1. **Title:** Lost in Lockdown? The Effect of Social Distancing and Quarantine Policies on Depression and Suicide in Germany

2. **Authors:** Valentin Klotzbücher, valentin.klotzbuecher@vwl.uni-freiburg.de, (University of Freiburg), Stephanie Armbruster, stephanie.armbruster@ere.uni-freiburg.de, (University of Basel and University of Freiburg), Ingo Eckert, ingodoteckert@web.de, (independent researcher)

   **Abstract:** We exploit spatial and temporal variation in mitigation policies to assess how social-distancing and quarantine policies imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Germany affect anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.

   Our empirical approach is twofold: First, we use Google Trends to quantify changes in related online-searches and thereby obtain an early assessment of the hypothesized effects. As official statistics on actual suicides become available, we will verify and compare our estimates by analyzing the excess number of suicides occurring in the year 2020 in a spatial RDD framework.

3. **Data description:** Detailed data on state-level mitigation measures, Google Trends, suicide data from the German Federal Statistical Office.

4. **JEL codes for the project:** I12, I13

5. **Key-words:** Suicide, Covid-19, Corona, Lockdown, mental health, Google Trends, posttraumatic stress disorder