Lithuania

Enabling environment – policies and strategies to support the information society

Lithuania reports that a majority of the listed actions to promote an enabling environment for information and communication technologies (ICT) in the health sector have been introduced and they are likely to continue over the next two years. A national information policy, as well as policies that promote availability of information in local languages and recognize cultural diversity, were implemented in 1991. The implementation of procurement policies to guide software, hardware and content acquisition in the health sector is expected to commence in the next two years, as is the implementation of policies to promote inclusiveness and equitable access to eHealth. To date, no decision has been made to form public-private partnerships to foster the use of ICT within the health sector.

Infrastructure – access to information and communication technologies

A national plan for the development of ICT in health was introduced in 2005 and is likely to continue. It is anticipated that a policy on affordability of infrastructure will be implemented by 2008. At this stage, no decision has been made as to whether intersectoral and nongovernmental cooperation will be introduced over the next two years.

Cultural and linguistic diversity, and cultural identity

To date, none of the specified actions to promote the development of electronic multicultural health content have been taken and a decision remains to be made as to which actions will be introduced.
Online access to international journals for health professionals has been provided since 2001 and to health information for the general public since 1999. Both actions are expected to continue.

**Capacity – human resources knowledge and skills**

ICT skills courses are part of university curricula (undergraduate and postgraduate) for health sciences students and are expected to continue over the next two years, as are health sciences courses through eLearning for health professionals. By 2008, Lithuania expects to provide ICT skills programmes in the ongoing training of health professionals.