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# eHealth on the Council Agenda

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# eHealth – a matter of high priority for the Swedish Presidency of the EU

## The Swedish Presidency have the ambition to:

- better **integrate eHealth into health policy** and align eHealth investments with health needs;
- underline the importance of **political leadership**;
- strengthen the focus on **deployment** and actual **use** of eHealth services;
- provide a strong **political mandate** for eHealth cooperation;
- identify **specific areas** for cooperation;
- initiate the development of a suitable Member State led **mechanism for eHealth governance**.



# Why the need for a new approach to eHealth cooperation in the EU?

- **Existing technologies are not used to their full potential since implementation levels often are too low.**
- **Need for political awareness and commitment.**
- **Easy to measure the initial costs for making investments in new ICT systems, but...**
- **...how can we measure the cost for healthcare if we don't make the necessary investments?**



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# eHealth on the political agenda

– a first step towards continuity of care across borders!

Describing the **value of eHealth in healthcare terms** is crucial for creating awareness of how technology can improve patient safety, quality and efficiency in healthcare.

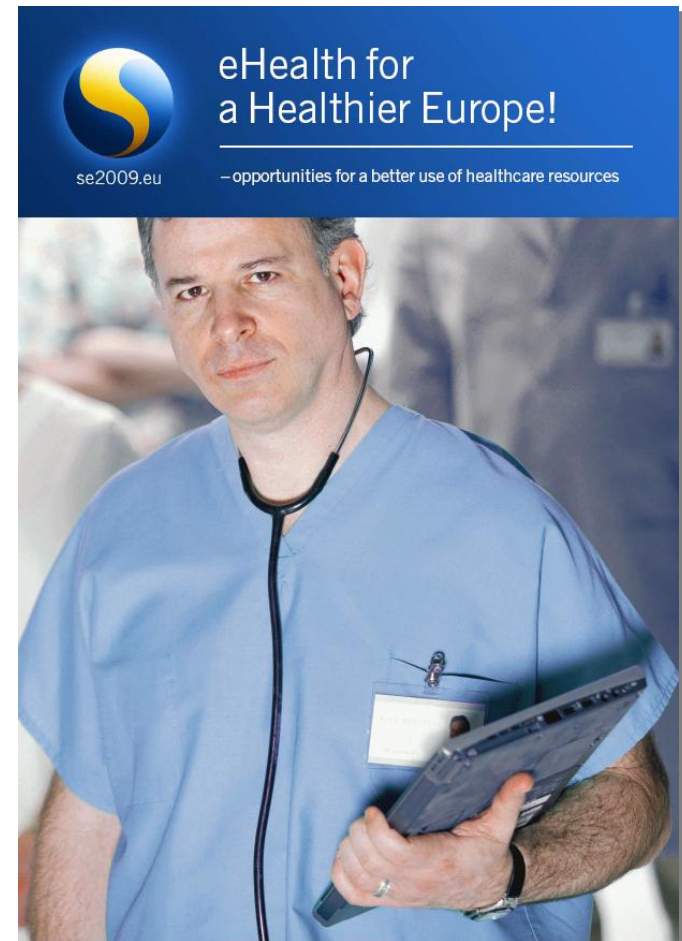
**A study in six Member States (CZ, ES, FR, NL, SE, UK) was launched with the objectives to:**

- provide a benefit model to analyse how political goals can be realised through eHealth
- visualize and quantify fact-based benefits of continued implementation of eHealth in the EU
- provide support for prioritization of investments in eHealth services.

## Major findings in the study:

- **100,000 adverse drug events** could be avoided yearly through Computerised Physician Order Entry and Clinical Decision Support.
- **5 million prescription errors** could be avoided yearly through the use of ePrescriptions.
- **11,000 diabetic deaths** could be avoided every year by the use of Electronic Medical Records and Chronic Disease Management.
- **9 million bed-days** could yearly be freed up through the use of Electronic Health Records, corresponding to a value of €3,7 billion.

