

# POLICY MAPPING ON eHEALTH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES (INCLUDING ON CANCER CARE) IN ESTONIA

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 pre-filled country factsheet was originally **not reviewed**.

This country factsheet has been **updated** with publicly available information **in October 2025** by

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This updated country factsheet was again **reviewed in March 2026** 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](mailto:ecan@goeg.at).

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## 1 DEFINITIONS

Table 1 : Deviations in the use of international definitions for eHealth terms - Estonia

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 ». <sup>1</sup>	No deviation from definiton.
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 ». <sup>2</sup>	No deviation from definiton.
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 ». <sup>3</sup> 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. » <sup>4</sup>	No deviation from definiton.
telehealth	The WHO defines telehealth broader than telemedicine « as it includes computer-assisted telecommunications to support management, surveillance, literature, and access to medical knowledge. » <sup>5</sup>	No deviation from definiton.
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. » <sup>6</sup>	No deviation from definiton.
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. » <sup>7</sup>	No deviation from definiton.
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 <a href="https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html">https://www.iso.org/standard/78182.html</a> (2021), p 5). »	No deviation from definiton.

<sup>1</sup> WHO EMRO - eHealth

<sup>2</sup> mHealth Assessment: Conceptualization of a Global Framework - PMC (nih.gov), mHealth

<sup>3</sup> Events - Smart4Health

<sup>4</sup> Digital health EURO (who.int)

<sup>5</sup> Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope

<sup>6</sup> Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope

<sup>7</sup> <https://www3.paho.org/ish/images/docs/covid-19-teleconsultations-en.pdf?ua=1>

## Further information:

- No further information identified.

## 2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Estonia

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 Social Affairs is responsible for eHealth. <sup>8</sup> <i>'The health system in Estonia is overseen by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and its agencies, which include the</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Agency of Medicines (SAM),</li> <li>• Health Board,</li> <li>• National Institute for Health Development (NIHD), and</li> <li>• Health and Welfare Information Systems Centre (HWISC).</li> </ul> <i>The financing of healthcare is mainly organised through the independent Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF). The main healthcare policy document is the National Health Plan (NHP) 2020-2030,<sup>9</sup> which integrates sectoral health plans, strategies, and development plans into one document'.<sup>10</sup></i>
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?	Yes	Digital Policy advisor coordinates e-health development in the policy level. E-health Steering Group is the decision-making body (consists of high-level officials from the ministry and the heads of health-related Boards and institutions). <sup>11</sup>
Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?	No	e-Health Advisory Council functions to advise the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). It consists of representatives from various stakeholders, including hospitals, doctors, and the state.
Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?	Yes	The Health and Welfare Information Systems Centre (HWISC) is the public eHealth agency for Estonia. <sup>12</sup> <i>'HWISC founded on 1 January 2017. It is a state agency administered by the MoSA, which consolidates the roles and responsibilities of the former Information and Communication Technology (ICT) department of the MoSA and the Estonian eHealth Foundation (EHF). The scope of the HWISC is broader than eHealth, aggregating the eFunctions of health, labour, and social policy areas'.<sup>13</sup></i>
If no, are there any other public institutions working in the field of eHealth?	N/A	Not applicable.
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.	Yes, infrastructure and some services	eHealth infrastructure is free of charge and general service as <a href="#">Patient Portal</a> are covered by public funds (accessible with using <a href="#">e-Identity</a> ). Some services in eHealth are also reimbursed including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eConsultations with oncologists have been available for family doctors since 2013 in cases of suspected cancer. An online support tool to assist with management and reporting of side-effects is in a trial phase with the participation of cancer patients, the cancer care team and family doctors<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.sm.ee/en>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/documents/2023-03/National%20Health%20Plan%202020-2030.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [Microsoft Word - Scientific annexes. TG 2019 03 25 final version.docx \(espon.eu\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Introduction to the Ministry and our structure | Sotsiaalministeerium](#)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.tehik.ee/en/about>

