

eHAction

Joint Action supporting
the eHealth Network



Co-funded by the European
Union's Health Programme
(2014-2020)

**eHealth for the best healthcare
to everyone from anywhere in Europe**



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TABLE OF CONTENT

ACRONYMS	04
MWP 2018-2021	06
THE ROAD TO THE KICK-OFF	07
1 INTRODUCTION	12
2 DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET	14
3 ABOUT US	18
4 MISSION & AMBITIONS	22
5 OBJECTIVES	24
MWP DIAGRAM	28
EXPECTED RESULTS	30

ACRONYMS

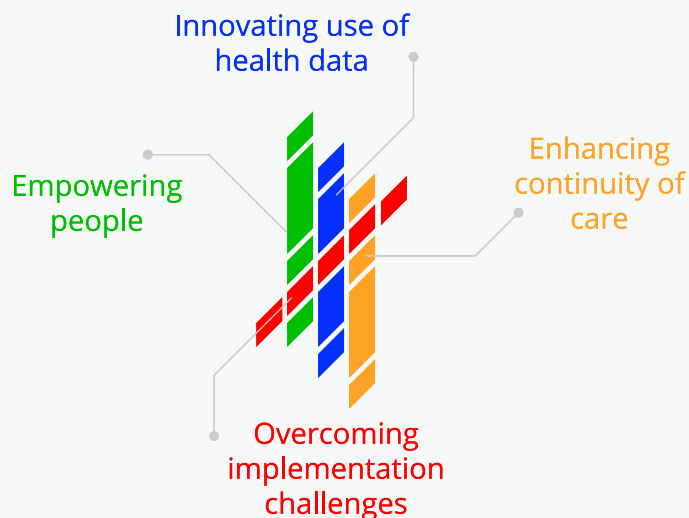
ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
CDA	Clinical Document Architecture
DG	Directorate-General
EC	European Commission
eHAction	Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network
eHDSI	eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure
eHN	eHealth Network
EU	European Union
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HP	Health Professional
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
JA	Joint Action
MS	Member State
MS/C	Member States and Countries
MWP	Multiannual Work Programme
TL	Task Leader
WP	Work Package
WPL	Work Package Leader
WPCo-L	Work Package Co-Leader

Even though the official kick-off of eHAction – Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network was on 22nd June 2018, the project has been in motion before that.

It all started with the development of the Multiannual Work Programme by the eHealth Network, where the priority areas to be tackled by the next Joint Action were outlined.

Multiannual Work Programme 2018-2021

The eHealth Network sub-group working on the MWP 2018-2021 considered the following four priority areas:



Work on MWP 2018-2021 started in March 2017 and was refined by Member States (MS) and the European Commission in close cooperation with the Coordinator of this Joint Action (JA).

After the four main priority areas in which the eHealth Network's activities were identified, organisational meetings were held to define and structure the next steps and to form what the eHAction would be, as well as its impact on society.

THE ROAD TO THE KICK-OFF

16th
June
2017

Brussels
**Preparatory meeting of the
eHealth Network Joint Action**
European Commission
and Project Coordinator

The first meeting with the 21 countries involved in the project established the project coordination and overall project management.

Portugal, represented by SPMS, EPE, assumed the project's coordination.

Lessons learnt from the previous JA, JAseHN, were discussed.

The logo, slogan and website were presented for the first time at this meeting. The overall objectives of the 3rd Joint Action on eHealth were outlined for the Health Programme 2020, Multi annual Work Programme 2018-2021, and Digital Single Market strategy.

The development of content and its division into Work Packages started. Stakeholders' involvement, financial and administrative issues were debated.



18th
July
2017

Brussels
2nd Preparatory Meeting

This preparatory meeting occurred at the negotiation phase before the final submission of the proposal.

The alignment of the proposal and the discussion of topics to be included in eHAction's submitted proposal were debated, as well as the stakeholders' involvement, financial and administrative issues.

7th
September
2017

Brussels
3rd Preparatory Meeting

Work Packages and division of tasks and deliverable were established and consolidated. The results of the open consultation with stakeholders were discussed.

It was established that the handover from JaseHN to eHAction would take place in June 2018.



26th
February
2018

Brussels
4th Informal Preparatory meeting

Information from the Commission on the Digital Single Market, mHealth and standardisation and interoperability was shared. Administrative issues were consolidated for the final proposal. The need for the creation of synergies with other Joint Actions was debated.

An evaluation was carried out on external stakeholders' comments and involvement.

