

This Quick Guide highlights the key elements of the EU Dataset Catalogue on the Healthdata@EU Central Platform website. Further explanations can be found in the user guide.

Start page of the EU Dataset Catalogue

How to get there:

<https://acceptance.data.health.europa.eu/healthdata-central-platform/datasets>

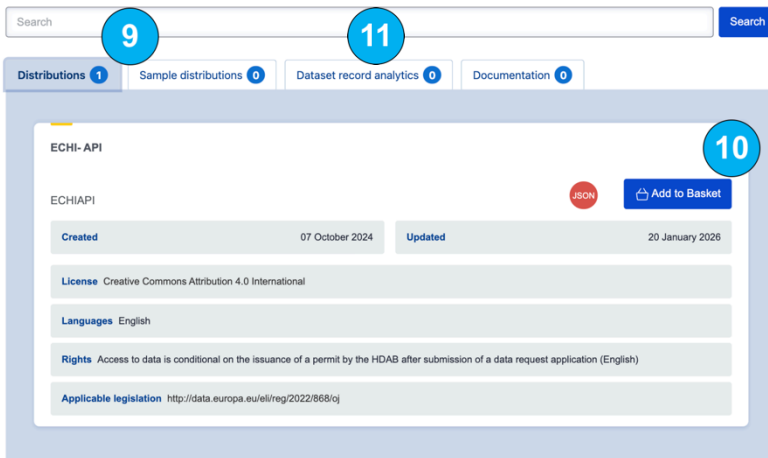
Clicking on one of the dataset records found leads you to the details page

Nr.	Name	What is it for?
1	Filter	A structured filter panel to refine the search result by selecting different filter options.
2	Search Field	A search field for keywords such as dataset titles, disease areas, etc., that can be used before applying filters
3	Dataset Record	The list of dataset records available after filtering. Click one for more information about its contents and contact the data holder.
4	SPARQL Search	Advanced search option for directly querying machine-readable metadata.
5	Implementation Support	A set of supporting tools and documentation embedded in the platform to help users interpret and work with the catalogue's metadata model.

Dataset record detail page

Nr.	Name	What is it for?
6	Access Level	A high-level indicator in the dataset record describing how the dataset can be accessed (commonly presented as Public, Restricted, or Non-public), helping you anticipate whether formal authorisation will be required.
7	Dataset Record Details on content	The main descriptive elements explaining what the dataset is about and what it covers, typically including title, description, provenance, purpose, keywords/thematic annotations, and high-level coverage information (geographic and temporal scope)
8	Information on the status of the dataset record/other functions	Metadata and controls indicating dataset record currency and maintenance and providing navigational actions linked to the record view.

Dataset Information on distributions and basket



Nr.	Name	What is it for?
9	Distributions and sample distributions	The section describing how the dataset could be provided if access is granted (e.g., delivery format/service). It may also include non-disclosive “sample distribution” materials such as a data dictionary or a proxy dataset that illustrates structure without exposing personal data.
10	Add to basket	A selection function that lets you collect datasets of interest into a “basket” as a shortlist for later steps. Adding items does not grant access or submit a request; it supports comparison and preparation before authentication and the formal application process.
11	Dataset record analytics	Analytical summary or representation of the dataset, providing a high-level view or key statistics.

HealthData@EU Catalogue: How it works

The HealthData@EU EU Dataset Catalogue is designed as a federated discovery infrastructure to support the secondary use of health data under the European Health Data Space (EHDS) framework. Rather than centralising health data, it centralises harmonised dataset descriptions (metadata) so that datasets can be found and compared consistently across countries and organisations.

Federated architecture: national catalogues + EU-level catalogue

Each Member State is expected to maintain a national dataset catalogue that collects and publishes standardised metadata descriptions from national data holders (e.g., public authorities, registries, healthcare organisations). These national catalogues then feed metadata into the EU-level catalogue hosted within the HealthData@EU Central Platform, enabling cross-border search through a single interface. This arrangement improves discoverability and comparability while preserving national competence and decision-making authority for data access.

Harmonisation via a common metadata model

Dataset records follow a shared structure based on a common metadata approach aligned with HealthDCAT-AP, which supports consistent indexing, filtering, and comparison across jurisdictions. In practical terms, this means users can rely on broadly similar fields (e.g., coverage, responsible organisations, standards, access conditions) even when datasets originate from different countries.

What the catalogue does—and does not—do

The catalogue is a metadata-based discovery tool: it displays structured information about datasets (what they cover, who manages them, how current they are, and the high-level access conditions). It does not store the underlying health data, provide downloads or APIs for the data itself, perform analytics, manage contracts or decisions, or deliver legal interpretation of the EHDS/GDPR/national law. This separation supports transparency and findability while respecting governance and data protection constraints.

How users typically interact with it (discovery → shortlisting → next steps)

Users start in the EU Dataset Catalogue and use keyword search, filters, and sorting to identify potentially relevant datasets. They then open individual dataset records to assess relevance using metadata about content and provenance, population and coverage, responsible organisations (including the Health Data Access Body), standards/terminologies, maintenance indicators, and high-level access rights. For advanced users, SPARQL enables structured queries across machine-readable metadata for more precise retrieval.

A key usability feature is the basket, which functions as a pre-selection shortlist: users can collect datasets of interest for comparison and preparation, without submitting a formal request at that point. When users proceed beyond discovery, the platform provides a common EU application mechanism that routes requests to the relevant national Health Data Access Bodies, which remain responsible for assessment and authorisation under applicable law.

Built-in support for understanding metadata

The platform also includes implementation support resources—such as tools for exploring the metadata model and assisting with dataset descriptions—to help users interpret catalogue fields and understand how dataset records are structured.

Where to get more information

Use the official [HealthData@EU central platform user manual](#) when you need a primary-source, more detailed description of the platform

Use the [platform’s online documentation](#) for additional technical and functional detail beyond this quick orientation:

For direct support, you may contact the platform support team via:

Email: SANTE-HEALTHDATA-IT@ec.europa.eu

Telephone: 00800 6789 1011