EHTEL

EUROPEAN HEALTH TELEMATICS ASSOCIATION

Interoperability Initiative for a European e-health area

A common umbrella for Interoperability related projects like I2-Health, TMA-Bridge, eHealth ERA etc.

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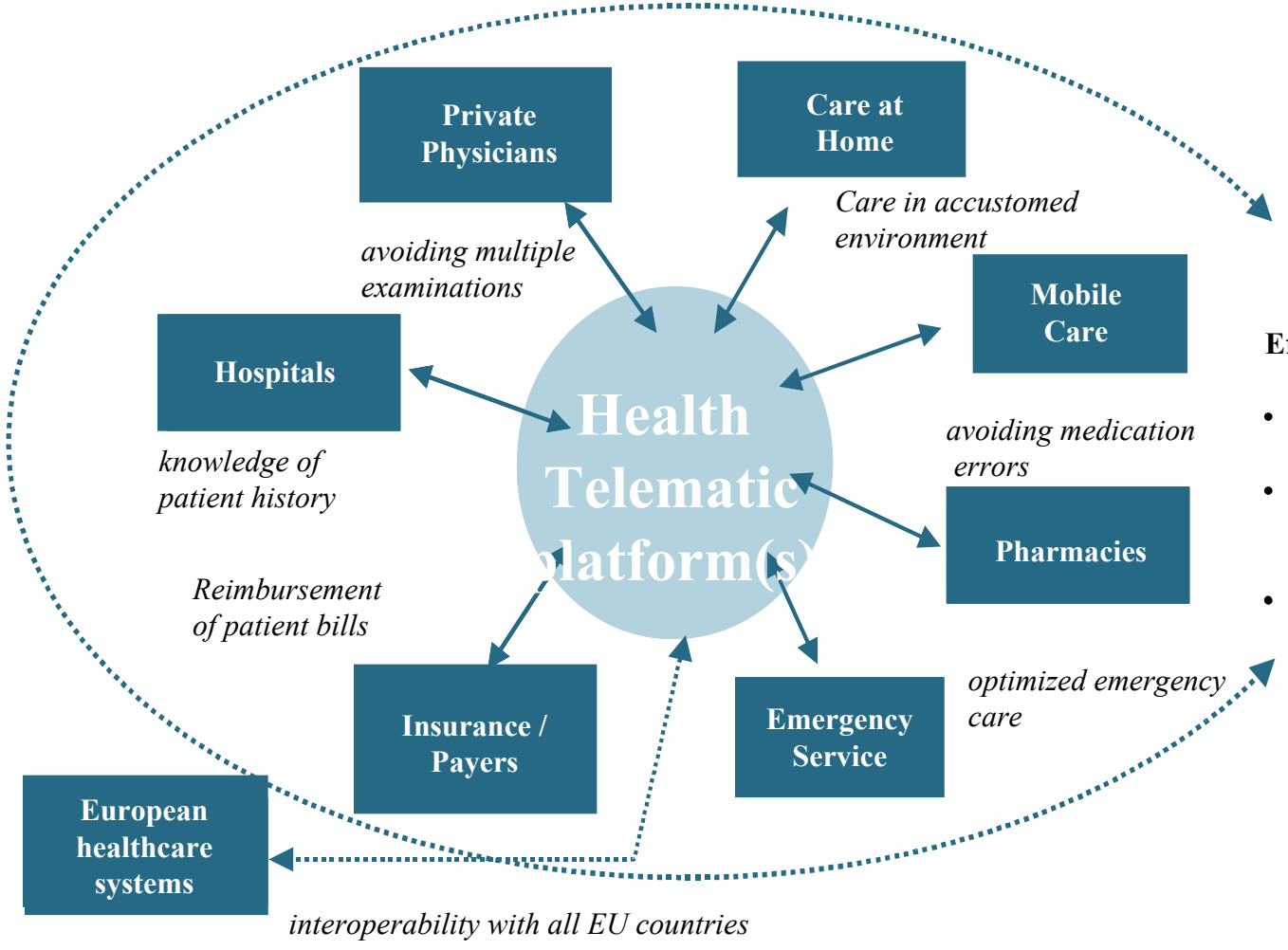
Achieving interoperability of eHealth applications is a vital precondition for the wide-spread use of eHealth as it is envisaged by EHTEL



Effects in the total system

- transparency and communication
- increased quality and efficiency in care
- reduced administration

EHTEL Recommendations for CEN/ISSS eHSFG Report (1)

Key Strategic Aims

- ✓ improving access to clinical records;
- ✓ enabling patient mobility and cross-border access to health care;
- ✓ reducing clinical errors and improving safety;
- ✓ improving access to quality information on health for patients and healthcare professionals;
- ✓ improving efficiency of healthcare processes.

