



D8.3 – Post-2021 scenarios for eHealth policy cooperation

WP8

Integration in National Policies and Sustainability

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Acronyms

Acronym	Description
eHAction	eHealth Action – Joint Action to Support eHealth Network
eHN	eHealth Network

Executive Summary

The objective of this task is to describe post-2021 scenarios for cross-border eHealth policy cooperation and present these to help the eHealth Network (eHN) develop discussion on this matter.

For this purpose, Task 8.3 will define a number of policy cooperation scenarios post 2021 that illustrate potential implications, requirements, risks and opportunities, and how to support the implementation of a policy recommendation or the adoption of an identified best practice at an adequate level in different EU Member States.

An early production in the task will be to deliver a sustainability plan that will visualise a projection of the future following reasonable probabilities, describing which elements/deliverables/results will be further developed, consolidated or run and by which entity/organisation this will/should be done.

The task participants will work on the possibility of recommending a scenario for eHN adoption, and present this for discussion in the eHAction Leadership Council. The objective is to identify whether there is sufficient consensus within the Member States and countries to recommend a specific scenario for future policy cooperation or what are the main barriers to overcome.

Depending upon this outcome, the continued work of the task will be to either:

- i. specify further how the recommended scenario is to be implemented,
- or,
- ii. develop a basis for a decision by the eHN.

1 Introduction

Cognisant that eHAction is the last Joint Action that will support the eHealth Network, this deliverable intends to present a set of recommendations to promote the continuation of eHealth policy cooperation and sustainable development in the EU.

Building upon a reflective analysis regarding the Multiannual Work Programme 2018-2021 lines of action and the current eHealth state of play, this document represents the culmination of three years of work between multiple national authorities, eHealth competence centres and key stakeholders. It is intended to go further than just a reflection.

The initiatives raised by eHAction have helped to better understand the EU's eHealth ecosystem; namely, to understand what the needs and priorities among the different Member States are. Moreover, it has shown that the eHealth community needs an aligned set of priorities at EU level that all Member States can aspire to, regardless of what their stage of eHealth transformation is.

In this sense, and by representing the considered views of all contributors, this deliverable is being produced on the basis of a recommendation in which a set of measures and guidelines on the best course of action are proposed to direct EU policy cooperation towards sustainable transformation in the health sector.

By recognising that, in the future, health will be digital by nature, sustainability becomes even more central during the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging context that national health systems and services are experiencing. Thus, based on accessible knowledge, the recommendations presented in this document are contextualised over time, and their purpose, motive and potential outcome are detailed in order to create confidence for Member States in convergence of their national solutions.

It is also important to highlight the relationship between the decision-making process of the eHealth Network and the implementation of recommendations at the national level after the conclusion of eHAction. A Member State may be able to implement a recommendation in part or in full, or a recommendation could simply serve as an inspiration to a Member State. In order to make the most of this deliverable's content, each recommendation is designed under a practical focus and includes within it a mechanism by which it can be 'adopted' by the eHN after the current Joint Action has concluded.

2 Document structure proposal

In order to achieve a better understanding of the themes described in the document, four pillars are outlined to express the ideas and to present a concrete development of ideas among each related subject. The four pillars are:

- A. Strategic ideas and documents
- B. eHAction knowledge
- C. eHealth Landscape
- D. Blue-sky Vision

The structure of the document follows an examination of nine subjects across these four pillars in order to define the recommendations and definitions of the post-2021 scenarios in eHealth.

The main subjects selected for discussion in this deliverable are based on the work done in D8.1. They represent the main areas in eHealth that are receiving investment and areas that need to be further developed at EU level in the future in order to achieve a balanced scenario among the Member States in the EU. The subjects are presented below:

- *Empowerment & access*
- *eSkills for professionals*
- *Interoperability*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Cybersecurity / security*
- *Enterprise architecture*
- *Coordination & governance model*
- *Innovation*
- *Legal challenges*

You can find the proposed structure of the document and a brief description of their intended content below. The subjects highlighted above will be discussed through the following chapters.

1. Introduction

A high-level overview on the current situation in eHealth and how this work can give important information/recommendations to improve the interoperability among EU Member States post 2021.

