

# HEALTH IN THE DIGITAL SOCIETY DIGITAL SOCIETY FOR HEALTH

16-18 OCTOBER 2017  
TALLINN, ESTONIA

## Free flow of health data in Finland, the citizen's perspective

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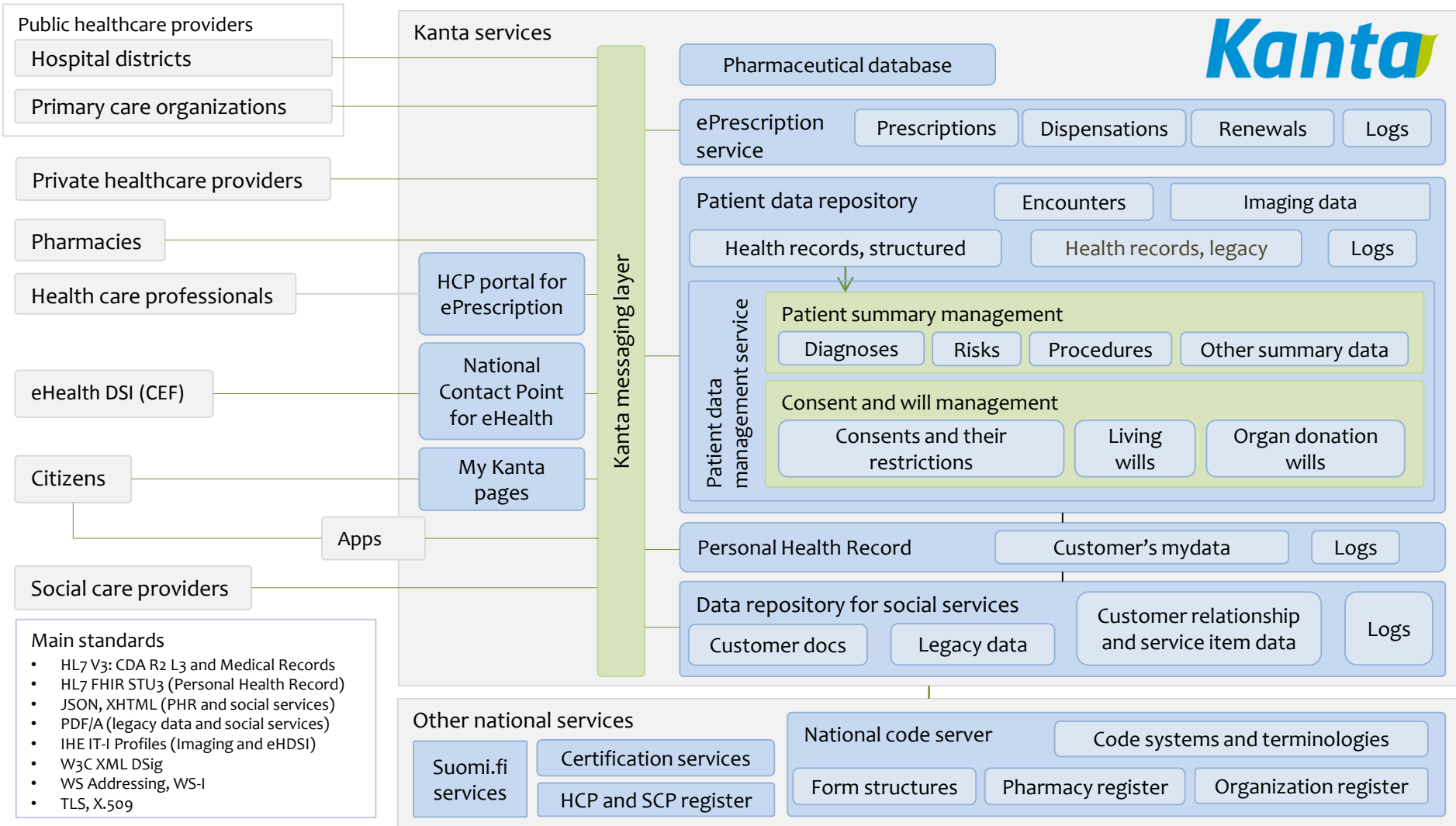
## OUTLINE

- Status update
  - Kanta overview
  - eHealth is popular!
- Upcoming legislation changes
  - Government reform
  - GDPR-related changes
- Citizen's perspective
  - Personal Health Record
  - New features to patient portal (My Kanta pages)
- Challenges and summary

