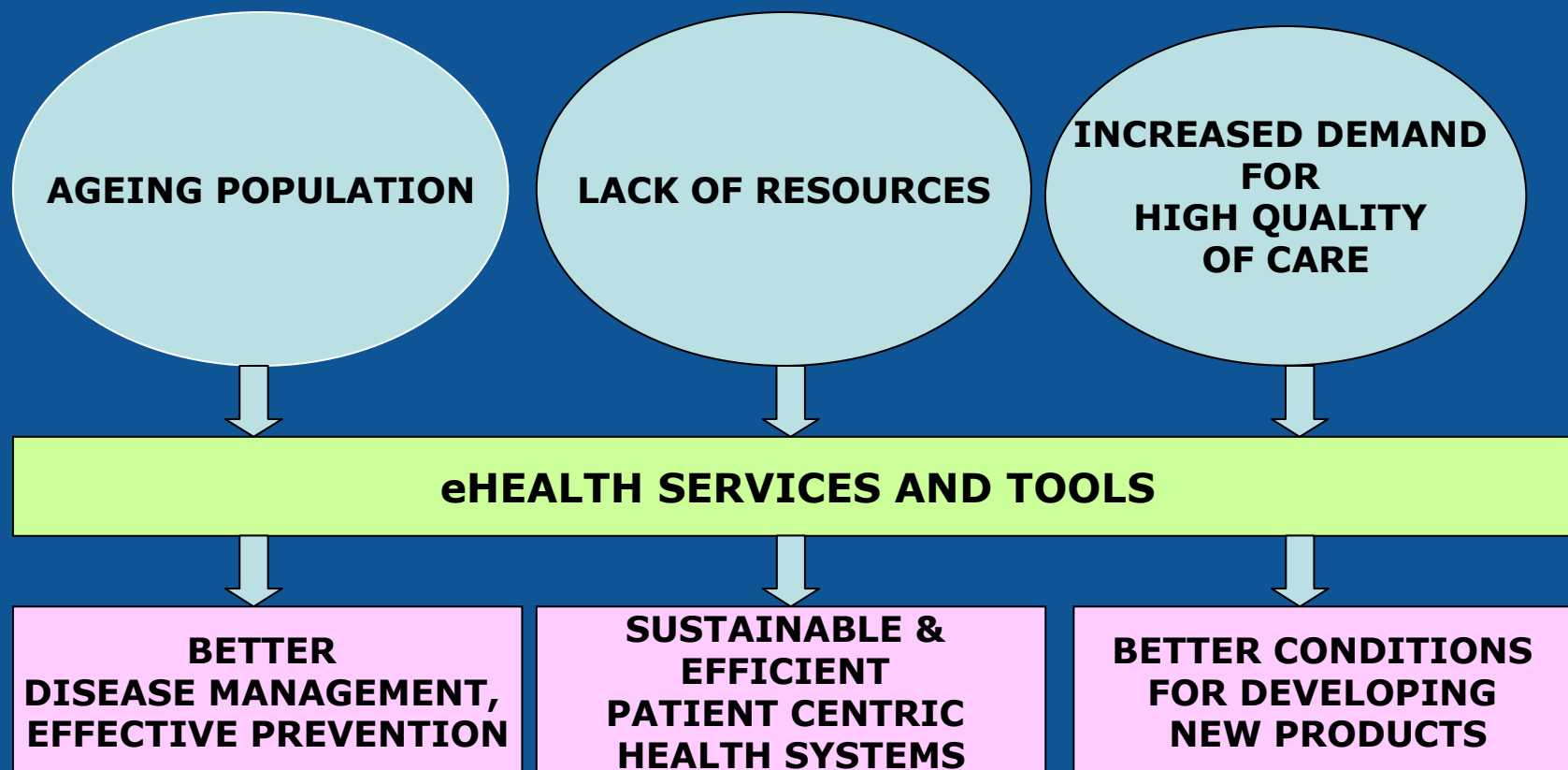# EU eHealth Policies and Activites

Frank Cunningham. Policy Officer,

Health and Wellbeing

DG CONNECT

Empowering Patients and Offering Better Connected Healthcare Services

BRUSSELS, 27TH JANUARY 2015

- **eHealth Action Plan 2012-20**

- **International Cooperation on eHealth**

- **Green Paper on mHealth**

EHEALTH ACTION PLAN 2012 – 2020 OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- **ACHIEVING WIDER INTEROPERABILITY OF EHEALTH SERVICES**

