eHealth Interoperability Standards

Info on the Phase 1 Report &
Phase 2 Implementation (contracting)

European Commission Mandate (M403:2007)

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EU eHealth Interoperability Standardisation

- EC DG ENTERPRISE asked ESOs to plan for eHealth Standards
- ESOs received Mandate (Q4 2007) M403 “eHealth Standardisation“
- ESOs called european stakeholders for experts
- Reynolds/Evangelidis/Parisot/Heidenreich named as experts of the „Project Team Interoperability Standards“ (PT INTEROP)
- Kees Molenaar and the NEN team hosted this „PT INTEROP“
- PT INTEROP submitted their Report end of December 2008

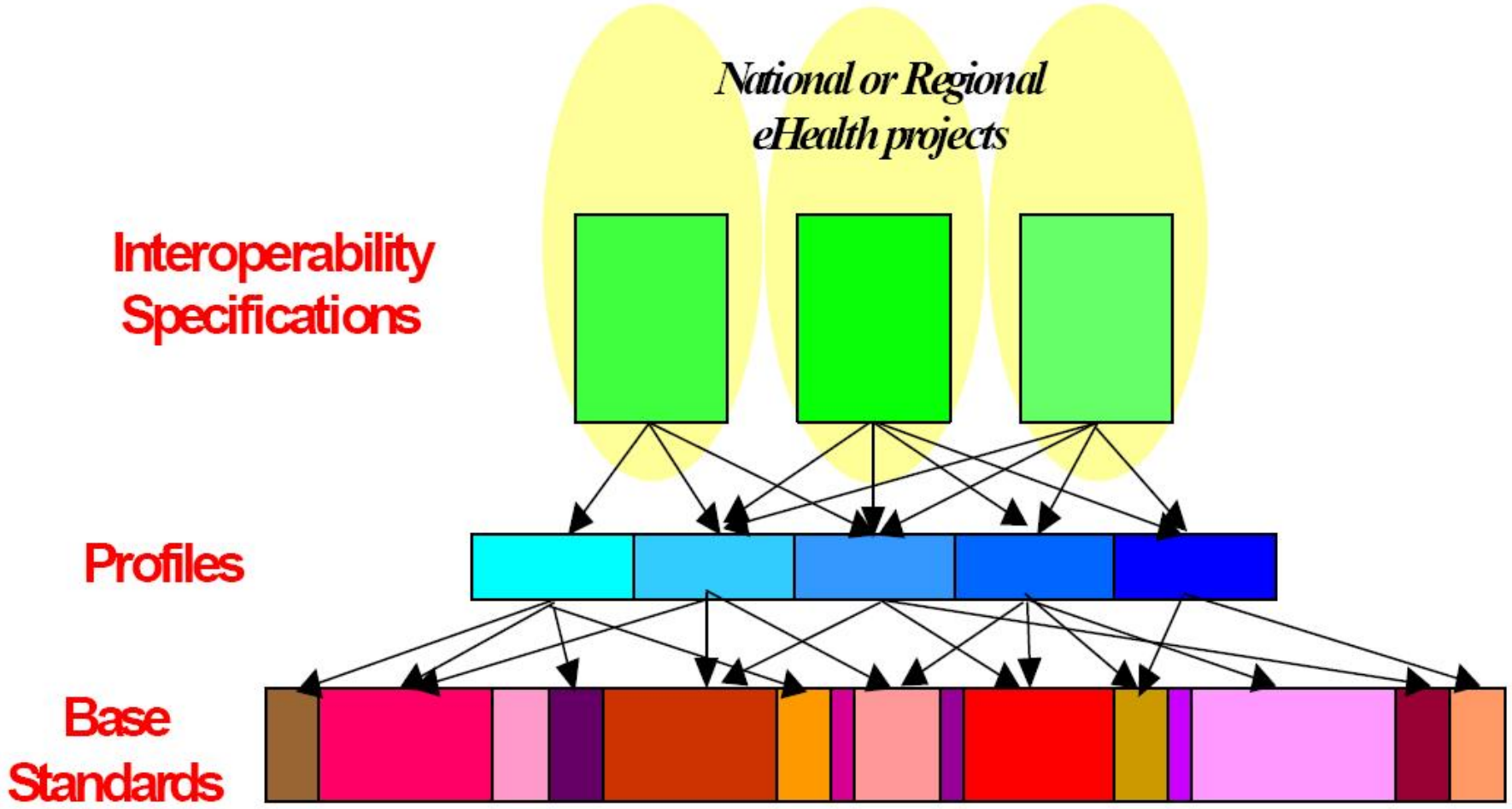
eHealth-Standards Report: Basics

- user-orientation in standards development
