

What makes security and privacy in healthcare special?

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My reasons for being here!

...an ongoing H2020 project, SPHINX ("aiming to introduce a health-tailored Universal Cyber Security Toolkit");

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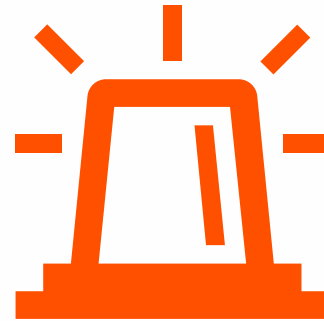
...VUB's Cyber and Data Security Lab (CDSL);

&

...evidently, my general interest in the field.

My main message:

...healthcare, for a variety of reasons, carries special meaning in **legal** (data protection & privacy), **ethical** (privacy) and **security** (cybersecurity) context;
Consequently, **tread carefully!!!**



Why is healthcare important?

In law

As a
fundamental
human right

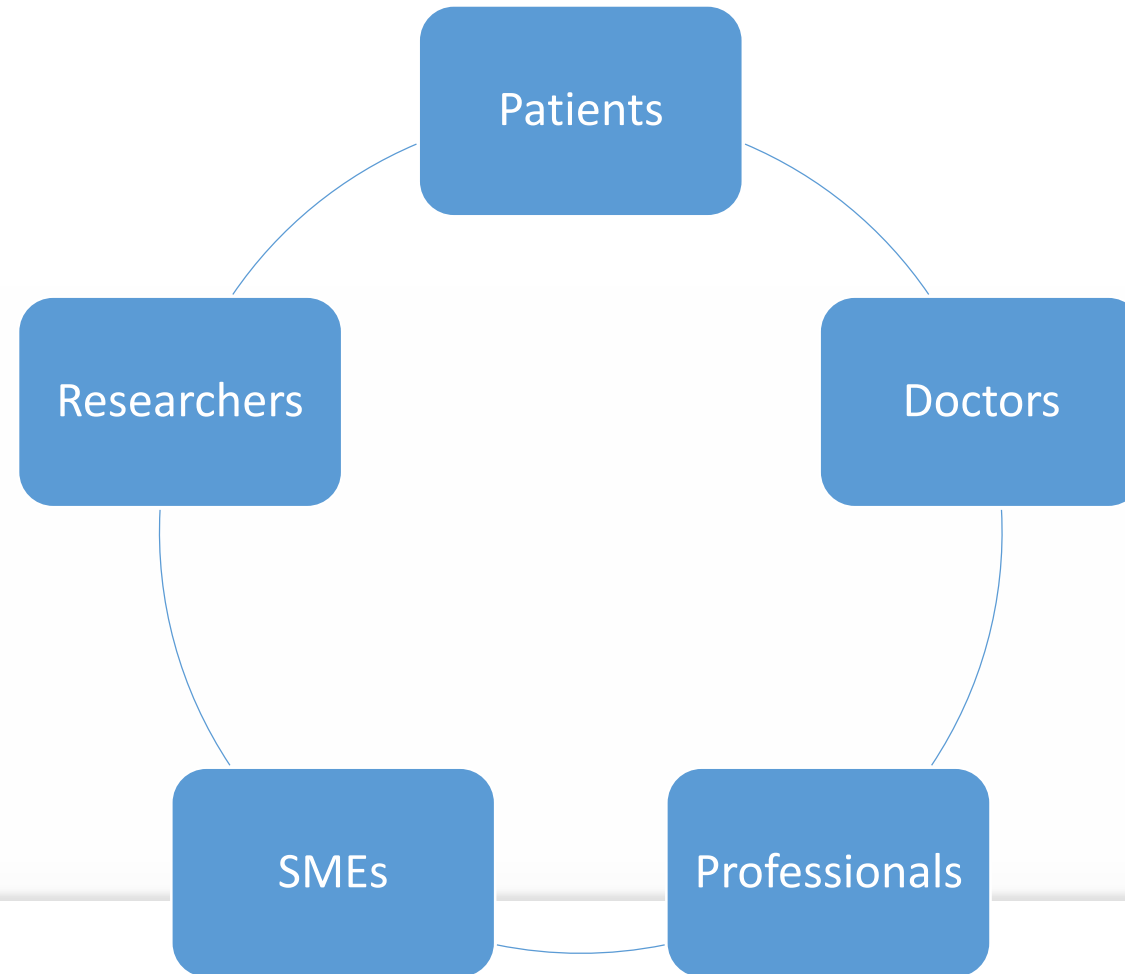
In the personal
data protection
context

In
ethics

Human dignity

Medical ethics

Who is involved and/or affected? *(indicatively)*,



What is, therefore, the protective subject-matter?

First question: *What are we protecting?*

Second question: *What are we supporting?*

Third question: *What are the means of protection?*



Healthcare and data protection

Common &
sensitive
data

Doctors and
hospitals

Other
stakeholders
(insurance
companies
etc.)