<sup>13</sup> [Microsoft Word - Scientific annexes. TG 2019 03 25 final version.docx \(espon.eu\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [EU Country Cancer Profile: Estonia 2023](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teleconsultations by video, web or phone contact was first applied and financed by the Health Insurance Fund in spring 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak as a temporary measure. As of September 2020, EHIF finances the services on regular basis.<sup>15</sup></li> </ul>
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?	Yes, partly	In addition to appointments paid by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund, paid services can also be booked at the national e-booking system. The rule applies that only one appointment can be booked for services paid for by the EHIF, both with and without a referral. <sup>16</sup>
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	Yes	<p>The Cancer Centre of Tartu University Hospital provides a 'second medical opinion system' <i>'to offer additional medical opinions to patients of other than the Tartu University Hospital on the basis of existing medical documentation and tests performed. The service gives an opportunity to ask for a second opinion when you or your family member has been diagnosed with cancer.'</i><sup>17</sup></p> <p>In addition, registration to a specialist doctors' appointment can be done online.<sup>18</sup></p>

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

## 3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

Table 3 : Overview on strategies and policies for eHealth and cancer care - Estonia

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?	Yes	There E-Health strategy 2025-2030 <sup>19</sup> was published earlier in 2025. It supports the implementation of the goals and objectives set out in the country's long-term development strategy "Estonia 2035", as well as the objectives of the Population Health Development Plan and the Welfare Development Plan. It also contributes to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and takes into account the directions of the European Union and internationally assumed obligations.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	Various	<p>There were various stakeholders involved in the preparation of the eHealth strategy, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Social Affairs,</li> <li>Ministry of Economy and Communications,</li> <li>Estonian Health Insurance Fund,</li> <li>Estonian Doctors Association,</li> <li>Estonian Hospitals Association,</li> <li>Estonian Information Technology and Telecommunications Union,</li> <li>Estonian Society of Family Physicians,</li> <li>NGO Chamber of Disabled People,</li> <li>Tallinn Technical University of Technology,</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> <https://haigekassa.ee/en/partner/medical-institutions/development-telemedicine/teleconsultations>

<sup>16</sup> [National e-booking system](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Patient rights | Estonian Health Insurance Fund](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Registration to a specialist doctor's appointment](#)

<sup>19</sup> [E-Health strategy](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Tartu Faculty of Medicine,</li> <li>Chamber of Service Economy,</li> <li>other experts from various fields.</li> </ul>
Are there regional eHealth strategies? If so, can you indicate whether in all regions or only some? Can you provide some (exemplary) documents ?	Not applicable	Health policy in Estonia is centralized, and strategies are developed at the national level by the Ministry of Social Affairs. There are no separate regional (county-level) e-health strategies.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	N/A	No further information available.
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	Yes	<p>The Personalised Medicine Implementation Strategy refers to incorporating genetic data on a wider basis are the prevention and early detection of breast cancer and personal recommendations for medicinal products.<sup>20</sup></p> <p>The Estonian eHealth Strategic Development Plan 2020 refers to E-applications that are created for organisation of patient handling and logistics between different service providers, e.g. for coordination of screening studies (cancer screening register), coordination of the treatment of patients with chronic diseases after a treatment episode by a medical specialist or a visit to emergency care to transfer the responsibility to family physicians, etc.<sup>21</sup></p> <p>In addition to the mentioned Implementation Strategy for Personalized Medicine, the "National Cancer Control Plan 2021–2030"<sup>22</sup> also refers to the digitalization of data and the development of the cancer registry.</p>
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	N/A	
Is there a National Cancer Plan in place?	Yes	The Cancer Control Plan 2021-2030 (in Estonian) refers to 'information systems'. <sup>23</sup>
If yes, does the National Cancer Plan refer to eHealth?	Yes	
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 Cancer Control Plan 2021-2030 was published in 2021. It identifies nine priorities related to cancer prevention, early diagnosis, access to high-quality treatment for all and ensuring high-quality care and follow-up for cancer patients. These priorities align with those set out in the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. The Cancer Control Plan 2021-2030 will be complemented by an implementation plan, which will define responsibilities and timelines to reach the goals. <sup>24</sup>
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?	Yes	<p>There is an Estonian Health System Performance Assessment Framework upon which annual analysis is performed. eHealth implementation in Estonia serves as a vehicle for data collection for performance assessment. In Estonia, data must be submitted by all health care providers.</p> <p>One specific indicator in the framework on eHealth analyses the ‘share of referrals to e-consultation in all referrals by family physicians (i.e. the share of all e-consultation referrals sent through the eHealth information system within 12 months from referrals that have an e-consultation option).<sup>25</sup></p>
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e.	Yes	There are several initiatives, e.g.,

