# Session: Governance and future

Data Governance in Austria

**WHO European Conference on Tackling Noncommunicable Diseases through Digital Solutions
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# Digital Austria: Where do we stand

Individuals who booked doctors' appointments online, 2018
As a percentage of all individuals
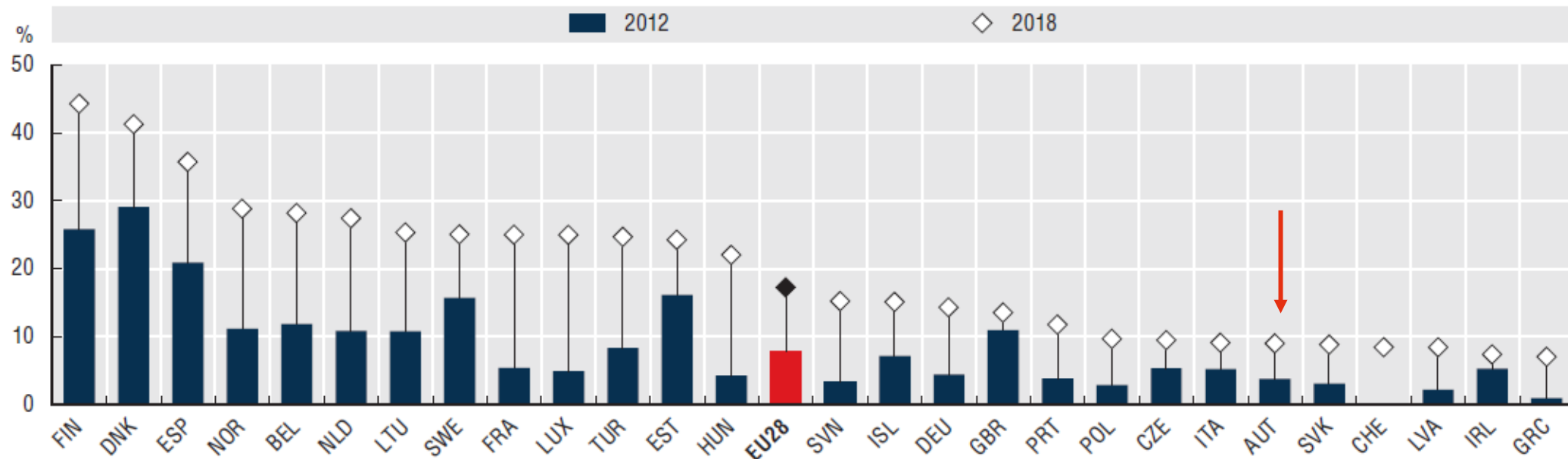
Source: OECD, based on Eurostat, Digital Economy and Society Statistics, Comprehensive Database, January 2019. See chapter notes. StatLink contains more data.

StatLink https://doi.org/10.1787/888933929433

Digitisation in the health sector: Services in Austria

» ELGA – electronic health records:
  e-Reports (discharge letters), e-Medication, Terminology and eHealth infrastructure

» Health Portal: www.gesundheit.gv.at → entry point also for digital certificates

» e-Prescription pilot

» Electronic vaccination pass

» 1450 hotline

» Telemonitoring disease management (HerzMobil, DiabCare, etc)

» Research work (universities, universities of applied sciences,...)

» Regional projects and strategies of the Länder and the SV

» "Stop Corona App" by Red Cross
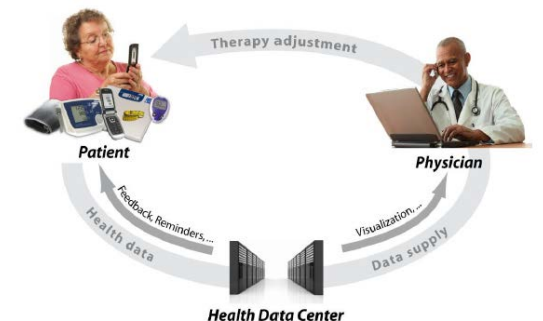
Austria's ELGA ("electronic health record")

