

Disclaimer: We kindly ask to acknowledge that due to the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the questions and the dynamic pandemic situation some of the information might be incomplete or only correct for the time being. Thus, please consider the date and date of the last update with the below information. All available information was provided by a country representative from the PHIRI network during or in connection to the respective meeting.

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Table 1: Part 1: Country response: Fake certificates

Country	Fake certificates
Albania	The number of fake COVID-19 certificates is increasing in Albania according to media reports. Few days ago, one doctor was fired due to a fake certificate of a person. According to media reports the price for a fake certificate range from 50 - 200 euros (based on the vaccine that will be reported). A concrete number of possible fake certificates is not available. Certificates are bought for both reasons. Difficult to say that they are aware.
Austria	<p>Over the course of the last months and weeks, there have been discovered some cases of fraud and fake certificates in some countries connected to the EU DCC Gateway.</p> <p>A working group has been put together in the eHN to investigate those incidents and we are also in exchange with the concerned countries (e.g. France, Poland).</p> <p>In Austria we have deactivated/invalidated all those known fake certificates.</p> <p>Generally, no fake certificates have been generated or issued with an Austrian private key, as we adhere to the highest security standards in Austria and thus have minimized potential (technical) risks and threats.</p> <p>Moreover, we are not aware of any fake certificates circulating in Austria and consequently do not have a number of fake certificates to report.</p> <p>Yet, we still want to mention that there is always the possibility of a few fake certificates being around on a small scale which are immensely hard to detect, as we can only control the things that are in our area of responsibility and there will always be the risk of individual misconduct.</p> <p>In late September the authorities announced more and stricter controls of certificates. https://www.bmi.gv.at/news.aspx?id=347932784B4C676C7978513D</p> <p>Using a fake certificate can be fined with up to 500 Euros. Creating and selling fake certificates can result in legal persecution. https://www.gruenerpass.gv.at/faq/</p>
Belgium	No information available.
Bulgaria	A few cases of fake certificates were discovered by the Ministry of Interior. No general information on the number or percentage of fake certificates is available in BG.
Czech Republic	No information available.
Estonia	No publicly available number of fake certificates in EE.
Finland	A few fake certificates have come across in FI, both at the border and within the country. However, these are isolated cases with an insignificant number of discovered cases. Scanning the QR code of the certificate is the key to detecting fake certificates.



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Ireland	<p>At the moment, there have been no official reports of fake COVID certificates being used in Ireland to date. Ireland is operating on the basis of any guidance received from the European Commission on fraudulent certificates.</p> <p>It was recently reported in the media that people were advertising what were purported to be Irish vaccine certificates on the dark web. The Irish police force (An Garda Síochána) are working with health officials on how to respond.</p>
Italy	<p>In Italy, authorities are aware that the number of false COVID-19 Green Passes is increasing. Two files on the diffusion of Green pass online, have been opened by the public prosecutors of Rome and Milan. The first relates to the investigation also launched by the Privacy Guarantor on the certificates available within a well-known file sharing platform, the other on the passes available online. Just today (22nd November 2021), a meeting will be held between the Privacy Guarantor and the Special Unit for the Protection of Privacy and Technological Fraud of the Finance Police.</p> <p>The real number of possible false Green Passes is not available. Some media talk about thousands of apparently authentic Green Passes available online in a well-known file sharing platform and downloadable by anyone, with the serious risk that they could be manipulated or marketed. But this information has still to be proven!</p> <p>False Green Passes are probably bought for both reasons as stated above.</p> <p>Italian authorities are surely aware and, consequently, also border control.</p>
Malta	<p>MT checks the health documentation of every passenger. In most cases passengers show vaccination certificates as authorization for travelling to MT, otherwise quarantine would be mandatory. The certificates are scanned electronically at the border. MT used to detect 5-10 fake certificates a week, but due to border control, there have been fewer and fewer over time.</p> <p>In cases of fake certificates details were changed (e.g. name), or a fake QR code was implemented, which led to a different website. Fake certificates were offered for about 200 EUR. One person was caught offering fake certificates and investigated by the police.</p>
Netherlands	<p>NL is aware of fake certificates, there is a lot of speculation in the media, but they don't know the full extent.</p> <p>The governments is actively blocking false QR codes (vaccine-recovery-test); this has been possible as of mid-October. It works via a 'blacklist'. The MoFA reports 10 foreign and 13 national QR-codes that were exchanged on a large scale (number is increasing). These codes now turn red when scanned.</p> <p>There has been a report of illegal QR-codes being provided via Telegram. The makers succeeded in replicating the bikes that turns around when you tap them, one of the security measures that was built in.</p> <p>Numerous investigations are ongoing (e.g. https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2021/november/10/03-nieuwe-aanhouding-voor-fraude-met-qr-codes.html).</p> <p>CoronaCheck FAQ: What happens to QR codes that have been used for fraud? => From version 2.4.0, the Scanner for CoronaCheck includes the possibility to block specific QR codes. QR codes and corona receipts are personal and may not be used by others. Sharing QR codes and using someone else's QR codes is punishable and a report is made if the abuse is detected. When QR codes are widely shared on the internet or on social media, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport can block these codes. In that case, the Scanner app gives a red screen and the person may not be admitted. It is important to always check the ID to prevent people with someone else's QR code from trying to gain access.</p> <p>No specific information is available on both the number of false certificates and information on whether fake vaccination certificates are purchased for domestic use or cross-border travel.</p>
Poland	<p>In Poland there is awareness among policy makers as regards the fact of certificates being subject to forging. This November a case was reported on the arrest of 3 nurses accused of issuing false COVID certificates – it was one of the first such cases in Poland.</p> <p>Within the National Health Fund (NFZ) there is a special analytical team dedicated to verifying the cases of issuing false certificates. The National Health</p>



