



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

Agenda point 1: EU strategy and activities on digital health

Issue at stake

On 25 April, the Commission adopted a Communication on digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market. The objective of this agenda point is to present the Communication and to engage Member States in its implementation. This agenda point will be thus discussed with the eHealth Network in its important role in contributing to the implementation of the actions announced in the Communication, with an emphasis on the first pillar (exchange of patient data).

Summary

The Communication contains a package of legislative & non-legislative proposals with the aim of supporting Member States action on eHealth to 1) ensure patients' access to their data anytime anywhere and the ability to share this data with doctors; 2) improve research and healthcare by sharing health data; and 3) promote citizen empowerment and person-centred care by better integration of healthcare with emerging tools and technologies such as apps, tracking devices and remote support devices.

1) Access and sharing of Electronic Health Records for citizens

The eHealth Network has successfully worked over the last years to find a shared understanding about the exchange of eHealth information services (ePrescriptions and patient summaries) across borders by setting up an eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure (eHDSI). Thanks to this infrastructure, 22 Member States will eventually exchange patient data by 2020, some of them already starting this year.

With the Communication, the Commission commits to further support this infrastructure, and its expansion to cover fuller electronic health records. For this purpose, the Commission proposes to develop a **European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format and to lay it down in the form of a Commission Recommendation**. Furthermore, **the Commission proposes to reflect the important role of the eHealth Network in governing this exchange of data in the implementing act under the Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare that set up the eHealth Network**.

2) Connected health data to advance research, prevention and personalised health and care

The Commission proposes to support data infrastructure to advance research, prevent diseases and promote personalised health and care by providing federated (distributed) access to health data sources across Europe, supported by EU funded high performance computing and the European Open Science cloud.

In this respect, on 10 of April, at the occasion of Digital Day 2, 16 Member States already signed a Declaration to work together towards building a research cohort of at least 1 Million sequenced genomes accessible in the EU by 2022, building on existing initiatives in genomics and personalised medicine.

3) Digital tools to foster citizen empowerment and person-centred care

The objective is to facilitate the wide deployment of digitally-enabled services which bring benefits to both citizens and health systems: (1) Empowering citizens to look after their health, for prevention and better management of chronic conditions, and to provide feedback to their healthcare providers. (2) Supporting health systems in implementing integrated person-centred care models that use telehealth and mHealth to address the rising demand for healthcare.

The Commission will work with Member States, regions, healthcare professionals, technology suppliers, investors and other stakeholders on key issues such as: (a) Cooperation to stimulate the development and uptake of digital health solutions, e.g. by promoting common principles for validating and certifying health technology; (b) Capacity Building and Technical Assistance measures for health authorities, including support to transfer good practices and scale-up proven initiatives; and (c) Mobilising investments to support the large scale implementation of digitally-enabled, integrated, person-centred care models.

Format of procedure in the eHN

After introductory words by Commissioner Andriukaitis, the Commission co-chair and a senior representative of DG CNECT will present the Communication more in detail. Then the Commission co-chair will open the floor to the eHealth Network for discussion (tour de table) based on the following questions:

- Does the Communication identify the right actions in Digital Health?

Furthermore, the Member State co-chair suggest to set up a sub-group dealing with the below mentioned questions and is also willing to chair this sub-group.

- How does the eHealth Network see its role in achieving the aims of the Communication?
- Does the eHealth Network in particular support an amendment of Commission Implementing Decision 2011/890 in order to clarify the role of the eHealth Network in the governance of the eHDSI and its operational requirements
- How will the eHealth Network support the development of the Exchange format for EHR?

The eHealth Network will be invited to discuss the setting up of this sub-group.