- open, transparent standard processes
- acknowledgement of RF / FRAND terms for standards
- voluntary self-assessment over rigid certification

eHealth-Standards Report: Suggestions

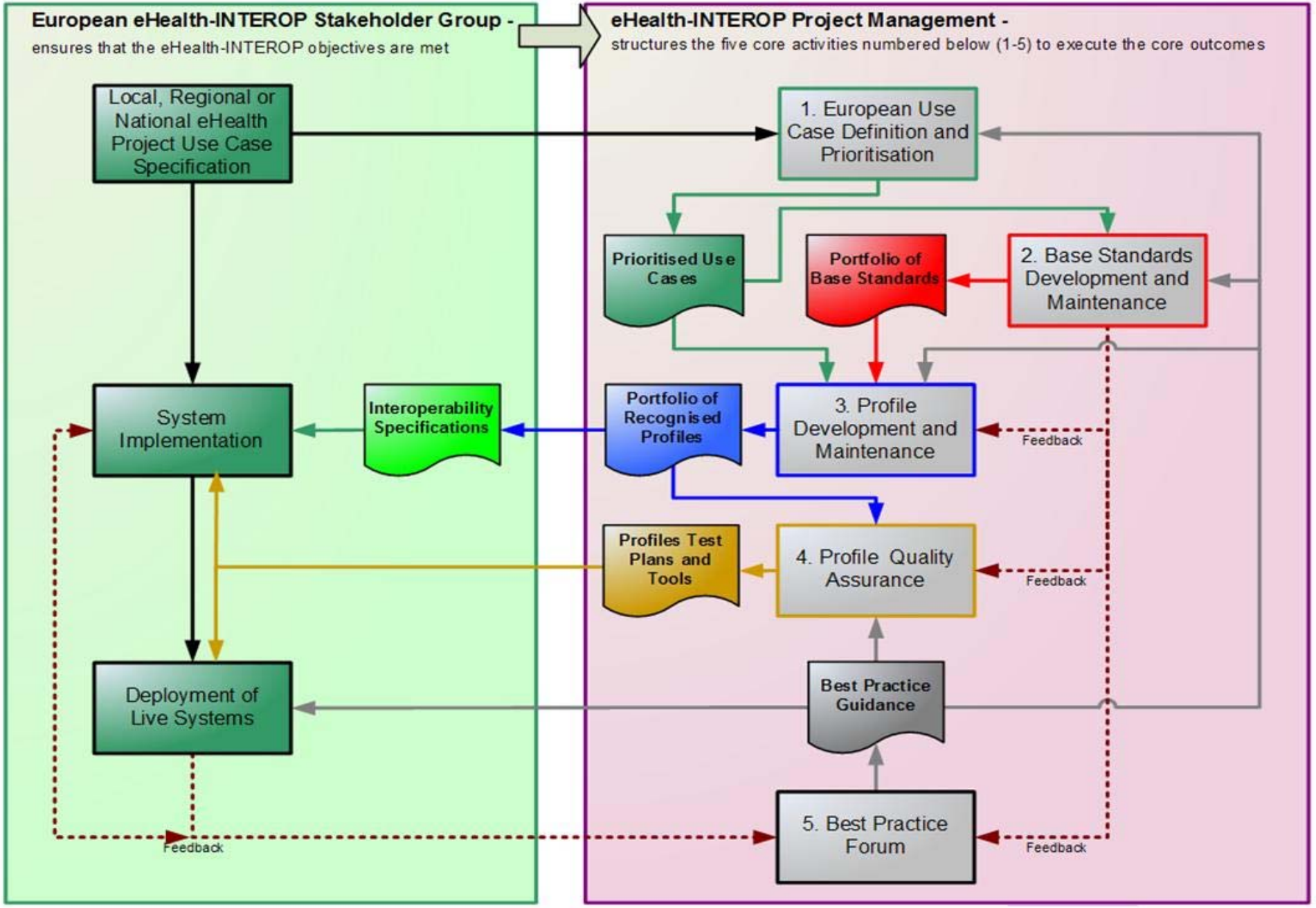
- The Report assumes that numerous basic standards already exist
- In order to implement generic, reusable Use-cases at the european level, existing standards should be combined into so-called PROFILES. No (or few) new base standards will be needed for such european profiles. Profiles have to be indepent from legal considerations.
- At the national/regional level, PROFILES need to be constrained (rather than modified) in order to make up an “Interoperability Specification” for eHealth solutions in a given legislation.

