What do the Candidate Countries expect from the European Union?

Jana Zvárová
European Centre for Medical Informatics, Statistics and Epidemiology, Charles University and Academy of Sciences
Prague, The Czech Republic
http://www.euromise.org
Candidate Countries and eEurope+ activity plan

European ministeral conference held in Warsaw in May 2000 underlined the importance of complementing European Union political commitments by creating an eEurope-like action plan „eEurope+“ by and for candidate countries, nowadays Newly Associated States.
Newly Associated States

- Newly Associated States (NAS) are: Bulgaria, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia
Newly Associated States and eEurope+ activity plan

In NAS are running special programs reflecting objectives of the operational plan eEurope+ in healthcare.

Basic objectives in „Information Society for All“
• improvement the access and use of Internet,
• investment in education,
• collecting knowledge required by people of the digital age.
Internet penetration in the **Czech Republic** is about **30% of the population**.

One third of all Internet users are students and more than half are less than 25 years old.
The basic assumption for NAS is the eAccessibility. A low proportion of PC-equipped households in NAS countries, e.g. 13% in the Czech Republic, mean a low possibility to introduce advanced concepts in health telematics to NAS.
Czech Republic and eHealth activities

“Health on-line” program

“The Action Realization Plan of the State Information Politics”

is to introduce new information and communication technologies in Czech health care.
**eHealth National Legal Issues**

- In the year 2001, the Czech Republic legalized the use of the *electronic form of a patient record* (without the paper form) with *guaranteed electronic signature*.

- Also legislation is being prepared that necessitates the provision of a *time stamp*.
eHealth National Legal Issues

• A Czech law from the year 2000 requires the protection of sensitive personal data in patient records.

• The protection of sensitive personal data is necessary for an introduction of Electronic Healthcare Record (EHR) into the Czech Healthcare.
Institute for Protection of Personal Data

• To collect personal patient data is only possible
  – according to a law,
  – within EHR of one healthcare organization,
  – with an informed consent of a patient.
• Institute for Protection of Personal Data has to be notified of the data structure and of the data collection.
National Health Information System (NHIS)

- NHIS is the source of many health databases and registers, health statistics etc.

- Patient records are the most important source of health data and in anonymous and aggregated form they are used by NHIS.
National Health Information System

• Collecting and processing of information about health conditions of citizens and about health institutions,
• Managing national health registers, (established in 2001 as a special part of NHIS) for registration and monitoring of patients,
• Providing information for Czech and international institutions in frame of legal rules,
• Using information for health research.
National Health Registers

selection of currently on-line accessible registers

- **National Transplant Register** (divided according to the kinds of transplant organs, waiting lists of candidates, receivers, and donors),
- **National Cardio-surgical Register** (particularly courses of individual cardio-surgical operations),
- **National Register of Cardiovascular Interventions** (particularly parameters of all PTCA interventions),
- **National Register of Vascular Interventions** (particularly registrations of all vascular operations),
- **National Register of Articular Substitutes** (particularly all operations of substitutions of hip joints),
- **National Oncological Register** (report on incidence of all tumours).
Health on line programme

Internet information forum for healthcare

- ranking of health information sources (CITMED) considering the quality criteria for health institution evaluation,
- ranking selected Czech healthcare organizations according to evaluation of their web pages (RANKMED),
- establishment of health information forum as the discussion portal on Czech healthcare.
National Program of Research and Development in the Czech Republic

- Based on the governmental decision the proposal for the national program of research and development was elaborated in the years 2000-2001,

- The Czech government approved the proposal of national program of research and development in April 2003.
National Program of Research and Development in the Czech Republic

Research topics (RT) coming from the interaction of the “Information Society” panel with the panel “Medicine and Healthcare”.

RT1: Medical information and knowledge-based systems including personal systems.
RT2: Electronic documentation in medical, social security and governmental systems.
Previous experience of NAS countries in programmes supporting European cooperation, e.g.

- PHARE
- Copernicus
- Tempus
- EUREKA
- COST
- RTD projects of the 4th, 5th and 6th FP
PRO-ACCESS initiative aiming at the transfer of modern concepts in health telematics to Newly Associated States.

with the focused workshop entitled 'e-Health Business Opportunities in NAS'
Integration into ERA

- Promotion of RTD potential of NAS
  - The new ERA will again include several very old European Universities – Prague (1348), Cracow (1364) or Pecs (1367)

- Exploratory visits and grants
- Brokerage events and fairs
- Development of assistance networks
- Training for project managers
- Web pages and info data bases
- Integration with economic, in particular industrial, environment in NAS
Networking

- Twining with centres in Member States
- Links to networks of excellence in Europe
- Networking at national and regional level
- Revitalizing networks and cooperation on European level
- Establishing cooperation with JRC
Improving Excellence

• Training for Ph.D. students
• Exchange of researchers
• Post-doctoral studies
• European doctoral studies
• Reestablishment of outstanding researchers in countries of origin
International Joint Meeting
EuroMISE2004
12.-15. April 2004, Prague, Czech Republic

- IMIA Working Conference on Statistical Methodology in Bioinformatics and Clinical Trials
- EFMI Symposium on Electronic Health Record, Healthcare Registers and Telemedicine
- Symposium on Biomedical Informatics and Biomedical Statistics Education
- Symposium on Computerized Guidelines and Protocols

http://www.euromise2004.org
Satellite Workshop on RTD Potential in Central and Eastern Europe for Building Information Society in Healthcare
April 15th 2004, Prague, The Czech Republic

The workshop will focus on building ERA and the expectations of CEE countries mainly NAS on the RTD cooperation in Europe

http://www.euromise2004.org
Satellite Workshop on RTD Potential in Central and Eastern Europe for Building Information Society in Healthcare

Topics

• Priorities of CEE countries for future RTD activities on the European level
• eAccessibility in NAS and CEE countries
• RTD experience in NAS and CEE countries derived from previous European projects
• Expectations of NAS and CEE countries derived from participating in ERA
• National research and development priorities in NAS and CEE countries

http://www.euromise2004.org
Thank you for your attention.

Praga Mater Urbium

Charles University  Academy of Sciences