

COVID-19 SPECIAL

INTERVIEWS:

AMÓS GARCIA HUESO

**CORONEL JUAN MANUEL
GARRIDO-ARROQUIA Y NOVES**

**PROJECTS AND
INITIATIVES COVID-19**

**STATISTICS COVID-19
MAY**

INTERVIEWS



SOURCE: EDC UAL

Ana Fe Gil Serra, Director of the European Documentation Centre in Almería interviews Mr. Amós García Hueso

Mr. Amós García Hueso, External Action Director-General of Andalusians in the Presidency of the Andalusian Regional Government, has been a province deputy, regional parliamentarian and spokesperson for European Affairs. In 2018 he was appointed **Honorary Ambassador** to Andalusia by the European Foundation Finnova, in recognition of his work on policies to boost entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and the European Union, as well as the dissemination of these values through the public-private partnership and open innovation methodology of the Start-up Europe Awards in Andalusia.

QUESTION. These months will remain engraved in the memory of many Spaniards. They will be memories marked, without a doubt, by the suffering experienced in the hospitals, the anguish before the always ascending number of sick and dead people, but also by the strength and union of those painful applauses, which filled our balconies every afternoon. As Director-General of Andalusians Abroad, how do you remember those first weeks after the state of alarm was declared?

ANSWER. Well, with a lot of uncertainty about the situation and concern about the lack of information and the Spanish Government's ability to react. We saw that, in spite of the alerts from international organisations and the serious situation in nearby countries, there was not a forceful and comprehensive response to the events. On the one hand, the health workers were demanding human resources and individual protection to deal with the avalanche of hospital admissions and, on the other hand, the security forces did not have clear instructions.



INTERVIEWS

It should also be remembered that, during those first weeks, activities involving high concentrations of people were maintained and in the most affected population centres, such as Madrid, there was a mass flight to other territories; food and basic products were hoarded, causing occasional shortages. Everything in the purest "every man for himself" style, generating among many citizens, other countries and international organizations the image of a de-structured and indecisive government, as has been echoed by the international press. Without a doubt, the best response and the best image has been given by health personnel, who, independently of the government's ravings, have given us all a lesson in responsibility, humanity and involvement. Only they know what they have really suffered. Most of us have only received images of motivation and gratitude, but almost none of the hardest. And the hardest thing has been living through the death of more than 25.000 people in solitude. We boasted of having the best health care in the world and what we have is the best health care workers in the world.



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QUESTION: Has contact been maintained with Andalusian communities outside Spain and have repatriation actions been carried out in collaboration with the Central Government?

ANSWER. Of course, the Andalusian Communities Abroad are a network of entities of great value, built with effort and will for many years, some of which have over a century of history and spread over the five continents. They are eminently supportive communities and the impact of their activity is multiplied by all the territories in which they are located. There is a large number of Andalusians who are part of them and we have maintained continuous contact with them. On some occasions, it has been precisely these international Andalusian communities that have allowed us to make contact with citizens who, due to different circumstances, were trapped outside Spain when the state of alarm and border closures were established.

With regard to repatriation actions, as they are not within our competence, we have maintained from the beginning a full disposition to collaborate with the Central Government.

On March 20, we informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our most loyal collaboration and our entire network of more than three hundred Andalusian entities abroad so that, with the solidarity that has always characterized us, requests for assistance could be attended to, in case of need. And we have participated in very diverse situations with Andalusians trapped in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Miami, Peru, Senegal or Morocco.

The international Andalusian communities have allowed us to contact citizens who, due to different circumstances, were trapped outside Spain when the state of alarm and border closures were established

QUESTION: Andalusia has been one of the least affected regions, in general terms, by this pandemic that no government was prepared to face. What have been the main lines of action of the Andalusian Regional Government?

ANSWER. Andalusia has made anticipation the main shield against the pandemic in Andalusia. Our Regional Government has always been ahead of the game because going ahead gives results. The Andalusian Government did not wait for the National Government to declare a state of alarm, because it understood that it had to act firmly and with foresight. With less than a thousand cases of coronavirus in Andalusia, we had already designed two contingency plans for 9.000 and 15.000 infected people: In addition to the installation of an auxiliary hospital in Carranque, next to the Regional Hospital of Malaga, we also developed a project of medicalization of hotels, leisure residences and hostels as supplementary care spaces.

And not only that, Andalusia has shown solidarity and has provided ventilators to other autonomous communities such as Madrid, when the pandemic was at its worst.

***Project "Andalusia Breathes":
The result of the audacity,
innovation and
Andalusian talent, has been
and is a success***

QUESTION. The difficulties in obtaining medical material or the lack of ventilators in the ICUs have been one of the main challenges for Spain, but also for other European countries such as Italy, France or the United Kingdom. What measures have been taken by the Andalusian Regional Government in this area for the future?

ANSWER. It has been ensured that the supply of PPE for the whole of Andalusia covers the current needs of Andalusian healthcare personnel. To do this, we had to resort to alternative suppliers, as the usual ones did not have the capacity. We are also working on the acquisition of safety stock of health products, equivalent to 6 months' consumption in anticipation of a future resurgence. And, of course, I would also like to highlight the start-up of the Malaga respirator, already mentioned, and whose supply is assured.

QUESTION. After the health crisis we are now facing an economic crisis that already affects the self-employed, SMEs and one of the economic engines of Andalusia, as is Tourism. What would be the main features of the roadmap that the "Junta de Andalucía" is designing?

ANSWER. The public-private alliance is going to be a key factor in tackling the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 in Andalusia. Andalusia is aware that the rebuilding process involves companies and self-employed people, so the Andalusian Administration will offer all the facilities within its reach. As an example, we will provide liquidity in the best possible conditions by means of 600 million euros in guarantees through *Garántia* and the new *IDEA Agency*.

We have also opened a line of microcredits of between 9.000 and 15.000 euros to meet the demand of the self-employed and those contributing to mutual entities and which will be processed with maximum agility and reducing all unnecessary administrative procedures. There is also a direct aid to the self-employed of **300 euros to meet at least one social security contribution at times when they lack income**. The aid benefits more than **166.000 self-employed people in Andalusia, including 38.000 contributors to mutual entities**. I would also like to highlight that Andalusia has activated aid to small businesses and artisan SMEs worth eleven million euros. Companies can receive subsidies with a maximum amount ranging from 6.000 to 42.000 euros.

And as for FOREIGN INVESTMENT:

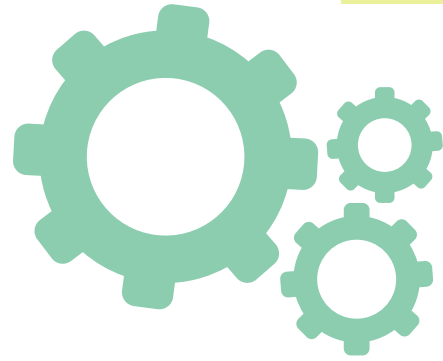
Andalusia reinforces actions to reposition the Andalusia brand as a **safe and quality destination with an investment in promotion of three million euros**. To this end, it has drawn up an ambitious tourism shock plan, which will mobilise 300 million euros.

Among the objectives of the Plan are to reduce the impact of the crisis resulting from this health alert, trying to avoid **job losses as well as to strengthen the employment structure**. It is a flexible, dynamic and adaptable plan that includes proposals from employers, trade unions and professionals in the sector.

All these measures and projects confirm the change chosen by the Andalusian people in December 2018. Juanma Moreno is a president with new approaches who is building a new Andalusia, updated, attractive and prepared for the new challenges of the 21st century.

Our objective is to position Andalusia as a **preferential tourist destination**, especially in the national market (Andalusia and the rest of Spain) and to **promote Andalusia as a safe destination**.

Tourism shock plan, which will mobilize 300 million euro



QUESTION: It seems that this experience has "humanized" our society a little more. We greet our neighbours, whose existence we did not know until recently, from our balcony; we worry about the health of our colleagues, who until weeks ago were only an e-mail address. Has politics been humanized as well?

ANSWER. Unfortunately, we have to live "experiences" of this kind in the first person to "shake hands", to realize what really matters. And when we have felt attacked, we have looked for ourselves in the conviction that a joint action is much more effective. The sad thing is the high price we are paying to get to something as simple as "together we are more". I hope that so much suffering is not in vain and can be extrapolated to other areas of the current situation.

This change that we are experiencing must focus on a re-evolution towards a more sustainable, cohesive and supportive society.



SOURCE: EDC UAL

Ana Fe Gil Serra, Director of the European Documentation Centre in Almeria interviews Mr. Juan Manuel Garrido-Arroquia Noves

Colonel Juan Manuel Garrido-Arroquia y Noves, currently Head of the Spanish Army's Lessons Learned Section, under the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), has extensive national and international training in the field of Information and Telecommunications Systems for Security and Defence. In his long professional career, it is worth highlighting his participation in international missions, such as UNIFIL (Operation Libre Hidalgo) in Lebanon and EUTM-Mali, in Bamako. Previously he was a CIS analyst at the European Army Corps Headquarters (Strasbourg, France) and Command and Control Network Manager of the KFOR 3 field operations at NATO Headquarters in Kosovo.

Since the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic, most European Union Member States have mobilized their armed forces. The **Operazione Strade Sicure** in Italy or the **Opération Résilience** in France are examples comparable to our **Operation Balmis**, launched on March 15. Similar actions have also taken place in countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia. Last May, the European Parliament stressed that, as in previous disasters, the pandemic has highlighted the human side of the armed forces and that their contribution has been vital in curbing the effects of this global crisis.

QUESTION. Operation Balmis has probably been the operation that has given the Armed Forces the greatest visibility among Spanish citizens. The reception has been extraordinary, but I imagine it has also been a complicated puzzle due to the constant coordination, not only internally, but also with civil institutions.



ANSWER. The execution of an operation in response to a crisis situation in national territory and in times of peace, such as operation BALMIS, is, without a doubt, a great showcase that allows citizens to see the efforts made in planning and preparation, generating the necessary confidence in the collective subconscious to overcome the challenge faced.

The extraordinary reception of the population becomes a factor that multiplies the morale of the military personnel, who, feeling recognized and supported by the citizens, do not hesitate to redouble the efforts necessary to overcome the crisis.

One of the main capacities that the Armed Forces contribute to the different Contingency Plans is the **Command and Control** capacity.

The extraordinary reception of the population becomes a factor that multiplies the morale of the military personnel

The liaison and coordination procedures –both internal and external- are established and early planned. They are materialized by the preparation exercises, in which the Armed Forces as well as the different organisations of the central, regional and local administration with competences in the different areas of interest for national security, health security, public security, and civil protection participate. Requests for assistance from the different administrations and entities are channelled through the Government Delegations (Defence Sub-delegates/RIET/COMIL in Spanish), which makes coordination much easier.

All the effort made in planning and preparation is what makes possible the integral action of the state in times of crisis, making possible the rapid response and solution of the same.

QUESTION. Colonel, how has it been coordinated and how many troops have been involved so far?

ANSWER. Operation Balmis, which remains open, began on 15 March. This operation is the largest deployment of troops in Spain's recent history with the mission of supporting the population and public services in their efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus. As the most significant data, from that day to this more than **19,500** interventions have been carried out, some **11,000** disinfections have been performed, more than **5,700** interventions in retirement homes, actions have been taken in more than **2,200** different populations, in more than **3,300** hospitals and health centres and more than **1,200** interventions have been carried out in social

centres, all of which involved the intervention of more than **178,000 military personnel**.

In the central weeks, 550 interventions were carried out daily, with some 7,800 military personnel mobilized (3,000 of them belonging to the military health service) acting in 200 villages. Of all this effort, the Army has so far committed some 110,000 troops (patrols in more than 3,000 villages, disinfections in more than 1,800 facilities, more than 831 evacuations, 61 logistical supports and 12 permanent health supports.

A Command and Control structure was established under the direction of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Air Force General Miguel Ángel Villarroja, who directs the operation through the Operations Command (OP). Under this command, are integrated the capabilities of the Inspectorate-General of Defence Health (IGESANDEF in Spanish) and the four Component Commands are integrated: The Land Component Command (LCC), originally located at the Buenavista Palace (Madrid) -site of the Spanish General Army HQ and currently located at the headquarters of the Canary Islands Command (Tenerife)- the Maritime Component Command (MCC), located at the Fleet Headquarters in Rota (Cadiz), and the Joint Force Air Component Command (JFAC) and the Emergency Unit (EMU), both located in Torrejón de Ardoz. In addition, other units such as the Royal Guard and the Joint Cyber Defence Command are also participating. As regards the percentage of intervention by Component Command, the EMU stands out with 43%, followed by the LCC with 35%, the MCC with 17% and the JFAC with 5%.



As I mentioned before, requests for assistance from the various administrations and authorities are channelled through the Government Delegations (Defence Sub-delegates/RIET/COMIL in Spanish). Once approved, they are sent to the Operations Command (OC), where the analytical officers study the requests, both for logistical support and health, and determine the most appropriate personnel and means. Subsequently, the intervention is assigned to the different Component Commands (LCC, MCC, JFA or EMU) which in turn designate the mission to the unit that will provide the assistance.

As regards the areas of action, the Armed Forces have participated in security support missions, with actions of presence in streets and critical points, and in border reinforcements and surveillance of nuclear power plants. This activity has mainly fallen to the Army, due to its large number of troops and wide territorial deployment, but it has also been necessary to activate patrols of the Air Force, the Navy and the Civil Guard.

Action has also been taken in the area of logistical support, with missions of land and air transport, for transferring of the sick and deceased, and for reception and distribution of medical equipment. The EMU's Technological and Environmental Emergency Intervention Group (GIETMA in Spanish) has been responsible for the transfer of patients and the preparation and transport of the deceased in the Community of Madrid, supported by the Guadarrama XII and Parachute Brigades and the NBC Defence Regiment. For the transport of the bodies to the intermediate warehouses, very safe procedures have been developed for the transfer of the deceased in biosafety conditions, always with a respectful attitude. The transport teams were responsible for transferring them to the Ice Palace in Madrid and the Majadahonda Palace and to the Institute of Legal Medicine.

