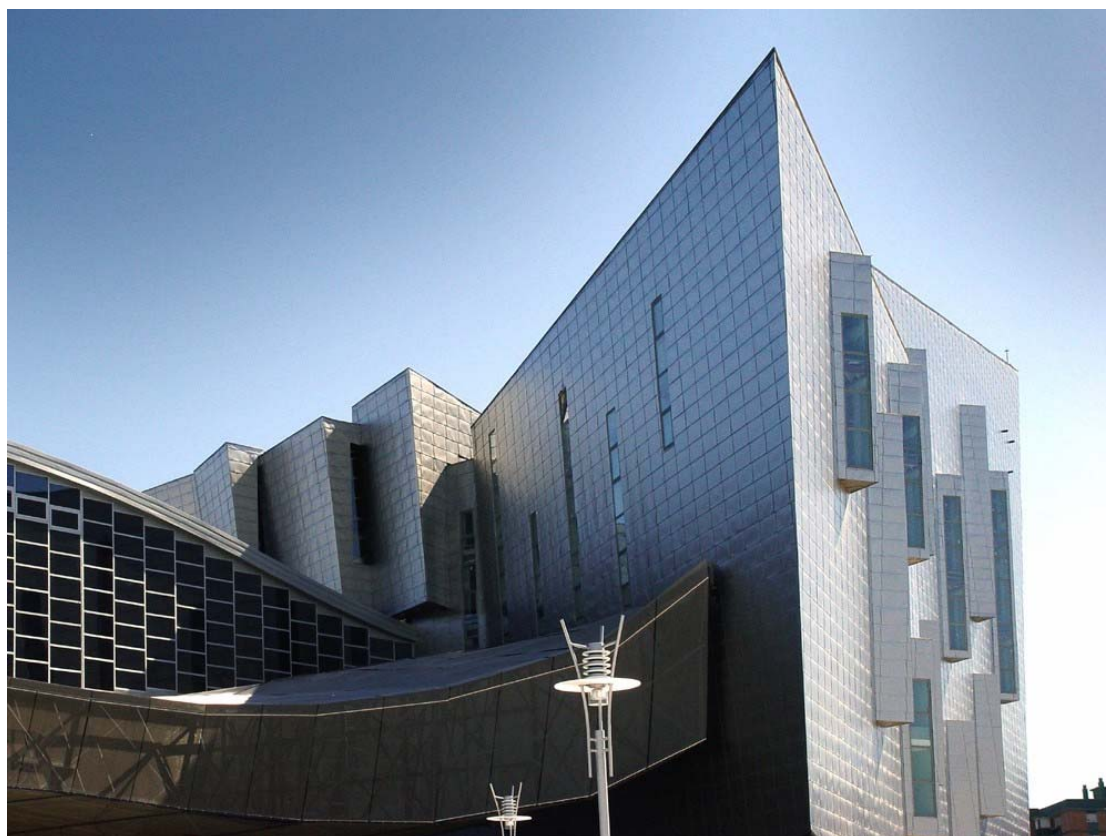


# ehealth 2006

## ***PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT*** ***E-HEALTH 2006 HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE***

**Malaga, Spain, 10-12 May 2006**



**Austrian  
EU Presidency**



## INTRODUCTION

The European Union has developed during the last years an intense activity under the headings of e-health, health telematics or digital health, meaning, in an ample sense, those activities of health supported by the use of information and communication technologies. Due to its importance and considering its relevance, the European Union has paid special attention to the R&D&i activities during the last ten years through the successive Framework Programmes along with the tasks of normalization through Technical Committee TC251 of the European Committee of Normalisation (CEN). Other international organizations as the WHO or the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) have also defined specific strategies in this field.

At national level a document entitled "Framework for the development of the e-health in Spain" was elaborated. It says in this study that

*"The challenge of our time, and of the times to come, it is to achieve that these new possibilities, made available for us by the new technologies, are spread and distributed the more widely possible, contributing to improve the quality of life and the well-being of the people and help, finally, to diminish the imbalances and the inequalities of the citizens, simultaneously favouring the growth and the development of the economy. In synthesis it is to go towards a more integrated world and not only towards a more interconnected world<sup>1</sup>".*

The e-Health activities of the European Union are organised mainly through the General Directorates of Information Society, Health and Consumer Protection, and Research. Similarly, global initiatives have been set up, like e-Europe 2005<sup>2</sup> or lately i2010 that pursue the extension of the Information Society to the key sectors, including Health. Two elements have special relevance for the area, on one side the recent communication of the Commission "e-health action Plan (Com (2004) 356)<sup>3</sup> and the Work Plan 2005-2008 of Public Health<sup>4</sup>.

