

Member News

LIST TRANSFERS GECAMED SOFTWARE TO ABACUS CONSULTING & SOLUTIONS S.A.



On 1 January 2018, 12 years after the initial IT developments, the medical practice management software GECAMed®, developed by the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, has been transferred to ABACUS Consulting & Solutions S.A., a commercial enterprise in Luxembourg.

Based on a secure open-source platform developed by researchers at the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) in partnership with the Luxembourgish doctors, GECAMed® enables the management and use of medical data. First launched in 2005, the software has been continuously adapted and improved to meet the needs of healthcare professionals. Moreover, numerous Luxembourgish businesses and institutions have contributed to it,



including the eSanté agency, the Luxembourgish Association of Doctors and Dentists (AMMD), the Robert Schuman hospitals, Doctena, Agfa Healthcare, Astrazeneca and Pfizer, making GECAMed® a tool specifically adapted to the specific Luxembourgish context. The developments begun in this last decade have paid off since GECAMed® is used by almost 10% of Luxembourgish doctors as well as by all medical centres (maisons médicales) in Luxembourg.

A transfer as an obvious next step

GECAMed® was no longer the object of any true innovations after reaching technological maturity and being integrated into the eSanté platform in November 2015. With this step, researchers achieved their final development objectives by providing healthcare professionals with a tool capable of using the shared patient records (DSP) in a userfriendly and transparent way.

From this point on, LIST's role was focused mainly on software maintenance. After recognizing that maintaining and continuing to develop software in a competitive market is not the vocation of a research and technology organization like LIST, it was a natural decision to transfer GECAMed® to a service provider.

A confident handover

Although well established in the Luxembourgish business landscape, GECAMed® nevertheless faces significant challenges of guaranteeing its continuity and development to remain close to the needs of Luxembourgish healthcare professionals. LIST wanted to develop a strong partnership capable of efficiently managing the relationship with existing users, future marketing and functional and technical development of the software. Therefore LIST launched a public offering to find a trusted partner to undertake the GECAMed® developments. LIST finally put its trust in ABACUS Consulting & Solutions S.A., an innovative Luxembourgish service provider specialized in Business-IT alignment and IT business solutions. As official support provider of GECAMed® since 2016, ABACUS was a natural choice of candidate for its takeover.

The agreement signed between the two parties confirms the open-source character of GECAMed®, whose source codes and standardized import and export formats for patient files remain public. Finally, future GECAMed® developments will be carried out according to the add-on principle, making it possible to add new functionalities identified together with users.

In order to make the software transfer to the company as smooth as possible, LIST researchers trained ABACUS employees in the specificities of their software. ABACUS now has detailed knowledge in terms of GECAMed® functionality and its technical architecture.

Close to national specificities and needs

The takeover of the software by ABACUS is a chance for GECAMed® to remain at the cutting edge of the needs and requests of the market. Upcoming developments and future functionalities will also support Luxembourgish doctors in terms of the new Luxembourgish legislative obligations they will face in 2018, in particular, the obligation to use a double-entry bookkeeping method.

Since January 1st 2018, ABACUS proposes a version of GECAMed® adapted to the needs of professional users. This version comprises not only extended functionalities but also the associated support. It will be complemented in the

future by a range of professional services specially adapted to the needs of doctors and tailored to the specific requirements of medical practices: IT consulting in terms of data protection, IT materials and equipment for practices, adapted training and installation and configuration of the software. ABACUS thus provides Luxembourgish doctors with an all-in-one offer for their practices' IT requirements based around GECAMed®. In addition, ABACUS also proposes customized development for doctors' and practices' in order to cover their individual needs.

An open-source version of GECAMed will continue to be available, with a focus on research, education and non-profit purposes. This version will however not have the complete range of functionalities offered in the professional version.

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