



5TH EHEALTH NETWORK 13 MAY 2014

COVER NOTE BY SECRETARIAT

Topic 2: Upkeep of cross border services (post epSOS) – *decision required*

Issue at stake

The secretariat suggests a strategic discussion about maintaining the infrastructure from epSOS/Expand through the possibility to form a sub-group of willing Member States ready to continue the pilot services.

Summary of document

This discussion paper, prepared by Portugal, provides an overview of the issue at stake. To arrive to the “CEF period” with countries willing and able to exchange cross-border data, there should be a forum where Member States that already exchange cross border data can continue to engage and find mutual support. Those that are taking initial steps should not lose momentum, and those seeking a technical/legal and operational support, should be given the opportunity to engage in the provision of real services for cross border care and its development.

Recent findings suggest that a large majority of Member States have in-depth internal work to do before they are ready to use CEF supported cross-border services. Neither Expand, nor eSENS (EU-funded policy support projects) have the necessary political legitimacy to be that forum. The creation of a **sub-group of countries**, out of/and endorsed by the eHealth Network, that are ready and willing to commit to efforts to link with each other can be this political platform necessary to further develop the efforts.

Format of procedure in the eHN

Short introduction by Co-Chair Paola Testori Coggi, followed by a brief 5 min presentation by Henrique Martins and a discussion of the eHealth Network Members on the issues presented and a decision.

The eHealth Network members are requested to:

- discuss and comment on the information presented in the attached paper;
- express their countries position regarding participation in such a sub-group and its capacity to self-direct efforts towards this;