



NETC@RDS service for the electronification of the European Health Insurance Card

Project Fact Sheet

NETC@RDS is aimed at achieving initial deployment of an online service for the electronic European Health Insurance Card (eEHIC). This project phase will extend the existing implementations to enable health care access for European citizens who provide evidence of entitlement in any of the service sites across the 15 European countries.

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) was launched in June 2004. A strong political will supports the introduction of an electronic EHIC which shall pave the way for more efficient access procedure and post-processing of administrative and reimbursement data to achieve financial benefits, trigger IT-modernisation and ensure basic interoperability between health telematic infrastructures of member states.

Since September 2002, the NETC@RDS Consortium has developed and tested practical solution implementations for the eEHIC in pilot regions of 10 Members States. The project initial deployment phase will roll-out operational services in all the targeted sites, including ones tested in the previous validation phase, and add new sites in 15 European countries to a total of 305 service sites (566 service points) to enable "non-planned" health care for European citizens who provide evidence of entitlement.

The NETC@RDS is aimed at:

- Providing reliable and interoperable solutions for the European Health Insurance Card electronification.
- Enhancing interstate data exchange while using secure IT network software applications incorporating professional and personal smart cards with PKI and Digital Signature.
- Contributing to mobility and skills convergent policy while improving healthcare access for mobile citizens.

The key measure is that any "mobile" European citizen with his/her card and in need of non-planned medical treatment can benefit from the NETC@RDS service. Using the NETC@RDS application and an Optical Card Reader or a Smart Card Reader, healthcare facility staff read administrative data from the EHIC or national health insurance card. Eligibility is then verified within a few seconds by checking the administrative data via two NETC@RDS portals against the database of the relevant health insurance authority. The electronic data set is processed and used as a proof of entitlement and guarantee of cross-border reimbursement.

The NETC@RDS consortium, supported by government health authorities and the European Commission, is composed of Statutory health insurance or health fund organisations, Technical and research institutions or standardisation bodies acting on behalf of the health insurance organisations, Hospital and/or health professional associations, Regional governments. The industry partners are supporting the project as sponsors. NETC@RDS cooperates with the TEN4HEALTH eTEN project in the field of healthcare services for mobile citizens.

EU Funding	3.500.000 €
Duration	June 2007 – May 2010
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