- **SUPPORTING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION**

- **ENSURING WIDER DEPLOYMENT & FACILITATING UPTAKE**

- **PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

EHEALTH ACTION PLAN:
Achieving wider interoperability of eHealth services

eHealth Interoperability Framework *to be proposed by 2015: based on results of research projects and studies*

Supporting this:

- *Standards, interoperability testing and certification (to be endorsed by eH network)*
- *Maintenance of assets under CEF*

EHEALTH ACTION PLAN:
Legal Clarity

- *Staff Working Paper on legal issues in telemedicine*

- *Guidance on how to apply EU **data protection law** in the area of health data (following adoption of DP regulation)*

- ***Green Paper on Legal Framework applicable to Health & Wellbeing Apps***

EHEALTH ACTION PLAN:
Research & Innovation

Focus on competitiveness

- **Research:**
- *Health & Wellbeing solutions (user-centric focus)*
- *Longer-term focus: VPH…*

- **Innovation:**
- *User-driven innovation*
- *Law incubators*
- *PCP / PPI*

EHEALTH ACTION PLAN:
Ensuring Wider Deployment and Facilitating Uptake

- *Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) from 2015*
- *Cohesion policy: broadband access and supporting ICT applications and services*
- *EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing*
- *Focus on Digital Health Literacy for professionals and citizens*
- *Clinical Practice Guidelines for telemedicine services: emphasis on nurses, social care workers*

EHEALTH ACTION PLAN:

International Cooperation

• *Policy discussions: building on the Memorandum of Understanding with the US on eHealth on interoperable eHealth systems and ICT skills*

• *Benchmarking and data collection (WHO, OECD)*

• *Exploratory Seminars on EU-ENPI South Countries eHealth Collaboration*

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION PLAN RESPONDS TO:

- **CLIMATE OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS OF HEALTH SYSTEMS;**
- **AGEING POPULATION;**
- **CITIZENS' EXPECTATIONS**

PROMOTING INNOVATION FOR:

- **BETTER HEALTH AND CARE;**
- **TRANSPARENCY AND EMPOWERMENT;**
- **MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE;**
- **MORE EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS;**
- **NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE AND BEYOND**

EU-US eHealth MoU

EU-US MoU on eHealth/Health IT

The EU and the US recognise the importance of health-related ICTs and wish to strengthen their relationship and support global cooperation in this area

An EU-US eHealth/Health IT MoU and its Roadmap aim to foster a mutual understanding of the common challenges

Collaboration is under the auspices of the Trans-Atlantic Economic Council (TEC)

EU-US eHealth MoU

Areas of Cooperation under MoU and Progress

- **Two Roadmap Work-streams**

  - **Development of internationally recognised and utilised interoperability standards for EHRs**

  - **Strategies for development of skilled health IT workforces**

- **MoU Roadmap published and stakeholder 'Call to Action' launched in the first half of 2013**

- **Considerable progress made by stakeholders in both work-streams (reported at EU-US Event in Boston in October)**

EU-US eHealth MoU

Next Steps

- **Update of Roadmap with consultation of Stakeholders in early 2015**

- **Further Reporting of Progress of Roadmap work at Riga eHealth Week, May 2015**

- **Discussions on future possible areas of EU-US collaboration under the MoU**

Useful Information

eHealth Action Plan 2012-20
https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/ehealth-action-plan-2012-2020-innovative-healthcare-21st-century

eHealth Task Force Report
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf//itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8172

EU-US eHealth MoU Roadmap:
http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/eu-and-us-step-cooperation-ehealth-it

EU-US eHealth MoU Wiki
http://wiki.siframework.org/EU-US+eHealth+Cooperation+Initiative

Useful Information

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing

eHealth Network
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/policy/network/index_en.htm

epSOS – The European eHealth Project on cross-border services
http://www.epsos.eu/

EU Green Paper on mHEALTH

Empowering Patients and Offering Better Connected Healthcare Services

BRUSSELS, 27TH JANUARY 2015

Frank Cunningham, Policy Officer, Health and Wellbeing DG CONNECT

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Table of Contents

1. **Green Paper on mHealth + SWD**

2. **Outcome of the consultation**

3. **Issues identified**

4. **Next steps**

1.1 Green Paper on mHealth

The **Green Paper...**

➢was adopted on 10 April 2014

➢launched a three months consultation asking stakeholders for their views on issues and barriers related to mHealth

