



11<sup>TH</sup> EHEALTH NETWORK 9 MAY 2017, ST. JULIAN'S, MALTA  
COVER NOTE BY EHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

**Topic 1: EU strategy and activities on eHealth (agenda point 1 and 2)**

**-MTR Digital Single Market Strategy & Implications for future work eHealth Network-**

**Issue at stake**

We would like to invite the Members of the eHealth Network to a discussion on our future cooperation and strategic objectives in the area of eHealth.

Given that the eHealth Network is currently preparing a new multiannual work programme for 2018-2021, and that the upcoming Estonian Presidency of the European Council will give digital health a prominent place on the agenda, this seems to be the right moment to look ahead.

We are also approaching the mid-term evaluation of the Digital Single Market Strategy (DSMS), which should provide the rationale and mandate to intensify our effort in bringing eHealth forward in the EU. Hopefully, the forthcoming Commission Communication on the mid-term review will propose stronger action on eHealth: to this end, SANTE, CNECT and RTD have been joining efforts on the health aspects of the DSMS (and Xavier Prats Monné and Roberto Viola have actually created a joint task force with a specific mandate: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/blog/taskforce-take-health-and-digital-policies-further>).

We would like to have straightforward exchange of views on how to intensify our collaboration to bring eHealth further in the EU, and how to ensure the key role and strong impact of the eHealth Network.

**Summary of document**

The final document will be adopted by the Commission on 10 of May, but the main content will already be presented at the meeting.

The Commission is currently preparing the mid-term review of the implementation of the DSMS: to review the progress made towards completing the Digital Single Market (DSM); to identify where further efforts are needed by the co-legislators; and to identify any potential gaps which need to be addressed. A Communication is planned for adoption on 10 May 2017 – almost precisely two years after the adoption of the Strategy (6 May 2015).

The mid-term review will take stock on what has been achieved so far. The Commission has delivered on all the 16 major initiatives mentioned in the DSMS. The Communication seeks also to highlight existing initiatives, other than the legislative ones already presented, that are in need of a renewed focus and possible additional proposals to respond to new and growing challenges.

The health care sector was identified as such a sector motivated by the opportunities of digitisation and the many direct benefits for citizens.

**Format of procedure in the eHN**

The Commission co-chair introduces the topic and will first give the floor to Deputy Director General of DG CONNECT, Mr. Khalil Rouhana who will give you a general update on the mid-term review of the DSMS. Then the Commission co-chair will inform the eHealth Network about the joint efforts of DG SANTE and DG CONNECT on the health aspects of the DSM.

The Commission co-chair then gives the floor to the eHealth Network for questions and comments.