

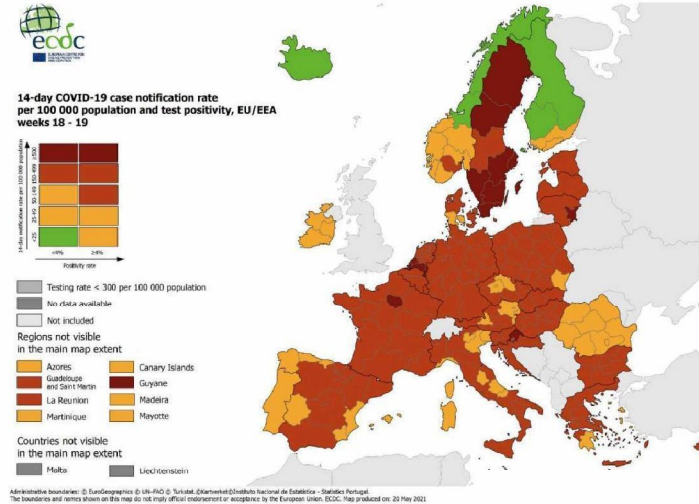


EU Digital COVID Certificate

Overview of the key aspects of the interoperable framework for COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery

Status quo

- Many different free movement restrictions in place across the EU
- MS require **various types of documents** (medical certificates, tests results etc.)
- Several MS already exempt vaccinated/recovered persons from restrictions (or plan to do so)
- Absence of standardised and secured formats cause **problems for acceptance and fraud**



Examples of the current fragmented approach – vaccines certificates

- Many different types of certificates, with different data fields, verification and authentication mechanisms
- EU citizens should not suffer from the adverse effects of fragmentation and divergent approaches which are not interoperable

The collage shows five distinct vaccine certificates:

- Top Left:** A Greek certificate titled "Επιστολή Εμβολιασμού SARS-CoV-2 SARS-Cov-2 Vaccination Record Certificate". It includes fields for name, date of birth, and social security number.
- Top Right:** A certificate from the Republic of Moldova titled "CERTIFICATE DE VACCINATION CONTRE COVID-19". It features a QR code and fields for personal data.
- Center:** A Polish mobile app screenshot titled "Szczepienie COVID-19" and "Zaświadczenie o szczepieniu". It displays a QR code and the alphanumeric code "5.1.2e".
- Bottom Left:** A certificate from the United Kingdom titled "PRINTED STATE CERTIFICATE". It lists dates for the first and second doses.
- Bottom Right:** A French certificate titled "Certificat de vaccination contre COVID-19". It includes fields for name, date of birth, and vaccination date, along with a QR code and the alphanumeric code "5.1.2e".

At the bottom right, the European Commission logo and the text "European Commission" are visible.

The European Union as a front-runner

- Acting now not only allows to **prevent fragmentation** but it also puts the EU as a **front-runner**.
- Our focus is to facilitate a **return to free movement in the EU** but it will naturally put us in a position to **influence the design** of solutions developed in **international forums**, in line with our values (non-discrimination, data protection...).
- **Working with initiatives at global level** is a key part of the initiative and our experts are already heavily involved with the WHO, ICAO etc. to seek **interoperability**.

Guiding principles and key values

- Facilitate **free movement** in the EU
- Vaccination **should not and cannot be a pre-requisite** for free movement.
- Ensuring **non-discrimination** is thus of utmost importance.
- This is why **test and recovery certificates are covered** in addition to **vaccine certificates**.
- The **fundamental right to data protection** will also be fully ensured.
- Member States should **refrain from imposing additional travel restrictions** unless necessary and proportionate to protect public health

Main Regulation – outline

- **Legal basis:** Art 21(2) TFEU – free movement of EU citizens within the EU
- **Objective:** to facilitate safe free movement during the pandemic by establishing a common framework – the EU Digital COVID Certificate – for the **issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable:**
 - **vaccination certificates**
 - **test certificates**
 - **certificates of recovery**
- May also be used by Member States for national purposes (use is indeed encouraged) – if legal basis is provided for in national law

Who is covered by the main Regulation?

