ACTIVE HEALTH

Active Environment for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Objectives

The role of IT in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) is to transfer information to individuals or groups and to help them take advantage of that information (advices). Any information flow requires the active participation of people to ensure sharing of meaning and proper use in the activities of the recipient. Information offer has to be both appropriate and acceptable. ACTIVE HEALTH (AH) proposes a global strategy that covers both categories of problems and methods grounded on the management of conversations. AH identifies the components of IT-supported HPDP, links, related problems and interactions. It investigates the specific issues resulting from the use of IT, including the legal, ethical, cultural conditions that have to be fulfilled and the criteria for trustworthiness of information. It proposes recommendations in critical areas and a framework to guide the development of IT applications for HPDP, derived from the expertise of the cluster members, in the perspective of a network creation.

Results

ACTIVE HEALTH will produce (i) guidelines and recommendations for the development of IT-supported HPDP, for a medical framework for HPDP, (ii) research reports on trustworthiness, on legal implications, on ethical issues and on culture-dependent issues, (iii) survey reports on the use of IT in HPDP, for HPDP online services, (iv) terms of reference for the creation of a Network of HPDP and (v) information contents and container as a Project Web site and as a report on the dissemination activities of the cluster.

In this framework, Active Health can help the European Union to fulfil the objectives stressed in the Programme of Community Action in the field of Public Health, covering the next five years, from 2001 to 2006, in certain areas. As a general idea, a cluster on IT systems supporting Health Promotion and Disease Prevention matches directly two of the issues covered in the EU health policies, the health promotion as a way of empowering people and communities to make healthy choices to improve their health and the enhancement of the efforts in tackling the underlying causes of ill health.