KOMPETENZINITIATIVE

zum Schutz von Mensch, Umwelt und Demokratie e.V.

In the global corona crisis: Courage for a change in policies regarding wireless communication technologies

Statement of the Kompetenzinitiative e.V.

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In the current corona crisis, all of us, our society, and the global community at large are invariably confronted with uncertainty, suffering, disease, dying, and death. How far the human and social dimensions of this crises reach and will reach is currently impossible to determine. This holds true for the global pandemic as a whole as well as the individual experience of each one of us. Is it actually appropriate that we as an initiative of experts should make a public statement in such a confusing and highly precarious situation? We thought about this long and hard and concluded: yes.

Limited and appropriate risk perception

In the ongoing global debates, a vast number of ideas, theories, and assessments are circulating regarding the causes and effects of this crisis.

On the one hand, it is remarkable to see that there are attempts made within the international and national political arena to demand a change of thinking regarding human health and the health of the environment in light of the challenges. For example, the EU Commission commits in its "Green Deal" to "making the EU economy sustainable" (https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en), or the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety emphasizes that "a global nature conservation can reduce the risk of future epidemics" (https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-global-nature-conservation-can-reduce-risk-of-future-epidemics/). On the other hand, there are many loud voices, especially from the industry, in the form of statements as well as advertising spots that unscrupulously market their business concepts, services, and products in the areas of digital transformation and wireless communication technologies.

We miss in these statements from both political and economic partners an appropriate risk perception regarding the downsides of the digital transformation and wireless communication technologies. In particular, presenting the connection of the digital transformation with wireless communication technologies as inevitable, including all generations of wireless communication standards as well as 5G, is not the solution, but part of serious risks that adversely affect our health and the health of the environment. As we follow the EMF Guideline 2016 presented by a group of international researches and physicians, it appears to be urgent that the increasing exposure to wireless radiation is considered in combination with other environmental pollutants and that the associated adverse health effects are acknowledged (https://kompetenzinitiative.com/wissenschaft/europaem-emf-guideline-2016/).

A critical analysis is more crucial than ever ...

In our view, a critical analysis remains indispensable – also and especially in this crisis. Technical and digital communication tools can, of course, be very helpful and useful in the present situation, serving as a supplement to bridge communication needs. However, they are not a substitute for human communication that offers myriad possibilities and the richness of face-to-face interaction. And the already well-researched health-related and environmental risks of wireless communication technologies still apply, also and especially at these exceptional times and beyond.

We therefore think that an equally broad- and far-reaching social debate about the possibilities and limits of the digital transformation and especially the health-related and ecological risks of the new wireless standard 5G is urgently needed.

On our path to clear evidence: biological / medical risks

In the global debate on wireless communication technologies and health, international risk research has repeatedly pointed to serious risks for human health and the environment. Three selected examples may suffice in this context.

The International Public Symposium Mainz, 4–6 October 2019, provided an opportunity to engage with renowned scientists of the international risk research community. According to the current state of the available innovative risk research, we now have clear evidence of so-called biological/medical effects of wireless radiation, which can range from developing subjective symptoms to having one's life and health severely impaired and damaged. Especially vulnerable populations, primarily children and youth as well as individuals with electromagnetic hypersensitivity, are severely affected by the increasing exposure to wireless radiation.
More info about the conference: https://kompetenzinitiative.com/en/mainz-2019/ and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvtltO3RYs7tBlOrG1oxOgA

The Institute of Technology Assessment (ITA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences has recently released a project report on 5G, which was commissioned by the Austrian Parliament. In their announcement, the researchers emphasize, among other issues: *The actual risk remains controversial ... It is important to bear in mind that the possible consequences of 5G have hardly been researched at present. ... The question of what we know is at least as important for the socially responsible use of this technology as the awareness of what we do not yet know.*
More info about the project report: https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/ita/detail/news/article/5g-und-gesundheit/

A recent briefing for the European Parliament with the title "Effects of 5G Wireless Communication on Human Health" also points in the same direction: *Whereas researchers generally consider such radio waves not to constitute a threat to the population, research to date has not addressed the constant exposure that 5G would introduce. Accordingly, a section of the scientific community considers that more research on the potential negative biological effects ... is needed, notably on the incidence of some serious human diseases.*
More info about the briefing:
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2020)646172

Owing to the longstanding and hard work of industry-independent researchers in the field of electromagnetic fields and medicine, things are moving forward in the international debate on wireless radiation and health. The times of outdated technology-based exposure limits and doctrines of causality are over. We now have sufficient evidence for a new reality-based risk perception that

suggests and forms the basis of a progressive precautionary framework.

