2023 Thought Leader EHTEL Symposium: Sessions' Reports

Digital health implementation: It’s a collaborative business

Digital health implementation is all about collaboration. Everyone in the rich and wide-ranging digital health ecosystem needs to be involved. Many different stakeholders and players have to play their part. Indeed, everyone is in this activity together. It really does take a whole ‘orchestra’ to achieve success! This symposium focused therefore on how to collaborate and not simply on why collaborate.

This 2023 EHTEL Thought Leader Symposium offered attendees lots of ideas for how to handle their own implementation challenges. It presented the audience with stories about how a wide variety of different players have been successful when implementing digital health. The fields of application were wide. Geographically, they ranged from the local/regional, to national, European, and international. Institutionally, they covered community and organisational contexts as well as clinical, medical, and medicinal settings. Topic-wise, the coverage of applications that spanned personal health records, ePrescribing, and artificial intelligence (AI). The day culminated with a focus on value-based healthcare. Lots of attention was paid to how these challenges have all been met through collaborative ventures.

In 2023, the EHTEL Symposium was organised in the frame of the Digital Health and Data Week, the result of a collaboration between EHTEL, I~HD, and the UNICOM project consortium. The three partnered together to work on digital health solutions and data that result in the provision of real value for care and research. All three days of the week included complementary topics: their content was very synergistic. Social and networking events enabled plenty of mutual discussion and dialogue.

Key statistics

At EHTEL’s 2023 Thought Leaders’ Symposium, there were:

- Eight sessions as well as an opening address and closing session
- Two sponsors: the Scottish Government, Sorsix
- Two supporting EU co-financed projects: DigitalHealthUptake, UNICOM
- 26 speakers
- 85 attendees, and more online.

To know more about the programme, the participants, and speakers, visit the Symposium programme page.

The Symposium made available plenty of knowledgeable, high-level attendees and speakers with lots of background in implementing digital health in a range of settings. People were keen to share their experiences how to collaborate and not just why to collaborate. This made for lots of discussions in order to exchange experiences and some very rewarding networking.

Session summaries

1. Opening address and Keynote speech
2. Unlocking two critical bolts: Achievements of Europe’s large-scale projects
3a. Digital health solutions adoption and upscaling
3b. Medicines data integration for clinical use
4. Deploying digital health in the community
5. Key architectural concepts for digital integrated governance
6a. AI in healthcare: how context challenges implementation
6b. A flexible and reliable circle of trust between organisations
7. Towards value-based healthcare: the contribution of digital health solutions

Who was there

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The 2023 EHTEL Symposium brought together, in-person, in Ghent, Belgium, and online, health professionals and enthusiasts from all around Europe and beyond. The European Union member states covered included Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Spain. From Europe more widely, there were speakers/attendees from Norway and the United Kingdom (mostly Scotland). More globally, there were speakers/attendees from Australia, Canada, Israel, and North Macedonia.

See who the speakers were and take a look at their biographies.

Learn what materialises when you meet and network with representatives of:

- healthcare authorities
- healthcare providers
- European health and care associations
- innovation hubs
- organisations involved in the pharma world
- start-ups, and many more.

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