

# POLICY MAPPING ON eHEALTH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES (INCLUDING ON CANCER CARE) IN THE SLOVAK 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](mailto:ecan@goeg.at).

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## 1 DEFINITIONS

Table 1 : Deviations in the use of international definitions for eHealth terms – Slovak 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 ». <sup>1</sup>	No deviation from definition. Definition in Slovakian available. <sup>2</sup>
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>3</sup>	No definition in official SK documents identified.
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>4</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>5</sup>	No definition in official SK documents identified.
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>6</sup>	No definition in official SK documents identified.
telemedicine	The EU Commission defines telemedicine as follows (EU Commission definition, COM(2008)689) : « Telemedicine is the provision of health care services, using 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>7</sup>	In 2015, the National Centre for Telemedicine Services was established in Slovak Republic. The National Center for Telemedicine Services defines telemedicine as services including primarily teleconsultation, telemonitoring, teleradiology, teledermatology, telepatology, telesurgery etc.
teleconsultation	PAHO describes teleconsultation (also sometimes referred to as remote consultation or teleHealth), as « interactions	No definition in official SK documents identified.

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nczisk.sk/en/eHealth/Pages/default.aspx>, <https://www.slovensko.sk/en/title>

<sup>3</sup> mHealth Assessment: Conceptualization of a Global Framework - PMC (nih.gov), mHealth

<sup>4</sup> Events - Smart4Health

<sup>5</sup> Digital health EURO (who.int)

<sup>6</sup> TeleHealth – DigitalHealthEurope

<sup>7</sup> Telemedicine – DigitalHealthEurope

Term	Definition	Deviation
	that happen between a clinician and a patient for the purpose of providing diagnostic or therapeutic advice through electronic means. » <sup>8</sup>	
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 definition in official SK documents identified.

### Further information:

- There is a legislative draft of the amended Act no. 153/2013 Coll. on the national health information system, where definitions such as telemedicine, telemonitoring, teleconsultation, teleexpertise, telecare, telerehabilitation and other terms should be included.
- The amendment of Act 153 2013 Coll on the National Health Information System was approved in 2023. New definitions for specific tele services such as telemedicine, telemonitoring and teleconsultation are planned to enter into force from 2026.<sup>910</sup> This amendment is intended to clarify provisions for electronic health services and to support new services such as fully electronic GP agreements (eDohody).<sup>11</sup>

## 2 GOVERNANCE

Table 2 : Overview on eHealth governance – Slovak 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 of the Slovak Republic oversees eHealth. <sup>12</sup> Nevertheless, the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization (MIRRI SR) published a Digital Strategy paper in 2024, stating concrete health-related components to be implemented.
Does the Ministry who oversees health care also have a specific Department or Unit in charge of eHealth/dHealth?	Yes	There is a Digitization and Informatics Section in the Ministry of Health. <sup>13</sup>
Is there a national eHealth governance board in place?	No	Not at the moment. Based on the request of the National Health Information Center (subordinate organization of the ministry in field of ICT, Národné centrum zdravotníckych informácií), NCZI, the Ministry of Health is preparing the creation of a working group/platform that will deal with the analysis and planning of the implementation of changes resulting from the EHDS legislation. As of 2025 there is no public information that a permanent national eHealth governance board has started to operate.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www3.paho.org/ish/images/docs/covid-19-teleconsultations-en.pdf?ua=1>

<sup>9</sup> <https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=0B9C71E138B44D2997DBF223E4DDA14A-5735EBBC9434978879D652D6855E33BE>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.nczisk.sk/Documents/statisticke\\_zistovania/zakon\\_153\\_2013.pdf](https://www.nczisk.sk/Documents/statisticke_zistovania/zakon_153_2013.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ezdravotnictvo.sk/sk/-/funkcia-edohody>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.health.gov.sk/Titulka>

