

Preparatory discussions between the Commission and Member States for future decisions on health data exchange in Europe

Two eHealth Network subgroups met in Brussels on 22nd and 23rd October to pave the way for the Health national authorities' decision at the upcoming eHealth Network scheduled end of November on the European Health data Space, the Electronic Health Record Exchange Format and a common semantic strategy.

The eHealth Network subgroup on the implementation of the Communication on the digital transformation of health and care met to analyse the recommendations on an electronic health records exchange format (through the so called "Joint Coordination process"), in order to submit a proposal for decision to the eHealth Network. In addition, for the first time, representatives of both Member States and research infrastructures met to see how to best coordinate their actions. The discussion focused then on the set up of a European Health data Space.

The eHealth sub group on semantics met for the first time and established its rules of coordination. Germany and the European Commission were designated as co-chairs, whereas the Netherlands as a rapporteur. The Sub-group main responsibility is to define a common understanding of clinical concepts used in health data. Participants agreed on a common strategy which will be proposed to the eHealth Network for its decision end of November, and decided on its working methods and plan.

The eHealth Network, set up under the Directive 2011/24/EU on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, gathers national authorities responsible for eHealth and gives direction to digital health developments in Europe. Some sub-groups have been set up to prepare the decisions of the eHealth network on some important issues.

More information: https://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/cooperation_en