	<p>Fund sent out to all vaccination points a communication warning before illegal practices reminding that for forging medial documentation the penalty may be up to 8 years of prison.</p> <p>Most frequently cases of using false certificates are reported by the Polish Border Guard. False certificates are most often presented by foreign citizens trying to cross Polish border for work purposes.</p>
Portugal	In summer, fake certificates were sold for 100 Euros, however, due to the lack of market, there is no big demand on this issue.
Slovakia	<p>Fake certificates do exist in SK in various forms, in paper or electronic form, for example copies of valid certificates, which are edited by name or date.</p> <p>The police in SK has recently reported 200 cases of fake certificates, however, the number is underestimated. It is unknown if fake certificates are used for domestic use or cross border travel.</p>
Slovenia	The problem of using fake certificates is known in SI. Certificates are e.g. forged by health care workers. However, due to the measure implemented to share personal ID together with the certificate, fake certificates became less.
Spain	<p>Currently, fake certificates are not deemed a matter of concern in Spain although the National Institute of Cybersecurity (INCIBE) has detected the sale of fake vaccinations certificates and/or negative PCR on social networks like Telegram</p> <p>No information on the number of false certificates is available from ES.</p> <p>In that regions where certificates are needed to enter some premises, it has been detected that certificates are offered (for example, in Telegram groups)</p> <p>As said, the National Institute of Cybersecurity (INCIBE) has detected the sale of fake vaccinations certificates and/or negative PCR on social networks like Telegram. There is full awareness in the Borders Control Officers although is not a matter of concern.</p>
United Kingdom	The production of fake certificates in the UK has not been reported but there are reports of fake vaccine certificates when people try to enter the UK - see https://iasservices.org.uk/fake-covid-certificates/



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Table 2: Part 2: Country response: Updated Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions / Measures

