
eHealth as an opportunity for health sector reform

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Challenges vs opportunities

CHALLENGES FOR HC

- Chronic diseases on rise
- Rising demand
- Decreasing supply
- Increasing costs
- More prevention and early detection
- Concern for individual responsibility

OPPORTUNITIES BY IT

- Remote communication
- Routine control of large/sparse data
- Quality monitoring and support
- Decision support
- Less redundant operations
- Integration of care
- Cost containment?

The case of Estonia

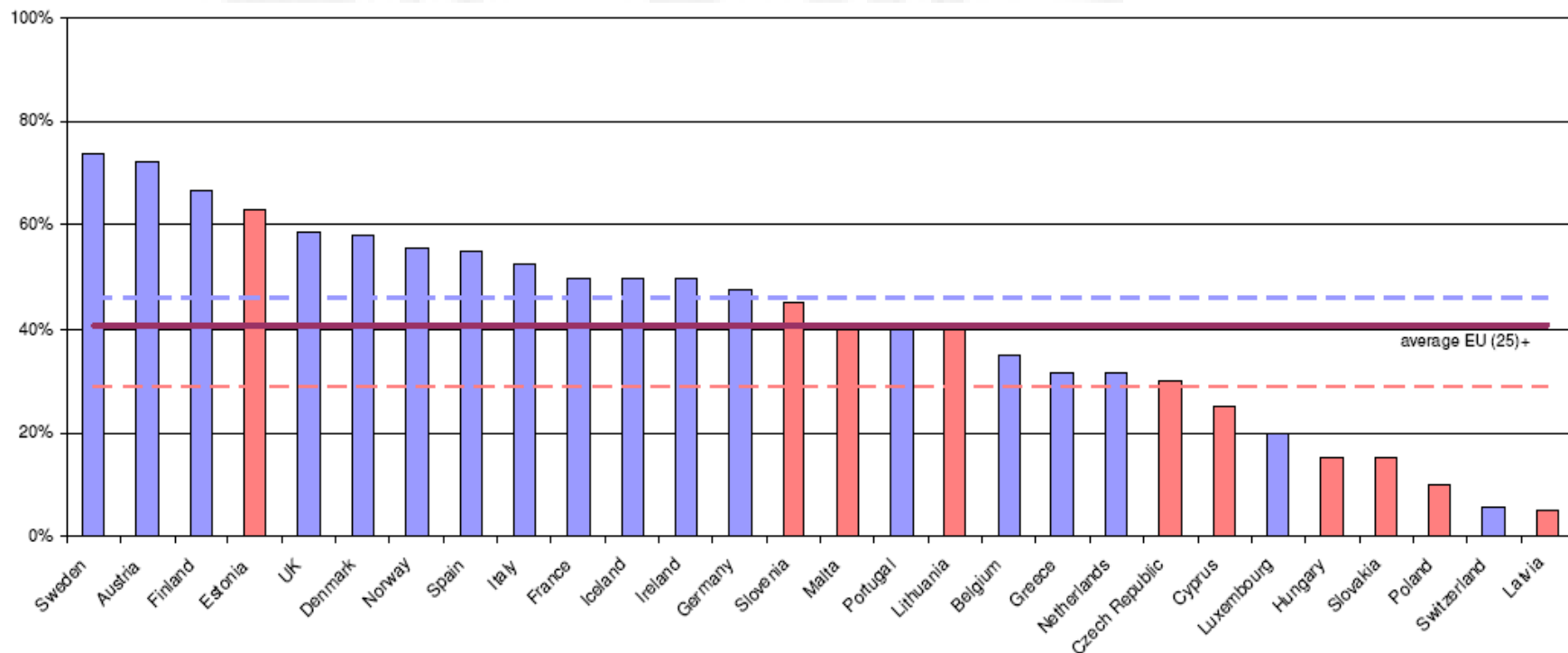
- Area 45 000 sqkm
- 1.4M inhabitants
- **internet** penetration 55% (2005)
- **tax reports** submitted online 76% (2005)
- **ID-card** penetration 80% (2/2006)



