

Overview of Mobile Health in the EU

IPCR

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5.1.2

CNECT.H3 - eHealth, Well-being and Ageing

Digital tools to support contact tracing

Mobile contact tracing apps can make a difference in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and help societies gradually return to normal life.

Apps can complement manual contact tracing, with several benefits:



Time

Volume of contacts

Resources

Information and guidance



A common EU approach

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2020/518

of 8 April 2020

on a common Union toolbox for the use of technology and data to combat and exit from the COVID-19 crisis, in particular concerning mobile applications and the use of anonymised mobility data

- A fragmented and uncoordinated approach across Europe would risk
 - hampering the effectiveness of response measures;
 - causing adverse effects to the single market and to fundamental rights and freedoms.
- The Member States, supported by the Commission, are rapidly working on developing and updating a common EU Toolbox on a pan-European approach for the use of mobile applications.

Common EU Toolbox on mobile applications to support contact tracing for COVID-19



The app detects epidemiologically relevant proximity with other app users



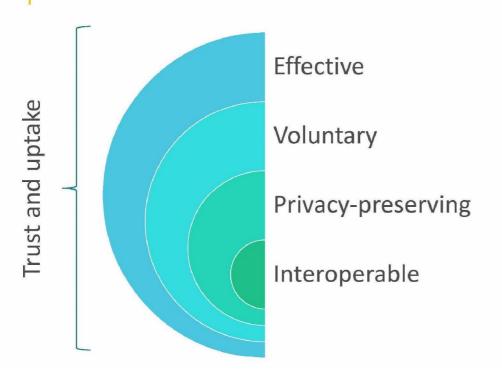
If users test positive for COVID-19, they receive a confirmation code by health authorities and they can insert it in the app



User who were in proximity to infected users receive an alert. They can seek advice, self-isolate and receive testing as appropriate



Essential requirements for national apps



- Approved by public health authorities
- Anchored in accepted epidemiology guideline
- Fully compliant with EU data protection rules
- Dismantled as soon as not needed
- Latest privacy-enhancing solutions, encrypted data
- No location tracking
- Best practices in cybersecurity and accessibility
- Include measures to avoid exacerbating digital exclusion

Interoperability

- Users should be able to rely on their national app independently of the region or Member State they are in at a certain moment.
- Whatever the approach taken with approved national apps, interoperability between apps and between backend systems is essential while preserving privacy standards
- This effort will support the gradual lifting of border controls within the EU and the restoration of freedom of movement.







Centralised vs. decentralised data storage

	Decentralised	Centralised	Total
In Operation	AT, IT, LV, DE, PL, DK, IE, HR, ES, NL, FI, EE, PT, MT, BE, CZ, SI	FR, HU	19
Under development	CY, NO, SK, LT (app to be launched by early November)		4
Total	21	2	23
To be confirmed	BG, EL		2
Not planned	LU, SE, RO		3



Thank you!





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