



NOTE TO THE HEALTH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Subject: European Health Wiki

The Committee has previously discussed mechanisms for pooling and sharing health information at European level. In the context of discussion about health reports (and the EUGLOREH report in particular), emphasis has also been placed on developing a mechanism that would allow information to be constantly maintained and updated.

We have been exploring different options for taking this forward, and the most appropriate option seems to be a 'wiki' model, providing a mechanism for presenting information in a way which also allows ongoing comment and update from a wider health community. Technically, the Commission plans to implement this approach using the same technology as Wikipedia (in cooperation between SANCO and DIGIT, within the Commission). In terms of content, we propose to take the EUGLOREH report as a starting point, and to pilot the concept in certain specific areas (such as Alzheimer's disease and rare diseases) in order to see how it operates in practice.

One central issue with this approach is how to balance wider involvement, regular updating of information, and some assurance of the quality of the information concerned, and this will be one of the key issues for the pilots to address. Our hope is to work with the different centres of expertise across Europe for different topics, in order for them to take a lead in maintaining and editing the pages relating to their particular expertise. Thus for specific disease areas such as Alzheimer's disease, for example, we would invite the relevant European organisations to work with us in maintaining the relevant parts of the Wiki.

Comments would be welcomed on the following points in particular:

- what overall structure should be taken for the content of such a wiki? Can we take the EUGLOREH report as a starting point?
- what standard elements should be included in such wiki pages? Are there items that should be included beyond the EUGLOREH topics?
- are there suggestions for other areas to be covered in initial pilots of this concept?
- are there comments on the editorial approach and responsibility that should be taken for the content of the Wiki?

Action for the Committee:

	For comments
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