

cPOLICY MAPPING ON eHEALTH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES (INCLUDING ON CANCER CARE) IN LUXEMBOURG

This Country Factsheet was first prepared for the eCAN Joint Action and updated for the eCAN Plus Joint Action. It is prefilled with publicly available information and was sent for review to country experts on eHealth and cancer care. The Country-specific 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 (EHDS) offer opportunity to better address population health needs. Built on the experience of the eCAN JA, this follow-up project contributes to integrate digital tools and improve 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 – Luxembourg

The definitions and observations below are based on internationally recognised sources and publicly available information.

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	No deviation from 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 ». ²	No deviation from definition.
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 ». ³ 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. » ⁴	No deviation from definition.
telehealth	The WHO defines telehealth broader than telemedicine « as it includes computer-assisted telecommunications to support management, surveillance, literature, and access to medical knowledge. » ⁵	It seems that the terms telehealth and telemedicine are used randomly.
telemedicine	The EU Commission defines telemedicine as follows: « 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,	No deviation from definition.

¹ [WHO EMRO - eHealth](#)

² [mHealth Assessment: Conceptualization of a Global Framework - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#), [mHealth](#)

³ [Events - Smart4Health](#)

⁴ [Digital health EURO \(who.int\)](#)

⁵ [Telehealth – DigitalHealthEurope](#)

Term	Definition	Deviation
	and follow-up of patients (EU Commission definition, COM(2008)689). » ⁶	
teleconsultation	The Pan American Health Organization (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. » ⁷	Yes, some deviation. ⁸
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). »	Not explained directly in laws or regulations.

Further information:

- Suggestion to use another definition for health app: Health apps are software programs on mobile devices that process health-related data on or for their users. They can be used by every health-conscious person to maintain, improve, or manage the health of an individual or the community. As an umbrella term, health apps include medical apps. Medical apps share the same technological functions and devices. Health professionals, patients, and family caregivers are the main user groups. Medical apps are intended for clinical and medical purposes and can be legally regulated as mobile medical devices.⁹

2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance - Luxembourg

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 and Social security oversees eHealth matters. ¹⁰ The national eHealth Agency ‘Agence e-Santé’ (see also further below) <i>is subject to the joint authority of the minister responsible for health and social security. Each year, it submits to the relevant ministers the IT master plan [...], its annual report, [and] a multi-year budget forecast, together with the accounts for the previous year.</i> ¹¹
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?	Yes	The Ministry of Health and Social Security has a specific unit called ‘Digitalisation’ ¹² . In the organigram of Ministry of Health and Social Security, the « Digital Health » unit fulfills inter alia the following mission: Participation in European cooperation initiatives in the field of Digital Medical Devices, primarily at ministerial and agency level.
Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?	Yes	In Luxembourg, the eHealth Agency (see below) is organised in the form of a General Assembly and a Board of Management including several

⁶ [Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope](#)

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

⁸ [guide-utilisation-teleconsultation-ps-v03.pdf](#)

⁹ [The Definitions of Health Apps and Medical Apps From the Perspective of Public Health and Law: Qualitative Analysis of an Interdisciplinary Literature Overview - ScienceDirect](#)

¹⁰ <https://msan.gouvernement.lu/de.html>

¹¹ [Loi du 17 décembre 2010 portant réforme du système de soins de santé et modifiant: 1. le Code de la sécurité sociale; 2. la loi modifiée du 28 août 1998 sur les établissements hospitaliers. - Legilux \(public.lu\)](#). See article 60.