General outlines for Work Package Tasks were presented. The final proposal for eHAction was presented to the consortium.



20th
June
2018

Lisbon JaseHN Closing and Handover Meeting

Promoted by SPMS, the "2nd Lisbon eHealth Summer Week" was held from 19th to 22nd June 2018 in Lisbon.

On the second day, the JaseHN Closing Meeting took place. JaseHN Project Coordinator reviewed the lessons learnt during the project and the European Commission gave its final note from JaseHN. The morning session ended with a formal handover to the eHAction Project Coordinator.



21st
June
2018

Lisbon eHAction Kick-off



INTRODUCTION

Member States and Countries (MS/C) are facing common challenges on the sustainability of health systems. The markedly higher average life expectancy and the increase in chronic conditions, in addition to limited human and financial resources, are putting European health systems under pressure.

For these reasons, the eHealth Network is working together with MS/C to improve eHealth services through policy development and the building of stronger health systems.

Member States are encouraged to meet eHealth objectives, at country and regional level, on the promotion and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in health care development. These objectives may be aligned with their national strategies, implementation guidelines, the European Union (EU) governance and strategic implementations. This concept should be the vision shared by all.

These strategic implementations highlight the importance of eHealth as a service for public health and cross-border access and, consequently, gain wide acceptance from citizens.

The EU health strategy “Together for Health” supports the overall Europe 2020 strategy, aiming to transform the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy, promoting growth for all. Simultaneously, the digital society brings new challenges and opportunities for the health sector. This also extends to citizens using digital tools for health purposes, proactively as patients.

The EC has also launched the “Digital Single Market”, a digital strategy to assist the European-wide industry to compete on a global scale, being a major initiative to also support the development of eHealth.



The work of the Joint Action is aligned with the three pillars mentioned in the Digital Single Market's mid-term review by the European Commission:

- To ensure the citizen's secure access to electronic health records and their sharing cross-border, including use of e-prescriptions;
- To support data infrastructure, to advance research, disease prevention and personalised health and care in key areas: rare diseases, infections and complex diseases;
- To facilitate feedback and interaction between patients and healthcare providers, to support prevention and citizen empowerment as well as quality and patient centred care, focusing on chronic diseases and on a better understanding of the outcomes of health systems.

DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

1

**SECURE DATA
ACCESS
AND SHARING**

2

**CONNECTING
AND SHARING
HEALTH DATA FOR
RESEARCH, FASTER
DIAGNOSIS AND
IMPROVED HEALTH**

3

**STRENGTHENING
CITIZEN
EMPOWERMENT
AND INDIVIDUAL
CARE THROUGH
DIGITAL SERVICES**

PILLAR 1.

Secure data access and sharing¹

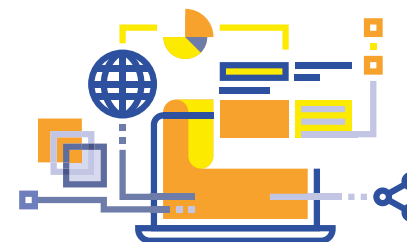
To facilitate greater cross-border healthcare access, the Commission is building eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure which will allow e-prescriptions and patient summaries to be exchanged between healthcare providers. The first cross-border exchanges started in 2019, with the aim to have all other EU countries on board by 2020.

In the longer term, the Commission is working towards a European electronic health record exchange format accessible to all EU citizens.



PILLAR 2.

Connecting and sharing health data for research, faster diagnosis and improved health²



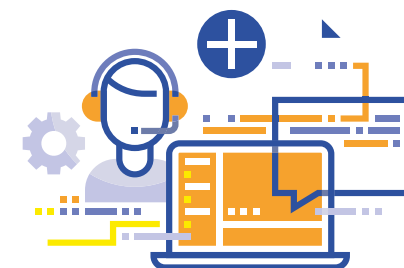
To facilitate greater cross-border healthcare access, the Commission is building eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure which will allow e-prescriptions and patient summaries to be exchanged between healthcare providers. The first cross-border exchanges are due to take place during 2018, with the aim to have all other EU countries on board by 2020.

In the longer term, the Commission is working towards a European electronic health record exchange format accessible to all EU citizens.

PILLAR 3.

Strengthening citizen empowerment and individual care through digital services³

Digital services can improve prevention and management of chronic conditions and allow patients to provide feedback to healthcare providers. Health systems will also benefit from innovative care models that use telehealth and mHealth to address the rising demand for healthcare.



