

1. About the project:

The HealthData@PT initiative aims to establish the national infrastructure, network, and key elements necessary for the technical implementation of the future Health Data Access Body in Portugal, to ensure the secure access and processing of health data for research, medical innovation, and health policy development, as outlined in the proposed regulation of the European Health Data Space for secondary use. This initiative also seeks to provide recommendations for improving the quality of electronic health data at the level of data holders, with the objective of enhancing the overall quality of health data for research and medical innovation purposes.

In this context, HealthData@PT intends to prepare the national ecosystem for the secondary use of health data, both at the national and cross-border levels, with the primary aim of improving therapeutic outcomes and strengthening the healthcare system. The creation of these key national elements is critical to ensuring the successful future integration of Portugal into cross-border infrastructures, such as HealthData@EU.

2. Objectives

To establish, design, implement, and prepare future services for the Health Data Access Body in Portugal, the HealthData@PT project will introduce 5 key digital business capabilities:

1. A **Data Access Application Management Solution** capable of receiving and processing requests for health data access within two months, to streamline the process of requesting access to health data for secondary use purposes.
2. A publicly accessible **National Dataset Catalogue**, with descriptions of the data available in a common format to facilitate the discovery of health data.
3. Implementation of a **Secure Processing Environment (SPE)** for health data processing, ensuring high standards of security, integrity, and confidentiality, and promoting the safe and controlled use of data.
4. Deployment of a **Cross-Border Gateway** with the necessary services and requirements to connect the national infrastructure to the European HealthData@EU infrastructure, contributing to cross-border health data access.
5. Development of **Data Quality improvement strategies**, including guidelines and recommendations to support data holders in enhancing data quality, promoting interoperability, and encouraging the safe reuse of data.

1 Data Quality Improvement

Strategies to improve the quality and interoperability of health data

5 Cross-border Data Access

A Gateway to connect the national infrastructure with the European HealthData@EU infrastructure for cross-border health data discovery and access

2 Data Discovery

A National Catalog that exposes the datasets available for secondary use, in a standardized format

3 Data Access Application

A Data Access Application Management System to streamline the requests for accessing to health data

4 Processing of the Data

A Secure Processing Environment equipped with tools for data processing and high security standards

European Catalog exposing the datasets available for secondary use on the HealthData@EU central platform



3. Impact for health in Portugal

By aligning with European and national strategies, this initiative will advance Portugal's capabilities in the secondary use of health data, promoting a regulated, more efficient, and extensive use of health data for scientific research, public health, regulatory activities, and other purposes, ultimately benefiting various groups within Portugal's healthcare ecosystem.



Benefits for the citizen: The HealthData@PT project will bring important benefits to citizens by ensuring strong privacy and security. Health data will only be accessed by researchers, industry, or public institutions for specific purposes that benefit individuals and society, and always in secure environments that protect identities. This project will also support better healthcare by providing access to data towards enabling improved diagnoses, more effective treatments, and personalized care. Citizens will also contribute to advancing science and medicine, as their data will help develop new health technologies that benefit the society as a whole.



Benefits for the scientific community: The HealthData@PT project provides the scientific community with access to extensive health data resources to support research efforts. Researchers will be able to more easily discover what data is available, where it is located, and its quality. The data access process will be streamlined and structured for efficiency, and data will be processed in a secure environment with conditions optimized for research. This initiative opens up new opportunities for scientific exploration and innovation, advancing healthcare knowledge and solutions.



Benefits for public health: The HealthData@PT project enhances public health by giving regulators and policy-makers easier and more transparent access to health data. This supports safer, better-functioning healthcare systems and more informed decision-making. Analyzing population health data also improves the prediction and response to disease outbreaks, strengthening public health efforts. Additionally, using health data insights to identify trends helps create targeted policies, building a healthcare system that better serves the population's needs.

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