Title	Mandate proposal eHN Subgroup on Technical Interoperability
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Introduction

The eHN Subgroup on Technical Interoperability (later in this document Technical IOP SG) was established at the 17th eHN meeting, on 3 June 2020.

"… In conclusion, it was agreed in the eHealth Network meeting that a **technical subgroup** should start working with focus on the COVID-19 use cases, **similar to the Semantic Subgroup**, with whom it should work hand in hand (including for the revision of Patient summary guidelines). Later on, a broader strategy for a **medium-term** approach to standardisation and interoperability could be designed. Member States are invited to nominate technical experts for this subgroup. The chair of this group will be selected upon the first meeting…"

During its work from end 2020 to beginning of 2023, the Technical IOP SG has been instrumental in delivering the following outcomes:

- Design and set up of the EU Digital COVID Certificate system, and planning its future;
- Preparation of the decision regarding the selection of the base standard for the new use cases in MyHealth@EU;
- Development of the eHN Guidelines on medical imaging studies and reports;
- Preparation of the document on ePrescription & eIDAS integrated vision;
- Support to other activities of the eHN, including active dialogue with the Semantic SG and the eHMSEG (in particular, its technical WG).

Context

For the implementation of the European Health Data Space, guidance on the technical approaches to the exchange of priority data categories (and beyond) is needed. Health data should be shared securely, reliably, trustfully, and timely. Aspects such as data security, privacy, care process coordination, end-user empowerment, connectable applications and infrastructural requirements, are preconditional to the safe and interoperable exchange of health information. Choices regarding these aspects require a combination of overview and expertise. The eHN Subgroup on Technical Interoperability provides this integrative perspective to assist the eHN in making well-weighed choices towards accelerating eHealth interoperability in the EU.

Purpose

The eHN Subgroup on Technical Interoperability was established in parallel with and complementary to the Subgroup on Semantics. The eHN Subgroup on Technical Interoperability will continue working closely together with its "sister" subgroup, providing advice and vision on healthcare IT issues at a strategic level, on the more technical levels of interoperability. The subgroup provides expertise and guidance whenever the eHN requests policy advice on the selection of technical standards, data protection, implementation challenges, testing and certification, architectural choices, etc. The strength of this subgroup lies in the combined perspective and the integrative approach of these topics. The Subgroup will also continue collaboration with the eHMSEG (in particular, its technical WG) as well as with international standards development organisations (HL7, IHE, ISO, DICOM etc) and other international organisations (such as WHO, GDHP).

Alignment and collaboration with the eHN Subgroup on Semantics

During years 2020-2023, the Subgroups on Technical Interoperability and on Semantics have worked together on the preparation of multiple eHealth Network guidelines. Joint physical meetings have been organised since 2022 twice a year. The alignment between the two subgroups will continue with a clear division of tasks and the intention to work in close collaboration. As the two subgroups are complementary, we propose that the governance, organisational structure and mandate of the Subgroup on Technical Interoperability will mirror that of the eHN Subgroup on Semantics as much as possible.

In order to align the work of the two Subgroups the following joint working method is proposed:

- The MS-Co-Chair or the rapporteur of one Subgroup participates in regular meetings of the other Subgroup.
- Both Subgroups have access to the working documents of both groups in order to allow for collaboration and commenting of work without delay.
- In case of arising new tasks that require immediate action, the Co-Chairs of the two Subgroups agree on which group will take the lead on the arising topic and on how the work should be shared between the two Subgroups.
- Joint meetings of the Subgroups are organised twice a year, as physical/hybrid events whenever possible.

General mandate of the eHN Subgroup on Technical Interoperability

The general mandate of this SG covers the following topics:

- to support the eHN in reaching substantiated decisions, strategies and measures on technical interoperability issues, to facilitate growth and innovation of the EU eHealth landscape;
- to provide expert policy advice on technical interoperability aspects and recommend on interoperability issues concerning MyHealth@EU and possible other European eHealth services. Also, to advise on harmonisation issues arising from different implementation strategies in the eHN and/or its MS either at cross-border, national or regional level;
- to work out strategies to improve adoption and implementation of interoperability standards in MS, including aspects such as technical obstacles, market readiness, suitability, costs, timeline, that will support the eHN to formulate a well-substantiated roadmap for future development;
- to find synergies in sharing best practices and assets related to interoperability in eHealth;
- to closely work together with the eHN Subgroup on Semantics.

Specific activities of the Subgroup

2023:
- Further development of Guidelines on medical imaging, including consultations with end-user representative organisations;
- Work on the future of EU DCC, support of the uptake by WHO of the system;
- Expert advice to support the set up of the Global Digital Health Certification Network by WHO, when so requested by the eHealth Network;
- Contribution to the paper on the governance of eHN subgroups;
- Development of the process for Technical standard choice;
- Act on emerging topics in ongoing and upcoming initiatives/projects with strategic advice on technical interoperability to the eHN when so requested by the eHN.

2024-2025:
- To be defined through the corresponding eHN Work Plans.

Question to the eHealth Network

We ask the eHealth Network to award the eHN Subgroup on Technical Interoperability a mandate of 2 years with an evaluation moment by the eHN in June 2025. After the 2-year mandate it is to the eHN to decide on an extension of the mandate, depending on the needs.

24th eHN Meeting, 1-2 June 2023.