The procedure for transferring dead bodies to intermediate storage facilities has been developed in a very safe way in biosecurity conditions and always with a respectful attitude

Action has also been taken to disinfect health centres, retirement homes, airports, ports, railway stations, prisons, government facilities, public roads and shops. The effort, which was initially undertaken by the Military Emergency Unit (Technological and Environmental Emergency Intervention Group (GIETMA in Spanish), was joined by members of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Defence units and veterinary services of the Navy, Air Force and Royal Guard, acting mainly in health centres and retirement homes.

To date, more than 10,000 facilities and more than 5,000 nursing homes have been disinfected.

Finally, action has been taken in the area of facility support (field hospitals, triage areas, camps for the homeless, food bank collection and distribution) and also by providing military health means and personnel in the military hospitals of Madrid and Zaragoza, the Military Pharmacy Centre, the Military Veterinary Centre and the Psychology Unit of IGESANDEF (in Spanish).

QUESTION. All this work has shown that the Armed Forces are prepared to operate with limited resources and at short notice. What exercises or simulations do you carry out in the face of possible public health crises, such as the one we are experiencing?

ANSWER. In the framework of national security, it is essential to pay special attention to a number of areas that are of particular interest in order to preserve the well-being of citizens, their rights and freedoms. One such area is health security.

In this context, the **National Security System** has specific agencies that by carrying out the prospective analyses, define the possible scenarios for action based on the potential threats and the assessment of the associated risks.

In order to manage and successfully overcome the different crisis scenarios raised, a comprehensive and coordinated response from the different instruments of power of the nation is necessary.

For each of the scenarios proposed, the military instrument defines the possible military response options that, adjusted to the corresponding planning processes, give rise to the so-called "Contingency Plans", which set out the tasks, capabilities and military resources to be used in each case. The Armed Forces' Preparedness Plans include specific exercises for the practice and evaluation of the different scenarios contemplated in the contingency plans designed to face the materialization of threats to national security. This continuous effort of planning and preparation is what allows the quick, effective and efficient response to real situations, guaranteeing the resilience of the State.

QUESTION. A novelty in the operation has been the direct intervention of Army units specialized in NBC environment in support of certain tasks initially assigned to the EMU. Could you evaluate the participation of these NBC units and how has coordination with the EMU units been in this regard?

ANSWER. The action in Nuclear Biological and Chemical (NBC) environment is one of the special capabilities that the Army contributes to this operation, which has the qualified personnel of the **NBC Defense Regiment "Valencia" No. 1** and the NBC companies that each Brigade of the Land Force has. In addition to this capacity, there are 26 military veterinary teams, which have disinfection capabilities. These units are commanded by a veterinary officer, and their personnel are trained in the use and application of biocides.

Participation in Operation Balmis focuses on disinfection inside facilities with positive cases. This type of action requires expert personnel in biological threats, protection measures and decontamination. These are very demanding missions since NBC defence, as it is called in the military field, and requires a great deal of specialisation.

The Environmental and Technological Emergency Intervention Group of the EMU intervened in confined spaces where there have been coronavirus positives or, above all, in those spaces that have a high viral load and for whose disinfection the use of much more specialized and powerful decontamination solutions is required.

At the end of March, when it became clear that the health crisis required much more effort, Land Component Command launched over 100 non-specific decontamination teams to carry out preventive missions in the NBC area.

These teams are equipped with spraying equipment trained internally in the NBC companies of their Brigades and in the NBC Military Defence School. More than 1,600 decontamination operations have been carried out with this equipment.

With regard to the transfer of bodies, and in view of the large number of deaths in the first weeks and the saturation of funeral services, the Community of Madrid requested the assistance of the Spanish Armed Forces for the transfer of bodies. The Military Emergency Unit was in charge of this task, with the support of NBC units of the Army (the NBC Regiment Health Squad, highly trained in the extraction of victims or casualties from a contaminated area, and the NBC companies of the "Almogávares" VI Parachute Brigade, and the "Guadarrama" XII Brigade), with teams composed of nine military personnel, being reinforced in body handling tasks. Normally, they are divided into two teams; one is responsible for collecting the deceased, bagging him, and then the other team deposits him in the coffin so that another team can transport him to the provisional morgues.

The coordination of the members of these NBC Units of the Army with the EMU has been and is magnificent, since for some time now, and during their training periods, these units have been carrying out joint exercises and exchanging information and procedures in missions that are performed in this environment.



QUESTION. From European Union institutions to the smallest local authority, the action protocols applied so far are being evaluated in order to improve our preparedness for possible public health crises. How is this evaluation and improvement work carried out by the Lessons Learned Section of the Training and Doctrine Command?

ANSWER. In the Army we understand as Lesson Learned the knowledge extracted from the analysis of experiences in operations, exercises and other activities of the Army, sanctioned at the corresponding level, with the purpose of improving the

organisation, preparation, equipment and use of the Army. We also understand as Good Practice the experience of proven effectiveness that can be replicated by others, in similar situations and conditions.

At the Army level, the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), has for organizational reasons, the mission, among others, to establish the detailed precepts and procedures for obtaining lessons learned (LL) and best practices (BP) from the experiences of the units in operations, exercises and other activities of the Army. This mission is entrusted to one of its Directorates, the Directorate of Research, Organic and Materials (TRADOC), and specifically to the Lessons Learned Section, which I currently command. At a joint level and under the direction of the Defence Staff there is a committee called COELAMP (Executive Committee on Lessons Learned and Best Practices) in which we participate on behalf of the Army as a "LAMP ET Cell".



To implement and manage this process of lessons learned in the Army, a series of rules and instructions are available, which establish the detailed rules and procedures for obtaining lessons learned and good practices from the experiences of the units in operations, exercises and other daily activities. A computerized tool has also been developed to support this process of obtaining information, which can be accessed from anywhere on the Ministry of Defence's corporate network, and which makes it possible to collect, store and disseminate all those lessons learned and experiences in a centralized manner.

Likewise, an Annual Plan for Lessons Learned (PAOLA in Spanish) is established, in which the preferred topics of interest of the Chief of Army Staff (CSA) and therefore of the Army are determined, so that the Units take them into account when extracting the lessons learned and experiences during the execution of exercises and the preparation and training activities of the operations.

In general, the procedure for obtaining lessons learned consists of two phases; the analysis phase and the validation phase, in which the following stages take place: observation, analysis, internal approval, implementation, sanction and dissemination.

When Operation Balmis was launched, the Chief of Army Staff (CSA), through specific instructions, to the Lieutenant General, Chief of Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) the need and importance of establishing a specific lessons learned system for that Operation.

To this end, the Land Army Doctrine Command regulated a lessons-learned procedure for the operation and adapted the web support tool, taking into account the priority capability areas arising from an operation of this type. Within the scope of the Land Component Command, all the Lessons Learned Management Officers (LLMO) of each of the units involved were activated, and are responsible for managing the cycle of lessons learned and best practices at their level. In turn, the Army Doctrine Command appointed a lessons learned analyst officer who joined the Land Component Command Headquarters, where he currently serves as an LLMO at that Command level.



We have a lot to learn from this type of mission, which, although are foreseen in the contingency plans that are made, are not the typical missions that the Army carries out, and of which we do not have much experience. That is why **we need a system that allows us to learn from what has been done well, from what has been done badly and from what can be improved. Many people's lives could depend on that correct learning. All this information must be collected, compiled and disseminated at all levels and that is our mission.**

NEWS



EUROPEAN AGENDA: Economy

SOURCE: EDC UAL

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European institutions and agencies are acting decisively to mitigate the socio-economic impact in the European Union of the crisis caused by the coronavirus. Below we highlight what the European institutions have been working on to date:

28 May 2020, European Parliament: Economic Dialogue with the EC on the Country-specific recommendations

On Wednesday 27 May 2020, the Committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs and on Employment and Social Affairs held Economic Dialogue on the Country-specific recommendations of the 2020 European Semester with Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for An Economy that Works for People, Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy, and Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights. This economic dialogue is part of the accountability of the EU economic governance framework. This year's Semester will be used also for coordinating economic and social policies in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support the EU recovery.

28 May 2020, European Investment Bank: EIB provides ICF with loan of up EUR 250 million to help small businesses cope with COVID-19 crisis

The two institutions have signed the first EUR 150 million instalment of this financing agreement under an accelerated approval procedure put in place by the EIB in this emergency to ensure that the funds reach Spanish firms as quickly as possible. This is one of the first operations mounted under the EIB's EUR 5 billion programme to safeguard European businesses in the face of the coronavirus crisis.



The EIB funds made available to the ICF will help to alleviate the liquidity needs of small and medium-sized Catalan businesses and will be deployed without delay by the Catalan public financial institution through a range of financing solutions that it has been putting place since the beginning of the pandemic.

After Madrid, Catalonia is the Spanish region hit second hardest by the coronavirus health emergency. The pandemic is having a negative economic impact on 90% of Catalan SMEs, three quarters of which are suffering from liquidity problems, according to a report by the region's small business support agency PIMEC. This EIB and ICF funding will help to preserve Catalonia's productive fabric at this time of crisis.

27 May 2020, European Commission: Europe's moment: Repair and prepare for the next generation

The European Commission has put forward its proposal for a major recovery plan. To ensure the recovery is sustainable, even, inclusive and fair for all Member States, the European Commission is proposing to create a **new recovery instrument, Next Generation EU**, embedded within a powerful, modern and revamped long-term EU budget. The Commission has also unveiled its adjusted Work Programme for 2020, which will prioritise the actions needed to propel Europe's recovery and resilience.

The coronavirus has shaken Europe and the world to its core, testing healthcare and welfare systems, our societies and economies and our way of living and working together. To protect lives and livelihoods, repair the Single Market, as well as to build a lasting and prosperous recovery, the European Commission is proposing to harness the full potential of the EU budget. Next Generation EU of **€750 billion** as well as **targeted reinforcements to the long-term EU budget for 2021-2027** will bring the **total financial firepower of the EU budget to €1.85 trillion**.

Complementing national efforts, the EU budget is uniquely placed to power a fair socio-economic recovery, repair and revitalise the Single Market, to guarantee a level playing field, and support the urgent investments, in particular in the green and digital transitions, which hold the key to Europe's future prosperity and resilience.

26 May 2020, European Council: Video conference of ministers for European affairs

Ministers held an exchange of views on a **comprehensive approach to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including the de-escalation of containment measures and economic recovery. They were invited to share their experiences and provide comments on **how to gradually lift restrictions related to COVID-19 and restart the economy and social activities, taking into account the health considerations**. Ministers outlined their national measures and timelines, stressing the importance of continued cooperation between member states, as well as ensuring a proportionate and non-discriminatory approach when lifting the restrictions and opening the borders. Ministers also provided their views on a comprehensive economic and social recovery of the EU. They outlined their expectations regarding adjustments to the next multiannual financial framework to take into account the new realities and as regards the planned recovery fund. A number of key areas of action were mentioned in the discussion, such as strengthening the single market whilst ensuring a level playing field, supporting cohesion and convergence, green transition and digital

26 May 2020, European Council: EU-Japan leaders' video conference meeting

On 26 May 2020 the EU-Japan leaders' meeting took place via video conference. The President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, represented the EU. Japan was represented by Prime Minister Shinzō Abe.

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The leaders recognised that global solidarity, cooperation and effective multilateralism are required more than ever to defeat the virus as well as to ensure economic recovery. They also stressed the importance of:

- protecting lives
- mitigating the social and economic consequences
- promoting global coordination in various international fora such as the G7, G20, and the United Nations system
- assisting vulnerable countries and communities in need



Recovery strategy

The EU and Japan leaders stressed their determination to ensure a robust recovery and rebuild more sustainable, inclusive and resilient economies.

Leaders also committed to adjust their economic responses, using all relevant policy tools, including digital tools to prevent the spread of infections while ensuring privacy and security.

They underlined the importance of keeping the trading system open and committed to cooperate to facilitate the flow of medical supplies, agricultural products, raw materials and other goods and services.



They agreed that any necessary emergency measures designed to tackle COVID-19 should not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains.

The EU and Japan agreed to assist developing countries, including in Africa and other vulnerable regions, in facing the impact of the crisis and strengthening their healthcare systems.

Japan-EU strategic partnership

The leaders also discussed the geopolitical situation in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed to intensify cooperation to:

- strengthen practical cooperation in areas such as cybersecurity, countering hybrid threats and counter-terrorism
- facilitate access to transparent, timely, reliable and fact-based information
- counter disinformation, in accordance with shared principles such as freedom of expression and the rule of law

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Japan-EU strategic partnership in tackling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other common challenges. They also expressed their determination to continue implementing the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement and the Economic Partnership Agreement.

21 May 2020, European Investment Bank: EIB provides Madrid Region with EUR 600 million to strengthen its response to the health emergency

The EU bank funding will help the Madrid Region to continue adapting hospitals and other health centres to increase the capacity of their primary care facilities, intensive care units and emergency services. At the same time, it will finance the extraordinary operating expenditure caused by the pandemic, guaranteeing resources to ensure the availability of medical supplies and payment of additional salary costs stemming from the increase in healthcare staff. The EIB funding will also

enable the Madrid Region to acquire more personal protective equipment and more resources to diagnose and treat the disease. Part of the funding will be used to boost the COVID-19 research carried out by local teams.

The EIB's response to the COVID-19 crisis

The EIB Group is playing a key role in combating the COVID-19 crisis head-on, supporting European efforts to stop the spread of the pandemic, find a cure for the disease and develop a vaccine. Accordingly, the EU bank is giving priority to all investments relating to the health sector and R&D programmes focused on this goal. The EIB's portfolio of projects supporting critical health facilities and R&D investment in the health sector in the EU currently amounts to some EUR 5 billion.

19 May 2020, European Council: Video conference of economics and finance ministers

Ministers welcomed the adoption, by written procedure, of the regulation for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE). SURE can provide up to €100 billion of loans under favorable terms to member states to help finance national short-time work schemes and similar measures, including for self-employed persons, as well as support some health-related measures, in particular at the work place in response to the crisis. The safety net for member states, the ESM's Pandemic Crisis Support, became operational on 15 May 2020 following political agreement on the instrument's features and standardised terms at the Eurogroup of 8 May.