- **EU citizens** and their family members:
 - **Main route to receive certificate:** vaccinated/tested by or recovered in the Member States
 - **If offered by MS:** presenting proof of vaccination by third country to MS and be issued with MS EU Digital COVID Certificate
 - Commission decision to **recognise third-country certificates** interoperable with EU system and which contain the necessary data
- **EEA nationals** via incorporation into EEA Agreement
- **CH nationals** based on a Commission decision and reciprocity



'Twin' Regulation – outline

- **Legal basis:** Art 77(2)(c) TFEU – conditions under which nationals of third countries shall have the freedom to travel within the Union for a short period
- **Objective:** to apply the rules in the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation also to third country nationals
 - who reside or stay legally in the territory of Member States and
 - who are entitled to travel to other Member States in accordance with Union law

The EU Digital COVID Certificate framework

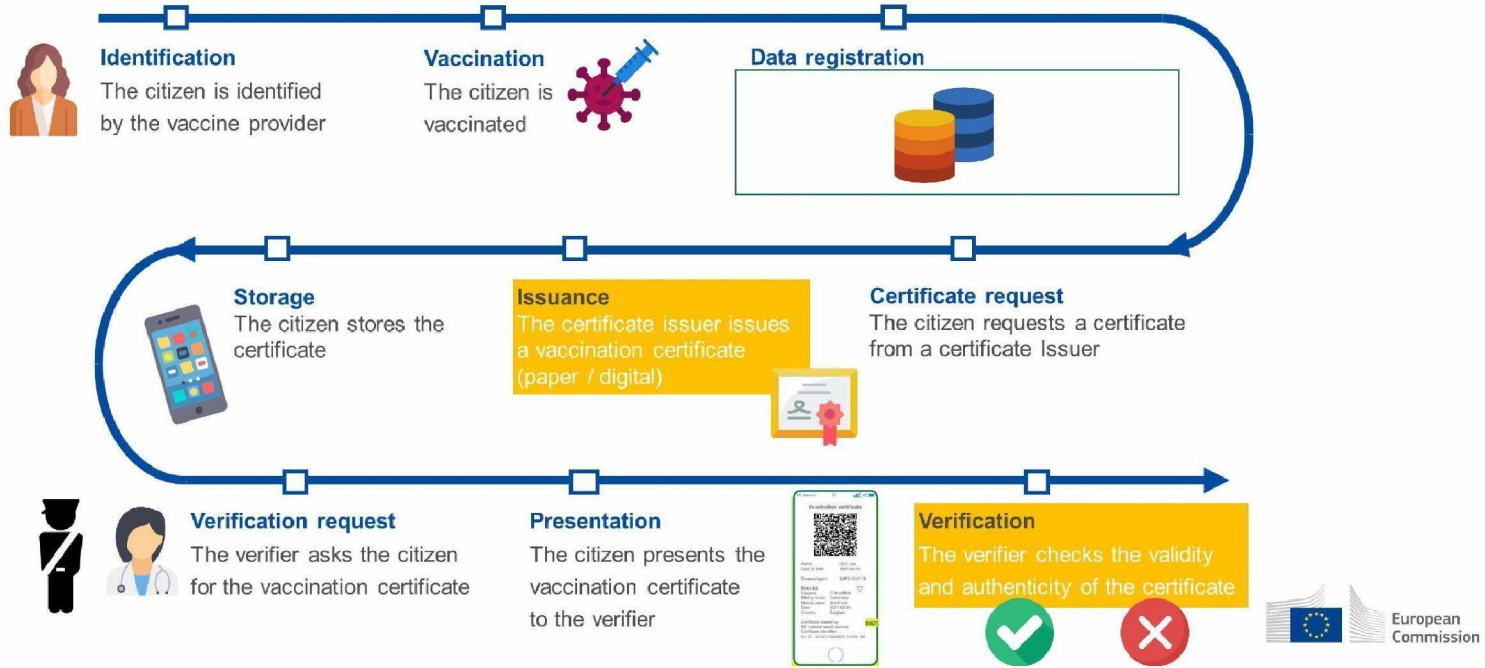
- Certificates **digital** and/or **paper-based** – important to ensure **access to for all citizens**
- Contain an **interoperable barcode** (e.g. QR code) for verification
- Information **in readable form** – official MS language(s) and English
- **Free of charge**
- EU Digital COVID Certificate **does not affect/prevent other proofs**, in particular for medical purposes (e.g. WHO booklet)
- **Trust framework** – infrastructure and mechanisms required for the mutual recognition and verification of certificates

