



19TH eHEALTH NETWORK 3 JUNE 2021, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

COVER NOTE

5.3.1 D7.1: Guidelines for IT interoperability

(Official title of the deliverable) - D7.1 Recommendations and guidelines for IT Management on implementing interoperability actions in healthcare organisations

1. Issue at stake

The Guide aims to support implementation of interoperability at local level, its continuing development will be through EU-level co-operation and with an EU-level (light) governance for maintaining the content and making it available through proper technical infrastructure. The sustainability of this guide beyond the end of the project is now the most important challenge that needs be addressed over the remaining lifetime of eHAction.

2. Summary

The eHAction Guide on interoperability is a brief high-level guide to what interoperability is, its importance and the main areas of standardisation and quality that enable trustworthy data exchange and reuse. The guide itself has been elaborated based on the conceptual design of the Guide on interoperability, which was submitted for information to the eHealth Network in spring 2020, in terms of its target audience; its breadth and depth of content and key design characteristics; it has been collaboratively created with the participation of the community of the informal network of European hospitals established in eHAction and the collaboration with three international, non-for-profit organisations, namely, Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) and the European Institute for Innovation through Health Data (I~HD) and HL-7 Europe.

This Guide can be instrumental for the eHealth Network to establish a consistent and highly accessible channel to make its interoperability outcomes (e.g. guidelines, frameworks, policies, strategies) widely available for EU and international stakeholders. The increased accessibility and visibility can become a multiplier effect towards national stakeholders, especially when used by the national digital health networks to increase awareness and promote alignment with the eHealth Network vision.

The document presents three options that represent three alternative approaches, each reflecting different commitments and adoption strategies; however, all three option can be synergetic: the eHealth Network, through its subgroups on semantic and technical interoperability, could take ownership of this tool for supporting the dissemination and implementation of eHealth Network interoperability outcomes (**option 1**). Candidate organisations (**option 3**) or projects (**option 2**) could support and operationalise its maintenance and further development through a collaborative approach under the oversight of the two eHealth Network subgroups.

Irrespective of the option chosen, the same principles of collaboration and decision-making governance should apply, modified only in so far as necessary to accommodate the specificities of the option. The maintenance and further development of the Guide should cater for high quality of content, presentation and fitness for purpose. A number of governance and description of roles are also presented.

3. Format of procedure in the meeting

The eHealth Network is requested to adopt the guidelines and to decide on how to ensure its implementation and updating, if relevant.

Option 1: it is proposed that the eHealth Network, through its subgroups on semantic and technical interoperability, takes ownership of this resource;

Option 2: projects (eg X-eHealth CSA) could support and operationalise its maintenance and further development through a collaborative approach under the oversight of the two eHealth Network subgroups;

Option 3: candidate organisations could support and operationalise its maintenance and further development through a collaborative approach under the oversight of the two eHealth Network subgroups.