

**eHealth**

priorities and strategies  
in European countries



**Fact sheet**

# Czech Republic

March 2007

Towards the Establishment  
of a European eHealth  
Research Area

@Health

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# Czech Republic

## Strategic perspective

The Ministry of Informatics, and the Ministry of Health have the greatest impact on policies related to eHealth development in the Czech Republic. In 2002, the Ministry of Informatics issued the “National Action Plan eEurope+ Czech Republic” which includes a subsection on on-line Health (Zdravotnictví on-line) under the third objective “The Support of Internet Use”. That document stresses the government’s intent to actively promote deployment of the latest ICT, and their view that ICT use is an essential condition for improved affordability and quality of health care to citizens. The key targets and outputs for this area assigned to the competencies of the Ministry of Health cover registers, telemedicine and medical documentation. The targets were initially scheduled to be achieved by 2005.



## Implementation perspective

The intentions of the Czech government as expressed in the strategic document “National Action Plan eEurope+ Czech Republic” are to:

- gradually replace the existing health insurance cards with smart cards, compatible with EU standards, and according to EU schedules;
- by the end of 2005, roll out a system providing public health information;
- by the end of 2006, build up an information network connecting points of care in the Czech Republic to other points in the EU, thereby enabling the sharing of public health data and coordination of activities in the event of life and health emergencies;
- ensure activity from the insurance companies to establish the electronic portal for reimbursement and help to make health care professionals become more capable and more extensive in their use of ICT.

Many activities supporting these objectives are currently underway. For instance, the electronic health record system was developed and provided by IZIP Inc. to insurances

and health care institutions. It is currently the most visible eHealth-related activity in the Czech Republic. The system operates nationwide and covers not only the provision of electronic health records but also includes functions such as ePrescription, eMessages and eAlarming. It is also planned that in the near future it will become a valuable source of statistical data for managers, insurance companies and government authorities.

National legislation in the Czech Republic addresses the following eHealth-related issues: data protection, telecommunications (with regard to data protection and confidentiality), and authorised digital signatures. The latter enables legal validity of electronic documentation as well as provision of ePrescription services and medical professional registries. The legislation enacted in the Czech Republic with impact on the EU-level harmonisation process includes coverage of the community directives on data protection, on a Community framework for electronic signatures, on privacy and electronic communication, and on electronic commerce.



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## Future activities

Continuation and extension of current eHealth activities including educational and promotional actions are planned. Future eHealth domain activities conducted in the Czech Republic will address the issues of fostering wider usage of ICT in all spheres of the health care service system and ensuring more significant integration of ICT and eHealth applications as important and necessary tools for improving the quality of health care. Further priority areas include development of legislation which will enable greater harmonisation with European requirements and standards.

## Core resources

**The Ministry of Informatics**

<http://www.micr.cz/>

**The Ministry of Health**

<http://www.mzcr.cz/>

**IZIP**

<http://www.izip.eu>

## About eHealth ERA

This fact sheet is the outcome of research in the context of the *eHealth ERA* project (Towards the Establishment of a European Research Area). The project is implemented by empirica GmbH (coordinating partner, Germany), STAKES (Finland), CITTRU (Poland), ISC III (Spain), CNR (Italy) and EPSRC (United Kingdom), based on a Coordination Action contract with the European Commission.

The European Commission, Directorate General Information Society and Media, supports this project to contribute towards greater transparency across Member States and other participating countries on eHealth strategies as well as innovation-oriented research and technology development (RTD) initiatives, including the coordination of Member States' eHealth strategy formulation and implementation.

The fact sheet is an excerpt from the report "eHealth priorities and strategies in European countries", published by the European Commission in April 2007. The complete report is available for download at [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=3346](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3346).

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