- Main Recommendation of the report: ***"The Member States, with the Commission, should establish a permanent platform with a mandate, and the necessary resources to promote e-Health interoperability based on standards and to facilitate co-operation between Member States."***

EHTEL Recommendations for CEN/ISSS eHSFG Report (2)

While the final EHTEL statement towards the public commenting phase has to be approved by the EHTEL membership, concerning the main recommendation (new EU body) it may already be highlighted that:

- **The European Commission should avoid unnecessary duplication of High-Level committee work and project activities.**
- **A new European legislation to a new European body dealing with health related issues might be in contradiction with the European Treaties, which place health and social care in the full responsibility of the Member States.**
- **The open method of coordination should be seen as a suitable tool for common activities of Member States on the European level (not so much as a tool for the integration of the health professionals and other stakeholders as mentioned in the report).**
- **Existing initiatives like the interoperability initiative of the European Governments started in June 2004 should be included (cf. recommendation No 15).**
- **Existing and upcoming EU projects like the I2-Health project should be part of a "network oriented viewpoint" suitable for the implementation.**

Selected CEN/ISSS eHSFG Recommendations

The CEN/ISSS eHealth Standardization Focus Group makes 14 further recommendations focussing primarily on what needs to be done to enable the priority application and infrastructure elements which it identified.

- **Improving access to records**
- **Reducing medication-related errors, and e-prescribing**
- **Efficiency of healthcare processes – Workflow models and clinical pathways**
- **Electronic transfer of prescriptions**
- **Information exchange to support inter-working and the mobile citizen**

e-Health - making healthcare better for European citizens: Action plan for a European e-Health Area [COM (2004)356]

Challenges and expectations facing Europe's health sectors and the role of e-Health

- e-Health: systems and services that benefit the health sector
- Empowering health consumers: patients and healthy citizens
- Assisting health professionals
- Supporting health authorities and health managers
- e-Health: the third largest industry in the European health sector

Issue 1:
Addressing common challenges

- By end 2006, Member States, in collaboration with the European Commission, should identify a **common approach to patient identifiers.** This should take account of best practices and developments in areas such as the European Health Insurance Card and identity management for European citizens.
- By end 2006, Member States, in collaboration with the European Commission, should **identify and outline interoperability standards for health data messages and electronic health records**, taking into account best practices and relevant standardisation efforts.
- By end 2006, a collaborative approach should be undertaken among Member States to supporting and boosting investment in e-Health.

I2-Health: Work Package Overview

- **Generic Elements**
  - Conceptual framework (WP1)
  - Analysis of infrastructure concepts and building blocks, services and applications (WP2)
- **Specific subjects for in-depth analysis**
  - Identification management of actors, organisations and system components - fundamental interoperability issues (WP3)
  - Workflow interoperability – e-prescribing and messaging (WP4)

