



25TH EHEALTH NETWORK MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2023, BRUSSELS

COVER NOTE

9.3 Priority 3 Implement European ethical principles for digital health (*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.

Five key priorities were identified for the eHealth Network 2023 workplan:

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

Priority #3 “*Implement European ethical principles for digital health*” to prepare the future European Health Data Space ensures making progress towards ethics in real life for digital health. The main challenge is to implement the European Ethical Principles for Digital Health adopted by the eHealth Network, Member States and the European Commission on January 26th, 2022. This framework includes 16 ethical principles organised around 4 ethical dimensions. Progress towards these goals will benefit from guiding the implementation of these principles in line with our European humanistic tradition and values.

In adopting these European Ethical Principles for Digital Health, Member States and the European Commission committed to further explore and discuss measures to respect, protect and fulfil these ethical principles and to monitor progress.

2) Issue at stake

As part of eHealth Network workplan 2023, expected achievements include:

- expected outcomes from a citizen consultation.
- a capacity building plan for the European ethical principles for digital health, ensuring strong Member States involvement and follow up with an accomplishment rate.



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eHealth-units

- a draft a white paper on end users involvement in digital health

3) Summary

The implementation of this priority did not include a process of consultation with citizens, as the method could not yet be decided and could have caused some confusion with the parallel negotiation process on the European Health Data Space. Therefore, the focus was on the other expected outcomes.

The capacity building initiative is on-going and includes the focus on European ethical principles for digital health. A country twinning or mentoring process is underway with results of the twinning or mentoring process to be communicated. Next steps will include the formalization of levels of involvement and accomplishment as it will remain as in the Workplan#2024

A draft white paper a draft a white paper on end users involvement in digital health is up for discussion during the 25th eHN meeting too.

4) Format of procedure in the meeting

For eHealth Network discussion about the priority #3 of eHealth Network workplan 2023 on “*Implement European ethical principles for digital health*”, a draft paper and a presentation of the status are for discussion.