Strategic Partners' Initiative for Data and Digital Health

What is the Strategic Partners' Initiative for Data and Digital Health (SPI-DDH)?

SPI-DDH is a collaboration network led by the WHO Regional Office for Europe that aims to tackle issues related to the digital transformation of health systems. By bringing together experts and stakeholders from the 53 countries across the WHO European Region, the SPI-DDH is working to ensure that all people can benefit from safe, affordable and person-centred digital health technologies.

Why does the WHO European Region need the SPI-DDH?

Digital tools – such as mobile applications, artificial intelligence (AI) and telehealth – can revolutionize health care, offering new opportunities for treatment, management and follow-up of health conditions. However, deploying new technologies and managing large volumes of personal data can pose challenges. These include a lack of clarity on how to facilitate digital innovation while maintaining data privacy, fragmentation of initiatives and approaches, and barriers to interoperability of health data.

Health systems are structured differently across the WHO European Region Member States. Factors including governance, regulation, infrastructure, the digital and health literacy of populations, and the economic and political situation in each country need to be considered when developing and deploying digital health solutions. Tackling these complex and diverse issues is possible through the multilateral approach of the SPI-DDH, which engages all relevant stakeholders and is guided by the needs of health workers and patients. Having an independent, international platform to share ideas and foster new partnerships is crucial to sustainable digital transformation and protection of individual rights.

What are the key objectives of the SPI-DDH?

The SPI-DDH aims to:

1. identify key challenges and propose solutions to implementing and scaling digital health care in the WHO European Region;

2. keep participants updated about developments in digital health and emerging technologies;

3. foster partnerships for equitable digital health care, accelerating the digital transformation of national health systems.

🔍 What are the benefits of participating in the SPI-DDH?

The SPI-DDH is a unique platform through which innovators, governments, academia and civil society can convene and address the critical issues surrounding the digitalization of national health systems. It offers opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders to contribute to solutions that affect digital transformation and empower people to manage their health and well-being. It is the only country-led forum on data and digital health that brings all key stakeholders together, with benefits flowing directly back into the design and implementation of reforms and solutions.

➕ Benefits for participants in the SPI-DDH

All participants	• Gain insight into countries' needs • Identify solutions that expedite digital transformation of health systems • Develop good practices that can be replicated in other countries • Create new partnerships for data and digital health
Member States	• Engage with experts to address critical digital health challenges • Receive concrete proposals to accelerate the digital transformation of health care
Private sector	• Collaborate with countries across the WHO European Region representing nearly 1 billion citizens • Share knowledge within an open and neutral environment • Match solutions to solve problems that prevent implementation and scaling of digital technologies
Academia	• Understand the perspectives of different data and digital health stakeholders to guide relevant research
Nongovernmental organizations/ civil society	• Advocate solutions that benefit specific and underserved communities • Highlight key concerns relating to data and digital health and their impact on populations, and collaborate with experts to incorporate them into solutions

Learn more about
the SPI-DDH

🔗 **bit.ly/SPI-DDH**