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No. 134**DESI indicators as a possible benchmark for digital performance assessment of a publicly funded orthopedic registry. The case of the Italian Arthroplasty Registry, RIAP**

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Introduction

The European Commission's Digital Economy and Society Index, DESI, measures the progress of EU countries in the digitalisation of various areas, including public services (Dimension 4). RIAP is a public project funded by the Ministry of Health. We analysed the applicability of DESI indicators to the registry's digital activities. Can these indicators be useful for registry performance assessment?

Materials and Methods

In the benchmarking perspective, we applied relevant DESI indicators to RIAP processes and used the methods of qualitative comparative analysis to examine their utility.

Results

Most indicators of the DESI Digital Public Services Dimension are applicable to the RIAP digital activities. Some relevant indicators were deemed fully or mostly applicable (eGovernment users, User centricity, Open data), while some apply partially (Pre-filled forms, Transparency of service design, Cross-border services, Digital services for business). Other indicators, as interpreted in DESI methodology, are related to governmental level and not applicable for a public health registry.

Discussion

The principles that guide DESI index at the European level can have value in the context of orthopedic registries. Even when not directly applicable, they can serve as references for setting the registry's digital performance indicators: to give an example, while DESI indicator 'eGovernment users' measures the percentage of all Internet users who have used the Internet in the last 12 months to interact with public authorities, the registry could measure how many among medical staff who registered on RIAP platform really feed the surgery data. Such benchmarking helps to align the registry's stakeholder strategies to the national and international digital agenda.

Notes