

# Policy Context Analysis

Project Partner 004  
Region of Southern Denmark



2023

*This template is meant to help partners in carrying out the Policy Context Analysis (PCA) in their region.*

## CARES

*Each section of the template is set up for to accommodate not only textual information, maps, tables, diagrams, and images that align with your desired descriptions.*

*The outcomes of the analysis will not only guide you in selecting Good Practices of your interest but also in plotting your Roadmap in the 4<sup>th</sup> Semester.*

*The Policy Context Analysis (PCA) serves as a diagnostic document of the current situation of telehealth in the different CARES regions.*

*Its purpose is to identify the strengths and potential for the development of such services in each region and to characterize the policy areas which are to be addressed in the project.*

*The provided descriptions on e.g., national/regional regulations, demography, available services will be incorporated in a Final Report. The PCA will act as a steppingstone for further work on guiding the refinement the chosen policy instrument, including the development of a Roadmap in the 4<sup>th</sup> Semester.*

### 1. Policy instrument addressed in the CARES project: name and short characteristic.

Name: National and Regional Strategy for Digitalization

**The Ministry of Health** is overall responsible for several national boards incl. The National Board of Health and The Agency for Digital Government.

1. The National Board of Health formulate eight comprehensive health objectives, adaptable for Telehealth solutions, underscoring the CARES initiative.

2. The Agency for Digital Government, architect of digitalization, provide the necessary digital infrastructure to support various initiatives, including home-based treatment of elderly using telehealth solutions.

BASED on the eight national health objectives, each Regions issues three strategic documents:

1. **The Regional Health agreements**, which is a political agreement that frames the cooperation in the healthcare sector between region, municipalities, and GPs.

2. **The Regional Strategy for Digitalization** define guidelines, then and perhaps more importantly describe INITIATIVES (How to execute)

3. **The Regional Strategy for Innovation** describe governance and provide financial support for innovators, not only Telehealth solutions, but any innovation solution.

Our chosen political instrument, the **Regional Strategy of Digitalization**, resonates with CARES to democratize telehealth access and innovative telehealth solutions. It defines guidelines, and perhaps more importantly describe INITIATIVES and how to execute.

## CARES

The **Regional Digitalization Strategy** therefore serves as a crucial bridge that connects the political level with the operational level. It acts as a strategic compass that not only resonates with the three fundamental CARES objectives, but also provides a tangible roadmap for their realization.

The Strategy offers a robust framework for integrating telehealth into regional healthcare systems, enabling individuals, especially the elderly, to receive quality care conveniently at home.

This unites perfectly with CARES' mission to enhance healthcare accessibility, develop innovative solutions, and increase the organisational capacity to cater for the specific needs of elderly.

## 2. Other policy instruments relevant to the project scope (plans, programmes, strategies on national and regional level).

- *Review the project's goals and objectives to ensure alignment with the policy instruments being addressed.*

Name: The Regional Strategy for Innovation

The **Regional Strategy for Innovation** acts as a supportive framework for diverse creative ideas in healthcare, not limited to telehealth, but embracing various innovative solutions. It fosters Telehealth innovations and a broad spectrum of novel ideas, aided by governance and financial backing.

CARES, in its pursuit of enhancing healthcare accessibility for elderly, requires a targeted approach that addresses the specific technological, regulatory, and logistical hurdles. The **Regional Innovations Strategy** cast a broader net, encompassing a range of innovative solutions beyond the scope of Telehealth.

While this diversity is valuable, it could potentially dilute its direct relevance to CARES.

Hence, the Innovation Strategy is The Region of Southern Denmark's secondary political instrument.

## 3. General characteristic of your region, including its current demography, projections for future demographic changes, and the aspect of an ageing population

- *The current state of the aging population in the region and the demographic forecast*

### General Characteristics of the Region of Southern Denmark:

The Region of Southern Denmark is one of the five administrative regions in Denmark. It is in the southern part of the Jutland Peninsula.

### Current Demography:

The Region of Southern Denmark has a population of around 1.3 million people. The largest city in the region is Odense. Other notable cities include Esbjerg, Kolding, and Sønderborg.

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The region has a mix of urban and rural areas, with a significant portion of the population residing in towns and cities along the coastlines and in the central parts of the region.

**Aging Population:**

Region of Southern Denmark is facing the challenge of an aging population. This means that a growing percentage of the population is comprised of older individuals, typically aged 65 and above.

The number of Danes 65+ has increased by approximately 24 % from 2011 to 2020, from 934,000 to 1,156,000 individuals. The increase in the number of elderly individuals is particularly significant in the age groups of 70-79, with increases of approximately 180,000.

