



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SANTÉ.DDGI.B3 – European Reference Networks and Digital Health

SANTÉ.A4 – Information Systems

CNECT.H3 – eHealth, Well-Being and Ageing

DIGIT.01 – Digital transformation and coordination

Brussels date as postmark

[sante.a.3\(2020\)4551985](#)

NOTE TO THE FILE

Subject: Rationale for the choice of the solution provider for the European Federation Gateway Service (EFGS)

The European Federation Gateway Service (EFGS) is the solution agreed by the eHealth Network, after more than 30 meetings on the topic in the context of the COVID crisis, to ensure interoperability between decentralised national contact tracing applications¹. The Member States in the eHealth Network requested the European Commission to establish the technical solution for the EFGS to start piloting as soon as possible. Consequently, on 15 July 2020, the Commission has adopted an Implementing Decision setting out the legal aspects and responsibilities regarding the federation gateway².

Delivering a robust and transparent solution in a short period of time is key to address the urgent need of interoperability across borders, which is essential to support tourism and business activities in Europe.

The EFGS project is highly visible. It includes the processing of keys from apps, with these keys being considered by the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) to be personal health data. Data is exchanged between Member States and complement the standard contact tracing approaches by reinforcing the ability to detect, swiftly notify exposure risks and stop new cross-border chains of transmission. This enhanced ability contributes to the measures adopted by Member States to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the pandemic, such as maintaining the functioning of the internal market, supporting the transport and tourism sector, protecting employment and supporting medical care services for vulnerable groups.

Successful completion of the EFGS technical project requires:

- (1) knowledge of the subject matter,
- (2) proven experience on solution delivery, and
- (3) ability to deliver in a very short timeline.

¹ eHealth Network Guidelines to the EU Member States and the European Commission on Interoperability specifications for cross-border transmission chains between approved apps – Basic interoperability elements between COVID+ Keys driven solutions.

eHealth Network Guidelines to the EU Member States and the European Commission on Interoperability specifications for cross-border transmission chains between approved apps – Detailed interoperability elements between COVID+ Keys driven solutions.

² Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1023 of 15 July 2020 amending Implementing Decision 2019/1765 as regards the cross border exchange of data between national contact tracing and warning mobile applications with regard to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. OJ L 227 I, 16. 07.2020, p. 1.

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DIGIT 01

CC: SANTE
SANTE A
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