



eHealth Network

the establishment of a sub-group on mHealth

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The eHealth Network is a voluntary network, set up under article 14 of Directive 2011/24/EU. It provides a platform of Member States' competent authorities dealing with eHealth. The Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network (JAseHN) provides scientific and technical support to the Network.

Adopted by consensus by the eHealth Network, Brussels, 23 November 2015

1. Context

mHealth is a fast growing field with around 165,000 health apps¹ currently available on the two leading platforms (iOS, Android). The large number of lifestyle and wellbeing apps available with no clear evidence on their quality and reliability is raising concerns about the ability of consumers to assess their usefulness, thus potentially limiting their effective uptake for the benefit of public health.

Ensuring quality of input data is also essential for linking apps to the electronic health records and for the effective uptake in clinical practice. With the increasing use of apps for health and chronic disease management, the demand from users to be able to link data from apps to their personal health records is expected to grow.

There are already concrete examples in the Member States on the uptake of mHealth solutions in healthcare systems (e.g monitoring for chronic heart failure patients, diabetes management). In some Member States initiatives aiming to develop quality and assessment frameworks for health apps have been launched as well as pilots for including use of apps in the reimbursement schemes.

2. Purpose and deliverables

The sub-group should collect experiences on approaches in dealing with mobile health apps, to identify common challenges and recommend possibilities for future collaboration among Member States.

Topics to be considered by the sub-group could include:

- regulatory approaches;
- quality and assessment frameworks;
- need for guidelines and recommendations to users, incl. health professionals;
- education and awareness raising of users, incl. health professionals;
- reimbursement strategies;
- linking data from apps to the electronic health records;
- a common repository of approved lifestyle and wellbeing apps.

The sub-group should produce a report on national mHealth strategies with recommendations for further collaboration on mHealth at European level by the 10th meeting in autumn 2016.

3. Organisation

The sub-group should consist of 10-15 Members, including a Chair and a Rapporteur. Health and Wellbeing Unit of the DG CONNECT will provide the logistical support to the group.

During the 8th eHealth Network on 23 November 2015 in Brussels BE has volunteered to be the Chair and EE volunteered to be the Rapporteur of the mHealth sub-group. Furthermore,

¹ [Patient adoption of mHealth](#), IMS Institute for Health Informatics

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the following Member States have expressed their interest in participating in the mHealth sub-group: NL, FI, DE, MT, AT, PT, UK, EL, IE, ES, FR, HR, LT, LV

For the year 2016, 2-3 face-to-face meetings is foreseen.