

# eHealth Governance Initiative: Joint Action EHGov & SEHGovIA Thematic Network



The eHealth Governance Initiative (eHGI) will coordinate common political leadership in eHealth area across the EU, in particular in developing strategies, priorities, recommendations and guidelines on how to develop eHealth in Europe in a coordinated way by involving stakeholders especially health professionals and patients.

## Objectives of the project

The eHealth Governance Initiative (eHGI), composed of a Joint Action (co-funded by DG SANCO) and a Thematic Network (funded by DG INFSO) represents a political and strategic commitment to address eHealth care goals and priorities, aiming at removing barriers to the deployment of eHealth, enhancing quality, access and safety in healthcare across Europe. This project will also contribute to mainstream eHealth in EU policies and instruments.

The eHGI will enhance and support platform for technical & political co-operation between European countries on eHealth including their relationships with eHealth Stakeholder Groups which include EU level organisations representing health professionals, hospitals, patients, standards developing organisations & industry.

The eHGI will:

- coordinate political leadership in eHealth activities in EU
- set up and support a new mechanism of cooperation in eHealth in EU
- implement a system with intelligent decision tools that assist country-specific and EU-wide eHealth endeavours, helping thus to interconnect them on behalf of a common eHealth network area being fully interoperable
- harmonize processes in the area of eHealth as a significant tool for improving quality and patient safety, modernising national health care systems, increasing thus their efficiency and making them better adapted to the individual needs of citizens, patients, health professionals, and the challenges of an ageing society
- drive the importance of the deployment of ICT in healthcare by pushing forward necessary organisational reforms, driven by leadership and supported by adequate skills on the EU level

## Background

eHealth is one of the sets of powerful tools for solving Health challenges today like ageing populations, demographic crises, chronic diseases, new opportunities based on ICT, genomics, proteomics or nanotechnology, a lack of qualified staff in health care sector, etc.

Some MS are now in the phase of starting large-scale eHealth implementation programs, while others are in the roll-out phase. Leaders in the eHealth area are in a stage of making use of the eHealth benefits and expanding the eHealth solutions to telemedicine, disease management, and personalized medicine.

Thereby there is a strong need to build national solutions based on common European or global standards in order to ensure the interoperability, enabling thus the continuity of healthcare across the borders and supporting free movement of EU citizens. National eHealth projects could benefit only if we can find joint solutions to solve the upper mentioned Health challenges.

*“eHealth is one of the sets of powerful tools for solving health challenges today.”*

## Project Description

The initiative will act as a driving force to facilitate decision making at national level, endorsing decisions, guidelines, recommendations or proposals which have been proved mature enough by a majority of MS. In addition, the Initiative aims at addressing high priority objectives where specific outcomes will be produced in form of deliverables.

The results of the project – strategies, priorities, declarations, recommendations, and guidelines – will support the work of the eHealth Network set up in accordance with Art.14 of the Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, including political prioritization in the eHealth interoperability roadmap and its implementation.

### SCENARIOS

Scaling up eHealth activities to a pan-European infrastructure supports and envisions eHealth interoperability and cross-border deployment of health care services, leading thus to the implementation of the Article 14 of the Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare on eHealth by adopting common sets of rule for eHealth, consequently ensuring seamless connection between eHealth platforms and services on the EU level.

The governments and decision-making bodies in Europe are able to contact or join other countries or parties in the eHealth activities that are closest to the level of eHealth elaboration in which they are already engaged.

Thanks to the coordination on a European level, a due mediation on the national level, respective MS, health professionals, health care organizations, citizens and other interested parties, every subject and entity, each on the level of representation, are informed about the prepared and running eHealth projects in their country, with opportunities to be involved in this process through means available to them.

