EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

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COVER NOTE BY eHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Topic 3.1.   D4.1: Policy Framework on People Empowerment – eHAction

Issue at stake
eHAction aims to develop strategic recommendations and instruments to support the political discussions between the eHealth Network, Member States and countries and the Commission (to facilitate the achievement of the multiannual work programme (MWP) of the eHealth Network. The work package 4 (WP4) developed a draft delivery D4.1 Policy Framework on People Empowerment, which is for discussion at the eHealth Network meeting in June 2019. The current state of play on the work will be presented to the members of the eHealth Network in order to receive a feedback and to create the final policy framework, which will be presented for adoption during the next eHealth Network meeting in November 2019. The Steering Council is the governance body responsible for dealing with the strategic organisation of eHAction and focuses on the final preparations of eHealth Network meetings with regards to contents. The Steering Council has reviewed the deliverable and submitted it for discussion at the eHealth Network.

Summary
WP4 aims to provide a state of play on people empowerment across Member States and the desired state of the art based on theoretical studies. This draft on policy framework analyses the barriers and enablers of the development of the four tasks, namely (i) patient access and use of data, (ii) telehealth, (iii) mHealth and (iv) digital health literacy (i.e. the four components of empowerment). The overall objective of this WP4 is to empower people to take an active part in their health and care process by building their capacity to use, understand and control their medical data, to provide them the opportunity to really participate in the management of their health and to motivate them to do so, not only in (shared) decision situations with their health professionals on their medical status, but also in active situations such as self-monitoring (e.g. mHealth) and/or in making use of e.g. telehealth services for prevention and/or healthcare reasons. The current framework is based on the understanding that mobile health, telehealth, patient access and digital health literacy are all vital and deeply interlinked components of ensuring empowerment, contributing to and deriving from people's **abilities** and **motivation** to manage their health and wellbeing and the **opportunities** provided to them to do so. Although the current draft framework still analyses each of the four components separately, it has become apparent from the analysis thus far that interlinkages must be explored and exploited to ensure maximum impact.

The current framework is based on an in-depth literature analysis of how digital tools are used for empowerment and the methodologies to ensure their adoption. The draft framework also provides an overview of key barriers and enablers – based both on a literature review and Member States input – that hinder or facilitate the adoption of the four components. Qualitative answers have also been gathered from Member States to better assess the situation on the ground with regards to patient empowerment via the four components, but an in-depth analysis of these answers is yet to be conducted at this draft stage.

The final framework will lead to a policy proposal for Member States and the EU and is aligned with the strategic goal of the eHealth Network to work towards the implementation of patient-centred digital health solutions in all Member States for sustainability of healthcare systems.

In the following months until the next eHealth Network meeting in November 2019, the final document on policy framework will be created together with the working plan for D4.2 Policy Proposal. After the summer, a second face-to-face meeting will be held together with WP4 contributors and international stakeholders.

This task has aligned with DHE (WP4 and WP6).

Format of procedure in the eHealth Network meeting

The Member State co-chair introduces the topic and opens the floor to the eHealth Network for comments and questions.

The eHealth Network is requested to endorse the approach in task 4.1 as summarised in the first draft or raise any perceived issues.