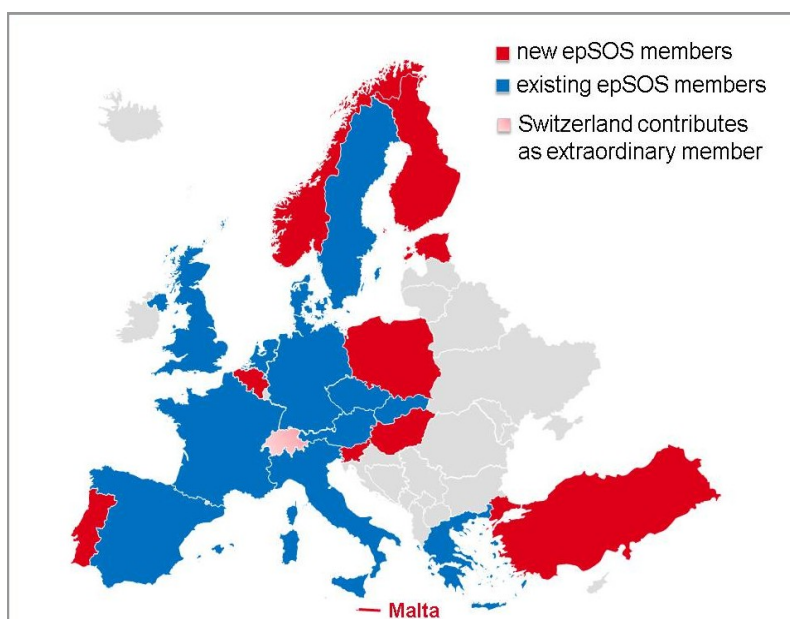




### The epSOS Consortium Continues to Grow

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, eleven countries joined the ongoing epSOS project. The project team now consists of 47 beneficiaries from 20 EU Member States and three non-EU Member States. The project

coordinator, the European Commission and the already existing epSOS countries signed the contract governing the participation of the eleven new nations within the epSOS project.



The epSOS project was extended until December 2013 starting with an overlapping period on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011. The new epSOS approach is based on advanced and distinct use cases and associated infrastructural components, which will form the basis for a longer term, pan-European approach to

develop interoperable eHealth supported healthcare service solutions.

Before the pilot starts in the course of the year 2011, work will focus on organizational issues, settling coordination questions and getting the new beneficiaries involved

### EDITORIAL

*Dear eHealth community,*

*Mobility in Europe is growing as European citizens travel abroad more and more often for business reasons, as commuters or as exchange students. This increased mobility also leads to a greater need for supportive measures for the travelling population, in particular in the healthcare sector. When abroad, we all could find ourselves in need of medical care some day.*

*We, as the epSOS consortium, have taken on the goal of improving medical treatment of European citizens while abroad. Fortunately, we are coming closer to achieving this objective. This year, the epSOS pilot operation phase will be initiated.*

*Find further information on the epSOS activities and project progress in this newsletter, or visit the epSOS website at [www.epSOS.eu](http://www.epSOS.eu). We wish you a pleasant reading!*

*Yours sincerely,  
The epSOS consortium*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
The epSOS Consortium	
Continues to Grow.....	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Projectathon in Pisa .....	2
Launch of New epSOS Website .....	4
Upcoming Events .....	4



on different levels. The extension of the consortium is seen as a great benefit for Europe. All the participating nations will be able to exchange and enhance their knowledge and experiences within the project while offering mutual help and support.

This project signals a clear step towards a closer global

cooperation on eHealth in Europe. Of course, bringing such a large number of new members on board also means facing more challenges due to the different national situations, but everyone involved is confident that together the overall goal of improving medical treatment for European citizens while abroad can be achieved.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Projectathon Held in Pisa, Italy

From April 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 all eyes were on one little city famous for its leaning tower - Pisa. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Projectathon, a Connectathon inspired event, was held to once again test the epSOS system architecture by exchanging patient data and prove that Europe is ready for cross-border healthcare services.

13 epSOS participating nations from Europe and five software vendors that developed key components for interconnecting the national systems, took advantage of the chance to test the interoperability of

their systems. 570 tests were carried out by the 15 participants based on the Patient Summary,

ePrescription and eDispensation epSOS Services in order to determine if the healthcare systems are ready to meet the epSOS specifications.

Based on hard engineering work and results gained from the 1<sup>st</sup> Projectathon (November 2010, Bratislava), this Projectathon

focused on the preparation for the pre-pilot testing phase before entering into the live testing phase.

