

EUROPEAN HEALTH DATA SPACE

What secondary use makes possible

Putting existing health data to work for the public
good — within a strict legal framework.



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry for Digitalisation

Government commission for data sovereignty

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Scope

Key elements.

01

What primary use means

Collecting data for healthcare and care.

02

What secondary use means

Re-using health data for purposes other than direct patient care.

03

How access is authorised and data is protected

Pseudonymised or anonymised data, used only in a secure processing environment.

04

What secondary use makes possible

With a framework designed to protect data, health data can contribute to a variety of projects.

PART ONE

What primary use means

Collecting data for healthcare and care.

01

Health data is created every day

It is first created for healthcare and care. This is its **primary use**.

HEALTHCARE AND CARE



Visiting a doctor

The doctor updates the electronic medical record.

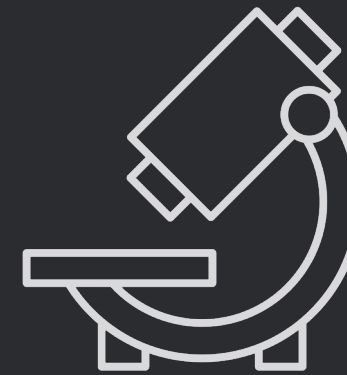
Medical record



Receiving treatment

Prescriptions, diagnoses and test results are recorded.

Treatment data



Taking part in a health study

Researchers collect information through surveys or assessments.

Study data



Public administration

Registrations, reimbursement claims and public health records.

Administrative data

PART TWO

What secondary use means

Existing health data is put to work for the benefit of society.

02

Re-use beyond primary care

Secondary use means re-using existing health data for new purposes. When re-used responsibly, health data can support:



Research



Innovation



Education



Public health activities



Policymaking



Official statistics

REMEMBER

Secondary use does not mean giving one person's file to another person.

Authorised users, approved purposes

Within a strict legal framework

PART THREE

How access is authorised and health data protected

Before anyone can re-use health data
a strict check takes place.

03

Every project is reviewed individually

The Government Commission for Data Sovereignty (CGSD), as the Health Data Access Body (HDAB), assesses each project individually and carries out a number of checks, including:

01

Is the health data requested necessary?

The purpose of the project, stated up front.

02

Is the purpose allowed under EU rules?

Checked against the purposes permitted by the EHDS.

03

Can safeguards be applied?

The rights of individuals and health data holders are safeguarded.

Health data stays protected

Researchers never work on directly identifiable patient files.

Only on pseudonymised or anonymised health data prepared for their specific project, and only within a secure processing environment.

The CGSD puts security measures in place to prevent misuse.

How health data is protected for individual-level health data access applications

HOW THE SAFEGUARDS FIT TOGETHER

GOES
IN

Pseudonymised dataset,
prepared just for this project



SECURE PROCESSING ENVIRONMENT

Researchers work inside

A controlled workspace — not the researcher's own machine. The data itself never leaves.



Output check:
every result is verified before it can be exported



COMES
OUT

Only anonymous data can be exported

PART FOUR

What secondary use makes possible

With a framework designed to protect data,
health data can contribute to a variety of projects.



04

Research and innovation

Health data helps researchers understand diseases and develop new solutions.



RESEARCH

Better understanding of diseases

- Identify trends
- Help develop new treatments



INNOVATION

New ways to deliver care

- New healthcare solutions
- AI-powered tools

Rare diseases across the EU

Larger datasets across the EU make it easier to study conditions that affect only a small number of people.

1

Isolated cases

A few patients in each country.

