

POLICY MAPPING ON eHEALTH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES (INCLUDING ON CANCER CARE) IN **CZECH REPUBLIC**

This Country Factsheet was first prepared for the eCAN Joint Action and updated for the eCAN+ Joint Action. It is prefilled with publicly available information and was sent for review to country experts on eHealth and cancer care. The Country Factsheet serves as the basis for the preparation of an overview of eCAN relevant policies and initiatives in all EU and EEA countries.

The Joint Action ‘**Enhancing digital capabilities of cancer centres in Europe to improve prevention and care**’ (eCAN Plus) aims to bring the benefits of digital health to all citizens, patients and health care professionals to improve cancer prevention and care across Europe. The rising use of telemedicine and innovative legal framework of European Health Data Space offer opportunity to better address population health needs. Built on the experience of the eCAN JA, this project contributes to integrating digital tools and improving health data use for the benefit of cancer patients. The JA foresees to bring lasting impact to different targeted audiences. The project’s expected outputs pave the way for a wider rollout of **eHealth in oncology** but also supports decision-makers by providing recommendations and guidelines.

This country factsheet was originally **pre-filled in 2023/2024** with publicly available information by

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The country factsheet includes chapters on:

- 1 definitions**
- 2 governance**
- 3 strategies/policies**
- 4 legislation**
- 5 cancer specific eHealth solutions**

Any questions? – Please get in touch via ecan@goeg.at.

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1 DEFINITIONS

Table 1 : Deviations in the use of international definitions for eHealth terms – Czech Republic

Term	Definition	Deviation
eHealth	The WHO defines eHealth as « cost-effective and secure use of information and communications technologies in support of health and health-related fields, including health-care services, health surveillance, health literature, and health education, knowledge and research ». ¹	Yes, significantly. It is defined as “electronization of health”. The <i>Act No 325/2021 Coll., on electronization of healthcare</i> sets out basic rules, and standards for the functioning of eHealth since its effect in January 1, 2022. ² However, the National eHealth Strategy of the Czech Republic and many other documents use term eHealth essentially in line with the WHO definition.
mHealth	« Mobile health (mHealth) is defined by the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Observatory for eHealth as « medical and public health practice supported by mobile devices, such as mobile phones, patient monitoring devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other wireless devices ». ³	No definition is codified; various characteristics, descriptions and working definitions are used in practice, some of them are close to the WHO definition. ⁴
dHealth	The EU defines digital health (dHealth) and care as referring to « tools and services that use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and management of health-related issues and to monitor and manage lifestyle-habits that impact health ». ⁵ The WHO defines digital health as « the field of knowledge and practice associated with the development and use of digital technologies to improve health. Digital health expands the concept of eHealth to include digital consumers, with a wider range of smart-devices and connected equipment. It also encompasses other uses of digital technologies for health such as the Internet of things, artificial intelligence, big data and robotics. » ⁶	No definition is codified.
telehealth	The WHO defines telehealth broader than telemedicine « as it includes computer-assisted telecommunications to support management, surveillance, literature and access to medical knowledge. » ⁷	No definition is codified.

¹ WHO EMRO - eHealth

² Czech Republic: *Electronization of Healthcare and Telemedicine*

³ mHealth Assessment: *Conceptualization of a Global Framework* - PMC (nih.gov), mHealth

⁴ <https://wiki.knihovna.cz/index.php/MHealth> and *Presentation on eHealth and mHealth of Charles University in Prague* (in Czech language)

⁵ Events - Smart4Health

⁶ Digital health EURO (who.int)

⁷ Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope

Term	Definition	Deviation
telemedicine	The EU Commission defines telemedicine as follows (EU Commission definition, COM(2008)689) : « Telemedicine is the provision of health care services, through the use of ICT, in situations where the health professional and the patient (or two health professionals) are not in the same location. It involves the secure transmission of medical data and information, through text, sound, images or other forms needed for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients. » ⁸	In 2024, an amendment of the Act on Health Services was adopted (Act No. 240/2024, Coll.; valid from 1 October 2024). It defines telemedicine as “services that are provided at a distance using information and telecommunications technologies or a medical device. Telemedicine health services can only be provided if the technical requirements for the quality and security of communication are met, the communication channel is encrypted, and proof of the identity of the communicating parties is ensured. The communication may be recorded by the provider only with the consent of the patient.” ⁹
teleconsultation	PAHO describes teleconsultation (also sometimes referred to as remote consultation or telehealth), as « interactions that happen between a clinician and a patient for the purpose of providing diagnostic or therapeutic advice through electronic means. » ¹⁰	Teleconsultation is considered as a service within the broader category of telemedicine . No specific definition of teleconsultation is codified. The new amendment of the Act on Health Services (Act No. 240/2024, Coll.; valid from 1 October 2024) implicitly covers this service as part of telemedicine with somewhat different scope.
health app	Essén et al. 2022 define health apps as « a computer program or software application (designed to run on a mobile device) “intended to be used specifically for managing, maintaining, or improving the health of individual persons, or the delivery of care” (ISO https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html 2021, p 5). »	No definition is codified.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

