

SPECIAL ISSUE

EUROPEAN HEALTH DATA SPACE: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, MARKET INTEGRATION AND DIGITAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE

The „One Health“ concept recognises the deep interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health. It promotes a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to addressing global health challenges, acknowledging the interdependencies between people, animals, and ecosystems. „One Health“ aims to prevent and control these by fostering cooperation among sectors like medicine, veterinary science, and environmental management. It also addresses broader issues like antimicrobial resistance and the impacts of environmental degradation on health. By recognizing these interdependencies, the „One Health“ approach facilitates more effective and sustainable solutions for global health, ensuring that efforts in one area support health outcomes across all three domains.

This duality raises important constitutional and regulatory tensions at the intersection of fundamental rights, market integration and digital health governance: How can fundamental rights, such as privacy and data protection (Arts. 7 and 8 CFR), be safeguarded alongside market integration under Art. 114 TFEU? How can EU-level harmonisation be reconciled with diverse national healthcare systems, professional secrecy rules, and ethical traditions in the context of the EHDS? How can public trust in health data use and reuse be secured when balancing individual autonomy with collective interests? Against this backdrop, the EHDS is not merely a digital infrastructure project but a constitutional and governance challenge that will shape the future of health data law in the European Union.

For this Special Issue we welcome contributions critically analyzing key elements of the EHDS, addressing legal, regulatory, and ethical questions raised by the EHDS, including but not limited to:

- Fundamental rights and the EHDS: reconciling privacy, data protection and individual autonomy with secondary use and market goals
- Governance models: Health Data Access Bodies, the EHDS Board, and multi-level regulatory coordination
- Interplay between the EHDS and existing EU frameworks (GDPR, Data Governance Act, Data Act, MDR, AI Act, NIS2 Directive)

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- The EHDS and constitutional limits of EU competences (Articles 114 and 168 TFEU)
- National adaptation challenges: interoperability, professional secrecy, medical confidentiality and consent regimes
- Public trust and legitimacy: transparency, oversight, and citizen engagement in health data governance
- Ethical and social justice issues: equality, digital divide, discrimination risks, and protection of vulnerable groups
- Cross-border and international dimensions: interaction with WHO Pandemic Treaty, OECD data governance, and global health law
- Intellectual property, competition, and innovation incentives in a health data-driven economy

The Special Issue invites a broad range of contributions, with a particular focus on original research papers, but shorter practical insights, country reports, and critical commentary are also welcome.

The Special Issue is Guest Edited by Prof. Dr. iur. Claudia Seitz, Head of the Institute of European and International Law (IEIL), Faculty of Law, Private University in the Principality of Liechtenstein (UFL).

All submissions will be subject to double-blind peer review prior to acceptance and must conform to the author guidelines.

(available at: www.lexxion.eu/ehpl-authorswww.lexxion.eu/ehpl-authoris)

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Please send your contributions to
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