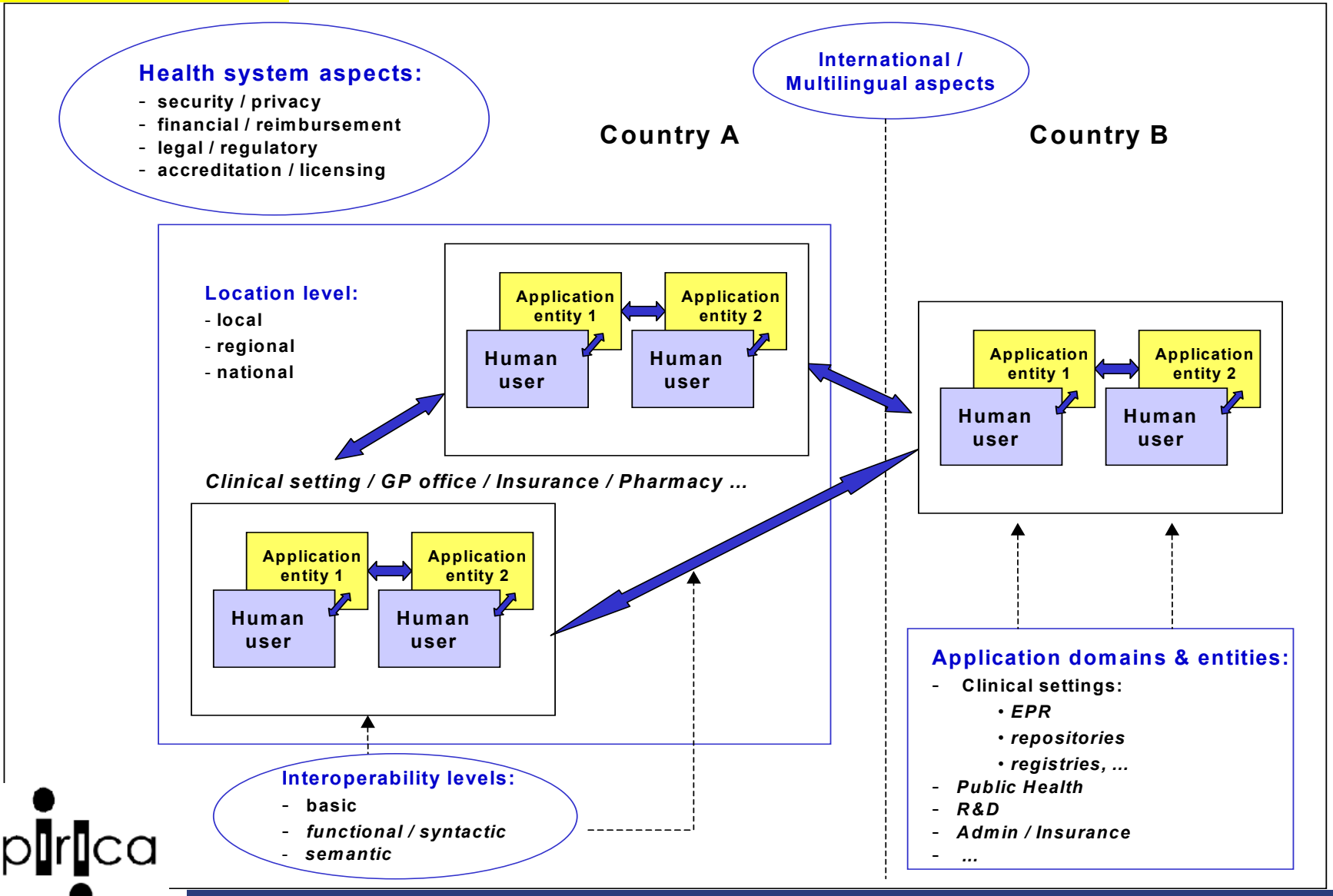
WP4: Workflow interoperability – e-prescribing and messaging –

- to critically review and discuss the state-of-the-art in respect of e-prescribing and process-related messaging (like referral and discharge letters)
