



13TH eHEALTH NETWORK 15 MAY 2018, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
COVER NOTE BY eHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Agenda point 10: Other eHealth topics

Issue at stake

This agenda point covers three topics for information:

- The WHO mHealth hub
- Follow-up to the recommendation on PARENT JA Guidelines for patient registries
- Report on main eHealth activities outside of the EU

Summary

Innovation hub for mHealth

The core activities of the 'innovation hub for mHealth' focus on fostering research and innovation in mHealth and bolstering policy making efforts in implementing mHealth strategies tailored to the need of the European countries and regions involved. The hub acts as a convening platform to bring together experts and innovators for institutionalising best practices in mHealth whilst avoiding the creation of silos and fragmentation in mHealth knowledge across the EU. Emphasis is put on the development of a multi-stakeholder ecosystem targeted at increasing collaboration between various stakeholders such as researchers, national, regional, local authorities, and mHealth manufacturers, supported by a central resource that tracks innovation and best practices and identifies gaps in policy while fostering cross-border knowledge sharing among Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020.

The mHealth Hub project will enable:

- Development of national mHealth interventions in selected EU member states to champion the uptake of mHealth
- Foundation and maintenance of a centralised 'Knowledge and Innovations Hub for mHealth' (=EU mHealth Hub) to monitor and enable mHealth adoption and innovation, to collect and disseminate research and experience relating to the large-scale implementation of mHealth programs

The project will, among other tasks, work on the development of a common European framework for the assessment / endorsement of mHealth applications, which are or will be integrated in the health care systems or clinical practice. This will be based on an assessment of existing certification schemes and best practices for mHealth apps in European countries or regions. Similarities between deployed certification and endorsement schemes will be identified.

The work is based on prior efforts such as the Report of the Working Group on mHealth [assessment guidelines](#) and the EU eHealth Network [subgroup on mHealth](#).

Follow-up to the recommendation on PARENT JA Guidelines for patient registries

The eHealth Network adopted a recommendation on the use and dissemination of the deliverables of the Joint Action PARENT in 2016. The JAseHN has tabled two reports for the information of the eHealth Network.

The first report analyses the use of the PARENT Methodological guidelines on patient registries and looks into relevant developments of the past years that had an impact on the progress of patient registries.

The second report follows-up the recommendations that were adopted by the eHealth Network on the use of the PARENT Guidelines.

In a nutshell, the reports conclude that there are several opportunities for improvements:

- Include the impact of several pieces of EU-legislation: GDPR, eIDAS and the NISD.
- Address fragmentation of data concerning rare disease patients.
- Build on the set of common data elements for rare diseases registration released by the EU RD Platform.
- Pool data to combat rare diseases.

Report on main eHealth activities outside of the EU

The report describes, through a desk study, the fundamental factors, policies and trends which foster and explain the development of eHealth in non-EU countries. 11 non-European countries were chosen to look into this matter in order to identify differences. The analysis shows an acceleration of eHealth development which could allow for reciprocal enrichment and cooperation with non-European countries. The current evolution of eHealth worldwide could lead to new ways of cooperation between EU MSs.

The report recommends work towards common grids and a possible database

- Create a common tool in order for the eHealth Network MSs to share information on non-European programmes and projects – this platform could also include eHN MSs actions when deemed appropriate.
- Setting up a sustainable structure supporting information on non-European projects in the perspective of international trans-border eHealth changes.

Format of procedure in the eHN

The Member State co-chair opens the topic on

- the mHealth Hub and gives the floor to the Estonian eHealth Network representative Mr. Tohver who will shortly present the latest activities on the mHealth hub,
- PARENT and gives a short background on the objectives of the tabled deliverable,
- eHealth activities outside the EU and gives a short background on the objectives of the tabled deliverable.

The members have a possibility to comment each topic separately.