⁸ [Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope](#)

⁹ <https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/monitors/health-systems-monitor/updates/hspm/hspm-czechia-2023/definition-of-telemedicine-in-czech-legislation>

¹⁰ <https://www3.paho.org/ish/images/docs/covid-19-teleconsultations-en.pdf?ua=1>

2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance – Czech Republic

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a Ministry or State Secretariat explicitly in charge of eHealth/dHealth in place? If so, which Ministry?	Yes	The Ministry of Health is responsible for eHealth. ¹¹
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?	Yes	There is the National eHealth Centre (NeHC) in the Department of IT and Electronic Health Care (ICT) of the Ministry of Health. ¹²
Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?	Yes	In 2021, the National Board for Electronic Health was established and began its activities as an advisory body to the Ministry of Health. ¹³
Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?	Yes	The National eHealth Centre (NeHC) of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic acts as national public eHealth agency.
If no, are there any other public institutions working in the field of eHealth?	Yes	Certain operational tasks are performed as well by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (IHIS CR) ¹⁴ and certain services (esp. ePrescription) are operated by the State Institute for Drug Control (SÚKL).
Are dHealth / eHealth tools in the outpatient sector publicly paid or covered in your benefits package (e.g. by sickness fund or national health service)? If yes, please describe how.	Partly	eHealth tools intended for storing, intermediating, importing, exporting, converting, editing, or viewing health data are typically acquired by healthcare providers as investments. Specific medical devices with remote monitoring features are reimbursed by insurance funds. The payment from insurance funds, if any, relates mostly to actions performed by the healthcare professional. In October 2024, the Act on Provision of Health Services was amended allowing in physicians to provide telemedicine not only in the form of remote consultations (teleconsultation). Currently, it is being discussed whether a legal framework regulating reimbursement of telemedicine is necessary. Private telemedicine platforms/apps are generally not reimbursed from the public health insurance system, there are some insurance funds making exceptions to this rule however. ¹⁵
Are dHealth / eHealth tools in the inpatient sector automatically covered in your benefits package or do you need to pay extra (e.g. for telehealth consultations or telereha) compared to standard treatments?	Partly	
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	Yes	There is a Czech Cancer Centre Network regrouping all comprehensive cancer centers of the Czech Republic. ¹⁶ Some of these cancer centres use teleconsultations in selected cases. No systematic approach has been defined yet.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

¹¹ [Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic](#)

¹² <https://ncez.mzcr.cz/en>

¹³ <https://ppo.mzcr.cz/workGroup/166>

¹⁴ [National eHealth Centre, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic \(IHIS CR\)](#)

¹⁵ <https://cms.law/en/int/expert-guides/cms-expert-guide-to-digital-health-apps-and-telemedicine/czech-republic>

¹⁶ [Czech Cancer Centre Network » Linkos.cz](#)

3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

Table 3 : Overview on strategies and policies for eHealth and cancer care – Czech Republic