¹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/overview_ga

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/overview_ga

³ https://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/overview_ga



About Us

The eHealth Network is a voluntary network created under Article 14 of Directive 2011/24/EU, established in order to ensure progress on eHealth and to bridge the gaps between the governance, strategy and operational levels. Responsible at a strategic level for all the eHealth policies in Europe, it provides a platform for Member States' competent authorities responsible for eHealth and is scientifically and technically supported by a Joint Action (JA).

eHAction is the Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network which, in its Multiannual Work Programme 2018-2021, sets targets for exploring eHealth to facilitate the management of chronic diseases and multi-morbidity, by increasing sustainability and efficiency of health systems, and by facilitating personalised care and empowering the citizen.

Specifically, it will work to find ways to empower people by giving them an active role in managing their healthcare data and processes, to use health data in an innovative way and to enhance continuity of care through the use of interoperable and cross-border solutions. The eHAction is in line with the Third Programme of EU actions in the field of health contributing to foster health in Europe by promoting the use of eHealth in a structured policy framework.

The eHAction also functions as a platform for organisational, strategic and technical cooperation between MS/C, including close collaboration with EC, DG SANTE, DG CONNECT and DG DIGIT and other EU stakeholders.

The commitment undertaken by eHAction shall lead to quality results for the continuity, safety and efficiency of ICT, supporting healthcare. Therefore, this will result, as much as possible, in practical results for the users (citizens, healthcare providers, health professionals, decision makers, etc.).

Even though the official kick-off of eHAction was on 22nd June 2018, the project was in motion before this date. By the time the European Commission appointed the group working commission on the Multiannual Work Programme, the four priority areas to be addressed by the next Joint Action were outlined. The general objective of eHAction is to act as the main preparatory body for the eHealth Network which is the main addressee or "customer" of the Joint Action. eHAction aims to develop strategic recommendations and instruments that could feed into political discussions and facilitates cooperation in the four priority areas that are specified in the eHN MWP 2018-2021.

WORK PACKAGES

eHAction work is organised into eight areas called “Work Packages”:

Work Packages 1 to 3 deal with the management and support of the JA on various levels. Work Packages 4 to 7 represent the strategic areas that were built according to the four main priority areas defined in the eHN’s MWP 2018-2021.

Work Package 8 is a European Commission’s mandatory Work Package, with the aim of preparing for continuity post 2021 of cross border policy cooperation, and integration of its results in national policies.

WP NUMBER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
1	Coordination	Actions undertaken to manage the action and to make sure that it is implemented as planned
2	Dissemination	Actions undertaken to ensure that the results and deliverables of the action will be made available to the target groups
3	Evaluation	Actions undertaken to verify if the project is being implemented as planned and reaches the objectives
4	Empowering people	Addressing citizens as individuals who should take an active role in their healthcare process
5	Innovative use of health data	Support the application of good practices in MS/C and provide Guidance on practical governance of big data at EU level on handling big data in health
6	Enhancing continuity of care	Addressing MS/C and their fitness for eHDSI uptake
7	Overcoming implementation challenges	Addressing transversal enabler issues that cross all previous categories
8	Integration in national policies and sustainability	To ensure the long-term sustainability of the developed body of work by ensuring stakeholder involvement, and integration of its results in national policies

CONSORTIUM

#	ORGANISATION NAME	SHORT	COUNTRY
1 (Coordinator)	SPMS - Serviços Partilhados do Ministério da Saúde, E.P.E.	SPMS	Portugal 
2	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit und Konsumentenschutz	ATNA	Austria 
3	Ministry of Health	MoH-CY	Cyprus 
4	The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic	MZCR	Czech Republic 
5	gematik - Gesellschaft für Telematikanwendungen der Gesundheitskarte mbH	gematik	Germany 
6	Ministry of Social Affairs Republic of Estonia	MoSA	Estonia 
7	3η ΥΓΕΙΟΝΟΜΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ – 3rd Regional Health Authority of Macedonia	3rd-RHA	Greece 
8	Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad	MSSSI	Spain 
9	National Institute for Health and Welfare	THL	Finland 
10	Ministry of Health	MoH-FR	France 
11	Croatian Health Insurance Fund	HZZO	Croatia 
12	National Healthcare Service Center	NHSC	Hungary 
13	Department of Health (eHealth Unit)	DoH	Ireland 
14	Ministero della Salute	MINSAL	Italy 
15	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania	SAM	Lithuania 
16	Agence eSanté	AeS	Luxembourg 
17	The National Health Service	NHS	Latvia 
18	Ministry for Health	MFH	Malta 
19	Stichting Nationaal ICT Instituut in de Zorg	NICTIZ	Netherlands 
20	Norwegian Directorate of eHealth	NDE	Norway 
21	Institut za javno zdravlje Srbije “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut”	IPHS	Serbia 
22	National Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia	NIJZ	Slovenia 



