

Digital Humanism – TU Vienna
International lecture

Focus speech: Digital Green Certificate
Datum: 20 april 2021, 17.00 uur

Achtergrond

Naar aanleiding van je keynote speech tijdens het Wilson Center Event op 8 april jl, ben je door dhr. [5.1.2e] van de TU Wenen gevraagd om te spreken tijdens een college over Digital Humanism als onderdeel van een reeks aan internationale colleges.

Je wordt gevraagd om met name stil te staan bij de ontwikkelingen van de Europese Digital Green Certificate. Jouw presentatie zal je daarom ook voornamelijk geven in de rol van eHealth Network [5.1.2e]

Hieronder een abstract van wat er van jouw presentatie wordt verwacht:

Vaccination Passports – a tool for liberation or the opposite?

The European Commission and its member states are discussing "Green Passports" as a way of opening up after lockdown. They have been proposed as tools to verify the Covid immunization status and thus help to accelerate the path to normality. However, similar to the contact tracing apps there are numerous issues and concerns about what these apps should be and how to make them safe, reliable, and privacy-preserving. [5.1.2e] [5.1.2e] from the Dutch Ministry of Health will talk about digital solutions, important design decisions, and the way forward. As a respondent, [5.1.2e] from the Department of Innovation and Digitalisation in Law will be our respondent.

Gevraagd is om een presentatie te houden van 25 minuten. Vervolgens krijgt [5.1.2e] 15 minuten de tijd om hierop te reageren. Daarna zal er tijd zijn voor 15 minuten Q&As.

Keynote speech presentatie Digital Green Certificate

Slide 1

- Good afternoon everyone.
- My name is [REDACTED] and I am the [REDACTED] Information Policy and the CIO of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports.
- At the same time, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was asked to also [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- On top of all that, I am also the European eHealth Network Member State [REDACTED] since November 2020.

Slide 2:

- In this presentation I will inform you about the latest developments of the European Digital Green Certificate.
- After that I will present some slides about the Dutch situation when it comes to digital certificates.

Slide 3:**Titelblad: European Digital Green Certificate****Slide 4:**

- Let me first start with where we stand in the EU.
- Europe has become a patchwork of different border restriction reflecting their current epidemiological situation.
- Member States are juggling with several tools at hand: mandatory quarantine rules, PCR-tests, rapid tests, medical certificates, you name it.
- There is absolutely no common agreement among the Member States on how to use such certificates.
- And now that the vaccination campaigns in all EU Member States running full-speed, it is only a matter of time that vaccination certificates will at some point in time be added to the toolbox, adding to the complexity.
- You can understand that the absence of standardised and secure formats could cause potential problems concerning mutual acceptance of certificates and possible fraud.
- I understand that there is currently a black market that deals in various certificates.
- All these complexities do not help us in allowing our citizens to travel freely in the EU.

Slide 5:

- Here you see several examples of vaccination certificates of Member States, on screen you see a Greek, Cypriot, Luxemburgish, Polish and Croatian version.
- Just imagine 27 Member States with each their own type of certificate, that consists of different data field and verification and authentication mechanisms.
- It would be, if I may be so blunt, a nightmare for every EU-citizen.
- If citizens want to travel across border, they would have to do a whole study on what is needed to enter the country and to what conditions their certificate need to comply with.
- This is an unworkable and unwanted situation.

Slide 6:

- Since February this year, the European political leaders understood that we have to act now in order to prevent the horror scenario that I have mentioned in the previous slide.
- It helped of course that our Greek friends had pushed the idea. Especially, the countries in the EU that rely on tourism in the summer, have expressed the need for a common approach.

- And of course, every Member State in the EU shares the sense of urgency to work together on this.
- The primary focus is to return to free unobstructed movement in the EU.
- Of course, we do not forget the global aspect of travel. We work closely with the WHO, ICAO and other international forums to ensure global convergence.
- Developments on EU an global stage happen alongside each other. The EU has a very tight deadline, so I can imagine that the focus lies on getting the job done by June but keeping the door wide-open for global interoperability. Once the EU solution is up and running, we should intensify efforts to converge with the ICAO solution.
- But, and this important, we develop a solution that is in line with our European values on non-discrimination, data protection etc. Which takes me to the next slide.....

Slide 7:

- So what are the European principles and key values that determines the backdrop upon which our cross-border solution needs to comply with.
- Well, first and foremost it should facilitate the free movement in the EU. The free movement of people is enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty (article 21 to be exact) that has shaped Europe as it is today.

- Another important principle is that the European Digital Green Certificate should by no means be a vaccination obligation. Vaccination is and remains a choice for every EU-citizen. Citizens who choose to pass on a vaccination, should in no way be discriminated when wanting to travel across border.
- For that reason, the Digital Green Certificate consists of 3 types of certificates: besides vaccination, also test and recovery certificates.
- But above all that, data protection is a fundamental right of every EU citizens and should therefore be ensured when developing the European Digital Green Certificate solution.