19 May 2020, European Council: Video conference of economics and finance ministers

The Council adopted a decision to provide up to 3 billion euros of macro-financial assistance to ten enlargement and neighbourhood partners to help them cope with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Financial assistance will be provided in the form of loans on highly favourable terms and allocated as follows:

- Albania: €180 million
- Bosnia-Herzegovina: €250 million
- Georgia: €150 million
- Jordan: €200 million
- Kosovo: €100 million
- Moldova: €100 million
- Montenegro: €60 million
- Republic of North Macedonia: €160 million
- Tunisia: €600 million
- Ukraine: €1200 million.

EU assistance will help these jurisdictions cover their immediate financing needs which have increased as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Together with the support from the International Monetary Fund, the funds will help enhance macroeconomic stability and create space to allow resources to be allocated towards protecting citizens and to mitigating the negative socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

18 May 2020, European Parliament: Adjustment of EU's banking prudential rules to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic

On 18 May 2020, from 17:00 to 17:45, the ECON Committee held an Exchange of Views on the Commission proposal on targeted amendments to the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR). The objective of these amendments to the EU prudential framework for banks is to further facilitate bank lending in order to mitigate the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Proposed adjustments cover various issues including adapting the timeline of the application of international accounting standards on banks' capital, treating more favourably public guarantees granted during this crisis, postponing the date of application of the leverage ratio buffer and modifying the way of excluding certain exposures from the calculation of the leverage ratio. In addition, certain application dates in the CRR are brought forward, such as for the provision on treatment of certain software assets and for the SME- and Infrastructure- supporting factors.

The proposed measures are designed to complement and support the measures taken by European and national supervisory authorities ■

Reglamento de Requisitos de Capital (CRR)



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EUROPEAN AGENDA: Education and Culture

Source: EDC UAL

Published in EDC UAL: 22.05.2020

The European Union, through its various institutions and agencies, continues to propose support measures in the field of culture and education, focusing on the well-being of Europeans and increased educational opportunities throughout the Member states. We highlight what the European institutions have been working on to date:

19 May, culture and audiovisual ministers: impact of the COVID-19 crisis

The videoconference focused on the consequences that the COVID-19 crisis continues to have on the cultural and creative sectors. Ministers shared their plans for the next steps in the context of reopening cultural spaces and restarting artistic events and productions. Among the measures proposed are:

- the **progressive removal of restrictions** that will allow the resumption of cultural activities throughout Europe
- a **joint European approach** responding to the needs of the sectors and applying maximum flexibility in the implementation of the Creative Europe programme and its future in the next seven-year period, in relation to its implementation and funding, particularly in view of the level playing field
- **media literacy as a key component** in the fight against false news and misinformation and press freedom

18 May, Education Ministers: focus on the future

Ministers focused on the future, on the **reopening of education and training systems**, including different organizational and security measures, as well as on school-leaving examinations, enrolment in higher education and continued learning mobility.

Most European Union member States have decided to gradually reopen education and training institutions and return to face-to-face



teaching and learning, in some cases only for selected levels, grades, activities and target groups.

Social distancing measures were reported, including prescribed **physical distance** and **working in smaller, often the same, groups**, as well as strict hygiene and health standards. In relation to the organisation of school leaving examinations, many Member States are moving ahead, with some adjustments to the content or timing of the examinations. With regard to the admission of students to higher education, in many Member States entrance examinations and registration deadlines can be or have already been postponed, for all or some groups of candidates.

13 May 2020, European Economic and Social Council (EESC): lifelong learning and public funding

In order to adapt to the new world of work, people will need many skills acquired in different learning environments, which is why the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) said that EU Member States should increase public investment in lifelong learning, with particular attention to adult education, and should allocate specific funds for the continuous improvement of skills and the retraining of the most vulnerable groups in society in order to equip people indiscriminately with new skills adapted to the jobs of the future.



7 May, European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education: Inclusive Education in Action

The Inclusive Education in Action website presents a collection of important and interesting case studies and resources from different areas of the world. The case study material presents detailed information from policy-makers and practitioners for inclusive education about their work and its results.

The Inclusive Education in Action website has an open call for case studies. New case studies which present material on key policy development in the move towards inclusive education from all regions and countries are welcomed for consideration.



6 May 2020, Committee on Culture and Education, European Parliament: Erasmus + and ESC

The Covid-19 pandemic has also affected the 170,000 young people participating in Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps. Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education has called on the Commission to do everything possible to provide support, clear information and reassurance to participants. The Commissioner responsible for Youth and Education, as well as MEPs, asked the Commission to ensure that:

- **Maximum flexibility** is applied, in particular to help those who have had to return to their home countries for security reasons
- All **exceptional expenses** related to Covid-19 are reimbursed
- Exchange students and Solidarity Corps program participants retain their **status**
- Exchange students **do not lose the academic year** and can obtain ECTS credits through distance learning agreements.

4 May, European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education: Saving European culture and values

MEPs at the meeting said that the reconstruction of the culture and media sectors, which have been severely affected in post-COVID-19 Europe, must be one of the main objectives of the EU recovery plan. Among the measures agreed we can find:

- **Direct support to the media sector:** MEPs called on the Commission to develop concrete plans for direct support to the media sector.
- **Specific plans to help tourism:** With 40% of EU tourism linked to the field of culture and cultural heritage, MEPs discussed with Commissioners specific plans to support this sector, which has been badly hit by the pandemic.

28 April 2020, European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education: Support for the cultural sector

MEPs underlined the special nature of the creative sector and the difficulties faced by artists and called on the EU to provide support, in a resolution adopted on 17 April 2020. MEPs suggested:

- protecting artists who may not qualify for national support schemes through the **"Creative Europe"** programme
- increase the EU funds available to "Creative Europe" to ensure that they reach the sector
- create an ad hoc financial instrument under the European Investment Fund to channel funds to the sector.

The Commission also supported the launch of a new platform, Creatives Unite, a space for the cultural and creative sector to share information on initiatives responding to the coronavirus crisis.





April 27, Eurydice: What has Covid-19's crisis taught us about online learning?

In the published [article](#) Euridyce shows how an increasing number of students and teachers are switching to online classes as a short-term solution. Moreover, as students want to actively participate in their own learning, universities are proposing new ways of teaching and learning.

Among the advantages are that, given the situation, it helps to maintain contact with students and to motivate them, as the disadvantages are the asynchronization in questions and answers.

23 April 2020, European Court of Auditors: EU investment in cultural sites

In its [Special Report 08/2020 the European Court of Auditors](#) assesses the economic, social and cultural impact of ERDF investments in cultural sites, as well as the financial and physical sustainability of these sites. Having examined the Commission's work and evaluated 27 projects from 7 Member States, the Court concludes that the current framework:

- lacks a specific objective
- needs greater coordination to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of ERDF investments in cultural sites



April 21, 2020, Sports Ministers meeting: impact of COVID-19 on the sports sector

The EU sports ministers discussed various measures that have been introduced in the member states. The ministers stressed that this situation affects the ability of sports federations to function and that there are huge economic losses due to the fact that most sports events have been cancelled.

14 April 2020, Ministers of Education: challenges of distance education

Ministers discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education systems across the EU and focused on the challenges of moving to distance education.

In addition, ministers exchanged information on national plans for the end of the school and academic year, on evaluation, marking, examinations, as well as enrolment at different levels of education. They also addressed the issue of removing barriers to learning mobility.

Finally, ministers welcomed the [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative](#) and expressed interest in funding opportunities to support education and training in response to the coronavirus crisis.

8 April 2020, ministers for culture and the media: measures to support the cultural and creative sector

The ministers of culture examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sector and discussed possible measures to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis. The European Commission secured funding through the **European Social Fund**, the **Cohesion Fund**, the state aid model and the **SURE** model. He stressed the need for a flexible approach to the beneficiaries of the Creative Europe programme ■

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EUROPEAN AGENDA: Internal Market & Industry

Source: EDC UAL

Published in EDC UAL: 21.05.2020

Europe is embarking on a transition towards climate neutrality and digital leadership. European industry can lead the way as we enter this new age, as it has done in the past. To this end, we point out below significant events in this agenda:

20 May 2020, European Parliament: Protection of workers from biological agents: how to classify COVID-19

The Employment and Social Affairs Committee debated with the Commission on Wednesday how to classify SARS-CoV-2, responsible for COVID-19, to protect workers' health and safety.

Members of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) debated with the Commission the proposed classification of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in risk category 3, the second most dangerous category of biological agents. Parliament has the right to veto this measure, within one month after it has been adopted by the Commission, foreseen for the beginning of June.

Classification in risk group 3 means that the biological agent can "cause severe human disease and present a serious hazard to workers; it may present a risk of spreading to the community, but there is usually effective prophylaxis or treatment available". The SARS and MERS viruses are examples of risk group 3 viruses. Ebola is in risk group 4.

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19 May 2020, European Parliament: MEPs urge quick action to prevent "huge recession"

In an EP webinar on the EU's long-term budget and response to the crisis, MEPs urged that the recovery fund must be set up as soon as possible to prevent a major recession.

In this webinar for journalists on the EU long-term budget and Europe's economic recovery plan, MEPs welcomed the recent French-German proposal for a €500 billion recovery fund and reiterated Parliament's position on the recovery plan as adopted in the recent plenary session.

15 May 2020, European Council: Video conference of ministers responsible for industry and the internal market

The Croatian presidency of the Council held a videoconference with ministers in charge of internal market and industry with a view to providing input to the Commission for the finalisation of the upcoming EU recovery plan. Ministers exchanged views on how to:

- restore a fully functioning single market;
- achieve the quick recovery of those European industrial sectors most hardly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- ensure the strategic autonomy of the EU in critical industrial sectors, such as pharmaceuticals and telecommunications.



15 May 2020, European Economic and Social Committee: EESC president Luca Jahier says we must make Europe safe again

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) discusses the European Union post-coronavirus and the urgent choices to be made to support future generations.

Making Europe safe must be priority number one for the future of the EU after the Covid-19 pandemic.

All commentators agreed on the emergence of some common features, and on proposals for the EU's future after the pandemic: the model of Europe must be changed, the digital divide has become an element of social inequality, the third sector has provided support but is not integrated in the national system, new forms of "emergency law" have been adopted and modified the institutional balance and, finally, a form of public-private cooperation is needed for the recovery.



15 May 2020, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training: Coronavirus, automation and the future of work

According to Cedefop's skills forecast, in the sectors with a medium-high and high impact of coronavirus on economic activity, around one-fifth to one-quarter of the new jobs expected to be created up to 2030 are at risk of automation. **This amounts to around 1.4 million jobs at stake in the EU-27.** For some medium to low-skilled occupations the impact may be detrimental.

In accommodation and food service activities, another hardly hit sector, food preparation assistants seem to be the most vulnerable group of workers.

They may be replaced by automation more easily also to protect public health by reducing the number of people present in a small place such a kitchen.

In contrast, occupations in the **highly skilled groups**, which are easier to adjust to new working conditions such as telework, seem to be safer in the battle against automation. For instance, in real estate, professional, scientific and technical activities the largest share in employment is that of business and administration professionals. Even though this sector is also experiencing the negative impacts of coronavirus, which may slow down its foreseen growth, it is gaining importance while its risk of automation is relatively low.

13 May 2020, European Committee of the Regions: European Entrepreneurial Region Award: Special edition on COVID-19 response

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) opens applications for a special edition of the European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) award.

The application deadline is the 28th of October 2020. Becoming a European Entrepreneurial Region gives recognition and visibility to local or regional entrepreneurial strategies. This year's special edition builds on the extended EER 2021 award and encourages EU regions and cities to develop strategies for boosting entrepreneurship and SMEs that address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

The award will be given to up to six regions who will hold the EER label for a period of two years (2021 and 2022), allowing them to plan and implement strategies for a successful economic and social recovery. The special edition of the EER award was formally launched during a debate with representatives of the European Commission on the economic impact of the pandemic and the EU's response measures for SMEs and industry.

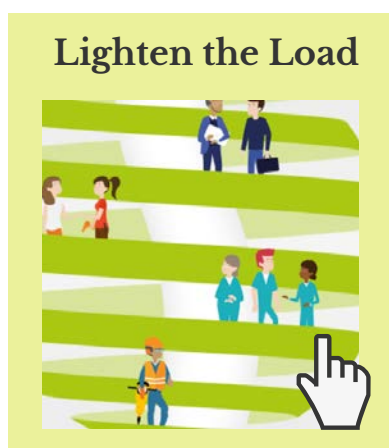


7 May 2020, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work: Stop the pandemic: EU-OSHA action plan for healthy workplaces

Under the tagline, 'Healthy Workplaces Stop the Pandemic' EU-OSHA has started an initiative to address the occupational health and safety challenges linked to the current pandemic, offering a range of workplace guidance on COVID-19.

Resources include: EU guidance to limit the spread of the virus and on preventive measures for a safe and healthy return to workplaces; information on how to minimise exposure to biological agents; awareness-raising videos and a range of links to good practice material from EU and international organisations.

The action plan ties in with the Agency's Lighten the Load campaign on musculoskeletal disorders, which will be launched in October. But the pre-campaign website already offers practical guides, tools and visual resources for a healthy home-based telework.



European Agency for Safety and Health at Work: COVID-19, Resources for the workplace

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the biggest challenges that societies and businesses have faced. Overcoming this challenge will be possible only if we work together to stop the spread of this disease and provide a safe and healthy working environment for both home-based teleworkers and those returning to their usual workplaces. This section presents a collection of guidance documents, awareness-raising material and further links on the topic.

At workplaces where workers can be exposed to a virus, which belongs to the category biological agents, employers have to carry out a workplace risk assessment and set appropriate measures. The guidance presented on this page is aimed at supporting employers in these duties. The minimum legal requirements are laid out in the Biological Agents Directive.

EU guidance

What can workplaces do in practice to help tackle this pandemic and protect employees? Knowledge and awareness are key — everyone must be well informed about how the virus spreads, the symptoms of infection and how to minimise exposure. Our guidance helps organisations to provide workers with the information they need and put measures in place to prevent infection.

Telework

In the current context of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of European workers are forced to work from home full-time to cut down the risk of contracting the virus. A new reality that can take its toll on our physical and mental health. This guidance shows how people can effectively protect themselves during home-based telework.