Vaccination certificate

- **Only key information:** identity, vaccine administered, metadata
- **Every citizen** who receives (including those already vaccinated) a COVID-19 vaccine **to receive a certificate** (regardless of type of authorisation)
- Where a MS waives free movement restrictions for vaccinated persons, it is **obliged to accept vaccine cert. for vaccines authorised at EU level** (but free to also accept certificates for other vaccines)



Example: vaccination certificate life cycle



Test certificate

- **Only key information:** Identity, information about test, metadata
- For NAAT (such as **RT-PCR test**) and **rapid antigen test on EU list**
- Where a MS requires a test as part of free movement restrictions, it is obliged to accept negative test cert. issued by other MS in accordance with the Regulation
- The Commission will mobilise € 100 million to support Member States in **providing affordable tests.**

Certificate of recovery

- **Only key information:** Identity, information about past positive NAAT test, metadata
- Issued as early as **11 days after the positive test**, valid up to 180 days.
- Where a MS waives free movement restrictions for recovered persons, it is obliged to accept recovery cert. issued by other MS
- Possibility to allow the issuance of recovery certificates based on **rapid antigen tests** or **antibody tests** at a later stage once sufficient evidence has become available.

Data protection

- **GDPR applies**, including data minimisation (only necessary data on cert.)
- **Regulation is legal ground to process data to issue and verify the certificates for free movement purposes**
- For other purposes – **national legal basis required**
- Cross-border data exchange to verify certificate possible
- **No data retention** by verifying MS or transport operator
- **No EU database** on vaccination, test, recovery etc. status

