

## HOPE Contribution to the Roadmap on a European Health Data Space

HOPE welcomes this Roadmap as an opportunity to further clarify certain elements in particular as the Commission mentions its priority to reduce inequalities, which are particularly important in terms of digital access and digital literacy.

Specificities should be recognized instead of being ignored with a one-fits-all approach. Health and care authorities across Europe face common challenges, which can certainly be best addressed jointly. But the diversity is sometimes more important and would require specific analysis instead of a unique approach. If the uptake of digital solutions for health and care remains slow and varies greatly across Member States and regions, this needs to be seriously analysed and taken into consideration. Further action at EU level would miss the point by not doing it. The evaluations that should bring evidence will need to be carefully handled.

The responsibilities of hospital and healthcare services are to provide high-quality care and cure, not to help setting up a digital market and to build economies of scale in that particular industry.

Digital solutions for health and care can (and already do so) contribute to increase the well-being of millions of citizens but not only by themselves alone. Yes, they certainly could radically change the way health and care services are delivered to patients but this change should mean for good.

HOPE agrees that to better advance health promotion, prevent disease and deliver integrated services based on people's needs, new technologies and products could help.

But digital solutions, such as wearables and mHealth apps, by which citizens can actively engage in health promotion and self-management of chronic conditions should be carefully handled.

So far, such new care models have typically been deployed on a small scale, then initial evidence is limited their benefits for both patients and health and care systems. Therefore, full-scale deployment of new care models needs more evidence.

Digital technologies should be seen as an integral part of health and care and geared towards the wider objectives of health systems. It is not yet clear how the actions put forward in this Communication will be able to significantly support the Member States' strategies on reforming health systems.

HOPE is the acronym of the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation, an international non-profit organisation, created in 1966. HOPE, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation, is made up of national organisations representing public and/or private hospitals and healthcare services and even social services in some countries.