Biological agents

We aim to raise awareness of exposure to these hazards at work and provide more information on the associated health problems, which include not only infectious diseases but also cancer and allergies.

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ECOFIN: economic prospects and challenges in Covid-19 Europe

Source: European Council
Published in EDC UAL: 20.05.2020

The Economy and Finance Ministers are meeting on 19 May to exchange views on the progress made with regard to the EU's response measures to the COVID-19 crisis.

ECOFIN

Novedades sobre las medidas COVID-19

- Regulation on Temporary Support to Mitigate the Risks of Unemployment in an Emergency (SURE)
- Implementation of the business safety net through the European Investment Bank's Pan-European Guarantee Fund.
- Assessment of the economic and financial situation by ECB

Anti-Money Laundering (LBC)

To further strengthen the EU's fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, ministers held a debate on the subject. On 7 May, the Commission presented:

- **an Action Plan** for a comprehensive EU policy on the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing,
- **a revised methodology** for the listing of high risk third countries with strategic weaknesses in their anti-money laundering regimes.

Ministers discussed how to further improve the existing AML framework, in particular:

- how to best achieve a harmonised set of rules and which areas and sectors would merit being covered by a regulation;
- how to make better use of data, data analysis and data sharing;
- the possibility of setting up a new dedicated EU authority for AML and its possible competences;



- the revised methodology proposed by the Commission for the identification of high-risk third countries.

European Semester 2020

The conclusions focus on structural challenges and vulnerabilities that remain relevant in today's changing and uncertain economic environment, and which could prove relevant for a recovery strategy.

Economic dialogue with Western Balkans and Turkey

In the margins of the video conference of economic and finance ministers, the EU, the Western Balkans and Turkey held their annual economic policy dialogue. This year's discussion focused on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region.

Measures taken

The Council today adopted SURE, a temporary scheme which can provide up to €100 billion of loans under favourable terms to member states. **SURE is one of the three safety nets, worth €540 billion**, for jobs and workers, businesses and member states, contained in the Eurogroup report agreed on 9 April 2020. EU leaders endorsed the report on 23 April and called for the package to be operational by 1 June 2020. **The total amount of guarantees will be €25 billion.**

The instrument will then be operational until 31 December 2022 ■

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Statement by the EC on the proposal made by France and Germany

Source; European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 19.05.2020

Reacting to the press conference by the German Chancellor and the French President, President von der Leyen said:



The Commission is convinced that the economic recovery strategy has to base itself on three different pillars that operate together:

- the immediate measures that were taken to enable Member States to support the economy, in the form mainly of the flexible State Aid framework and the triggering of the escape clause of the **Stability and Growth Pact**, as well as the support provided by the ECB and the EIB;
- **the €540 billion** of loans in various forms that form the heart of the Eurogroup's response, including the Commission's SURE Programme;
- and the **Multiannual Financial Framework** topped up by the Recovery Instrument, that the Commission will adopt next week.

Together these plans need to enable Member States and businesses to weather the crisis and then launch the **massive investments** required to bring the European economy back on track ■

"I welcome the constructive proposal made by France and Germany. It acknowledges the scope and the size of the economic challenge that Europe faces, and rightly puts the emphasis on the need to work on a solution with the European budget at its core. This goes in the direction of the proposal the Commission is working on which will also take into account the views of all Member States and the European Parliament"

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EUROPEAN AGENDA: Agriculture, Livestock Farming and Fisheries

Source: EDC UAL

Published in EDC UAL: 14.05.2020

The European institutions work to adopt measures in the areas of agriculture and rural development, fisheries and all aspects of the common agricultural policy (CAP). To this effect, we point out below significant events in this agenda:

13 May, Agriculture and Fisheries Council: COVID-19 impact

The Croatian Presidency organized a second videoconference of EU ministers responsible for agriculture and fisheries to discuss measures already in force, as well as possible future actions on both national and European level in order to counteract the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and fisheries sector. In relation to fisheries, many Member States welcomed and appreciated quick adoption of the legislation allowing for additional support of the fisheries sector which has been hit by the COVID-19 epidemic. Ministers called upon the Commission to continue to monitor the situation for both the fishing fleet and aquaculture and within any additional available funding will consider if further support measures are needed. As regards the **agricultural production**, multiple rounds of measures were proposed, most of them already in force. However, we heard today clear messages and calls to the Commission to implement additional measures, both in terms of further relaxing the current **CAP rules**, for example in relation to the on-the-spot checks or the increase of the voluntary coupled support, but also those that would require further financial resources. Activation of the private storage and other market measures for sectors such as poultry, pig meat and veal, potatoes to name just a few, was also requested. In addition, some sectors that already received support will need additional measures, according to the ministers' interventions. This relates primarily to the **dairy and wine sector**.



13 May, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development: Agricultural and food supply

Commission has published the report on "Retailer Alliances in the Food and Agricultural Supply Chain" which explains the activities of retailer alliances, their impact on the food supply chain and the legal framework that can be applied to their creation and activities. Retailer alliances are horizontal coalitions of retailers, supermarket chains and cooperative retailer groups working together to combine activities such as collective sourcing.

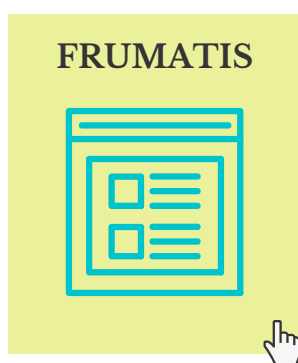
11 May, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development: aid to the sector

Following the meeting of the **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development**, the European Parliament has drawn up a report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the European Council laying down certain transitional provisions on support from the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** and the **European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)** for the year 2021 and amending Regulation (EU) No. 228/2013, (EU) No. 229/2013 and (EU) No. 1308/2013 as regards resources and their distribution for the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No. 1305/2013, (EU) No. 1306/2013 and (EU) No. 1307/2013 as regards resources and their application for the year 2021 2019/0254(COD).



11 May, European Commission: new online catalogue of fruit plant varieties

The EU legislation requires the setup of an EU catalogue of varieties of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants based on Member States' national catalogues. Today the Commission's new **Fruit Reproductive Material Information System (FRUMATIS)** for the management of these national catalogues went online.



8 May, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development: policy to promote agri-food products

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development launched a public consultation on the European Union's promotion policy for agricultural and food products. Part of an overall evaluation of the current policy, the consultation aims to gather feedback from citizens and stakeholders on the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of the current measures.

4 May, European Commission: package of exceptional measures

On 4th May the Commission published the latest package of exceptional measures to continue to support the agricultural and food sectors most affected by the coronavirus crisis. The exceptional measures (announced on 22 April) include private storage aid for the dairy and meat sectors, temporary authorisation for self-organisation of market measures by operators in the sectors most affected and flexibility in the implementation of market support programmes.



In addition to these market measures, the Commission proposed to authorise Member States to use rural development funds to compensate farmers and small agri-food businesses for amounts up to EUR 5 000 and EUR 50 000 respectively. These measures come in addition to a large package of measures previously adopted by the Commission.

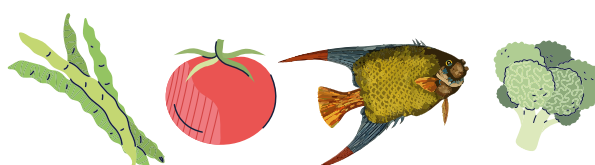
29 April, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) calls for an EU-wide milk volume reduction plan and compensation for producers

Exceptional measures announced on 22 April, as a further response to the Coronavirus crisis include granting private storage aid, flexibility for market support programmes and exceptional derogation from EU competition rules.

27 April Commission updates import duties on maize, sorghum and rye

Sustained low prices for maize worldwide and ample supply have led to a second update of import duties by the European Commission. The automatic mechanism calculating import duties was triggered on 27 April, setting the import duty on maize, sorghum and rye at € 5.27 per tonne. The new calculation has led to a revised duty at € 10.40 per tonne ■

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The economy in the EU after the Coronavirus crisis

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 11.05.2020

The coronavirus pandemic has severely affected consumer spending, industrial production, investment, trade, capital flows and supply chains. The expected gradual reduction in containment measures is expected to lay the foundation for recovery. However, the EU economy is not expected to fully recover this year's losses before the end of 2021. Investment will remain low and the labour market will not have fully recovered.

In responding to the crisis, it will be crucial to maintain the effectiveness of both national and European measures in order to limit the economic damage and facilitate a rapid and strong recovery, putting the economies on a sustainable and inclusive growth path.



Currently, inflation in the euro area, as measured by the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), is projected at 0.2% in 2020 and 1.1% in 2021. In the EU, inflation is forecast at 0.6% in 2020 and 1.3% in 2021.

Unemployment is expected to rise

While working time reduction schemes, wage subsidies and business support may help to limit job losses, the coronavirus pandemic will have serious repercussions on the labour market. The unemployment rate in the euro area is expected to rise from 7.5% in 2019 to 9½% in 2020, before falling back to 8½% in 2021. In the EU, the unemployment rate is expected to rise from 6.7% in 2019 to 9% in 2020, before falling to around 8% in 2021. In some Member States, the increase in unemployment will be more significant than in others.

A sharp drop in inflation

Consumer prices are expected to fall significantly this year due to the fall in demand and the sharp decline in oil prices, factors which together will more than offset the one-off price increases due to supply disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Increase in public deficits and debt

Member States have reacted with determination, implementing budgetary measures to limit the economic damage caused by the pandemic. Automatic stabilisers' such as social security benefit payments, coupled with discretionary budgetary measures taken, will lead to increased spending. As a result, the aggregate government deficit in the euro area and the EU is expected to increase from 0.6% of GDP in 2019 to around 8½% in 2020, before falling back to around 3½% in 2021.

Having followed a downward trend since 2014, the government debt-to-GDP ratio will also increase. In the euro area, the unemployment rate is expected to rise from 86% in 2019 to 102¾% in 2020, before falling back to around 8% in 2021. In the EU, it is expected to rise from 79.4% in 2019 to around 95% this year, before falling to 92% next year ■

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Eurogroup Statement on the Pandemic Crisis Support

Source: European Council
Published in EDC UAL: 09.05.2020

On 23 April 2020, Leaders endorsed the agreement by the Eurogroup in inclusive format of 9 April 2020 on the three important safety nets for workers, businesses and sovereigns, amounting to a package worth EUR 540 billion, and called for their operationalisation by the 1st June 2020. The Leaders also agreed to work towards establishing a Recovery Fund and tasked the Commission to analyse the exact needs and to urgently come up with a proposal that is commensurate with the challenge. The Eurogroup in an inclusive format will continue to closely monitor the economic situation and prepare the ground for a robust recovery.

The Eurogroup welcomes the efforts that are well underway in the Council on the **SURE** proposal, and in the **EIB** Governing Bodies on the establishment of the pan-European guarantee fund, to support European workers and businesses, and confirms the agreement to establish the **ESM** Pandemic Crisis Support for sovereigns.

Eurogroup agreed on the features and standardized terms of the Pandemic Crisis Support, available to all euro area Member States for amounts of 2% of the respective Member's GDP as of end-2019, as a benchmark, to support domestic financing of direct and indirect healthcare, cure and prevention-related costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. We also welcomed the institutions' preliminary assessments on debt sustainability, financing needs, financial stability risks, as well as on the eligibility criteria for accessing this instrument. The Eurogroup recalls that the only requirement to access the credit line will be that euro area Member States requesting support would commit to use this credit line to support domestic financing of direct and indirect healthcare, cure and prevention related costs due to the COVID 19 crisis.

Eurogroup agreed also that monitoring and surveillance should be commensurate with the nature of the symmetric shock caused by COVID-19 and proportionate with the features and use of the Pandemic Crisis Support, in line with the EU framework[1] and the relevant ESM guideline. We welcome the Commission's intention to apply a streamlined reporting and monitoring framework, limited to the commitments detailed in the Pandemic Response Plan, as outlined in the letter of 7 May of Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni addressed to the President of the Eurogroup. The ESM will also implement its Early Warning System to ensure timely repayment of the Pandemic Crisis Support.



Eurogroup agreed with the ESM proposal on the common financial terms and conditions applicable to any facility granted under the Pandemic Crisis Support. This includes a maximum average maturity of 10 years for the loans and favourable pricing modalities adapted to the exceptional nature of this crisis

The Eurogroup confirms that the Pandemic Crisis Support is unique given the widespread impact of the COVID-19 crisis on all ESM Members. Requests for Pandemic Crisis Support may be made until **31 December 2022**. Upon a proposal by the ESM Managing Director, the ESM Board of Governors may decide by mutual agreement to adjust this deadline. The Managing Director proposal would be based on objective evidence on the course of the crisis. Afterwards, euro area Member States would remain committed to strengthen economic and financial fundamentals, consistent with the EU economic and fiscal coordination and surveillance frameworks, including any flexibility applied by the competent EU institutions.

The initial availability period for each facility granted under the Pandemic Crisis Support will be **12 months, which could be extended twice for 6 months, in accordance with the standard ESM framework** for precautionary instruments.



Following a request under the Pandemic Crisis Support, institutions are expected to confirm the assessments at the shortest possible notice, and prepare, together with the authorities, the individual Pandemic Response Plan, based on the agreed template.

Subject to the completion of national procedures in respect of each request, the ESM governing bodies will approve the individual Pandemic Response Plans, individual decisions to grant financial assistance and the financial assistance facility agreements, in accordance with Article 13 of the ESM Treaty ■

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Commission approves second Spanish “umbrella” scheme to support economy in coronavirus outbreak

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 07.05.2020

The European Commission has approved the second Spanish “umbrella” scheme to support the Spanish economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid Temporary Framework adopted by the Commission on 19 March 2020, as amended on 3 April 2020.

The Spanish umbrella scheme

Following the approval by the Commission of a first Spanish “umbrella” scheme on 2 April, Spain notified to the Commission under the **Temporary Framework a second National Temporary Framework** for State aid to support companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The measure allows for the provision of aid in light of the amendments to the Temporary Framework approved by the Commission on 3 April 2020. More specifically, under this second “umbrella” scheme public support can be granted in the form of:

- aid for coronavirus relevant research and development, including Seal of Excellence projects relating to coronavirus selected under Horizon 2020;
- investment aid for testing and upscaling infrastructures;
- investment aid for the production of coronavirus relevant products;
- aid in the form of deferrals of tax and/or of social security contributions; and
- aid in the form of wage subsidies for employees to avoid lay-offs during the coronavirus outbreak.