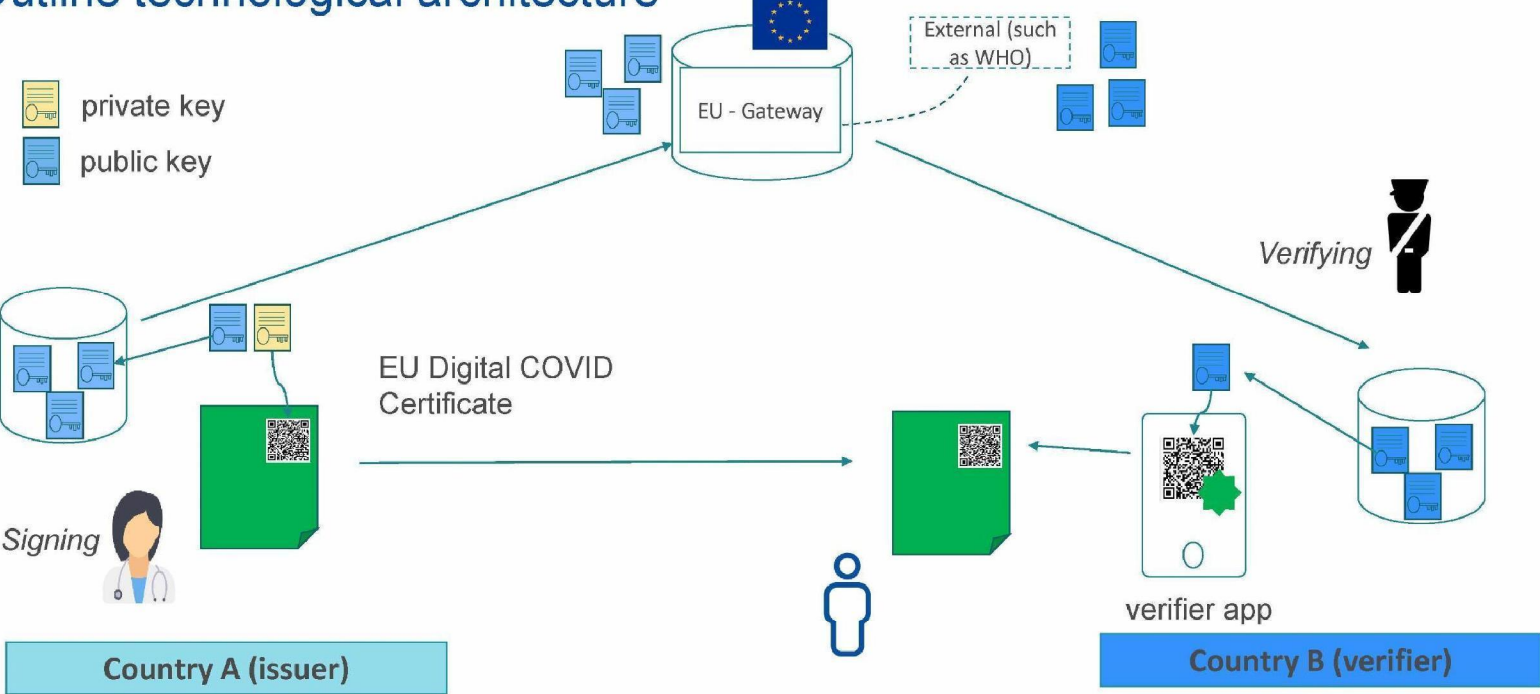
Other provisions – quick overview

- Empowerment for COM to adopt **technical standards** via implementing acts, where necessary using urgency procedure
- MS to refrain from imposing **additional travel restrictions** unless necessary and proportionate to safeguard public health (+ information procedure)
- MS to provide **information to the public** on the EU Digital COVID Certificate as well as any restrictions introduced on an exceptional basis.
- COM to **report** 4 months (limited) and 9 months (extensive) after the entry into application

Entry into and end of application, phasing-in

- Regulations will start applying as of **1 July 2021**.
- **Phasing-in period** (6 weeks):
 - MS can notify that they will issue non-compliant certificates during phasing-in period
 - During the phasing-in period, such certificates, as well as certificates issued before the entry into force of the Regulation, should be accepted by MS provided they contain the necessary data.
- Regulations will stop applying **after 12 months**, unless Parliament and Council decide to extend application based on a Commission proposal

Outline technological architecture



Existing guidelines

- The eHealth Network has adopted the following guidelines to support the interoperability of EU Digital COVID Certificates:
 - [Interoperability of health certificates - Trust framework](#) (outline)
 - Detailed technical specifications: https://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/covid-19_en
 - Open source reference implementation: <https://github.com/eu-digital-green-certificates>
 - [Verifiable vaccination certificates - basic interoperability elements](#)
 - [COVID-19 citizen recovery interoperable certificates - minimum dataset](#)
- In addition, the Health Security Committee has adopted guidelines for test certificates:
 - [A common list of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, and a common standardised set of data to be included in COVID-19 test result certificates](#)

Collaboration with international organisations

- The eHealth Network, the Commission, and individual European experts are actively participating to the work of the WHO expert group on [Smart Vaccination Certificates](#).
 - The goal is to link the EU Digital COVID Certificate system to the global framework for vaccination certificates
 - The eHealth Network guidelines have been influential in the WHO work.
- The Commission is also exchanging views with and providing input to the work of ICAO and other relevant international organisations.

Thank you



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