



**Vertical Workshop  
on eHealth**

**Skopje 10 May 2010**

**E-Health in Albania  
The Present Situation and Future Predictions**

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- “eHealth refers to the use of modern information and communication technologies to meet the needs of citizens, patients, healthcare professionals, healthcare providers, as well as policy makers” [*EU Ministerial Declaration, eHealth'2003, High Level Conference, Brussels 22 May 2003*]
  - Patients and citizens are the ultimate beneficiary of eHealth
  - ICT are tools to provide eHealth service to beneficiaries
  - Working for eHealth we can change our life
    - Quality affordable health care any time any where

- eHealth is combination of
  - Bioinformatics
  - Clinics informatics
  - Public health informatics
  - Nursing informatics
  - Imaging and signal analysis
  - Patients records
  - Innovative technologies in health care
  - Human Information Processing
  - Education and training
  - Organizational Behavior
  - Organizational issues

[Source: Elmer V. Bernstam, MD, MSE, MS, Assistant Professor, School of Health Information Sciences and Internal Medicine UT – Houston Health Informatics]

- eHealth is for
  - Efficiency = decreasing costs
  - Enhancing quality of care, including preventive care
  - Evidence based – effectiveness and efficiency should be proven by evaluation
  - Empowerment of citizens and patients
  - Encouragement of a new relationship between the patient and health professional
  - Education of physicians and citizens
  - Enabling information exchange and communication between all parties involved
  - Extending the scope of health care beyond its conventional boundaries
  - Ethical
  - Equity

[Source: P.J. McCullagh, W.P. Patton eHealth: Tackling the Demand for Citizen Information On The Internet]

- Integration of medical data in a single system
  - Ability to serve people where ever they are
    - Working
    - Traveling
  - Telemedicine aspects
    - Personalized consulting
    - Personalized Support
    - Personalized Intervention
  - Design of specialized software
    - Computer aided diagnostics
    - Prediction of results of interventions
    - Use of databases and data mining

## Tendencies for integration and privacy issues

- Critical problems
  - Privacy issues
  - Ethical issues

- Evaluations of the state of E-Health in Albania
  - First steps conditioned by...
  - 20 years of transition of health care system in Albania
- Reform of the health care system in Albania
  - Policies and strategies
  - Privatization
  - Insurances
- Institutions
  - Ministry of Health
    - Policies and strategies
  - Institute of National Health Insurances
    - Financial support for hospitals and primary services
  - Institute of Public Health
    - Monitoring and prevention

- Completion of infrastructure with
  - IT equipment, and
  - Internet connection
- Beginning of patients' data gathering
  - in digital format, and
  - in standalone computers
- Obstetric and Gynecologic Hospital
  - The only integrated system for data and images input for every doctor
- Tendencies for implementation of software for
  - transfer of images from the online system into the surgery rooms in Mother Teresa Hospital Center in Tirana
  - Transfer of analysis results to every hospital service
- Some private hospitals transfer images between cities via Internet

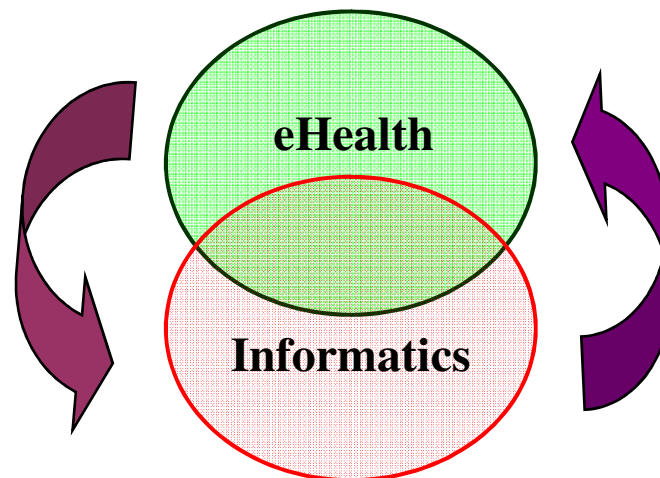
- First steps of e-Health development in Albania
- Positive trend for deployment of e-Health techniques
- New doctors graduated abroad have the tendency to use e-Health techniques in every corner of health system in the country
- Number of IT specialists working on e-Health is small
- There are very few applications to support doctors
- Need to establish a data system
  - Managed in centralized way for integration of all data
  - Distributed in all hospitals
- There are some trends to develop tele-medicine applications
  - With partners from North Italy
- Need to support intensive care units with IT systems
- Need to exchange experience between neighbor countries
- Need to think for integration of medical data in the region

