



25TH EHEALTH NETWORK MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2023, BRUSSELS

COVER NOTE

9.1 Priority 1: Identify the needs for European funding for eHealth infrastructure for primary and secondary use of health data – Update of non-paper on funding (for discussion)

Cover note/background

1) Introduction

The eHealth Network adopted an annual work plan for the first time at the online eHealth Network meeting on 30 March 2023, which was later discussed at the 24th eHealth Network meeting in Stockholm on 1 and 2 June 2023. The eHealth Network Work Plan 2023 has identified 5 key priorities with clear deliverables, planning and responsibilities for existing sub-groups and volunteer Member States, together with the European Commission.

5 key priorities eHealth Network 2023

- 1- Identify the needs for European funding for eHealth infrastructure for primary and secondary use of health data
- 2- Achieve further technical common choices and formalize our process
- 3- Implement European ethical principles for digital health
- 4- Assess digital health deployment progress and best practices in EU Member States
- 5- Cooperate more effectively, in preparation for the future EHDS board

2) Issue at stake

This workplan 2023 needs to be worked out by the eHealth Network in order to meet its objectives and ensure priorities receive the right action plan.

The first priority of the eHealth Network workplan 2023 is “*Identify the needs for European funding for eHealth infrastructure for primary and secondary use of health data*”. The workplan includes a proposal for eHealth network representatives to work on a non paper. The first draft of this non-paper was discussed at the 24th eHealth Network meeting in Stockholm on 1-2 June 2023.

The eHealth Network is committed to the success of the EHDS, which will bring many benefits to citizens and the entire digital health ecosystem. The aim of the non-paper is to draw attention to the level of investment required to ensure the success of the EHDS implementation. Indeed, Member States representatives in the eHealth Network have shared the concern that there is a lack of understanding of the required level of funding for the EHDS, despite the existence of



funding sources such as the EU4HEALTH funding programme. The main concern remains indeed, as the level of available funding does not match the ambition of the text and may seriously hamper the expected outcome of the EHDS when the EHDS Regulation enters into force. While Member States are represented in other fora where this issue is discussed, the eHealth Network has the expertise to provide clarifications on such an important issue. This non-paper addresses arguments based on lessons learned from national experiences and the current implementation of MyHealth@EU.

3) Summary

Despite the limited bandwidth of the eHealth Network representatives due to the EHDS negotiations, this non-paper has evolved to integrate new fundamental elements and objectives. It should be finalised in 2024, when the final version of the EHDS regulation will be available. Indeed, there are still several areas of uncertainty in the regulation that have a strong impact on the cost-benefit assessment and make it rather difficult to provide this assessment in 2023. However, new elements have been included in this updated version of the non-paper to ensure that the scale of resources required at both national and European level in terms of investment and transition for EHDS is taken into account.

Key new elements included in the updated version of the document:

- addition of a reference to the impact assessment provided by the Commission in May 2022 together with the proposal for a Regulation.
- inclusion of a call for consistency in EHDS funding sources, by suggesting to systematically devote a portion of investments to EHDS in health policies (mental health, cancer etc) as they indeed require the European scale of available data to be provided by EHDS
- reference to available Member States national impact assessments of EHDS (Denmark, Netherland, Finland)
- text improvements.

4) Format of procedure in the meeting : *for discussion*

For eHealth Network discussion of an updated version of the non paper related to eHealth Network Workplan 2023 priority #1 on funding.

+ QUESTIONS

1. Does eHealth Network agree to update this document in 2024 according to the final version of EHDS regulation?
2. Should this document be communicated as an eHealth Network non paper, when and to whom?