The Commission found that the Spanish measure is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid will cover a significant share of the investment costs necessary for the development and testing (up to first deployment prior to mass production) of coronavirus relevant innovative products and treatments, as well as the investment costs for production of coronavirus relevant innovative products.

The Commission concluded that the **Spanish scheme is necessary**, appropriate and proportionate to remedy both a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, as well as contribute to fight the health crisis, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU, Article 107(3)(c) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the measures under EU State aid rules ■

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Commission adopts banking package to facilitate lending to households and businesses in the EU

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 29.04.2020

The Commission has today adopted a banking package to help facilitate bank lending to households and businesses throughout the European Union.



Aim of this package

The aim of this package is to **ensure that banks can continue to lend money to support the economy and help mitigate the significant economic impact of the Coronavirus**. It includes an Interpretative Communication on the EU's accounting and prudential frameworks, as well as targeted "quick fix" amendments to EU banking rules.

The rules put in place following the financial crisis have ensured that banks in the EU are now more resilient and better prepared to deal with shocks to the economy.

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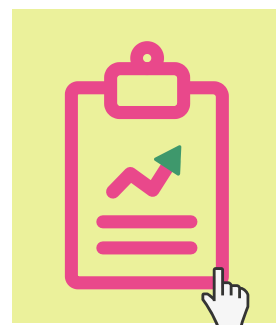
Targeted amendments to banking rules

The Commission proposed a few targeted "quick fix" amendments to the EU's banking prudential rules (the Capital Requirements Regulation) in order to maximise the ability of banks to lend and absorb losses related to Coronavirus.

The Commission proposes exceptional temporary measures to alleviate the immediate impact of Coronavirus-related developments, by adapting the timeline of the application of international accounting standards on banks' capital, by treating more favourably public guarantees granted during this crisis, by postponing the date of application of the leverage ratio buffer and by modifying the way of excluding certain exposures from the calculation of the leverage ratio.

This Communication confirms the recent statements on using flexibility within accounting and prudential rules, such as those made by the Basel Committee of Banking Supervision, the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the European Central Bank, amongst others. The Commission encourages banks and supervisory authorities to make use of the flexibility in the EU's accounting and prudential frameworks ■

PRUDENTIAL BANKING REQUIREMENTS



Support to the EU cultural sector during the COVID-19 pandemic

Source: European Parliament
Published in EDC UAL: 29.04.2020

The culture sector is suffering the impact of security measures introduced throughout the EU to tackle the spread of the coronavirus.

MEPs underlined the special nature of the creative sector and the difficulties faced by artists and called on the EU to provide support, in a resolution adopted on 17 April 2020. The pandemic has affected everyone and many sectors of the economy are struggling, but the cultural sector is one of the most affected. Events across Europe have been cancelled, festivals, conferences, exhibitions have been postponed, cinemas, theatres and museums have been closed, film and television productions have been suspended, leaving artists without a livelihood.

Many Member States have introduced measures specifically aimed at helping workers in the cultural sector and Europe's culture ministers discussed support measures for the cultural and creative sector during the coronavirus crisis at a meeting on 8 April 2020.

The EU is making progress to protect jobs, but the specificity of the cultural sector makes it difficult for its workers to receive support: **there are many individual artists, small businesses and charities.** That is why Parliament's culture committee wants the EU to set up specific aid to help the sector overcome the crisis.



Support to culture

In a letter to Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton and Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel, MEPs suggest

- protecting artists who may not qualify for national support schemes through the “Creative Europe” programme.
- increase the EU funds available to “Creative Europe” to ensure that they reach the sector.
- create an ad hoc financial instrument under the European Investment Fund to channel funds to the sector.

More must be done at EU level to provide personalised support to workers in the cultural sector until things get back to normal, said the Chair of Parliament's Culture Committee, German MEP Sabine Heynen of the European People's Party ■

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COVID-19: MEPs call for an action plan for the tourism sector

Source: European Parliament
Published in EDC UAL: 23.04.2020

The European Commission must present an action plan to help the tourism sector overcome the COVID-19 crisis, according to members of the EP's Transport and Tourism Committee.

Tourism: a highly affected sector

In a debate with Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton, MEPs insisted that the tourism sector needs more support through specific measures, funding, strengthened coordination at EU level and a tailor-made roadmap. The demand for a specific recovery plan and strategy for the sector came from all sides of the political spectrum. The commissioner acknowledged that tourism was the first sector affected by the coronavirus and is likely to be the one to recover later. "We must prepare a strong response," he said. "Tourism is our priority and we are trying to do as much as possible with the funds available."

"Tourism is our priority and we are trying to do as much as possible with the funds available."

Tourism should be supported by long-term recovery plans, to be funded from the next long-term EU budget (2021-2027). The commissioner said he was in favour of an exclusive budget line "with the necessary depth and capacity for the sector to overcome the crisis". The commissioner also said the ultimate goal is to reform and reinvent the tourism sector and proposed holding a European tourism summit on sustainable tourism in the autumn.

Travel restrictions for the summer

Several MEPs called for clarity on travel and movement restrictions that could continue in the coming months, including possible bans on visiting beaches due to social distancing rules. The commissioner explained that security guarantees will be needed before restrictions are lifted. He said that work was underway to facilitate travel and hoped that everything would be clearer before the summer. Asked about passenger rights and vouchers offered by companies when reservations are cancelled, the commissioner assured that these rights would be protected and recalled that member states can support tourism companies by providing them with liquidity, also to meet passenger reimbursement claims ■



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COVID-19: EU emergency measures to help farmers and fishermen

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 22.04.2020

Food producers are experiencing labour shortages due to the halting of the free movement of seasonal workers, on whom they are largely dependent.

While delays in the cross-border transport of agricultural goods were resolved through so-called “**green corridors**”, which allow the movement of vehicles carrying critical goods, the aquaculture, agriculture and fisheries sectors still face serious difficulties.

The Commission has said that they can be regarded as critical workers, but it is understandable that many do not wish to leave home. Lower production could in turn have an impact on prices. In addition, the agricultural sector has lost important customers with the closure of hotels and restaurants.



Support for fishermen and aquaculture

During the plenary session on 17 April, MEPs approved financial assistance for the fishing communities and fish farmers affected. Fisheries are facing logistical difficulties in ports, rising prices for the transport of fish products, trade restrictions with third countries, price collapses, loss of markets, concerns about crew safety and limited possibilities for crew rotation due to quarantine.

A number of emergency measures will help the sectors, including increased possibilities for state aid and the introduction of support measures through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, which will be made more flexible.

Member States will be able to provide support:

- to fishermen for temporary cessation of fishing activities.
- to fish farmers for the temporary suspension or reduction of production.
- to producer organisations for the temporary storage of fishery and aquaculture products.



EU measures

Parliament's Agriculture Committee welcomed the European Commission's plans to help the agri-food sector, but called for more specific measures, including market measures such as private storage ■

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EUROPEAN AGENDA: HEALTH

Source: EDC UAL

Published in EDC UAL: 01.06.2020

The EU is supporting local governments to achieve common objectives, pool resources and overcome shared challenges. In addition, measures are being taken to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. We highlight below what the European institutions have been working on to date:

28 May, European Commission: Conference on the EU4Health Programme

On 28 May, Vice-President Schinas and Commissioner Kyriakides mentioned at the EU4Health Conference the ambitious economic and financial package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences.

The objective is **to be better prepared to react and protect our citizens should a similar cross border crisis hit us in the future**. To do so, we will aim to ensure that we have, at all times, the necessary protective equipment, medicines and medical devices available, and ensure that they are affordable and innovative.

- **EU4Health** will enable us, for the first time, to create strategic stockpiles, so we can plan ahead and have reserves in case of crises. This will complement the capacity under rescEU for emergency response in a more strategic and forward-looking way.
- the programme will also provide for a **reserve of healthcare staff** – including flying doctors – that can be deployed in times of crisis and where such resources are most needed. When hospitals are overburdened in one Member State, we should have the capacity to step in with resources that are available elsewhere.



- In addition, to increase crisis preparedness and crisis management, we will reinforce the **European Medicines Agency** and give a stronger role to the European Centre for Disease Control when it comes to coordinating medical responses in crises.

EU4Health is not only about crisis management – it goes far beyond that. It is about strengthening national health systems, supporting Member States in their efforts to make them more resilient and better performing, and enabling them to deliver better care for patients across the EU.

The programme will run until 2027, but all the actions relating to crisis resilience will be heavily frontloaded in the first years of the programme.

28 May, European Commission: new campaign with the support of Global Citizen

The Commission has announced the next steps in the 'Coronavirus Global Response': action for universal access to affordable coronavirus vaccination, treatment and testing. The pledge marathon that began on 4 May will now see the launch of a new campaign with the international advocacy organisation Global Citizen, "**Global Goal: Unite For Our Future**", that will culminate in a Global Pledging Summit on Saturday 27 June.





This is a new stretch in raising support for the ACT-Accelerator, launched by the World Health Organization with governments and partners through a global call for action on 24 April 2020. The campaign will seek to raise the considerable resources needed to accelerate the development of new solutions and ensure their universal and inclusive access. The outcome of the 4 May pledging event shows the willingness and capacity of the world to join forces and pool resources to overcome the pandemic.

27 May, European Medicines Agency: EMA commissions independent research to prepare for monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines

EMA is engaging early with researchers to ensure that a European infrastructure will be in place to effectively monitor COVID-19 vaccines in the real world, once these are authorised in the European Union. The Agency has signed a contract with **Utrecht University as coordinator of the EU Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance Research Network, a public-academic partnership of 22 European research centres**, to conduct preparatory research into data sources and methods that can be used to monitor the safety, effectiveness and coverage of COVID-19 vaccines in clinical practice. The ACCESS (vACcine Covid-19 monitoring readinESS) project will be led by the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU) and Utrecht University.

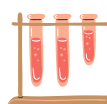
To authorise any COVID-19 vaccine, EMA will need to have strong evidence from clinical trials on the safety, efficacy and the quality of this vaccine. Once on the market, approved vaccines will be monitored closely, by the Agency and its Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC), through planned and routine pharmacovigilance activities, including the spontaneous reporting of suspected side effects reported by patients and healthcare professionals through Eudravigilance, the European database of suspected adverse reactions to medicines. The infrastructure put in place by Utrecht University will provide additional information from clinical practice to complement data collected pre-authorisation through clinical trials and post-authorisation through spontaneous reporting.

21 May, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: new weekly COVID-19 surveillance report

Based on the data available to the ECDC as of 20 May 2020, 29 out of 31 countries (EU/EEA countries and the United Kingdom) showed consistently decreasing trends in COVID-19 case reporting rates over 14 days, compared to the peaks observed 13-49 days earlier. The average rate for the EU/EEA and the UK was 68% lower than the peak of 9 April 2020. There have recently been slight increases in 14-day reporting rates in two countries.

It is estimated that in total 35% of COVID-19 cases to date in the EU/EEA and the UK have been hospitalised. Among hospitalized patients, 9% required ICU and/or respiratory support and 21% died, although there is considerable variation between countries.

The risk of hospitalisation increased rapidly with age (from age 30); the risk of death increased from age 60.



21 May, European Investment Bank: EIB provides Madrid Region with EUR 600 million to strengthen its response to the health emergency

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is helping the Madrid Region in its efforts to tackle the health emergency of COVID-19. The EU bank is providing a **EUR 600 million** loan on favourable terms to enable the authorities to adapt Madrid's health facilities and meet the additional health costs caused by the pandemic.

The EU bank's financing will help the Madrid region to further adapt hospitals and other health centres to increase the capacity of their primary care facilities, intensive care units and emergency services.

20 May, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: first report monitoring progress towards the elimination of hepatitis B and C in the EU/EEA

The report "Monitoring the responses to hepatitis B and C epidemics in the EU/EEA Member States", prepared in close collaboration with the 31 EU/EEA countries, the WHO Regional Office for Europe, and many other partner organisations, provides the first data collection on monitoring progress in eliminating hepatitis B and C in the EU/EEA countries.



20 May, European Medicines Agency: cooperation on observational research in the context of COVID-19

Regulators around the world have agreed on three priority areas for cooperation in observational research during COVID-19. They will collaborate on pregnancy research, on medicines used in clinical practice, and on monitoring the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

- **Pregnancy research** to examine the impact of both coronavirus disease and drug use on SARS-CoV-2 infected pregnant women and their infants at birth, to support COVID-19 drug development, risk management, and planning for vaccine safety and therapeutic surveillance;
- The **creation of international clinical cohorts of COVID-19 patients** to share expertise and increase study power and data quality to meet regulatory requirements and address existing knowledge gaps; and
- **Develop a robust infrastructure to monitor the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines** to rapidly detect and minimize risks to patients.

Meeting participants agreed that global collaboration on observational studies of real-world data will help not only contribute to the response to COVID-19, but also leave a lasting legacy for future international observational research beyond the current pandemic.

20 May, European Commission: Front-of-pack nutritional information – does it help consumers make healthier food choices?

Supporting the Commission's report on Nutrition labelling on the front of the pack (FOP), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) reviewed the scientific literature on existing and proposed FOP labelling schemes and their effects on consumers and food business operators. **The overall conclusion is that nutrition labelling on the front of the package has the potential to help consumers make healthy food choices.**



Perhaps not surprisingly, research shows that **FOP labels attract more attention than nutrition information on the back of the pack**. Consumers show high levels of attention to FOP labels (between 60 and 70%) and hidden observations in stores indicate somewhat less use. More importantly, studies examining consumer purchase intent show that FOP nutrition labelling, especially colour-coded labels with or without a rating indicator, can facilitate healthy food choices and improve the nutritional quality of shopping baskets.



20 May, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work: Tackling work-related MSDs

A new report from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work identifies 25 different initiatives – from awareness campaigns to inspections and legislation – used in 14 countries, highlighting what can be done to prevent MSDs



The research reveals important elements essential for effective intervention at the policy level, including the commitment and involvement of all parties at all levels, promoting preventive action through positive incentives and taking into account ergonomic considerations.