Map source: www.parks.it

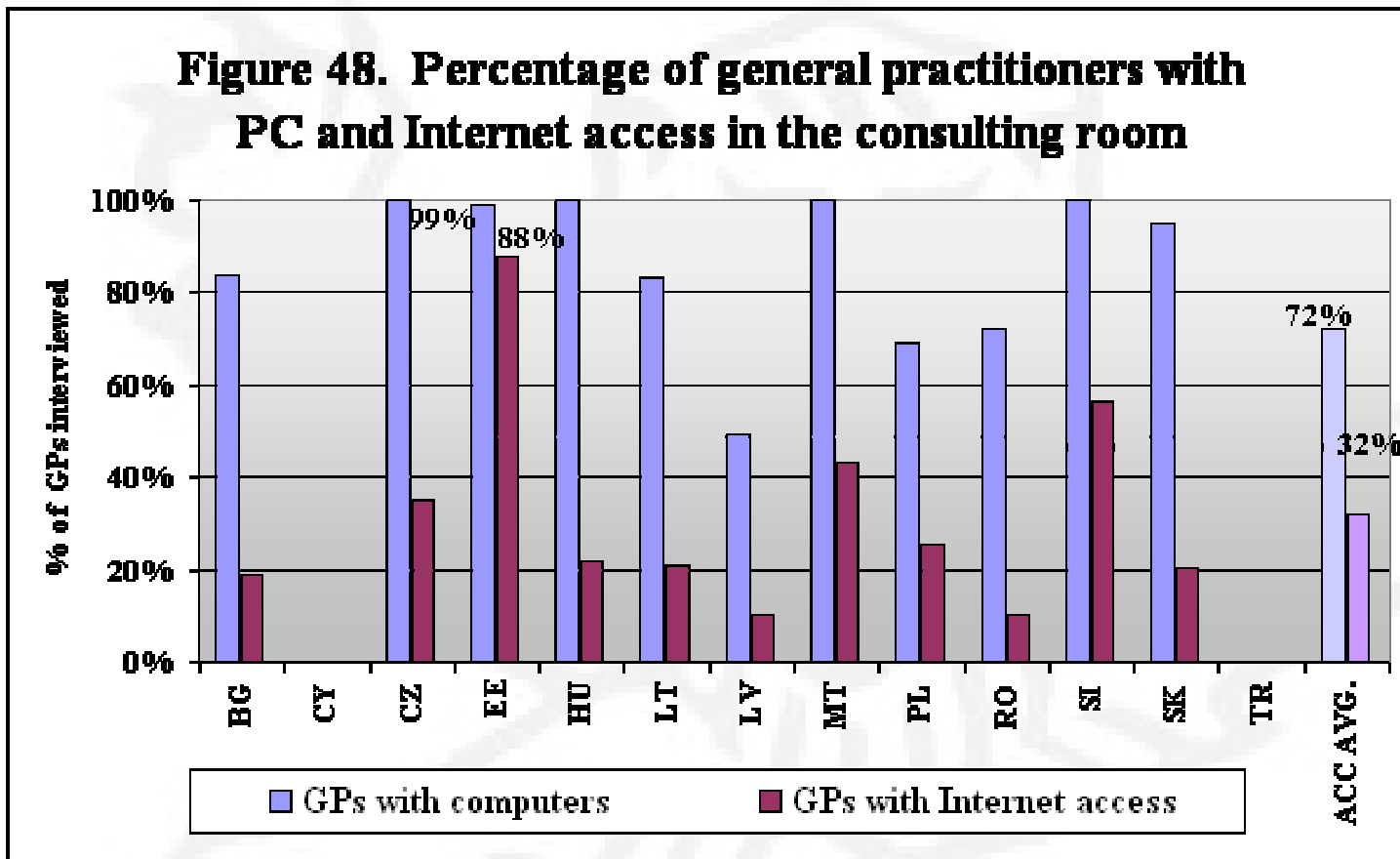
Situation in eServices

Public services fully available online, October 2004



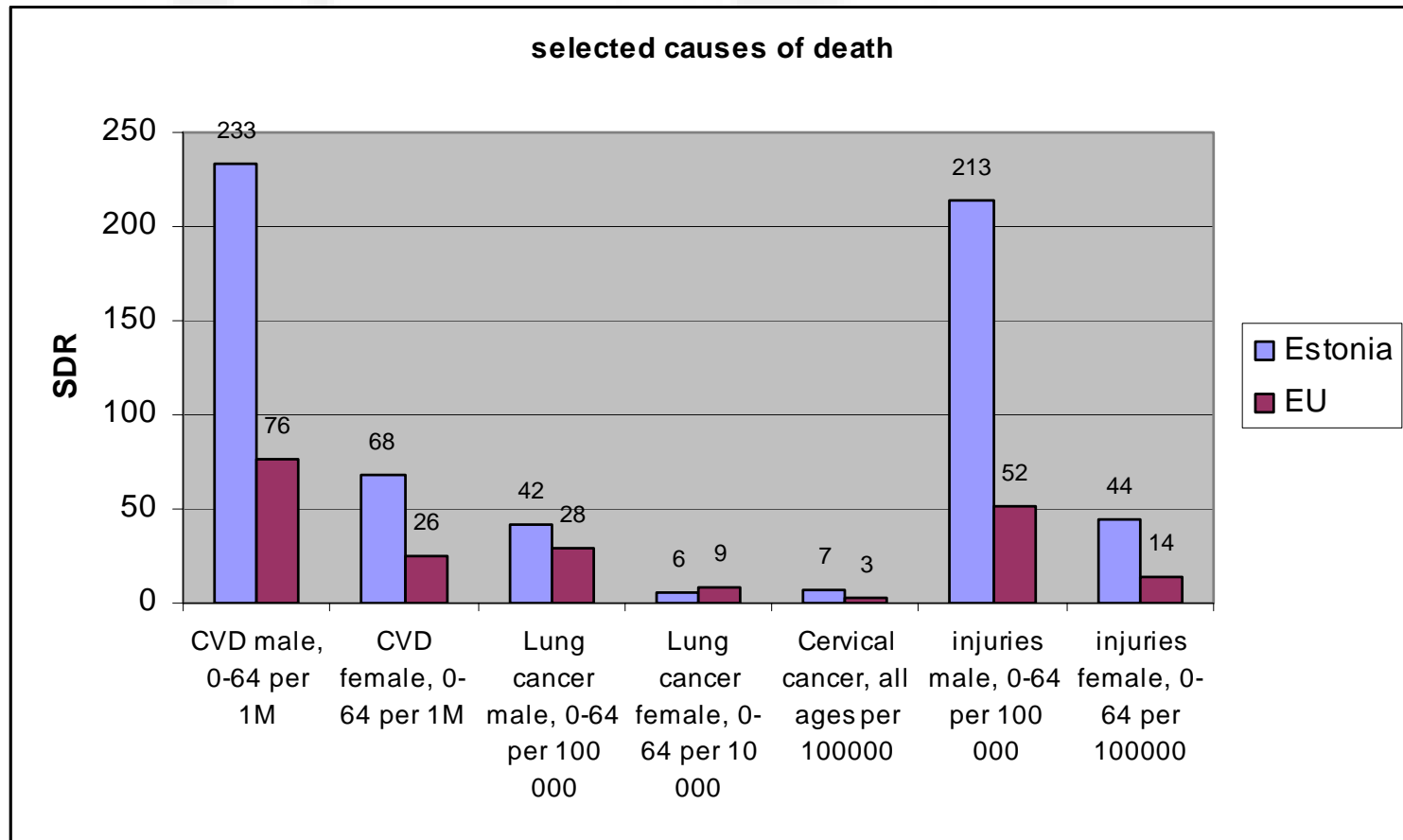
Source: *Online Availability of Public Services*, EC 2005

Situation in eHealth (2003)



Source: Development of the information society in Estonia as mirrored in European surveys in 2003. Estonian Informatics Centre. Data from „eEurope+ Health Survey”, June 2003. <http://www.ria.ee/atp/?id=762> (Accessed January 12, 2006)

Situation in health (2004)



Source: HFA DB, WHO/Euro (accessed on June 8, 2006)

