

eHealth: Digital health and care

Preparing for the future



Digital health and care refers to tools and services that use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and management of health and lifestyle. Digital health and care has the potential to innovate and improve access to care and quality of care, and to increase the overall efficiency of the health sector.

The Commission's Communication on the Transformation of Digital Health and Care of April 2018 aims to enhance the digitisation of the health and care sectors. The Communication identifies 3 pillars around which activities will be based:

1- Secure data access and sharing

The Commission is building eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure which will enable e-prescriptions and patient summaries to be exchanged between healthcare providers. The first cross-border exchanges took place in early 2019. In the longer term, the Commission is working towards a European electronic health record exchange format accessible to all EU citizens.

2- Connecting and sharing health data for research, faster diagnosis and improved health

The decentralised European digital health infrastructure will facilitate tailored diagnosis and treatment, help health services to be better prepared to respond to cross-border health threats, and improve the development and surveillance of medical products.

3- Strengthening citizen empowerment and individual care through digital services

Digital services can improve prevention and management of chronic conditions and enable patients to provide feedback to healthcare providers. Health systems will also benefit from innovative care models that use telehealth and mHealth to address the rising demand for healthcare.

KEY ACTIONS FUNDED UNDER THE EU HEALTH PROGRAMMES

JOINT ACTION

EH JA eHealth Joint Action

Countries: 20 Member States and Norway

EU-funding: € 2 699 990

Duration: 36 months, launched in August 2018



EHJA supports the eHealth Network.

The network intends to:

- explore how eHealth facilitates management of chronic diseases and multimorbidity
 - by increasing efficiency and sustainability of the health systems,
 - by facilitating personalised healthcare and empowering citizens

STUDY: ON TELEMEDICINE

EU-funding: € 273 950

Duration: 13 months started on 22/06/2017

Published: in 2018



The study provided:

- a full market analysis of the market for telemedicine applications and solutions, including:
 - a mapping of existing solutions and relevant technical standards and/ or guidelines;
 - an analysis of the market for such solutions, both globally, as well as with regards to specific sub-areas;
 - a mapping exercise of barriers to wider implementation of telemedicine, as well as of a potential EU-wide approach or solutions;
 - a cost-effectiveness analysis of existing solutions, as well as of potential large-scale deployment

JOINT ACTION

AsEHN Joint Action eHealth Governance initiative

Countries: 20 Member States and Norway

EU-funding: € 2 400 000

Duration: 36 months, launched in May 2015 and ended in April 2018



The main objective of the Joint Action was to act as the main preparatory body to establish the EU eHealth network.

The network:

- developed political recommendations and instruments for cooperation in the 4 specific priority areas specified in the multi-annual work plan 2015 – 2018:
- Interoperability and standardisation,
- monitoring and assessment of implementation,
- exchange of knowledge,
- global cooperation and positioning.
- functioned as a platform for operational and strategic cooperation between Member States on eHealth and made it easier to network and exchange with eHealth stakeholder groups and standardisation organisations

STUDY: THE SET-UP OF GUIDELINES IN SUPPORT OF E-PRESCRIPTION INTEROPERABILITY

EU-funding: € 464 379

Duration: 24 months

Published: in 2014



In its quest to support interoperability of ePrescriptions, the European Commission launched this study to develop guidelines that will support the move towards a single market for prescription drugs.

The study developed:

- best practices, and summarised the potential benefits and related costs
- a comprehensive ePrescription Guideline Proposal
- a roadmap to implement the proposal at both European and Member State levels

Find out more



Directorate-General for Health and Food safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE) on eHealth

https://ec.europa.eu/health/health/overview_en

Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea)

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/health/index.html>

Database of actions co-funded under the EU health programmes

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/chafea_pdb/health/projects/