The Learning Health System
perspective from Europe

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Structure of the presentation

1. The "European health system"
2. Broader strategic and political context
3. EU agenda on health systems
4. eHealth in Europe
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The European health system (strictly speaking) does not exist.
Rather: European health systems

Otto von Bismarck (1883)  
Nikolai Semashko (1930)  
William Beveridge (1942)
Health expenditure as % of GDP (2013)
However: health systems in the EU talk to each other

of 29 April 2004
on the coordination of social security systems

of 16 September 2009
laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems

DIRECTIVE 2011/24/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 9 March 2011
on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare
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Juncker’s political priorities

1. Jobs, growth and investment
2. Digital single market
3. Energy union and climate
4. Internal market
5. Economic and monetary union
6. EU-US free trade
7. Justice and fundamental rights
8. Migration
9. EU as a global actor
10. Democratic change
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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION

On effective, accessible and resilient health systems

EU agenda for effective, accessible and resilient health systems

- Strengthening effectiveness
  - Health systems performance assessment
  - Patient safety and quality of care
  - Integration of care

- Increasing accessibility
  - Planning of EU health workforce
  - Cost-effective use of medicines
  - Optimal implementation of Directive 2011/24

- Improving resilience
  - HTA
  - Health information system
  - eHealth
**Resilience**: ability to adapt effectively to changing environments, tackling significant challenges with limited resources

A sound knowledge of strengths and weaknesses and the ability to monitor information, including at the level of individual patients or healthcare providers, enable health systems managers to make tailored, evidence-based decisions in specific sub-sectors. EHealth-based information systems facilitate and support the strengthening of information knowledge systems. Furthermore, eHealth can deliver more personalised healthcare, which is more targeted, effective and efficient and helps to reduce error and to minimise the length of hospitalisations.
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Back to the Juncker political priorities...

Why the Digital Single Market?

• The global economy is rapidly becoming digital
• Changes in our society are happening at a very fast pace and require European solutions
• Improve cross-border opportunities for businesses and citizens
• Keep the EU on an equal footing with other major world economies
Digital Single Market

Better access for consumers & businesses to online good and services
- Geoblocking
- Copyright
- E-commerce
- Parcel delivery
- Reducing VAT burden

Creating the right conditions for digital networks and services to flourish
- Telecom market
- Media services
- Platforms and intermediaries
- Trust and security

Maximising the growth potential of our European Digital Economy
- Cloud computing
- Big Data
- Interoperability & standardisation
- Telemedicine
- M-health
Health and eHealth mentioned in several places. **Under Boosting competitiveness through Interoperability and Standardisation:** “Commission will launch an integrated standardisation plan [...] including essential sectoral interoperability and standards in [...] health (telemedicine, mhealth).”
Connecting Member States for health data exchange
eHealth – why an EU co-operation?

- Great cross-border potential
- Continuity and quality of care, across borders
- Enhance the quality of eHealth research and development
- Address the lack of financial resources and legal expertise
- Realise the potential of Digital markets - Strengthen the eHealth market
The eHealth action plan

COM(2012) 736 final


eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 - Innovative healthcare for the 21st century

A roadmap to empower patients and healthcare workers, to link up devices and technologies, and to invest in research towards the personalised medicine of the future.

This means providing smarter, safer and patient-centred health services. Given the fast growing uptake of tablets and smartphones, the Action Plan also includes a special focus on mobile health (mHealth).
The eHealth Network – A Strategic Tool

- Leads the improvement in cooperation by Member States
- Gives direction on main eHealth developments under the eHealth Action Plan
- Multi-annual Work Plan 2015-2018
To sum up:

1. Not a European health system; but many interconnected systems
2. Strategic context given by the 10 Commission’s priorities
3. EU agenda on health systems: effectiveness, accessibility, resilience
4. EU cooperation on eHealth: the eHealth network and the action plan
Thank you

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