Slide 8:

- As said in the previous slide, data protection is a fundamental right of EU-citizens, so it is of the utmost importance that the DGC complies to European data protection rules.
- For starters, we have the GDPR and the notion of data minimisation where only the bare minimum needed data is processed.
- The GDPR provides the legal ground to process data for the issuance and verification of certificates.
- Furthermore, if Member States want to use the Digital Green Certificate solution for other purposes, for instance access to bars or restaurants, they will need to create a separate

national legal base to process data for that purpose.

- In addition, it is important to know that there will be no personal data retained and no EU database on vaccination, test or recovery status.
- It must be said however, that it is up to the Member States to decide how they build their digital solution. The Netherlands for instance chooses to develop a privacy-preserving app that not only ensures that all data is held on the private device of the citizen, but also ensures that as little information is shown on the digital certificate e.g. shortened name (for example John D.) and not the full date of birth (for example 20-04). We do this to ensure that the privacy of the citizen is protected.
- However, regardless of the different approaches per Member State, all solutions should be accepted within the EU.
- Furthermore, the system that Europe is building does not keep track of a citizen where they used their certificate. This is to ensure that citizens are not traceable.

Slide 9:

- So what is the Digital Green Certificate actually?
- Well firstly, the certificates that comprise the DGC should be available in both digital and paper form. This is very important to reach every citizen, even those that do not have a digital device.
- All certificates either digital or paper form should have an interoperable barcode for example a QR-code that is needed to verify the authenticity of the certificate.
- Furthermore, certain information should be in readable form in any official EU language and English.
- Certificates should be provided free of charge
- And a digital green certificate is not a replacement of other proofs like the WHO's yellow booklet.
- The Trust Framework is an important part of the Digital Green Certificate as this consisting of principles for the development of the infrastructure and mechanisms required for the mutual recognition and verification of certificates.
- The ambition is to have this all ready by mid-June 2021 right before the summer holidays start.

Slide 10:**Titelblad: Nederlandse situatie****Slide 11:**

- Firstly, it is important to emphasize that a digital tool to keep certificates is merely a means to an end.
- What we want to achieve is allow society to open up step-by-step in a responsible manner.
- Using test certificates could be a way to allow the relaxation of restrictive measures to access specific facilities for instance, cultural venues and festivals.
- In order to be able to use test certificates for said purposes, a legislative framework was created.
- This framework specifies that the test certificates could be an obligation to enter 1) cultural venues (e.g. museums) and 2) events (e.g. festivals) 3) organised youth activities 4) Horeca 5) Sports
- Private organisations like bars and restaurants can determine themselves whether they want to use test certificates as entrance restrictions
- Employers cannot however demand employees to show a test certificate.

Slide 12:

- Taking the goal and use in mind, we have developed 2 digital apps: 1) CoronaCheck en 2) Scanner

- The CoronaCheck allows citizens to keep their certificates on their mobile device.
- Currently the app is only enabled to keep test certificates. We are currently testing the app for that purpose and expect to roll this out nationwide by May.
- At some point in time before the summer we also expect to include vaccine certificates.
- The Scanner is used by someone who wants to scan certificates to allow access to a venue.
- Nevertheless, in principle every citizen can download this app and could even scan his own certificate to check its authenticity and validity.

Slide 13:

- When developing the CoronaCheck, there are several requirements on which it needs to comply.
- 1) Privacy and security by design: meaning
 - there is no central storage of certificates, everything is stored decentralised on your own app.
 - The use of the app should not allow the tracing of citizens
 - And only negative test results can lead to a certificate.
- 2) Accessibility:

- The app should be usable by the majority of Ducht population, including those who don't have a mobile device.
- The generation and verification of certificates should also be done without the need of an online connection.
- 3) Openness:
 - Open and transparent development process and the use of international standards.
 - PCR-tests are done by the local healthcare services, and private test organisations. Both should be able to be connected to the back-end of the app.
 - As said earlier, in principle everyone should be able to verify the certificates through the scanner.
- 4) Temporality:
 - The apps are only in use for the duration of the pandemic. After that, the apps can be terminated immediately (kill switch).
- 5) Prevent abuse:
 - Safety measures are in place to prevent fraud (e.g. frequent renewal of QR-code).
 - Citizens need to legitimise themselves to show that they are the rightful owner of the certificate.

Slide 14:

- I have said a lot already, and I think it's time to show you some visuals on how the CoronaCheck looks like.

Slide 15:

Vervolg visuals CoronaCheck

Slide 16:

- And at last, some visuals on how the Scanner looks like.

Slide 17:

- That brings us now to the end of my presentation.
- Thank you very much for your time.