For a progressive precautionary framework

Against this background, we address our statement in the current global crisis especially to German and international politicians, appealing to a new political courage: the courage for a change in policies regarding wireless communication technologies.

We will summarize below only the most urgent key issues that, according to our assessment, need to be addressed first to develop a progressive precautionary framework:

- Stop the rollout of 5G until genuine, independent technology risk assessments provide relevant risk analyses regarding health and the environment

- Adequate risk awareness, especially in politics and industry – supporting and promoting research that is free of industry interests – raising public risk awareness without limits

- Substantial review of current exposure limits to issue guidelines that replace the physics-based limits, which cannot protect living organisms, with guidelines that are based on biological and biophysical conditions of life

- Significant reduction in emissions with regard to present wireless technologies – research and support of alternative wireless communication technologies, e.g. light technologies – expansion of powerful fiber-optic networks

- Wi-Fi-free educational institutions, daycare centers and schools prefer hardwired solutions – up-to-date risk disclosure in the context of children/adolescents/family

- Swift end to the exclusion of the increasing number of persons who are affected by electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) – recognition of relevant symptom patterns – establishment and support of protective zones with low or no exposure

Some general recommendations

What can each of us do in the light of the current crises and the increasing wireless radiation exposure? Some (selected) general recommendations appear to be reasonable and practical:

Since we live and work mostly at home at this time, we recommend to keep the exposure to wireless radiation in any given living environment as low as possible, but especially in homes with children and youth.

The environmental and consumer protection organization *diagnose:funk* offers a great guide with practical tips.
More info: https://www.diagnose-funk.org/publikationen/artikel/detail&newsid=1546

The renowned researcher and physician Karl Hecht emphasizes how important it is to strengthen the immune system: *In the last weeks, international experts have observed that people with a strong immune system tend not to come down with COVID-19. How can you achieve a strong immune system? Answer: A consistently holistic healthy lifestyle. The first priority is high-quality sleep. A low-EMF bedroom is essential because electricity and wireless devices (cordless phones, cell phones, Wi-Fi, etc.) seriously interfere with sleep.*

From a biomedical perspective, the well-known researcher Ulrich Warnke points out: *It is not enough to functionally strengthen the immune system when there is a lack of protein (as well as minerals, trace minerals, polyphenols) for the production of antibodies and diverse signal proteins. In humans, we now know of more than 70 defect processes in gene protein syntheses,* whereby the protein manufacturing *in the body is also affected by ribosomes*. *This is about increasing protein utilization and protein synthesis in the body. If selected DNA parts within a gene are damaged, there will be no more coding for protein synthesis. Toxins, heavy metals, fine particulate matter and other pollutants, stress, poor nutrition, wireless radiation exposure (cell phone, smartphone) but also viruses and other pathogenic agents are all factors that damage the genetic structure.*

Crisis response and courage for a change in policies regarding wireless communication technologies

The global corona crises demands a great deal from all of us. And this is certainly the time to respond to the acute social, political, and individual crises. Yet at the same time, we need to ensure that the awareness of the increase in wireless radiation exposure – as well as climate change – is kept alive.

In any case, the serious risks to our health and the environment require a new progressive precautionary framework – during the current crises and beyond. We see an urgent need to act, at least at the time of restart when new or revised health and environmental standards will possibly be created. We expect that, in their "sustainable" concepts and programs, international and national policies include as key issues the increase in wireless radiation exposure and associated adverse effects.

We think it is especially the duty of the government and its agencies to provide the platform for a precautionary framework that allows for progress to be compatible with human health and the health of the environment – including the courage for a change in policies regarding wireless communication technologies.

On behalf of the Executive Board of the *Kompetenzinitiative e.V.*

Klaus Buchner, Mario Babilon, Peter Ludwig, Karl Richter

Main office: Parallelstraße 26, 66125 Saarbrücken

Executive Board: Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Mario Babilon • Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Klaus Buchner • Dr. phil. Peter Ludwig (Managing Director) • Prof. Dr. phil. Karl Richter

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www.kompetenzinitiative.net sekretariat@kompetenzinitiative.net