19 May, European Commission: The EU has been improving the Spanish health system for 30 years

For more than 30 years, the EU has been investing in thousands of projects to improve healthcare in **Spain**. And these advances are now helping to combat the **COVID-19 pandemic**. These investments have been made thanks to the cohesion policy. Between 2014 and 2020, our country has received 373 million euros from the European Union to improve medical infrastructure and equipment.

European Union is also working to digitise the health sector. The EU is promoting the use of new technologies in our health system with initiatives such as electronic prescriptions, for example. It has also developed new tools that make it easier for us and our professionals to access our medical records or make care for chronically ill patients more efficient.

18 May, European Medicines Agency: alignment on policy approaches and regulatory flexibility during COVID-19

The International Coalition of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) convened a virtual meeting of regulators from around the world on 14 May 2020, which highlighted the need for and commitment by global regulators to cooperate and harmonize their approaches to clinical trial management, drug supply issues and pharmacovigilance in light of the medical emergency presented by COVID-19.

Participants reviewed clinical trials of COVID-19, including the use of master protocols, around the world to accelerate the development and approval of potential treatments and vaccines for coronavirus disease. ■



International coordination to encourage the conduct of COVID-19 clinical trials

Source: European Medicines Agency
Published in EDC UAL: 25.05.2020

Regulators are highlighting the need for a comprehensive international coordination mechanism to allow the conduct of adequately powered, randomised controlled trials, which can generate sound evidence on the effects of therapeutics or vaccines against COVID-19.

This follows a call made by EMA's Human Medicines Committee (CHMP) for the research community to pool resources into large, well-designed, multi-arm clinical trials to determine which investigational or repurposed medicines would be safe and effective for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. Although the scientific community has responded to the COVID-19 challenge in an unprecedented manner, there are concerns about the growing number of COVID-19 stand-alone clinical trials with a small number of participants and observational studies, which might not generate the data required for regulatory decision-making.

In an article published in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics, EMA authors have therefore set out concrete actions that stakeholders involved with COVID-19 clinical trials should take to generate the type of conclusive evidence needed to enable rapid development and approval of potential treatments and vaccines against COVID-19. These include:

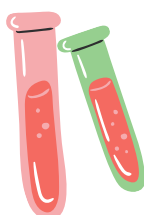
- research community to consider whether their planned trial can become part of a larger platform;
- developers of COVID-19 treatments to seek interactions with regulators as early as possible;



- support well-established public or private consortia to ramp up their activities and take on a wider role in the management of trials;
- regulatory flexibility in clinical trial management to address challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, while ensuring a high level of quality, efficacy and safety of medicines;
- ethics committees to ensure that the benefits of conducting a stand-alone clinical trial for COVID-19 outweighs risks and burdens to the participants;
- establish infrastructure to support clinical trial conduct;
- umbrella patient organisations and learned societies to use their influence to encourage clinical trial coordination.

Medicine regulatory authorities worldwide are cooperating under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA), with the aim of expediting and streamlining the development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments ■

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WHO states that tobacco use can negatively affect the COVID-19 disease

Source: World Health Organization
Published in EDC UAL: 15.05.2020

Tobacco kills more than eight million people worldwide every year. Tobacco smoking is a known risk factor for many respiratory infections and increases the severity of these diseases.

After reviewing several studies, a group of public health experts convened by WHO on 29 April 2020 established that smokers are more likely to develop severe symptoms if they have COVID-19, compared to non-smokers.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. Smoking impairs lung function, making it difficult for the body to fight this and other diseases. Tobacco use is also a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, some respiratory diseases, and diabetes, and people with these diseases are at greater risk of developing serious symptoms if they are affected by COVID-19. The research data available to date suggest that smokers are at increased risk of developing serious symptoms and dying from COVID-19.

WHO urges researchers, scientists and the media to be cautious and to avoid spreading the unproven idea that tobacco or nicotine could reduce the risk of developing COVID-19. Currently, there is not enough information to confirm any link between tobacco or nicotine and the prevention or treatment of this disease.



High blood pressure and heart rate are reduced within 20 minutes of quitting smoking. At 12 hours, the level of carbon monoxide in the bloodstream returns to normal. At 2-12 weeks, circulation and lung function improve. At 1-9 months, coughing and shortness of breath are reduced ■



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EUROPEAN AGENDA: Deconfinement COVID-19

Source: EDC UAL
Published in EDC UAL: 03.06.2020.

As the epidemiological situation improves and with the summer holidays in sight, countries are gradually restoring freedom of movement and tourism. These are the European Union's measures for the progressive decontamination following the COVID-19 pandemic:

Upcoming meetings:

[June 4, Video conference of transport ministers](#)

[June 5, Video conference of home affairs ministers](#)

Home affairs ministers will discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of internal border controls and the free movement of persons.

28 May, European Parliament: MEPs demand more clarity for tourism in COVID-19 crisis

MEPs gave overall positive feedback on the Commission's transport and tourism package; however, many insist on more concrete actions and financial support ahead of the summer holidays. The Transport and Tourism Committee discussed today the European Commission's guidance on how to safely resume travel and allow tourism businesses to reopen:

- **Rebooting tourism:** MEPs underlined the need to restore trust in safe travelling through additional concrete measures, as the current situation remains uncertain despite the proposed package. The Commission announced that a website on safe holiday options will be available in a few weeks' time.
- **Financial difficulties:** Many MEPs raised the issue of massive job losses, risk of bankruptcies in the sector, and commented on the lack of concrete help and specific short-term financial support as well as the need for a dedicated long-term budget line.



- **Safety concerns:** With many questions on safely restarting tourism in the EU up in the air, the Commission pointed out that cooperation between the member states has improved and lifting travel restrictions, including opening borders, should be based on set criteria and strong health protocols. The Commission is encouraging member states to introduce certification schemes for safe travelling. A similar EU-level action, however, will not be feasible ahead of this summer.
- **Passenger rights:** MEPs highlighted that the rules for reimbursements are being flouted too often in different member states. The Commission assured MEPs that they are following the issue closely and passengers retain the right to cash reimbursements.

Separate Committee discussions are planned on budgetary questions and long-term recovery plans for the sector.

28 May, European Commission: supports the recovery of the tourism sector

The Commission supports the Member States in their fight against the impact of the coronavirus on the tourism sector. EU ministers discussed the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the tourism sector, mitigation measures and the recovery strategy for the tourism ecosystem, which is one of the most damaged by the crisis.



The Commission presented the measures already taken to support the sector, as well as the planning of a common EU response for the recovery of the tourism ecosystem. In this respect, the Commission will propose measures to further support the sector, before the summer season. Among these measures, the Commission is considering protocols that should guide the safe operation of tourism facilities throughout the EU.

Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton said: “We will need unprecedented funds to overcome this crisis. A powerful EU budget is needed, to start on the road to European recovery and a stronger and more resilient Union. We will need rapid action, pragmatism and creativity to recover and build a resilient and sustainable tourism industry. But, above all, this crisis requires solidarity. No country can overcome this crisis alone.

EU ministers expressed broad support for further action and coordination at EU level. The ministers invited the Commission to work as a matter of priority towards a common EU approach that facilitates liquidity and maintains a fair balance of interests between tour operators and consumers.

26 May, European Council: conclusions on European teachers and trainers for the future

The Council adopted by written procedure conclusions on European teachers and trainers for the future. The conclusions recognise that teachers and trainers are an indispensable driving force of education and training, and acknowledge their **commitment during the current COVID-19 crisis**. The conclusions invite member states to undertake a number of measures related to developing the competences of teachers and trainers, promoting their participation in continuous professional development, promoting their mobility, involving them in future policy design and fostering their wellbeing.

The conclusions also invite the European Commission to continue supporting the development of education and training opportunities for prospective and practising teachers and trainers, as well as their mobility.



25 May, European Council: Relief measures for aviation and railways

The Council today adopted a temporary amendment to the rules on air services to support airlines and airports in the face of a sharp drop in air traffic due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Council also adopted an extension to the transposition deadline for the rail safety and interoperability directives of the fourth railway package to give the rail industry and the authorities flexibility and legal certainty in the current circumstances. Both legal acts are part of the transport emergency package presented by the Commission on 29 April 2020.

The regulation on aviation amends the air carrier licencing rules in the event of financial problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens. It also introduces a derogation to the procedures used by member states to impose traffic rights restrictions to deal with emergencies resulting from unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances.



In addition, new temporary rules on ground-handling services will help airports to continue operating in the event of a ground-handling company going bankrupt, by introducing a direct procedure for the selection of service providers. They will also help airports avoid complex tenders by allowing for the extension of contracts up to 2022. The transposition deadline for the rail safety and interoperability directives of the fourth railway package will be extended from the current date of 16 June 2020 to 31 October 2020. This will give the rail sector and the authorities more legal certainty and flexibility for addressing the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

25 May, European Parliament: No free movement of critical workers without adequate protection

MEPs discussed how to ensure safe **cross-border labour mobility** with Josip Aladrović, Croatia's Minister of Labour and Pension Systems, Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Employment and Social Rights, and Jordi Curell Gotor, acting Executive Director of the European Labour Authority.

MEPs are deeply concerned about reports of precarious working conditions and **lack of safety measures for cross-border, frontier and seasonal workers**. They provide a vital workforce on farms in Germany, France and other Member States and ensure food safety throughout Europe, but are often denied their rights. Members gave examples of the problems faced by slaughterhouse workers in the Netherlands and France, and health workers from Romania and Bulgaria who are taken to Austria.

The members of the Employment Committee also stressed that the digitisation of procedures and applications could help to coordinate the different social security systems of the national authorities to **ensure social protection for all employees in the EU**.

20 May, Cordis: New post-COVID-19 world: The social experiment is on

A study led by a team of infectious disease experts at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom maintains that a phased and measured approach is needed to move beyond the restrictions in place over the past few months or weeks. Failure to proceed with caution could result in a “significant second wave of the pandemic”. Without vaccination, social distancing and teleworking will continue to be part of our lives.

20 Mayo, European Council: Council adopts relief measures for aviation and railways

The EU is adapting certain rules for the different transport sectors to help businesses and authorities cope with the extraordinary circumstances created by the coronavirus crisis. The Council adopted temporary measures allowing for the **extension of the validity of certain certificates and licences in road, rail and inland waterway transport and for the relaxation of rules on charging vessels for the use of port infrastructure**.

19 May, European Parliament: Border controls in Schengen due to coronavirus

MEPs demand that the passport-free Schengen area should be restored to full operation as soon as possible ■

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EUROPEAN AGENDA: Justice

Source: EDC UAL
Published in EDC UAL: 20.05.2020

The European Union and its institutions are the main arena in which they focus, shape and plan what they face and how they will address many of the new regulatory challenges facing their societies. They therefore carry out valuable legislative proposals. To this end, we point out below significant events in this agenda

May 18, Eurojust: Rapid action via Eurojust leads to arrest of 10 human traffickers

With a rapid intervention via Eurojust, 10 suspects of human trafficking have been arrested and five others placed under judicial control by the Romanian authorities. Two female victims were brought to safety, one of whom was under immediate threat from the criminal network, requiring swift coordination and action within four working days. Three places were searched in Austria and the United Kingdom, and weapons, such as guns and machetes, jewellery, luxury clothes, cash and IT equipment have been seized.



Eurojust facilitated the execution of European Investigation Orders (EIOs) to the UK and Austria and assisted with the coordination of the operation, enabling the house searches. The EIOs were issued by specialised prosecutors within the Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism – Central Structure (DIICOT) in Romania.



May 15, European Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs: Creating European Artificial Intelligence. Presenting drafts

JURI members discussed the draft reports on intellectual property rights for the development of artificial intelligence technologies, the framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies and the liability regime for artificial intelligence.

7 May, Spanish Data Protection Agency: publishes a study in which it analyses different technologies to combat the coronavirus and its risks to privacy

The report makes a preliminary analysis of seven systems: geolocation collected by telecom operators; geolocation in social networks; apps, websites and chatbots for selftesting or appointment; voluntary information of contagion apps; Bluetooth contact tracking apps; immunity passports and infrared cameras.



7 May, European Parliament Civil Liberties Committee: the use of data from smartphones to manage the response to COVID-19 must comply with European data protection regulations

Several Member States and the European Commission have established or are currently developing different tools to understand the dissemination of COVID-19 based on mobile phone data transmitted to national authorities by national telecommunication providers. Before transmission, the data should be anonymized as appropriate so as not to contain any personal identifiers or aggregates.

"Even in this exceptional situation, the EU principles on data protection, as laid down in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the e-Privacy Directive, must continue to be applied and respected," said Commission President Juan Fernando López Aguilar.

7 May, European Parliament: MEPs fear impact of COVID19 on justice system and threat to rule of law

The Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) discusses the effects of COVID-19 on the functioning of justice and the situation in Poland and Hungary. With regard to the independence of their judicial system, they fear that the crisis has been used to put in place measures that weaken democracy, threaten the independence of the judicial system and hamper freedom of expression.

Several Members asked Mr Reynders how the Commission will ensure the legality and interoperability of tracking applications, the protection of personal health data and the anonymity of users. MEPs also wanted to know how new technologies, such as AI, can be used to recover from the crisis, while ensuring the high standards and values of the EU. The commissioner stressed that the recently published guidelines on interoperability fully comply with data protection rules and reminded MEPs that the issue will be further discussed at next week's plenary.

MEPs also asked the Justice Commissioner whether the recent ruling by the German Constitutional Court on the legality of European monetary policy could jeopardise the EU's legal system and create a precedent in the context of COVID-19. Reynders assured MEPs that the decision will be closely scrutinised by the Commission and that the primacy of EU law prevails.

Finally, several MEPs asked for more details on the cash-flow guarantee for businesses, measures taken against illegal and counterfeit products online, rights and conditions of prisoners in prisons

6 May, European Parliament: MEPs discuss the use of personal data in the fight against COVID-19

The Civil Liberties Committee is discussing with EU data protection experts the use and protection of personal data in the management of COVID-19, including applications for smart phones. MEPs will focus in particular on the tools being developed and already used in some Member States to counteract the spread of the pandemic from people's mobile phone data. This includes smartphone applications designed to track people who are infected or at risk of contracting the virus ■



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The science behind embracing new forms of social organisation after Confinement

Source: CORDIS

Published in EDC UAL: 19.05.2020

As lockdown restrictions ease across Europe, governments are considering just how much and how widely they should advise citizens to socialise with people outside their own household.

