

Centre for Rural Medicine – Region of Västerbotten in Sweden leads H2020 CRANE, a major investment in a new system where citizens can share their health data between healthcare and social care providers

2nd of June was the kick off of the Horizon 2020 project CRANE, which means that the Sparsely populated Medical Center in the Västerbotten Region, Storuman Municipality and Vilhelmina Municipality, together with regions in Spain - Extremadura and Norway – Agder region, will investigate and validate in real environments jointly with leading industry in the opportunities for a new system where citizens can share their health data among different care providers.

Today, it is not possible to share health data between, for example, municipal care and the region's healthcare due to various legislation that is intended to protect citizens. This causes obstacles, especially for people with chronic diseases who are in contact with various care providers. The CRANE project examines and will demonstrate the conditions for using GDPR to create a system that enables the sharing of people's health data among different care providers. The goal is partly to facilitate the patient's journey through care, and partly to be able to work more preventively.

Creates a better overall picture

The challenge of sharing health data currently makes it difficult for healthcare to create an overall picture of individual patients. Through patients' consent, CRANE wants to create a service that citizens can use to collect their health data from and share it with healthcare and social care providers. The project also investigates the possibility for individuals to share self-generated health data from, for example, smartwatches. And the CRANE project main target group is patient with chronic conditions, and the ambition is to move these patients from health care to preventive care by patient empowerment.

More and more citizens are choosing to keep track of their own health and the amount of health data will probably continue to increase.

We know from research that 71 percent of the population experience an increased degree of security and 26 percent experience an increased degree of freedom as they check their health more regularly, for example through self-monitoring in their own homes. But so far, there is no effective system support that makes health data useful in all the care and nursing situations that the citizen may find themselves in in the future, says Niclas Forsling, project manager for CRANE.

Enables preventive measures

CRANE wants also to develop services with individualized, tailored suggestions for activities that are preventive for citizens with chronic diagnoses and are based on the individual's health situation based on the registered health data.

We fully support the idea of creating more preventive individualized services for improved health. We must be able to give our citizens the opportunity to efficiently



manage their health data, so that the quality of decisions in different care and nursing situations increases. It is people's well - being we are talking about, Karl-Johan Ottosson, Municipal director in Vilhelmina municipality.

He sees great opportunities for a completely updated and integrated care and nursing system where the individual is put in focus. Karl-Johan Ottosson believes that the public sector should be able to handle health data in both healthcare and social care in the best possible way, without sacrificing patient safety.

A pre-commercial procurement

CRANE is funded through the EU's major research and innovation program Horizon 2020 with 5,79M€ grant. CRANE will work with a so-called pre-commercial procurement, which means that the the ambition it to invest in developing a service which have a market in participating geographical area of the project consortium and that can meet long-term needs. CRANE has a total turnover of approximately 68 million, of which approximately 50 million will be used for the industry to develop the desired service system support.

CRANE has attracted a great deal of international attention, but also from the Swedish Innovation Authority Vinnova and the Swedish Procurement Agency. Andreas Lundqvist, unit manager at Centre for Rural Medicine – Region Västerbotten, sees CRANE as a prestigious project.

We are doing something new, we have strong support internally where CRANE is anchored in the top management of health care. At the same time, this is larger than Region Västerbotten's own activities as a care provider, as CRANE will also include health data from municipal home health care and social care. Therefore, participating municipalities, Vilhelmina and Storuman, have a central role in local and regional work, says Andreas Lundqvist.

More information

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