In 2003, the e-Europe awards were instituted in two specific areas: e-health and e-government, jointly with the celebration of high level inter-ministerial conferences on those subjects, under the sponsorship of the Presidency of the Council and the European Commission. To this aim it was designed an activity aligned with the directives of e-Europe 2005, where the diffusion of the results of research and technological innovations in the area of Information and Communication Technologies for health is considered a high-priority line.

Traditionally, the importance of knowledge transfer to clinical or management practice has been recognized, promoting the use of standardized Technologies. One of the traditional greater problems of the information and communication technologies in health is its fragmentation in non compatible independent islands, from which arises the interest in promoting standardized systems that allow interoperability. A basic objective of these conferences is, therefore, to create

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<sup>1</sup> "Marco de desarrollo de la e-salud en España". Instituto de Salud Carlos III. Madrid 2002

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/2002/news\\_library/documents/eeurope2005/eeurope2005\\_es.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/2002/news_library/documents/eeurope2005/eeurope2005_es.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004\\_0356en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004_0356en01.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph\\_programme/howtoapply/proposal\\_docs/workplan2005\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_programme/howtoapply/proposal_docs/workplan2005_en.pdf)

awareness among the policy makers and the political responsables in charge of high level decision making, by providing independent, relevant and contrasted information on member states' experiences on e-health developments of.

On the other hand, it is recognized the essential role that the European regions play in the definition of the health policies, in the technological developments and in the constitution of knowledge networks as well as an element close to the citizens.



Andalucia was awarded in the first e-Health Conference (2003) with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for its developments of e-Health applications at regional level, namely EVISAND (Telemedicine Network), DIRAYA (Unified Electronic Health Record) and others.

The opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 17 November 2004 on the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions *e-Health – making healthcare better for European citizens: An action plan for a European e-Health Area COM(2004) 356 final*, makes clear the value of the regions as a closer link to the citizens, the need of avoiding the digital divide and

the role that technology can play in improving health. Special emphasis is made in all matters concerning citizens like the quality of the webs.

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

The **e-Health 2006 High Level Conference** is organized with the objective of analysing the role of the European Regions in the e-health strategies. The motto proposed for the Conference is **"e-Health in the Europe of the Regions: Networks for Health"** that will be structured on several sub-subjects including: health general issues, technical aspects, new roles for the citizen and prospective analysis.

The Conference will consist of four blocks of work with different types of sessions articulated using the following instruments:

### PLENARY SESSIONS

- Official Opening of the Conference.
- Opening Key-note Speech.
- Plenary on "Health from the perspective of the Regions".
- Plenary on "The European Action Plan of e- Health".
- Plenary on "Regional Experiences on e-health implantation "
- Plenary on "Interoperability between the Regional Health Networks"
- Plenary on "Citizens: the power of e-tools" "New ways of e-participation"
- Plenary on "the European challenges in health: advancing the future".
- Closing session of the Conference. Ministerial (Conclusions) Declaration.

## **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

- **ROLE OF E-HEALTH IN THE HEALTH POLICIES:** Determinants in Health, Healthy habits, aging of the population, e-care, dependency situations, Information systems, new working environments, education and training, etc. There will be a special emphasis on specific cases and experiences of on going projects.
- **TECHNICAL ASPECTS:** Interoperability, connectivity between regional networks, mobility of citizens, patients and professionals, advances in Grids, International cooperation, etc.
- **CITIZENS:** New forms of participation, technological tools, health Information, health related webs, free choice of resources, E-Inclusion, Disability and dependency, etc
- **FUTURE STRATEGIES and POLICIES:** Health challenges in Europe 2010, Prospective studies, "i2010", 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, The regional/national research plans, Strategic targets on research and innovation, Enabling technologies, etc

## **ROUND TABLES**

The suggested subjects are: The regions, a key element in the e-health policies; The challenge of the connectivity between regions; E-Care in a mobile world; New values in health, etc.

## **ESTRATEGIC SEMINARS**

To be organised the morning before the Conference. They are directed to specific subjects, with idea of participation of high level experts for an audience of decision makers. In order to favour the participation they are limited to very few people, 20 by seminar; except for a Special Workshop on the "State of the Art and Future Trends in Enlarged Europe" which will accept up to 60 participants. It could be organised up to 6 simultaneous seminars of 3-4 hours duration.