## KANTA OVERVIEW

- Kanta = Finnish national eHealth infrastructure designed for healthcare, social services, pharmacies and citizens
  - Centralized architecture
  - First parts (ePrescription) in production since 2010
- Goals
  - Offers healthcare and social care professionals up-to-date information about patients' health and wellbeing and its history, and serves as a data mediator between organizations
  - Decreases the need for local archiving
  - Provides a foundation for statistics, reports, research and other secondary use





## ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION UPDATE

- Electronic prescription is mandatory by law since 1.1.2017
  - Doctors may not write paper prescriptions or prescribe over the phone, except in extraordinary situations
  - Any paper or phone prescriptions are entered in the Prescription Centre by the pharmacies.
  - Kela provides a web-based service (HCP portal named Kelain) for handling electronic prescriptions, used mainly by individual doctors.
- Separate project tracking the use of paper prescriptions (very small and decreasing percentage)

## PATIENT DATA REPOSITORY UPDATE

- A national centralized repository into which patient records are entered nationwide
  - Contains the patient's structured health record, data about encounters and periods of ward care. Lab results, referrals, procedures, risks, diagnoses, etc.
- All public healthcare organizations store data in the Patient Data Repository (1.12.2015)
- Most private healthcare service providers have joined the Patient Data Repository in 2016.
- Key statistics (10.10.2017):
  - 290 million treatment documents containing data about
  - 240 million service events of
  - 5.7 million persons (living population of Finland is 5.5 million)
  - Over 900 million document versions altogether
- Kanta.fi is 2<sup>nd</sup> most appreciated web service in Finland (national broadcaster YLE is #1)

## NEW STRUCTURE OF FINNISH HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

National supervisory authority



**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

**18**

**COUNTIES**

- Responsibility for organising services
- Responsibility for financial resources
- Determines service level and cooperation contract

**5**

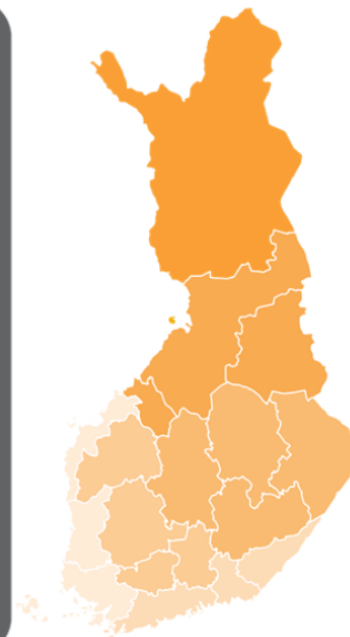
**HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
COLLABORATIVE  
CATCHMENT  
AREAS**



**MUNICIPALITIES**

**Service  
providers:**

- public
- private
- third sector



# PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

## PLANNED TIMETABLE, ENTRY INTO FORCE ON 1.1.2020

PARLIAMENT WILL CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL 15/2017 (HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REFORM) AND THE NEW PROPOSAL FOR THE ACT ON FREEDOM OF CHOICE REPEALING GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL 47/2017 ARE CONSIDERED IN THE SAME CONNECTION:

