eHealth Standards and Interoperability

Seminar is held sub auspices of Member of European Parliament

Milan Cabrnoch, MD in collaboration with the project team of INNOVA BioHealth

Date: October 15th, 2007; Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Venue: Building of European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047-Bruxelles, Room No: ASP 5E-3

Scientific Programme:

1.   Milan Cabrnoch, MEP

     Introduction – European eHealth Interoperability – 11.00 – 11.10

2.   Hans Demski, Rolf Engelbrecht, GSF München, Germany

     INNOVA BioHealth Project presentation – 11.10 – 11.20

3.   Asbjorn Hovsto, ITS Norway; Mario Savastano, NVF Naples, Italy

     RFID and Biometric Standards – 11.20 – 11.30

4.   Bernd Blobel, Peter Pharow, University of Regensburg, Germany

     eHealth Standards Review – 11.30 – 11.40

5.   Tomáš Trpišovský, Petr Struk, IMA Prague, MEDTEL, Czech Republic

     Harmonization of eHealth Projects and eHealth Standards – 11.40 – 11.50

6.   Marc Lange, EHTEL, Belgium

     EHIC, Standardisation and Interoperability – 11.50 – 12.00

7.   Tomáš Mládek, IZIP Prague, Czech Republic

     TEN4Health, European eHealth Initiative - recent progress – 12.00 – 12.10

8.   Andreas Lux, Heiner Grönewald, Debold-Lux, Germany

     Economic Impact of interoperable eHealth Systems – 12.10 – 12.20

9.   Discussion, conclusions – 12.20 – 13.00

In case of questions please
consult the BioHealth website at http://biohealth.gsf.de
or send an email to biohealth@gsf.de

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Background

eHealth has a strong impact on every citizen. It concerns the application of information and communications technologies (ICT) across a whole range of functions. The Health ICT Industry has the potential to be the third largest industry in the health sector with a global turnover of €50-60 billion, of which European activity could represent one third. By 2010, a double digit growth rate in the industry of up to 11% is foreseen[1]. According to the Consultation on the Lead Market Initiative[2] - initiated by the Esko Aho- eHealth can be seen as "an example of 'business driving technology', making Europe a more competitive economy and reducing barriers to introduction of new technologies" offering a wide range of new business opportunities to many European companies, most of which are SMEs.

Major obstacles concerning the eHealth market development and the use of eHealth solutions are missing legal regulations and the lack of interoperability between systems. Standards support interoperable solutions. The use of standards is considered to enhance innovation in Europe. The Europe INNOVA initiative funded by the European Commission, Enterprise and Industry Directorate General assists key stakeholders in the field of entrepreneurial innovation. It "aims to leverage Europe's innovation potential by creating an environment in which innovative enterprises can start up, grow and thrive". BioHealth is part of the INNOVA Standards' Network which will „demonstrate the competitive advantages of applying standards able to enhance innovation in Europe".

Considering the sensitive nature of healthcare information, security related issues are of particular importance. The acceptance of eHealth depends on trust in data security as well as trust in the new technologies. BioHealth deals with these issues. It informs on the relevant standards and standardisation issues and develops tools which make it easier for SMEs to access the necessary information. At the same time it addresses ethical and other critical issues concerning the application of new technologies such as RFID and biometrics.

Open, multilateral and comprehensive communication and interaction among experts, businessmen and politicians are required in the complex process of eHealth development and implementation. The BioHealth INNOVA eHealth Interoperability and Standards Initiative supports this process.

BioHealth - **Security and Identity Management Standards in eHealth including Biometrics - Specific Requirements having an Impact on the European Society and on Standardisation**

Consortium

GSF - National Research Center for Environment and Health, Neuherberg, Germany (Coordinator)

Bull Hungary, Budapest, Hungary

eHealth Competence Center, University of Regensburg Medical Center, Germany

IBB-CNR - National Research Council of Italy, Napoli, Italy

IMA-Institut mikroelektronických aplikací s.r.o., Praha, Czech Republic

ITS-Norway – Norwegian Association for Multi-modal Transport Services, Oslo, Norway

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[1] Datamonitor 2007- Trends to watch: Healthcare technology
[2] http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/health/docs/policy/ehealth-lmi-question-20070330.pdf