E-NEWBORN PROJECT IN CROATIA
- FROM FRAGMENTATION TO INTEGRATION -

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Introduction
2015 saw the implementation of a novel intra- and inter-sectoral IT platform for birth event and newborn registration in Croatia. Structured medical and administrative data flows between 7 different institutions and IT systems leaning on the national eGovernment and eCitizen infrastructures.

Data and information flow

Features
- Real-time automated data flow
- Automatic insurance identifier generation
- Structured data with quality control mechanisms
- Seven institutional IT systems connected
- Ten hospitals currently using the platform
- Integrated with hospital information systems

SOAR framework - focuses on strengths, stakeholder engagement and future aspirations

Strengths
- Inter- and intra-sectoral cooperation – applied interoperability
- ‘Leaning’ on the existing IT public infrastructure - eGovernment, eCitizen, NAJS, CEZIH etc.
- More quality, safety and speed – automation, data validations and standards
- Less paperwork, administrative burden and room for error – fully electronic system

Opportunities / Risks
- User acceptance and education – present eNewborn platform benefits to users
- Legal framework - support automated data exchange as a norm
- Stable financing – platform upgrades and maintenance

Aspirations
- Full implementation – include all hospitals with maternity wards
- New functionalities - ePregnancy record, eVaccination record, Home care, Neurorisk, EHR etc.
- Full integration with eGovernment and eCitizen platforms

Results
- Processes that support ‘data flow’ instead of data silos and ad-hoc data exchange
- Reliable and up-to-date information and evidence based health policy
- Improvement in indicators and better quality of care

Conclusions
eNewborn platform is the first truly intersectoral IT project in health providing benefits to public administration, mother/child health as well as public health surveillance. Added benefits include elimination of burdensome newborn registration administrative procedure. Platform also lays a foundation for the introduction of additional services and functionalities.

References
Public Health Informatics Institute. Integration of Newborn Screening and Genetic Service Systems with Other Maternal & Child Health Systems - A Sourcebook for Planning and Development. 2003.