

eHealth as a Facilitator of Transnational Co-operation on Health

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Is there any transnational cooperation on health?

- At the first glance, it does not seem to be so much...
- National efforts to be complete
 - However, there are more than what is seen at the first glance.



What is the vision on eHealth as a facilitator...

- Pervasive like electricity, you don't recognize it before it is not there.
- Appropriate information is available at the right time and place when needed.
- Appropriate competence is available at the right time and place when needed.



How to get there?

- Many reports at the European level have described the main obstacles e.g. Missing interoperability.
- Create interest, common understanding and commitments



Transnational cooperation on health



The EU-patient

- The right to get treatment abroad (the Kohll case in the European Court)
- Health managers are afraid of the cost
- Restrictions
 - Applied in advance
 - The waiting time can be shortened
 - The treatment is not available in the country
 - The treatment must be evidence based
 - The treatment must be needed



Euroregions

- Öresund, the Åland see, the German borders, Baltic borders, Etc...
- To serve the commuting citizens
- To offer shortest way to emergency and delivery care
- To offering shorter waiting list
- To offer care with lower cost
- To obtain care that is not available
- Service provider cooperation





The moving citizen

- Tourists
 - Sun or skiing tourists, culture tourists, backpackers
- Business people and students
- Big events
 - Sport, exhibitions, conferences, music festivals
- Retired people staying long time
- Agreements
 - To facilitate reimbursement
 - To offer staff with language knowledge
 - Chronic disease management – e.g. Dialysis

Rare cases

- "Life-threatening or chronically debilitating diseases that are of such low prevalence that special combined efforts are needed to address them"
- 1/2000, 1/10000, 1/50000
- Six to seven thousand different diseases
- 20 million people in Europe suffer from a rare disease
- Rare diseases task force proposes framework for centers of references



Very expensive technology

- High specialisation lead to low incidence
- Proton treatment



Research and education

- Research is international by tradition
- Education become more and more international
- Degree students combine courses from different universities
- Universities collaborate on education...
- But also with end-users as health organisations
- Mobility of medical and nursing students higher than in other fields

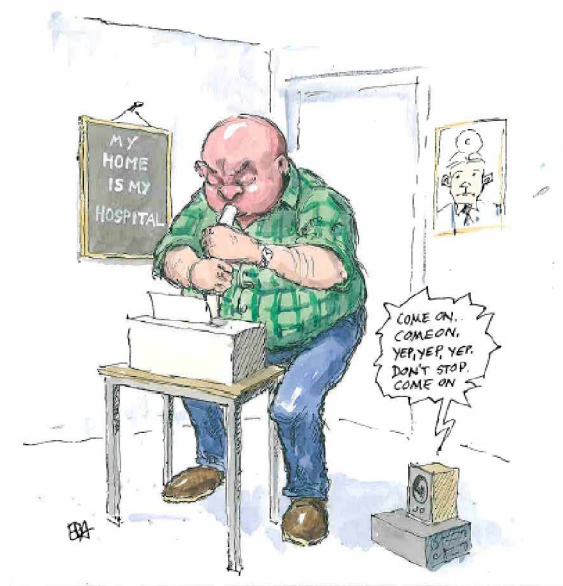


A vision for eHealth



The vision in the patient and their family perspective

- Empowerment of patients
- Patient participation – informed co-worker
- Demanding patients
- Patient preparation and family involvement over distance
- Treatment/rehabilitation over distance
- Automatic services
- Nearby care everywhere



The vision in the perspective of the professionals

- Confident staff
 - Better support from colleagues
 - Appropriate information available
 - Decision support
- Better labour market
 - Stay in urban or rural regions
 - Offer service also on commercial basis



Vision on education

- New generation of labour force
 - expect/demand a workplace based on modern technology
 - Have less respect for national borders
- Health care staff will be educated, not only to use eHealth, but also develop new ways of working by combining social and technical innovations.
- Patients will get eHealth education
- Education is a bridge between past and future



So, how to get there

- To educate
- To make pilots
- Use unconventional partners
 - Patient interest groups
 - Travel agencies
 - Travel insurance companies
- Citizens' demands will drive development
- Cooperate transnationally!