MISSION & AMBITIONS

Key ambitions of Member States and Countries:

- Integrate eHealth into their health policy;
- Align eHealth investment with overall health system requirements;
- Achieve health systems sustainability;
- Achieve transferability of health data across borders and “LOST” (Legal, Organisational, Semantic and Technical) domains;
- Meet information privacy and data protection requirements;
- Facilitate the access to health data and personalised care;
- Share and access data across borders;
- Improve interoperability and cybersecurity across countries.

A JA is a collaborative action between Member States and Countries which are committed to develop and improve the EU's 3rd Health Programme. Together, in this collaborative JA, it is more efficient to share, refine and test methods, tools and use cases, and to generate new approaches within the eHealth scope.

This Joint Action works towards delivering sustainable, economic and social benefits for European eHealth systems and services, based on interoperable applications, to achieve high levels of trust and security, enhancing continuity of care and ensuring access to safe and high-quality healthcare.



What is our main goal?

The aim of eHAction is:

- To contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems, in cooperation with European countries and stakeholders.
- To promote and strengthen the use of information and communication technologies in health development.

The strategy is to develop guidance and tools that can promote political discussion and further alliances in five high priority areas.

OBJECTIVES

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Leader: NICTIZ, Co-Leader: MoSA

- Engage citizens, as individuals and users, who should take an active role in this Action;
- Empower people to partake in their health and care process by building their capacity to use, understand and control their medical data;
- Provide patients with the opportunity to participate actively in the decision-making process on their clinical status, alongside their medical professionals.

INNOVATIVE USE OF HEALTH DATA

Leader: NHSC, Co-Leader: THL

- Develop and ease the uptake of innovative usage of data across the healthcare sector to benefit the society, as well as individuals, and the performance of Member States' health systems;
- Support the application of good practices in Member States;
- Provide guidelines guidance at EU level on handling of big data in health, within the existing EU regulatory framework.

ENHANCING CONTINUITY OF CARE

Leader: Gematik, Co-Leader: DoH

- Prepare healthcare systems and providers to adopt and implement interoperable cross-border solutions - a key priority to ensure progress in eHealth.

OVERCOMING IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Leader: 3rd RHA, Co-Leader: MZCR

