Interreg Danube Region

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DIGI4Care

# Digital Dementia Care: AI-supported solutions for a growing workforce gap

## Policy Factsheet

Recommendations to support national decision making for sustainable dementia care in the Czech Republic prepared by FM VŠE (Czech Republic)

## Key messages

**1. Digital technologies and AI can support health professionals and improve quality of dementia care.**

**2. Digital tools may enable safe task-shifting in dementia care to trained health and care staff.**

**3. Training and certification are essential for safe implementation of AI-supported dementia care.**

## Learnings & Results

The Czech Republic faces **growing pressure in dementia care**, with approximately 178,648 people living with dementia and an estimated **workforce deficit of 24,017 full time equivalents**. At the same time, 79.89% of patients remain in home and community-based care settings. Pilot 4 of the DIGI4Care project tested **AI-supported cognitive assessment tools** in real-world healthcare and social care environments to support more scalable and workforce-efficient dementia care models.

Within the pilot, **digital tools for cognitive assessment and monitoring were tested** in real-world settings, enabling the use of AI-supported solutions across different levels of care. These tools allow standardized evaluation of cognitive functions and can be operated by trained non-specialist staff under defined protocols.

Main results achieved through the participation in the project include:

- **Increase in institutional capacity:** AI-supported tools enable selected standardised activities to be performed by trained non-specialised staff under supervision, supporting expansion of care capacity.
- **Workforce upskilling and task-shifting:** Digital tools support workforce upskilling and task-shifting, allowing specialised professionals to focus on more complex interventions.
- **Decentralisation of care delivery:** Cognitive screening and monitoring can be decentralised into primary care and social care settings, improving accessibility and early detection.
- **Standardisation and repeatability of assessments:** Digital technologies support more standardised and repeatable assessment workflows across providers.
- **Use of Pilot 4 strategies and action plans:** Pilot 4 supports implementation of Digi4Care strategies focused on scalable and digitally supported dementia care models.
- **Uptake and use of Pilot 4 solutions:** The tested solutions demonstrated strong scalability and transferability across regions with similar workforce challenges.

Pilot 4 results thus support evidence-based policymaking for sustainable and workforce-efficient dementia care systems.

Digital technologies can support dementia care systems facing a workforce deficit of 24,017 full time equivalents in the Czech Republic. Pilot 4 of the DIGI4Care project demonstrated the potential for safe task-shifting and centralisation of dementia care services.

## Benefits for policymakers

The implementation of pilot technologies brings several systemic benefits that are directly relevant for policymakers addressing growing pressure on healthcare and social care systems:

- **More efficient use of limited specialist capacity:** Supports more efficient workforce utilisation in dementia care systems facing major staffing shortages.
- **Scalable and sustainable care models:** Enables expansion of screening and rehabilitation services without proportional growth in specialist workforce needs.
- **Earlier detection and intervention:** Supports earlier identification of cognitive impairment and timely intervention.
- **Standardisation and quality assurance:** Digital tools support more consistent and repeatable care delivery.
- **Integration of health and social care systems:** Supports coordinated care pathways for dementia patients, enabling better collaboration across sectors.
- **Data-driven decision-making:** Digital solutions generate structured data that can be used for monitoring, planning and evaluation of healthcare policies.
- **Workforce transformation and upskilling:** Creates Supports structured task-shifting and workforce upskilling through standardised digital workflows.

## Recommendations for policymakers

To **unlock the full potential of digital cognitive assessment and dementia care**, policymakers should focus on **enabling systemic changes** across regulation, workforce, and care delivery models:



Enable implementation across primary and social care settings.

Support task-shifting frameworks for trained non-specialist staff.



Invest in workforce training and certification.

Integrate digital tools into reimbursement and standard care pathways.



Support interoperability and cross-sector collaboration.