National Health Information System

2.2M Euros

September 2006 – December 2008

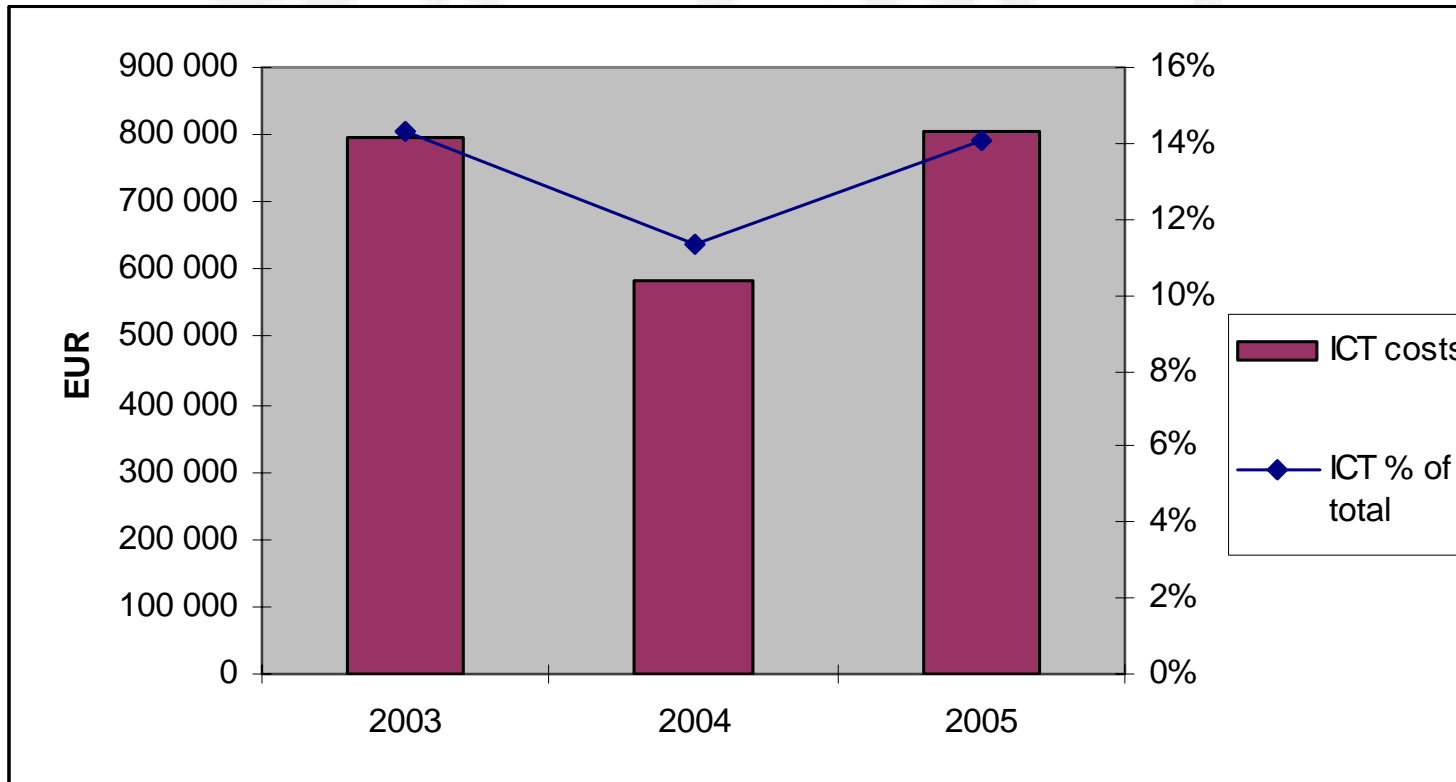
- Digital Health Record
- Digital Waiting List Registration
- Digital Prescription
- Digital Images

“NHIS will save 12 lives per year”

Press release by Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia August 2006

eHealth spending (1)