The subjects proposed are: "Procurement on e-Health related matters"; "Health Technology Assessment; "Citizens Information Services"; "Health reform processes and technology processes"; "Industry trends in e-Health: Industry forum"; "Interoperability". And the Special Workshop "State of the Art and Future Trends in Enlarged Europe"

## **ON SITE VISITS**

On site visits will offer a practical and different vision through visits to on going experiences of Spanish Regions, both during the afternoon of the third day and, additionally, the next day

## EXHIBITION AREA

As a complementary activity to the Conference, there will be an exhibition area where the institutions, regions or member states can display their achievements, experiences and applications and establish contact with other participants in the Conference.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

The **e-Health 2006 High Level Conference** will be held at the Malaga Trade Fairs and Congress Centre, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May 2006 ([www.palaciodeferiasycongresosdemalaga.com](http://www.palaciodeferiasycongresosdemalaga.com))

The city of Malaga is located in the southern part of Spain on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, known as Costa del Sol. It is one of the eight regional capitals of Andalusia and the biggest coastal city in the south with approximately 550.000 inhabitants.

Malaga Congress Centre is entirely high speed Wi-Fi connected with access points in all working and meeting rooms, which allows an effective interaction of any of the participants. In addition, there will be network cable connections.

At the venue, there will be registration and accreditation zones for the participants, speakers and press; over 50 internet free public access points; as well as information points and stands.

## RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The Conference will offer the following resources and services (non exhaustive list):

- Advisory service for the design and installation of stands.
- Service of installation, configuration and systems management.
- Simultaneous translation service in Spanish, English, French and German.
- Press and media services.
- Services of protocol and attention to personalities and VIP's.
- Development of official acts (Official opening and closing Sessions).
- Alternative social program for accompanying persons.
- Service of edition and publication of the Conference including the Website.

## CONFERENCE WEB SITE

The Conference website, with full and up-to-date details on the events, will be accessed through the dedicated website: [www.ehealthconference2006.org](http://www.ehealthconference2006.org)

The site will include pre-registration and full on-line registration, as well as the possibility of booking accommodation and travel.

It will be possible to subscribe to the mailing lists to receive updated information and news on the Conference events and the final programme.

The website will be structured in different sections: news, programme updates, speakers' biographies, general information and logistics, information about Malaga, links to sponsors and cooperating institutions, etc.

The organisation will broadcast certain sessions and workshops on-line with live video streaming, and supporting multimedia documentation available to all interested parties.

#### **EXPECTED AUDIENCE**

The attendance will be by invitation only on the part of the authorities of the member states and the co-organising institutions.

Registration for the Conference will be free with pre-registration.

It is intention of the organizers, which have made contact with some Universities of Latin America and Central America, to count during the celebration of the Conference with virtual classrooms in several university seats with transmission via satellite.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

The content of the proceedings and the presentations will be published in a Proceedings Book. In addition, it will be released on the web for widespread distribution.

Similarly, all working documents and keynote presentations will be drawn together for publication.

Furthermore, detailed bilingual programmes will be available for all events.

A daily Conference Newsletter will be prepared by the communication team in close relationship with the Advisory Board and the Conference Committee.



## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

E-HEALTH 2006 HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE											
10, 11 and 12 May 2006											
	WEDNESDAY 10		THURSDAY 11				FRIDAY 12				
8.00	REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION SEMINARS										
8.30											
9.00	STRATEGIC SEMINARS (1st Part) WORKSHOP ON ENLARGED EUROPE		PLENARY SESSION				PLENARY SESSION-ROUND TABLE				
9.30											
10.00	COFFEE BREAK		EXHIBITION VISIT - COFFEE BREAK				EXHIBITION VISIT - COFFEE BREAK				
10.30											
11.00	STRATEGIC SEMINARS (2nd Part) WORKSHOP ON ENLARGED EUROPE		THEMATIC SESSIONS				THEMATIC SESSIONS				
11.30											
12.00	LUNCH		AUDITORIUM	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3	AUDITORIUM	ROOM1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3	
12.30			PARALLEL SESSION 1	PARALLEL SESSION 2	PARALLEL SESSION 3	PARALLEL SESSION 4	PARALLEL SESSION 1	PARALLEL SESSION 2	PARALLEL SESSION 3	PARALLEL SESSION 4	
13.00	REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION		LUNCH and EXHIBITION VISIT				CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING				
13.30											
14.00	OFFICIAL OPENING		THEMATIC SESSIONS				VISITS TO REGIONS				
14.30											
15.00	KEYNOTE SPEECH		AUDITORIUM	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3					
15.30			PARALLEL SESSION 1	PARALLEL SESSION 2	PARALLEL SESSION 3	PARALLEL SESSION 4					
16.00	COFFEE BREAK		COFFEE BREAK								
16.30											
17.00	PLENARY SESSION ROUND TABLE		PLENARY SESSION-ROUND TABLE								
17.30											
18.00	COCKTAIL - EXHIBITION HALL										
18.30											
19.00											
19.30											
20.00											
20.30											