- to identify, collate and analyse use cases for applications with priority
- to develop, based on a needs and gaps analysis, a concrete procedure and work plan towards a pan-European solution

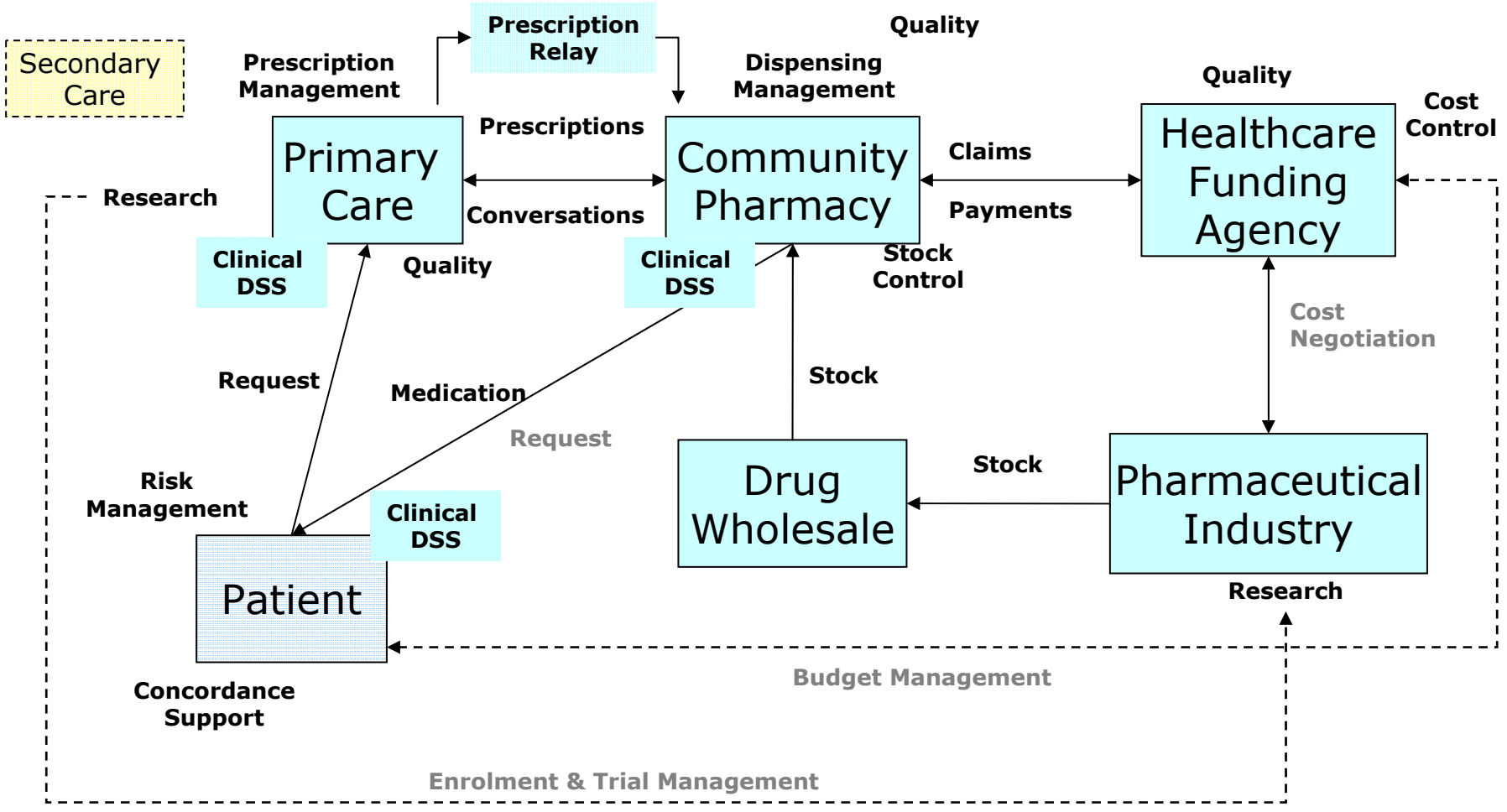
Interoperability areas (cf. IDABC)

