

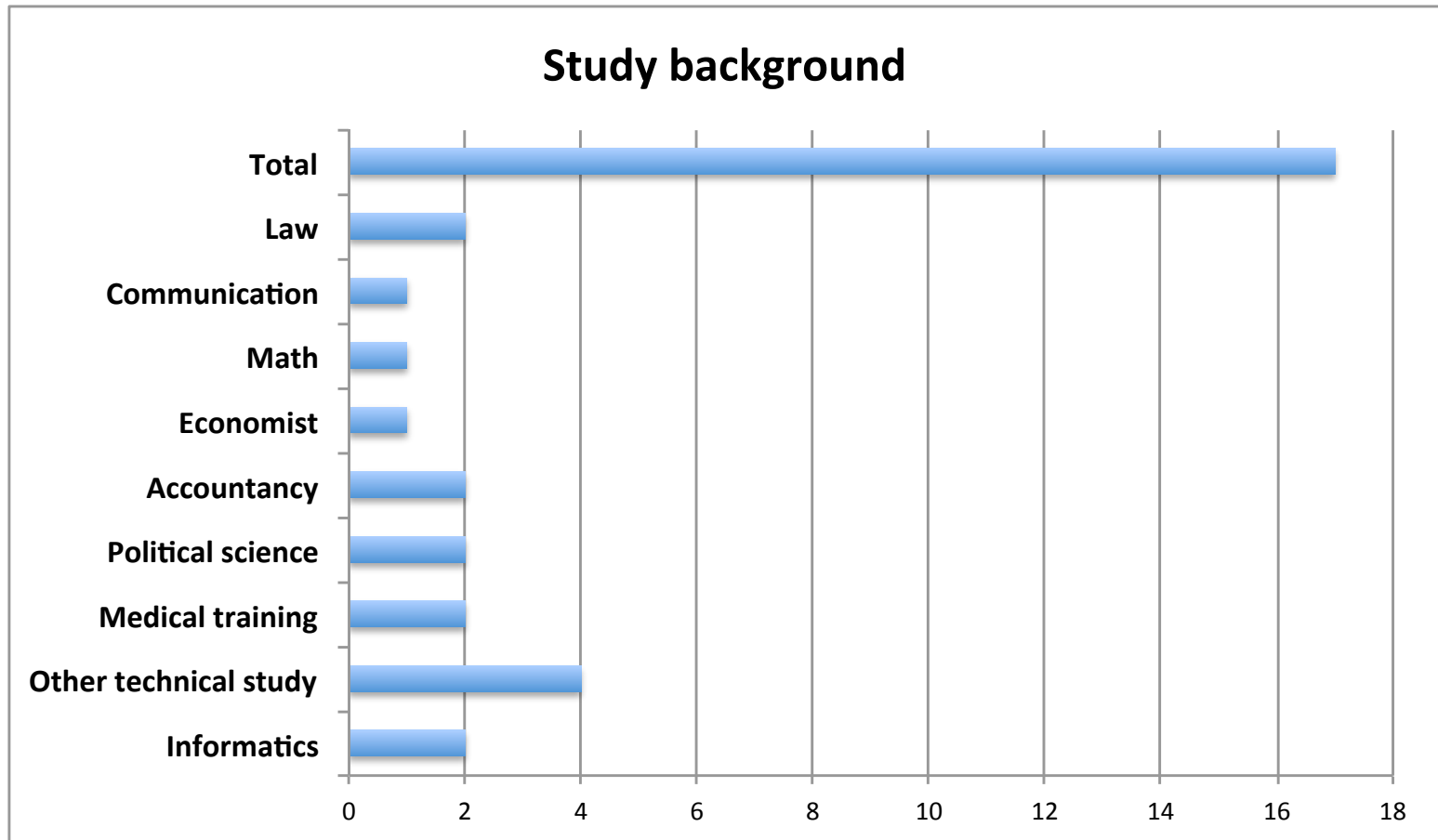


Semantic strategy in EU and SNOMED CT

**SNOMED CT Implementation Showcase
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European Commission

Who is here?



Quick EU policy introduction

European Commission

28 commissioners

Right of initiative

Implementation of the European policies and budget

European Parliament

751 members representing the European citizens

Adoption of legislation and budget

Democratic supervision

Council of the EU

28 ministers representing the Member States

Adoption of legislation and budget

Concluding international agreements



Quick EU policy introduction

"In accordance with Article 168 of the EU Treaty, the European Union is striving to attain a higher level of health protection through all European policies and activities.

*However, defining national **health policies remains an exclusive competence belonging to Member States**. Consequently, EU action shall not include the definition of health policies, nor the organisation and provision of health services and medical care."*

Semantic strategy

“Semantic interoperability is the ultimate level of interoperability”



“Maybe we need to rethink our strategy of hoping the Internet will just go away”



Where are we at?

- European Commission involved in Health and ICT for over 20 years;
- Mainly projects, but since 2004 it has been developing targeted policy initiatives;
- Change in 2009 > Member States get more involved;
- Directive on cross-border Patient Rights' + renewed eHealth Action Plan;
- Main outcome: eHealth Network of Member States

eHealth Network

- Set up under Directive on Cross-Border Patient Rights (2011/24/EU)
- Political body leading eHealth Strategy in EU and working to enhance eHealth interoperability in EU
- Main deliverables:
 - **guidelines on patient summary data-set**
 - **guidelines on ePrescription (expected)**
- Recently adopted Multi-annual Work Plan 2015-2018 includes task on semantic strategy

Where are we at on semantics?

