

Special Session

eHealth Systems Interoperability: Trends and Opportunities – the RIDE Project

PARTNERS:

1. *Middle East Technical University Software Research & Development Center METU, SRDC, Turkey*
2. *OFFIS e.V., Healthcare Information and Communication Systems (OFFIS), Germany*
3. *Institute for Formal Ontology and Medical Information Science (IFOMIS), Germany*
4. *European Institute for Health Records (EuroRec), France*
5. *National Council of Research, Institute for Biomedical Technology (CNR), Italy*
6. *University of Athens, Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (NTUA, ICSS), Greece*
7. *National University of Ireland, Digital Enterprise Research Institute (NUIG, DERI), Ireland*
8. *IHE-D e.V., Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise – Deutschland (IHE-D), Germany*
9. *OLE, Office Line Engineering NV (OLE), Belgium*

SESSION BACKGROUND: RIDE is a roadmap project for interoperability of eHealth systems leading to recommendations for preparatory and future actions at the European level. This roadmap will prepare the ground for future actions as envisioned in the action plan of the eHealth Communication COM 356 by coordinating various efforts on eHealth interoperability in member states and the associated states. Since it is not realistic to expect to have a single universally accepted clinical data model that will be adhered to all over Europe and that the clinical practice, terminology systems and EHR systems are all a long way from such a complete harmonization, the RIDE project addresses the interoperability of eHealth systems with special emphasis on semantic interoperability.

In order to create the RIDE Roadmap, first the European best practices in providing semantic interoperability for eHealth domain are assessed and the quantified requirements to create a valid roadmap are identified. Based on these requirements, the goals, and the economical, legal, financial and technological challenges of the industry for the 21st century for achieving interoperability in eHealth solutions will be elaborated.

RIDE Project is also focused on the limitations of the policies and strategies currently used in deploying interoperable eHealth solutions. A research portal for sharing resources addressing semantic interoperability in eHealth domain has been created and maintained; the key actors and stakeholders are coordinated around RIDE special interest groups to create a wide consensus at the European level.

Through eight RIDE Project workshops/sessions a shared vision for building a Europe-wide semantically interoperable eHealth infrastructure is envisaged. After assessing the gaps between the 'as-is' situation and the 'to-be' eHealth vision, the emerging trends and opportunities to achieve the vision statement, the required advances in the state of the art research, technology and standards will be identified.

For further information, visit <http://www.mednet2007.com/ride.htm>.