24ᵀᴴ ᴇHᴇᴀʟᴛʜ Nᴇᴛᴡᴏʀᴋ Mᴇᴇᴛɪɴɢ 1-2 ᴊᴜɴᴇ 2023, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Cᴏᴠᴇʀ Nᴏᴛᴇ

4. Capacity Building on primary use of health data

1) Introduction

As regards primary use of health data, the use of the cross-border interface between different national healthcare systems is still low and characterised by an insufficient exchange of health data for the provision of healthcare services, impacting on the provision and continuity of patients' healthcare. Member States are in very different development stage on the digitalisation of the healthcare systems. Meanwhile Member States have invested and are planning to invest EU funds and national funding to develop their national digital health strategies.

2) Issue at stake

An action named "Capacity Building on Primary Use of Health Data" is ongoing following the EU4Health 2021 Work Programme "DI-p-25.1 - EHDS: primary use of health data - infrastructure governance by using a twinning approach, to support Member States in the development and/or improvement of their own digital health strategies at national level. Support exchange of best practices". The contract was signed with Empirica on 20.10.2022.

The aim of this agenda point is to inform eHealth Network members on the developments on this capacity building initiative, which aims to support the Member States in the development and/or improvement of their own digital health strategies at national level.

3) Summary

The capacity building initiative aims at the development and strengthening of skills and abilities of staff working on national digital health services. The overall objective is to help Member States build their capacity for the primary use of health data. Member States that are planning to invest in digital health services could progress faster with their implementation of digital services, if they could benefit from knowledge and best practises implemented in other Member States with already proven successful outcomes, especially in the areas of digital transformation of health services.

A twining approach between public services of Member States would not only promote an adjusted, tailor-made and faster learning process, but also facilitate cross-border interoperability of national systems at the EU level, while avoiding fragmentation in the digitalisation process across Europe.

The contractor will perform the following tasks: the development of a capacity building requirements Catalogue that will be used as a benchmarking tool, followed by the mapping of the situation in Member States by achievement level, in relation to the Catalogue requirements. Finally, the contractor will design, create and implement an expert visits programme for staff working in the field of digital health.

This initiative is closely linked with the Article 59 of the proposal for a Regulation on European Health Data Space, which states that the Commission shall support sharing of best practices and expertise, aimed to build the capacity of Member States to strengthen digital health systems for primary and secondary use of electronic health data. Additionally, the initiative takes into account the

European ethical principles for digital health adopted in the eHealth network meeting on January 26, 2022.

4) Format of procedure in the meeting

For information.