eHealth is the transfer of health resources and health care by electronic means (WHO)

Empowered patients who are able to manage their own health thanks to a better flow of information and interaction with health professionals

Greater access to personal health data for patients and health professionals, enabling faster diagnosis, improved monitoring, more effective treatment and better health outcomes

Increased sustainability and efficiency of health systems by unlocking innovation and encouraging organisational changes

Support for patients' access to healthcare services across Europe

YOUR HEALTH DATA

eHealth Network:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/policy/network/index_en.htm

Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network:
http://jasehn.eu/

Digital Service Infrastructures:
https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/connecting-europe-facility-cef-digital-service-infrastructures

eHEALTH-NETWORK @ ec.europa.eu

European Commission

eHealth:
connecting health systems in Europe

Increasing pressures and demands on European countries' health systems call for a change in the way of organising and managing the delivery of health services:

- Changes in the national health systems (e.g. digitisation, integrated care, growing number of new medical technologies/services)
- Paradigm shift from doctor-centred healthcare to patient-centred healthcare
- Shortages and uneven distribution of health professionals
- Health inequalities and inequities in access to healthcare
- Ageing society
- Increased prevalence of chronic diseases
- Demand for more patient engagement
- Financial pressure on health systems

The use of digital applications and solutions is becoming increasingly present in our daily lives, offering opportunities to tackle some of the challenges our society faces.

eHealth could be part of the solution if we take advantage of the new technologies which can ease and improve the current health services.

Information and Communication Technologies used in healthcare and social care systems can increase their efficiency, improve quality of life and unlock innovation in health markets.

The EU plays an active role in the uptake of eHealth at European level, facilitating cross-border health services and supporting Member States' action to roll out eHealth solutions at national level.

EU STRATEGY

DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

The Digital Single Market Strategy aims to open up digital opportunities for people and businesses and enhance Europe's position as a world leader in the digital economy. The Digital Single Market is built on three pillars addressing the issues of access, environment, economy & society.

The Digital Single Market Strategy refers to eHealth as an example of a technology that is critical for the deployment of the Digital Single Market, but requiring improved interoperability and standardisation of eHealth solutions.

eHEALTH ACTION PLAN 2012-2020: INNOVATIVE HEALTHCARE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

It provides a roadmap to empower patients and healthcare workers, to link up devices and technologies, and to invest in research towards personalised medicine of the future. Given the fast growing uptake of tablets and smartphones, the Action Plan has also a special focus on mobile health (mHealth). Furthermore, the Action Plan includes actions to increase digital health literacy of health professionals and patients.

mHealth: medical practice supported by mobile devices, such as mobile phones, patient monitoring devices, personal digital assistants, and other wireless devices (WHO, 2011)

Standardisation: process of developing technical standards which helps to maximise compatibility, interoperability, safety, repeatability or quality

Interoperability: capacity to make use and exchange data between different health systems in order to interconnect information

OUR TOOLS

eHEALTH NETWORK

Under the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive, which aims at giving patients the right to receive medical treatment in another EU Member State, a network of Member States' representatives was set up. The Network aims to enhance interoperability between electronic health systems and continuity of care and to ensure access to safe and quality healthcare when addressing eHealth at European level. The Network has proven to play a pivotal role in making strategic decisions at EU level on eHealth-related matters on the aspects of interoperability and standardisation.

JOINT ACTION

The eHealth Network is technically and scientifically supported by the Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network (JAseHN) to fulfil its multi-annual work plan 2015-2018. The JAseHN is particularly focused on setting up the eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure. It is a Member States' run project for the duration of 3 years.

EUROPEAN REFERENCE NETWORK

ERN will promote innovative clinical solutions (telemedicine), ideas and new possibilities in diagnosis, more effective treatments, and further medical research with potentially far-reaching benefits for patients.

STAKEHOLDERS

The Commission is actively liaising with stakeholders, for example through the eHealth Stakeholder Group which contributes to the development and implementation of the eHealth policy at EU level. Furthermore, stakeholders are facilitated in drafting position papers to increase trust in using digital health services/apps.

FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

The **third EU Health Programme** (2014-2020) is one of the main instruments the Commission uses to implement the EU health strategy.

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme (2014-2020), which supports research, innovation and cooperation in the area of ICT for Health and Wellbeing, as well as encourages SMEs to scale up eHealth solutions and find markets abroad.

Connecting Europe Facility is an EU infrastructure programme financing, amongst others, the building of an EU digital infrastructure for eHealth.

eHEALTH DIGITAL SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to facilitate the mobility of patients seeking cross-border healthcare, the Commission is building an EU-wide eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure, or eHDSI allowing health data to be exchanged across national borders with a first focus on ePrescriptions and Patient Summaries. Member States can connect their health systems to the eHDSI through a dedicated national contact point for eHealth (NCPeH). When building the necessary NCPeH, Member States are required to take into consideration the guidelines approved by the eHealth Network to support interoperability of national health systems in the EU.

RESULT OF EU ACTION

EU ACTION

Digital infrastructure
Interoperability/standards
Reliability/codes of conduct
Increased digitisation of and innovation in health and care systems

EU cross-border eHealth services

Collaboration with Member States for national uptake of eHealth services

Patients travelling to another EU country and obtain their pharmaceuticals thanks to ePrescription

Patients treated in another EU country by health professionals who access their data through Patient Summary