# Expected Results & Impacts

## Results & impacts

- Improvements in eHealth governance and an enhanced co-ordination between MS and the EC eHealth policies, helping thus to improve health outcomes and ensuring continuity of care within and across MS
- Promoting political discussion on the agenda
- Close collaboration with existing eHealth-related projects (epSOS, Digital Agenda, Stork, HPRO, etc.), leading thus to a more coordinated European approach, and ultimately to an efficient use of resources
- Building an eHealth European Governance framework, including establishment of high level policies and auditable processes, leading to a policy development and strategy alignment in eHealth activities
- Addressing the needs of users in the developments of national strategies or EU initiatives
- Enhancing trust and acceptability with various stakeholder groups (health care professionals, citizens, etc.), and building a proportionate level of trust in both systems and human processes within cross-border health data exchange
- Enabling and facilitating the development, integration and European wide deployment of knowledge-driven, semantic and technical interoperable eHealth services and infrastructures
- Translating respective deliverables into clear policy proposals for decision and action at the political level
- streamlining the process to be in line with the political ambitions of the MS and the EC
- addressing national and European law and regulations, removing barriers in a European information health space
- Deliverables - press releases, newsletters, flyers, brochures, journal articles for increasing awareness about the project. Also fact sheets, brochures, conference presentations and conference posters will be ways how to promote the project and its outcomes
- Adoption of an annual communication plan explaining the communication and cooperation mechanism with stakeholders in order to share outcomes with them

## Overall expected results

The project is expected to create a European coordination platform, contributing to a single European eHealth area through streamlined policy, uptake, trust, and awareness in using ICT in health care sector.

Interoperability roadmap, constituting a concrete strategy in building eHealth network within MS and in Europe, will represent one of the main health policy instruments establishing the factual basis for decision making in the eHealth domain.

The project will speed up the adoption process of encryption and electronic signature mechanism through building security and data protection framework, addressing thus identification, authentication and role-based authorization needs inevitable for an enhanced security in health care sector between health care professionals and patients.

The eHGI will make valuable contributions to the EU-wide implementation of EU objectives set in the Digital Agenda, Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare and within the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

**Project acronym:** eHGI

**Project title:**

eHealth Governance Initiative

**Project co-ordinator:**

Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (ATNA)



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**Partners:**

- Ministerio de Sanidad Y Politica Social (Spain)
- Koordinační Středisko pro Resortní Zdravotnické Informační Systémy (Czech Republic)
- Department of Health (United Kingdom)
- Národné Centrum Zdravotníckych Informácií (Slovakia)
- YÓGYSZERÉSZETI ÉS EGÉSZSÉGÜGYI MINŐSÉG- ÉS SZERVEZETFEJLESZTÉSI INTÉZET (Hungary)
- Kompetansesenter for Informasjonsteknologi i Helsevesenet as (Norway)
- Ministrstvo za Zdravje (Slovenia)
- Groupement Pharmaceutique de L'Union Europeenne Aisbl\*Gpue Pharmaceutical Group of the EU (Belgium)
- European Health Telematics Association (Belgium)
- Comite Permanent des Medecins Europeens Aisbl (Belgium)
- Forum des Patients Europeens Asbl European Patients Forum FPE EPF (Belgium)
- Federation Europeenne des Hopitaux et des Soins de Sante (HOPE) (Belgium)
- Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austria)
- Ministere du Travail, De L'Emploi et de la Sante (France)
- Ministero della Salute (Italy)
- Federation Europeenne des Associations Infirmieres Aisbl (Belgium)
- Bundesministerium fuer Gesundheit (Germany)
- Service Public Federal Sante Publique, Securite de la Chaine Alimentaire et Environnement (Belgium)
- National Sundheds-it (Denmark)
- Administracao Central do Sistema de Saude, I.P. (Portugal)
- Veselības Ekonomikas Centrs (Republic of Latvia)
- Aristotelio Panepistimio Thessalonikis (Greece)
- Department of Health and Children (Ireland)
- Socialdepartementet (Sweden)
- Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care – Government of Malta (Malta)
- Turkiye Cumhuriyeti Saglik Bakanligi (Turkey)
- European Health Management Association Limited (Ireland)
- Continua Health Alliance Private Stichting (Belgium)
- Comite Europeen de coordination des industries radiologiques electronomediales et d informatique de sante AISBL (Belgium)
- Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise-Europe AISBL (Belgium)
- HL7 International Fondation (Belgium)
- Federal Office of Public Health (Switzerland)
- Helseidrettorate (Norway)
- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cyprus (Cyprus)
- Ministere de la Sante (Luxembourg)
- Ministry of Social Affairs (Republic of Estonia)
- Ministere van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport (The Netherlands)
- Canope Sarl (France)

**Timetable:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 - January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

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**EC funding:** € 1.501.894,00

**Instrument:** CIP competitiveness and innovation framework programme 2007 – 2013 & Health Programme 2008 – 2013 (Second Programme of Community action in the field of Health 2008 – 2013)

**Project Identifier:** CIP ICT PSP

## KEYWORDS

eHealth Governance Initiative, eHealth, Decision-making process, eHealth network, eHealth interoperability