



Report on

SEEHN Webinar on “Digital Health – From Theory to Practice”

*25th November 2025
(Online via ZOOM)*

SEE HEALTH NETWORK MEMBER STATES



SEEHN Secretariat

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1. Background

The SEEHN Webinar “*Digital Health – From Theory to Practice*”, jointly organized by the SEEHN Secretariat and the Ministry of Health of Israel, served as an important milestone in the region’s ongoing efforts to advance digital transformation in health. Building on the momentum generated during the Expert Meeting “*Towards Universal Health Coverage – Give Health an e-Chance!*”, held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in April 2025, this online event continued regional dialogue on strengthening digital health capacities across SEEHN Member States.

Held on 25th of November 2025, the webinar brought together national focal points and experts in digital health, eHealth, and health information systems for a focused exchange on emerging priorities, practical challenges, and strategic opportunities in the digitalization of health systems. Webinar gathered representatives from the member states as well as partner countries: Slovenia and Croatia. The meeting was created as both a knowledge sharing opportunity and a preparatory step toward the high level (in person) meeting planned for the first trimester of 2026 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Through experts’ presentations, case-based discussions, and collaborative reflection, the webinar aimed to deepen regional understanding of key domains such as interoperability, artificial intelligence governance, and the integration of AI-enabled services into routine care. The event also sought to strengthen alignment with EU and WHO digital health frameworks, supporting Member States in advancing coherent, interoperable, and resilient health systems capable of meeting current and future demands.

By convening technical leaders and policy experts from across the region, SEEHN reaffirmed its commitment to positioning digital transformation as a foundational element of equitable, efficient, and future-ready health systems. The insights gathered during the webinar will directly inform the agenda-setting and preparatory work for the upcoming Tel Aviv meeting, ensuring continuity, strategic focus, and collective progress.

2. Opening Session

Ms. Tatiana Paduraru, the Director of the SEEHN Secretariat, opened the webinar by welcoming participants and expressing appreciation to the Ministry of Health of Israel for co-hosting the event. She emphasized the growing interest among SEEHN Member States in digital health transformation, noting recent engagement in Malta where digital health and AI were central themes.

She highlighted that digital health remains a long-term priority for the SEEHN network, driven by the rapid evolution of technology and the need to strengthen health system resilience. Ms. Paduraru stressed the importance of governance, workforce preparedness, and regional collaboration, particularly given the uneven presence of national AI strategies across

the region. She also underscored the significance of the upcoming 2026 study visit to Israel as a practical continuation of this work.

Dr Asher Salmon, *Director of the Division of International Relations*, delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Health of Israel. He reflected on Israel's 25-year journey in digital health, describing it as a long, iterative process marked by both successes and failures. He emphasized several key elements required for sustainable digital transformation:

- Long-term investment and commitment from government and institutions,
- Robust legal and regulatory frameworks,
- Stakeholder engagement, including clinicians, administrators, and IT professionals,
- Digital literacy and workforce development, starting from academic training and
- Shared understanding that digital health is a national, not institutional, endeavor.

Dr. Salmon stressed that no country has a complete formula for digital transformation, making regional collaboration essential. He reaffirmed Israel's commitment to supporting SEEHN Member States through the presidency year and through upcoming in-person engagements.

Dr David Novillo Ortiz, *Head of the Data, Evidence and Digital Health Unit, (WHO EURO)* highlighted the alignment between SEEHN priorities and WHO's regional digital health agenda. He noted that European Region is the only region with comprehensive data on national AI readiness, and that while momentum is strong, significant gaps remain in interoperability, governance, workforce skills, and financing. AI becomes amplified intelligence in service of health and Israel is a great example which demonstrates how investments and interoperability result in innovations and digital capabilities.

He emphasized that digital transformation is fundamentally a health system project, not a technology project, and must be guided by trust, transparency, safety, and equity. Dr. Novillo highlighted the leverage of regional collaboration to accelerate progress and reduce fragmentation.