¹² [Digitalisation - Annuaire - Etat.lu - Luxembourg](#)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		members of governmental institutions as well as health actors from public and private sector.
Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?	Yes	The 'Agence eSanté' (eHealth Agency) ¹³ aims to ensure a better use of information in the health sector and the medico-social sector to ensure better coordinated patient care. It is expected to achieve this through the implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a platform for sharing and exchanging data in the health sector including the electronic health record (DSP), and • a Master Plan for Health Information Systems (SDSI) defining a national strategy for the interoperability of health information systems which will thus allow the different health systems to interact smoothly.¹⁴
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)	The use of dHealth/eHealth tools in the outpatient sector is generally not covered by the national health insurance system (CNS), with the exceptions of certain teleconsultations and telemonitoring services. Also, some health apps may be reimbursed by the CNS if they have been prescribed by a healthcare professional and if they are used to manage a chronic medical condition, such as diabetes or hypertension.
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)	Since the COVID-19 pandemic, a health insurance temporary code was implemented for oncology follow-up consultation via telehealth (covered by the National Health Insurance). ¹⁵
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or telehealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?	No	Luxembourg currently participates in the JA CrANE, CSAa CCI4EU, and ECHOS, which aim to address overall definitions and questions of structuring CCC and other cancer infrastructures. The forthcoming JAs EUnetCCC and JANE-2 foresee the implementation of a CCC-like structure in Luxembourg. Thus, the needs and specific eHealth or telehealth solutions will be assessed in that context.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?	Yes, but outdated	Yes, an earlier national eHealth strategy exists, and new initiatives are currently under development.

¹³ [Agence eSanté \(esante.lu\)](https://www.esante.lu/)

¹⁴ <https://www.esante.lu/portal/en/e-sant-information/agence-esant-408-592.html>

¹⁵ https://www.rnc.lu/Portals/5/Publications/Articles%20scientifiques/Backes%20C-2020_Lessons%20learned%20from%20COVID-19%20lockdown%20for%20cancer%20care.pdf?ver=2021-03-01-135835-507

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	Several	Several actors were included in the development of the 2006 strategy. ¹⁶ For the HISL (see above), an inter-ministerial working group including members of the Ministry of Health and Social Security, the Ministry of Digitalization, the Directorate of health and the CNS, has proposed a strategy for setting up national governance for the digitization of the healthcare system and a single national IT system for the inpatient and outpatient sectors. ¹⁵
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	There are no subnational territorial units (regions) in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting such regional strategy/ies?	Not applicable	
Are there strategy/ies explicitly referring to / including eHealth cancer care?	Yes	Luxembourg has a National Cancer Plan (PNC2 2020–2024, extended to 2026). ¹⁷ Axis 2 addresses quality of care and coordination aspects, including the progressive integration of digital tools. To date, clinical pathways have primarily been developed as paper-based solutions.
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	Yes	A dedicated chapter on eHealth and digitization is planned to be included in the next National Cancer Report of Luxembourg (expected 2026). A dedicated chapter on eHealth and digitalisation is planned to be included in the next National Cancer Report of Luxembourg (expected 2026). In this context, reflections involving several stakeholders are ongoing to review the current eHealth environment and identify possible areas for future development.
Is there a National Cancer Plan in place?	Yes	Following an initial National Cancer Plan from 2014, there is an ongoing National Cancer Plan for Luxembourg (PNC2) 2020-2024, which was extended to 2026, in place. ¹⁸ The Axis 2 covers eHealth activities. The pathways are developed as paper solutions initially.
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	Considering Luxembourg’s participation in recent EU Joint Actions (EUnetCCC and JANE), additional elements of policy and associated solutions may be discussed in the future.
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on cancer care measuring the progress of the use of eHealth in cancer care?	No	To date, no specific national indicators dedicated to monitoring the use of eHealth in cancer care have been formally implemented.
Are there any other cancer care specific eHealth initiatives, f.e. by other stakeholders than policy makers / public authorities?	Yes	As part of the PNC2, the LIH is carrying out the RELIANCE study, including an e-health questionnaire for breast cancer survivors to provide important insights into the associated risk factors for breast cancer and to investigate the barriers to and facilitators of returning to work in Luxembourg after a breast cancer diagnosis. ¹⁹ Luxembourg also joined the PaRIS survey, commissioned by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ²⁰

¹⁶ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/ehealth/document/lu-ehealth-action-plan>

