



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID
OPERATIONS (ECHO)

The Director-General

Brussels
ECHO.E.3/

**E-mail with acknowledgment of
receipt**

Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2021/7327

Dear Mr Merino,

We refer to your requests of 25 November 2021 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on the same day under the above-mentioned reference number.

Your request is formulated as follows: *“Grants conceded to Member States for the development of contact tracing apps in 2020 and 2021”*.

We regret to inform you that the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) does not hold any documents that would correspond to the description given in your application. DG ECHO did not give this type of grants to Member States. As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution. Given that no such documents, corresponding to the description given in your application, are held by DG ECHO, it is not in a position to fulfil your request.

However, I know that in the meantime you requested and received background information on those grants from Directorate-General for Communication. Let me quote it for the ease of reference: *“In total €3 million have been reserved under the Emergency Support Instrument to support Member States in adapting their national apps and backend servers in order to join the interoperability gateway service. The call has been closed and 13 Member States have benefitted from this support: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands,*

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Poland and Slovenia. The maximum grant amount was 150.000 EUR per Member State and the total requested funding of the 13 countries was approximately €2 million.”

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretariat-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Secretariat-General
Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)
BERL 7/076
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

According to standard operational procedure, the reply is usually also sent to you by registered post. Please note, however, that due to the extraordinary health and security measures currently in force during to the COVID-19 epidemics, which include the requirement for all Commission non-critical staff to telework, this communication will be sent only by e-mail.

We would therefore appreciate if you could confirm receipt of the present e-mail by replying to ECHO-DOC-ACCES@ec.europa.eu

Yours faithfully,

[E-signed]

Paraskevi MICHOU