

ACTION FICHE FOR THE DECISION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Legal Basis	Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 ¹ as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2020/521 ²
Title of action	Support for the interoperability of digital tracing apps
Description of the action	<p>Tracing apps aim at warning people who have been in contact with confirmed infected persons and help prevent the wider spread of the virus.</p> <p>Member States, with the support of the Commission, have recently agreed on a set of technical specifications to ensure a safe exchange of information between contact tracing apps based on a decentralised architecture.</p> <p>This is one of the important step towards interoperability of tracing apps, supporting the safe re-opening of the EU for travel and tourism. The agreement builds on the recently adopted guidelines for interoperability, as well as on the EU toolbox for contact tracing apps and the Commission Guidance on data protection.</p> <p>So far eight MS have already deployed apps (AT, DE, CZ, FR, IT, HU, LV, PL), twelve MS have publicly announced to do so (BE, CY, DK, EE, ES, FI, HR, IE, LT, MT, NL, PT). Only three MS have announced they do not plan to use tracing apps (SE, LU, SI).</p> <p>The aim of this action is to exploit the full potential of tracing apps and ensure the interoperability of the contact tracing apps at the benefit of citizens and businesses facilitating travel across EU whilst controlling the spread of the virus.</p> <p>ESI investment are needed to ensure two key actions:</p> <p>(i) the development, deployment and operation at EU level of a technical solution (European federation gateway services) hosted by the Commission (joint effort SANTE/CNECT/DIGIT) which would support the exchange of data between national apps with similar architectural approaches and based on technical specifications agreed by participating Member States. Solutions will help citizens traveling abroad (in countries participating in the scheme) to be alerted if they have been exposed to a user who tested positive for COVID-19 in a country they visited. This solution will also help citizens that may have been exposed to a citizen using a different app (e.g. visiting citizen) who has tested positive for</p>

¹ OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, p.1.

² Council Regulation (EU) 2020/521 of 14 April 2020 activating the emergency support under Regulation (EU) 2016/369, and amending its provisions taking into account the COVID-19 outbreak, OJ L 117, 15.4.2020, p. 3.

	<p>COVID-19.</p> <p>(ii) Facilitate, where needed, the adaptation of national contact tracing app solutions to join the federation gateway service described in point (i).</p>
Objectives pursued	Ensure interoperability between digital contact tracing apps developed and deployed by Member States, thus contributing to tracing and alerting people travelling in Europe.
Expected results	<p>A platform run by the European Commission to be used by Member States for the interoperability across borders of their contact tracing apps.</p> <p>This solution would also assist health authorities in slowing the spread of the virus, and limit the impact of a potential second wave.</p>
EU Added value	Member States take the lead in developing tracing apps for their citizens, but given free movement across borders, the EU has an essential role to play in facilitating a common approach to ensure that tracing apps can communicate with each other as citizens exercise their free movement.
Coherence and complementarity – is there no other EU instrument?	ESI is the only instrument under the present MFF that allows the Commission to support MS to ensure interoperability of their solutions, in the time frame needed by the urgency of delivering the interoperability solution.
Total amount	<p>10 million euros, corresponding to the total amount for the action in the first year of operation. This covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development, deployment and operation of the Federation Gateway (set up and running costs), the adaptation of national apps of Member States as needed.
Budget line	18 07 01
Implementing DG	DG CNECT and DG SANTE, who will cross sub-delegate the necessary amounts to DG DIGIT (including for managing contracts), based on a written agreement.
Method of implementation	<i>Procurement</i> for the development, deployment and operation of the federation gateway and <i>grants</i> for the adaptation of the national backend servers and the cross-border interoperability between Member States.

ANNEX TO THE FINANCING DECISION

1. PROCUREMENT

1.1. Federation gateway server for interoperability of tracing apps

Amount

EUR 7.000.000 from budget line 18 07 01

General description of the contracts envisaged

Ensure the development, deployment and operation of a technical solution at EU level to facilitate the exchange of data between countries, enabling national apps to notify users that have been exposed to a user using a different national app and who tested positive for COVID-19.

Implementation

DG SANTE will act as business owner of the solution provided by external contractors and DG DIGIT on the basis of technical specifications for interoperability agreed by Member States (eHealth Network). DG SANTE will cross sub-delegate the necessary amounts to DG DIGIT (including for managing contracts), based on a written agreement.

2. GRANTS

1.1. Support for the connection of Member States to the federation gateway server for interoperability of tracing apps

Amount

EUR 3.000.000 from budget line 18 07 01

Type of applicants targeted

Member States, national authorities and other authorized bodies responsible for:

(1) Backend servers and federation gateway

(2) National contact tracing app

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded

Facilitate, when needed, the adaptation of national solutions for cross-border interoperability and support the back office operations necessary to follow up on the alerting mechanism by the national health authorities.

Implementation

DG CNECT