EMIF Deliverable 11.1: Initial specification of the Semantic Framework of Reference

Executive summary

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This deliverable summarises the initial analysis of the semantic harmonisation and interoperability needs for EMIF, and proposes some artefacts and approaches that will be elaborated in the coming months. As defined in the description of work, this deliverable includes the following:

1. First level analysis of standards and terminologies: section 4 summarises the information models in use in several clinical research platforms, including the main international EHR interoperability standards.

2. Definition of key elements of the datamodel: section 5 presents the initial approach to EMIF knowledge objects in support of the harmonisation of data structures and data elements used across the EMIF platform components. Annex IV presents an example implementation of this approach from one of the EMIF partners

3. Reference terms for fingerprinting and metadata: Section 3 (along with Annex II) introduces the concepts that will be considered for inclusion in the EMIF fingerprint database.

In addition, section 2 (along with annex I) presents the initial version of the EMIF platform glossary. A shared understanding of the basic concepts and terms that are commonly used by the EMIF participants will be a critical component to achieve the EMIF objectives and in particular the ones for WP 11.

TranSMART and Jerboa have been identified early on as two important components to support at least the early stages of the EMIF platform development. Section 6 (along with Annexes V and VI) examines their data models, the representation of the data dictionary and the approach to semantics.

Finally Section 7 outlines the immediate next steps to be taken in WP11, and which will be reported in D11.2 "First version of common data model and associated terminology mapping".

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