2. eHealth Context

Analysis of the eHealth framework, based on the output of eHAction deliverables, the state of play of the priorities established by the Multiannual Work Programme 2018-2021 and the insights delivered by JAseHN¹ Deliverable 8.1.4: Main eHealth Activities Outside of the EU.

¹ <https://jasehn.eu/>

3. Benefits of Sustainability | Characteristics

This chapter aims to establish the conceptual basis for building a set of recommendations towards the sustainability of eHealth in the EU. To do so, this chapter aspires to address the following questions:

- How is sustainability conceptualised in this document?
- What is the relevance and impact of sustainable measures for an eHealth ecosystem?
- What outcomes can be achieved if the recommendations around sustainability are adopted?

4. Framing a Sustainable Post 2021 Policy Cooperation

A description of a proposal for eHealth policy cooperation at EU level without a Joint Action that supports the eHN at different levels. This chapter is approached through a high-level overview of the digital health ecosystem in order to analyse and propose structural insights and enablers for sustainable development and policy cooperation in the EU.

5. Framing a Sustainable Governance

This chapter will present the proposed governance structure that should support changes on the subjects presented and ensure the addition of emerging thematic areas in the eHealth environment. To do so, this chapter aspires to present an analysis followed by a discussion on nine core eHealth features.

6. Blue-sky Vision for eHealth Public Policy Cooperation

This chapter intends to describe how the current and proposed initiatives could be further developed in the EU without taking any barriers into consideration. On this basis, this chapter aspires to deliver consideration on the ideal scheme for eHealth public policy cooperation in the EU.

7. References

The references used to elaborate this document.

3 Methodology of elaboration

This deliverable is being developed in collaboration between the Task 8.3 partners. The development of the ideas is done through constant email exchanges, brainstorming, weekly teleconferences, and collaborative writing. This process has resulted in agreement between the partners on how the deliverable must be elaborated and the respective responsibilities of each partner on the development of the work.

The previous work conducted in Task 8.1² is a great source of knowledge that is being used to elaborate Deliverable 8.3. T8.1 resulted in Deliverable D8.1 '*National eHealth strategies*' that contains 19 national and cross-border Member State strategies on eHealth, shows the mechanisms on how to follow the evolution of these strategies, and presents a concrete analysis on the collected data in order to propose alternatives to align these strategies and projects in the future. The outcome of D8.1 is being used as inputs to develop D8.3, supporting refinement of the scope and highlighting which areas should receive more attention in the post-2021 eHealth scenarios.

The T8.3 partners have agreed on a three-step approach to elaborate the D8.3 document:

1. Identify the main areas that are highlighted in D8.1.
2. Select among the partners the best area for each partner to work on.
3. Elaborate and validate the content of the deliverable according to the structure of the defined pillars.

The group has held regular consultations and made use of all available information to elaborate the document. These subjects are in alignment with the most recent investment areas on EU eHealth landscape, such as:

1. National Dimension – National Assessment
 - Vision 2020-2030
 - Main action areas for upcoming years
 - Major concerns
2. Background ideas & documents – Research & Analysis
 - eHN Meetings – core themes
 - Member States' Co-Chair, European Commission and eHN official documents
 - eHAction Recommendations
3. European Cooperation – Post 2021 Scenarios
 - Member States' Common Vision for eHealth in the EU
 - Stakeholder (ecosystem actors) insights

At this stage, the group has produced some chapters on various themes to be included in the draft D8.3 document. While new content is produced by some members, others are doing a

² It is important to emphasise that the work carried out by WP8 must be interpreted as a whole. As such, T8.1 played a primary role in delivering insight on main initiatives and common obstacles from each Member State. Together with *T8.2: Policy document about technology report* and *T8.3: Post-2021 Scenarios for eHealth policy cooperation*, WP8 aims to support the eHN to enhance the integration of cross-border knowledge via eHealth strategies in Member States.

revision on the draft text in order to ensure the high quality of the information present in this deliverable.

4 Next steps

The intention in the next months is to:

- Finish the first draft of D8.3;
- Proceed with group review of D8.3;
- Present it in eHAction Leadership Council and Steering Council meetings;
- Adjust the document content according to the comments received;
- Present the information note to the eHN in its November 2020 meeting;
- Adjust the document content according to the further comments received;
- Prepare an eHAction workshop to collect feedback from all work packages.