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**Title of thesis:** Monitoring availability and use of eHealth in Denmark

*Realising the visions of eHealth requires identification of successes, failures, and their causes, in order to provide evidence for eHealth policy management.*

eHealth is regarded as a key enabler for modern, patient-centred, and efficient healthcare. Governments develop eHealth policies to define and prioritise initiatives, strategic goals, and the resulting benefits. Commonly agreed, reliable, and valid indicators to monitor the adoption and impacts of eHealth becomes even more important as eHealth adoption increases. Realising the promises of eHealth requires collating experiences and identifying successes, failures, and their causes, in order to learn from past and to provide evidence to guide eHealth policy development and implementation.

A scoping review of the literature shows that different organisations have developed and applied indicators for measuring availability of different eHealth functionalities but identified a very limited activity for indicators that can monitor to what degree these functionalities are applied and used as intended.

In-depth analyses of strategies and policies from the Nordic countries reveal an absence of continuous evaluation and follow-up on the presented visions and missions.

Building an evidence base for informing eHealth policies is required to move eHealth policy making forward. The promise of evidence-based policies is, however, a mirage, and often the result is policy-based evidence. Policy making encompasses numerous considerations and is based on notions of value in politics. Researchers and academics seeking to influence policies are obliged to inform within the context of the policy process – not advocating a specific course of action, but rather illustrating the evidence-informed options and, in return, policy makers must be transparent in the commissioning and use (or lack hereof) of evidence when developing future eHealth policies.

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