Interreg Danube Region

Co-funded by the European Union

DIGI4Care

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Policy Factsheet

Recommendations to support national decision making in transforming the patient journey by taking up digital medical technologies across the Danube Region

Key messages

1. **DIGI4Care experience shows that digital health adds most value when embedded in care pathways and supported by clear clinical workflows.**
2. **DIGI4Care shows that remote training, monitoring and digital rehabilitation need interoperability, organisational readiness and human support to scale sustainably.**
3. **DIGI4Care´s value can be maxims through priorisation of interoperable infrastructure, structured implementation support and hybrid care models combining digital tools with professional guidance and human contact.**

Learnings & Results

The DTP INTERREG project **DIGI4Care** (Digital Medical technologies reshaping the Danube Region Healthcare systems throughout the patient journeys from prevention to rehabilitation) **aimed at redefining patient pathways** by testing, validating and strategically integrating digital and AI solutions **in 7 countries (Austria , Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia),** involving **11 project partners** (Semmelweis University (HU), Digital Health and Innovation Cluster Bulgaria (BG), Austrian National Public Health Institute GÖG (AT), Gottsegen György National Cardiovascular Institute (HU), Hospital Consulting SRL (RO), Research and technological development Association in Health – Health RTD Cluster (BA), Kelvin Health Inc. (BG), Ludwig Boltzmann Institute Digital Health and Patient Safety (AT), University of Oradea (RO), Prague University of Economics and Business (CZ) and Central & East European Health Policy Network (SK).

Four pilots with over 1.100 participants across different healthcare settings were performed across the project countries:

- **Pilot 1**: Digital Health Technologies for Prevention and Screening (BG, HU, RO, SK)
- **Pilot 2**: Tele-ultrasound Training for Emergency Medical Services (AT, HU)
- **Pilot 3**: Digital Health for Post-Clinical Rehabilitation (AT, BG, HU, RO)
- **Pilot 4**: Digital Solutions for Dementia and Cognitive Disorders (AT, BA, CZ)

The pilots successfully demonstrated that **digital health solutions can complement traditional healthcare pathways** across prevention, diagnosis, monitoring and rehabilitation. Main results achieved in the project include:

- **Increase of institutional capacity:**
  DIGI4Care strengthened partners' capacity to assess digital care models, turn pilot experience into policy recommendations, and understand the conditions needed to scale digital health in routine care.

- **Use of DIGI4Care strategies and action plans:** The project strategy and action plans support a structured assessment of where digital tools add value, which conditions enable implementation, and how pilot lessons can inform organisational and policy planning.
- **Uptake and use of DIGI4Care solutions:** DIGI4Care solutions are most useful as tested reference models: remote training for workforce development, remote monitoring for post-clinical follow-up, and digital cognitive rehabilitation for long-term care, provided they are linked to workflow design, interoperability and user support.

The results provided by the DIGI4Care project are intended to provide country-related information and support evidence-based decision taking by policy makers beyond the project implementation.

Benefits for policymakers

- **Enhanced Information Sharing:** The **Knowledge Platform and Radar** facilitate access to a comprehensive knowledge base, improving the availability of relevant information for informed decision-making.
- **Improved Transnational Cooperation:** The **Data Management Model** addresses cooperation challenges, allowing for easier comparison of results across different regions, which can promote collaborative policy development.
- **Strengthened Skills in Healthcare:** The **Training and Capacity-building Toolbox** equips healthcare professionals with necessary skills, ensuring that policymakers have a well-trained workforce to implement digital health solutions effectively.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** The **Dashboard** provides policymakers with clear visualizations of complex data sets, aiding in evidence-based decision-making and enhancing the effectiveness of health policies.

Recommendations for policymakers

Prioritise interoperability and reliable data exchange as core requirements for future digital health investments so that remote monitoring and other digital tools can be integrated into routine care rather than remaining isolated pilot solutions.

Support user-centred implementation by planning for onboarding, digital literacy support, staff training and defined clinical review workflows from the outset, especially for patient groups and professionals facing higher adoption barriers.

Promote hybrid care models and strategic workforce development by combining digital tools with human support, while using DIGI4Care's transnational knowledge base, Strategy and Action Plans to inform national policy dialogue and future scale-up decisions.