Data is an indispensable part of today's world. A vast amount of health data is generated every second, providing healthcare services and researchers with potential valuable insights.

**Secondary Use of Health Data**

While primary health data is only used in the context of healthcare of an individual, secondary health data means the use of aggregated health data from population-level sources, such as electronic health records, health insurance claims data, and health registry data. It serves vital purposes such as enhancing safety monitoring, driving research and innovation, and informing policymaking.

**Secondary Health Data Sharing in the EU**

The current EU health data ecosystem differs across Member States, with each having different levels of data centralisation and standards of interoperability, which comes at a cost for startups.

The European Health Data Space (EHDS) could become the runway for startups to scale life-changing innovations across the EU. It is an opportunity to introduce common standards and create an environment that could boost Europe’s global competitiveness in medical research and innovation.

**The Promise of the European Health Data Space**

For improved health outcomes, researchers will gain streamlined, secure access to vast, high-quality data via a privacy-ensured data access framework. The industry will benefit from an EU-wide electronic health record market with consistent standards, which will boost healthcare, foster innovation, and enable AI-driven devices.

Regulators and policymakers will gain improved health data access, promoting evidence-based policy, cost reduction, healthcare access, and innovation.

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**Harnessing The Power of Secondary Health Data**

The EHDS’ main goal should be to maximise the pool of high quality health data available for medical research which will serve as a catalyst to better predict, prevent and treat diseases, while preserving patients’ privacy and trust in the system.

**Growth Potential of the Health Data Economy**

- **€5.5 billion**
  - In savings for the EU over ten years from better use of health data in healthcare.

- **20-30%**
  - Estimated additional growth of the digital health market.

- **€5.4 billion**
  - In savings for the EU over ten years from better use of health data for research, innovation and policy-making.

**EHDS & Data Privacy**

The EHDS must strike the right balance to ensure the privacy of citizens is protected by facilitating data sharing for secondary use either in a pseudo-anonymised or anonymised form, in a secure, GDPR-compliant processing environment. If an opt-out model were to be introduced, we strongly recommend multi-stakeholder perspectives be involved to consult in this process.