



# IDIH

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION  
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION  
HEALTHY AGEING

## D3.1

# Digital health transformation forum set-up report

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### Abstract

The aim of this report is to explain the plan for the set-up of the Digital Health Transformation Forum within the IDIH project. It explains the structure of the expert groups and the process of selection of the Expert Group Members and their role in the Forum.

### Keywords

Digital transformation forum; set-up; expert groups; stakeholder; digital health; healthy ageing

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation, Acronym	Description
AHA	Active and Healthy Ageing
AI	Artificial Intelligence
APRE	Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea (project partner)
ATC	Athens Technology Center S.A. (project partner)
CIHR	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (project partner)
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
EC	European Commission
EG	Expert Group
GSBC	Global SMEs Business Council (project partner)
Health 2.0 LLC	Health 2.0 LLC (project partner)
inno	inno TSD (project partner)
IoT	Internet of Things
MedPeer Inc.	MedPeer Inc. (project partner)
RTI	Research, Technology and Innovation
SPS	School of Pharmaceutical Science Tsinghua University (project partner)
S2i	Steinbeis 2i GmbH (project partner)

## Executive Summary

The aim of this deliverable is to explain the purpose and the process of setting up the Digital Health Transformation Forum. The Digital Health Transformation Forum is aimed at becoming a sustainable platform for international cooperation in digital health. The four Expert Groups (EGs) within the Forum will undertake collaborative actions in four selected focus topics (these topics are to be confirmed by the funding agencies of the involved countries including the European Commission): Preventive care; Integrated care; Independent and connected living and Inclusive living. The deliverable outlines the current state of art of these topics and explains what the focus of IDIH will be in regards with these focus topics.

The deliverable also outlines how other stakeholders – patients’ associations and representatives of older citizens’ interest groups, care providers, and policy makers will be involved in the Digital Health Transformation Forum. The deliverable explains the structure of the EGs: each of them operate on a chosen “focus topic” and is chaired by a scientific expert, supported by a professional facilitator (who is a member of the IDIH consortium). All EGs will operate on an individual action plan, but close exchange through joint meetings and reports will ensure overall alignment. The EGs will be composed of at least six members each that will be selected in an open and inclusive approach from the EU and all Strategic Partner Countries.

Following, the selection process of the experts is explained: as the IDIH project aims at establishing a collaborative and open approach for the international expert cooperation, experts will be selected via an open call, including the EG Chairs. EG members will involve members from the EU and all Strategic Partner Countries and will be selected with respect to their expertise in alignment with the pre-selected focus topics and ensuring a good representation of all major stakeholder groups of the IDIH project (research, technology, industry, innovation facilitators, user associations, etc.).

In addition, the EC and international countries’ funding authorities will be able to nominate candidates for the EGs to ensure alignment with policy priorities. Candidates suggested by the National Funding Agencies will be directly admitted as members of the EGs, without going through the selection process. The experts will be chosen by the selection committee, which consists of the whole consortium.

The expectation from the experts includes contribution to the EG activities and attendance of the three EG workshops. The major outcome of the work undertaken during the activities of the EGs and the three EG Workshops will be the development of a roadmap that will be presented as the report D3.7 “Towards an international collaboration in digital health roadmap”. It will include concrete proposals for future collaboration directions and suggestions for shaping the path for future interaction of stakeholders in the Digital Health Transformation Forum and suggestion for potential funding schemes.

# 1 Introduction

IDIH (International Digital Health Cooperation for Preventive, Integrated, Independent and Inclusive Living) is a 36-month Coordination and Support Action (CSA) (May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022), co-funded by the European Commission (EC) under the European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, aiming to promote and increase international cooperation to advance digital health in the EU and key Strategic Partner Countries to support active and healthy ageing (AHA) through innovation.

IDIH will operate as a catalyst for the international dialogue in digital health. Based on identified key opportunities and shared priorities for global cooperation in digital health, the IDIH project will set up a Digital Health Transformation Forum as a long-lasting and expert-driven mechanism to foster collaboration between the EU and five Strategic Partner Countries (i.e. the USA, Canada, China, Japan and South Korea).

More in detail, IDIH has set the following high-level objectives:

- Support the definition of common priorities to enhance strategic international cooperation in digital health for AHA in line with policy orientations;
- Provide specific contributions to the international dialogue in digital health for AHA;
- Facilitate the exchange between Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) stakeholders from the EU and Strategic Partner Countries in digital health for AHA;
- Foster international collaboration for digital solutions for health care benefitting the society and industry.