- **organisational interoperability**
  - recognition of physicians autorisations (legal)
  - reimbursement claims; etc.
- **semantic interoperability (definition !!!)**
  - pharmaceutical naming/classification
  - drug composition; etc.
  - instructions/quantity (10-10-10 vs. 30-0-0; qid; tid)
- **technical interoperability**
  - access to prescription data in digital form
  - access to autorisations; etc.

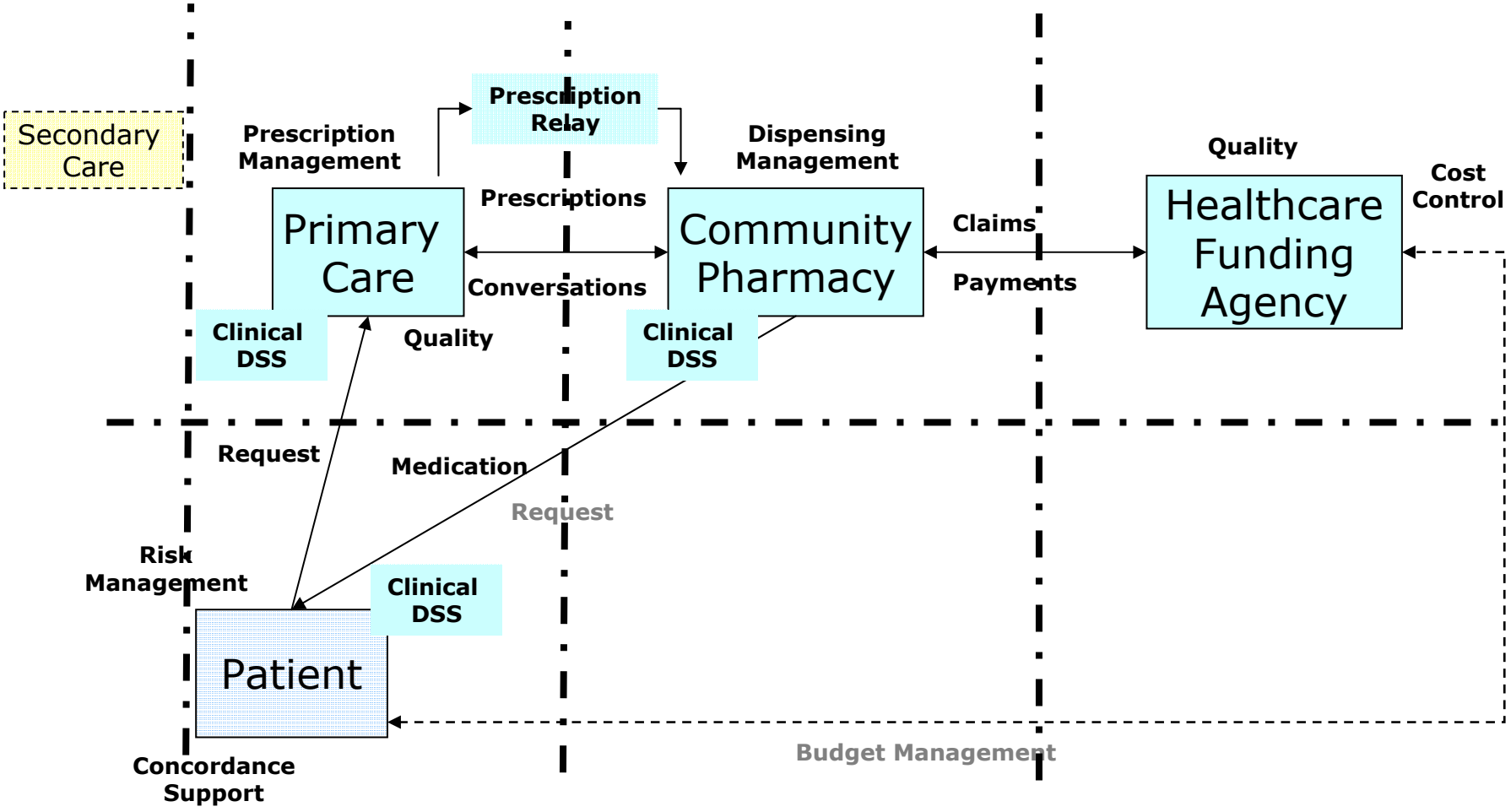
I2-Health e-Health interoperability domain



