



X-eHEALTH INTEROPERABILITY AWARD

RULES

Introduction

X-eHealth is a project of strategic relevance for tomorrow's European eHealth Union. Assembling a shared commitment of 47 health actors, the underlying idea of this project is to develop the basis for a workable, interoperable, secure and cross border Electronic Health Record Exchange Format in order to lay the foundation for the advance of eHealth.

As part of its mission and project objectives, X-eHealth is holding its **Interoperability Award** in 2022. With this event we aim to recognize excellence and innovative endeavor, in other initiatives or projects the field of **health data interoperability**. By placing a spotlight on outstanding work and celebrating innovative solutions, we hope to further extend existing partnerships, generate new synergies, opportunities, and recognition - thus leading to stronger networks and increasingly collaborative ties in the future of eHealth.

For details on how to apply to our **Interoperability Award**, please fill out our application form; applications are now open.

Selection Process

1. Relevant projects/workgroups/initiatives are invited to apply via our online form. We will be open to incoming applications from March 1st 2022 until April 29th 2022.
2. Following the deadline, the X-eHealth project will convene to select a group of finalists, following a set of 4 criteria. This group, in the eyes of the X-eHealth project, represents relevant and outstanding contributions in the field of health data interoperability. Shortlisted finalists will be notified of their selection via email and publicly announced.
3. After the deliberation of the **Interoperability Award** finalists, a public vote will be held to determine 1 Award Winner (the most voted finalist). This vote will be held online, and disseminated throughout X-eHealth's partners, networks and stakeholders. This public vote will stand from the announcement of the finalists (in mid May), up until June 30th 2022.
4. The X-eHealth project will also award honorable mentions for the application with the highest score in each criterion category.
5. The winner and honorable mentions will then be presented with the awards at X-eHealth's Innovation Day Event.

Selection Criteria and Rules

1. This award aims to recognize excellence and innovation in health data interoperability. Interoperability "is used for the situation in which two organizations are lined up to work together in order to provide collaborative healthcare. This lining up requires activities and arrangements, as well on human levels as on more technical levels of information structuring and electronic communication. It should be noted that the partners in interoperability can be similar in nature (e.g., two countries, two hospitals), or dissimilar (e.g., a hospital and a community pharmacy)" (eHealth Network, *Refined eHealth European Interoperability Framework*, 2015).
2. We recognize excellence and innovation, in initiatives, workgroups and projects, that have produced or continue to produce work that significantly contributes to overcome complex obstacles, and/or substantially improve efficiency, in the contemporary health interoperability paradigm. We also welcome applications from ongoing projects, which have expected outputs that positively impact the field.
3. To guarantee a fair and transparent appraisal, applications will be assessed according to **4 selection criteria**:
 - a. **Criterion 1: Trust-inspiring**. The initiative shows transparency, security and ethical responsibility in handling data, and/or the focus of it is to provide solutions to improve the transparency, security and ethical responsibility of others handling health data.
 - b. **Criterion 2: Innovative excellence**. The initiative is committed to advancing potentially paradigm-shifting innovation in the field of health data interoperability.
 - c. **Criterion 3: Technical excellence**. The initiative demonstrates great attention to data quality, employing (or creating) methodologies and tools to ensure that users and stakeholders can have consistently high-quality data.
 - d. **Criterion 4: Following X-eHealth**. The initiative is positioned to be a beneficiary of X-eHealth's outputs or has been a contributor to the project's work.

Each criterion will be assigned a weighing of 25% and will be marked on a scale of 1-10.

4. Applications with an average criterion score higher than 5, will move on to the public vote phase.
5. Applications are welcome from a wide variety of types of groups and projects, provided that the body of work is relevant to health data interoperability, and that it aims to improve upon the current status quo.
6. In the interest of promoting diversity, only a maximum of 2 applications will be accepted from the same country of origin. In the eventuality of more than 2 applications are received from the same country, the 2 applications with the highest average criteria score will be selected for the public vote.
7. The public vote aims to reflect a sincere recognition by the eHealth community and stakeholders. As such, we will discourage voters from casting more than one vote. Any suspicious activity detected in the voting process may result in vote nullification, or elimination of finalists.
8. This award aims to promote and disseminate noteworthy endeavors throughout the eHealth community – it does not carry a financial prize, or a material reward.

9. All deadlines should be considered final, at midnight CET of the given dates. Any extensions and/or changes to deadlines will be announced via X-eHealth's online channels.
10. The winner will be announced after voting is closed and invited to present their project and receive the award at X-eHealth's **Innovation Day Event**. The award and winner will be divulged and disseminated through the X-eHealth project community and communication channels.
11. Any omission or unforeseen situation is to be decided by the X-eHealth project. We are available for any clarifications at x-ehealth.secretariat@spms.min-saude.pt.