

‘2030 Digital Decade’ policy programme – key performance indicators (KPIs)

EuroHealthNet’s consultation response

EuroHealthNet welcomes the European Commission’s long-term ‘2030 Digital Decade’ vision that will set out goals, targets, and pathways to direct the European Union’s digital transition over the following ten years.

The digital transformation of our societies is underway and the coming years will be crucial in defining how this process will be steered. **Health and social inequalities are prevalent in most European societies, and the digital transformation offers an opportunity to tackle them.** Yet, the **digitisation process could exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and subsequential manifestations among various population groups if the challenges and barriers to inclusion are not addressed today.**

The European Commission’s initiative to set out key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of its Digital Decade policy programme for 2030 is an important step in tracking the progress of the EU’s digital targets.

The KPI assessing “basic” and “above basic” digital abilities for people between the ages of 16 and 74, is not only a measure that aligns with the present EU Year of Skills and the wider European Skills Agenda, but is also a critical starting point in the digital transition - a KPI that EuroHealthNet welcomes.

However, this indicator should also **capture digital skills across the socio-economic gradient, with measurements additionally disaggregated by socio-economic status to ensure that vulnerable and socially excluded groups are reached.** In doing so, this will provide better evidence-based research and support actions around minimising digital exclusion across population groups.

The five dimensions linked to the measurement of digital skills - information, communication, problem solving, digital content creation and safety skills - **should also be supported by the additional dimension of literacy (and health literacy).** It is equally important to monitor and assess levels of digital literacy and digital health literacy across the population. Improved literacy levels equip citizens with the knowledge and competence to adapt and navigate through emerging technologies.

Literate communities are better able to understand the overall quality, suitability, and impact of such digital solutions at an individual and systemic level, including understanding how personal data is being used.

It is of course inevitable that the digital transformation of public administration in the health and social sectors will bring momentous changes (and challenges) in accessibility to services. How individuals' access e-health records, for example, will be one key change. EuroHealthNet welcomes the inclusion of measurements into existing nationwide mechanisms that will enable citizen's to access health data online. However, while selecting such categories, close attention should be given to socio-economic, demographic, geographical and educational barriers. This includes putting **additional measures in place that support and enable certain demographics** to access information online, specifically, those who may have difficulties accessing/managing such new technologies.

Measurements of digital skills should also capture upskilling and reskilling efforts across different sections of the workforce, including the health and social workforce, to stimulate the development of training and capacity building programmes for professionals.

As a partner of the Erasmus+ funded blueprint alliance, [BeWell](#) – a project working towards shaping the health workforce of tomorrow by creating a health workforce strategy on digital and green skills - EuroHealthNet is committed to promoting increased opportunities for the upskilling and reskilling of the European health workforce. This commitment will aid towards creating a more resilient future in health ecosystems at all levels; with health equity, health promotion and disease prevention remaining at the core of our work.

For more information about the EuroHealthNet kindly consult our website <https://eurohealthnet.eu/>

For more information about the BeWell project, and its contribution towards improving digital skills across the European health workforce, kindly consult the [website](#).

Other relevant publications: [Digital health literacy: how new skills can help improve health, equity and sustainability](#)