➢inputs will help identify the way forward at EU level so that mHealth can reach its full potential

1.2 Staff Working Document (SWD)

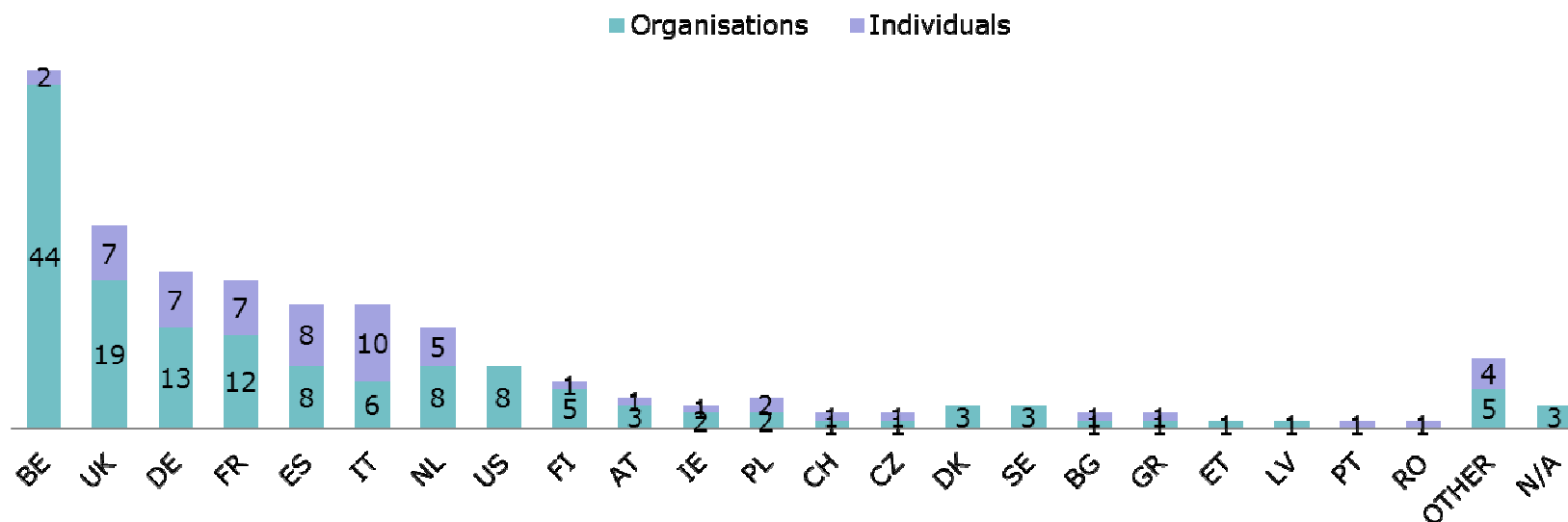The Green Paper is accompanied by a ***SWD on the EU legal framework applicable to lifestyle and wellbeing apps***