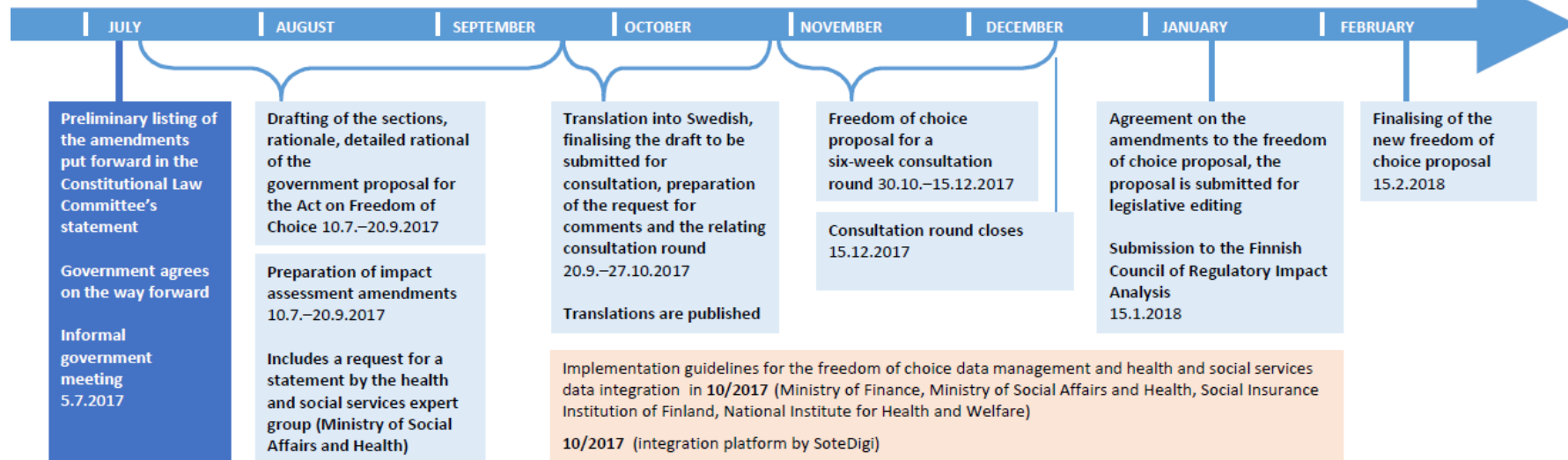
**County elections in 10/2018 and the reforms enter into force as of 1.1.2020.**  
Proposed timetable with due respect to the principles of good law drafting.

## PRINCIPLES

- Compliance with the principles of good law drafting
- Careful implementation of the changes put forward in the statement 26/2017 by the Constitutional Law Committee
- Realistic schedule and means of implementation
- The proposal for the health, social services and regional government reform considered as a package

2017

2018





## CONSENT MANAGEMENT MODEL CURRENTLY

- Data may be stored in Kanta without informing a citizen
  - Every organization (registrar) can fetch their own data, no restrictions applied
- Sharing data, i.e. access to data stored by other organizations, requires an informed consent of the citizen (written or electronic)
  - 48 % of people have provided consents
  - Consent may be qualified by prohibiting access to data of certain service events or data stored by certain organizations
  - 2 % of those who provided a consent have restricted it
- Access to ePrescription data is allowed with verbal consent
  - All ePrescription data is in Kela's register

## GDPR AND REFORM RELATED CHANGES

- New legislation has not been fixed yet, **only drafts are available**
- Public registers become much bigger
  - Private registers are not affected, but new service provision models in which private providers get direct access to public registers become more common
  - Influence of data access restrictions becomes smaller
- Currently used consents are planned to be replaced by other tools
  - The legal base for access to data is provision of health or social care or treatment, not consent
  - Access may be restricted by the citizen who may deny access to data of certain service events
  - Very roughly speaking, opt-in is replaced by opt-out
- Some new consents are introduced
  - Secondary use of data
  - Access to Personal Health Record data entered by citizen
  - Acting on behalf of the other person
  - Ability to “plug in” PHR applications – considered to be a form of consent

A background image showing a doctor in a white coat and teal scrubs, with a stethoscope around their neck, typing on a laptop. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white hexagonal pattern.

