

Semantic Interoperability for Health Network

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Semantic interoperability of EHR systems is a crucial prerequisite for enabling patient-centred care and advanced clinical and biomedical research. SemanticHealthNet will develop a scalable and sustainable pan-European organisational and governance process to achieve this objective across healthcare systems and institutions.

A clinical focus on chronic heart failure and cardiovascular prevention in the workplan shall define the semantic resources to be developed. The exemplars in cardiology and public health are specific enough to permit comprehensive development and validation of these resources, and yet typical enough for wider generalisation of the methodology and its governance. SemanticHealthNet will capture the needs articulated by clinicians and public health experts for evidence-based, patient-centred integrated care in these domains. Existing European consensus in the management of chronic heart failure and cardiovascular prevention will then be integrated in EHR architectures, clinical data structures, terminologies and ontology by leading technical experts.

Clinical and Industrial Advisory Boards will provide links with other domains in which these results can be used beneficially.. The project will investigate how best to combine and adapt informatics resources to support semantic interoperability, and how these can be developed and supported at scale. Results of this investigation will be generalised and formalised. The involvement of health authorities, clinical professionals, insurers, ministries of health, vendors, and purchasers ensures that the project approach and results are realistically adoptable and viable. This work will also build on the SemanticHEALTH and CALLIOPE roadmaps for eHealth interoperability.

A business model to justify strategic investments, including the opportunity costs for key stakeholders such as Standardisation Organisations and industry, will be defined. Links with the epSOS large scale pilot and the eHealth Governance Initiative, will inform the shape of the Virtual Organisation that this Network will establish to sustain semantic interoperability developments and their adoption.

The consortium comprises more than 40 internationally recognised experts, including from USA and Canada, ensuring a global impact.

Project Plan

Workstream I:

- WP1: Patient care exemplar
- WP2: Public health exemplar
- WP3: Stakeholder validation

Workstream II:

- WP4: Harmonised resources
- WP5: Infostructure and tools
- WP6: Industrial engagement

Workstream III:

- WP7: Adoption and sustainability
- WP8: European Virtual Organisation
- WP9: Project management, dissemination, promotion

Partners

1. Research in Advanced Medical Informatics and Telematics (RAMIT) – BE (Admin Coordinator)
2. Imperial College London (Imperial) – UK
3. University of Hull (UHULL) – UK
4. University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) – CH
5. World Health Organization (WHO) – CH
6. The University of Manchester (UoM) – UK
7. Medical University of Graz (MUG) – AT
8. International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) – DK
9. Institut National de la Santé et la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) – FR
10. Ocean Informatics (Ocean) – UK
11. Health Level 7 (HL7) International Foundation (HL7 International) – BE, USA
12. EN13606 Association (EN13606) – NL
13. Empirica Gesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Technologieforschung mbH (EMPIRICA) – DE
14. Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) – BE
15. European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry (COCIR) – BE
16. Whittington NHS Trust (WHIT) – UK
17. European Institute for Health Records (EuroRec) – FR (NoE Coordinator)

Coordinators

NoE Coordinator:

Prof. Dipak Kalra, EuroRec

Administrative Coordinator:

Geert Thienpont, RAMIT vzw

Supported by