The different classes of standards related specifications (1)



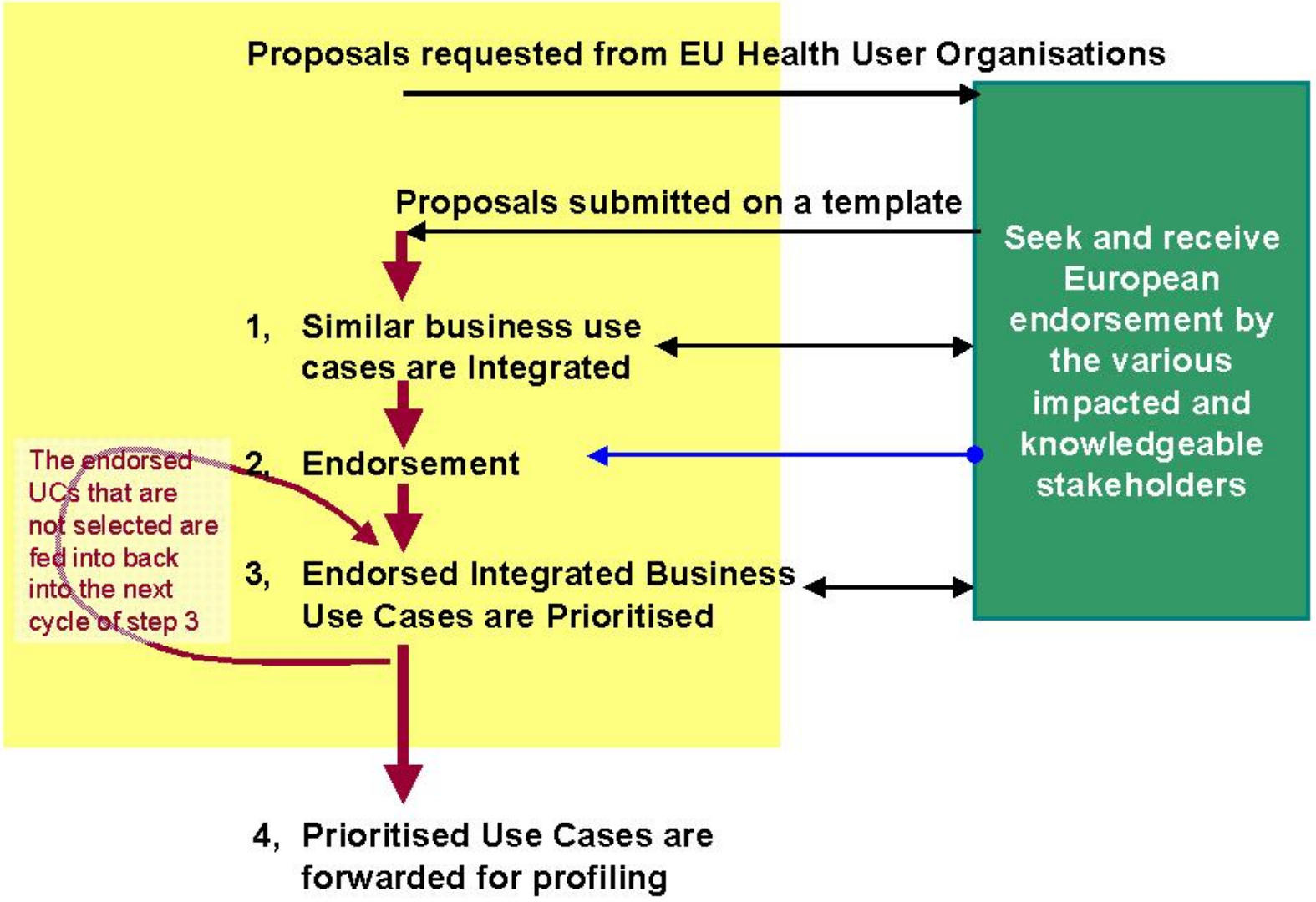
The different classes of standards related specifications (2)

