REGIONAL REPORTS
EFMI: EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL INFORMATICS

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Recent activities of EFMI

1. EFMI Participation at European “e-Health Week organized by European Commission and HIMMS Europe in Budapest, 10-12 May 2011.

The eHealth Week is a collocation of the European Commission's High Level Ministerial Conference and the World of Health IT Conference & Exhibition.

Cooperation of EFMI with European Commission, DG INFOSOC and DG Sanco is a priority of EFMI policy. EFMI was invited as partner organizer of this high level conference and the WOHIT. This meeting, now at the 9th edition, offered a networking frame for bridging politicians, professionals and researchers in e-health. This year the meeting was opened and actively attended by commissioners Neelie Kroes, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for the Digital Agenda and John Dalli, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy. The plea from the commission to the European ministers of health was to transform commitments on eHealth into Actions. It was a historic and heroic intervention, which hopefully leads to a higher speed for the implementation of eHealth in Europe.

EFMI had a well-attended booth shared with our friends from ETHEL, EUROREC and COCIR. EFMI organized yet another session in its series on Continuity of Care, this time with presentations on the integration of Social Care informatics by Michael Rigby, based on the ESF study and declaration on a Holistic Citizen-Centric Vision for Information and Communication Technologies to Support Personal Health. Jacqueline Bowman, the executive director of EPPOSSI presented the agenda for its programme for Chronic Conditions Management. The session was a great success and it showed the commitment of EFMI to contribute to the development of sustainable health care systems.

2. EFMI Special Topic Conference: STC 2011 held in Lasko, Slovenia 13-14 May.

The theme e-Health Across Borders Without Boundaries was the base for a very attractive
program with key note address of Rifat Latifi on a strategy for establishing sustainable telemedicine programs not only in the developing countries "Initiate-Build-Operate-Transfer".

Bernd Blobel gave an invited speech and introduced the audience in the world of Ontologies, Knowledge Representation, Artificial Intelligence - Hype or Prerequisites for International pHealth Interoperability?. F Bari introduced the conference to the issues of eHealth in the medical education “E-Health in Graduate and Postgraduate Medical Education: Illusions, Expectations and Reality”. The conference was very well organised by the SDMI by the team chaired by Mojca Paulin and the scientific program was mastered by Lacramioara Stoicu Tivadar. [http://www.STC2011.org/](http://www.STC2011.org/)

3. EFMI EPOS

Organising EFMI events depends on the enthusiasm and drive of our members the national associations and working group chairs. To support them the Board has taken the initiative to consolidate the knowledge gained in the past into the EPOS approach, which stands for EFMI event Planning and Organisation support System. It combines a structure to guide the processes from bidding to the review of past events. With the MIE2011 the first real life experience has been gathered with this approach. It has helped the organisers and supported the scientific programme committee with the review process and the "building" of the program.

The next step is the further integration of the results of the EFMI events into the EFMI website. An arrangement is prepared with IOS press to publish the proceedings at our website a year after the conference.

Another dimension of the EPOS approach is to find a long-term relationship with our institutional members providing special services during the conferences, like special topic tracks focused on like special innovations. During MIE 2011 the Norwegian organisers have 3 slots for Partners in Innovations, and 2 days of the Village of the future and a convergence workshop for European projects. Other regions might share the results of this regional development, as it concerns "our core business" which requires a lot of volunteer time.

4. EFMI – AHIMA

The relations with AHIMA have been extended in the last months. In January EFMI, IFHIMA and AHIMA gave a joint reaction to the Public Consultation on the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy ageing.

AHIMA actively sponsored a roundtable on cross border eHealth connections in the STC2011 in Lasko. The link with Angelika Haendel, the incoming chair IFHIMA and the ideas of a transatlantic project on seamless care will be further developed in a joint taskforce of AHIMA and EFMI, to elaborate their collaboration and to widen the network of both organisations.

5. EFMI New media Taskforce.

A task force was established for the adaptation of the EFMI-media to new technologies and requirements. It is focusing on the integration of the results of the EFMI events, which are gathered by applying the EPOS approach into the EFMI website. It will also support a closer relationship with the EFMI members and friends. This will be done by using new media like
6. EFMI Board

During the Council meeting held during the Lasko STC elections were held for the following Board positions: Lacramioara Stoicu-Tividar was elected as secretary, György Súrjan as publication officer, Christian Lovis as institutional members officer and Stig Kjaer Andersen as executive office.

7. The ICICTH “EFMI” Summerschool

The annual Samos-Conference is approaching. 14-16 July is a wonderful time slot on Samos with much sun and cooling winds. The deadline for contributions, which will be printed in the proceedings, has been extended to 9 July. Please visit the website http://www.ineag.gr/ICICTH/index.php/call-and-submission.html and send an abstract of your contribution. The final paper has to be ready 1 June 2011. Another way is to organise a seminar or workshop in the exciting atmosphere of the INEAG conference centre.

8. Register for MIE2011

The preparation for the MIE2011 are accelerating, the scientific review process has resulted in 33 paper sessions with around 210 total of full papers and short communication accepted. Active discussion will take place in 24 workshops, 4 panels and 2 demo sessions. And as mentioned some new developments 1,5 day Partnership in innovation tracks, one EFMI Session, 2 days Village of the future and the Converge workshop. The conference will be joined by a national conference: Scandinavian Conference on Health Informatics (SHI). Many have already registered and follow their good example and register, as travel to Norway is still cheap! Take a friend!

Conference theme: User centered in Networked Health Care
LOC: Petter Hurlen, Akershus University Hospital
SPC: Dr. Jos Aarts, Senior Researcher at Erasmus University

Future events

2012

STC 2012, Moscow area, Russia
April 2012
Theme: Large scale projects in e-Health
LOC: Michael Shifrin, N. N. Burdenko Neurosurgical Institute

MIE2012 PISA, Italy, 26th-28th August, 2012

Theme: Quality of Life through Quality of Information

LOC: Cristina Mazzoleni, Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri, Clinica del Lavoro e della riabilitazione
Program Committee Chair: John Mantas.

2013

STC2013, Prague, Czech Republic

Date to be arranged with the MEIDNFO2013 organisers
Data and knowledge for medical decision support

LOC: Jana Zvarova, European Centre for Medical Informatics, Statistics and Epidemiology, Charles University and Academy of Sciences (EuroMISE Centre)

MIE2014
The bid for this conference is open!

As a final remark - EFMI will continue to participate actively in IMIA's actions, will keep all engagements in the common actions and is ready to support all new initiatives which come along our main objective - to promote medical informatics research and practice. One of our focal points will be to actively join forces with the national organisations for eHealth.