

# eHealth

priorities and strategies  
in European countries



**Fact sheet**

# Cyprus

March 2007

Towards the Establishment  
of a European eHealth  
Research Area





# Cyprus

## Strategic perspective

The Cyprus government strategy for eHealth aims to provide better healthcare at a lower cost. The centre of attention has also been shifted to the patients and their needs. The strategy is to establish buy-in to the necessary concepts and concrete components in order to build up a unified national health information system.

eHealth in Cyprus covers a wide range of applications. For example, such applications include hospital information systems, a national health monitoring system, computerisation of primary care services, computerisation of the forthcoming Health Insurance Scheme, introduction of a patient card, electronic health records, standardisation of medical terminology, classification and coding of diagnoses, medical procedures, causes of death, and access to external and internal data banks.

The implementation of the strategy is expected to increase the quality of health services, increase the effectiveness and efficiency of procedures and support decision making and health policy formulation, provide remote medical services (internet, telemedicine and robotics), and move steadily towards paperless and filmless hospitals through the introduction of Electronic Health Record systems and the medical smart card.

## Implementation perspective

The Ministry of Health has decided to proceed with the implementation of a Health Care Information Support (HCIS) System in all government hospitals, outpatient departments and rural health centres. To this end, in 2004 the Ministry and the Department of Information Technology Services (DITS), jointly issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a turnkey ready-made application software which would provide an Integrated Health Care Information System. The vendor selection procedure was completed two years later, in 2006.



The following set of integrated applications and modules will be provided to support the activities of the hospitals:

- patient administration / Electronic Health Record,
- coding of diseases, operations, procedures,
- hospital order entry and management system,
- clinical laboratory / histopathology,
- blood bank,
- radiology / Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS),
- doctor's pharmacy prescription,
- billing,
- personnel management,
- stores / inventory control,
- Health Smart Card.

The implementation of a PACS system has already begun at the New Nicosia General Hospital.

A further invitation to tender for consulting services, equipment and software development for a national health monitoring system was launched in August 2005. The project will develop an expandable, flexible compre-



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hensive data warehouse to produce the required range of health indicators. The Health Monitoring Project is scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2007.

## Future activities

The HCIS tender contractual processes are at their final stages and implementation is scheduled to begin with the computerisation of two flagship hospitals: the New Nicosia General Hospital and the Famagusta General Hospital.

The Ministry of Health then intends to roll-out the HCIS to all hospitals, and to medical centres under the public sector, by 2010. Private doctors and clinics, where appropriate, will be given access to the hospital patient record. The recently constructed high-tech New Nicosia General Hospital will be the central node of the health institutions of Cyprus.

## Core resources

**Vision of the Ministry of Health regarding information technology:**

[http://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/moh.nsf/computer\\_en/computer\\_en?OpenDocument/](http://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/moh.nsf/computer_en/computer_en?OpenDocument/)

## About eHealth ERA

This fact sheet is the outcome of research in the context of the *eHealth ERA* project (Towards the Establishment of a European Research Area). The project is implemented by empirica GmbH (coordinating partner, Germany), STAKES (Finland), CITTRU (Poland), ISC III (Spain), CNR (Italy) and EPSRC (United Kingdom), based on a Coordination Action contract with the European Commission.

The European Commission, Directorate General Information Society and Media, supports this project to contribute towards greater transparency across Member States and other participating countries on eHealth strategies as well as innovation-oriented research and technology development (RTD) initiatives, including the coordination of Member States' eHealth strategy formulation and implementation.

The fact sheet is an excerpt from the report "eHealth priorities and strategies in European countries", published by the European Commission in April 2007. The complete report is available for download at [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=3346](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3346).

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