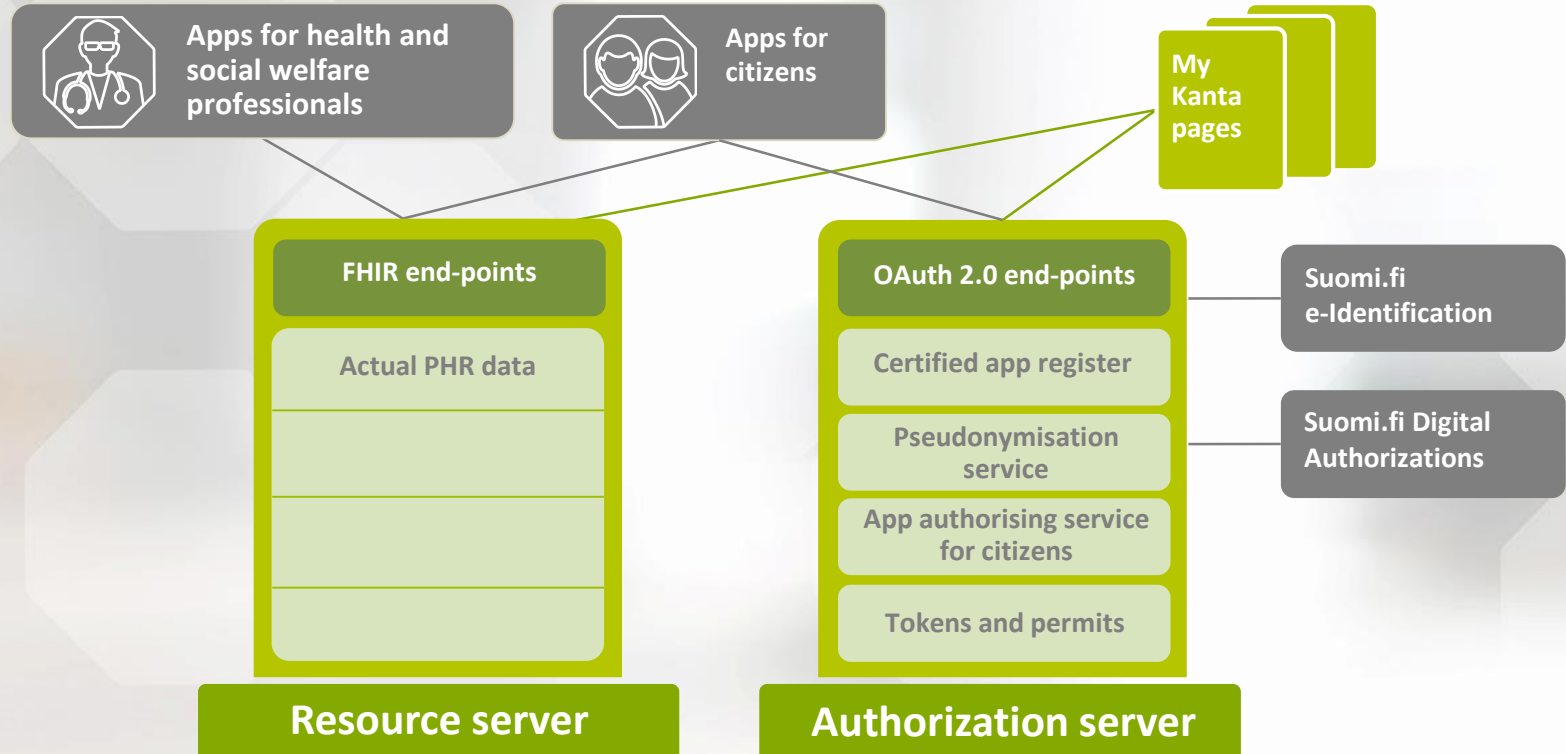
# Changing the operating model for health and welfare services

## PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD

- Personal Health Record will enable citizens to enter their own health-related data in Kanta.
  - Kela builds the PHR data management platform
  - Third parties will develop services which produce, store and analyze the data
- Nationally and regionally coordinated projects are already developing self care solutions.
  - ODA is a nationally sponsored project for transforming primary healthcare through digitalization
  - Virtual Hospital (Virtuaalisairaala) is another publicly sponsored big project.
- Health and social care professionals will be able to access the data with citizen's consent.
- First phase ready by end of 2017.



# PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF PHR



# PHR ecosystem

**Empowers  
citizens to be  
more involved**

**Supports  
self-care of  
chronic diseases**

**Promotes  
self-care and  
responsibility**

**Promotes  
preventive  
self-care**

## UPCOMING MY KANTA PATIENT PORTAL FEATURES

- PHR-related features (browsing data and apps, disconnecting apps)
- Access to social services data
- New consents and information related to them, restrictions of access to health data
- Acting on behalf of other people (based on the national Suomi.fi service)
- Patient Summary elements
- New types of data: optometrics, dental care, medication list
- Freedom of choice related features: browsing and selecting a service provider, etc



## CHALLENGES AND SUMMARY

- Unclear political situation makes technical work more difficult
  - But not impossible
  - Dialogue of the legislator with technical implementors is becoming more agile (clearly moving further away from a waterfall model)
- Current consent model is not compliant with GDPR
  - Not explicit consent, though many interpretations exist
  - The current model is understood relatively well by the citizens, but the new legal basis is more straightforward and may improve free flow of data
- More tools for citizens are needed for better digitalization of healthcare
  - We are on it!



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## THANK YOU

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