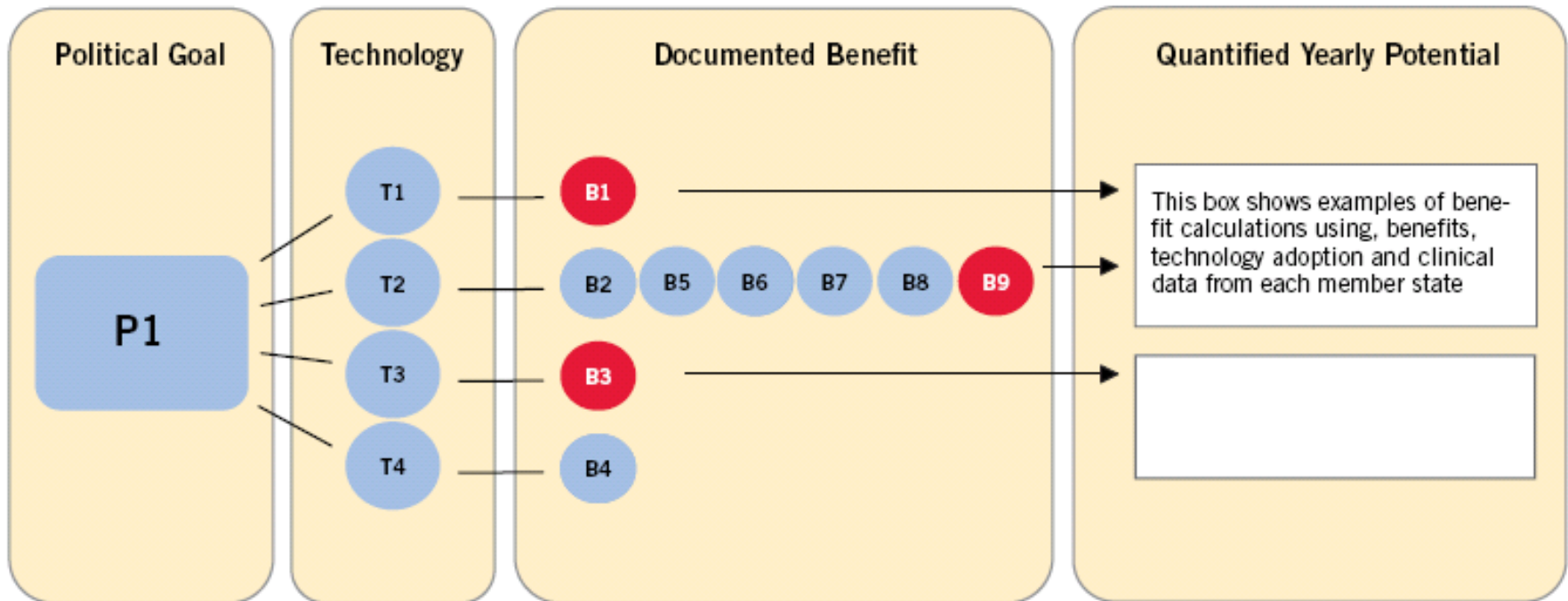
There are still huge benefits to be gained using technology as a catalyst for healthcare transformation!





# Realising political goals through eHealth

- a new model establishing a link between politics, technology and visible benefits for patients and health professionals





# Draft Council Conclusions on eHealth

– decision point at Council level for the first time since May 2004

**A new political mandate for a deeper and more concrete cooperation on eHealth, with the main ambitions to:**

- 1) provide a strong political mandate for eHealth cooperation**
  - better integrate eHealth into health policy and align eHealth investments with health needs.
  - reflect recent initiatives by EC and Member States.
  - underline the importance of political leadership.
- 2) identify specific areas for cooperation**
  - strengthen the focus on the deployment and use of eHealth services.
- 3) initiate the development of a suitable Member State led mechanism for European eHealth Governance**
  - establish a consolidated approach for how to realize the ambitions set out in the Council Conclusions.

**Adoption by EPSCO planned for 1 December 2009.**



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# Main objectives for eHealth Governance

– clarification, coordination and consolidation of ongoing initiatives

- **Why is the timing right for a stronger European governance?**
  - majority of Member States in advanced stages of launching or implementing eHealth solutions.
  - obvious risk of duplication and fragmentation.
  - high maturity of eHealth services requires new attention.
- **Unique window of opportunity to:**
  - coordinate ongoing activities and initiatives at EU level.
  - provide essential guidance and decision support for national and EU-funded eHealth investments.
  - enable continuity of care across borders within and between Member States.
  - exploit the full potential of existing knowledge.
  - ensure a cost-effective use of healthcare resources.