<sup>20</sup> [Implementation of Personalised Medicine in Estonia \(2019–2023\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Estonian eHealth Strategic Development Plan 2020](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Cancer Control Action Plan 2021–2030 | National Institute for Health Development](#)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.tai.ee/et/valijaanded/vahitorje-tegevuskava-2021-2030>

<sup>24</sup> [EU Country Cancer Profiles 2025 | OECD](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Health System Performance Assessment Framework for Estonia | OECD](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Tartu coordinated UNCAN.eu. The information, collected within UNCAN.eu, will be used to address the urgent and critical scientific and medical challenges in cancer prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and survival.<sup>26</sup></li> <li>Dermtest, a skin cancer detection to chronic skin disease monitoring.<sup>27</sup></li> <li>The Estonian Biobank project involved research and clinical work in two areas – breast cancer and cardiovascular disease (myocardial infarction). Database is linked with national registries (such as Cancer Registry and Causes of Death Registry), hospital databases, and the database of the national health insurance fund, which holds treatment and service bills.<sup>28</sup></li> <li>OnKontakt provides e-support for cancer patients.<sup>29</sup></li> <li>A Lung cancer patient journey development project.<sup>30</sup></li> </ul>

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

## 4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Estonia

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country?	Yes	eHealth related topics are fully incorporated to general health legislation
Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?	Yes	The provision of telemedicine services is allowed under Estonian law, and it is used on a regular basis. Telemedicine is largely unregulated, and thus the rules and requirements applicable to regular healthcare services apply also to telemedicine services. <sup>31</sup>
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	Yes	In 2014, the government approved two green papers on alcohol and tobacco policy as well as a white paper on reducing illegal drug use. The latter was developed by the Ministry of the Interior. Following the adoption of these papers several policy measures have been implemented including increases in alcohol and tobacco excise taxes, restrictions in advertising and sale as well as improved access to alcohol dependency services. <sup>32</sup>
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?	Yes	The Health Services Organisation Act and regulations issued thereunder (e.g., "Establishment and Statutes of the Cancer Registry"). There is no separate "e-health law for cancer care"; it is integrated into the general legal framework.

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

<sup>26</sup> [UNCAN.eu](https://uncan.eu) and <https://genomics.ut.ee/en/node/144365>

<sup>27</sup> <https://dermtest.webflow.io/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://genomics.ut.ee/en/content/estonian-biobank>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.haigekassa.ee/en/partner/medical-institutions/telemedicine-pilot-projects/brief-description-demo-projects>

<sup>30</sup> <https://connectedhealth.ee/novel-public-private-partnership-contributes-to-the-implementation-of-cancer-control-plan/>

<sup>31</sup> [Provision of Health-care Service over the Internet – the Legality of E-consultations in Estonia](https://www.oecd.org/health/legality-of-e-consultations-in-estonia/) and <https://www.sorainen.com/publications/legal-aspects-of-telemedicine-in-belarus-and-the-baltic-states/#estonia> and [The future of telemedicine after COVID-19 | OECD](https://www.oecd.org/health/legality-of-e-consultations-in-estonia/)

<sup>32</sup> [Estonia: health system review 2018](https://www.oecd.org/health/estonia-health-system-review-2018/)