ePrescribing: Implied Processes



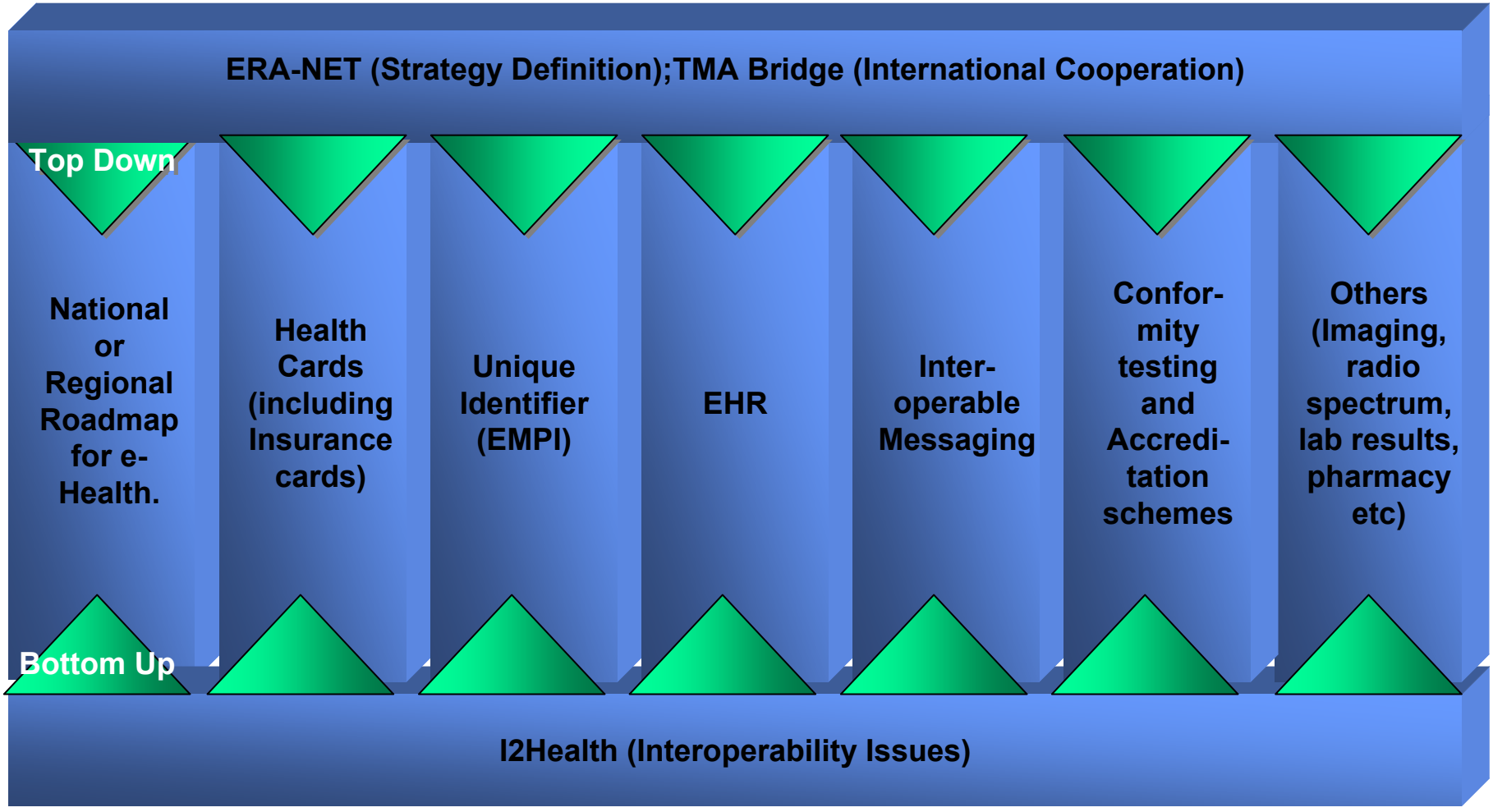
ePrescribing: Processes across borders



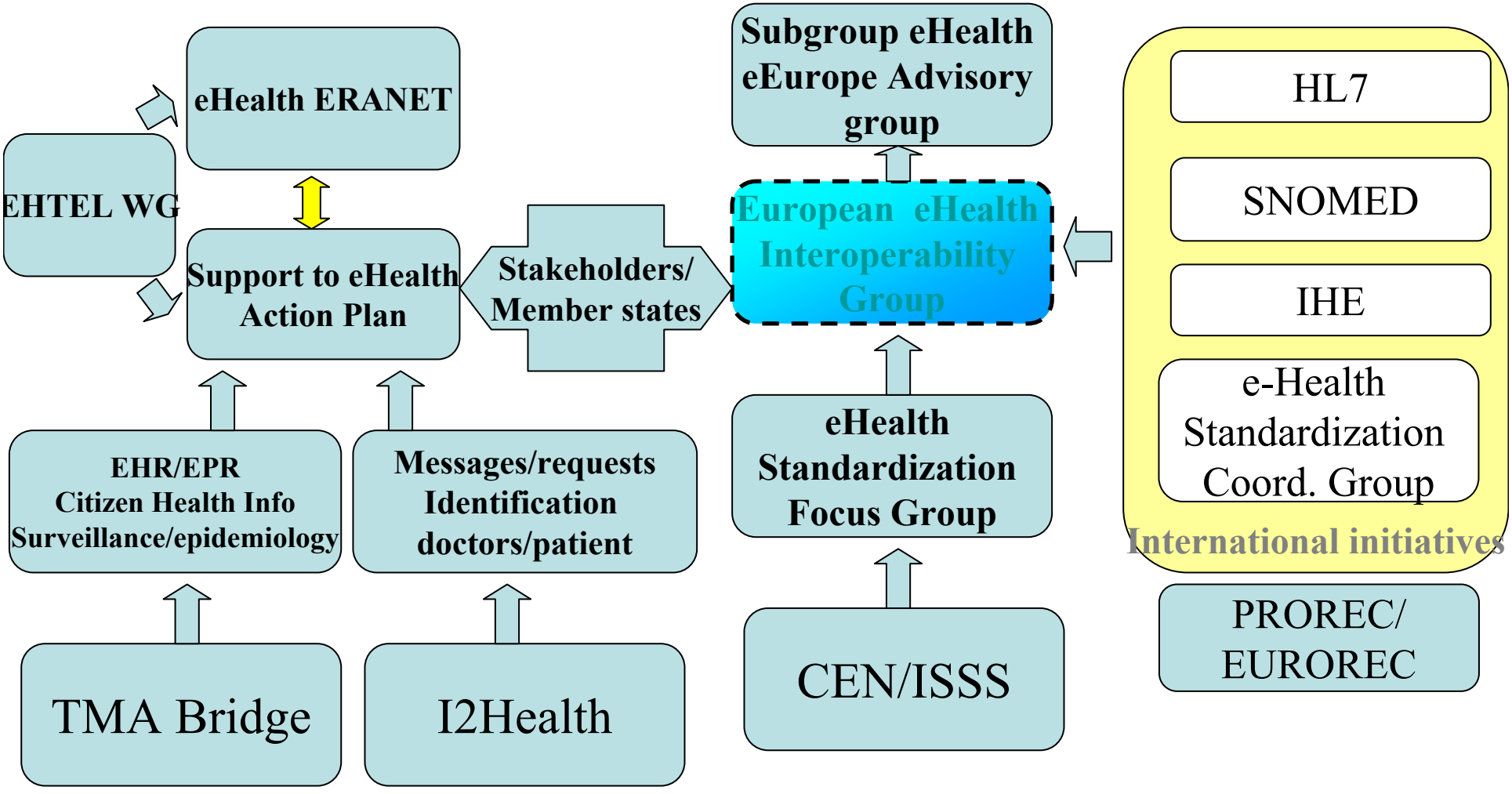
COM 356 Action Plan Implementation Status