## 2 Set up of a “digital health transformation forum” through expert groups

The Expert Groups (EGs), involving consortium members and external experts, are a core element of the IDIH project. Together they will form the Digital Health Transformation Forum, which is aimed at becoming a sustainable platform for international cooperation in digital health.

As the IDIH project aims to establish a collaborative and open approach for the international expert cooperation, experts, including the EG chairs, will be selected via an open call. The EG members will involve members from the EU and all Strategic Partner Countries and will be selected with respect to their expertise in alignment with the pre-selected focus topics and ensuring a good representation of all major stakeholder groups of the IDIH project (research, technology, industry, innovation facilitators, user associations, etc.).

The four EGs will undertake collaborative actions in four selected focus topics (these topics are to be confirmed):

- Preventive care - Facilitator: APRE
- Integrated care - Facilitator: S2i
- Independent and connected living - Facilitator: Health 2.0 LLC

- Inclusive living - Facilitator: ATC

All EGs will operate on an individual action plan, but close exchange through joint meetings and reports will ensure overall alignment.

A major result of the expert-driven work will be the development of a roadmap for future collaboration in priority areas, pointing to suitable potential funding schemes. The “Digital Health Transformation Forum” is expected to become a long-lasting mechanism for international dialogue in digital health.

### 3 Selected focus topics

#### 1. Preventive care - Focus: early diagnosis and detection

**Active and healthy aging begins with a prolonged health regimen. Tech-enabled solutions that engage users in health and wellness techniques will allow active and meaningful senior lifestyles.**

**Current State:** The current state of technologies in the preventative care realm include wearable technology, which is primarily based around safety and vital monitoring, and health technology that utilises new ways to allow individuals to remain active and healthy when advancing in age. General health and wellness technologies allow users to practice in a conscious and participatory way. These applications allow for coaching, testing for sharpness, and more clinical applications that can detect conditions early on. New advances in health devices add to the internet of things (IoT) that can affect healthcare; apps that test and practice visual acuity, gamified memory apps, health logging and medicine reminders all help delay onset of issues associated with age. With greater access to medical data, and the ability to monitor it at home, solutions can now utilise artificial intelligence (AI) and clinical workflows to assist health awareness like sleep cycle, blood sugar, exercise, and blood pressure. The most advanced solutions can communicate across the continuum of care, looping in professionals to monitor and suggest modifications in lifestyle, increasing the potential for early detection.

**IDIH project focus:** the focus of IDIH within this field will be on innovative technological themes and applications on early diagnosis and detection such as health information technology, mHealth, portable and wearable devices, eHealth, telehealth/connected health, gamification, big data analytics, personal genomics, health and wellness apps, interoperability, social media and quantified self.

#### 2. Integrated care - Focus: using new technologies to redesign, coordinate and integrate health and social services and place citizens, patients and seniors at the centre of health systems.

**Every unique individual represents the core of health solutions and services. Technology in the integrated care domain is intended to provide support at the point of care, anytime and anywhere. This type of innovation includes data-sharing between relevant users, and seamless interoperability of devices, tools and care providers.**

**Current State:** Tech that can bring other services to a singular point will flourish in this developing market. Whether connecting devices to offer personal health insights, making scheduling and coordinating with caretakers more seamless, or automating once laborious processes, integrated care will be at the heart of impactful innovation in this space. Ease of use and functionality will be a key element to ensuring proper patient engagement and adoption, leading to future commercial success. Solutions can be developed and promoted on both the consumer and provider side with different pricing and services offered allowing user acceptability.

**IDIH project focus:** work to be done will focus on new and innovative technologies for the following application areas:

- For the individual - tools to enable them to manage their own health conditions and/or care and support arrangements, getting information, advice, peer support etc.;
  - For professionals - information sharing, shared records and assessments; happening in places but much nervousness about information governance issues;
  - For organisations - in communicating and engaging with the public they serve crowdsourcing etc.
3. **Independent and connected living** - Focus: Tele-monitoring via smart home and living technologies

**With the burden of innovation on the device and software companies, there is a considerably low barrier of entry to offering quality tech enabled solutions. Many businesses are currently prototyping and developing in this space. These companies are comfortable sharing application programme interfaces (APIs) with developers, enabling a broader range of options to the consumer and a creative collaboration of ideas to ensure that the best products are brought into the market. Connected living is being made possible through smart sensors and buildings, mHealth solutions, mobility aids, secure data, robotics, and eHealth.**