In 2050, the proportion of individuals aged 65 and above is expected to increase from 20 to 25 %. The proportion of individuals aged 75 and above is projected to rise from 9 to 15 %, while the proportion of individuals aged 85 and above is expected to more than double from 2 to 5 %.

The number of elderlies receiving home care has remained relatively stable during the period from 2013 to 2019.

To address the challenges of an aging population, regions like Southern Denmark often need to focus on healthcare infrastructure, elderly care services, pension systems, and strategies to engage and support older individuals in society at home.

**4. The current services and offerings for the elderly in the region, considering their adequacy and accessibility.**

- *Care services and institutional care*
- *Health and medical care*
- *Activation of seniors*
- *Access to public services for senior citizens*

Description (max. 3000 characters):

**Care Services and Institutional Care:**

The Region of Southern Denmark provides a range of care services for senior citizens. These services include home care, nursing care, rehabilitation, and long-term care in institutions such as nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The region focuses on ensuring that seniors receive the appropriate level of care based on their needs, whether that's support at home or in a specialized care facility.

**Health and Medical Care:**

The region offers comprehensive health and medical care services to its senior population. This includes access to hospitals, clinics, general practitioners (GPs), and specialists. Preventive care, screenings, diagnostics, and treatment options are all available to seniors to maintain and improve their health. The region also emphasizes health promotion and disease prevention initiatives targeted at older adults.

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**Activation of Seniors:**

Activation of seniors refers to programs and activities designed to keep older adults engaged, active, and socially connected. The Region of Southern Denmark likely offers a variety of initiatives in this area, which could include recreational activities, cultural events, educational opportunities, and support groups. These activities contribute to the overall well-being of seniors, helping them maintain a fulfilling and meaningful life.

**Access to Public Services for Senior Citizens:**

The Region of Southern Denmark likely ensures that senior citizens have access to various public services that cater to their needs. This can encompass transportation services, housing assistance, financial support, legal aid, and social services. The goal is to make sure that seniors can access the necessary resources and support to lead a comfortable and independent life.

**5. The legal regulation of telecare and telemedicine at national and regional, local levels**

- *Current legislation and guidelines*
- *Alignment with policy instruments addressed in the project.*

Description (max. 3000 characters):

The legal and policy considerations to ensure the safe, effective, and ethical delivery of remote healthcare services. These regulations might include:

**1. Licensing and Credentialing:** Regulations would likely outline the licensure and credentialing requirements for healthcare professionals delivering telehealth services. This might involve specifying the qualifications, training, and certifications needed for remote care providers.

**2. Patient Privacy and Data Security:** Regulations would address how patient data is collected, transmitted, stored, and protected in telehealth interactions. Compliance with data protection laws and standards, such as GDPR, would be a key consideration.

**3. Informed Consent:** Regulations might outline the process for obtaining informed consent from patients before providing telehealth services. This could include explaining the nature of remote care, potential risks, benefits, and limitations.

**4. Prescription Practices:** Guidelines could cover the remote prescription of medications and controlled substances through telehealth consultations.

**5. Reimbursement and Payment:** Regulations would likely address reimbursement mechanisms for telehealth services, including how providers are compensated for virtual consultations and other remote care activities.

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**6. Technology Standards:** Guidelines might specify the technology and communication platforms that are approved for use in telehealth services to ensure interoperability, data security, and user-friendliness.

**7. Liability and Malpractice:** Regulations could outline the liability framework for telehealth practitioners, addressing issues related to malpractice, negligence, and patient harm.

**8. Continuity of Care:** Policies might encourage seamless coordination between telehealth services and traditional in-person care to ensure continuity and quality of patient care.

**6. Characteristic of telemedicine and telecare services at local, regional, and national levels, focusing on their availability and effectiveness**

- *Services for the elderly and people with limitations also from peripheral areas*
- *Systemic solutions and experimental actions/pilot projects already implemented (numbers, technologies)*
- *Link to Good Practices*

Description (max. 3000 characters):

**7. Current challenges and needs regarding the availability and implementation of telemedicine and telecare services for older people at local and regional levels.**

- *SWOT analysis to identify areas of improvement, potential opportunities, and threats to the implementation of telemedicine and telecare services.*
- *Areas to be developed.*
- *Relevance of the policy instrument*

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

Description (max. 3000 characters):

**8. Characteristics of the local Stakeholder Group**

- *Composition, purpose, tasks performed, possible influence on the policy instrument to ensure they are effectively contributing to the project's objectives.*

Description (max. 2000 characters):

Will be completed later