<sup>13</sup> <https://mzsr.sk/?sekcia-informatiky-1>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a public eHealth agency in place? At which level (national, regional)? Which functions does this agency cover?	Yes	NCZI is the Slovak national ICT service provider in field of electronic healthcare (eHealth), statistical health surveys, national health and national health administrative registries, statistical outputs and services of Slovak Medical Library. <sup>14</sup>
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	As of 2025 teleHealth and telemedicine services are generally covered by public health insurance when the service could also be provided as standard care and the insurers recognise teleHealth as a valid mode of delivery <sup>15</sup> . There is no separate public funding scheme only for digital cancer tools, but teleconsultations and some remote services can be billed in a similar way to ordinary visits if insurers agree.
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, infrastructure and some services	General services provided by NCZI are covered from national budget and legal contribution of health insurance companies. Services provided by health care providers are paid including teleHealth consultation (consultation by phone due to the COVID pandemic) are included in public health insurance.
Are there any comprehensive cancer centres focussing on eHealth or teleHealth treatments? If yes, which ones and for which specific fields?		
Is there a Ministry or State Secretariat explicitly in charge of eHealth/dHealth in place? If so, which Ministry?	No	There are no comprehensive cancer centres focussing directly on eHealth or teleHealth.

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

## 3 STRATEGIES/POLICIES

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a national eHealth strategy in place?	Yes, but outdated	<p>There is a national strategy/programme on eHealth with main goals<sup>16</sup> including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The launch of National Health Portal with basic information;</li> <li>• The development and launch of the following applications (within pilot operation): Citizen Health eBook, ePrescription, eMedication, eAllocation;</li> <li>• Creating conditions for integration of healthcare providers information systems (IS HCP) with national eHealth solution, verifying integration with IS HCP during pilot operation.</li> </ul> <p>A revision and update are needed, as the document is outdated. The National project on Electronic Health Services was completed in December 2015.</p>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.nczisk.sk/Pages/default.aspx>

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

<sup>16</sup> [https://old.ezdravotnictvo.sk/en/eHealth\\_Programme/Pages/default.aspx](https://old.ezdravotnictvo.sk/en/eHealth_Programme/Pages/default.aspx)

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
		Furthermore, the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization (MIRRI SR) published a Digital National Strategy paper in 2024 “the 2030 Digital Transformation Strategy for Slovakia” <sup>17</sup> . It explicitly includes a digital health strategy component. Several key sections detail the role of eHealth, telemedicine, and data-driven healthcare in Slovakia’s overall digital transformation plan. Cancer is not discussed as a stand-alone topic, but the strategy addresses disease prevention, diagnostics, chronic disease management, and personalised medicine, which are directly relevant. Further The strategy is now firmly framed as the cross sector umbrella up to 2030, with a dedicated pillar on digitalisation of health and public care services, development of eHealth, mobility in health care and personalised medicine. <sup>18</sup> What is new or clearer by late 2025: The Digital Transformation Strategy of Slovakia 2030 is now explicitly positioned as the main horizontal document for digital topics, including health. <sup>19</sup> It emphasises electronicisation of health and public care services, development of eHealth, mobility in health care and personalised medicine
If yes, which stakeholder groups have been included in drafting the national eHealth strategy?	N/A	The Council of the Minister of Health for the eHealth Implementation Program is not working, currently. The 2030 Digital Transformation Strategy was drafted through a broad multi-stakeholder consultation process, involving government and Public Administration such as NHIS and eZdravie, Ministries, the private sector, academia and civil society.
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 further information available.
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?	No	No further information available.
If not, are there discussions ongoing to develop a national eHealth strategy?	No	No further information available.
Is there a National Cancer Plan in place?	Yes	There is a National Cancer Plan in place. <sup>20</sup> In its activity 1.2 it supports the involvement of the Slovak Republic in projects for the creation and implementation of the EU mobile application for prevention in the Slovak Republic. But there is no real implementation yet.
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	There is a plan to work on updates in 2024-2025.
Are there any indicators in eHealth policy or national programmes on	No	NCZI now publicly reports several eHealth key performance indicators on the ezdravie portal such as numbers of electronic prescriptions, recorded examinations and discharge summaries <sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <https://digitalhealthuptake.eu/radar-repository/2030-digital-transformation-strategy-for-slovakia/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://digitalhealthuptake.eu/radar-repository/2030-digital-transformation-strategy-for-slovakia/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://digitalhealthuptake.eu/radar-repository/2030-digital-transformation-strategy-for-slovakia/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.noisk.sk/about-us/national-oncology-program>

