 2005 – 2010” are well defined. They aim to realise an eHealth infrastructure and environment which offers services to empowered citizens and patients and also supports health professionals in offering the population high-quality services based on modern evidence-based strategies.

## Core resources

**Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania**

<http://www.sam.lt>

**Elektronines Sveikatos Strategija 2005-2010**

[http://www.sam.lt/images/Dokumentai/eSveikata/esveikata\\_strategija\\_web020.doc](http://www.sam.lt/images/Dokumentai/eSveikata/esveikata_strategija_web020.doc)

**Health Economics Centre: Lithuanian E-Health Strategy and Program – year 2004-2010, 2004**

**Telemedicine Centre of Kaunas University of Medicine**

<http://www.tmc.kmu.lt/>

## About eHealth ERA

This fact sheet is the outcome of research in the context of the *eHealth ERA* project (Towards the Establishment of a European Research Area). The project is implemented by empirica GmbH (coordinating partner, Germany), STAKES (Finland), CITTRU (Poland), ISC III (Spain), CNR (Italy) and EPSRC (United Kingdom), based on a Coordination Action contract with the European Commission.

The European Commission, Directorate General Information Society and Media, supports this project to contribute towards greater transparency across Member States and other participating countries on eHealth strategies as well as innovation-oriented research and technology development (RTD) initiatives, including the coordination of Member States' eHealth strategy formulation and implementation.

The fact sheet is an excerpt from the report "eHealth priorities and strategies in European countries", published by the European Commission in April 2007. The complete report is available for download at [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=3346](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3346).

## Acknowledgements

The eHealth ERA team owes a great debt to all the national representatives and their national experts who contributed to and reviewed the fact sheets. Possible inaccuracies of information are at the responsibility of the project team. This fact sheet reflects solely the views of its authors. The status of activities described is generally August 2006.

## Legal Notice

By the Commission of the European Communities, Information Society and Media Directorate-General. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on its behalf is responsible for the use which might be made of the information contained in the present publication. The European Commission is not responsible for the external web sites referred to in the present publication. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official European Commission's view on the subject.

## Contact

For further information about this fact sheet or the eHealth ERA project, please contact:



### **eHealth ERA**

c/o empirica GmbH  
Oxfordstr. 2, 53111 Bonn, Germany  
Fax: (49-228) 98530-12  
eMail: info at ehealth-era dot org  
<http://www.ehealth-era.org>



### **CITTRU**

Jagiellonian University  
Centre of Innovation, Technology  
Transfer and University Development  
ul. Czapskich 4  
31-110 Kraków  
Poland