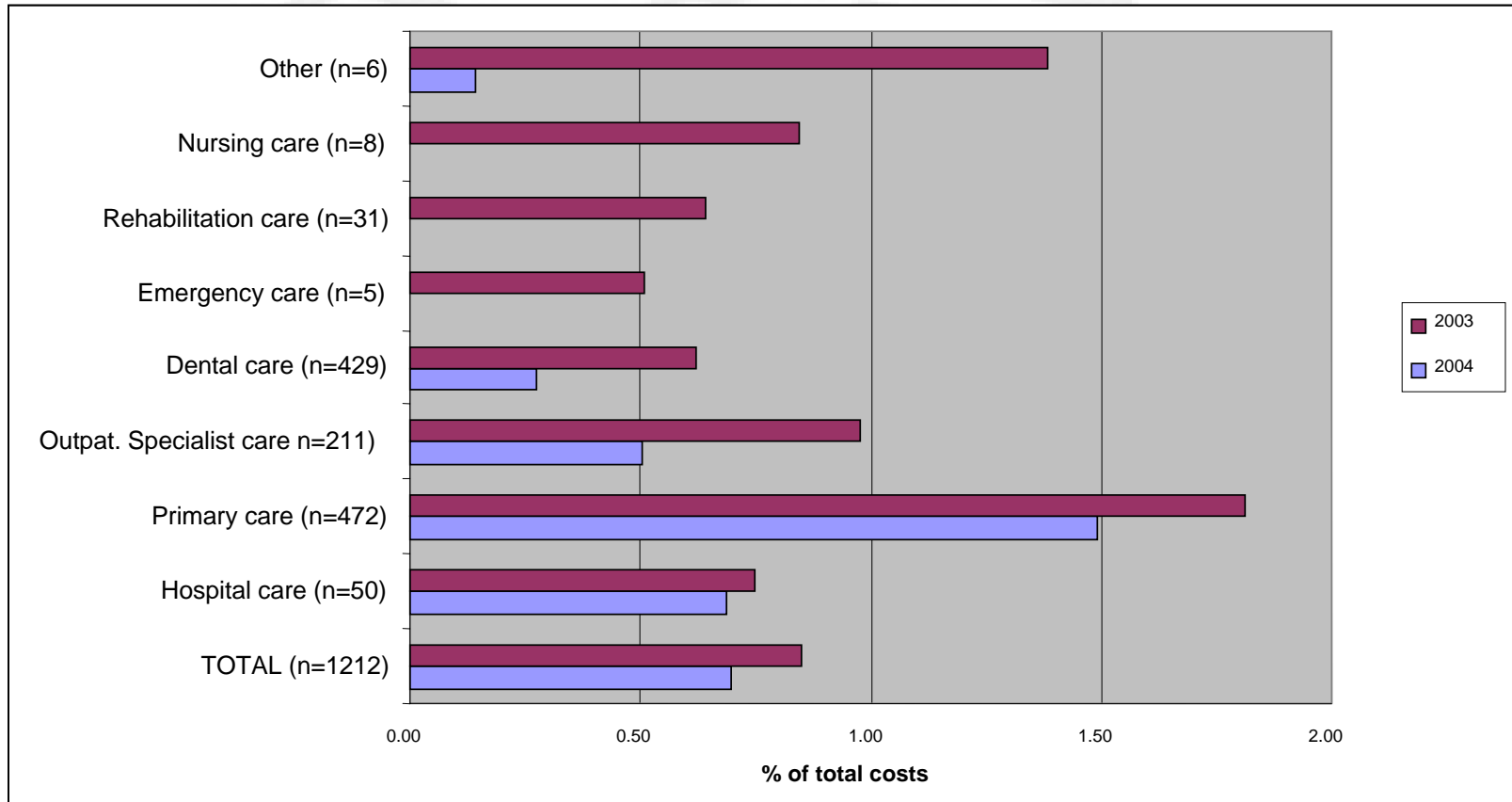
Estonian Health Insurance Fund



Source: Estonian Health Insurance Fund

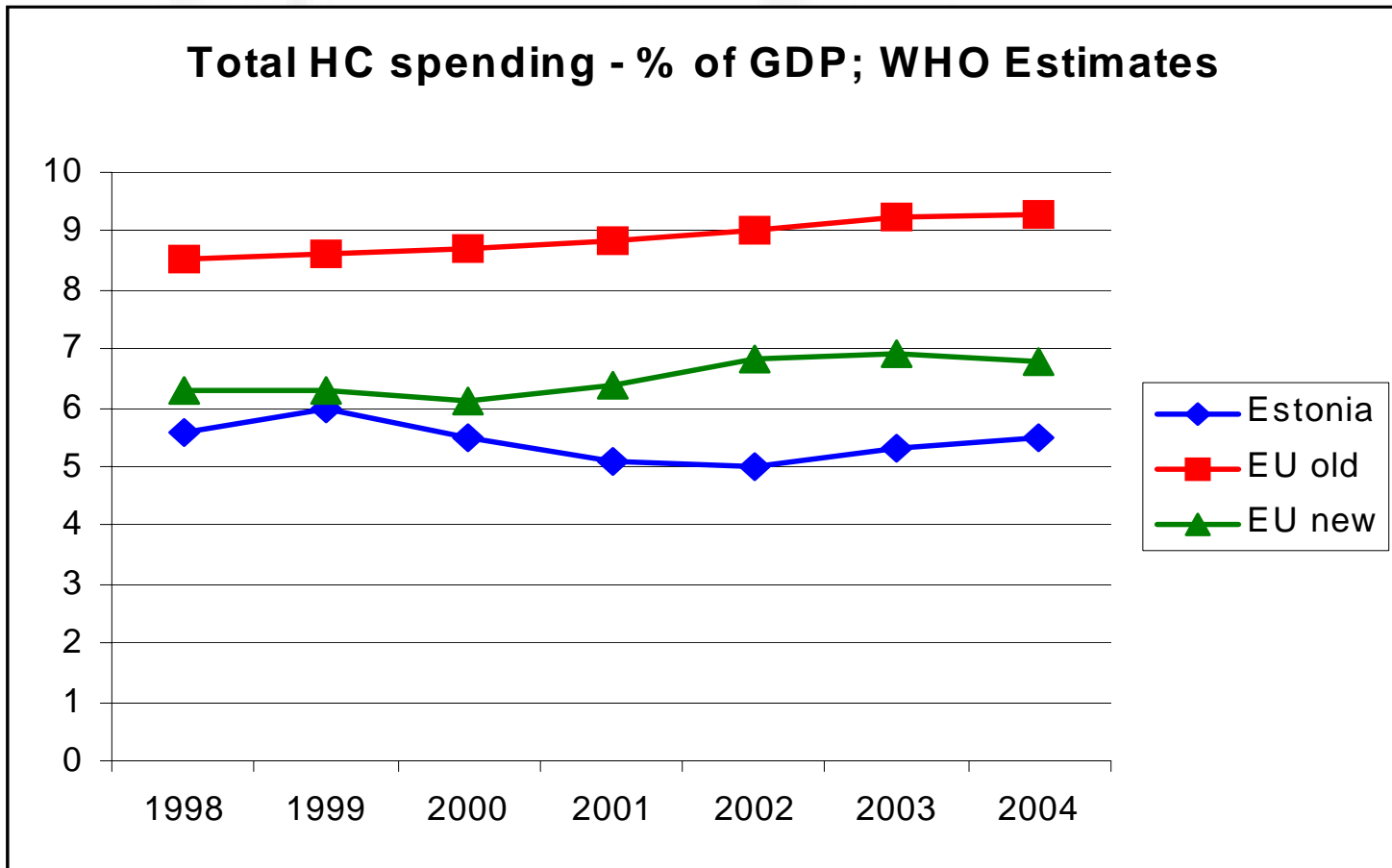
eHealth spending (2)

Providers



Source: Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia

Resources available



Source. HFA DB, WHO/Euro (accessed Sept 6, 2006)

Demand ...

Fields of life, where citizens expect more e-services, 2005 (Source: TNS Emor)

	% of those using the Internet
Job search	65%
Social affairs	52%
Health affairs	52%
Paying taxes	49%
Applying for personal identification documents	40%
Announcing about moving	38%
Car registration	33%
Enrolment to universities	30%
Communicating with the police	30%
In the field of childcare	29%
Applying for construction permits	20%
Applying for birth and/or marriage certificates	17%
Pet registration	14%

... and utilisation

Use of health and social eServices by consumers. 2005

Searching for medical information	41%
Booking appointment to doctor's admission	7%
Communicating and consulting with doctor using e-mail	4%
Applying for supplemental drug cost reimbursement from EHIF	3%
Applying for EU health insurance card	3%
Applying for family or parent social allowance	2%
Requesting prescription	1%

Source: http://www.riso.ee/et/files/E-teenuste_kasutamine.xls.pdf (updated on 16.06.2005)



Conclusions

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eHealth for health reforms

eHealth will **change the medical** practice

/.../ health informatics is more about understanding people and new models of care than it is about technology.

Wyatt & Sullivan 2005

Physician and pilot (the market failure)

- Airplanes are safer than hospitals because pilot goes down with plane
(Leape 1994)
- “[For many patients,] ...the plane is already on its way down when the physician-pilot climbs on board”
(McDonald 2004)

Acknowledgements for the slide to Daniel Z Sands

Political implications

- **Know** what you want
- **General health policy** should set the scene!
- Good government means most of all **good governance**
- Create **supportive environment** (rules of play, standards, effective discussion forums) and the things will happen by itself
- Use **market mechanisms** (intention is there) by creating simple financial incentives
- Use *nil nocere* principle



Thank you!

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