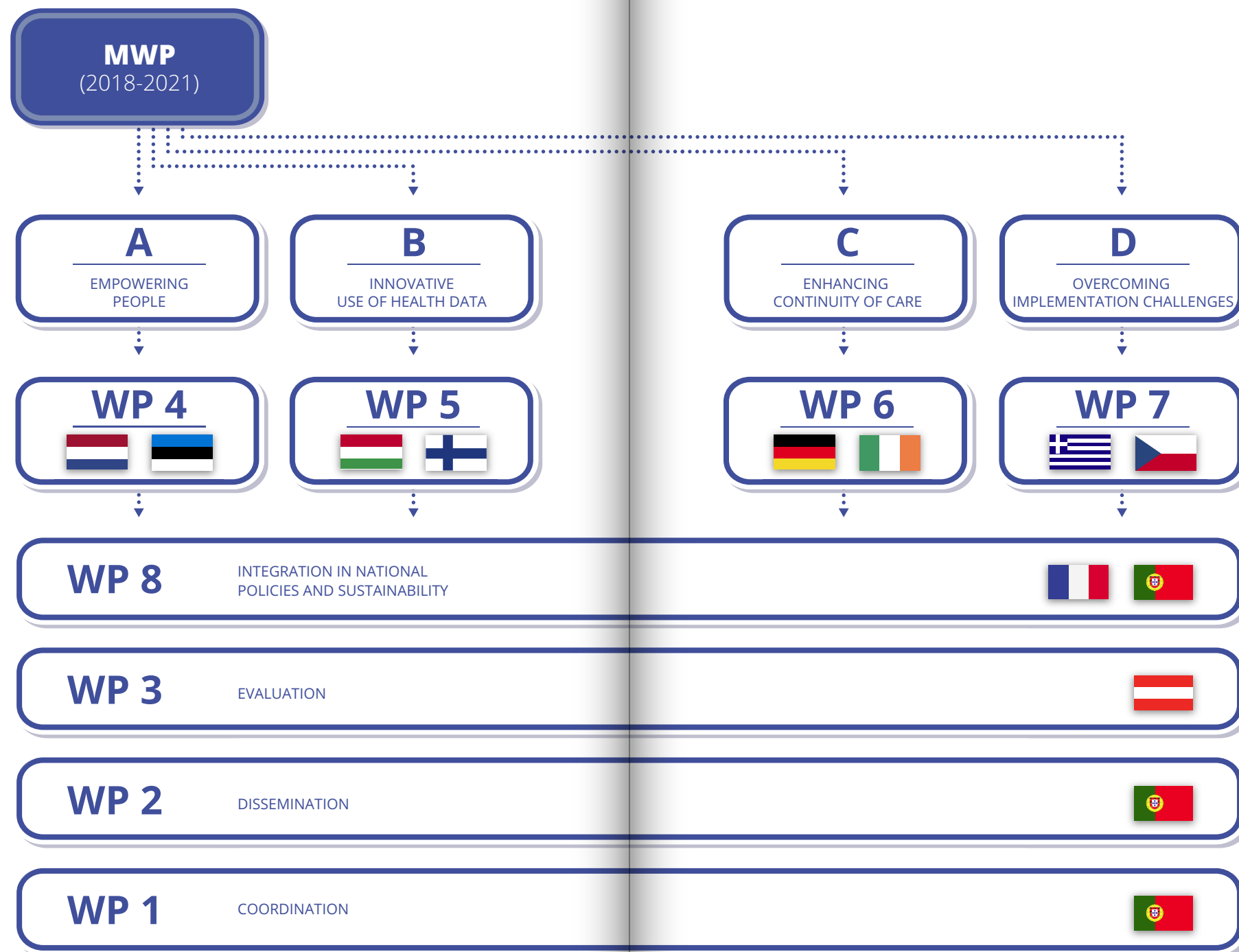
- Implement Interoperability Guidelines in healthcare ecosystems;
- Interoperability has been identified as a crucial communication promoter and enabler of the exchange and use of patient information between healthcare providers, such as: hospitals, government, insurers, etc., especially in the context of cross-border health services.

eHEALTH NATIONAL POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR EUROPE

Leader: MoH-FR, Co-Leader: SPMS

- Introduce the best principles, to ensure post 2021 continuity of eHealth.





EXPECTED RESULTS

The main expected results from the eHAction on the different focus topics are the following:

TOPIC	EXPECTED RESULT
mHealth and health apps reliability	Safe and informed patients' and professionals' usage of mHealth/ health apps.
Patient access and use of data	Ensure that countries' approach to patient access and re-use of data are synergistic, non-conflicting and support cross-border needs.
Digital health literacy of patients	A clear understanding of the importance of digital and health literacy in all Member States (MS) and an improvement of digital and health literacy for citizens/patients.
TeleHealth	Safe and informed patients' and professionals' usage of Telehealth solutions.
Mapping, awareness raising and policy relevant actions on innovative use of big data in health	Increased awareness and understanding on the added value of big data focused on eHealth Network (governance level).
Sharing and learning best practices on big data in health on European level	Increased applicability of big data by mobilising knowledge across borders.
Towards an attempt to define common principles for practical governance of big data	Guidance on practical governance made available for eHealth Network and MS.
Support of the eHealth Digital Systems Infrastructure (eHDSI) uptake	Commitment on sustainable usage of National Contact Point for eHealth (NCPeH) among MS and between MS and European Commission (EC).

TOPIC	EXPECTED RESULT
Support of legal eHDSI matters	Increased legal awareness and legal certainty for eHDSI among MS and Countries (MS/C) and between MS/C and EC.
eSkills for Professionals	A clear understanding of the eSkills requirements necessary to support eHealth in MS/C amongst designated professional groups in healthcare with an action plan to bridge the identified skills gap underpinned by innovative approaches like Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) along with newly designed and developed curricula and programmes where necessary.
Address implementation challenges faced by CEOs, CIOs and clinical leaders.	Guidelines for IT Management on implementing interoperability actions in healthcare organisations.
Data protection	Share best practices and approaches on data protection at national level.
Data and systems security	A common framework for cyber security for eHealth systems and services.
National and international eHealth strategies	Report on National eHealth strategies.
Post 2021 scenarios for eHealth policy cooperation	Guidance on ICT enabling continuing deliverable eHealth cross-border services.



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