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?	Yes	There is a national eHealth Strategy in place as well as an Action plan (2016-2020) for its implementation ¹⁷ . The national eHealth strategy was significantly updated in version, valid for 2025 to 2035, This strategy was endorsed by the Government in 2025.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	Yes	The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic coordinated a large group of representatives in several working groups during preparation of the Strategy in 2025. The stakeholders included lawyers, healthcare providers, insurnaces, educational institutions, patients and others.
Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some (exemplary) documents ?	No	No, but Olomouc Region elaborated within the concept of Smart cites, which is a strategic document and designed subsequent projects, which include also eHealth.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	No	As to Olomouc Region, besides the Region representatives, several stakeholders including major regional healthcare providers and the regional eHealth Center were included.
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	No	Telemedicine interventions are developed and verified and they are designed also for certain kinds of oncology patients.
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	Yes	There is a general Strategic Plan for the Digitalization of Czechia by 2030. ¹⁸ The chapter of digitalization of public services is co-managed by the Digital and Information Agency (DIA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH), which is responsible for the electronic health data. The need for a dedicated digital health strategy was recognized by the MoH CZ in 2024 with the national eHealth strategy 2016-2020 being still used but not covering all new developments in the field and related legislation.
Is there a National Cancer Plan in place?	Yes	The Czech National Cancer Control Plan 2030 (NOPL CR 2030) sets goals for the prevention and for improving the quality of life of cancer patients. The importance of these areas is growing together with the ageing of the population and the increase in the number of cancer patients in the population. ¹⁹
If yes, does the National Cancer Plan refer to eHealth?	Yes	The document was updated in 2024 and refers to the national eHealth strategy (the version at that time).
In the light of the EU „Beating Cancer Plan” – are there any recent plans to update or modify existing plans? If yes, what is the timeline?	Yes	The NOPL CR 2030 (see above) is in line with Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. This plan places a strong emphasis on the development and sustainability of sustainable cancer prevention, improving early detection, high standards in care, reducing inequalities and access to cancer care, methodologically led by the National Comprehensive Cancer Centres, effective transfer of knowledge and innovation into clinical practice, especially in the field of precision and personalised medicine and, quality of life for patients, survivors and carers. ²⁰
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care	Yes	The 2024 and 2025 digital decade eHealth indicator study performed for the European Commission provides information about the Czech Republic's maturity level in regard to eHealth. ²¹

¹⁷ [National eHealth Strategy of the Czech Republic](#) and [Action Plan for the National eHealth Strategy 2016-2020](#)

¹⁸ [The Path to Europes Digital Decade The Strategic Plan for the Digitalization of Czechia by 2030 oOROu6I.pdf](#)

¹⁹ [Czech National Cancer Control Plan 2030 \(NOPL CR 2030\)](#)

²⁰ [Czech National Cancer Control Plan 2030 \(NOPL CR 2030\)](#)

²¹ [2024-digital-decade-ehealth-indicator-study-kk0524387enn.pdf](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?		
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?	Yes	The project database for the implementation of screening programs serves to build a unified and coordinated infrastructure for the collection and evaluation of data from ongoing and newly introduced screening programs in the Czech Republic. ²² The Portal of Cancer Epidemiology in the Czech Republic provides access to data and analyses on cancer epidemiology in the Czech Republic. ²³

Further information:

- No further information identified.

4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation – Czech Republic

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country?	Yes	Primarily, it is Act No. 372/2011 Coll., on Provision of Health Services (the “Act”) and Decree No.: 98/2012 Coll., on Health Documentation (the “Decree” and Act No. 325/2021 Coll., on the Electronization of Healthcare). New draft amendment to the law No. 372/211 Coll. about healthcare services of July 2023 creates a basic framework for telemedicine but does not detail all the provisions on how to use it.
Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?	Yes	In 2024, an amendment of the Act on Health Services was adopted (Act No. 240/2024, Coll.; valid from 1 October 2024). It defines telemedicine as “services that are provided at a distance using information and telecommunications technologies or a medical device. Telemedicine health services can only be provided if the technical requirements for the quality and security of communication are met, the communication channel is encrypted, and proof of the identity of the communicating parties is ensured. The communication may be recorded by the provider only with the consent of the patient.” ²⁴
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	No	There is no specific law on cancer prevention in the Czech Republic. The National Cancer Control Plan 2030 includes the goal for “Involvement of cancer care in the implementation of eHealth and telemedicine”. ²⁵
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?	No	No further information available.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

²² [Database for the implementation of screening programs \(in Czech language\)](#)

²³ [SVOD Homepage](#)

²⁴ <https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/monitors/health-systems-monitor/updates/hspm/hspm-czechia-2023/definition-of-telemedicine-in-czech-legislation>

²⁵ https://mzd.gov.cz/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2207_MZCR_NOPL_CR_2030_EN_v03.pdf

