



*eu2006.fi*

## Structural Reforms in Social Services and Healthcare

Networked Business and Government –  
Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy

Finland's EU Presidency Conference in  
Helsinki 23-24 October, 2006  
House of the Estates

Pentti Itkonen, PhD  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health  
Finland



## The Finnish health care system

- Taxation based
- Citizens have equal access to services
- Locally administrated
- Most people are satisfied with the health care system
- Electronic patient record in all hospitals and almost in all primary care units using common standards and definitions
- Almost all images in digital form

Networked Business and Government – Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy Conference  
23 – 24 October 2006, Helsinki

## Experiences during the last five years

- Too many small projects
- Too weak national guidance
- Lack of common standards
- Hospitals and healthcare professionals are very autonomous and they want to be independent
- Multi vendor system where every vendor has their own business models and waiting

Networked Business and Government – Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy Conference  
23 – 24 October 2006, Helsinki

## The Finnish Actions

- From regional financing and strategies to national financing and strategy
- Only few projects with national objectives
  - Electronic patient records
  - Archiving of patient documents at national level
- New legislation
- Government financing

Networked Business and Government – Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy Conference  
23 – 24 October 2006, Helsinki

## Three (3) main obstacles slowing Europe's competitiveness down

- Obstacle 1: The hierarchy of the public sector and the autonomy of health care professionals
- Obstacle 2: Taxation based systems do not force to make changes.
  - The Finnish municipalities have raised taxes every year
- Obstacle 3: Lack of co-operation and common objectives.
  - Adaptation of new technology is too slow.

Networked Business and Government – Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy Conference  
23 – 24 October 2006, Helsinki

## Three (3) concrete measures to boost Europe's competitiveness

- Measure 1: Move from the organisation centred system to citizen centred system
  - Traditional hierarchies prevent large scale results
- Measure 2: Regulation at national level to insure the protection of law to all citizens.
  - It cannot be dangerous to move towards information society and handle sensitive health information
- Measure 3: Common standards and definitions

Networked Business and Government – Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy Conference  
23 – 24 October 2006, Helsinki