2

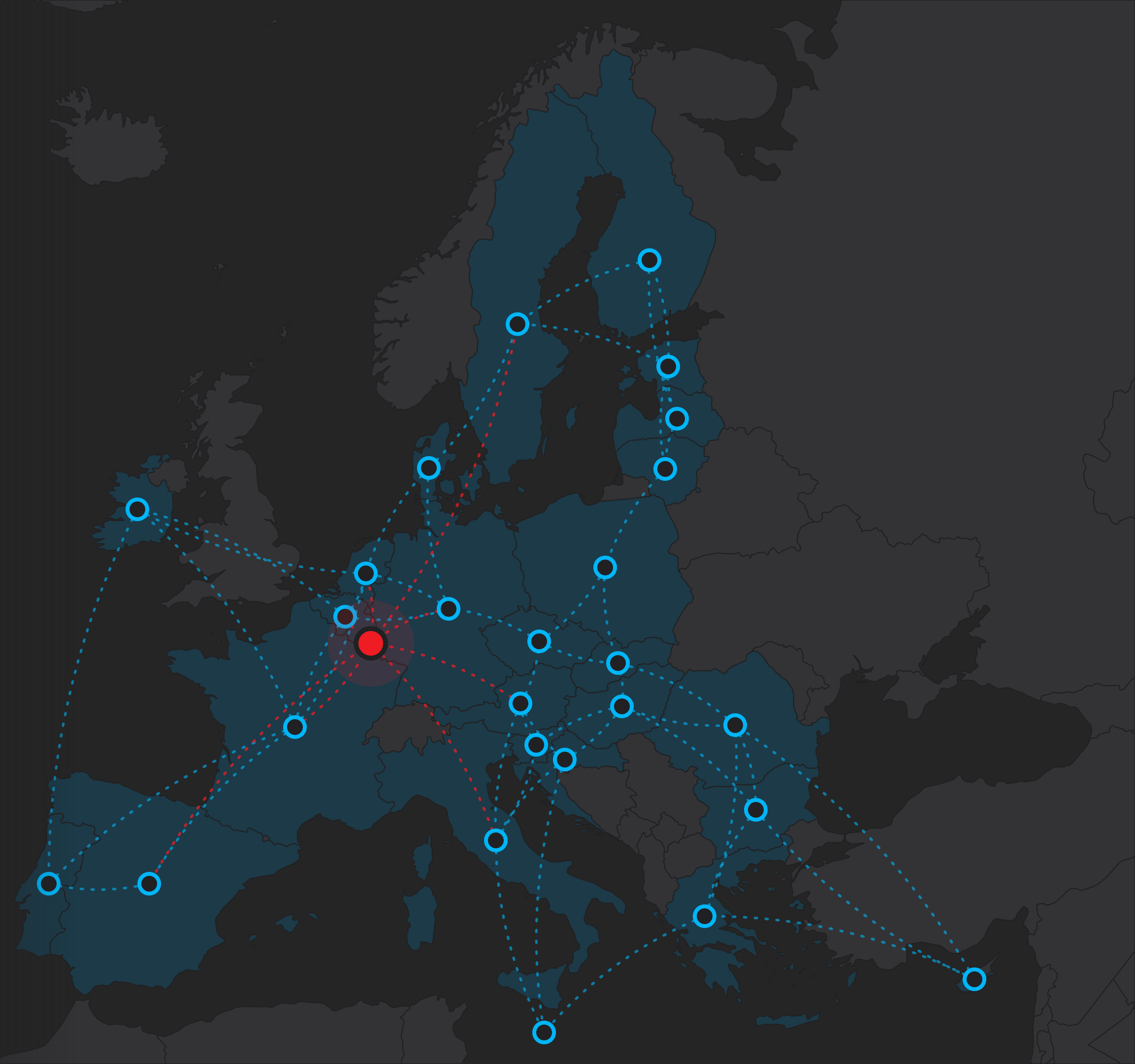
Securely connected

Health data from across the EU is brought together.

3

A complete picture

New approaches to diagnosis and treatment.



Public health and policy

Health data helps protect public health and gives policymakers stronger evidence.



Detect disease outbreaks

Spot outbreaks early, so health authorities can respond.



Understand risk factors

See what makes people more likely to fall ill.



Protect public health

Support decisions that keep people safe.



FOR POLICYMAKERS

Stronger evidence to improve healthcare systems and services.

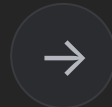
More than a record of the past

When re-used responsibly and securely, health data can contribute to research, strengthen our understanding of diseases, support innovation, and help improve healthcare.



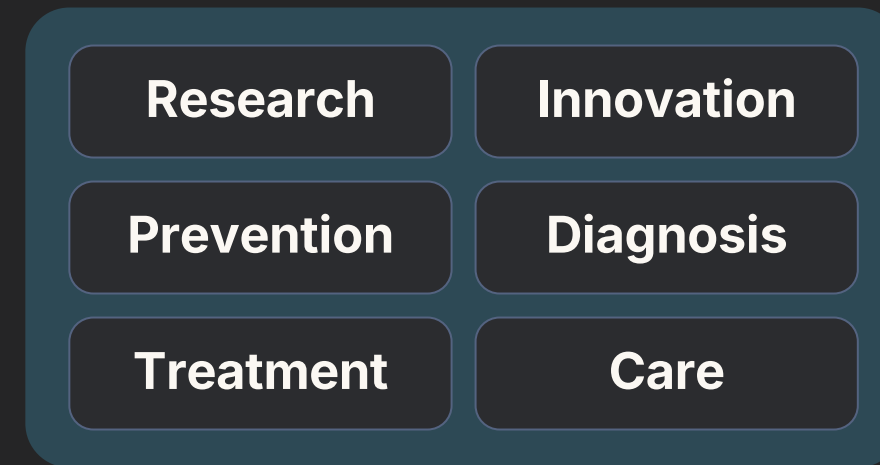
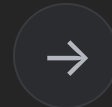
Health Data

Gathered in a secure environment.



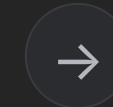
Knowledge

Patterns emerge and become evidence.



Better healthcare

Knowledge flows into every part of care.



Healthier People

For the benefit of the public

Questions?

Related training on EHDS secondary use:

What is the EHDS?

What is the HDAB?

Discovering datasets

What is an SPE?

Health data holder obligations



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