5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

Table 5 : Overview on cancer specific eHealth solutions in use – Czech Republic

	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
Ecosystem	Yes, several e.g., websites of the General Health Insurance Company of the Czech Republic ²⁶ , the Health Insurance Company of the Ministry of Interior ²⁷ or the OZP Vita Karta ²⁸ , which all provide access to <u>certain</u> Health Data Records; the National Cancer Register ²⁹ , the citizen's portal (eGovernment), hospital portals, patient's portal of Krajská zdravotní a.s. in Region Ústí and Labem (public)	Yes, individual experiments, projects and studies with patients focusing e.g. on post-operative care, drug reminders, general or modified communication applications developed for use in healthcare (private)	No	Yes, individual initiatives of HCPs (private)	Yes, simple teleconsultations or enriched by other features (e.g., University Hospital Olomouc) providing remote psychological support and care for paediatric and adult palliative patients, incl. oncologic patients ³⁰ (private)	No	Yes, e.g., National Health Information Portal ³¹ providing general information about health; website of the Cancer Research Foundation CR ³² in support of science, research and development of serious civilization diseases (public)
Prevention of Cancer	-	Yes, EZKarta is a government-provided eHealth mobile app with cancer screening information and preventive check-up reminders. ³³ (public)	-	-	-	-	Yes, e.g., National Screening Centre ³⁴ , a data portal on screening programs (public)
Treatment of Cancer	-	Yes, see Ecosystem	-	Yes, cancer centers have established tumor boards to communicate between HCP	Yes, see Ecosystem; Video calls with a doctor/nurse/clinical pharmacist/psychologist/social worker. Moreover, connected patients may	-	Yes, e.g., Czech National Cancer Control Programme (information portal on cancer health care) (public)

²⁶ <https://en.vzp.cz/>

²⁷ <https://eforms.zpmvcr.cz/eforms/ekomunikace?cmp=38FAFF>

²⁸ <https://www.ozp.cz/vtk/#/>

²⁹ [Czech National Cancer Registry | European Network of Cancer Registries](#)

³⁰ <https://ntmc.fnol.cz/aktualni-narodni-projekty>

³¹ <https://www.nzip.cz/>

³² <https://www.vyzkumrakoviny.cz/lets-combat-cancer-together/>

³³ [EZKarta | NZIP](#)

³⁴ <https://nsc.uzis.cz/index.php>

	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
					request medicines and specific aids. For the aids, University Hospital Olomouc creates own database with automatic creation of requests for easier administration and communication with pharmacies and insurance companies.		
'Living with cancer'	-	Yes, specific apps such as the MOÚ MinCare app from the Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute focusing on mental health support ³⁵ or the Time to self-care app. (public/private)	-	-	Yes, see Ecosystem	-	-
Rehabilitation from Cancer	-	Yes, see Ecosystem	-	-	Yes, see Ecosystem	-	-
Palliative Cancer Care	-	Yes, see Ecosystem	-	-	Yes, see Ecosystem; video calls with a doctor/nurse/clinical pharmacist/psychologist/social worker	-	-

Further information:

- No further information identified.

³⁵ [The first Czech mobile application to support mental health in oncology patients](#)

Table 6 : Number of eHealth solutions available and in use – Czech Republic

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
How many eHealth solutions (in the sense of medical devices and thus ‘authority approved/certified’) solutions are existing currently in your country in the context of cancer care/treatment?	N/A	There is no information available on the number of eHealth solutions existing in the Czech Republic.
Is there a website or other information on solutions that are recommended to the public for use (e.g. a selection of health apps that are recommended to cancer patients or in general)?	No	There is no comprehensive information publicly available whether specific solutions are recommended. However, some solutions may implicitly be recommended when reimbursed by a health insurance fund (see further above for question on reimbursement).
Can you give an estimation on how the split between private and public apps are available? Give an estimate percentage of public solutions.	No	There is no information available on the share of public and private solutions available in the Czech Republic. Note: Interpretation of this question may heavily depend on the healthcare system in a country.
How can providers and patients assess if the apps are reliable? Is there a certification or quality approval procedure in place? If yes, which kind of procedure?	CE marked SAMd	Apps intended for medical use are under the medical device regulations. These are strictly regulated. However, there is no benchmarking or any classification of available apps. With nonexistent framework for mHealth apps in the CR, the patients usually rely on recommendation given by the healthcare specialist. The number of such apps experimentally or regularly used in cancer care is still low.
How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?	N/A	No further information available.

Further information:

- Remark: The questionnaire omits questions related to ethical principles of digital health services.