The idea is that everyone interacts within a **small group** of people to prevent COVID-19 from spreading further. For example, as of 10 May, the Belgian government allows people to form **social bubbles** of up to four people. These people aren't allowed to visit anywhere else. However, it's a fine line between maintaining mental health after several weeks of COVID-19-related lockdowns and keeping transmission rates as low as possible.

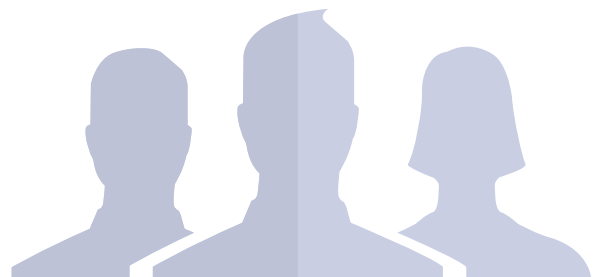
A group affair

According to a study led by Oxford University sociologists, altering the way our social networks are organised instead of simply decreasing how much we socialise could help flatten the curve. "There must be a middle ground between all of us staying at home and all of us meeting the people we want in the ways we want to," lead author Per Block and sociologist at Oxford told 'CNN'. "Our main aim here is to give people guidance on how they can structure their social surroundings so that hopefully in a year's time we are there, and not that people at some point just give up completely on social distancing, and that we are back in a second wave by the end of the year and have to start this whole staying at home business all over again."



Social bubble

Who to include in the bubble can get complicated in terms of age. "Families, for example, span across huge age ranges; and there are potential side effects like huge psychological and social damages if we try and segregate," Block told 'Euronews'. Interacting with others from the same area or forming new networks with neighbours could be effective ■



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EUROPEAN AGENDA: Tourism and Transport

Source; EDC UAL

Published in EDC UAL: 14.05.2020

Tourism and transport is one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. What is the EU doing to protect businesses, workers and passengers?

13th May, European Commission: how to safely resume travel and restart tourism in Europe

The Commission has presented a set of guidelines and recommendations to help Member States gradually lift travel restrictions and allow tourism businesses to reopen, after months of closure, while respecting the necessary health precautions. The package from the Committee on Tourism and Transport includes:

- A comprehensive strategy for recovery in 2020 and beyond;
- A common approach to restoring freedom of movement and lifting restrictions at the EU's internal borders in a gradual and coordinated way;
- A framework to support the gradual re-establishment of transport, while ensuring the safety of passengers and staff;
- A recommendation to make travel vouchers an attractive alternative to cash reimbursement for consumers;
- Criteria for the safe and gradual re-establishment of tourism activities and the development of health protocols for hospitality establishments such as hotels.



For tourists and travellers

The Commission seeks to give people the ability, confidence and security to travel again with the following measures:

1. Restoring freedom of movement safely and lifting internal border controls
2. Restoring transport services throughout the EU while protecting the health of transport workers and passengers.
3. Safe resumption of tourism services
4. Ensure cross-border interoperability of tracing applications

For tourism businesses

The Commission intends to support Europe's tourism sector by:

1. Ensuring the liquidity of tourism enterprises, in particular SMEs
2. Saving jobs with up to EUR 100 billion of financial assistance from the SURE programme
3. Connecting citizens to local tourism supply, promoting local attractions and tourism and Europe as a safe tourist destination

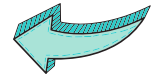
11th May, Transport and Tourism Committee: Transport support

On Monday 11 May 2020, the Transport and Tourism Committee discussed with the Commission urgent relief measures for the transport sector, while reiterating the need for an EU-wide recovery strategy. Transport Committee MEPs supported the urgency procedure for proposed measures. However, they noted also that there is a need for greater transparency and deliberation before rushing any legislative proposals through:

- **Aviation:** Contracts with ground-handling services should be flexible, as should modified air carrier licensing rules.
- **Maritime:** Ports should be able to defer, reduce or lift port infrastructure charges for port users.
- **Rail:** the deadline to transpose EU law on rail safety and interoperability should be extended.
- **Relieving the administrative burden:** the validity of certain certificates and licences should be extended by providing temporary derogation from 15 legal acts.



CIVIL PROTECTION



8th May, European Parliament: Support for tourism during the crisis

Travel restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic have had a direct impact on the tourism industry. It is estimated that hotel and restaurant revenues will fall by 50%, tour operators and agencies by 70% and airlines and cruise ships by 90%. As half of the world's tourism is European, the pandemic has posed a particularly difficult situation for those EU countries most dependent on this sector, such as Spain, Italy, France and Greece.

- Companies and workers in the tourism sector are already benefiting from the measures adopted by the EU
- The EU has also adapted the guidelines on passenger rights and the travel package directive.
- It has also facilitated the repatriation, through the EU's civil protection mechanism, of tens of thousands of European citizens

6th May, UK government: Mobility between France and the UK

The UK government states that you can still cross the border back into the UK via France.

5th May, Government of France: Mobility restrictions

The quarantine measure will not apply to people entering French territory from countries in the European area (Member States of the European Union, Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, the UK, San Marino, the Holy See and Switzerland), however. This particularly means that quarantine will not apply to cross-border workers ■

Coronavirus: passenger rights



Directive about travel packages



ACCESS FULL NEWS



What schools and businesses should consider before reopening

Source; World Economic Forum
Publicado en CDE UAL: 13.05.2020

As countries continue to lift lockdowns, the World Health Organization (WHO) released new guidance for decision makers on how schools and workplaces can be reopened safely.

“We need to get our priorities right as we enter the next phase of this fight,” Michael J. Ryan, Chief Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, said at a briefing in Geneva.

“We need to get our priorities right as we enter the next phase of this fight”



Schools

Officials looking to open or close schools must weigh a clear understanding of how COVID-19 is transmitted and its severity in children; COVID-19's spread where the school is located; and the ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures within that school's setting, the WHO said.

Decision makers might also consider if there are ways to set up classrooms to keep children physically separate during certain times of the day such as playtime or lunchtime, said Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO Technical Lead.

Workplaces

For workplaces, the WHO says leaders should carry out risk assessments to understand workers' potential exposure to the virus and plan reopenings accordingly. Additionally, the WHO recommends workplaces develop action plans that complement their existing business continuity plans. These action plans should include guidance for re-opening, closing and modifying work settings, while also outlining measures to help prevent or mitigate the virus' spread.

Seizing a second chance

WHO officials urged communities to maintain discipline as they ease restrictions. “We have a second chance now as a society to put in place the necessary public health interventions, to put in place the necessary community supports,” said Ryan. Some countries, such as South Korea and China, recently saw new cases emerge in areas where the virus had been suppressed. These countries were in a position to react quickly to these new infections, as they had maintained comprehensive efforts to detect and trace new cases ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Covid-19 tracing apps: ensuring privacy and data protection

Source: European Parliament
Published in EDC UAL: 11.05.2020

Dedicated mobile apps could play a key role in the fight against Covid-19 and the EU has been working with member states to develop effective solutions. As apps could expose sensitive user data, Parliament has underlined the need to ensure they are designed carefully. The European Commission has recommended a common EU approach towards contact-tracing apps, designed to warn people if they have been in contact with an infected person.

In a resolution adopted on 17 April, Parliament stressed that any digital measures against the pandemic must be in full compliance with data protection and privacy legislation. It said the use of apps should not be obligatory and that they should include sunset clauses so that they are no longer used once the pandemic is over. MEPs stressed the need for anonymised data and said that to limit the potential risk of abuse, the generated data should not be stored in centralised databases.

Tracing apps in the EU

The EU and many member states have been putting forward various digital tracking measures aimed at mapping, monitoring, and mitigating the pandemic.

Contact tracing apps that alert people who have been in proximity to an infected person for a certain time have emerged as the most promising from a public health perspective. The added value of these apps is that they can record contacts that a person may not notice or remember, thus enabling more accuracy and limiting further spread of the disease.

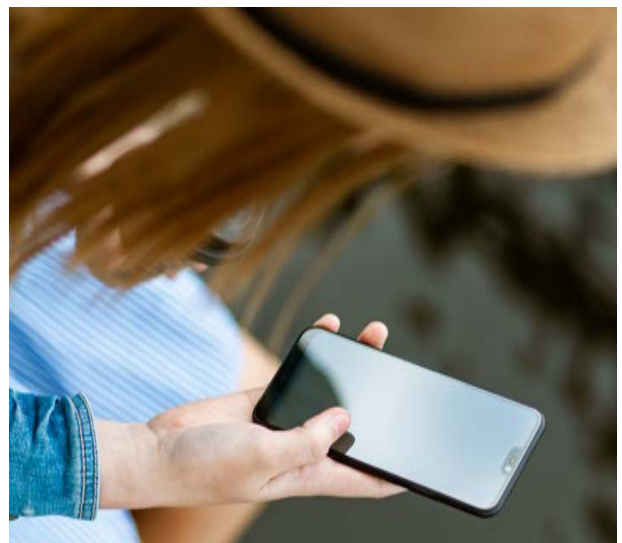
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Parliament monitoring

Juan Fernando López Aguilar, chair of Parliament's civil liberties committee, noted the important role apps could play in mitigating the crisis and welcomed the introduction of the toolbox, but stressed that fundamental rights and data protection must be maintained.

In the civil liberties committee meeting held on 7 May, members will exchange views with the European Data Protection Supervisor and the European Data Protection Board on the use of personal data in the fight against Covid-19. MEPs will also discuss the use of contact tracing apps in the fight against the coronavirus during the plenary session on 13-16 May ■



Coronavirus: rescEU masks delivered to Spain, Italy and Croatia

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 05.05.2020

Following last week's delivery to Italy, more batches of FFP2 protective masks has been distributed this weekend to **Spain, Italy and Croatia** from **rescEU** – the first-ever common European reserve of medical equipment set up last month to help countries affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

This support comes on top of the EU Medical Teams, masks and disinfectant already mobilised via the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** as well as bilateral offers from Member States. **Romania** and **Germany** are the first Member States to host the **rescEU** reserve and are therefore responsible for procuring the equipment, while the Commission finances 100% of the assets such as personal protective equipment. In these first deliveries, already 330,000 masks have now been delivered to Italy, Spain and Croatia. More deliveries will follow.



How the rescEU capacity works

The **Emergency Response Coordination Centre** manages the distribution of the equipment to ensure it goes where it is needed most. In this case Spain, Italy and Croatia were selected based on the needs expressed by these countries in their requests for assistance under the European Civil Protection Mechanism.

The strategic medical capacity is part of the wider rescEU reserve, including other capacities such as aerial firefighting means and medical evacuation capacities.

The rescEU reserve constitutes the last resort layer of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, which can be activated for all type of natural and man-made hazards. EU Member States, the UK (during the transition period), Iceland, Norway, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey participate in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism ■

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Efficient contact tracing applications to support the lifting of confinement measures

Source; European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 18.04.2020

EU Member States, supported by the Commission, have developed an EU toolbox for the use of mobile applications for contact tracing and warning in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

This is part of a common coordinated approach to support the gradual lifting of confinement measures. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, Member States, backed by the Commission, have been assessing the effectiveness, security, privacy, and data protection aspects of digital solutions to address the crisis. Contact tracing apps, if fully compliant with EU rules and well coordinated, can play a key role in all phases of crisis management, especially when time will be ripe to gradually lift social distancing measures. They can complement existing manual contact tracing and help interrupt the transmission chain of the virus.

A common approach

The Commission provides a practical guide for Member States in the implementation of contact tracing and warning apps. The toolbox sets out the essential requirements for these apps.

While allowing for easier, quicker and more efficient tracing than traditional systems based on interviews with infected patients, manual tracing will continue to cover citizens who could be more vulnerable to infection but are less likely to have a smartphone, such as elderly or disabled persons.



A common approach to other functionalities, in particular on information and symptom tracking, may be developed in future iterations of the toolbox.

Next steps

Member States should report on their actions by 31 May 2020 and make the measures accessible to other Member States and the Commission for peer review. The Commission will assess the progress made and publish periodic reports starting in June 2020 and throughout the crisis, recommending action or the phasing out of measures that seem no longer necessary ■

INSTRUMENTS UE
MOBILE
APPLICATIONS FOR
TRACKING AND
DISPATCHING



GENERAL DATA
PROTECTION
REGULATION



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Coronavirus: European roadmap shows path towards common lifting of containment measures

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 15.04.2020

The Commission, in cooperation with the President of the European Council, has put forward a European roadmap to phase-out the containment measures due to the coronavirus outbreak.

While we are still in firefighting mode, the necessary extraordinary measures taken by Member States and the EU are working. They have slowed down the spread of the virus and saved thousands of lives. However, these measures and the corresponding uncertainty come at a dramatic cost to people, society and the economy, and cannot last indefinitely.

While recognising the specificities of each country, the European roadmap establishes the following key principles:

- **Epidemiological criteria** showing that the spread of the disease has significantly decreased and stabilised for a sustained period.
- **Sufficient health system capacity**, for example taking into account the occupation rate for intensive care units, the availability of health care workers and medical material.
- **Appropriate monitoring capacity**, including large-scale testing capacity to quickly detect and isolate infected individuals, as well as tracking and tracing capacity.

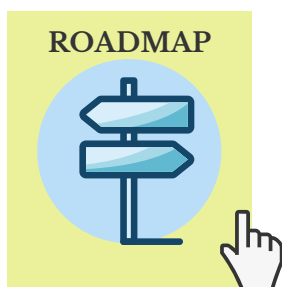
We need a European approach. While timing and modalities for lifting containment measures differ between Member States, we need a common framework.

Next Step

The Commission's roadmap lists concrete recommendations Member States should consider when planning to lift containment measures:

- Action should be gradual: measures should be lifted in different steps, with sufficient time left between them to measure the impact.
- General measures should progressively be replaced by targeted ones.
- Internal border controls should be lifted in a coordinated manner.
- **The re-start of economic activity** should be phased-in: there are several models that can be implemented.
- **Gatherings of people** should be progressively permitted, taking into account the specificities of different categories of activity.

