

Further potential for ecosystems:

Ecosystems have the potential to support national initiatives to implement eHealth solutions, the European Innovation Partnership on Healthy and Active Ageing, the eHealth Action Plan and the EU-US Memorandum of Understanding, eHealth roadmap. The participating countries welcomed the work of the eHealth Network, the European Commission's efforts to provide legal clarity and a level playing field for innovative companies and developers by publishing the Staff Working Document on the applicable EU Legal Framework to Telemedicine and its ongoing preparation of a Green Paper on Mobile Health and Well Being Apps. The focus of the European Commission on public sector innovation and on the important role of collaborative research and innovation such as that envisioned in Horizon 2020 is welcome. Public/private and cross-sectoral collaboration is a key component of an ecosystem, particularly in the field of healthcare.

eHealth solutions may be rooted in both sustained and disruptive innovation. The Irish Presidency calls on the Member States to utilise an ecosystem approach to stimulate both types. There should be a focus on a user centred approach that allows the opportunity to share best practices and experiences in cooperation with the European Commission in the context of the framework mentioned above, for the benefit of all. It is essential that eHealth ecosystems become integral and supportive mechanisms that do not 'stand apart' from the key players at national or regional levels.

Member States are called upon to publicise and to encourage their researchers, practitioners and entrepreneurs to make use of the opportunities offered by Horizon 2020 for research, deployment, inducement prizes and open disruptive innovation. EU research funding mechanisms are being revised in line with the recommendation of the eHealth Task Force that EU funds be earmarked for user driven innovation, support for fast proto-typing and low thresholds for access.

Member States are also encouraged to develop such models to open their research programmes to disruptive innovators. Further, Member State Ministries are encouraged to involve themselves in ecosystems and to be open to listen to providers of disruptive innovation, and in particular to incentivise such approaches.

The Irish Presidency calls on Member States to enhance their cooperation on eHealth and calls on the European Commission to support Member States in their efforts to deploy eHealth solutions through ecosystems, utilising the appropriate tools and instruments available.