

# GLOBAL DENKEN. LOKAL HANDELN. 3.0

OUTCOME REPORT

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**ADVANCING HEALTH DATA USE IN  
GERMANY AND BEYOND**

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Global Denken. Lokal Handeln. 3.0

# INTRODUCTION



The third edition of Global Denken. Lokal Handeln. (Think Globally, Act Locally) brought together over 100 leading voices from Germany's digital health ecosystem – spanning policy, care delivery, research, technology, and patient advocacy. With the Health Data Use Act now passed and the full implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) on the horizon, the focus has shifted from legislation to real-world application.



**“If we do it right,  
everyone will profit.”**

Prof. Dr. Bjoern Eskofier

Organised by Amgen, Bayern Innovativ, European Health Data Alliance, EIT Health Germany-Switzerland, Medical Valley, and Novartis, the event fostered dialogue, alignment, and action. Participants engaged in four targeted workshops addressing key aspects of Germany's digital health transformation: smarter clinical trial recruitment, interoperable health data infrastructure, European data strategies, and the use of patient data in hospitals. The discussions revealed not only shared challenges, but also promising approaches to unlock the value of health data for all.

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# Key Takeaways from the Workshops

## 1. Smarter Patient Recruitment for Clinical Trials

Clinical research in Germany suffers from slow recruitment and missed opportunities. The workshop identified systemic barriers – patients unaware of opportunities, referring physicians lacking information, and digital tools poorly integrated into clinical workflows.



Recommendations included:

- Enabling patients to express study interest via the ePA (electronic patient record) and receive relevant notifications.
- Embedding study-matching tools in existing practice software (PVS/KIS) to support real-time identification.
- Incentivising referring physicians, both financially and structurally.
- Establishing networks between outpatient care, hospitals and study centres to streamline the process.
- Improving transparency, inclusion, and data literacy – especially among patients with chronic conditions.



*“Every patient in Germany – regardless of their location – should benefit from clinical trials identified through intelligent, data-driven pathways.”*

Dr. Hanna Hübner



## 2. The “Health Data Puzzle”: Building an Interoperable Ecosystem

Despite a wealth of health data in Germany, siloed storage, inconsistent formats, and unclear governance prevent meaningful reuse – particularly for secondary purposes like research and quality improvement.

### Key insights:

- Data is often scattered, from on-premise systems to cloud repositories to basement archives.
- No universal standard exists, but application-specific standards (e.g. FHIR, openEHR, OMOP) must be mandated and adopted consistently.
- A central access infrastructure should link disparate sources and simplify permissions.
- Public understanding and expectation management are crucial to building trust.

### Calls to action:

- Regulatory bodies (e.g. BMG and gematik), data holders, and health IT actors must align on mandatory, enforceable standards.
- Communication strategies should shift the focus from infrastructure to benefit narratives.



*“Interoperability is key to turn diverse health data into shared value – enabling meaningful use and driving real impact.”*

Lukas Wrosch



## 3. Making European Health Data Spaces Work for People

The EHDS promises much – but how can citizens experience its benefits? This workshop focused on the practical, personal value of data-driven healthcare, while recognising persistent fears.



## Benefits highlighted:



### Prevention

Real-time alerts, better vaccination tracking, public health readiness



### Diagnosis and treatment

More accurate and timely care tailored to individual needs



### Research

Access to broader cohorts and faster drug development



### Efficiency

Leaner hospital processes, less duplication, smarter planning

## Concerns raised:

- Loss of control over personal data.
- Unequal benefit distribution (e.g. between patients and industry).
- Data misuse, bias and insufficient transparency.

## Solutions proposed:

- Clear communication on benefits and safeguards.
- Trust-building governance models rooted in European ethics.
- Demonstrable, regular feedback to patients on how their data contributes to better outcomes.

*"Trust is the currency of health data. Without it, even the best systems fail."*

## 4. From Code & Data to Bedside: Unlocking Hospital Potential

Germany's hospitals collect vast amounts of patient data – yet nearly all of it remains unused for innovation. This workshop tackled the “last mile” of digital health: making data clinically relevant and usable at the point of care.

### Challenges identified:

- Manual data entry, PDFs and outdated HIS systems hinder use.
- Interoperability is often lacking, and upgrades are costly and time-consuming.
- Staff often lack digital skills, and incentives to change are low.

### Recommendations:

- Collect data in structured, semantically enriched formats, ready for research and AI use.
- Provide modular, interoperable hospital IT tools that lower entry barriers.
- Invest in start-up innovation and funding, especially for agile digital solutions.
- Strengthen digital literacy among clinical leaders and frontline staff.



*“We don’t just need more data – we need data we can trust, understand, and use.”*

[Dr. Henrik Matthies](#)

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# Cross-Cutting Recommendations

Across all workshops, five key priorities emerged:

## 01 Enforce Interoperability

Make application-specific standards mandatory and auditable.

## 02 Empower the ePA

Transform it into a central, interactive tool for patients and researchers.

## 03 Create Incentives

Motivate participation across the ecosystem through financial, structural and reputational levers.

## 04 Communicate Value

Focus public dialogue on real-world benefits and ethical use – not just risks.

## 05 Invest in People

Build digital and data literacy at all levels of the system.



# Looking Ahead

Global Denken. Lokal Handeln. 3.0 showed that Germany's health data landscape is evolving – from policy vision to implementation. But meaningful progress will require collaborative leadership, bold experimentation and continued public trust.

The time for isolated pilot projects is over. What's needed now are scalable, interoperable, people-centred solutions – built in Germany, aligned with Europe and open to all.

"If we do it right, everyone will profit."

**Let's make health data work – for science, for care, for people.**

Scan here to watch highlights from  
Global Denken. Lokal Handeln. 3.0:



## THANK YOU!

This report reflects the contributions of a wide range of stakeholders who participated in Global Denken. Lokal Handeln. 3.0. The organisers would like to thank all speakers, moderators, facilitators, and participants for their insights and commitment.

Special thanks to our co-organising partners:  
[Amgen](#), [Bayern Innovativ](#), [European Health Data Alliance](#), [Medical Valley](#), and [Novartis](#)  
for their continued dedication to improving health data use across Germany and Europe.

