



12TH EHEALTH NETWORK 28 NOVEMBER 2017, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
COVER NOTE BY EHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Agenda point 1a: EU strategy and activities on digital health

Issue at stake

There are several parallel processes ongoing shaping the EUs strategic agenda on eHealth. On the one hand you have work of the European Commission on the Communication on Health and Care in the Digital Single Market. In order to provide input from the public in the activities that flow out of the Communication, the Commission has conducted a Public Consultation. The Public Consultation was closed on 12 October. An external party has conducted the analysis of the results.

Furthermore, with the Digital Health Society initiative of the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs, a discussion on how to synergise their efforts with the activities of the eHealth Network is needed.

Summary

The European Commission will give you a short update on the state-of-play of the Communication. In support to that, a short presentation will be provided to present the results of the public consultation. The results of the public consultation show support for more affirmative actions on digital health by the Commission. Also, the developments regarding the new Joint Action of eHealth will be presented.

The Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs has initiated the Digital Health Society (DHS) initiative to set a momentum and a call for actions to increase the deployment of digital health solutions. The Estonian Presidency initiated a consultation on the DHS Declaration, which attracted contributions from more than 100 organisations. The Declaration was presented at the High-Level Conference in Tallinn on 17 October. A number of organisations are signing-up to the DHS Declaration to form a multi-stakeholder group (which is open to new members) that will encourage voluntary cooperation by Member States in the implementation of digital health innovations and will promote pan-European actions in the context of several DHS Task Forces

In light of that it is important to consider how the Digital Health Society initiative can synergise with the work of the eHealth Network. There are four taskforces under the DHS and a fifth one under preparation. These tasks could provide valuable input into the discussions of the eHealth Network under the new multiannual work programme 2018-2021. These taskforces are:

- The first TF on "*Convergence roadmap on Interoperability standards*" is led by Erik Gerritsen, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports of The Netherlands. There is good scope for this TF to synergise with the eHealth Network and contribute to its work. Work of the eHealth Network on interoperability and standardisation will be discussed at the 12th eHealth Network Meeting under agenda point 3.
- The third TF on "*Legal framework facilitating the free flow and secondary use of health data*" is relevant to cross-border data exchange and use of EHRs – in other words, relevant to the eHealth Network and its future work related to "*innovative use of health data*".

- The fourth TF on "*Digital transformation & change management in health and social care organisations*" can relate to the future activities of the eHealth Network regarding "*empowering people*", "*enhancing continuity of care*" and "*overcoming implementation challenges*".
- The fifth TF under preparation, on *Cross-country European Health Data Cooperation Network*, will be led by the Ministry of Health of Denmark (Marie Rønne) and possibly the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia. This TF wishes to link with the eHealth Network. There seems to be relevance to the eHealth Network's future priority "*innovative use of health data*".

Format of procedure in the eHN

The Commission co-chair will open the agenda point and informs the eHealth Network about the current state-of-play of the Communication. Furthermore, the eHealth Network will be informed about the results of the public consultation. Lastly, the Members of the eHealth Network are informed about the new Joint Action on eHealth.

Then the Commission co-chair will introduce the topic on the Digital Health Society initiative and invites the eHealth Network to discuss the possibilities to synergise with the eHealth Network's future activities. Moreover, the Estonian representative will be given the opportunity to present the development of a fifth task force under the DHS.