

The Greek Perspective of Interoperability in Medical Informatics

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THE EUROPEAN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRIZE Winner









IT penetration in the Greek Hospitals

- Low Penetration
- Usually Fragmented Approach
- In Most cases solutions based on outdated technologies eg. DOS
- Very few skilled IT personnel. In the IT departments of 112 public hospitals:
 - Only 48 people have university degree (not necessarily IT)
 - ≻ 37 TEI
 - 141 high school graduates



Productive (?) Applications

In a study out of 112 public hospitals the following percentages indicate some form of coverage of the corresponding field:

Invoicing	53%
Admissions	70%
Purchase Dept.	46%
Warehouse	65%
Outpatients	44%
Accounting	73%
Payroll	38%
Emergency Dept	9%
Personnel Dept	48%
Medical Supplies Dept	38%
Drugstore	71%



IT project in Progress (Public Sector) – (I/IV)

 Currently 3 year contracts for 5 Regional Health Authorities have been signed involving:

- 25 Hospitals
- 39 Health Centers
- 122 Primary Practices
- ➤ 3.050 Users

In these projects, HL7 Connectivity is envisioned



IT project in Progress (Public Sector) – (II/IV)

7 bids for Regional Health Authorities are under evaluation involving:

- ➤ 40 Hospitals
- 30 Health Centers
- 67 Primary Practices
- > 4.639 Users
- HL7 Connectivity



IT project in Progress (Public Sector) – (III/IV)

A bid for Military Hospitals is under evaluation.

- 7 Hospitals
- ➤ 560 Users
- In this interoperability requirements are asked without explicit mentioning of HL7
- Image interoperability via DICOM is asked.



IT project in Progress (Public Sector) – (IV/IV)

2 bids for Regional Health Authorities to be submitted until the 9th of June
2 bids for Regional Health Authorities are under preparation
1 Bid for the most major Hospitals is under preparation
General Observation: very ambitious projects but severely under-budgeted



Interoperability Existing Situation

There is no much concept of interoperability
 Very few working interoperable implementations, mainly between HIS and LIS in the private sector
 Usually in small depth



HL7 Hellas

✓ Founded on June 2003 ✓ Enlarged on Feb 2004 ✓ Scope Promote HL7 interoperability issues ✓ Currently has 13 industrial members and 6 Academic or non profit organizations Recently 2 SIGs commenced operation ► SIG TIG SIG HIM ✓ Site <u>http://www.hl7hellas.gr/</u>





HL7 Hellas SIGs

SIG TIG (Technical Implementation Guidelines) Technical Scope Adapt Messages for HIS <-> LIS connection for Greece SIG HIM (Healthcare Information Management) Medical Scope Medical Codifications & Classifications Patient administration Observation reporting Patient referral





Problems of Interoperability in Greece (I/II)

Several Ministries involved eg:

- > Health
- > Welfare
- Development (trade industry)
- > NSSG



Problems of Interoperability in Greece (II/II)

Lack of Standardization

- Patient Code
- > Supplies
- Chargeable Services
- Diseases
- Medical Actions
- Medical Nursing Actions
- Drugs
- Lack of appropriate funding



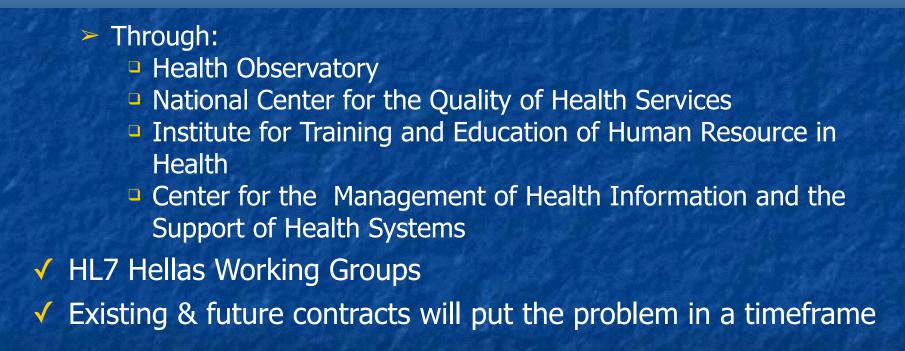
The way forward (I/II)

Ministry of Health Legislation
 Currently under Public Consultation
 Caters for:

 Interoperability between Systems and Services
 National System for Health Information
 Open Health Forum
 Health Standardization



The way forward (II/II)







Structural Activities
 Will take substantial time to deliver
 Is questionable whether they can co-ordinate with existing projects
 Voluntary activities are unclear whether they will be adopted
 Existing projects are overambitious while under-budgeted
 Health Informatics Market
 Still at its infancy & fragmented
 Highly volatile on the Public sector pace