

## Digital Single Market

# eHealth

Information and Communication Technology for health and wellbeing (eHealth) is becoming increasingly important to deliver top-quality care to European citizens. The 'eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020' of the European Commission describes the actions foreseen on this topic.

The first EU [eHealth Action Plan 2004-2011](#) [1] covered electronic prescriptions and health cards to new information systems that reduce waiting times and errors, in order to facilitate a more harmonious and complementary European approach to eHealth.

The second [eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020](#) [2](see the prior [public consultation](#) [3]) operates in the context of [Article 14 of Directive 2011/24](#) [4] on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. It focuses on the following:

- Supporting [research, development and innovation](#) [5];
- Promoting [international cooperation](#) [6];
- Achieving wider [interoperability of ehealth services](#) [7];
- Ensuring wider deployment & facilitating uptake.

The [mid-term review](#) [8] of the Digital Single Market strategy will focus on health oriented actions, aiming to manage digital transformation of our society and economy.

## Telemedicine

Together with the eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020, the Commission issued a [Staff Working Document \(SWD\) on Telemedicine](#) [9] to help deal with the legal aspects related to data protection rules, privacy matters and reimbursement.

NB: Both the eHealth Action Plan and the SWD on Telemedicine are intended as guidelines, and are not binding on Member States.

## eHealth Network

The [eHealth Network](#) [10] is a voluntary network of representatives from all national authorities in the EU. It draws up guidelines, for example on [how to apply patients' rights in cross-border healthcare](#) [11]. In general, the network aims to enhance interoperability between electronic health systems and continuity of care and to ensure access to safe and quality healthcare.

## More info

- [More info on the eHealth Action Plan](#) [12] (FAQ's, press releases, etc.).
- See the page [ICT for Social Challenges](#) [13]

[eHealth](#) [14] EU-funded research and innovation projects that are commercially viable.

Team responsible

[DG CONNECT](#) [15]

Published:

Thursday, 23 January, 2014

Last update:

Tuesday, 23 May, 2017

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[2] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/news-redirect/9156>

[3] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/report-public-consultation-ehealth-action-plan-2012-2020>

[4] <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2011-0007&language=EN#BKM D-2>

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[9] [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/dae/document.cfm?doc\\_id=1251](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=1251)

[10] [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/policy/network/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/policy/network/index_en.htm)

[11] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-takes-major-step-improve-cross-border-care>

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