**Current State:** There are various tele-monitoring solutions on the market right now. Technologies in the total home care market allow remote management of a loved one's home by allowing one to connect with smart home devices. Voice enabled solutions, particularly those that pair with existing AI and consumer tech solutions such as Alexa and Google home show a promising way to aid the elderly in their day-to-day lives. While these products are available to support the elderly through routine tasks, the question remains as to their true potential and how much these technologies can truly be of aid to the elderly, other than serving as simple chatbots that they can talk to and helping on tasks like medication management, logging daily habits, general monitoring, etc.

**IDIH project focus:** technological topics and themes such as IoT, automated emergency call systems, vital signs monitoring systems, reminding systems, automated health assessment and automated activity and fall detection systems will form the basis of all activities to be implemented with the scope of IDIH project.

4. **Inclusive living** - Focus: Helping the elderly feel more connected socially/ healthy living

**Healthy environments bolster healthy individuals. In the aging population, a component of healthy living is inclusivity, promoting positive social engagement, and ensuring a rewarding social aspect to age.**

**Current State:** There are various technologies that support inclusive living, including those that act as communication platforms for the elderly. These platforms work to connect family members, caregivers, and those being cared for. Isolation, and consequently depression and despondency, are critical concerns in the aging community. Using tech to breed a sense of inclusion, and worth, will go a long way for health outcomes. Simple things like geolocated social networks can have a large impact.

**IDIH project focus:** IDIH project will examine in depth a number of existing technologies and platforms in order to define the requirements for international collaboration on developing innovative platforms and solutions to support elderly people in their everyday life. By combining the functionalities of online service, retrieval and composition with respect to healthcare and wellbeing with those of an online social network, such a platform will provide an integrated online environment for elderly people in

particular help to bridge the gap between professional and voluntary peer-to-peer service offerings and communication between family members.

## 4 Involvement of other stakeholders

### 1. Involving patients' associations, representatives of older citizens interest groups and care providers with the Digital Health Transformation Forum

Representatives of 'end users' of the most relevant initiatives will be selected and invited to give their regular input and feedback on the work implemented by the Digital Health Transformation Forum. After the first development workshop of each EG, the Users Consultation Group will meet during a workshop with the EGs chairs (and members if deemed necessary). They will be presented with the main results from the workshop and be asked to give their feedback. Their input will be taken into account for the development of the successive iterations of the report 'Towards international cooperation in digital health' (D3.6 and D3.7). They will also participate in the final event. Two reports will be written on the two Consultation Group Meetings (D2.2 and D2.3).

### 2. Involving policy makers with the Digital Health Transformation Forum

IDIH aims to keep the funding agencies thoroughly involved in the processes implemented by the Digital Health Transformation Forum and its EGs.

The Digital Health Transformation Forum set up will be validated with policy makers. The results of analysis and matrix of priority collaboration topics developed within the project (D1.3) will be validated by the funding agencies working on digital health, within each of the Strategic Partner Countries as well as the European Commission. The funding agencies (including the EC) will also confirm that they agree with the focus topic chosen for each EG. A briefing note (D2.4) will present the focus topics jointly selected by the funding agencies for discussion by the Digital Health Transformation Forum.

In order to ensure a sense of ownership by the funding agencies, they will be able to nominate candidates for the EGs. Candidates suggested by national funding agencies will be directly admitted as members of the EGs, without going through the selection process.

All national funding agencies engaged in the project will be informed and made aware of the work to be implemented by the EGs, on a regular basis. All EG meeting minutes and draft versions of all publications related to their work will be shared for commenting and feedback. If necessary, virtual meetings will be organised to discuss specific issues related to the EGs implementation.

After each EG workshop, the funding agencies from the Strategic Partner Countries will meet with the relevant Commission officials in Brussels. During these Programme Level Cooperation meetings, the funding agencies (including EC services) will be able to:

- Give feedback and input for the development of the successive iterations of the reports produces as an outcome of the workshops;
- Discuss concrete joint activities as implementation of the experts and users recommendations (including joint funding);
- Provide input on IDIH activities, in particular to suggest format or thematic focus for the RTI stakeholders' workshops in order to insure better impact and long-term vision.

Two reports will be written on the two PLC meetings (D2.5 and D2.6).