3. Technical Presentations

Mr. Yoel Ben Or, *Head of the Digital Health Division at the Ministry of Health of Israel*, presented Israel's approach to interoperability and the recently adopted Health Data Portability Act, which aligns conceptually with the European Health Data Space but is progressing at a faster implementation pace.

He outlined five practical challenges that countries face when building interoperable systems:

1. Standards Development: balancing government-led and community-driven approaches, particularly around FHIR adoption
2. Use Case Prioritization: choosing between quick wins and large-scale national projects

3. Capacity Building: addressing shortages in FHIR expertise and reducing reliance on external consultants
4. Legislation: determining whether to regulate vendors, health organizations, or both
5. Enforcement: ensuring standards are implemented correctly through certification and compliance mechanisms

Mr. Ben Or emphasized that interoperability remains foundational for AI adoption and that Israel's experience (both successes and failures) could provide valuable lessons for other SEEHN member countries.

Mr. Ran Milman, *Digital Health Division at the Ministry of Health of Israel*, presented Israel's national approach to AI in healthcare. He illustrated the potential of AI through three real-world examples:

- C-PI – predictive analytics for early identification of chronic disease patients at risk in order to have proactive, personalized care
- AIDOC – AI-supported radiology solutions for triage and diagnostics
- Mentaily – Mentaly's LIV – AI-powered psychiatric intake interviews

He also highlighted key risks: bias, hallucinations, outdated guidelines, model drift, and vulnerabilities to adversarial attacks.

Israel's regulatory approach includes:

- National expert committee on AI in healthcare
- Regulatory sandbox for safe experimentation (promoting breakthrough AI solutions in the healthcare system)
- AI Implementers Forum to support cross-organizational learning and problem-solving, to promote best practices and empower healthcare organizations through peer exchange and practical guidance
- Guidelines for safe deployment, monitoring, and evaluation

Mr. Milman stressed that AI governance requires coordination across the entire lifecycle, from research to implementation and across all stakeholders.

Dr. Ayelet Akselrod-Ballin, *Head and CTO of the Sheba Medical Center AI Center*, presented Sheba's comprehensive AI transformation strategy. Sheba, one of the world's leading digital hospitals, is implementing AI across multiple domains:

- Ambient listening and automated clinical documentation
- Conversational AI and patient interaction tools
- Multimodal AI research integrating imaging, text, and sensor data
- Operational optimization tools for hospital workflows
- Care Control Centre enabling view on different department and possible solution to problems (data in dashboards)

She emphasized the importance of:

- Prioritizing high-impact use cases
- Building internal AI literacy through the Sheba AI Academy
- Collaborating with other hospitals to scale solutions
- Ensuring ethical and safe deployment

Her presentation provided a concrete preview of what SEEHN participants could experience during the 2026 study visit.

4. Country Interventions and Discussion

Representatives from SEEHN Member States shared their national priorities, challenges, and expectations for the upcoming study visit. Key themes included:

- **Strong interest in Israel's practical experience**, especially in AI deployment and electronic health records
- **Need for guidance on data governance, privacy, and ethical AI use**
- **Challenges in workforce readiness**, particularly among senior clinicians
- **Ongoing national projects** in medical imaging, telemedicine, and digital registries
- **Desire for hands-on demonstrations** during the 2026 visit, including hospital workflows and real-time AI applications

Countries expressed readiness to deepen collaboration and share their own experiences during the forthcoming workshop.

