



C 28029

[Trans-European Access to Health Services for
mobile Citizens]

Netc@rds

*Applications combining IT Networks & Smart C@rds in
the field of Health Care and Social Insurance*

Overall Project Description

Background

During the last decade, many projects have been carried out by governments or public funding institutions to issue smart cards and telecom services in the field of e-government/e-health applications.

Thus, countries like Germany or France issued health smart cards (e.g. micro-processor cards in France or memory cards in Germany) as proof of entitlement for health care access benefits-in-kind and/or reimbursement at national level. Now, Austria and possibly Greece are planning to deploy social security smart cards at national scale within the next years.

The Belgian Domestic Affairs is aiming to roll-out a national ID micro-processor smart card. Other countries from the E.U as well as some of the joining countries are aiming to issue software applications based on smart cards and IT Networks technology.

Nevertheless, most of the smart card and IT networking applications deployed inside the above mentioned E.U Member-States are available only in the context of national regulation. They were designed for the national health care information system. The services provided to citizens or residents in the country by such systems are merely available abroad, even inside the E.U.

Whence, due to the lack of consistent computerized service amongst national information systems in the field of health/sickness inter-States insurance, people travelling within the E.U for studies, work or for tourism must apply the old-fashion paper-form based procedure which is probably not compliant with a convergent policy to facilitate free movement of persons inside the E.U.

Overall framework and objectives

Following the trails initiated during the former R&D phase by NETLINK¹, TRANSCARDS² and many other Pan-European initiatives as well as those currently being blazed in the framework of programmes supported by the European Commission (e.g. the E-Europe SCC initiative), the NETC@RDS project consortium, as a core kernel on behalf of national authorities of the participating countries, will set a wide trans-European network of e-services for mobile citizens thus aiming to improve inter-State health care access procedure simplification at best quality of service as an overall objective. The target population is potentially every citizen travelling abroad inside any of the e-services deployment areas as student, temporary posted worker, tourist or for business purpose.

The NETC@RDS Consortium final objective is aiming to steering up a step-by-step full deployment of new services for mobile citizens within the whole E.U.

¹ NETLINK is an IST Project that was funded in the period 1998-2002 by the DG INFSO, Applications relating to Health (see www://sesam-vitale.fr/netlink).

² TRANSCARDS is a project that was funded by the DG EMPLOYMENT and SOCIAL AFFAIRS in the period 1998-2001 (see www://sesam-vitale.fr/html/projets/transcards).

The hereby outlined services will be implemented on the basis of existing or on-coming national information systems including smart cards and/or networking software applications within the participating countries. In the framework of the [NETC@RDS](#) project, acting as wide scale demonstrators prior full deployment inside the whole E.U partners from France, Germany, Austria and Greece, on behalf of national Ministries of Health and Health Insurance, will intend to develop appropriate card and network solutions by new means of telecommunication that would help to facilitate the described procedure aiming to build-up interoperable Health care information systems for cross-border health care facilities. All the European Member-States could be associated to the [NETC@RDS](#) initiative as observers and periodically informed of the project progress, results and achievements³.

Therefore, main objective of the [NETC@RDS](#) project is to digitalize the E.U E-forms (mainly the E-111 & E-128) either from administrative data stored on existing citizen health smart card or through secure Trans-European Extranet as electronic proof of entitlement based on applicable regulation.

Thus, mobile citizens could receive electronic E-forms either by updating their health card prior to travel abroad or by asking to the health provider (i.e. hospital, health practitioner) to download the relevant form once they are travelling or working abroad.

Further more, inter-operability between national/regional health care information systems in the E.U would contribute to foster citizens mobility for learning, professional training, posted work, or any other business that would let citizens move inside the E.U common space, should it be in their home country or abroad.

Description of the Service

Prior to travel abroad across the E.U, trans-European mobile citizens will receive from their local Health/Sickness Insurance/Fund office electronic E-forms as proof of entitlement for cross-border health care access.(i.e. digitalised paper-forms). The electronic E-forms will be issued by the health care provider (i.e. hospital, office-based physician) in case of necessary care abroad. The service will be available inside anyone of the pilot area either by filling-in the accurate E-form with data read out of the insured person health card or by downloading the form from the national server bounded to the insured person. In both scenarios (E-form to be issued by card or from server) the insured person entitlement will be checked and authenticated.

While a Member-State resident moves out of her/his home country in the E.U common space, the following cases amongst those that may occur during the stay abroad will be taken in account as service compulsory minimum requirement in the scope of the [NETC@RDS](#) project. These are:

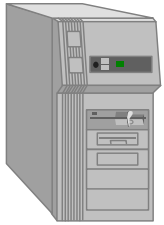
- Temporary stay for tourism or private affairs (form E-111 is then required).
- Temporary stay for posted work/business purpose, professional training or learning (required form is E-128).

Other inter-states or cross-borderline services and their relevant form (i.e. E106, E112 etc.) are not actually considered compulsory in the project's scope. However, the project phase I (i.e. the Business Plan and product/service Market Validation phase) will consider them as possible service enhancement in the frame of bilateral agreement. Should this be the case, the Project Business Plan would then outline what would be the economical and social impact.

³ See §2.4.2.3 Steering Committee structure description in the European Contract Technical Annex.

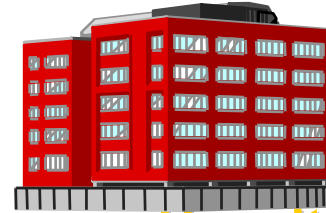
NETC@RDS scenarios

E111/128 state data server



Insured home country

Case 1 : data in card to fill-in form



Hospital abroad

E111

E128

Case 2 : data to be downloaded from server and/or from card

Case 3 : form to be downloaded from server

E111

E128

E111

E128