- **Interoperability Specifications:**
  - specific to a project, based on Profiles
  - addresses the business-level use case
- **Profiles:**
  - intermediate level of "interoperability building blocks"
- **Base Standards:**
  - Either (1) very specific or (2) quite generic



However the Report does not say, how these five processes shall be coordinated

Prioritized European Consolidated Use Cases. These documents – published as a series of Workshop Agreements provide the description of specific prioritized Business Use Cases.



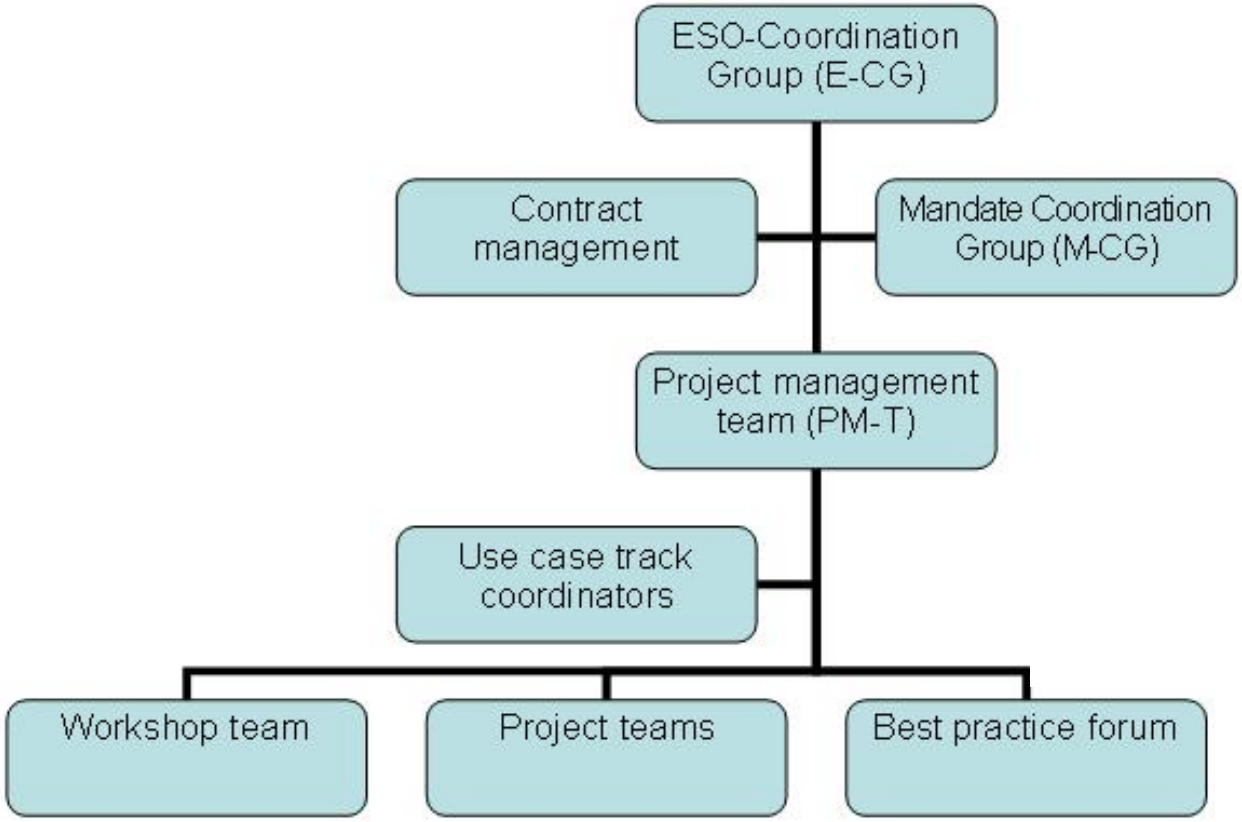
Phase 2: Implementation 2009ff.