## 5 Expert Group structure

Each EG operates on a chosen “focus topic” and is chaired by a **scientific expert**, supported by a **professional facilitator** (who is a member of the IDIH consortium).

The **facilitators** will have the responsibility of ensuring a fruitful interaction between the members of their group, both internal and external, and should be capable of driving discussions, extracting valuable points and propositions and managing a widespread and multicultural network of people.

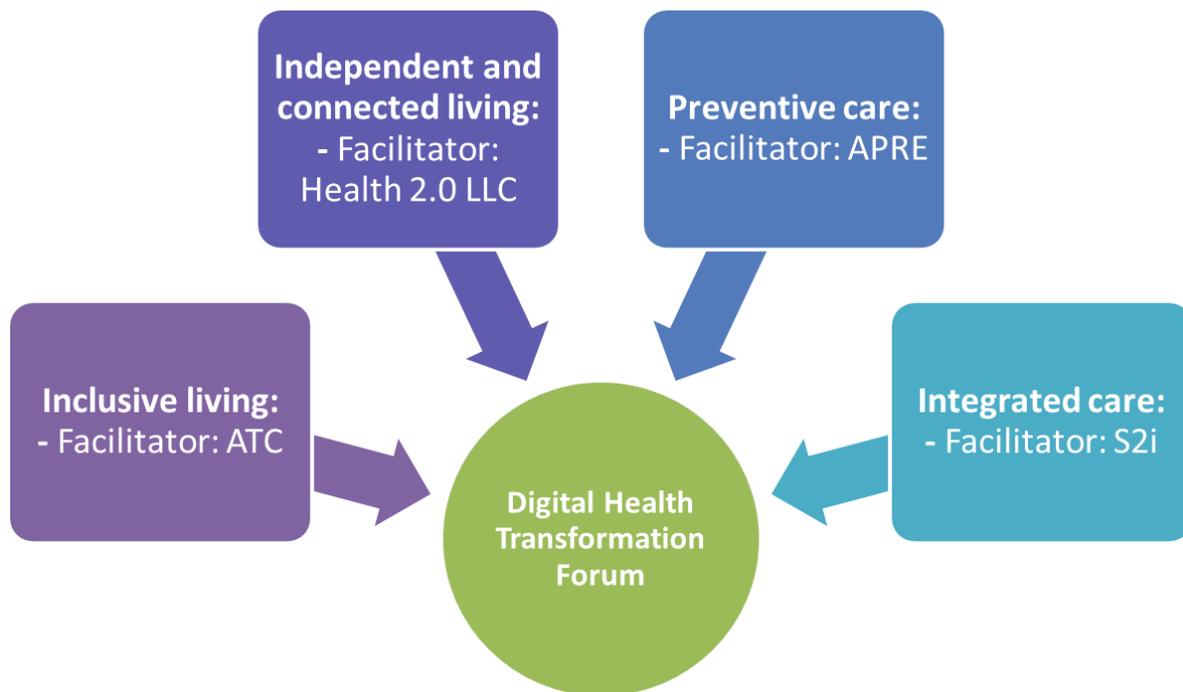


Figure 1: Facilitators of the Expert Groups

The scientific exchange will be managed by an **Expert Group Chair** who will be selected from the RTI community.

Each EG Chair will manage the planning of their respective group activity on a “scientific” level whilst the facilitators are in charge of the follow-up of deliverables, as well as administrative and financial activities (such as the organisation of events, reimbursement of external members’ travel costs, etc.). If necessary, the Project Coordinator S2i will be able to intervene on EG activity and management.

The EGs will be composed of at least six members, each that will be selected in an open and inclusive approach from the EU and all Strategic Partner Countries. Members will come from research, technology, industry, innovation facilitators, user associations, advocacy groups, etc. Each EG will include at least one representative from the EU (apart from the facilitator) and one from each Strategic Partner Country.

## 6 Selection process for the expert group members

As the IDIH project aims at establishing a collaborative and open approach for the international expert cooperation, experts will be selected via an open call, including the EG Chairs. EG members will be selected with respect to their expertise aligned to the focus topics and ensuring a good representation of all major stakeholder groups of the IDIH project (i.e. research, technology, industry, innovation facilitators, user associations, advocacy groups, etc.). It will be aimed to have a balance between the different stakeholders. Each EG will include at least one representative from the EU (apart from the facilitator) and one from each Strategic Partner Country. For the EGs, as well as any other project activity, gender balance will also be taken into account.

