



**15<sup>TH</sup> eHEALTH NETWORK 11-12 JUNE 2019, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

**COVER NOTE BY eHEALTH NETWORK SECRETARIAT**

**Topic 9.2. Guideline on an interoperable eco-system for digital health and in investment programmes**

**Issue at stake**

Following the outcomes of previous political discussions, in particular the informal Council of the Health Ministers in September 2018, the eHealth Network was expected to deliver a specific guideline for targeted European-wide support and investment programmes by the middle of 2019. During the 14<sup>th</sup> eHealth Network's meeting in November 2018, a mandate had been given to the already established eHealth Network sub-group on the implementation of the Communication on the Digital Transformation of Health and Care in order to implement the conclusions from the informal Council meeting. Thus, resulting in the elaboration of such a proposed guideline. Following several sub-group meetings in close cooperation with different DGs from the Commission held between November 2018 and May 2019, and an involvement process of all EU Member States through the eHAction project, a final version of the Guideline on an interoperable eco-system for digital health and in investment programmes for a new/updated generation of digital infrastructure in Europe is tabled at the 15<sup>th</sup> eHealth Network meeting. The eHealth Network is expected to discuss and adopt the guideline and consequently allow for further follow-up on the policy level.

**Summary**

It is becoming increasingly clear that exchange of data can contribute to raising quality of care. Yet large parts of the actually existing digital infrastructure in the healthcare system is not, or is only to a limited extend, suitable for data exchange outside of a specific organization. This affects in particular medical software used by doctors working in general practice, healthcare professionals in the outpatient sector and also many hospital information systems.

This leads to a need in removing barriers with financial incentives.

Because health data is predominantly generated in out-patient care facilities and in hospitals, the overall goals of the health system is to focus on the numerous individual "data generators" to bring them up to date with anew generation of or updated digital infrastructure to establish an interoperable eco-system for digital health in Europe. In order to achieve this interoperable eco-system for digital health in Europe, incentives need to be provided by public funding.

The Guideline on an interoperable eco-system for digital health and in investment programmes is addressed equally to the EU Member States and the Commission. It contains a current overview of the financial instruments and programmes that are proposed under the EU's next multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027. It further proposes a set of recommendations aiming to establish the above mentioned interoperable eco-system in Europe with public funding coming from the EU Member States and the Commission.

**Format of procedure in the eHealth Network meeting**

The chair of the eHealth Network sub-group Dr. Clemens Martin Auer (Austria) will introduce the guideline and present the key aspects.

Members of the eHealth Network are requested to comment on and endorse the guideline.