Table D.17. **Terminology standards for structured data elements**

	Socio-economic information	Medications	Diagnosis	Laboratory tests	Medical imaging results	Surgical procedures	Physical characteristics	Behaviours	Psychosocial or cultural issues
Austria	IHE, HL7	ATC	ICD-10	LOINC	DIACOM/ WADO				
Belgium	ISO	ATC	SNOMED-CT	LOINC	DICOM	SNOMED-CT	SNOMED-CT	SNOMED-CT	
Denmark		ATC	ICD-10, ICPC	IUPAC	ICD10	NOMESCO, NCSP			
Estonia	National standards	ATC	ICD-10	LOINC	DICOM	NCSP	National standards	National standards	National standards
Finland		ATC	ICD-10 and ICPC2 mapped	Finloinc – mapped to LOINC	DICOM and Finland national coding		Finloinc		
France	PCS-ESE (occupation)	CIS, CIP	ICD-10	LOINC v1 1.3	HL7v3/DICOM	SNOMED 3.5 v1	UCUM	SNOMED 3.5 v1	SNOMED 3.5 v1
Germany		National coding system	ICD-10 (GM for ambulatory care)					OPS	

Where are we at on semantics?

Table D.17. **Terminology standards for structured data elements**

	Socio-economic information	Medications	Diagnosis	Laboratory tests	Medical imaging results	Surgical procedures	Physical characteristics	Behaviours	Psychosocial or cultural issues
Netherlands									
Poland		Central Drug Vocabulary, OSOZ, BLOZ	ICD-10		DICOM	ICD-9	BMI		
Portugal		ATC	ICD-9 CM, ICD-10	LOINC	DICOM	ICD-9 CM	EPSOS	EPSOS	
Slovak Republic	SNOMED, ICD-10, Alliance NNN, 13606, archetypes	ATC,EDQM	ICD-10	LOINC	DICOM		BMI	ICD-10	ICD-10
Slovenia		ATC	ICD-10 CM	LOINC		Local codes			
Spain		National code, SNOMED-CT	ICD-9 CM, ICD-10, SNOMED-CT	LOINC, SNOMED-CT	Local codes (SERAM and SEMNIM catalogue)	ICD-9 CM, ICD 10, SNOMED CT			
Sweden									
Switzerland									
United Kingdom (England)		SNOMED-CT Drug extension	ICD-10	HL7	DICOM	OPCS4			

Where are we at on semantics II?

- EU Member States still very diverse structured data elements (some none);
- Work in EU to make it possible to share health data across borders;
- No unification is needed but simplification is necessary?

What have we done?

- Projects



- Policy papers



- Now agreement to deliver semantic strategy

Agree on a European Strategy for semantic interoperability, based on research project deliverables under Horizon 2020

Specific on SNOMED CT?

- Study under H2020;
- Agreement in the making between EC and IHTSDO on European Union Subset for cross-border care;

Study: Assessing SNOMED CT for Large Scale Deployments in the EU

- SNOMED CT could play a central role as a core terminology to solve semantic interoperability issues;
- The epSOS pilot project has retained SNOMED CT as part of the master value catalogue which ensures semantic interoperability across the borders
- The eHealth Network called on the Commission to play a more active role in assessing the value of SNOMED CT for eHealth deployments in Europe.

The study will:

- Investigate the fitness of the clinical terminology SNOMED CT as a potential standard for EU-wide eHealth deployments
 - Scrutinize clinical, technical, financial, and organizational aspects of SNOMED CT
 - Assess adoption against two alternative scenarios:
 - 1) to abstain from actions at the EU level
 - 2) to devise an EU-wide semantic interoperability framework without SNOMED CT
- Study expected to finished December 2015

Agreement on EU subset

- Proposal under the EU Public Health Program
- Intention to sign a direct services contract between European Commission and IHTSDO to use an EU subset for cross-border care
- This will give EU Member States, that are not yet a member country of IHTSDO, the possibility to use SNOMED CT terms for the duration of 2 years
- Important step to keep cross-border survives in the EU running until sustainable solution is found

Obstacles for SNOMED CT?

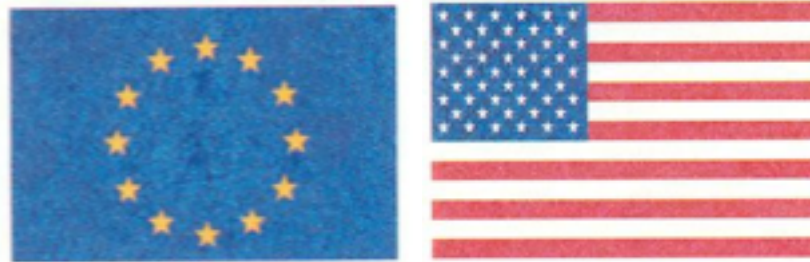
- Role of the European Union in health;
- Invested interest in Member States (health systems, hospitals, etc);
- Sometimes difficult to explain at national policy level;
- Financial argument > should an EU solution not be cost free?

Is there another option?

- If we want safe and high quality cross-border care, we need semantic interoperability;
- H2020 should provide more information on role of SNOMED CT in semantic strategy for EU;
- Until then, temporary agreement under EU Public Health Program makes it able to continue services;
- Unification against conversion?



Transatlantic cooperation



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

**THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES**

AND

**THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ON**

**COOPERATION SURROUNDING HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

Transatlantic challenges

- Member States involvement;
- Can you discuss harmonization when one side is still moving?;
- EU project deliverables are not EU policy agreements;
- However, more interest from Member States, strong focus on digital society, Roadmap to be updated and consultation expected;



Conclusions

“It is all about implementation”

Edith Schippers
Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport
SNOMED CT Implementation Showcase
2014 Amsterdam