» Run by a public company, reflecting Austrian health politics
  » Federal government level
  » 9 "Länder" (provinces)
  » Social insurance
  → shared/tripartite financing
» First plans in 2000, feasibility study in 2006, live 2014ff
» Central components: patient index, health provider index (GPs, Specialists, Hospitals, Pharmacies, Nursing Homes)
» Three core applications
  » e-Reports (discharge reports)
  » e-Medication
  » Pilot e-vaccination passport (boosted by COVID-19)
» Idea: building telemedicine and eHealth applications on the ELGA infrastructure
» Principles:
  » Decentral infrastructure
  » Undirected communication
  » Structuring data according to international standards
  » Opt out regime (currently 270.000 persons)

Illustrations: ELGA GmbH
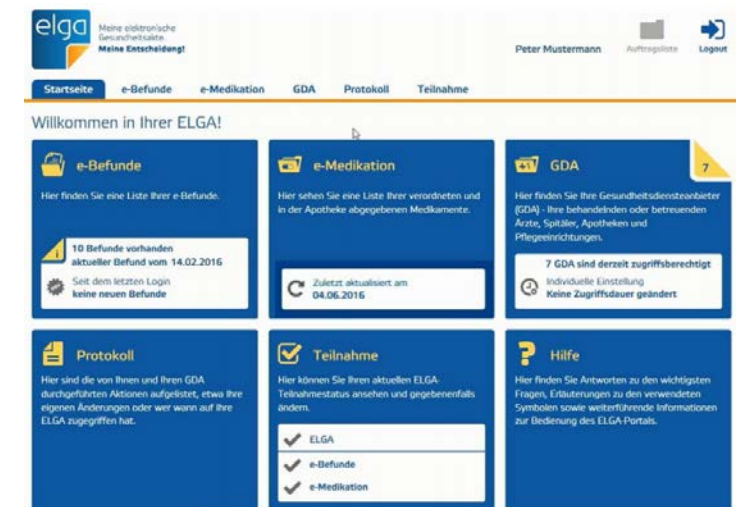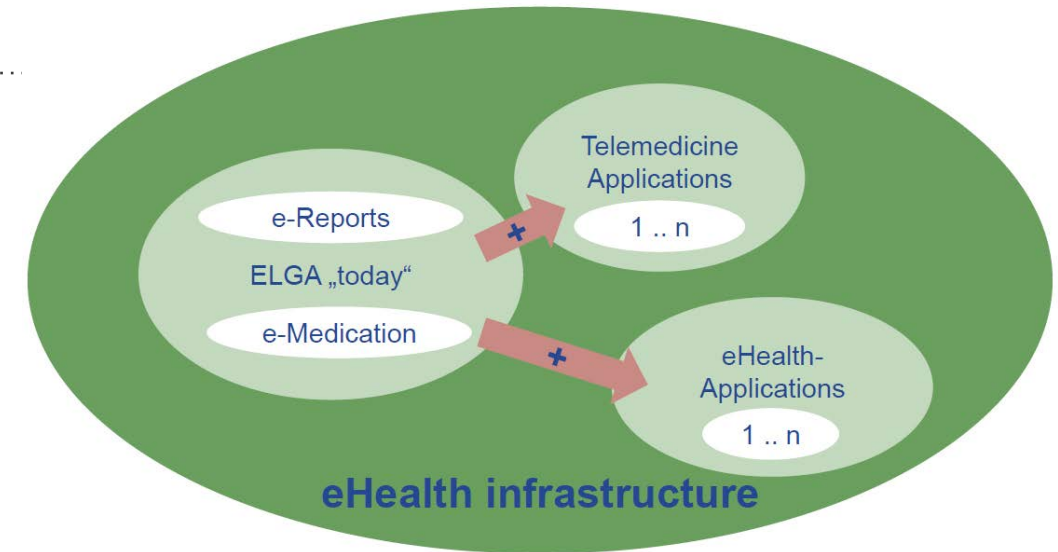
Public Health Information Portal

» Run by the Austrian National Public Health Institute „GÖG"

» <u>www.gesundheit.gv.at</u>

» More than one million visits

What Covid-19 has changed

» ELGA e-Medication is used as infrastructure for the e-prescription

» e-vaccination pass moved from concept to pilot phase → no opt out possible

» Expansion of the reimbursement of telemedical treatments in the collective agreements/honorarium regulations

» Video consultation: Physician software manufacturers integrate video consultation into their software (often initially free of charge as an add-on in the crisis phase, full integration then subject to a charge); video consultation is then used, for example, for

  » Initial consultations

  » Therapeutic talks

  » Discussion of findings

  » In care at Tele-rehab (instead of rehab day clinic, which was not possible)

» Covid-specific symptom checker (triage)

» Changed view of health data (Covid 19 research)

Electronic Vaccination Pass („e-Impfpass")

» Electronic information on your vaccines (accessible via ELGA portal)

» Functions after full rollout: pers. vaccination calendar, reminder functions,..

