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COVER NOTE

6.1 eGovERA and eHealth Reference Architecture

1. Issue at stake

Digital Transformation of national health services presents several challenges. Some of the challenges are specific to each country, but most of them are common challenges shared by the Member States.

Where to start the digital transformation? Which areas may contribute more to the efficiency of the system? Which business capabilities can benefit from already mature digital technologies? How to increase cost-effectiveness of health systems based on digital tools? How to increase accessibility of health services? How to overcome disparities on clinical knowledge? These questions are a good example of questions that each Member State faces when preparing their national digital health strategies.

The eGovERA initiative aims at providing tools for national decision makers to support the strategic thinking about digital transformation of the health system and plan how to invest, by focusing on identifying the digital health business capabilities and providing a way to quantify the strategic importance and a possible path towards implementation.

2. Summary

Following up an action started by Joint Action on eHealth - eHAction on reference architecture for European eHealth, DG SANTE, DG DIGIT and eHAction teamed up to design a eHealth reference architecture for national health systems (the eGovERA Health RA).

This joint effort aimed at producing a suite of tools to support the design of national strategies for digital transformation of health services, by aiding business decision makers identify the business capabilities to invest on to achieve certain outcomes.

This joint work started in September 2020 and, by March 2021, produced eGovERA Health RA beta. This beta version was used in a pilot exercise conducted with CZ and IE to assess its readiness and accelerate its refinement.

The Commission and eHAction teams would like to take this moment to present to the eHealth Network the outcomes from the pilot and recommend the next steps.

These elements, as developed by the eHAction, will feed into a capacity building project, to be launched in 2021. This should allow Member States to offer twinning advice and support, based on a benchmarking developed through eGovEra, supporting Member States to develop their e-health strategies.

3. Format of procedure in the meeting

For information and discussion.