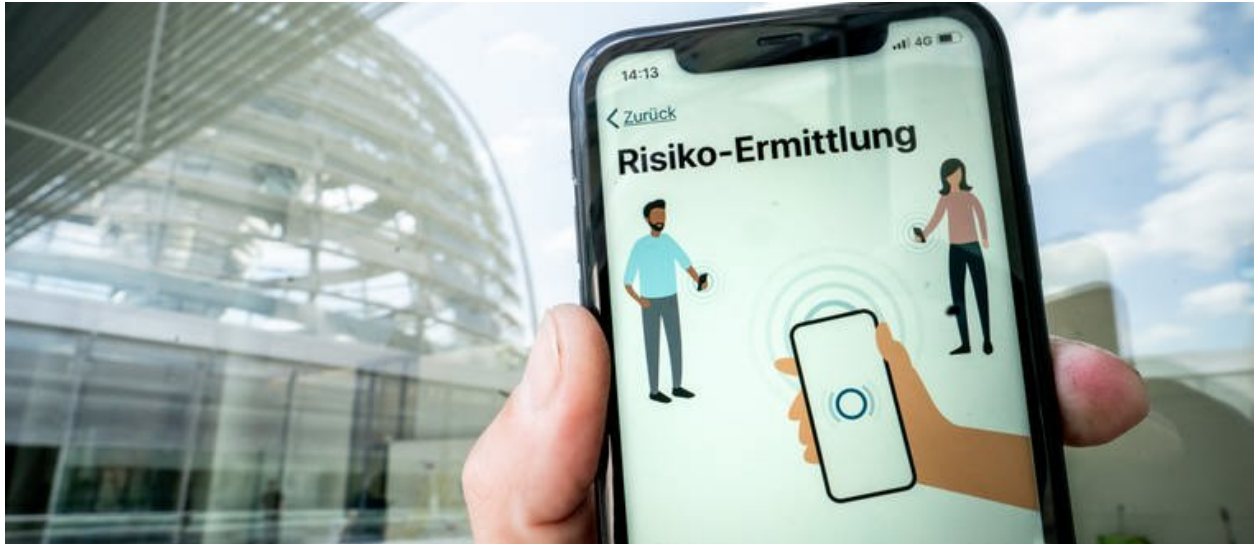**SWR, 17 June 2020**

- https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/corona-app-140.html

— Translation by Kilian Bluemlein, 86 AW/PA

CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CHANCELLERY, BRAUN: "NOT THE FIRST BUT THE BEST WARNING APP IN THE WORLD"

Already more than two Million Downloads of Corona Warning App

According to information available to ZDF the corona warning app has been downloaded more than two million times. It was officially introduced to the public Tuesday morning. A lot of praise came from data protectors; but there are some weaknesses as well.

According to information by ZFD more than two million people have downloaded the corona warning app so far. Apparently there were no major technical problems, but the app is to generate additional cost during the next years. The Federal Ministry of Finance allocated 45 million euro for this year and the next year; on top of that its advertisement will cost three million euro.

How the Corona Warning App can be downloaded

The Federal Administration's official corona warning app can be downloaded to smart phones since Tuesday morning. According to Google more than one million people have made use of that. The Federal Administration advertised the app again during its introduction.

Federal Secretary of Health Jens Spahn (CDU) stressed that utilization of the app is reasonable particularly in times when restrictions are eased which will result in

more contacts between people who do not know each other, e.g. during demonstrations or while riding on trains. However, the app is not a universal remedy or a 'free ticket'. It remains still important to observe physical distance and to wear a face covering.

Secretary of the Interior Horst Seehofer (CSU) said at the introduction of the app that she fulfilled highest standards as far as data protection were concerned.

Encounters of Users will be saved anonymously

The app is to facilitate tracking of contacts of infected people and thereby shorten chains of infection. This is to facilitate further easing of restrictions without an expedited increase of the spread of the pandemic. The use of the app is voluntary.

The app measures via Bluetooth whether users have had contacts closer than approximately two meter for a duration of 15 minutes or longer. The location of the encounter will not be saved and data will be kept anonymously for two weeks. For that program Bluetooth is running in a special version which does not strain the cell battery too much.

Users who have contracted the virus can share this information via the app and warn other users. No personal data will be used for that

Criticism from FDP

The party's spokesperson for digital issues, Manuel Hoeferlin (FDP) criticized the Federal Administration's procedure with the corona warning app. Federal Secretary of Health, Spahn, "repeatedly spoke about different apps. That certainly destroys people's trust", Hoeferlin told SWR. Besides that it had taken too long to put the app on the market. "Other countries were significantly quicker with that matter." And the Federal Administration had failed to find a European solution for a corona app.

"We know that it is not perfect"

The programmers take it that the app is suitable for everyday use. "In the meantime we are convinced that we have a good solution to start with even when we know that it is not perfect", said SAP manager Stefan Mueller. He takes it that one can still learn more from "the real application of the app". For the development of the app Fraunhofer Institute IIS in the City of Erlangen simulated everyday situations like standing in line, restaurant visits or travels on busses and trains.