- Organisation of the implementation of the ideas in the Phase 1 Report
- Phase 2 may last for an unlimited time
- Proposal must be submitted to EC - Directorate ENTREPRISE
- the informal Project Team (Phase 1) tries to draft a proposal
- Profile standardisation must be mapped to existing structures and procedures of the ESO
- yet these procedures for profiles have to be fast, lightweight

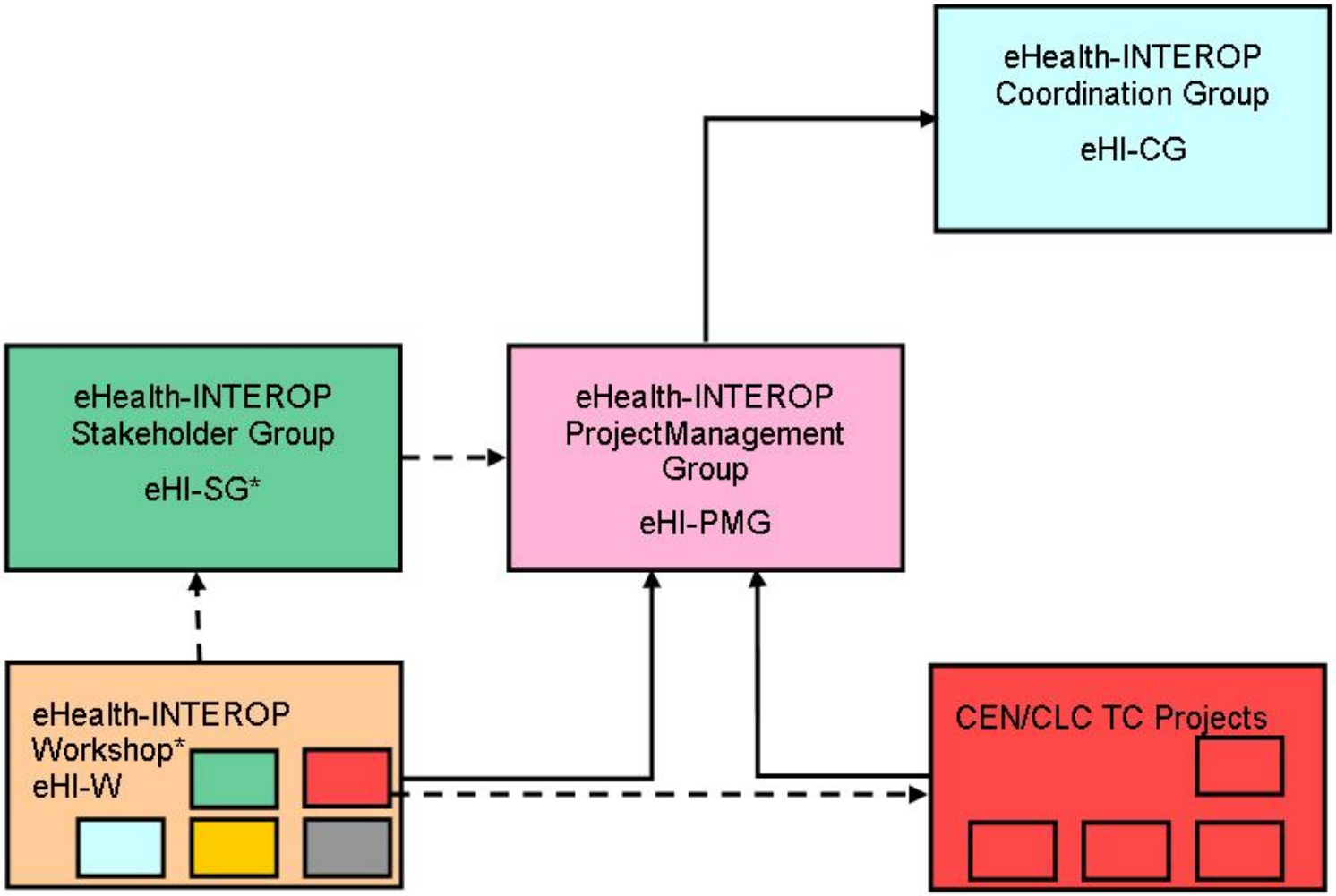
Phase 2: Implementation 2009ff.