The pilot phase is scheduled to start in the course of 2011

### epSOS Coordinator Fredrik Lindén from Sweden:

*"The participation of more countries in Pisa despite the more demanding requirements, demonstrates national programs across Europe are reaching a level of expertise that is very promising as we prepare for live piloting."*

## New Participants in epSOS

The new Participating Nations and their beneficiaries are:

### Belgium:

- » Plate-forme eHealth
- » RECIP-E VZW

### Malta:

- » Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care

### Estonia:

- » Eesti E-tervise Sihtasutus

### Finland:

- » TERVEYDEN JA HYVINVOINNIN LAITOS

### Hungary:

- » Egészségügyi Stratégiai Kutatóintézet

### Norway:

- » HELSEDIREKTORATE
- » KOMPETANSENTER FOR INFORMASJONSTEKNOLOGI I HELSEVESENEN AS

### Poland:

- » NARODOWY FUNDUSZ ZDROWIA

### Slovenia:

- » INSTITUT ZA VOROVANJE ZDRAVJA REPUBLIKE SLVENIJE
- » Ministrstvo za zdravje

### Turkey:

- » Turkiye Cumhuriyeti Saglik Bakanligi
- » SRDC Yazilim Arastirma ve Gelistirme ve Danis Manlikticaret Limited Sirketi

### Portugal:

- » UNIVERSIDADE DE AVERIO
- » Administracao Central do Sistema de Saude I.P.

### Switzerland\*:

- » Les Hopitaux Universitaires de Geneve
- » Federal Office of Public Health

### New beneficiaries from already participating nations are:

- » AGENCIA VALENCIANA DE SALUD, Spain
- » SERVEI DE SALUT DE LES ILLES BALEARS, Spain

\* Switzerland has joined as a country that has declared to fulfil all the rights and duties arising from the respective agreements.



with a first group and is planned to be extended during the project's progress.

When fully operational, the epSOS Large Scale Pilot will engage more than 30,000 health professionals exchanging patient summaries between 3,400 Points of Care.

### Outcomes of the Projectathon

The main service functionalities were verified so that all that remains to be done is to fix minor code errors and deal with semantic

issues. A few legal barriers also remain for some countries that are not able to participate in the live testing phase. These countries will however be able to continue working on system development and testing with simulated patient data.

In order for the healthcare communities of Europe to communicate with each other, it was necessary to create a master data set of approximately 10,000 terms to enable the exchange of information within the epSOS pilot.

### IHE Europe Connectathon 2011

At the same time, on April 12<sup>th</sup>, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual IHE European Connectathon workshop functioned as a parallel testing event to present the results of the HITCH (*Healthcare Interoperability Testing and Conformance Harmonization*) project. 75 companies and healthcare organizations tested software emerging from the development pipeline for interoperability with other systems applying the integration profiles developed by IHE.

## Statements of participants attending the Pisa Projectathon 2011



### Stéphane Spahni from the University Hospitals of Geneva:

*"The basics have already been installed. Now, we are ready to be interconnected with other systems. We are moving along well!"*

### Artur Novek from the Estonian eHealth Foundation:

*"It is so great to be part of this. Being shielded from regular work is the right way to focus on the development and bug-fixing of our system. Moreover, people are getting familiar at the technical site and collaborating to solve problems."*



PAT testing team Spain

### Celia Varela from the Regional Health Care Service of Castilla-La Mancha in Spain:

*"The Projectathon is the only way of testing systems and sharing problems with other healthcare organizations developing eHealth systems."*



**Launch of the new epSOS Website: [www.epsos.eu](http://www.epsos.eu)**

Due to the progress of the project, the project consortium jointly agreed to relaunch the epSOS website. Austria was appointed to lead the responsible Work

Package, 'Dissemination', and is proud to finally present the new look of the epSOS portal, which has been online since May 5<sup>th</sup>:



Besides a **new structure** ① oriented towards the different target groups of the project, the portal now provides **country specific websites** ② that can be selected from a drop down menu. These sites provide information in the respective language of the country as well as country specific information regarding the current status of the pilot phase (in the national and English language).

The right hand side also contains new features. At the top is a direct link to the **Points of Care** ③ where epSOS

Services can be found in each piloting country. Below that is another new feature enabling visitors to **evaluate the epSOS services** ④ during the pilot phase. Finally, the announcement of upcoming events is planned to be marked in a **calendar** ⑤.

The new website now provides more charts and updated information regarding the progress, as well as an extended glossary, updated FAQs and the overall integration of the new epSOS participating nations.

**August 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011  
Oslo, Norway**

**MIE 2011**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of the European Federation for Medical Informatics will highlight the broad range of health informatics achievements at regional, national, and at international level.

[www.mie2011.org](http://www.mie2011.org)

**October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Brussels, Belgium**

**Addressing evolving needs for cross-border eGovernment services**

The event aims to discuss which cross border services can be considered as key, supporting the eGovernment Action Plan 2010-2015 as well as the need for cross border services for the users amongst other topics.

[www.epractice.eu](http://www.epractice.eu)

**October 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Florence, Italy**

**eChallenges e-2011 Conference and Exhibition**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference (supported by the European Commission) offers more than 600 delegates from leading commercial, government and research organizations around the world a forum in which they can exchange their broad range of knowledge and experience. The *eChallenges e-2011* will focus on Applied ICT research topics addressing major societal and economic challenges.

[www.echallenges.org/e2011](http://www.echallenges.org/e2011)

**Disclaimer:**

All the data and information provided has been verified and every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy and correctness. Despite our extensive efforts, errors may still occur. Therefore, we do not claim any liability whatsoever for the content provided.

**Project Coordinator:** SALAR - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions • Hornsgatan 20, 118 82 Stockholm, Sweden  
**Contact:** Fredrik Lindén • email: [Fredrik.Linden@skl.se](mailto:Fredrik.Linden@skl.se) • Tel: +46 8 452 7334