



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Philip Dodds Memorial Lecture

Leveraging Standards for Multinational Collaboration

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Philip V.W. Dodds (1951 – 2007)

"working code trumps all theories"



Leveraging Standards for Multinational Collaboration

Technology standards can be a **useful tool** for integration and development challenges, but they can also be used more broadly as the **backbone** of multinational projects and collaborations. One such project is eViP, a program to create a shared bank of virtual patients across Europe. Dr. Zary will describe the **benefits** and **technical challenges** that such **collaboration** presents and compare these to the progress that it enables both within a single institution and across many nations.

Collaboration

- Across departments at the same university
 - Karolinska Institutet (<http://ki.se>)
- Multi-national
 - Wallenberg Global Learning Network (<http://wgln.org>)
 - The eViP project (<http://virtualpatients.eu>)

The eViP project (2008-2010)

- Main outcome: provide a major resource for medical and healthcare education to be shared by all institutions across Europe



The eViP partners

9 partners / 6 countries

- St George's, University of London, UK
- Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany
- University of Warwick, UK
- Faculty of Medicine at Universiteit Maastricht, Netherlands
- Faculty of Medicine at Heidelberg University, Germany
- University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Uniwersytet Jagiellonski, Poland
- University of Witten, Germany

The eViP project

Work packages:

- Pilot case study and evaluation
- **Standards implementation (backbone)**
- VP repurposing and enrichment
- Awareness and dissemination
- Assessment and evaluation
- Exit and sustainability

Standards implementation sub-project

The task were:

- Create: eVIP application profile
- Define: conformance metrics
- Implement
- Test: for conformance

In 1 year...

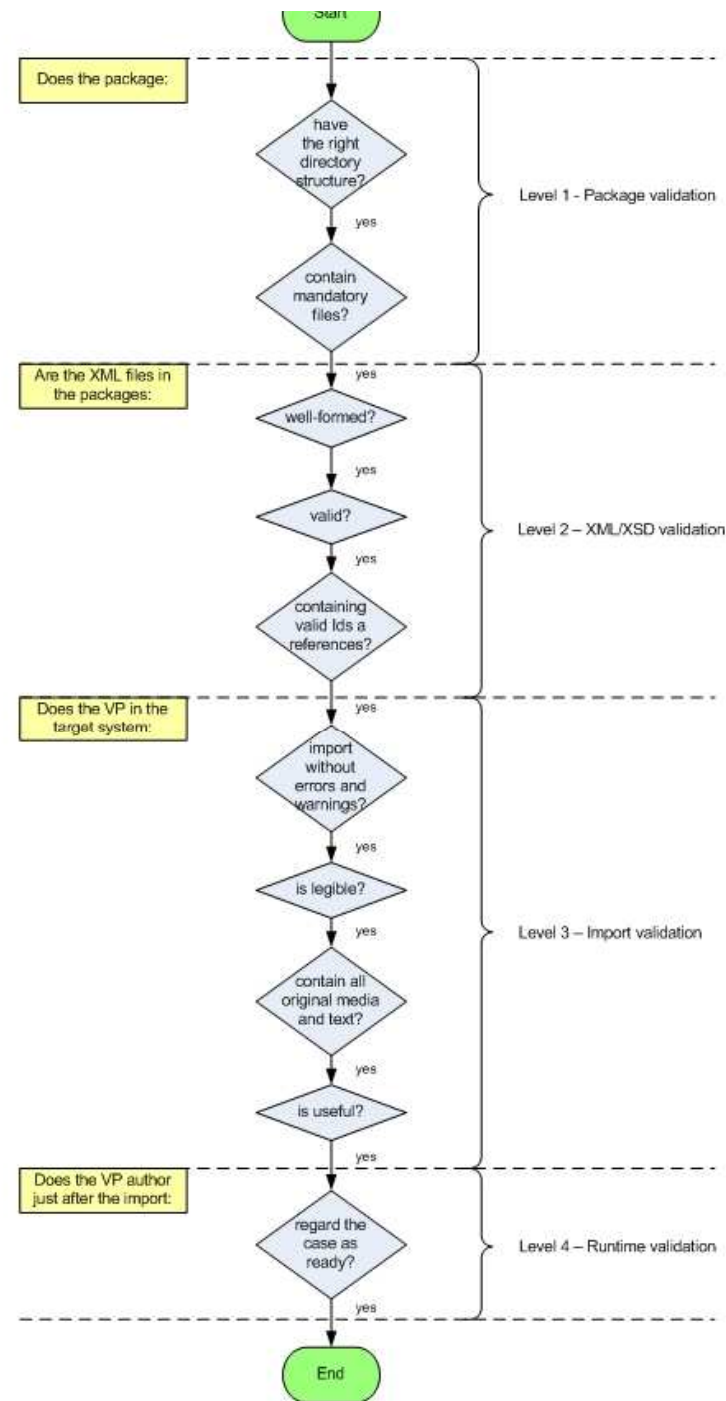
The eViP application profile

Components:

- *MedBiquitous Virtual Patient Specification*
- *eVIP Metadata*
- SCORM package

Conformance metrics

- Level 1: Package validation
- Level 2: XML/XSD validation
- Level 3: Import validation
- Level 4: Runtime validation



What type of partner?

- Front –runners (18%)
- Co-operating (33%)
- Self-sufficient (36%)
- Sceptical (15%)



*Studies in the Context of the E-learning Initiative: Virtual Models of European Universities (Lot 1)
Final Report to the EU Commission, DG Education & Culture (March 2004)*

Create a cross-institutional “we” group

(photo showing the member of the technical reference group)

Appropriate communication channels

Distributed group:

- RL meetings
- Mailings list
- Video conferencing (skype/wimba)
- Wiki
- Email

Allow for group dynamics

- Coming to grips with and then owning the standard was the main driver
- MedBiquitous specification greatly enhanced by contributions from eViP – now in ANSI process

Promote shared expertise

- Inventory of expertise
- Define expertise roles
- Peer-review of development efforts
- Development of applications
 - <http://code.google.com/p/mvptools/>
 - <http://code.google.com/p/mvp-evip-xslt-test-suite/>

Know your limits

Examples:

- Metadata information
- Educational aspects

Scholarly approach

- Enabling Interoperability, Accessibility and Reusability of Virtual Patients across Europe -- Design and Implementation
N Zary, I Hege, J Heid, L Woodham, J Donkers, AA Kononowicz
(Stud Health Technol Inform)
- Validation of Strategies to Test for Interoperability of Virtual Patients
A Kononowicz, J Heid, J Donkers, I Hege, L Woodham, N Zary
(Stud Health Technol Inform)

Benefits

- Community of practice
- Horizontal integration between R&D groups
- Incentives for everyone
- Easier to apply for funding

Challenges

- Backslash effect
- Funding is critical
- Continuous development
- Distributed group dynamics
- Technology implementation was not a primary outcome

Thank you for listening

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The eViP project

<http://www.virtualpatients.eu>