



**15<sup>TH</sup> eHEALTH NETWORK 11-12 JUNE 2019, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

**COVER NOTE BY eHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT**

**Topic 4.1. Expert panel - assessing the impact of digital transformation of health services**

**Issue at stake**

Earlier this year, the 'Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health' published opinion on 'assessing the impact of digital transformation of health services'<sup>1</sup>.

**Summary**

The Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health – which consists of 14 independent experts appointed by the Commission – received a mandate in 2018 to draft an opinion on 'assessing the impact of digital transformation of health services'. The panel was asked to consider questions such as (i) 'whether existing methods are best tailored for assessing the value of digital transformation of health services?'; and (ii) 'what types of data are available and required to assess the value of digital health services?', amongst other aspects.

This opinion of the panel was finalised and published in early 2019. It recognises that decisions to adopt, use or reimburse new digital health services require strong supporting evidence, but finds that appropriate frameworks/methodologies for assessing digital performance (i.e. gathering the appropriate evidence) are still somewhat lacking. The opinion sets out various frameworks and that may serve as useful starting points (e.g. the Jasehn and WHO frameworks), but places emphasis on the need for further investment in developing more adapted and appropriate ones.

The opinion also includes 10 recommendations to the EU, Member States and relevant authorities on how the digital transformation of health services should be overseen. Among these recommendations are: develop a strategy for the digital transformation of health care; develop a coherent framework for monitoring and evaluating the performance of systems, sectors and services in light of current and future digitalisation developments; invest in systematic evaluation procedures; invest in evidence informed policy measures to follow up on evaluations and monitoring; invest in robust evaluation methodology; invest in monitoring; support decentralised/local level decision-making; create an environment willing and able to adopt evidence based innovations; set up a European repository for evaluation and monitoring methods, studies and results; be progressive, but with caution.

**Format of procedure in the eHealth Network meeting**

A representative of the 'Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health' will briefly present the findings of the opinion to the eHealth Network and answer any questions members may have.

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/expert\\_panel/sites/expertpanel/files/docsdire/022\\_digitaltransformation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/sites/expertpanel/files/docsdire/022_digitaltransformation_en.pdf)