

CRANE PRESS RELEASE

CRANE Prototypes Take Shape as Europe Agrees the Health Data Space

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Two years into the CRANE Pre-Commercial Procurement, the project's competing solutions are moving from design to working prototypes — and they are doing so at a defining moment for European digital health. In March 2024, the European Parliament and Council reached political agreement on the **European Health Data Space (EHDS)**, the very framework CRANE set out to anticipate in practice.

During Phase 2, the contracted consortia have been turning their Phase 1 designs into functioning prototypes, working hand in hand with the three buyer regions — Region Västerbotten (Sweden), Extremadura (Spain) and Agder (Norway). The work has been intense and genuinely collaborative, built on rounds of co-creation in which contractors and regions refined the solutions together rather than in isolation.

As the prototypes take shape, they confirm a conviction that has been at the heart of CRANE from the very beginning: **earning the citizen's trust is the foundation on which everything else stands**. CRANE's vision is to give the citizen open and trustworthy control of their own health data, and the use of it. Without that trust — in how data is governed, shared and protected — no solution, however sophisticated, will be adopted. As the project puts it, trust is not an afterthought; it is built in by design, ensuring transparency, security and ethical use of data at every level. It is the spirit captured in the project's motto: **"In CRANE we trust"**.

"What we are seeing in Phase 2 is encouraging on two fronts. The prototypes are taking real shape, and the European policy landscape is moving in exactly the direction CRANE anticipated. But the lesson we keep returning to is that technology alone is not enough: unless citizens trust how their data is handled, adoption will not follow. Trust is where CRANE begins."

Niclas Forsling, CRANE Coordinator

The timing is no coincidence. CRANE was conceived to put citizens at the centre of their own health data — precisely the ambition the EHDS now enshrines in European law. While Europe defines the rules, CRANE is testing, on the ground and with real regions, what it actually takes to deliver citizen-controlled health data sharing that people are willing to use.

With prototypes maturing and the policy window opening, the project now looks ahead to its most demanding stage: validation and field testing with real citizens and the professionals who support them. CRANE thanks all the contractors and stakeholders for their commitment during this phase.

All the best and let's CRANE!

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