



COVID 19 CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND EXIT: TECHNO-NORMATIVE TOOLS OF COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

A proposal for a democratic framework for uses

<https://tfc19.tech/>

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Summary

A group of engineers, data specialists and lawyers formed the Covid-19 Task Force (TFC-19). The objective is to implement the tools for locating and tracking infected people (contact tracing).

In the fight led by States and health institutions against the Covid-19 pandemic, first time in the history of both medicine and health crisis management, digital tools are now an integral part of the solution in prevention of the further spread of the epidemic.

¹ Acknowledgements : G. BLOT et S. VILLATA.

A necessary tool

For example, "digital technologies and tools for locating and tracking infected people" (contact tracing) are being developed and are bound to raise questions, fears and different opinions regarding their relevance and reliability and the risks they are likely to impose, both for individual freedoms and for the sovereignty of the Member States of the European Union.

"Any large-scale tracing system must be subject to clear and effective provisions". "

One of the objectives of this technology is to prevent people who have been diagnosed positive from infecting those they have come in contact with. This is best achieved through a mobile application that automatically notifies individuals upon coming into close proximity with a person who has tested positive.

This tracking can be done either via GPS location or via the Bluetooth telecommunication protocol. The latter technique is generally preferred in projects currently being developed, as it is considered less intrusive.

10 essential guarantees

Any large-scale tracing device must be subject to clear and effective provisions.

The following 10 principles should guide governments and health authorities:

1. Consent: a voluntary approach that prevents and prohibits discrimination against those who refuse to subscribe to it;
2. Purpose of the treatment: oriented towards crisis management and exit from the crisis;
3. End of the program: the program is exceptional and its end must be clearly defined
4. Profiling: prohibition of "social" profiling of individuals;
5. Transparency, traceability, auditability based on technical and human guarantees;
6. Anonymization: strict anonymization of personal data;
7. Digital sovereignty: centralization on national or European servers;
8. Retention and sale of data: strict prohibition;

9. Alternative(s) to digital to guarantee equality before the public service (possibility to use voice servers instead of smartphones);
10. Shared and/or anonymized geolocation: prohibition of automatic collection of geolocation data;

Open source and blockchain

All processing algorithms applied to the data collected must be "open source" and must allow for audits by trusted third parties.

In addition, the device must natively integrate a traceability process between the different servers and a public blockchain.

"It is necessary to ensure confidence in this complete monitoring system".

The data collected - as well as its usage - will also be traceable by the same device. This is an essential guarantee to ensure confidence in this monitoring system.

A citizen and academic initiative

It is in this context that this group of data scientists, engineers and lawyers, the Covid-19 Task Force (TFC-19), was created in association to propose a techno-normative system to regulate the use of these technologies.

The system is based on these 10 techno-normative recommendations which, in addition to its framework, constitute the democratic horizon that must be observed by any data collection and processing system developed in the context of the health crisis management.

The legal bases of these 10 recommendations and the technical solutions that accompany them are described in detail in the first publication of TFC-19 (v. 1.0) as well as on the dedicated website.

These recommendations must be thought out and integrated "by design". They are essential for the respect of data protection law and fundamental freedoms.