Current status

In November 2011, it became clear that the proposal for Mandate 403 phase 2 will not be granted by the European Commission, hence a leading role for CEN TC251 in the development of appropriate standards, profiles and maintenance of these artefacts is off the table. Current ehealth projects; epSOS, Calliope, HITCH, EHR-QTN, NetC@rds, SemanticHealth, SmartPersonalHealth, STORK and ISA Study, funded by the Commission, include goals and deliverables which are partly described in M403 phase 2 proposal. It is still uncertain how the deliverables of these projects will be maintained and embedded in the standards development lifecycle that is at the heart of our thinking and the core of the M403 work. This could be an appropriate role for CEN/TC 251 in the future.

Strategy CEN/TC 251

In light of this decision by the Commission on M403 and the key European developments in the domain of eHealth, CEN/TC 251 is working on the strategy for its future.
The following key European developments are currently in order:

- In Budapest 2011 the High Level Group (State Secretaries) of the eHealth Governance Initiative (eHGI) decided to merge within the new eHealth network created by Art. 14 of the Directive 2011/24/EU on 'Patients' rights cross-border healthcare'.
- The eHealth Network is a formal voluntary network. It is set up by an Implementing Decision by the Commission on providing the rules for the establishment, the management and the functioning of the Network of national responsible authorities on eHealth.
- The Network is empowered to adopt guidelines on eHealth. Since Member States will have the ownership on the deliverables of the Network, it is expected that they will also commit to effectively implement them.
- The EC, jointly represented by DG INFSO and DG SANCO, will steer and coordinate the activities of the Network. The network will be chaired by DG SANCO Director General.
- The eHealth Network will build on the results and foster sustainability of several large scale projects on eHealth supported by the Commission, such as epSOS, STORK etc. It will ensure continuation of the work by Member States under eHGI JA&TN.
- Differently from eHGI JA&TN, which involve stakeholder representatives, the Art. 14 Network is restricted to Member State (MS) national authorities responsible for eHealth.
- It is crucial that the Network does not remain disconnected from the work of other fora and standardisation bodies. The eHealth Governance Initiative has a work package on standardisation and interoperability. The eHealth Network could play a governance role in developing principles for public procurement on eHealth in the EU as to improve interoperability.
- Connecting Europe Facility is an innovative EU financing initiative which will invest in the deployment and operations of cross- border infra and info structures. Its goal is to serve the sustainability of LSPs, e.g. epSOS.
- The eHealth EIF study funded under the ISA programme will envision workshops to favour exchange with global fora and consortia. The first stage of the project will envision stakeholder consultations so it will duly take into account current on-going developments. The study will be kicked off in January 2011 and to be finalised before the end of 2012.
- CIP ICT PSP WP 2012-2013 is about to be adopted by the MS and will be published in January 2012. Objective 3.7 will establish a Thematic Network on "Adoption, taking up and testing of standards and specifications for eHealth interoperability" which could be of interest for the organizations participating in the meeting.
- The European Parliament will decide on the new EU standardization framework in 2012 and if approved, implementation will follow in 2013. This means that other standards/profiles/specifications than formally identified standards may be referred to in procurement when specific requirements are met (following WTO principles such as transparency).

Information

For more information, please contact Ms. Shirin Golyardi, NEN. All relevant documentation for this project (including the draft ESO reports) can be found on this website under *documents*.

About CEN, CENELEC and ETSI

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) are the three officially responsible European standardization bodies that help shape the European Internal Market.

CEN and CENELEC are based in Brussels (Belgium) and ETSI is located in Sophia Antipolis (France). CENELEC deals with the standardization of products and services in the fields of electricity, electronics and associated technologies, ETSI with telecommunications, broadcasting and related areas; CEN covers all other industry and service sectors. Between them, the three organizations work with over 70.000 experts from industry and societal and environmental interest groups who develop European Standards (EN) and other specifications for more than 480 million people.

Their work directly increases market potential, encourages technological development and guarantees the safety and health of consumers, as well as the environmental protection

Information CEN, CENELEC, ETSI

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