### Procedure of the open call:

- The Call of Experts will be published on the IDIH project website as well as social media channels (i.e. Twitter and LinkedIn) and will be disseminated through partners and other networks (will have to include a CV). Terms of References for the potential candidates will be published together with the call.
- The call and the application form that the candidates have to fill out will remain active for a period of 45-60 calendar days allowing interested individuals (candidates) to prepare and apply for becoming part of the EGs. The preliminary date for the publication of the call is set for the beginning of December 2019.

*In line with General Data Protection Regulations (Regulation n°2016/679, GDPR), the data collected through the applications will be kept completely confidential and will be used exclusively for the purpose of recruiting Expert Group members.*

### Selection criteria:

- Candidate's expertise is in line with the EG topics that reflect the common priorities of the EU and the Strategic Partner Countries (based on their CV);
- The candidate must have at least 10 years of experience in their field (or proven track record in their field in exceptional cases);
- Ability of the candidate to contribute towards the objectives of the EG and the project;
- The candidate has to be currently active in the field and represent one of the following stakeholder groups: RTI actor/ industry actor/ innovation facilitator/ user association/ advocacy group;
- The candidate must be from the EU/ USA/ Canada/ China/ Japan / South Korea.

***Note:** In order to ensure a sense of ownership by the European Commission and international countries' funding authorities, they will be able to nominate candidates for the EGs to ensure alignment with policy priorities. Candidates suggested by National Funding Agencies will be directly admitted as members of the EGs, without going through the selection process.*

### Dissemination of the call:

All project partners will disseminate the call for experts to their own network and publish it on their website and/or social media channels if possible. Targeted dissemination of the call will be done to relevant stakeholders identified by the project partners (possibly through other IDIH activities such as interviews, workshops, helpdesk, key speakers at conferences, stakeholder met from similar initiatives etc.).

#### **Selection committee:**

The selection committee will consist of the whole consortium. The selection committee will choose one successful candidate per targeted country and the EU, for each EG. Selected EG members will be financially supported by the IDIH project to participate in EG activities. More members can be accepted but will not be financially supported by the IDIH project to participate in EG activity.

## **7 Expectations from Expert Group Members and expected outcomes of participation**

### **Expectation from EG members**

- To contribute to the EG activities: Activities to be implemented by each EG will be defined by an **action plan**, to be developed by each EG independently. Each action plan (EG focused) – and scheduled activities – will aim to advance on the suggested topics of collaboration of the draft roadmap (“Towards an international collaboration in digital health, version 1.0) and elaborate on strategies to enhance collaboration of RTI stakeholders. Examples of activities to be included in each action plan could be (but are not limited to):
  - Innovation & Policy observatory for Digital Health: establishing a “soft” monitoring mechanism to record any recent advancements and trends on innovation and policy aspects related to Digital Health topics/areas of interest;
  - Foresight Exercises: implement foresight exercise to define or predict where specific Digital Health areas will be 10 years from now;
  - Networking and Community building activities: i.e. organisation of webinars, workshops.
- To participate in three EG meetings (and related workshops) during the project lifetime (36 months). All EGs will meet at least three times (in-person) and virtually (as needed) in order to promote interactions among EG members. More specifically, each EG will organise three workshops:

### **Timeline of the workshops**

**1st EG Workshop (date to be confirmed):** The first EG Workshop will be organised in order to set the basis and foundations for each EG and support knowledge exchange and mutual learning on the topics of interest. Topics for discussion will include presentations on the current status in the domains of the EG groups and relevant application domains; policy gaps in the thematic group domains, future perspectives, needs for future development; research and innovation challenges. All four EG groups

will either participate in a dedicated workshop with parallel sessions or will implement their EG groups meeting in separate dates, according to the availability of the participants.

**Expected outcomes:**

- D3.2: 1st Expert Group workshop report
- D3.6: Report “Towards an international collaboration in digital health, version 1.0”

**2nd EG Workshop (date to be confirmed):** The second EG workshop will be a follow-up of the first workshop and will aim to updated findings and develop concrete steps for collaboration between all countries in the field of digital health. In addition, findings reported in *D3.6: “Towards an international collaboration in digital health, version 1.0”* will be presented and updated if necessary. Similar with the first EG Workshop, all four EGs will either participate in a thematic workshop with parallel sessions or will implement their thematic groups meeting in separate dates, according to the availability of the participants.

