SHINE: strategic health informatics networks in Europe

The Strategic Health Informatics Networks for Europe (SHINE) project has succeeded in constructing an open systems framework for the development of regional community healthcare telematic services that support and add value to the strategic business objectives of European healthcare providers and purchasers. The framework consists of a number of integrated components that support the analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of common telematic services that meet real operational requirements. The starting point is the healthcare analysis and process redesign methodology that has been developed from well-founded business analysis research. Information analysis and functional analysis are carried out using standard reference models and a common data dictionary. Detailed design and implementation are followed by a benefits analysis to ensure that the resulting common telematic service meets the original requirements.

The framework is supported by an underlying open ISO-ODP based architecture which gives guidance on the development of common telematic services. The architecture supports both providers of regional healthcare and value-added service providers, to develop common telematic services (CTS) that have open interfaces and can work across heterogeneous platforms. This common architectural approach will enable the development of a whole series of SHINE conformant CTSs that can be shared across the region saving valuable resources and giving direct benefits to patients.

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