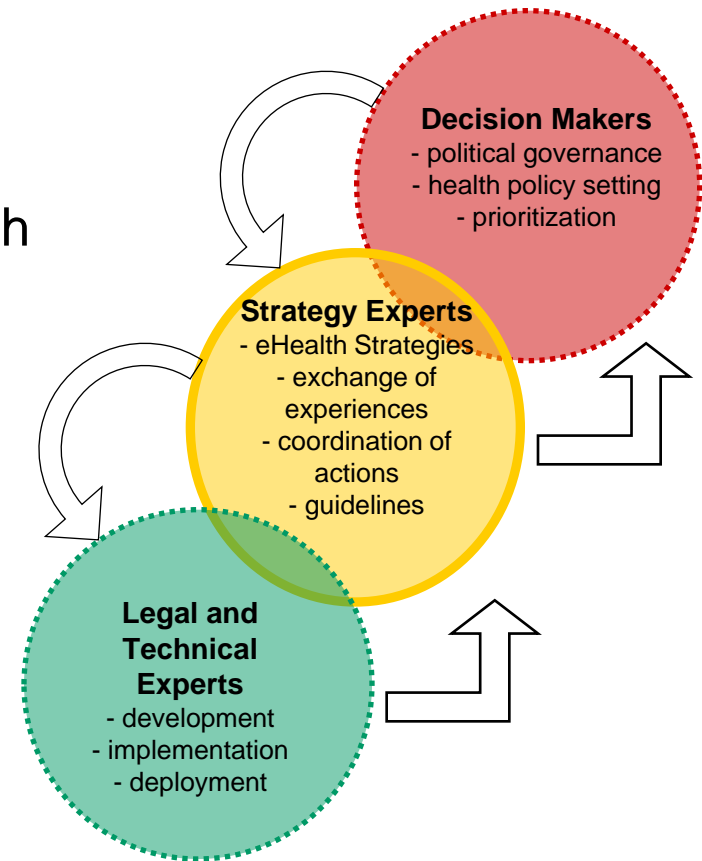


# Main objectives for eHealth Governance

– clarification, coordination and consolidation of ongoing initiatives

- **Main objectives are to:**

- bridge the gap between experts and decision makers.
- better align ongoing eHealth activities with health policies at EU and national level.
- strengthen the political governance of eHealth.
- coordinate and consolidate ongoing activities at EU level and clarify reporting mechanisms.
- reinforce and support Member States in ensuring deployment and use of existing technologies.





# Potential topics for cooperation

– joint efforts at EU level providing added value for national investments

- **Legal and organisational issues**

- ensure that that adequate protection of privacy is maintained when exchanging medical data across borders.
- ensure that freely given, specific and informed patient consent is guaranteed in cross-boarder care situations.
- improve legal certainty for health professionals when using medical data as input to treatment of patients from other Member States.
- clarify responsibilities if duties to data protection have been bridged.
- promote a sustainable and well integrated use of eHealth services.

- **Semantics and terminology**

- ensure that medical data is understood and interpreted in a unified way across borders.
- bridge language barriers for medical records.
- ensure comparable high-quality data for follow-up, research and health system governance.

- **Technical Framework**

- enable the safe transfer of health data between care providers in different Regions and Member States.
- enable continuity of care across borders by interoperability of Electronic Health Record systems.
- enable transfer of ePrescriptions, lab results and digital images in order to ensure continuity of care.
- enable telemedicine services and cooperation between European Reference Networks.

- **Identification & Authentication**

- ensure that only authorised health professionals with a treating relationship towards the patient have access to health data.
- ensure that the patient is identified in a secure way.
- enable logging of secure access to health data.



# Presidency Activities on eHealth

– meetings, conferences and negotiations

- **Expert Workshops on eHealth Governance (June and September)**
- **Informal meeting of Health Ministers of the EPSCO Council (6-7 July)**
- **Council Working Group meetings (July-September)**
- **High-level meeting on European eHealth Governance (22-23 October)**
- **Ministerial Conference on eGovernment (18-20 November)**
- **Formal EPSCO Council (1 December)**



- **What are we measuring to visualize successful implementation of eHealth?**
  - number of ePrescriptions, computers, broadband coverage etc.
- **Measuring how eHealth are used and improving the way we can provide a safe and efficient healthcare!**
- **eHealth as a catalyst for healthcare improvement!**
- **Formalized cooperation between MoH and stakeholders**
  - in the same open spirit as within EHTEL!
- **From technology development...**
  - ...to healthcare improvement**
  - ...to cultural change in healthcare!**