- **Conferences**
  - 2005: DG SANCO and DG INFSO: Joint responsibility
- **Best/Good practices**
  - DG INFSO: Unit C4 *chef de file*
  - Supported by MODINIS and eTEN
- **Interoperability and Integration**
  - DG INFSO C4 and eTEN: Joint *chef de files*
  - Supported by DG ENTR (units D4, G2, G4 and D2)
- **Patient Mobility**
  - DG SANCO (especially Dir C; support unit C5)

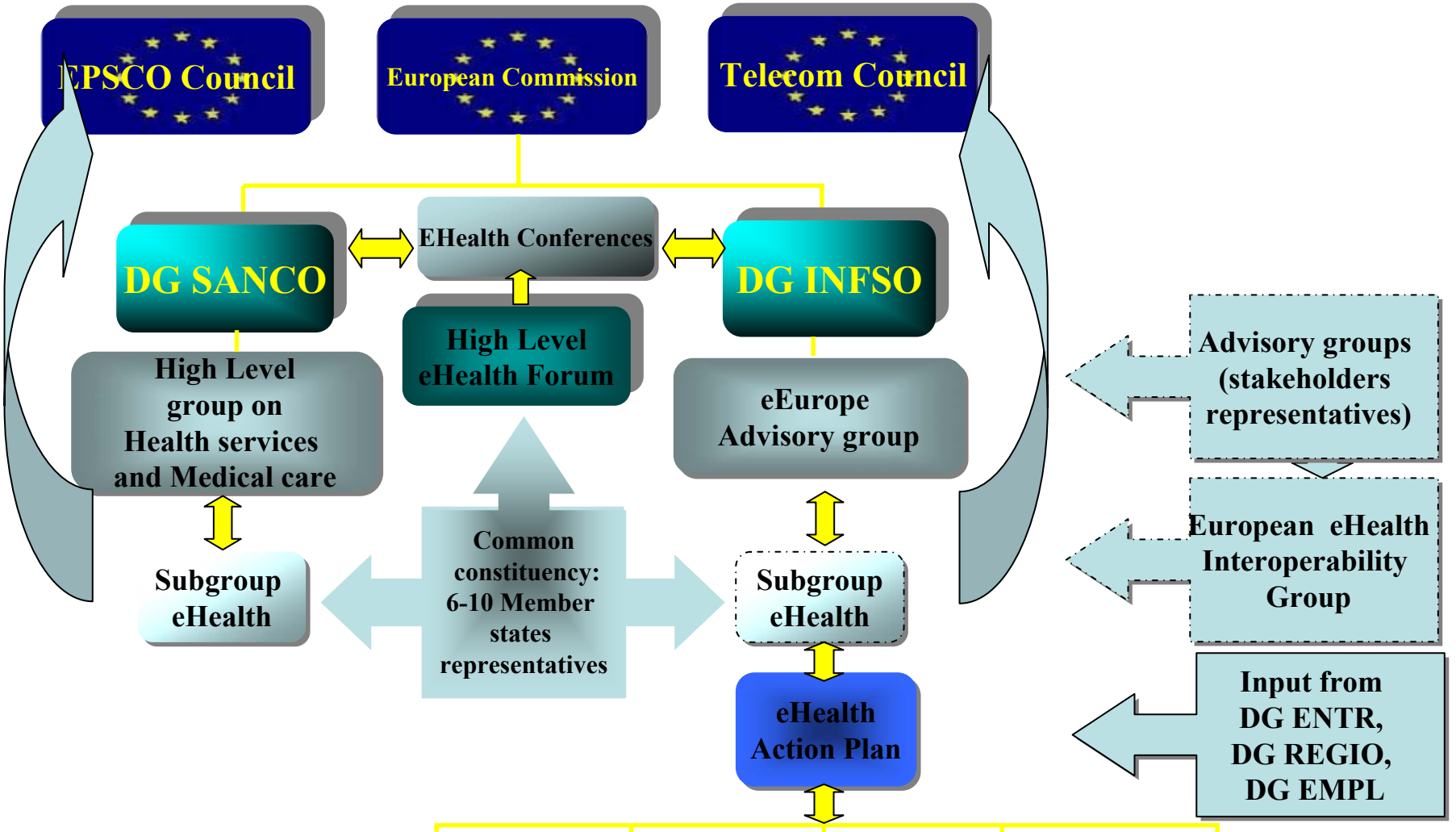
