

The Joint Action Towards the European Health Data Space (TEHDaS) is a two-year initiative co-funded by the European Commission with support of 26 EU Member States that aims to develop and promote concepts necessary for the implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS). The action officially kicks off today, February 1st, 2021.

The French Health Data Hub (HDH) is the competent authority to coordinate the French response to TEHDaS. This means that the HDH will coordinate the work carried out with French institutional actors in various EU working groups aimed at designing the contours of the future EHDS.

After a series of preparatory internal and national working groups launched mid-2020, the HDH now officially kicks off the operational work, implying the expertise of no less than ten French “affiliated entities” , including the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm)’s [Service Unit 10 CépiDC](#) and [Service Unit 14 Orphanet](#), [Lyon Hospitals](#), [the French eHealth Agency \(ANS\)](#), [Aix-Marseille University](#) and [Paul-Sabatier Toulouse III University](#) and various experts.

The main objective of the European Health Data Space is to promote research and innovation at the EU level to improve the quality of healthcare and health systems. A special focus will be placed to include citizens as it is their data which will be reused under this framework, respecting their rights and high security standards.

The launch of TEHDaS takes place just a few weeks after the publication of the EU [‘Data Governance Act’](#) (DGA) proposal. The objective of the latter is to “improve the conditions for data sharing in the internal market, by creating a harmonized framework for the exchange of such data”.