



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

**Secretariat of
eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure**

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PROGRESS OF eHEALTH DSI – GOING LIVE TIMETABLE

Dear Members of the eHealth Network,

The aim of this letter is to inform you about the progress in the implementation and project timeline of setting up the eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure (eHDSI) for Member States in Wave 1.

The implementation of the eHDSI in the Member States is progressing well and 9 countries have confirmed their firm intention to start health data exchange in early 2018.

The initial project planning foresaw that the eHealth Network would have adopted the first go-live decision at its meeting in November 2017, and those Member States would have started exchanging data in February-March 2018. However, during the process of implementation of National Contact Point for eHealth (NCPeH) and arranging the services provided by Core Platform, some of the initially planned solutions changed, which have had a slight impact on the project timeline.

The main changes in the Service Delivery plan are caused by the new audit schedule, using more secure connections between the NCPeHs, and the adjustment of the testing timeline.

During Summer 2017, the eHealth Operational Management Board (eHOMB) worked on the Audit Framework and its practical execution. The audits will evidence the NCPeHs' readiness to enter into routine operation in each country, and secure trust between the Member States. According to the new schedule, the audits will start in January 2018, and all audits for Wave 1 countries are completed by June. DG SANTE Directorate F, Unit F5 Health protection, will audit the NCPeHs against the agreed readiness criteria. Staff from the Solution Provider and national experts from the Member States will be included in the audit teams. Audits in the Member State will take up to 5 working days. Reporting procedures and timelines are outlined in the audit framework, which was adopted by the eHealth Member State Expert Group (eHMSEG) at its 8th meeting on 18 October 2017.

In early November 2017 the eHDSI Owner will launch a call for National Experts. The call will be circulated among members of the eHealth Network, the eHealth Member State Expert Group, and JAseHN. MS participation in auditing NCPeH will secure higher trust between Member States and will enhance synergy between countries.

Based on discussion over the summer with the Member States, the eHOMB accepted on 6 September a change proposal to use TESTA-ng instead of OpenVPN for secure connections between the NCPeH. The change proposal was the outcome of positive feedback regarding added value from implementing a TESTA solution instead of openVPN connection as planned before. The implementation of TESTA will take a few additional months, which is one of the reasons to postpone the date of going-live.

Finally, during the last eHMSEG meeting of 18 October 2017, the Member States asked to postpone the formal testing event to January-February 2018, and to organize the additional connectivity event in December 2017.

The above changes, adopted by the eHMSEG, are reflected in the new project timeline:

- An additional connectivity event will take place in December 2017.
- The formal test event will take place in January/February 2018.
- Audits will start in January 2018.
- The deploying Countries will officially state their readiness and apply to go live either in April or May/June 2018.
- eHMSEG will issue its recommendation to go live at its meeting in April 2018, and through a written procedure in May/June.
- eHealth Network will issue the Go Live decision at its meeting in May 2018, and through a written procedure in June.
- NCPeHs will Go Live in June 2018.

In summary, the Member State will use the results of the audit and test events when stating their readiness to enter into routine operation and applying to go live. The eHMSEG, at its meeting on 18 April 2018, will assess the readiness of each applicant country and adopt the recommendation to go live to assist the decision of the eHealth Network. The Secretariat will convey the documents to the eHealth Network, who will take a decision on the countries joining the Cross-Border eHealth Information System (CBeHIS) on 15 May 2018.

It should be noted that the assessment of readiness and decision to join CBeHIS of the countries which will be audited after March 2018, will be done by the eHMSEG and eHealth Network by a written procedure.

Electronically signed

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Director
Chair, eHealth Operational
Management Board