

MIE 2003

St Malo – France

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This workshop will be organized in cooperation between the EFMI WG on Assessment of Health Information Systems (E. Ammenwerth, P. Nykanan, J. Brender) and by the IMIA WG on Technology Assessment and Quality Development in Health Informatics (J. Talmon, J. Brender).

WORKSHOP TITLE

How to systematically conduct evaluation studies of health information systems?

ABSTRACT

Information and communications technologies (ICTs) are being used increasingly in health care. It is evident that the use of modern ICT offers tremendous opportunities to reduce clinical errors, to support health care professionals, and to increase the efficiency of care. However, there are also hazards associated with such technologies in health care: modern systems are costly, their failures may cause negative effects on patients and staff and also negative impact on the quality of patient care. Therefore, rigorous, generalisable evaluations of ICT applications in health care are absolutely necessary and of great importance for decision makers and users of future information systems.

However, evaluation of health ICT applications is rather difficult for various reasons: The complexity of the evaluation object, comprising technical and human aspects, the complexity of the changing clinical environment, and the low numbers of stakeholders and users willing to perform evaluation studies. Thus, despite a large number of published evaluation studies in medical informatics, many studies are of low quality and do not lead to clear answers to the important questions.

The intention of the workshop is to present and discuss possible solutions to typical evaluation problems in order to help the audience to perform better evaluation studies.

This workshop will thus try to answer the question: How can we systematically conduct evaluation studies? That means, e.g. how to define adequate evaluation questions, how to plan a study, how to find adequate methods and tools, and how to analyze the data to get unbiased results which are valid and reliable and which support the progress in medical informatics research.

The workshop will have two parts :

- ✍✍ 2 – 3 **presentations** by invited speakers: focusing on lessons learnt from successful large-scale European evaluation studies and on the question of adequate methods and tools. Those presentation intend to give the framework for discussion.
- ✍✍ **Discussion, structuring and further development** of the problems and solutions presented, discussion in which case they can be applied to real projects, etc.

The presentations and the results of the discussion will be collected, it is intended to publish them as workshop report in a journal to reach the whole medical informatics community (and not only the participants of MIE 2003).