→ to raise awareness among stakeholders on EU rules in the field (*e.g.* data protection, medical devices, consumer protection)
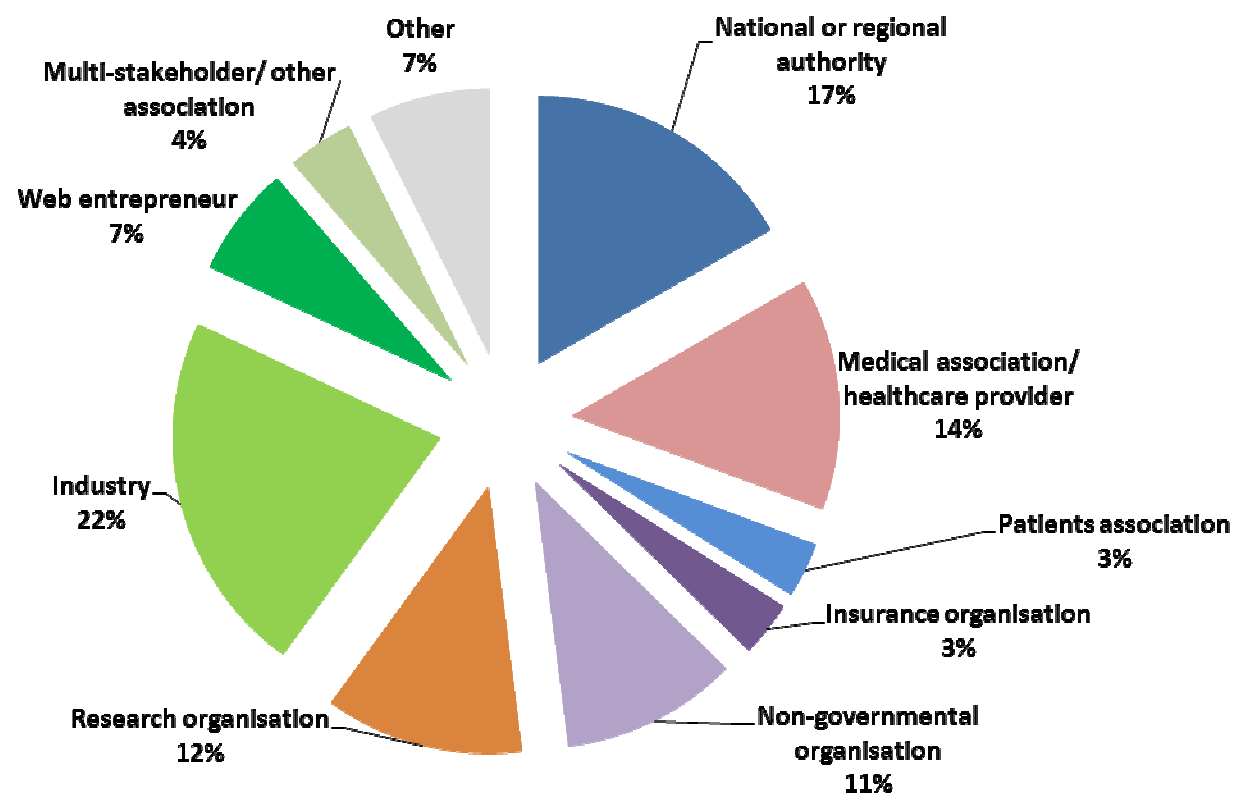
2.1 Outcome of the consultation

➢ **211 responses** received
➢ 71% from organisations / 29% from individuals

Geographical distribution of responses

■ Organisations ■ Individuals

2.2 Distribution of responses by sector

- National or regional authority 17%
- Medical association/ healthcare provider 14%
- Patients association 3%
- Insurance organisation 3%
- Non-governmental organisation 11%
- Research organisation 12%
- Industry 22%
- Web entrepreneur 7%
- Multi-stakeholder/ other association 4%
- Other 7%

3.1 Data protection and security

Issues:

–Lack of data security

–Lack of users' trust

–Concern of data misuse

Required:

–Strong privacy and security principles

–Data encryption and authentication

–Secured networks to prevent data interception

3.2 Legal framework

Issues:

–Unclear application of EU rules in the field

–Legal vacuum regarding safety aspects of lifestyle and wellbeing apps

Required:

–Safety and performance requirements of lifestyle and wellbeing apps not adequately covered → need for legislation or soft-law (e.g. quality labels, code of conduct)?

–Stronger enforcement

3.3 Patient safety and transparency

Issues:

- Lack of transparency and information on reliability
- Quality and safety

Required:

- Guarantee of quality and independency of information
- Evidence on effectiveness of mHealth solutions
- Safety requirements/quality guidelines

3.4 Other issues

- More **evidence** on economic benefits needed
- Lack of **interoperability** between mHealth solutions and between mHealth solutions and EHRs
- Lack of **reimbursement** models and lack of incentives for healthcare professionals to adopt mHealth solutions
- Need for more **research** in the field of mHealth
- Barriers for **web entrepreneurs** to access the market

4.1 Next steps

➢ Publication of a **summary report** in December 2014, providing an overview of the comments and actions put forward by respondents

➢ Follow-up actions to support mHealth deployment under **Horizon 2020**

   – **Use of big data in healthcare**

   – **Digital security**

  ➢ **Support Member States** in deploying mHealth (e.g. WHO-ITU initiative)

4.2 Next steps

➤ Close collaboration with **Member States** and strengthening cooperation at the **international level**

➤ **Involving stakeholders** to assess and develop policy actions

➤ Potential launch of an **Impact Assessment** in 2015 (if deemed necessary)

➤ **Further policy actions** to be announced this year.

Thank you!

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GP Consultation Results:

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/mhealth-europe-preparing-ground-consultation-results-published-today

Twitter: @EU_eHealth & @EU_eHealthForum (#eHF14)

Website: bit.ly/EUeHealth

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