Network: Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments

Scope: Moving age-related topics to the big umbrella themes of Health and Digital Single Market is a vital process to pursue the societal scope of a Europe prepared to provide quality of life and well-being through the whole life cycle. The revitalization of Active and Healthy Ageing initiatives (preparing post2020) will imply high-level crossover discussion between different groups, networks, DGs, EIPs and even international organisations, understanding the symbiotic interdependence of these subjects towards a Healthy and Competitive Europe. This TN intends to create a high-level policy alignment of all these networks and initiatives towards Health in Ageing subjects.

The specific aim of the TN will be to enhance the 2 main aspects of Age-Friendly Environments – Places and People – in the creation of eHealth and mHealth solutions - especially focused on quality and costs.

On eHealth a special emphasis will be given to its current state of the art in Europe e-support of smart homes to patients who suffer from chronic diseases and impairments - e-support like robotics, smart living environments and smart communication with formal and informal care. These smart environments need to align technological development with the building industry in terms of policy and funding, in order to make smart homes available, affordable and large-scaled in Europe. This broad adoption may be the keystone to a more efficient health care system that may add better quality for less investment.

With mHealth the focus will be on understanding and bridging the main gaps between technological development and user real needs and expectations, proposing policy measures that favour and enhance a real market entrance of new products.

It aligns with **EU Health priorities** in creating synergies that will increase quality, innovation and sustainability towards the implementation of better health and care, economic growth and sustainable health systems.

It is also proposed inline with the *Blueprint on Digital Transformation of Health and Care* - more specifically, with the following objectives:

1. Deployment of Innovation
2. Investment in digital innovation for health and care
3. Reach people in Europe benefitting from digital innovation on active and healthy ageing

In terms of the Digital Single Market, this proposal crosses with the following objectives:

1. Cybersecurity (especially privacy issues)
2. Boosting e-commerce
3. European data economy
4. Adapting ePrivacy rules to the new digital environment
5. Helping to develop the necessary digital skills for every one

Objectives of the Thematic Network:

- Produce a Joint Statement 2018 that summarizes a common position on Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments, priorities for policy making and recommendations beyond 2020.
- Provide a forum to exchange policy priorities and technical expertise on AFE and eHealth/mHealth;
- Inform the Commission on knowledge/expertise available in stakeholder community about challenges, solutions and best practices and perspectives;
- Bring better local practices already implemented by LRA that have been identified in the EIP-AHA for twinning or scaling-up and collect lessons learned towards policy drawing;
- Promote common principles as person-centred interventions, protection of personal data, standardisation, interoperability, data-enabled research, personalised medicine, quadruple helix.

Partners: representatives from groups D4 and C2 of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA), European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC), Reference Sites Collaborative Network, European Covenant on Demographic Change, Eurocities, European Framework for Age-Friendly Housing, European Centre Social Welfare Policy, European Health Telematics Association (EHTEL) and ECHAlliance.

Besides this more restricted group of partners, the coordinating organisations intend to start the development of the joint statement with extra literature study on current proven outcomes of eHealth and mHealth for patients with chronic diseases and impairments, perform personal interviews with leading smart health opinion leaders and a survey on eHealth and mHealth practices that will circulate in several European networks.

The first draft of the Joint Statement will be send for comments to the members of all the networks described above for broader inputs and then revised towards the final version by the TN representatives' team.

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Innovation criteria: a TN led by an NGO and an SME is centred in end-users and market, which intends to pull the discussion to clear and realistic outcomes.

The NGOs express the demand side of health and technology; SMEs are the suppliers of health and technology - in close cooperation with the Covenant Local and Regional Authorities, this will allow to identify the needed expertise and perspectives to deliver on behalf of the Joint Statement the policy recommendations drawn out of lessons learned and successes of 6 years of EIP-AHA and its research.