eHealth on the Council Agenda

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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 to 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 <u>don't</u> make the necessary investments?**

eHealth on the political agenda
– a first step towards continuity of care across boarders!

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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
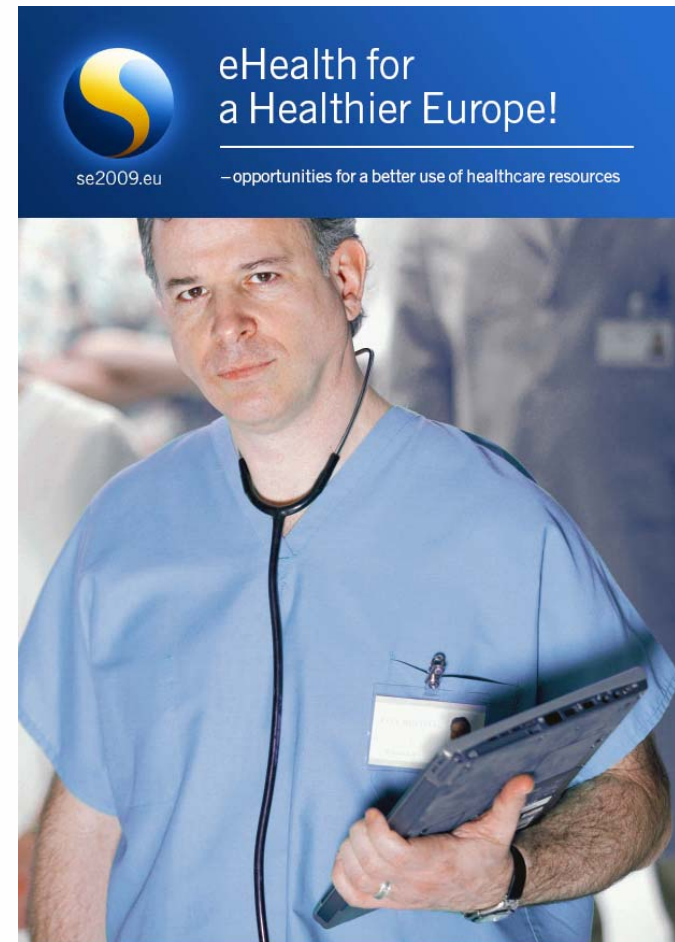- provide support for prioritization of investments in eHealth services.

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.

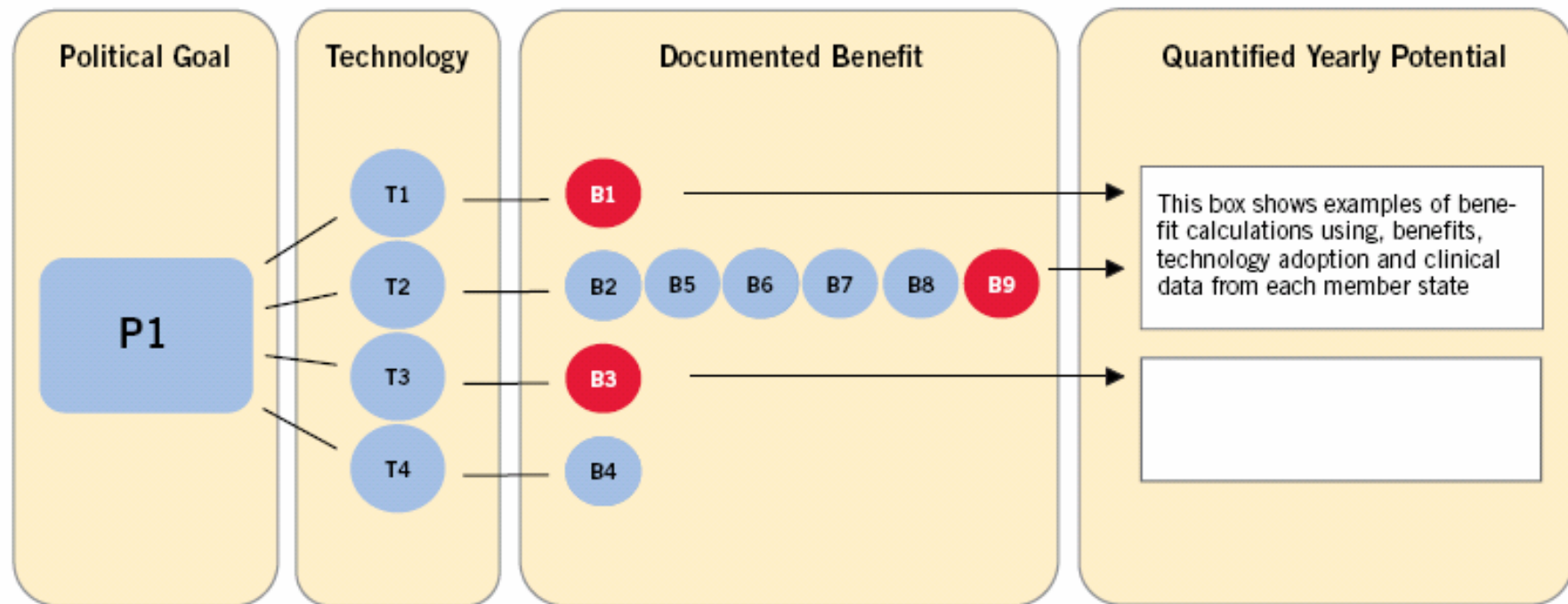**There are still huge benefits to be gained using technology as a catalyst for healthcare transformation!**

eHealth for
a Healthier Europe!

se2009.eu — opportunities for a better use of healthcare resources

Realising political goals through eHealth
– a new model establishing a link between _politics_, _technology_ and _visible benefits_ for patients and health professionals

Political Goal | **Technology** | **Documented Benefit** | **Quantified Yearly Potential**

P1

T1 — B1 → This box shows examples of benefit calculations using, benefits, technology adoption and clinical data from each member state

T2 — B2   B5   B6   B7   B8   B9

T3 — B3

T4 — B4

Draft Council Conclusions on eHealth
– decision point at Council level for the first time since May 2004

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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.

- **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 boarders within and between Member States.
  - exploit the full potential of existing knowledge.
  - ensure a cost-effective use of healthcare resources.

Decision Makers
- political governance
- health policy setting
- prioritization

Strategy Experts
- eHealth Strategies
- exchange of experiences
- coordination of actions
- guidelines

Legal and Technical Experts
- development
- implementation
- deployment

- **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.

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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 boarders.
  - 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 boarders 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!**