

XiA Kick-off Event Report

 Lisbon, Portugal | February 11-12, 2025

The **Xpanding Innovative Alliance (XiA) project** was officially launched with a two-day kick-off event at **Iscte, Lisbon**. The meeting gathered **project partners, including educators, digital health experts and EU representatives**, setting the foundation for **collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic planning** in the field of digital health education and interoperability.


Event Objectives


The sessions were designed to:


- ✓ Establish a **common understanding** of XiA's objectives, structure, and strategic roadmap.
 - ✓ Identify **synergies** with existing digital health and education initiatives.
 - ✓ Discuss **certification mechanisms** for master's programs and micro-credentials.
 - ✓ Refine the **pedagogical model** to ensure effective capacity building in digital health interoperability.
 - ✓ Strengthen the **alliances** between industry, academia, and healthcare stakeholders.
-


Agenda & Key Discussions

Day 1 – 11 February 2025


 **Opening Session** – The event began with a **welcome from Iscte's Vice-Rector** and remarks from the **European Commission (DG-SANTE, EACEA)** on the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and the role of upskilling in digital health. The **XiA project vision** was outlined by the coordinator, Henrique Martins.


 **Building Alliances & Synergies** – An interactive session focused on fostering **collaborations between partners** and linking XiA with other initiatives. Participants engaged in networking to strengthen institutional partnerships.

 **Project Implementation Plan** – Work Package (WP) leaders presented **first-phase deliverables** (next six months), emphasising the alignment of technical and pedagogical activities.


 **Educating on Classifications, LOINC & SNOMED** – Experts from **SNOMED International, Regenstrief Institute, and academia** discussed the challenges and opportunities in embedding **standards-based health classifications** into education.


Day 2 – 12 February 2025

 **XiA Framework Development** – A deep dive into the **preliminary framework** for XiA’s digital health education model, focusing on interoperability training and the **future of micro-learning approaches**.

 **Communicating & Expanding XiA** – A strategy session on **scaling educational outreach**, enhancing digital tools, and selecting an optimal platform for hosting **XiA courses and learning materials**.

 **Pedagogical Model & Curriculum Design** – A working session aimed at **shaping the curriculum structure** and ensuring alignment with EHDS policies. Discussions also covered the **panel submission for the MIE 2025 conference** to further engage the European health informatics community.

 **Education & Market Needs** – Representatives from **HIMSS Europe, NTT Data, and EuSoMII** highlighted how **industry and academia** can work together to bridge the **digital skills gap** in healthcare.

 **XiA Master’s & PhD Club** – The final session focused on **supporting research and doctoral initiatives in digital health interoperability**, emphasising structured learning pathways for **health professionals, engineers, and policymakers**.

Key Outcomes & Next Steps

 **Immediate Actions:**

- ◆ **Educational Framework:** Begin defining **learning objectives, target groups, and certification models**.
- ◆ **Industry Collaboration:** Engage **standardisation bodies (SNOMED International, HL7, IHE)** for co-creating training materials.
- ◆ **Medical & Academic Outreach:** Establish partnerships to **integrate EHDS education into professional training and conferences**.
- ◆ **Sustainability Planning:** Ensure XiA’s **long-term impact beyond the four-year project** by linking it with **X-share’s Standards and Policy Hub**.

The **XiA kick-off event successfully set the stage** for an ambitious and collaborative journey to **advance digital health education in Europe**. 