

For a *digital in health*, sovereign, reliable and inclusive digital technology

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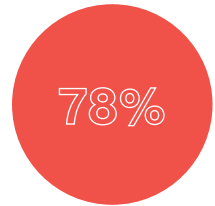
Digital technology in healthcare is already a reality, as demonstrated by the widespread use of appointment platforms, as well as the development of medical document sharing and telemedicine. At the same time, the role of artificial intelligence (AI), already very present in radiology, medical biology, oncology and ophthalmology, is growing.

Health data at the centre of the issues

There will be no digital technology or high-quality artificial intelligence without high-quality, secure and democratically controlled data. France, a pioneer in this field (databases, legal framework, etc.), has adopted a roadmap for digital technology in healthcare for 2023-2027 based on shared objectives. Today, digital technology in healthcare is structured around 'core services' (of which the My Health Space application is the most emblematic element), regulation (with the central role of the Digital Health Agency), organisation of access to health data for research (through the Health Data Hub) but also an investment programme (the 'Ségur of digital technology') to support the digital transformation of the entire sector.

Digital technology in healthcare to improve the quality of care and prevention

Our healthcare system is in crisis: for the ESEC, the priority is to recruit and strengthen close human relationships with users. Digital technology and AI alone will not be able to solve all the problems, but they can help to improve access to care, strengthen prevention and improve the quality of care. The challenges are also those of research: our ability to use data sharing and data tools to improve health, and in particular prevention, depends on the investments that will be made in data quality. For the ESEC, there can be no effective AI without reliable and comprehensive data.



of French people used online platforms to make medical appointments in 2023.

A framework for digital health based on three cross-cutting principles

→ The principle of trust: for digital health co-constructed with patients and healthcare professionals and guaranteeing everyone the right to decide, in full knowledge of the facts, on the

use of their personal health data;
→ Digital technology at the service of people: for healthy digital technology that frees up time to improve the quality of care and prevention;

→ The principle of sovereignty, French and European: for healthy digital technology under the control of national and European public authorities and in the service of health policy for all.

How can digital technology, health data and AI be used to improve our healthcare system?

OPINION

1 GUARANTEEING FRENCH AND EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER HEALTH DATA

In a context of great international tension surrounding digital technology, digital technology in healthcare must remain under the responsibility and control of the public authorities. The application of European Union law to health data must be guaranteed.

→ **What does the ESEC recommend?**

Guarantee the hosting of health data on a sovereign European or French cloud and organise the migration of the Health Data Platform to this sovereign cloud by the end of 2025; give a central place to digital technology and AI in healthcare in European funding to enable the emergence of continental champions.

2 MEETING THE CONDITIONS FOR USERS TO TRUST IN THE SHARING OF THEIR HEALTH DATA

Patient data is the raw material of digital technology and AI in healthcare. The conditions for trust in their collection and processing must be met in order to encourage their sharing and valorisation for the benefit of all.

→ **What does the ESEC recommend?**

Make “Mon espace santé” the single gateway with clear information on the legal framework applicable to health data and on research projects conducted on the basis of this data; develop new functionalities, such as an appointment booking system, to meet needs.

3 COMBATING THE RISKS OF DIGITAL EXCLUSION AND BETTER SUPPORTING CITIZENS

Inequalities in access to digital technology must not be added to the already existing inequalities: social inequalities and inequalities in access to healthcare. The risk would then be that digital technology would widen the gaps. This is why an alternative to digital technology must always exist and particular attention must be paid to the groups that are furthest removed from digital technology. Digital technology must be at the service of the public.

→ **What does the ESEC recommend?**

As a priority, fight against the difficulties of access to digital technology that hinder the effectiveness of rights by supporting users in mastering the new tools; organise support for opening “Mon espace santé” at the time of issuing the vital card at 16 years of age, and as part of more general information on Health Insurance.

4 SUPPORTING THE EVOLUTION OF OCCUPATIONS AND CREATING NEW ONES

The introduction of digital tools in the healthcare system has had a considerable impact on professional practices and the organisation of care: this development has not been sufficiently anticipated.

→ **What does the ESEC recommend?**

Co-construct, with professionals, the evolution of practices and professions; impose, within the framework of conventional negotiations with the Health Insurance, the systematic enrichment of “Mon espace santé”.

REPORTERS

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