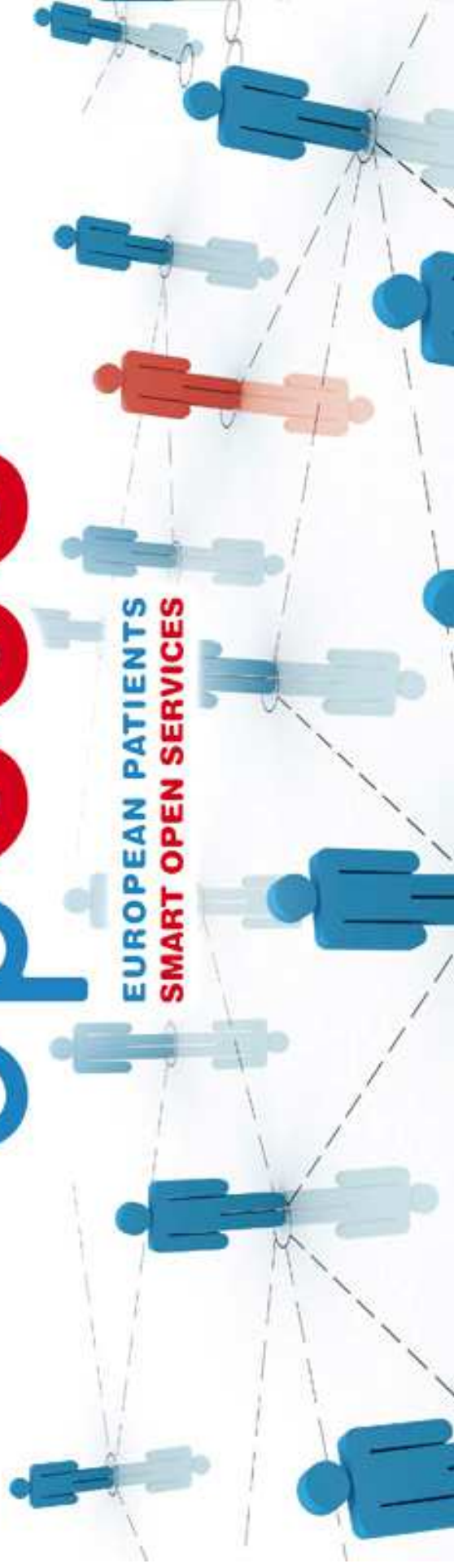




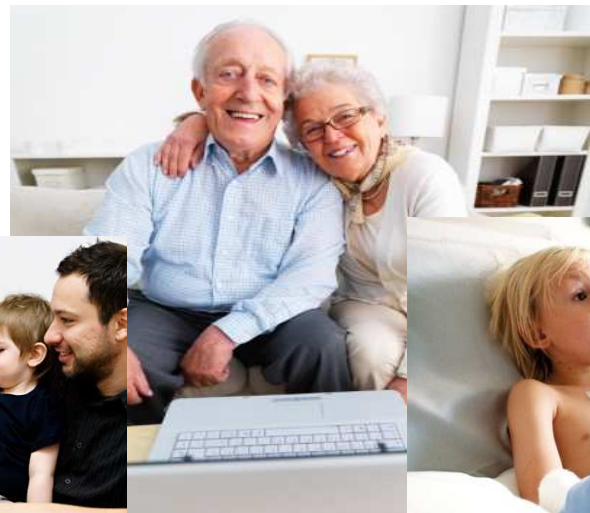
epsos

EUROPEAN PATIENTS
SMART OPEN SERVICES





Services for the cross-border patient





Momentum for cross-border healthcare

4.4.2011 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 88/45

DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE 2011/24/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 March 2011

on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 114 and 168 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Article 114(3) TFEU explicitly requires that, in achieving harmonisation, a high level of protection of human health is to be guaranteed taking account in particular of any new development based on scientific facts.

(3) The health systems in the Union are a general component of the Union's high levels of social protection, and contribute to social cohesion and social justice as well as to sustainable development. They are also part of the wider framework of services of general interest.



Brussels, 6.12.2012
COM(2012) 736 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 - Innovative healthcare for the 21st century

{SWD(2012) 413 final}
{SWD(2012) 414 final}



Photograph from European Parliament



What was epSOS?

- **A European pilot project tasked to develop a practical eHealth infrastructure to support exchange of patient health information between different European healthcare systems**
 - **Patient summary data**
 - **ePrescription**
- **Prerequisites: safety, security and quality**





Brief epSOS facts

- **Type: “European Large Scale Pilot”**
- **Time span: 2008–2014**
- **Funding: ICT Policy Support Programme (PSP)**
- **Approx. 50 beneficiaries from 25 European countries**
- **Ministries, agencies, academia, industry, local authorities**
- **Acronym: European patients’ Smart Open Services (i.e. epSOS)**





Results: operational pilots

- 15 nations with operational pilots (blue)
- Different types of pilots:
 - Target population
 - Functionalities
 - Sending and/or receiving information
- Differences in national eHealth maturity

"epSOS has promoted alignment to European requirements in the Finnish national eHealth strategies"

"epSOS has fostered awareness and readiness of Swedish authorities in terms of aligning to international requirements"

"epSOS compliance was a prerequisite of the Slovenian eHealth backbone"





Results: agreement among experts

- **Data/information content and semantics**
- **Legal framework for pilot operations**
- **Mechanisms for testing, review and approval of pilots**
- **Creation of a European eHealth community**