¹⁷ [Plan national cancer 2020-2024 \(gouvernement.lu\)](https://www.gouvernement.lu/fr/actualites/actualites/2020/06/plan-national-cancer-2020-2024.html)

¹⁸ [Plan national cancer 2020-2024 \(gouvernement.lu\)](https://www.gouvernement.lu/fr/actualites/actualites/2020/06/plan-national-cancer-2020-2024.html)

¹⁹ <https://www.lih.lu/en/reliance-breast-cancer-study/>

²⁰ <https://www.oecd.org/health/paris/>, <https://www.lih.lu/en/paris-survey/>

Further information:

- One of the strategic priorities in the ‘Health National Plan 2023’ is to further support the digitalisation of the healthcare system, including in the field of cancer care.²¹

4 LEGISLATION

Table 4 : Overview on eHealth and cancer legislation - Luxembourg

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country?	No	No single comprehensive legal framework dedicated exclusively to eHealth is in place. Relevant aspects are addressed through several sectoral laws (e.g. data protection, health data governance, telemedicine).
Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?	Yes	Luxembourg has implemented legislation on the use of telemedicine. The Law of 28 July 2017 on the exercise of certain rights of patients in the field of telemedicine provides a legal framework for telemedicine services in Luxembourg. Outside the COVID-19 context, the practical implementation and reimbursement of teleconsultations remain limited and subject to specific conditions.
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	N/A	No further information available.
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?	Yes	Yes, primarily within a broader legal framework and not specific to cancer care alone. Relevant legislation includes laws on the collection, storage and use of health data, as well as legislation governing telemedicine, which together provide a legal basis applicable to cancer care contexts. The Grand-Ducal Regulation of 18 August 2011, covering certain activities of the tumour boards (‘RCP’) in oncology, specifically permitting the use of videoconferencing for enabling the participation of pathology and radiotherapy specialists.

Further information:

- No further information identified.

²¹ <https://santesecu.public.lu/dam-assets/fr/publications/s/state-of-health-luxembourg-2023/2023-state-of-health-in-luxembourg-en.pdf>

5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices	Other, please specify
Ecosystem	Yes, eSanté portal (access to personal health data/record, medical prescription insights, data for science etc.), government-driven health portal for citizens , HCPs, Observatory (Observatoire)	Yes, for example, Agence eSanté has developed a mobile app called ' MyDPS ' that allows patients to access their medical records, view their test results.	-	No	-	-	-
Prevention of Cancer	Yes, national cancer registry	-	-	No	-	-	-
Treatment of Cancer	-	Yes, a pilot project using NOONA software for patients undergoing radiotherapy at the National Radiotherapy Centre (Centre François Baclesse). The pilot has been completed and no national roll-out has been decided to date.	-	Yes, for multidisciplinary tumour boards ("RCP"), in particular for rare cancers or complex cases, as well as for local or hospital-based tumour boards (notably in radiotherapy and pathology).	-	-	Yes, e.g., during pandemic years 2020 and 2021, the Broschkriibslaf was organized on a virtual mode; Another important event ' Relais pour la vie ' also offers a virtual way to participate. These initiatives relate primarily to awareness and patient engagement rather than clinical care delivery.
'Living with cancer'	-	-	-	No	-	-	
Rehabilitation from Cancer	-	-	-	No	-	-	-
Palliative Cancer Care	-	-	-	No	-	-	-

Further information:

- No further information identified.

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

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 comprehensive national inventory of certified eHealth medical devices specifically dedicated to cancer care is available to date.
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)?	Yes	The Agence eSanté has developed an internet website ²² with secured log-in process that gives access to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the DSP (Dossier de soins partagé), which is a free, personal, and secure electronic health record that centralizes essential patient health data in a unique location, • the recently implemented and deployed electronic immunization card (eCV – carnet de vaccination électronique), including vaccination against HPV against cervical cancer.
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?	N/A	No further information available.
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.

²² <https://sante.public.lu/fr/campagnes/2020/myDsp.html>