**Expected outcomes:**

- D3.3: 2nd Expert Group Workshop report

**3rd EG Workshop (date to be confirmed):** The third EG Workshop will be co-organised with the Final Event of the project and will target on setting up the final agenda for collaboration in digital health among all countries and validate the results of *3.7: “Towards an international collaboration in digital health, version 2.0.”*

**Expected outcomes:**

- D3.5: 3rd Expert Group Workshop report
- D3.7: Report “Towards an international collaboration in digital health, version 2.0”

**Overall expected outcome of the Expert Groups’ work:**

The major outcome of the work undertaken during the activities of the EGs and the three EG Workshops will be the development of a roadmap which will be presented as the report *D3.7 “Towards an international collaboration in digital health roadmap”*.

Analytical work will be undertaken in each thematic group domain (EG topics of interest) to investigate collaboration pathways in digital health between all countries and regions related to the project, including potential funding schemes. Initial findings and topics for collaboration will be presented in *D3.6: “Towards an international collaboration in digital health, version 1.0”* and will form the basis for action plans to be developed and implemented by each EG. The report will also be shared with key stakeholders not being members of the EGs, for feedback and validation. The second and final iteration of this report *D3.7: “Towards an international collaboration in digital health, version 2.0.”* will include concrete proposals for future collaboration directions and suggestions for shaping the path for future interaction of stakeholders in the Digital Health Transformation Forum and suggestion for potential funding schemes. Both reports will be addressed mainly to policy makers and funding agencies of all engaged counties and regions, while dedicate chapters (per each EG groups) will provide clear suggestions per topic of interest.

## 8 Operational modalities of the Expert Groups

### 8.1 Expert Group Workshops

Tentative planning of the workshops has commenced. The possibility of co-locating all three workshops with other project events and/or back-to-back with suitable events where relevant stakeholders will already be gathered, such as major health conferences to offer an added value to the experts, will be explored.

A draft agenda proposed by the hosting party will be finalised with the coordinator through an iterative process well in advance of the meeting and if possible no later than 30 days prior to the meeting.

*Ad hoc* members may be invited to participate in meetings for which a specific area of expertise may be identified.

### 8.2 Confidentiality issues

The materials of the EGs will be made public, after validation by the EG members. Those documents will be circulated to the EG members, asking for comments and remarks where applicable until a certain deadline. If no feedback is provided until this deadline, the consortium will consider the documents as approved.

### 8.3 Resources

The travel costs of the first six nominated/selected members of each EG (24 EG members overall), from both the EU and the Strategic Partner Countries, will be funded by the IDIH project. The costs of additional experts (in case there are any) will not be funded by the project.

### 8.4 Timescale and Duration

The EGs are established for the duration of the project.

### 8.5 Legal Status

Terms of Reference addressed to potential candidates will be published together with the call. These Terms of Reference are not intended to create any legally binding obligations and do not constitute an agreement under international law.

## 9 Conclusion

The conclusion aims to shortly recap the content of the various chapters of the deliverable. Chapter 1 introduces and gives a short summary of the project. Chapter 2 summarizes the purpose and the process of setting up the Digital Health Transformation Forum, which is aimed at becoming a sustainable platform for international cooperation in digital health. The four EGs within the Forum will undertake collaborative actions in four selected focus topics. Chapter 3 presents the current state of art of the focus topics and explains what the focus of IDIH will be in regards with these focus topics. Chapter 4 explains the involvement of other stakeholders in the Forum. Chapter 5 outlines the structure of the EGs: each of the four focus groups will be chaired by a scientific expert and will be



composed of at least six members that will be selected through an open call by the selection committee. Chapter 6 explains the selection process of the experts: EG members will involve members from the EU and all Strategic Partner Countries and will be selected with respect to their expertise in alignment with the pre-selected focus topics and ensuring a good representation of all major stakeholder groups of the IDIH project. Chapter 7 lists the expectations from the experts: contribution to the EG activities and attendance of the three EG workshops. The major outcome of the work undertaken during the activities of the EGs and the three EG Workshops will be the development of a roadmap which will be presented as the report D3.7 *“Towards an international collaboration in digital health roadmap”*. It will include concrete proposals for future collaboration directions and suggestions for shaping the path for future interaction of stakeholders in the Digital Health Transformation Forum and suggestion for potential funding schemes. Chapter 8 outlines the operational modalities of the EGs.