



European Standards for Health Interoperability Alliance: a new association supporting EHDS standards and interoperability implementation founded in Brussels

ESHIA – European Standards for Health Interoperability Alliance

Brussels, 11 June 2025 – The European Standards for Health Interoperability Alliance (ESHIA) was founded in Brussels, with the mission to support the implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) by operating the European EHR Exchange Format (EHRxF) standards and policy hub to advance awareness and global alignment of the common European Interoperability Specifications for EHDS. The seventeen founding members include major standards development organisations (SDOs) including CEN/TC 251, HL7 Europe, IEEE, and IHE Europe, European stakeholder associations, and interoperability competence centres across Europe.

“The EHDS is an ambitious regulation that places citizens at the centre of their care. EHDS transforms the way we create, share, and use health data for better healthcare, population health, clinical research and innovation. Accelerating the development, adoption, and global alignment of common European specifications is a critical element of EHDS implementation. That is why the xShare project established the European EHRxF Standards and Policy Hub, the “Hub,” as a one-stop-shop for interoperability specifications, tools, adoption and implementation kits, including also a Community of Excellence, and the xShare Industry Label as a mark of EHDS readiness.” says **Catherine Chronaki**, Secretary General of HL7 Europe and scientific coordinator of the xShare project. *“ESHIA will serve as the institutional home of the Hub and will continue and sustain the Hub’s functions and services to support Member States, provider organisations, and vendors in the implementation of EHDS ready and compliant solutions also after the end of the xShare project.”*

“We are enthusiastic about forming ESHIA as a platform for collaboration of major SDOs and other stakeholder organisations to support the EHDS,” says **Marc Lange**, inaugural ESHIA President, newly elected by the nine-member ESHIA Board of Directors. *“In the coming months we will be developing the legal entity, business model and membership conditions, before we will be welcoming other SDOs, interoperability competence centres, stakeholder associations and other organisations to join us.”*

Compliance with the European EHRxF will become mandatory for European Member States, industry and providers under the EHDS regulation to ensure interoperability of personal electronic health data starting in 2027. The [xShare project](#), an EU co-funded Research and Innovation Action, is serving as the incubator for the Hub and ESHIA, offering a neutral and supportive environment for SDOs, health systems, industry and



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EHDS users to co-create EHRxH implementation assets and to serve as steward of these assets. As a legal entity, ESHIA will continue the work of the Hub after the xShare project ends on 30 November 2026.

ESHIA is being registered as a nonprofit association under Belgian law.

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About ESHIA:

The seventeen founding members (in alphabetical order) are: CEN/TC 251, Berlin Institute of Health @ Charité (DE), Datawizard (IT), DNV AS (NO), ECHAlliance – The Global Health Connector (IE), EHTEL (BE), empirica (DE), Fondazione Toscana Gabriele Monasterio (IT), Foundation for Research and Technology FORTH (GR), Fundació TIC Salut Social (ES), Gnomon (GR), HL7 Europe, IEEE, IHE-Europe, IHE Catalyst, MedCom (DK), and Uninova (PT).

The members of the inaugural ESHIA Board of Directors are: Carla Alvarez Costa (Fundació TIC Salut Social), Giorgio Cangioli (HL7 Europe), Marc Lange (EHTEL), Karolina Mackiewicz (ECHAlliance – The Global Health Connector), Maria Palombini (IEEE), Claudio Saccavini (IHE Catalyst), Robert Stegwee (CEN/TC 251), Sylvia Thun (Charité), and Janos Vincze (IHE-Europe).

For more information go to www.eshia.eu.

About the xShare project:

[xShare- Expanding the European EHRxH to share and effectively use health data within the EHDS](#), is a research and innovation action, co-funded by the European Union (GA 101136734). The mission of the xShare project is that everyone can share their health data in the EEHRxH at the click-of-a-button. To attain its mission, xShare relies on three pillars, the “Hub”, the xShare “Yellow” Button, and the xShare Industry label. The xShare “Yellow” button for health portals and patient-facing apps will be used to effortlessly share personal health data in compliance with the GDPR in the EHDS. xShare partners working with SDOs, interoperability competence centers, Industry associations, regulators, and SMEs, aims to establish common European specifications and elements even beyond EHDS, fostering global collaboration and alignment across health care, population health, and clinical research. From hospital networks in Italy to



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regional in Spain and Portugal, and national portals in Greece, Cyprus, and Ireland, xShare promises a future of interconnected healthcare systems offering patients their health data in computable format based on HL7 FHIR. Through open calls for early adopters, xShare aspires that the “Yellow” Button is featured in close to 100 settings by the end of 2026.

For more information go to www.xshare-project.eu.