5. Next Steps

For the Israeli Ministry of Health

- Finalize the 2026 workshop and study visit agenda incorporating the feedback from SEEHN Member States into the program design
- Coordinate site visits, including Sheba Medical Center and additional hospitals

For SEEHN Member States

- Provide additional input on priority topics for the workshop
- Identify national experts who may contribute presentations or case studies

For SEEHN Secretariat

- Support coordination between Member States and the Israeli team
- Ensure alignment with broader SEEHN digital health priorities
- Prepare follow-up documentation and planning materials for 2026

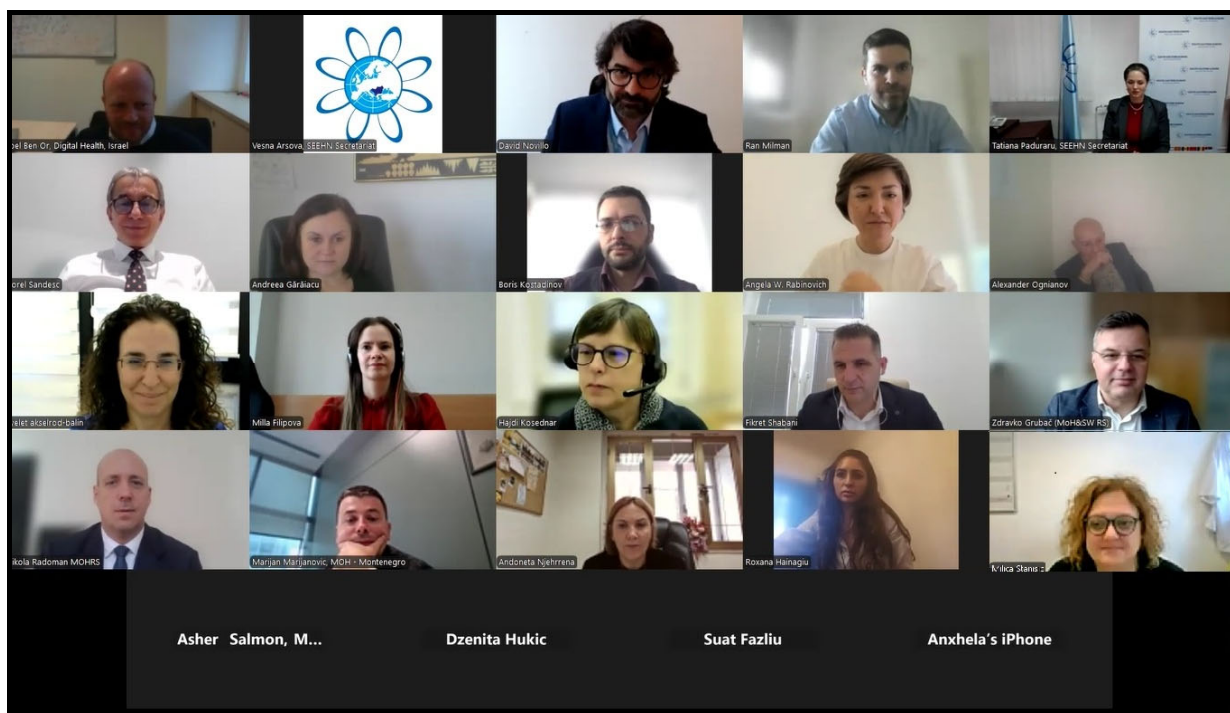
6. Conclusions

The webinar successfully advanced the regional dialogue on digital health transformation, providing both strategic insights and practical examples from Israel's experience. It reinforced the importance of interoperability, AI governance, and workforce development as foundational elements of modern health systems.

The session also laid the groundwork for the high-level in-person workshop in Israel in early 2026, which will offer SEEHN Member States an opportunity to engage directly with leading institutions and explore real-world digital health solutions.

SEEHN Secretariat, the Ministry of Health of Israel, and WHO Regional Office for Europe reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Member States in building resilient, interoperable, and future-ready health systems.