» Opportunities arising from the Covid-19 experience:

  » Fast-tracking the vaccination pass development (then also using the application as a template for other extensions of the Austrian eHealth infrastructure)

» Challenges:

  » Redesign: from a pilot with kids to Covid risk groups;

  » not all actors who carry out vaccines had access to ELGA initially;

  » data protection (no opt out; sharing of vaccination registry data between ELGA and Ministry)

  » Vaccination documentation (subsequent data entries)

  » role of the Länder in making sure the data entry infrastructure is in place

  » Evaluation pending

  » No opt out possible

» Public health aspect: Does governmental public health need to know about the immunisation status of the population?

Green Certificate („Grüner Pass")

» As of July, certificates with EU-compliant QR codes are valid in the EU 🇪🇺 , in the EEA States🇮🇸🇳🇴🇱🇮 and in Switzerland

» 3 sources: Vaccination certificate, certificate of recovery or test certificate (negative test result)

» App „Grüner Pass" (from BRZ GmbH) available in iOS App Store and Google Play Store.

  » Upload certificate or scan QR-Code
  » Simplified information digital and mobile

1450 Telephone Hotline evolved to Corona Hotline

» Health advice hotline 1450 implemented in 3 "Länder" (provinces) as pilot (2017)

» Positive evaluation and roll-out in all of the 9 "Länder" until end of 2019

» Overall goal: Steer the flow of patients to the best possible care options – 24/7

» During Pandemic: 1450 handles different pandemic response tasks and has become <u>the central first point of contact</u>

» Currently evaluation ongoing

» Level of awareness has increased enormously, open question about how to return to the core business

Gesundheit Österreich
GmbH

COVID-19 data platform: https://datenplattform-covid.goeg.at/

Datenplattform
COVID-19
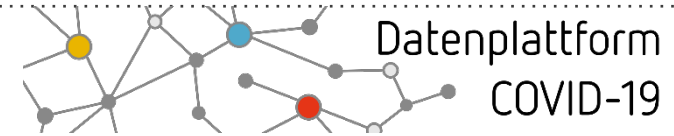
» Help national and international research community
to improve evidence for and increase understanding of SARS-CoV-2/ COVID-19

» Academic and scientific institutions can be given permission to use the following data sets:

> » data from the Austrian epidemiological reporting system;

> » Since March 2021: anonymized diagnosis and treatment data of patients with principal or secondary COVID-19 diagnosis, including anonymized intensive care documentation data (again restricted to patients with principal or secondary diagnosis COVID-19).

» For data protection reasons, data can only be made available to research facilities after accreditation by the advisory board

» GÖG responsible for the operational implementation of the data platform and acts as the administrative office

» Link collection to publicly available COVID-19 data in Austria:
https://datenplattform-covid.goeg.at/Daten_Aut and international:
https://datenplattform-covid.goeg.at/daten_international

Austria – Summary and Outlook

» Austria's existing eHealth infrastructure ELGA provides the basis for digitally supporting the health system's response to NCDs.

» One relevant example is the e-medication system: by allowing healthcare providers to consult a patient's medication package, new prescriptions can take into account existing medication and avoid incompatibilities

» Efforts to further develop the ELGA infrastructure to support integrated care processes for chronic NCDs, concretely type 2 diabetes and cancer, next to mother-child-health

» The ELGA system is being developed to facilitate the electronic exchange of high-resolution medical image data (eg CT scans etc), particularly relevant in the NCD domain

» Austrian research organisations including GÖG are active in EU projects developing new digital solutions for NCD care, e.g. a childhood cancer survivorship passport (PanCareSurPass), or a patient reported outcome measure observatory (H2O). GÖG and our Austrian partners are also involved in projects like eSmart (FP7 project on cancer care and telemedicine) or data infrastructure projects like PHIRI, HealthyCloud, or Smart4Health (Uni Wien)

» Building on the lessons and experiences from the Covid-19 pandemic, Austria is also working to improve health data infrastructure. For instance, a legal proposal is under way establishing an **Austrian Micro Data Centre** allowing public sector researchers access to registry data including in the area of health (which will also help to better understand NCD dynamics).

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