

**Press release  
The 3rd of June, 2021**

## **Health data : Santé Publique France and the Health Data Hub support the creation of a European structure, with the goal to contribute to the improvement of public health**

While the health crisis underlines more than ever the need for a global vision and for collaboration between States, [Santé Publique France](#) and the [Health Data Hub](#) join the Distributed Infrastructure on Population Health (DIPoH). A sustainable extension to the European Joint Action on Health information ([InfAct](#)) launched in 2018 by the European Commission and coordinated by the Belgian Public Health Institute [Sciensano](#), DIPoH will facilitate the collaboration and the sharing of good practices between European countries around health data. By jointly signing the Memorandum of Understanding, Santé publique France and the Health Data Hub enter a new chapter in their European collaboration and contribution to the European health data space, and reaffirm their commitment to improve population -- health.

### **Improve the visibility and availability of health data in Europe**

DIPoH (Distributed Infrastructure on Population Health) will allow for a better integration and strengthening of health information and health data networks across Europe through services such as the creation of a European metadata catalogue and technical training sessions. DIPoH will promote the sharing of expertise and facilitate the exchange of good practices between European countries with regard to health data collection, evaluation, accessibility and reuse. Thanks to efforts from both Santé publique France and the Health Data Hub, DIPoH is a candidate to the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), whose objective is the development of research infrastructures within the European Union.

*“For Santé Publique France, as a continuation of InFAct, supporting the creation of this infrastructure together with the Health Data Hub means contributing to promote the digitalisation of the health sector, benefiting from its contributions towards population health. Using new technologies to produce robust and shared analyses at the European level will allow us to improve the quality of monitoring population health outcomes as well as disease burden and its determinants”, as pointed out by Geneviève Chêne, Executive director of Santé Publique France.*

*“Being part of DIPoH is fully in line with the Health Data Hub's strategic orientations for the year 2021 and beyond. In its ambition to federate the French health data ecosystem, the HDH will be able, by means of DIPoH, to promote the experience and excellence of many*

*French actors. The HDH will be able to have an impact on the structuring and the prioritization of the DIPoH roadmap right from its launch. After all, the HDH will be able to bring new knowledge on European trends and best practices in health data sharing to the French health data ecosystem, thanks to future interactions in the framework of DIPoH* highlighted Stéphanie Combes, director of the French Health Data Hub.

The creation of DiPoH is supported by at least twenty European structures who have signed an agreement or provided a letter of political support.

### **A project reflecting our strong European commitment**

Santé Publique France and the Health Data Hub's participation in DIPoH underlines the strong European commitment of both entities to contribute to the structuring of health data governance in Europe. Santé publique France and the Health Data Hub are collaborating with other French partners<sup>1</sup> as part of the TEHDAs action, coordinated by the Finnish Innovation Fund [Sitra](#) and aiming to produce recommendations for the future European Health Data Space. These two complementary projects will feed into the European health data space.

All of these initiatives and collaborations will gradually strengthen the governance, accessibility and structuring of health data at the European level, for the benefit of the entire ecosystem, including researchers, policy makers, private actors and citizens, and for the constant improvement of population health.

### **Press contacts**

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<sup>1</sup> French eHealth Agency (ANS), the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm) with its Service Units 47 (France Cohorte) and 14 (Portal for rare diseases and orphan drugs - Orphanet), Lyon Hospitals (HCL), Aix-Marseille University and Toulouse III Universities