EC/DG INFSO View on Project Synergies



Mapping of current initiatives in Europe in interoperability



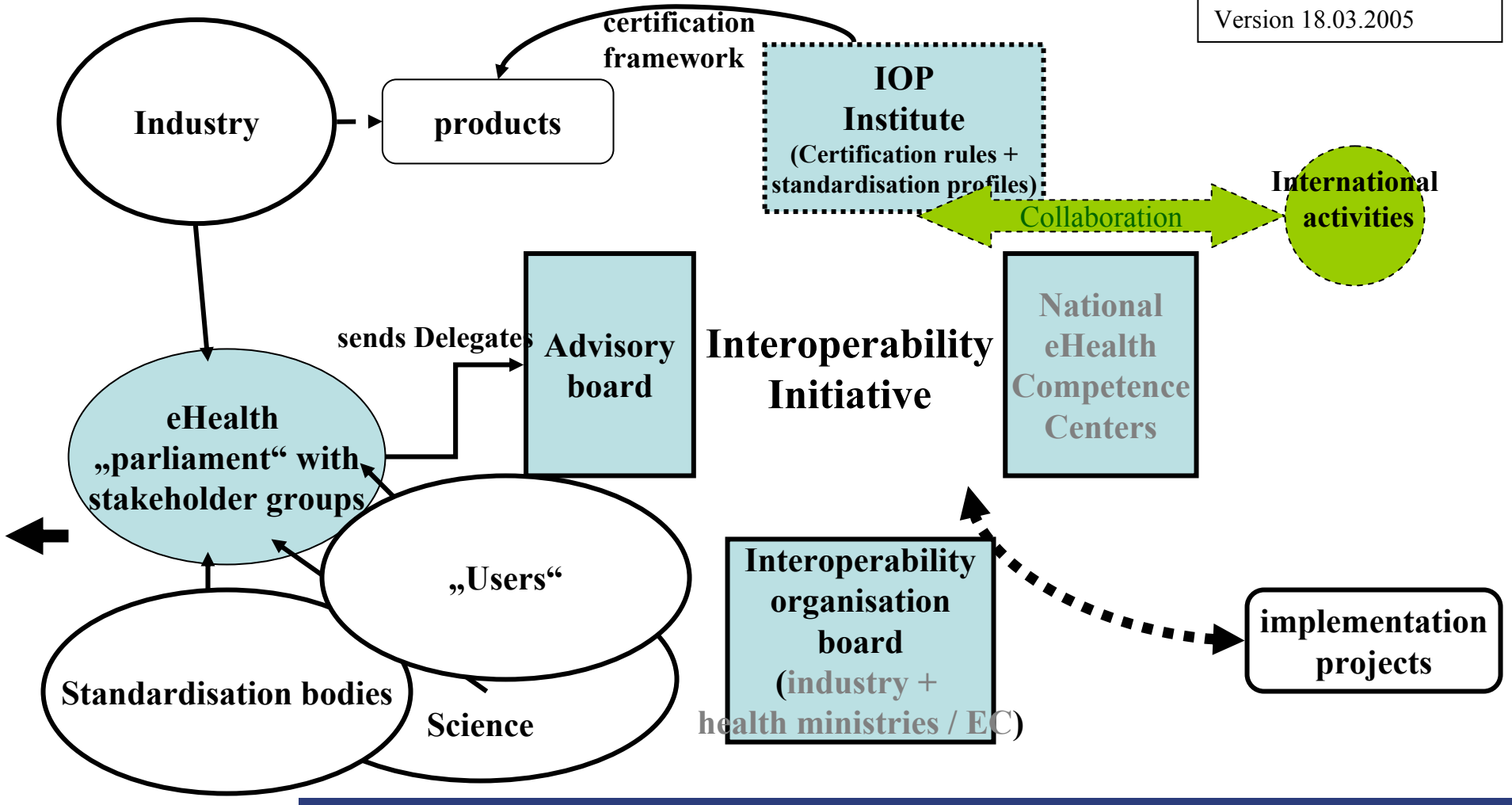
Coordination of eHealth Action Plan in Europe



Proposal for the future structure of the Interoperability Initiative

drafted by Reinhold A. Mainz, BMGS, Germany

Version 18.03.2005



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