

## **2019 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funding available to foster the deployment of digital infrastructures for the cross border exchange of health data in Europe**

*The recently published “[2019 CEF Telecom eHealth call](#)” introduced during the [Infoday](#)<sup>1</sup> held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July in Brussels, enables Member States either to join the existing pool of countries which are already pioneering the digital cross border exchange of health data, or to expand their existing capabilities with additional services and types of exchanged data. The call is open until the 14th November 2019 and offers €5 million of funding available in this area.*

The digital cross-border health service (called “[eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure](#)”) is an infrastructure ensuring the continuity of care for European citizens while they are travelling abroad in the EU. This gives EU countries the possibility to exchange health data in a secure, efficient and interoperable way. On 21 January, the first two countries, Finland and Estonia, started using the eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure to exchange ePrescriptions. Almost 3000 ePrescriptions have been dispensed since the launch of the service. Until now, other Member States joined the services: Luxembourg, Czech Republic and Croatia. To date, 22 Member States have committed to join the data exchange by the end of 2021. The setup of these services across European Commission is offering invaluable possibilities for citizens requiring unplanned medical care abroad and travellers with chronic medical conditions. This reduces the unnecessary checks and risks of wrong medication and allows patients, while abroad, to receive equivalent medication to what they would receive in their home country.

The new call of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) offer the opportunity to the countries which had not planned yet to join the services to do so, and to ask funding to set up National Contact Points, which are the interface between the national and the European digital infrastructures. For those countries where the NCPs do already exist, the Call gives the possibility to expand the National Contact Point capabilities, adding new services and/or enabling the exchange of different types of data.

At present, the eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure enables the running of two services, ePrescriptions and Patient summaries. ePrescriptions and eDispensation allow any EU citizen to retrieve his/her medication in a pharmacy located in another EU Member State, thanks to the electronic transfer of their prescription from his/her country of residence to the country of travel. The Patient Summaries provide background information on important health-related aspects such as allergies, current medication, previous illness, surgeries, etc., making it digitally accessible in case of a medical (emergency) visit in another country. It is an abstract of a larger collection of health data called the European Health Record, on which the Commission has adopted a Recommendation last 6th February with the objective of setting common standards, the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format, to cover comprehensive European Health Records, for the benefit of all EU citizens.

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<sup>1</sup> Record of the Infoday available

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was established by Regulation (EU) N° 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup> (the "CEF Regulation") to provide European financial assistance to trans-European networks in order to support projects of common interest, in the sectors of transport, telecommunications and energy. The CEF Telecommunications concerns both broadband networks and digital service infrastructures (DSIs). DSIs are composed of "Core Service Platforms" – central hubs which enable trans-European connectivity – and "Generic Services" which link national infrastructures to the Core Service Platforms. The current invitation to apply is related to the "Generic Services".