Consent

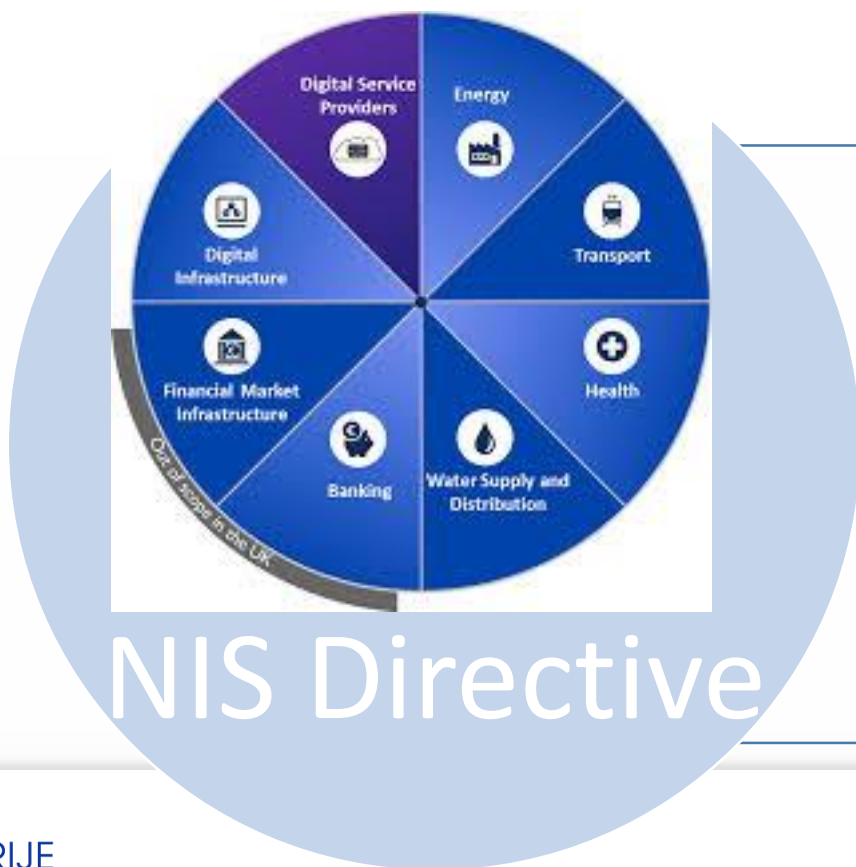
Healthcare and ethics

- Privacy, as in the protection of individuals':
 - Dignity,
 - Personal life,
- and, ultimately,

Freedom



Healthcare and (cyber)security



The (EU)
Cybersecurity
Act



Other legal &
soft law



The
GDPR

Anyway, what are the main issues at hand?

Consent & sensitive data

Security measures

(Legal) role of each participant

Academic research & DPA involvement

What are the factors of complexity?

...there are ***no clear answers*** in the field, on account of:

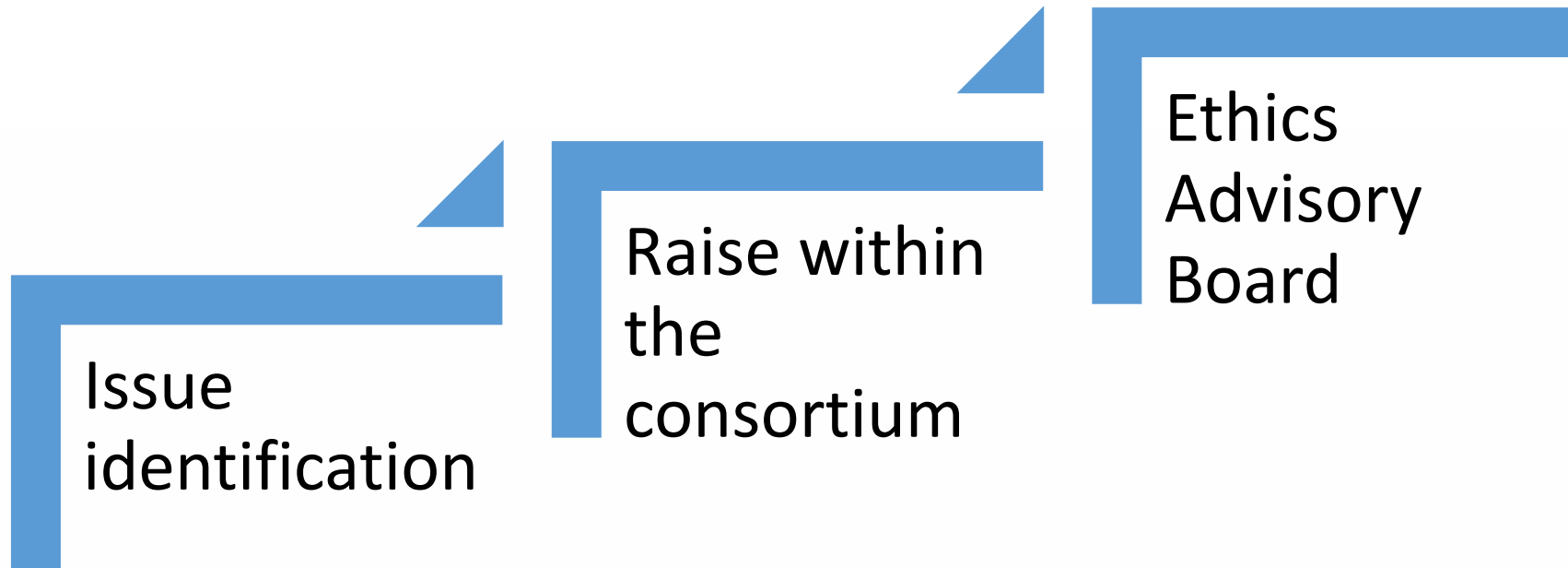


- Parallel legislation;
- Different roles/characteristics of stakeholders (hospitals / doctors / SMEs etc);
- Different ethical requirements (for each of the above).

Are there any enabling factors?



So, is there a methodology to apply?



What points should we keep in mind?



- **Ignoring an already identified problem will not resolve it;**
- Legal (and ethics) complexity may lead to unexpected (or, at least, demanding in implementation) solutions;
- Sooner is better than later!



What mistakes should we avoid?

- Underestimating a problem;
- Not raising questions (no matter how simple the answer may seem to us);
- Not involving our project partners from the beginning;
- Assuming that solutions in neighbouring or seemingly relevant situations we have encountered in the past also apply here.



Thank you!

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