

At first sight

Appropriate measures during the COVID19 crisis

Situation

The novel virus puts societies, economies and states under great strain and poses big challenges. It is of great importance to contain the risks on public health. Digital solutions can contribute to the continuous functioning of administrations, schools and businesses. At the same time, an economic crisis needs to be avoided. That's why the German government has introduced a substantial financial protection programme.

Bitkom's view

Efforts are going into the right direction. The protection programme is a decisive and comprehensive effort. Bitkom aims to contribute by providing guidance on how digital solutions can be used to keep society and the economy running. Short term as well as pragmatic measures will be necessary.

Important recommendations

- **Companies need support**
Protective measures have to be implemented with as little bureaucracy and as much flexibility as possible. The needs of younger companies have to be taken into consideration as well. It's of great importance to ensure liquidity of companies.
- **Use digital solutions in providing services**
Digital solutions can help to solve problems on the spot but adequate ICT equipment, online retail and good telecommunication infrastructure is needed. Digital tools have to be used to continue working, learning and living from home.
- **Adjust administrative efforts**
Public administration is the backbone of the public sphere. Administrative procedures and procurement processes should be as digital and easy to navigate as possible. Public employees have to be able to work from home and requirements on written documents have to become redundant.

Bitkom number

43 percent

of employees say that their freedoms to work from home have increased because of the crisis.