

The Parliament Magazine's

# RESEARCH

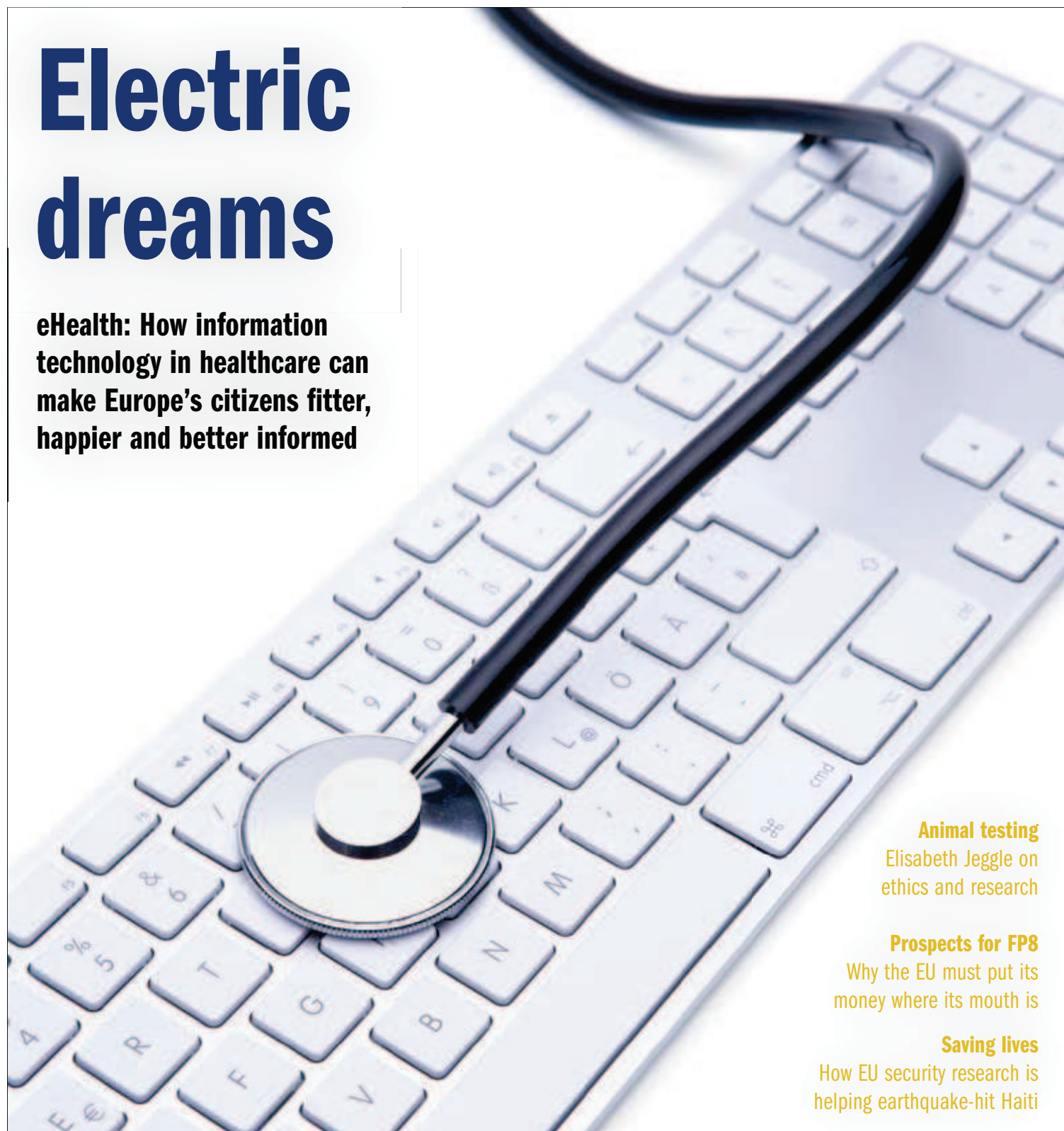
EUROPEAN RESEARCH & INNOVATION **REVIEW**

Issue 12  
March 2010



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**eHealth: How information technology in healthcare can make Europe's citizens fitter, happier and better informed**



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# First aid

**The hours following a major disaster are vital in saving lives, as is the equipment used to do it. The Research Review asked three FP7 funded security researchers to explain how their projects can make the world a safer place**

**M**adrid, London, Toulouse, Haiti and south-east Asia. These are all tourist destinations, but they are also symbols of crisis situations. Public safety agencies do their best to prevent accidents and allay security concerns, but from time to time unpredictable catastrophic events occur.

Currently, there are a lack of solutions to provide crisis management agencies with secure, trusted communication systems together with the wide coverage necessary to manage a large scale crisis such as a flood or forest fire. Typically, communication systems on this scale face a very real problem of limited interoperability and compatibility with other systems, limited resilience to the crisis environment (for example flood and fires) and can only achieve a low level of overall security.

Secricom is developing and demonstrating a reference security platform for EU crisis management operations. This will be able to serve as a communication basis for crisis management in European countries, with the technical ability to extend to cross-border systems. The basic concept is the continued use of existing, publicly available communication devices and infrastructures including an interface towards future deployed technology. The aim is to bridge the gap between already deployed technologies that provide current intercommunications by extending the security network.

Indeed, communication interoperability and the rapid location and procurement of medicines, hospital capacity, personal resources and transportation are two of the most important requirements when managing a crisis. Secricom will create interoperability and interconnectivity, providing an end to end service to support any Secricom user with connections to any of the selected networks, as well as providing network access to the control centre that will identify security issues.

Rapid location and procurement of resources will be based on distributed mobile agent-based transaction systems, implemented both in mobile communication devices (an application in mobile phones, walkie-talkies) and central systems in management centres. Access to such services will



Rescue workers search for victims in downtown Talca, Chile following the earthquake on 27 February 2010

be protected by customised chip-level security. The project will complete with a full demonstration in April 2012, and many of the contributing technologies are already available.

**Miroslav Konecny is a partner in the Seamless communication for crisis management (Secricom) project**

How long will it take to locate someone, especially when they are unconscious? How quickly can rescuers screen collapsed buildings to find those who are trapped? How safe is it to search under the ruins? These are the kind of questions that