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Annexes:

1. Agenda
2. List of participants

SEEHN Webinar on Digital Health

Title: *Digital Health – From Theory to Practice*

Date: 25th November 2025

Time: 11:00 – 12:30 Central European Time (UTC+1)

Location: Online via zoom; Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eUcWYy9ERrKz884u9Gr3VQ>

Organizers: SEEHN Secretariat and Ministry of Health of Israel

Stakeholders: SEEHN Ministries of Health Focal Points and/or experts in digital health and eHealth

Background

The SEEHN Webinar “*Digital Health - From Theory to Practice*”, jointly convened by the SEEHN Secretariat and the Ministry of Health of Israel, represents a strategic continuation of the regional dialogue initiated during the Expert Meeting “*Towards Universal Health Coverage – Give Health an e-Chance!*”, held in Sofia (Bulgaria) in April 2025. This virtual gathering, scheduled for 25th November 2025 from 11:00 to 12:30 (CET), is designed to deepen regional understanding of digital health transformation and prepare the ground for a technical in-person meeting to be held in Tel Aviv in the first quarter of 2026.

Through collaborative reflection and strategic foresight, **SEEHN continues to position digital transformation as a cornerstone** of resilient, equitable, and interoperable health systems across the region and its Member States.

Objectives

- ✓ To deepen **regional understanding of key digital health domains:** interoperability, artificial intelligence regulation, and AI-enabled service delivery through expert-led presentations and case-based learning

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- ✓ To initiate a **preparatory dialogue for the upcoming in-person meeting** in Tel Aviv (first quarter of 2026), identifying common areas of concern and interest for further exploration
- ✓ To **strengthen regional alignment with EU and WHO digital health frameworks**, fostering readiness for cross-border collaboration and policy coherence.
- ✓ To **outline strategic follow-up actions** for regional collaboration and alignment

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced awareness and shared understanding of practical approaches to interoperability and AI integration in health systems, including regulatory and implementation pathways
- Initial mapping of strategic priorities across SEEHN Member States, to inform the agenda of the Tel Aviv meeting
- Strengthened expert network and collaborative momentum within SEEHN on digital health transformation
- Consolidated input from webinar participants to guide the design of deeper, country-specific discussions and joint proposals in 2026.

The **participants'** profile is expected to be with the following:

- Expertise in eHealth, digital health transformation, or health information systems (preferably from the Ministry of Health, National eHealth Authority, National Health Insurance Company, and/or a relevant health IT institution);
- Experience in developing or implementing national digital health strategies and systems;
- Familiarity with cross-border health data exchange, interoperability, and cybersecurity;
- Knowledge of EU and WHO digital health initiatives would be preferred.

AGENDA (1,5 hours total)

TIME (CET)	SESSION
11:00 - 11:15	<p>Opening Remarks and Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr Tatiana Paduraru, Head of the SEEHN Secretariat ○ Ms. Revital Mimran, Director International Relations Ministry of Health of Israel ○ Dr David Novilo Ortiz, Head, Data, Evidence and Digital Health Unit, WHO Regional Office for Europe
11:15 - 12:00	<p>Presentations from the host country</p> <p>Interoperability: From use cases to large-scale national implementation Mr. Yoel Ben Or, Director, Digital Health, Ministry of Health of Israel</p> <p>AI Regulation: Where are we heading, and how can we get there? Mr. Ran Milman, Head of AI Strategy, Digital Health, Ministry of Health of Israel</p> <p>AI Implementation: "AI-based hospital" - Case study: SHEBA Hospital Dr. Ayelet Akseleod-Ballin, Head and CTO of AI Center ARC Innovation, Sheba Medical Center</p>
12:00-12:20	<p>Discussion and Reflections, moderated by Israeli experts</p> <p>Open exchange on current state: challenges, opportunities, good practices, goals and achievements, potential for cross-country collaboration</p> <p><i>Reflections from Countries' Representatives</i></p>
12:20 - 12:30	Conclusions and Final Remarks

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SEEHN Webinar on Digital Health

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Time: 11:00 – 12:30 Central European Time (UTC+1)

Location: Online via zoom; Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eUcWYy9ERrKz884u9Gr3VQ>

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