Important issues to be addressed

- Nearby care everywhere
- User interface for a clinical platform
- Transnational development in learning and education
- Virtual on-line meetings
- A seamless European communication network
- Interoperability





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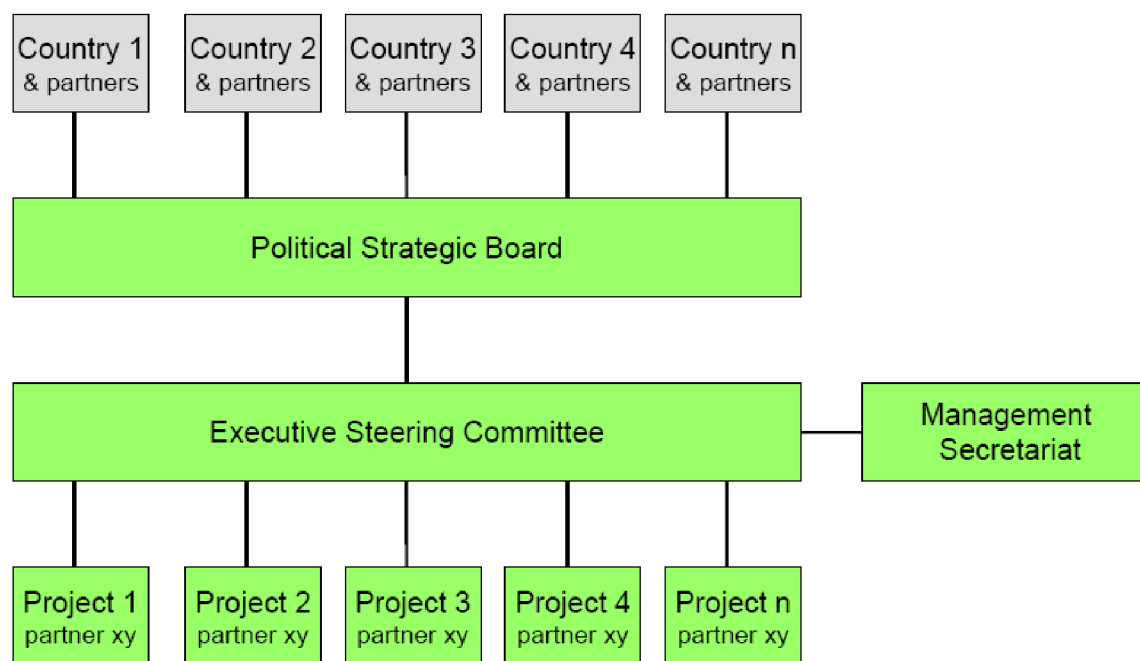
EBA

Limited personal resources

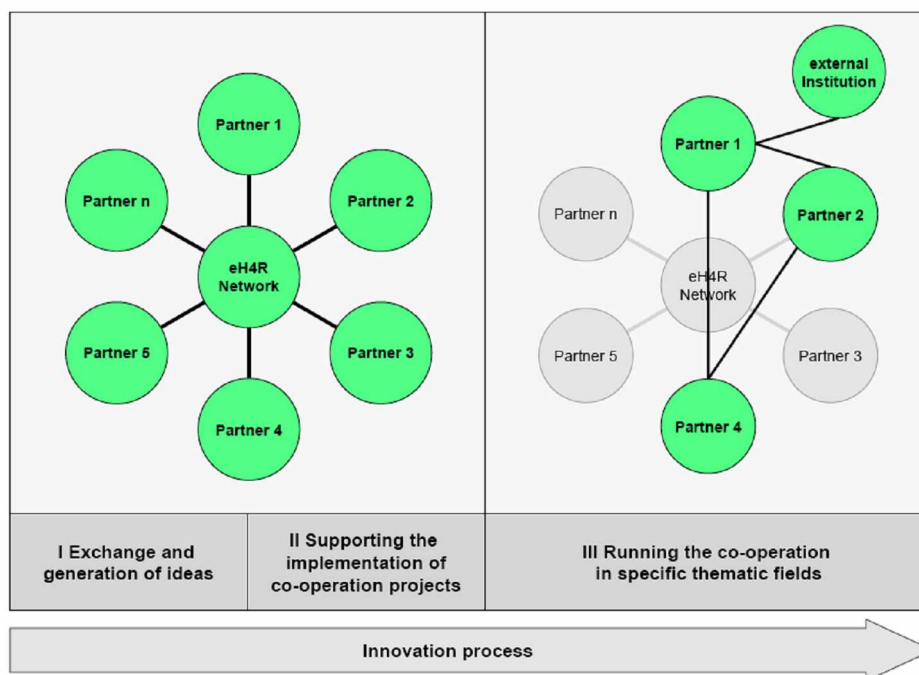
- Rural and urban areas
- Health care need narrow specialists
- Broaden the labour market



A sustainable network for collaboration on eHealth



A sustainable network for collaboration on eHealth



And...

- Suppliers to health care providers
- Sport medicine



And visions on ...

- Evidenced based medicine and nursing
- Managerial aspects
- Ethical aspects

