



24TH EHEALTH NETWORK MEETING 1-2 JUNE 2023, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

COVER NOTE

1.3 Metadata problem assessment

1) Introduction

While pursuing the objectives set out in the Common Semantic Strategy subgroups on Semantics and Technical Interoperability detected the need and opportunity for guidelines on metadata that could be used as a common baseline for the domain specific guidelines (i.e. Patient Summary, ePrescription, Laboratory results, Hospital Discharge Reports, Imaging Studies and Reports).

2) Issue at stake

In November 2022, the eHealth Network mandated the subgroup on Semantics to perform an assessment on the need and readiness for metadata guidelines. The work performed builds on X-eHealth outcomes to deliver a problem statement and a recommendation towards such guidelines.

3) Summary

The subgroup on Semantics, established a task force to perform the assessment. The assessment is organised in the following way: purpose, problem, state of play, interplay with other guidelines and recommendation.

In the problem definition section, priority was given to data discovery and to reliable and efficient access to electronic health data. This was considered of high importance to support healthcare professionals finding the most relevant data for each specific context. Real-world situations were used to illustrate the problems.

The team discovered that metadata is relevant across different use cases and therefore a foundation for interoperability. This raises the importance of alignment between the different eHealth Network guidelines, while acknowledging the specificities of each one.

It is recommended to proceed with the preparation of guidelines on metadata to assist in the discoverability and efficient access to health data, following a 2-step approach consisting of:

- Step 1: Joint Action prepares draft guidelines and submits for eHN subgroups consolidation;
- Step 2: eHN subgroups consolidate the guidelines and submit for eHN adoption;

4) Format of procedure in the meeting

For eHealth Network discussion and handover for uptake by the upcoming Joint Action.