- draft suggests creation of a lightweight coordination group CG
- CG with representation of stakeholders and member states
- CG will not judge on content of use-cases / profiles
- any european entity may submit its profiling process to CG
- CG will review and acknowledge their processes
- acknowledges entities (e.g. IHE) may receive long-term contract

Proposed Coordination



Proposed Coordination



offene Fragen

noch mehr neue Boards und Groups - Bürokratie ?

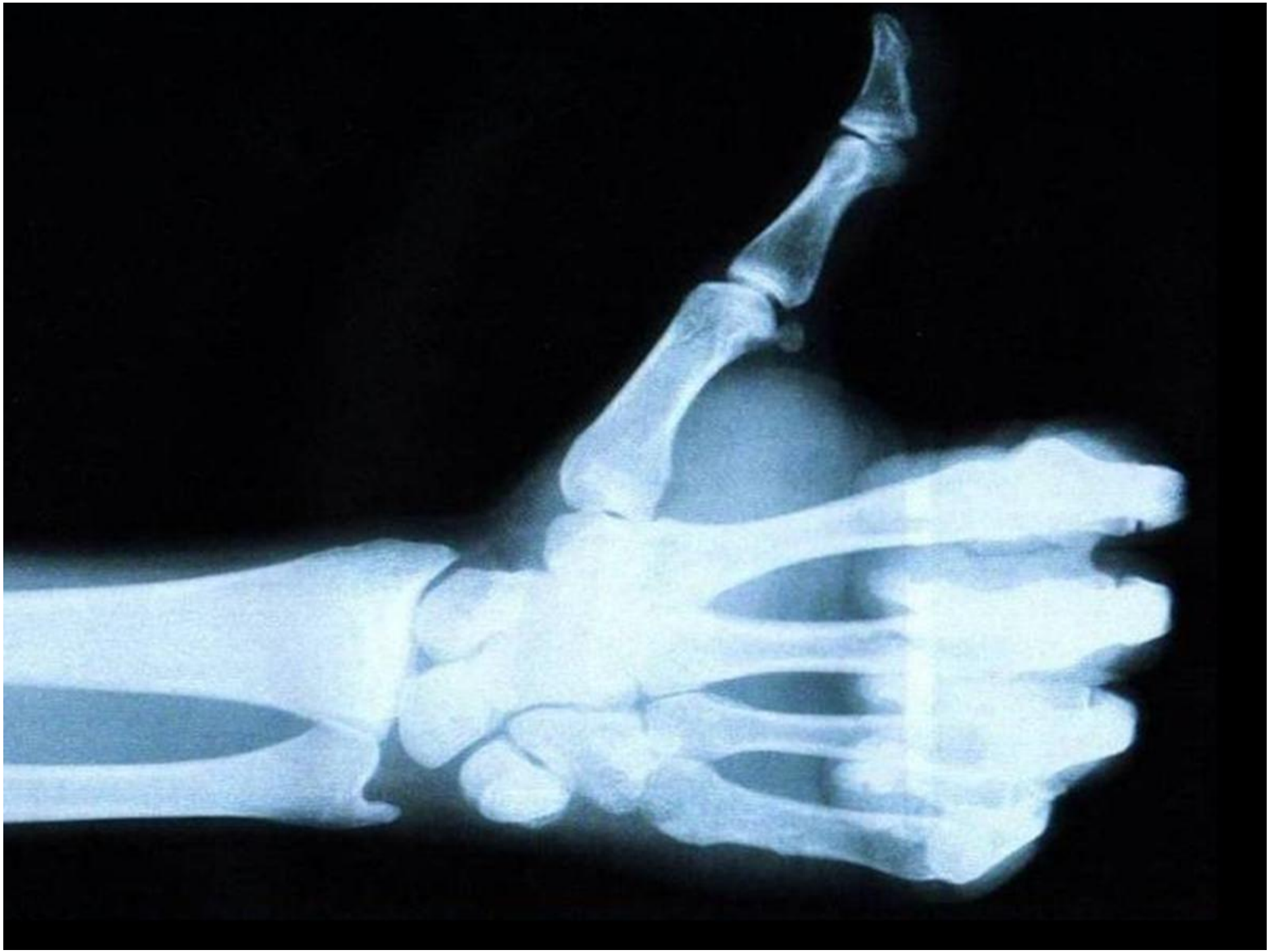
EC Förderung für immer neue Basis-Standards – Geschäftsmodell ?