## 5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Yes, <a href="#">Patient Portal</a>	-	-	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">e-consultation</a> with oncologists have been available for family doctors since 2013 in cases of suspected cancer <sup>33</sup> ; e-consultation in <a href="#">primary health care</a> (Health Insurance Fund)	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">Certific</a> , a patient communication platform	-	Yes, e.g., participation of The North Estonia Medical Center in research project <a href="#">AIDAVA</a> - all available personal health data of an individual in one consistent semantic model <sup>34</sup> ; <a href="#">Ecosystems   Global Health Connector</a> , partnerships committed to working together to implement innovative solutions that improve the quality of health and wellbeing of citizens, the effectiveness of the healthcare system and the scope for wealth creation and business opportunities; <a href="#">Guardtime Health</a> , a collaborative health ecosystem
<b>Prevention of Cancer</b>	Yes, registration at the national <a href="#">eBooking</a> system ( <a href="#">Cervical cancer screening - Elite Kliinik</a> ); <a href="#">Antegenes</a> to calculate a person's risk of developing cancer and provide medical advice on prevention and early detection by combining the polygenic risk score	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">Dermtest</a> skin cancer detection to chronic skin disease monitoring	-	-	-	-	Yes, e.g., sending reminders to patients of the possibility to participate in the screening programs by pharmacies <sup>35</sup>

<sup>33</sup> [EU Country Cancer Profile: Estonia 2023](#)

<sup>34</sup> [AIDAVA: New EU Research Project Launches to Automate Curation and Publishing of Personal Health Data Through Artificial Intelligence - European Heart Network](#)

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9301098/>

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
	with a person's background (origin, age, and gender)						
<b>Treatment of Cancer</b>	-	-	-	-	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">OnKontakt</a> e-support for cancer patients; <a href="#">Provision</a> , a global developer of proton therapy treatment locations; <a href="#">The Lung Cancer Patient's Journey Improvement Project</a>	-	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">The digital decision support system (DDSS); decision support system of clinical decisions; DDSS for personalised medicine - Feasibility study; DrugCard</a> - Pharmacovigilance Software
<b>'Living with cancer'</b>	-	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">Triumfland</a> - The effect of Triumf mobile health game on psychological well- being and health-related quality of life among pediatric cancer patients: <a href="#">A pilot study</a>	-	-	-	-	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">Minudoc</a> - health teleconsultation platform, which aims to provide on-demand quality primary and secondary level healthcare advice
<b>Rehabilitation from Cancer</b>	-	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">Cognuse</a> - software solutions for critical disease management and rehabilitation; <a href="#">CoNurse</a> - can be used by patients' family and caregivers to support care continuum from hospital to home.	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Palliative Cancer Care</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

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

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	No further information available.
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	No overview information website on recommended solutions. But there is general information on the health system including eHealth by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund. <sup>36</sup> The eHealth portal itself allows persons to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• view own health information,</li> <li>• designate representatives,</li> <li>• present declarations of will,</li> <li>• check when information has been viewed and by whom,</li> <li>• view prescriptions,</li> <li>• notify medical institutions,</li> <li>• set up reminders for appointments with doctors.<sup>37</sup></li> </ul> The Tallin University of Technology has set up an ‘Health Applications Evaluator’. <sup>38</sup>
Can you give an estimation on how the split between private and public apps are available? Give an estimate percentage of public solutions.	N/A	No further information available.
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?	Yes	The Estonian Health insurance fund has a ‘Digital Solutions Guide’ in place. This addresses mainly the manufacturers of digital solutions. ‘ <i>The digital solutions guide brings together important information that a digital solution manufacturer should consider in the different development stages of a solution. The guide focuses on three points of contact between the state and a digital solution manufacturer:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Interoperability, i.e., data exchange between the digital solution and national databases and/or those of healthcare providers.</i></li> <li>• <i>Security and efficiency.</i></li> <li>• <i>Permanent reimbursement by the Health Insurance Fund’.</i><sup>39</sup></li> </ul> The Tallin University of Technology has set up an ‘Health Applications Evaluator’ also based on the ‘Digital Solutions Guide’. <sup>40</sup>
How many Health Care Providers use such solutions? Which sector uses rather which types of solutions?	N/A	No further information available.

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

<sup>36</sup> [Healthcare in Estonia 2022](#)

<sup>37</sup> [www.digilugu.ee](http://www.digilugu.ee)

<sup>38</sup> [The Health Applications Evaluator](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Digital solutions guide | Estonian Health Insurance Fund \(tervisekassa.ee\)](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Health Applications | TalTech](#)