Results: open source software

- **Project originally limited to defining specifications**
- **Different implementations limited interoperability**
- **Mitigation strategy: development of open source software for national epSOS contact points (“OpenNCP”)**
- **Continuous development by OpenNCP community**





Results: evaluation

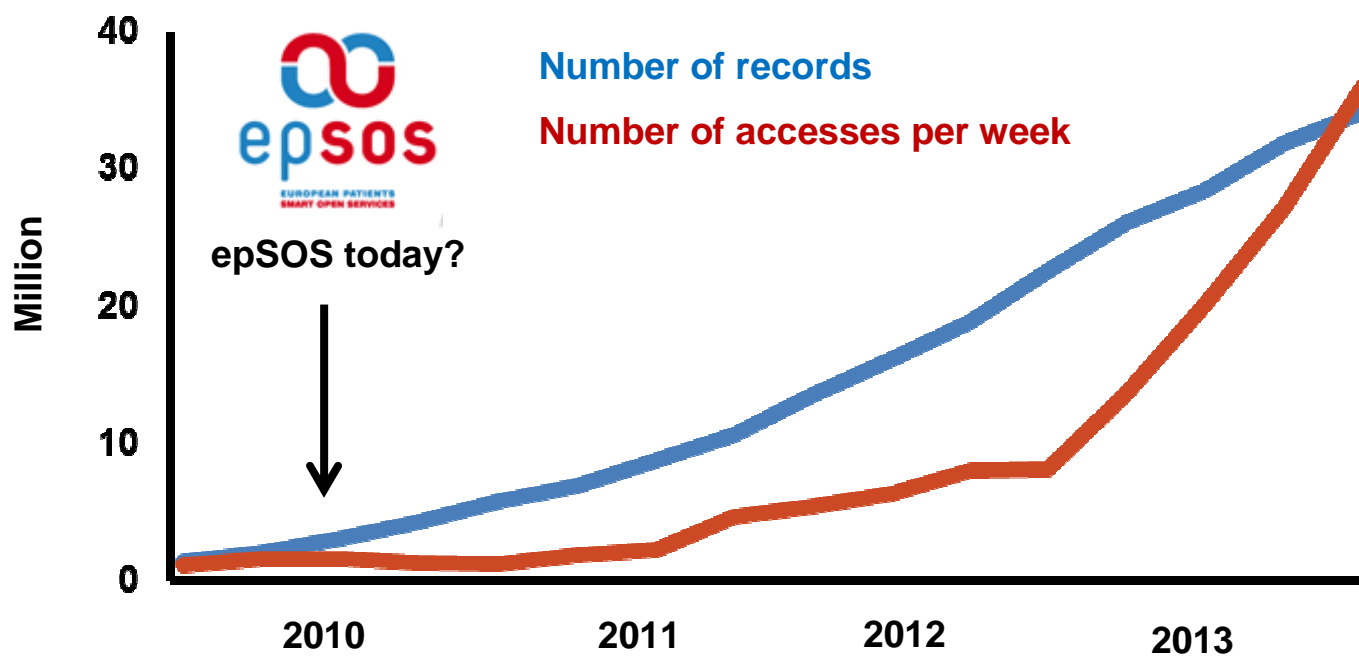
- **Only a small amount of real patients used the services**
 - Awareness of epSOS among patients and health professionals
 - Informed consent for epSOS services in home country
 - Travel
 - Medical need while abroad
 - Seeking health care
 - Access to an epSOS point of care
- **Challenge for evaluation, alternative approaches devised**
- **Nevertheless, epSOS does not provide definite evidence for, nor against, the case for cross-border exchange of health data**





Anologous situation?

Implementation of patient summary records, UK, 2010–2013





Recommendations

- **43 recommendations have been formulated to foster European eHealth interoperability and sustainable services:**
 - Policy and strategy
 - Communications and user engagement
 - Products
 - Operations
- **Possible target audiences:**
 - European Commission
 - eHealth Network
 - Other EU projects (primarily the Expand project)
 - Member States
 - Other organisations (e.g. Standards Developing Organisations)





Conclusions

- **epSOS has delivered results to enable cross-border exchange of health data in pilot mode**
- **epSOS has provided a basis for, and contributed to demonstrating the feasibility of, cross-border exchange of health data beyond pilot mode**
- **epSOS does not provide definite evidence for, nor against, the case for cross-border exchange of health data**
- **Recognizing the potential for cross-border exchange of health data, the processes/activities to inform further decisions in this regard should be pursued, building on the assets and recommendations of epSOS**





Further information

- **Expand project (2014–2015) bridges between pilot projects and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**
- **A few participating nations may carry on in different constellations**
- **OpenNCP community remains**
- **epSOS website remains**
- **JoinUp, EC website to share and reuse interoperability solutions for public administrations**



The screenshot displays the OpenNCP community page on Confluence. The page title is "OpenNCP Community Home" and it includes a welcome message: "Welcome to the OpenNCP Community!". Below the text is a group photo of community members. A list of resources is provided, including "OpenNCP General Presentation", "OpenNCP Technical Sheet", "OpenNCP Disclaimer", "OpenNCP Release Notes", "OpenNCP Meeting minutes", "OpenNCP Installation Overview", "OpenNCP Installation Manual", "OpenNCP Integration and Testing", and "OpenNCP Usage". The page also mentions the latest release is 2.1.0 and provides information for those looking to contribute or install the software.



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