## Some local recommendations

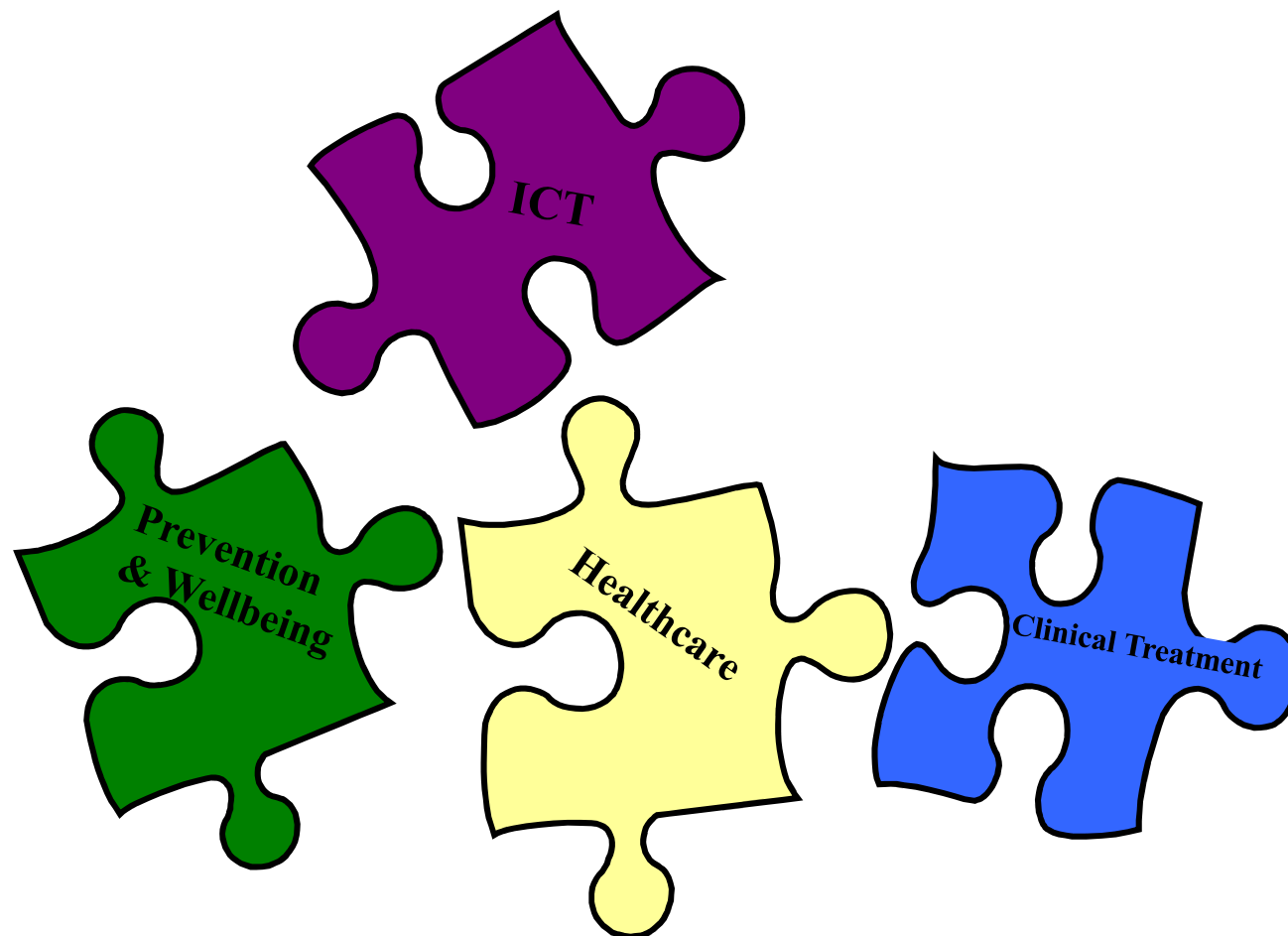
- Necessity to integrate old and new systems
- Powerful group with doctors and IT specialists to support the system
- Health care centers and hospitals to be supported by the system
- Preparation of IT specialists for e-Health related disciplines
- Institute of Public Health must be integrated with department of family doctors
- Development of national health care system based on patient's ID electronic card
- Support of SMEs working in the field of e-Health
- Inclusion in the integrated system of drug stores system

## Some recommendations for collaboration

- Complex teams for development of special software
  - Storing of cases in a single database
  - Using of data mining to extract information ...
  - for prediction of results of interventions
- Identification of realistic case studies for archiving and use in training e young specialists for understanding and comparison of alternative approaches, based on e-Learning solutions



## Need for an Effective Fit



- Thank You !
- Questions ?