



PROJECTS

# GREEK HEALTH SYSTEM GOES DIGITAL

**TOTAL INVESTMENT:  
EUR 13 937 100**

**EU CONTRIBUTION:  
EUR 13 937 100**

**The e-Prescription project is modernising the Greek health system by replacing the existing practice of handwriting prescriptions with a digitalised operating platform.**

Completed at the end of 2015, the e-Prescription project is currently one of the most important e-government applications in operation across the country. With funding from the European Regional Development Fund, more specifically from the Operational Programme ‘Digital Convergence’, the e-health application has been installed and is managed by IDIKA SA, an e-government centre for social security services. Focusing on improving patient safety and quality of care and better use of resources, the system aims to provide an open modular e-Prescription environment which is EU compatible and interoperable with other national e-health applications and third-party information systems.

The digital social service connects and operates across all of the country’s national social insurance funds through a fully integrated e-Prescription platform. In this way, the project is contributing to transparency and supporting decision-making by providing accurate statistical data. In addition, its objectives are closely aligned with the Greek health policy (2014-2020) which prioritises primary healthcare, pooling financial resources, introducing new managerial and administrative methods, adopting cost-effective monitoring mechanisms, and developing policies for the better allocation of resources.

## Fit for purpose

The main operation covers the prescription of drugs and laboratory test referrals, from monitoring requests through to the payment of beneficiaries. The e-prescriptions generated by the

prescribing doctor are stored in the national database from where they can be accessed by pharmacies and diagnostic centres for execution. Information in the database is made available through secure access to health insurance organisations, the ministry of health, and supervising authorities, among others. Similarly, all transactions via the national social insurance funds are monitored and managed from start to end, including doctors’ visits and electronic medical act referrals.

On the patient’s side, an electronic prescription replaces the often illegible handwritten order, making it easier to renew prescriptions while, at the same time, minimising risks of misreading the doctor’s instructions. The figures available for 2015 show that 3 million patients approximately benefited from the new prescription service each month.

Similarly, e-Prescription helps to reduce the complexities of prescription insurance cover by simplifying the entire procedure and ensuring patients’ records are kept up to date.

Furthermore, the new digital service gives doctors a clear overview of their patients’ medical history as well as providing better alignment with medical guidelines and pharmaceutical practice. The very positive response to the e-Prescription system can be seen in the statistics gathered which show that although only recently introduced, it already covers more than 98% of all prescriptions prescribed today across the country.

Last but not least, within the context of the project, an e-Health suite is also being implemented, comprising a wide range of tools and services and has upgraded the already successful e-Prescription system at the national level. ■

## FIND OUT MORE

<http://www.e-prescription.gr>