<sup>21</sup> <https://ezdravie.nczisk.sk>

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
cancer care 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 National OnkoAsist Project works on the management of the patient's journey from medical findings to the start of treatment. The 'Improving cancer care coordination and screening in Latvia and Slovak Republic (IARC)' project works on supporting cancer control in eastern Europe. It is a joint initiative with the EC and the ministries of health of Slovak Republic and Latvia to help reduce cancer mortality. However this project is focused on screening governance and not eHealth initiatives. NCZI describes OnkoAsist as a major eurofunded project under Programme Slovakia 2021 to 2027 with a budget of around 7 million euro, aiming to create an integrated digital management system for suspected oncology patients from first symptoms to start of treatment and to prepare ground for AI use. Last official update on the NCZI site is April 2025. <sup>22</sup>

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

## 4 LEGISLATION

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

Question	Answer	Comments/Experience
Is there a general legal framework covering eHealth related topics in your country?	Yes	There is Law no. 153/2013 Coll. on the national health information system (eHealth), which is currently under amendment. <sup>23</sup>
Is there specific legislation on the use of telemedicine?	Yes	Act 153 2013 Coll is under amendment. A revised version has been adopted and will enter into force in 2026, introducing more precise rules for electronic provision of services and data handling. As of 2025 the picture is: There is no single standalone telemedicine act. Telemedicine is recognised and regulated through general health care and eHealth legislation, and through secondary rules and reimbursement practice <sup>24</sup>
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to cancer prevention?	Yes	Law No. 577/2004 Coll. (Annex 2) on the scope of health care paid for based on public health insurance and on payments for services related to the provision of health care.
Is there specific legislation explicitly referring to / including eHealth in cancer care?	No	No further information available.

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.nczisk.sk/Medzinarodna-spolupraca/PROJEKTY/Program\\_Slovensko/OnkoAsist/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.nczisk.sk/Medzinarodna-spolupraca/PROJEKTY/Program_Slovensko/OnkoAsist/Pages/default.aspx)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2013/153/20230101>

<sup>24</sup> <https://cms.law/en/int/expert-guides/cms-expert-guide-to-digital-health-apps-and-telemedicine/slovakia>

## 5 CANCER SPECIFIC eHEALTH SOLUTIONS

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

Area of application/ type of solutions	Login Websites	Apps	Webinars	Multi-disciplinary teleconferences (HCP-HPC)	Teleconsultation (HCP-patient)	Telemonitoring via devices		
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Yes, e.g., <a href="#">National Health Portal</a> (My Health Book - personal health records, prescription records, patient summary); <a href="#">National Cancer Registry of Slovak Republic</a> (NOR) Patient access to the electronic health book via eID and the National Health Portal is now clearly explained on NCZI patient pages; New ezdravie services such as eAlerts inform professionals about relevant events and notifications in the system <sup>25</sup>	No	-	-	-	-		
<b>Prevention of Cancer</b>	No	No	Yes, organized by Slovak Medical Chamber as a part of continual medical education	Yes, organized by Slovak Oncology Society, National Oncology Institute, as a part of continual medical education	No	No		
<b>Treatment of Cancer</b>	By 2025, <a href="#">OnkoAsist</a> is clearly positioned as the main national digital oncology pathway project: It aims to create a complete digital management system for oncology patients from first suspicion to start of treatment, including communication channels between providers, documentation storage and support for future AI use	-	Yes, organized by Slovak Medical Chamber as a part of continual medical education	Yes, organized by Slovak Oncology Society, National Oncology Institute, as a part of continual medical education	Yes, on individual basis regarding to the technical skills of the physician and patient	-		
<b>'Living with cancer'</b>	-	-				-		
<b>Rehabilitation from Cancer</b>	-	-				No	No	-
<b>Palliative Cancer Care</b>	-	-				No	No	-

### Further information:

- No further information identified.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ezdravotnictvo.sk/sk/esluzby>

*Table 6 : Number of eHealth solutions available and in use – Slovak 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	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 further information available.
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?	No	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.