



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG HEALTH AND CONSUMERS
DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

6TH eHEALTH NETWORK 18 NOVEMBER 2014

COVER NOTE BY SECRETARIAT

Topic 3: Upkeep of cross-border services (epSOS sub-group) – for discussion

Issue at stake

During the 5th eHealth Network meeting a sub-group was formed to discuss the maintenance of the cross-border services running under the epSOS project. Goal of the sub-group was to re-launch the services outside of the epSOS-project. The sub-group will report on its activities.

Summary of document

Several documents have been prepared by the sub-group, in cooperation with the EXPAND project. The two main documents are (1) the Temporary Legal Arrangement (TLA), and (2) a discussion paper containing recommendations on long term legal arrangements. Also include are the three annexes to this discussion paper.

The TLA makes it possible for Member States to continue piloting the services running under epSOS, even though the epSOS-project has ended in June 2014. Several Member States have signed the document and are operational to use cross-border services.

The discussion document concerning a sustainable legal solution was proposed by Sweden and Finland. These two Member States are working on a bilateral legal solution, which might serve as a model for multilateral agreement for cross-border services. The EC also commissioned a study concerning the legal arrangements in the EU on Electronic Health Records. Because of the link between these two topics, the outcome of the study will also be presented during this topic.

Format of procedure in the eHN

The co-chairs will introduce the topic and give the floor to Henrique Martins (PT) the chair of the sub-group. The following topics will be presented:

- a. Report from sub-group chair (PT)
- b. Legal issues concerning sustainable exchange cross-border (SE/FI)
- c. Results of the Study on Electronic Health Records (EC)

The eHealth Network members are requested to:

- Comment on the presentations made by the sub-group and the EC;
- Agree on establishing a legal sub-group consisting of lawyers from ministries with an assignment to deliver a multilateral agreement to be signed in May 2015.