



15TH EHEALTH NETWORK 11-12 JUNE 2019, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

COVER NOTE BY EHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Topic 4.4.2. D5.1: Report on policy actions on innovative use of big data in health – eHAction

Issue at stake

This document presents an information note under the scope of eHAction task 5.1 “Report for the information of the eHealth Network on policy level actions”. Task 5.11 attempts to address priority area B.1 of the multi-annual work programme (MWP) 2018 - 2021 of the eHealth Network: increase awareness on the possible impacts, challenges, risks and directions of big data in healthcare.

The focus is on raising awareness with patients and policy makers on the use of big data in healthcare. It needs to be transparent to patients how, when and for which purpose their data is being used and to the healthcare professionals as well.

Develop and use AI for good and for all building on the EU values and strengths. Capitalise on research and public sector data which can be unlocked to feed AI systems, to make data sharing easier and to open up more data.

Summary

The information note summarises the work carried out to date on the task 5.1 (T5.1) and indicates what activities are planned for the remainder of the task in order to achieve the deliverables.

The information note is not a deliverable in itself and does not present results; it is an overview of the approach being taken to achieve the deliverables of T5.1. Namely, to provide information about the objectives, scope and planned structure and working methods of deliverable 5.1 (D5.1), established in work package 5 (WP5) specific to policy level actions.

This document also provides working definitions in order to encompass digital health (which includes mHealth), as well as emerging areas, such as the use of advanced computing and analytic sciences and smart technology.

A draft report for discussion will be presented at the eHealth Network meeting in November 2019. The final draft report will be presented as a deliverable at the eHealth Network meeting in May 2020.

The overall objective of WP5 is to support the application of good practices in Member States and countries, and provide guidance at the EU level on handling big data in health within the existing EU regulatory framework on secondary use of personal health data, and consequently to ease the uptake of innovative usage of data across the healthcare sector for the benefits of society, individuals and performance of Member States health systems.

Task 5.1 “Mapping, awareness raising, and policy relevant actions on innovative use of big data in health” has a focus on identifying obstacles, barriers that prevent the satisfaction of the expectations related to the recommendations of the following documents:

- Study on big data in public health, telemedicine and healthcare, 2016 (EU Study);

- Ministerial Statement on “The Next Generation of Health Reforms” of the OECD Health Ministerial Meeting, 2017.

Effects of GDPR, policy-level efforts on governing big data in health in Member States and countries, and the implications of FAIR data principles will also be assessed.

In addition, T5.1 will take into consideration the increasing needs for innovative use of health data and big data in actual trending real-world scenarios (such as genomics, machine learning and artificial intelligence) aiming to prepare and assist measures that improve digital health.

T5.1 acknowledges that the use of digital technologies in health systems and services has to be designed and implemented in line with system and service innovation; otherwise, they will surely result only in more expensive solutions and treatments.

Following the logic of “expectations - obstacles - relevant actions”, recommendations of the EU Study will be operationalised, and the added value of big data on the eHealth Network governance level will be outlined in D5.1 “Report for the information of the eHealth Network on policy level actions”.

In order to prepare mapping, awareness raising and policy-relevant actions, WP5 will assess whether there are underperforming functions in the value chain of converting data into innovation in health. Where underperformance appears, relevant policy action will be mapped. Recommended ways and intensity of awareness raising will be determined according to the level of underperformance.

The European Council stated in October 2017 that the EU needs a sense of urgency to address emerging trends such as AI and invited the Commission to put forward a European approach to AI that was set out in the Communication from the Commission “*Artificial Intelligence for Europe*” to put AI at the top of their agendas.

The eHealth Network is requested to endorse the approach to the task 5.1 as summarised in the information note or raise any perceived issues; so that timely adjustments can be made to the project plan.

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.