Die Sorge vor „double funding“ verhindert Kooperation – Isolierung ?

Wer schreibt die Standards ?

Forderungen

- internationale Standards haben Vorfahrt vor neuen Standards
- M403-Steuerung lediglich von einer einzigen repräsentativen Koordinationsgruppe
- diese Koordinierungsgruppe sollte keine technischen Inhalte bewerten, sondern nur Auftragnehmer (z.B. IHE) anerkennen und deren Prozesse begutachten
- relevante Fora&Consortia (wie etwa IHE oder continua) sollten dauerhaft in die eHealth-Standardisierung eingebunden werden
- Standards sollten nur zusammen mit Konformitätskriterien publiziert werden
- “essential IPR“ soll frühzeitig angemeldet werden müssen



Example: the IHE Vendor/User Community

- Standards from the SDOs provide „the alphabet“ of the language for messages and entries
- Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) publishes freely available profiles based on such standards
- Profiles describe the „words and sentences“ for meaningful messages and entries
- see http://www.ihe-europe.net

Example: IHE Profiling Results

- USE-CASES reflect relevant clinical scenarios
- In an open, transparent process generic, reusable PROFILES are created to implement such use-cases
- All profiles of a domain are published in „Technical Frameworks“ for free download and use
- Vendors prove connectivity during open cross-vendor testing events (“CONNECT-A-THONS“)
- Customers trust IHE-Profiles & refer to them in RFPs

Example: IHE-Europe Connect-a-thon

- At the IHE Connectathon, all companies implementing IHE's Technical Framework specifications in their products have the chance to test them with many other companies' products in a real interoperability environment.
- Connectathon results to be published as "IHE-EU Connectathon Results table"
- Vendors may use the "IHE Integration Statements" to show the compliance of their products with the IHE Integration profiles. This is a clear benefit to vendors when responding to Requests for Proposals from users.
- The Ninth annual European interoperability testing event known as the IHE Connectathon will be held at Bordeaux, on April 2010