Dear [Name],

Thank you very much for your message on financial support for the interoperability of tracing apps.

As highlighted in its Communication on short-term EU health preparedness for COVID-19 outbreaks (COM(2020)318 of 15 July 2020), the Commission agrees on the importance of identifying people who have been in contact with confirmed infected persons, while safeguarding privacy and data protection, to help prevent the wider spread of the COVID-19 virus. With the support of the Commission, Member States have recently agreed on a set of technical specifications to ensure a safe exchange of information between contact tracing apps. To exploit the full potential of tracing apps to the benefit of citizens and businesses travelling across EU whilst controlling the spread of the virus, on 15 July the Commission amended the eHealth Network Implementing Decision 2019/1765/EU in order to provide the modalities for operating a secure IT infrastructure which supports the interoperability of contact tracing and warning apps across the EU.

To support this, the Commission has in the last days made EUR 10 million available from the ESI to finance the creation of the EU interoperability gateway and to help national contact tracing apps join this platform. Under the second point, the Commission plans to give grants to Member States, national authorities and other authorized bodies responsible for (i) backend servers and the federation gateway and (ii) the national contact tracing app. The objective of the grants would be to 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.

The precise modalities for applying for grants, the eligibility criteria and timing for this action are still under preparation. The work on this aspect is being led by our colleagues in the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT). They will be in touch with all Member States with further information on the process in due course, but if you have further points in the
meantime, you could contact [REDACTED] in the first instance.

I hope this helps and wish you a pleasant evening,

European Commission
Secretariat-General
Tel: +32 2 [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Viejois: Berlaymont building, Rond-point Schuman

From: [REDACTED]@health.gov.sk>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 3:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu> [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu>
[REDACTED]@health.gov.sk> [REDACTED]@mzv.sk

Subject: ESI financial support - interoperability of tracing app

Dear ESI team,

on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to kindly ask you about any information / update related to the Possible digital actions under COVID-19 and its financing from ESI – especially tracing apps (how, under what conditions and when to apply etc.).

We are interested to apply for financial support under ESI for our tracing app in the meaning to ensure its interoperability with tracing apps of other Member States (background server).

I am also putting my colleague [REDACTED] from National Health Information Centre in copy.

Thank you for your respond.

Kind regards,

Officer | Unit of EU Affairs | International Relations and EU Affairs

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