Country	Updated Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions / Measures	Booster vaccination programme
Austria	In AT there is a total lockdown as of 22 November with the same rules that applied in previous lockdowns: going to work, leave the house if care for others, and going for a walk is allowed. Shops are closed with exceptions (e.g. pharmacies, ...). Schools are opened. Before, AT had already a lockdown for unvaccinated or unrecovered ("2G").	Booster programme in AT for 60+ and for all AstraZeneca vaccinated where vaccination is more than 4 months, and for the rest of population after 6 months.
Belgium	BE is hit by 4th wave; however, no lockdown is planned yet. BE is using the COVID-safe-ticket (vaccinated, recovered, tested), in combination with mask wearing.	Booster vaccination will be available in BE.
Bulgaria	One of the basic measures in BG are Green certificates. Children are at school now, tested twice a week with RAT. BG additionally wants to consider antibody testing. There are still some protests on the part of gastronomy.	Vaccine booster campaign is in place in BG for 60+, but since the vaccination rate is not high everybody who wants might receive it.
Czech Republic	There is still no government after the elections one month ago. CZ is not in lockdown. Children are at school tested every Monday. ONT (vaccinated, recovered, tested) was reduced to ON system (vaccinated, recovered) since today https://covid.gov.cz/en/situations/infection-and-general-measures/o-n-t-system-vaccination-past-disease-test .	
Estonia	Cases are increasing in EE, however, schools and activities are opened with some restrictions.	
Finland	There are some regional restrictions for opening hours at areas with high incidences. No restrictions apply for those vaccinated, recovered, or tested.	
Ireland	Ireland is currently going through another wave of COVID with over 4,000-5,000 cases a day. We have not returned to lockdown as of yet, but additional measures may be introduced in the coming weeks if the virus is not contained. Some new measures were introduced last week in response to the rising incidence of COVID. These include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone should work from home unless necessary to attend the workplace 2. COVID-19 passes (based on vaccination or recovery) are required for cinemas and theatres 3. All on-licensed premises (including bars, nightclubs, restaurants, hotel bars etc) must close at midnight 4. Household contacts who are fully vaccinated and showing no symptoms should restrict their movements until they have 3 negative antigen tests taken within a 5-day period (those who are unvaccinated and do not have symptoms must restrict their movement for 14 days and get a PCR test). 	A booster vaccine campaign is also underway in Ireland for those aged 50 or older, those living in a nursing home / long-term care facility, those aged 16 to 49 years with an underlying condition, and healthcare workers.



Italy	Infections are increasing, especially in the Northern areas of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and in the Bolzen Province, hospital charges and ICUs charges are increasing as well. About 85% of these charges are related to not vaccinated persons. By the moment, no additional special measures have been launched. The Green Pass rules are still working for both public and private workers and for social and leisure time activities. Authorities are thinking about a 'special'/'restricted' Green Pass available for fully vaccinated persons only (currently Green Pass is available also for persons healed from the infection and for those with a 48 hours negative test).	The booster dose (3rd dose) of vaccine campaign has started in autumn and now it is open to over 40 years old (3rd dose is freely provided starting from at least 6 months from the 2nd dose or the unique dose). Considering only the over 12, subject to the vaccination campaign, the audience identified by the extraordinary Commissioner for the Covid-19 emergency, 84.59% are fully vaccinated. Considering the whole population, 77.1% completed the primary vaccination course; 2.19% are waiting for a second dose. 6.66% made the third dose.
Malta	Wearing masks is still mandatory indoors. Events are limited to 500 persons seated, 100 persons standing, however, for full vaccinated only, not for recovered. Travelling to MT quarantine free is only permitted for vaccinated.	Yes, vaccine booster campaign is in place in MT. All 70+ individuals have been offered a booster now and MT is currently boosting 60+ and HCW and those working in the educational sector, including teachers. Immunosuppressed individuals have also all been offered a booster as part of the first cohort.
Netherlands	In brief, homeworking is recommended, no spectators are allowed at sport events, schools are opened. Face masks were reintroduced for all public indoor spaces. For the current state of non-pharmaceutical measures see: https://www.government.nl/topics/c/coronavirus-covid-19/tackling-new-coronavirus-in-the-netherlands/coronavirus-measures-in-brief	
Portugal	At the moment, cases of infections are more affecting younger people. PT is keeping the same measures, focusing on hygiene, wearing masks, and social distancing.	In PT there is a large cover of vaccinated people. PT has now started vaccinating risk groups and HCW with the third dose.
Slovakia	The impact of all measures in SK depends on how consistent the deployment of the checkpoints is.	
Slovenia	There is an obligatory system for all participating in public life: a certificate ("3G": vaccinated, recovered, or tested) has to be shown up together with a personal ID. Further, teleworking is recommended as much as possible, wearing masks is obligatory, regular self-testing at schools is implemented.	A vaccine booster campaign is in place in SI.
United Kingdom	COVID passes (vaccination or recent infection or negative test) needed for entry to nightclubs/cinemas and large sporting events in Wales, Scotland, and now Northern Ireland but not in England. Face coverings needed for shops and public transport in Wales, Scotland and NI but not England. Vaccines mandated only for social care workers in the UK, not health care workers or general population. HCW vaccine mandation may happen in England but unlikely in other 3 UK countries.	UK now has a vaccine booster programme for all >40 and those who are clinically vulnerable - all ages.

