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Answer given by Mr Schmit
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.12.2022)

As announced in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the Commission launched the European Social Security Pass (ESSPASS)¹ pilot project to explore by 2023 the feasibility of a digital solution for the cross-border verification of social security coverage and entitlements.

The pilot project is not exploring the introduction of a digital card, but the use of digital documents which can be downloaded and stored in a digital wallet and verified online across borders. The first phase of the project – launched with the Italian institution ‘Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale’ - focuses on the digitalisation of procedures related to the Portable Document A1, stating the legislation applicable to the holder. In total 13 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden) are following the project at different levels of involvement. The Commission published in 2022 a call for proposals under the Digital Europe Programme, with some financial support that could also be used to further pilot ESSPASS.

In its work programme for 2023, the Commission announced an initiative on the digitalisation of social security coordination, in connection with the work on ESSPASS.

¹ European Social Security Pass - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1545&langId=en>