Digital health and active and healthy ageing (AHA): Panorama and priorities in Canada*

👁 Selection of digital health R&I priorities

- Ensuring the adaptation of healthcare and services to an aging population
  - o Supporting research that integrates appropriate and effective digital health solutions
- Fostering excellence and innovation in health services and policy research
  - o The objective is to catalyse the application of research findings to policies, practice and programmes that provide real-world benefit and enhance the provision of high-quality care for Canadians.

🏃 Main challenges related to digital health

- 13 health systems to coordinate in Canada
- Lack of regulatory system to facilitate innovation commercialisation
- Lack of integration of digital tools and end-users in the development of health solutions

🏃 Specific challenges for the aging population

- Supports for aging in place
- Support to caregivers
- Support for an aging workforce
- Ageism and elder abuse

💰 Relevant key programmes and funding agencies

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Human-Centred Robotics and Machine Intelligence, National Research Council Canada, Health Canada, New Frontiers in Research Fund, Provincial Health Research Funding Organizations

👥 Most important players and networks in the field

CIFAR CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH

CIHR IRSC

AGEWEll

Canada Health Infoway Inforoute Santé du Canada

The Government of Canada and public agencies, as well as networks, non-government agencies and industry players in the field of digital health work together to fund projects that improve the health of older adults.

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• Excellent capacity in all aspects of digital health • Excellent capacity and international capacity including AI • Public health and social systems are open to include digital health approaches	• Challenge of integrating digital health solutions into the health and social system due to lack of cost-benefit analyses • Challenges in consistently integrating digital health solutions across Canada • Weak entrepreneurial culture among academics in this area	• Relatively strong and innovative industry (Subject Matter Experts) in this area • Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively across institutions, sectors, and countries	• Regulatory challenges, such as procurement regulations impede commercialization of digital health solutions • Geographical gap between urban and rural areas

*SWOT above has been defined through interviews with independent Canadian experts and was considered the current state of digital health for older adults in 2019 when interviews took place.

Internationalisation S&I collaborations in Health between EU & strategic partner countries

- Canada is one of the EU's oldest and closest partners for S&T&I collaboration
- Regarding Health, the main areas of collaboration were on topics of Digital health and aging, Demographic Change, Rare Diseases, Chronic diseases, Epigenomics, Traumatic Brain Injury, Neurodegenerative Diseases and Anti-Microbial Resistance. New areas of cooperation regarding technologies for Global Health Care were agreed upon in 2018.

Good practices and outlook for further international collaboration

- Many research projects on the topic of digital health for active and healthy aging have been implemented successfully into healthcare delivery settings in various regions throughout the country (ex: home health telemonitoring system).

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*The Canadian Institutes of Health Research as a partner in IDIH has provided this information based on publicly available sources of information as well as interviews with key experts. The contents of this document do not represent the official position with the Government of Canada.

Key sources

More information can be found in the complete report D1.2 - Panorama of the digital health landscape in the EU and in the Strategic Partner Countries

CIHR 2021-2031 Strategic Plan: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52344.html

CIHR Institute of Aging Strategic Plan: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51447.html

CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research Strategic Plan: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/13733.html

https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/098.nsf/eng/00025.html

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https://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/ca_roadmap_2018.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none