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

eHealth-units

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

COVER NOTE BY eHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Topic 2.3.   D7.1: Guidelines for IT interoperability - eHAction

Issue at stake
Despite the significant progress in dematerialising clinical procedures within hospitals, the long-term objective of meaningful data sharing across national and professional boundaries and the significant potential of harvesting knowledge out of health data still remains to be reached. Semantic and technical interoperability in particular are largely operationalised at the level of healthcare providers who rely on the availability of, and accessibility to, international resources in the form of standards, profiles and other interoperability assets, which can serve their specific interoperability objectives. There is a need for support to the management level of healthcare organisations in making the right decisions when procuring, commissioning and operating interoperable ICT solutions in their daily practice. There is also an opportunity for increased co-operation in order to profit from successful practices in the Member States.

Summary
Task 7.1 of eHAction aims to facilitate intensified co-operation between hospitals towards greater and faster implementation, profiting from the existing legal and technical enablers and empowered by the EU digital health co-operation, actively supported by the eHealth Network.

The work on digital health interoperability implementation for healthcare organisations will focus on: (i) facilitating the co-operation, exchange of information and good practices on employing digital health interoperability in daily practice at the level of healthcare providers; (ii) addressing digital health interoperability implementation challenges in healthcare organisations through guidance customised to the needs of healthcare providers and their health professionals.

A consultation that will be inspired by successful experiences in European hospitals and a discussion with experts with responsibility to procure, operationalise and deploy ICT systems collecting and managing health data in hospitals will provide the general framework for identifying the burning issues to be supported through practical guidance. This process will be launched in the first eHAction interoperability workshop, on 10-11 July 2019, Thessaloniki, Greece. This discussion will be structured along the following priorities:

- Procurement for digital health interoperability;

- Interoperability in the daily practice of health professionals and other healthcare employees;

- Hospitals' role in integrated care and in supporting active participation and communication of patients with their care teams.

The first edition of the guide, covering at least two of these priorities, will be ready for

submission to the eHealth Network meeting in November 2019. Additional topics will be added to the guide over the duration of the Action.

The guide for healthcare providers after adoption by the eHealth Network shall be published and communicated to all IT staff of large healthcare organisations and relevant external parties. The guide shall be reviewed at planned intervals or if significant technological or legal changes occur, to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness.

Format of procedure in the eHealth Network meeting

The co-chair of the Member State introduces the topic, asks for brief presentation of the deliverable and opens the floor to the eHealth Network for comments and questions.