While confinement measures are gradually lifted, there is a need to strategically plan the recovery, revitalising the economy and getting back on a path of sustainable growth ■



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#EUvsVirus Matchathon to boost the scaling up of creative solutions to Covid-19 challenges

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 22.05.2020

Building on the success of the #EUvsVirus Hackathon, the European Innovation Council (EIC), under the patronage of Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, is organising a Matchathon with the participation of the 120 winning teams from the hackathon, investors, corporates and public authorities, including among others, public procurers and hospitals; academia and research institutions, from all across Europe and beyond.

Objective

The goal of the Matchathon is to connect the needs of innovators with the opportunities made available by investors, corporates, public authorities, academia and research institutions. During the Matchathon, innovators will pitch their solutions in order to secure deals and funding that will enable them to scale up their innovative solutions and bring them to the market. This, in turn, will help address COVID-19 relevant challenges and speed up the European and global recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic.

A total of 120 winning projects with 800 innovators working in multinational teams, 115 investors and more than 200 'partners' (including corporates, universities and public authorities) have registered to participate at this #EUvsVirus Matchathon.

More than **30,000 people** from all over the EU and beyond submitted 2,164 projects in various fields, including health and life (899), business continuity (381), distance working and education (272), social and political cohesion (453), digital funding (76) and other challenges (83).

The jury selected 117 finalists and winners, who were invited to the next EUvsVirus Matchathon (22-25 May), which included a Demonstration Day (21 May). During this event, these teams were helped to compete with companies, investors, accelerators, venture capitalists, etc. from around the world to put their innovative solutions into production and save lives ■



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Coronavirus: additional €122 million for research and innovation

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 21.05.2020

The Commission has mobilised another €122 million from its research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for urgently needed research into the coronavirus. The new call for expressions of interest contributes to the Commission's €1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Global Response initiative, launched by President Ursula von der Leyen on 4 May 2020.

The new call is the latest addition to a range of EU-funded research and innovation actions to fight the coronavirus. It complements earlier actions to develop diagnostics, treatments and vaccines by strengthening capacity to manufacture and deploying readily available solutions in order to rapidly address the pressing needs. It will also improve understanding of the behavioural and socio-economic impacts of the epidemic.

The projects funded under this call should repurpose manufacturing for rapid production of vital medical supplies and equipment needed for testing, treatment and prevention, as well as develop medical technologies and digital tools to improve detection, surveillance and patients care. New research will learn from large groups of patients (cohorts) across Europe and better understanding of the behavioural and socio-economic impacts of the coronavirus epidemic could help improve treatment and prevention strategies.

The new call will cover five areas with the following indicative budgets:

- Repurposing of manufacturing for vital medical supplies and equipment (€23 million)
- Medical technologies, Digital tools and Artificial Intelligence analytics to improve surveillance and care at high Technology Readiness Levels (€56 million)
- Behavioural, social and economic impacts of the outbreak responses (€20 million)
- Pan-European COVID-19 cohorts (€20 million)
- Collaboration of existing EU and international cohorts of relevance to COVID-19 (€3 million)

Deadline

The deadline for submission is 11 June 2020, while the call will focus on delivering results quickly. Europe, and the world at large, urgently need innovative solutions to contain and mitigate the outbreak, and to better care for patients, survivors, vulnerable groups, frontline health care staff and their communities. This is why the Commission aims to enable research work to start as quickly as possible through shorter timelines for the preparation of expressions of interest and for their evaluation ■



ACCESS FULL NEWS



Commission launches one-stop shop for coronavirus research and innovation funding

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 18.05.2020

The European Commission launched the new European Research Area (ERA) corona platform. The platform provides useful information, dedicated support and real-time updates on funding opportunities for coronavirus related research and innovation.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, the scientific community is facing unprecedented challenges in the search for solutions against coronavirus. Good coordination and quick mobilisation of funds are essential to help our researchers and innovators meet those challenges. Therefore, the European Commission has launched the ERA corona platform, a one-stop shop for information for current and prospective beneficiaries of the R&I Programmes.



What does the platform offer?

The ERA corona platform brings together information on funded and ongoing projects, updated information on the extension of H2020 call deadlines and links to tailored Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for calls and grants affected by the coronavirus. Part of a larger coordination effort between the EU and European countries, the platform maintains a dedicated section for national activities, including funding opportunities, initiatives and projects in the Member States and other European countries.

Background

The ERA corona platform is one of the 10 priority actions of the first ERAvsCorona action plan. Building on the overall objectives and the tools of the European Research Area (ERA), the action plan is a working document developed by Commission services and national administrations ■

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First EIC COVID-19 Response certificates

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 12.05.2020

On 8 May, the European Commission granted the first batch of the **EIC COVID-19 Response Seal of Excellence** to 82 excellent proposals addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak. The proposals were submitted under European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator Pilot March 20 cut-off. A second batch of COVID-Seals (and standard Seals) will be awarded at the end of May, when the final selection of the funded projects will be announced.

The Seal certificate, co-signed now by Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, and by Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, is addressed to excellent proposals from the EIC Accelerator call which have been evaluated worth of funding but for which Horizon Europe does not have enough resources in the call. The co-signature is a demonstration of concrete synergies between Horizon 2020 and the Structural Funds and the commitment to strengthen those now and in the future. Structural Funds could be one of the alternative sources of funding that these outstanding ideas need now.

The aggregated figures of seals in your region, will soon be published on the dashboard. Contact details will be made available pending consent.

Presentations

[Presentations available](#) here on how to use DG REGIO Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative and DG COMP Temporary Framework for State Aid applicable to aid for Research and Innovation ■

Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII)



Making EU funds resources fully available for the fight against the coronavirus crisis and its economic consequences Cohesion policy

Seal Community of Practice 27 April 2020



ACCESS FULL NEWS



#EUvsVirus hackathon: rise to over 2.000 pioneering solutions to fight the outbreak

Fuente: Comisión Europea

Publicado en CDE UAL: 28.04.2020

Over 20,900 participants from across the EU and beyond joined the #EUvsVirus Hackathon led by the European Innovation Council this weekend to offer their time, talent and business ideas to help support Europe's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Over 2,150 solutions were submitted in areas including health and life (898), business continuity (381), remote working and education (270), social and political cohesion (452), digital finance (75) and other challenges (83). Germany (389), Italy (320) and Spain (315) submitted the highest number of solutions, which range from a 'modular micro factory' to a 'natural language processing system for medical reporting'.

To select the winners, ideas will be weighted – by a large team of jury members with in-depth experience in relevant domains – according to:

- impact potential (20%)
- scalability (20%)
- novelty/innovation (20%)
- prototype completion (20%)
- business plan (20%).

In addition to the opportunities offered by the EIC COVID Platform, cash prizes will be offered by partners and the EIC will also host a Matchathon matchmaking weekend between winners, partners and potential investors.

The European Innovation Council Advisory Board published recently that for Europe to come out stronger after the Corona crisis, we need to already direct our investments towards game-changing innovations that create a sustainable and human centric digital future.



The Board, made up of leading entrepreneurs, researchers, investors and innovation experts, underlined the need for the EIC to become the investor of choice for visionary ideas, pioneering a new European approach to 'support relevant innovations in a responsible and inclusive way'.



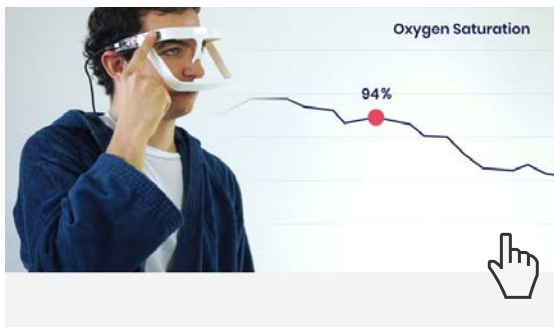
Results

The EUvsVirus Hackathon Jury identified the best solutions to support European and global in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak. In collaboration with private and public partners from Europe and beyond, we are awarding the best teams and solutions per domain as well as a winner and two runner-ups for each of the 37 challenges. Altogether 117 out of 2160 solutions.

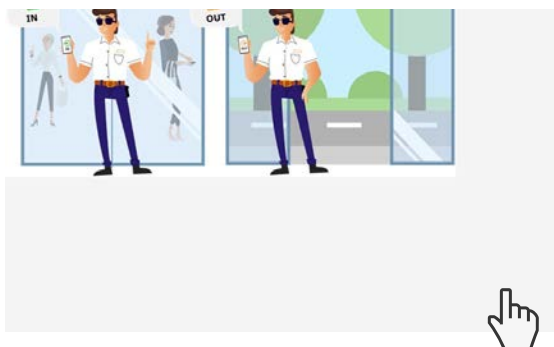
A total of over €100,000 pledged by partnering organisations will be distributed by the partners to winners of their choosing to reward hackers for their hard work and novel solutions with the greatest potential to save lives and bring life in a global pandemic closer to normal ■

Winners

Health & Life: Team Discover
Team nationality: Hungary



Business Continuity: Linistry for safe retail
Team nationality: Hungary

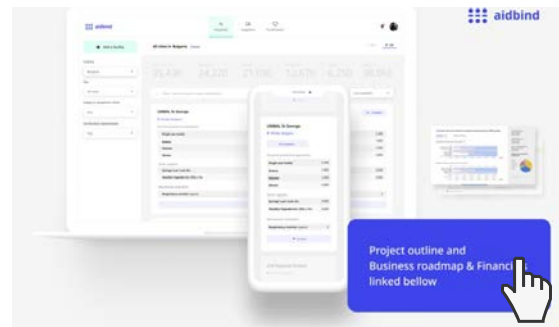


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Social & Political Cohesion: Aidbind

Nationality of the team: Germany, Bulgaria, Malta, Sweden, Switzerland



Working & Education: The Village – Where The World Is Your Classroom

Nationality of the team: Switzerland, Ukraine, United States, India



Digital Finance: Bankera Business Care
Team nationality: Lithuania



Other: Sewers4COVID

Nationality of the team: Greece, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom



Delivering animal vaccines and antibodies to protect humans from diseases like COVID-19

Source: CORDIS

Published in EDC UAL: 27.04.2020

How can scientists respond to infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans?

Zoonoses – diseases that can spread between animals and humans, like avian influenza, rabies and severe acute respiratory syndrome – comprise a large percentage of all newly identified infectious diseases. As they represent a persistent global threat to public health, scientists are striving to develop strategies that effectively tackle widespread outbreaks, such as the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The EU-funded ZAPI project was at the forefront of this endeavour. Launched in March 2015, it has focused on establishing a swift response to major new infectious disease threats in Europe and across the world. It did so by designing new manufacturing processes for delivering effective and rapid control tools (vaccines, antibodies) against (re-)emerging zoonotic diseases with pandemic potential. Bringing together human and veterinary research institutions, NGOs, regulatory agencies, expert academic groups, and vaccine and biotech manufacturers, ZAPI used the 'One Health' approach.

According to the WHO, the **One Health approach** involves designing and implementing programmes, policies, legislation and research in which several sectors work together to achieve better public health outcomes. A WHO Q&A document states:

ZAPI, which has worked on tackling outbreaks like those caused by coronavirus, used three different prototype models of diseases appearing in recent years that are zoonotic in nature. These are Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), Schmallenberg virus (SBV) and Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV). It's unlikely that SBV may pose a risk to humans, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, are genetically related, as noted in a news item.

Jean-Christophe Audonnet from project coordinator Merial Animal Health Ltd, says: "A platform is a generic methodology or technology that can be used for multiple targets; in the case of vaccines, the only thing that will change will be the immunogen. It's an assembly of different components, so the way we manufacture the vaccine will always be the same." He adds that although it's unlikely to produce technology that can address every single new virus, "the ZAPI system design is flexible enough to address about 90% of all the targets that we can face." ■



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Can the coronavirus pandemic improve our schools?

Source: Eurodyce

Published in EDC UAL: 08.05.2020

Since the Covid-19 virus started spreading, European citizens, like other people around the globe, have been put to the test in all aspects of life – health and well-being, livelihood and occupations, family ties and social relationships. While some countries are now starting the gradual lifting of confinement restrictions, life as we knew it before remains largely on hold for the time being.

Alternative teaching practices

With schools closed across Europe, teachers have had to develop alternative teaching practices often with very limited training in distance education. They have frequently been doing this in addition to responding to the needs of their own families and children. Parents of school-aged children, on the other hand, have suddenly had to balance their work or telework arrangements with efforts to support their children's home schooling activities.

Some European governments have taken immediate steps to ensure support to the most disadvantaged families. In **Spain**, a recently adopted law stipulates that families with children receiving school meals are entitled to financial aid or the direct provision of food during school closures.

As a result of the current situation, some teachers have also been reporting unexpected improvements in some of their students' school work.

The pandemic has also highlighted the critical role played by parents in supporting students' learning and development. Establishing clear communication between schools and parents, with simple guidelines on learning objectives and outcomes has been critical in ensuring that parents can help their children without anyone feeling overburdened.

As schools gradually re-open the **health and safety of students and all school staff is paramount**, and a number of basic principles need to be applied to help stop the spread of the virus. Consultation, communication and coordination to reassure parents of the safety of schools and to maintain their support for educational activities will remain crucial. Health needs must also include mental health and well-being, which will continue to pose challenges for students and staff alike beyond the period of confinement. Surveys of teachers during the current pandemic show that many are experiencing heightened levels of stress and anxiety related to school closures, online learning and the uncertainties surrounding the return to school. These feelings may increase as schools reopen ■



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Impact of COVID-19 on the Erasmus programme and the EU Solidarity Corps

Source: European Parliament
Published in EDC UAL: 07.05.2020

Education has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The closure of universities and travel restrictions complicate the situation for participants in cross-border mobility programmes such as Erasmus+ student exchanges and the European Solidarity Corps. Currently, 165,000 young people across Europe are participating in an Erasmus exchange and 5,000 more in voluntary projects.

EU support

Education has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The closure of universities and travel restrictions complicate the situation for participants in cross-border mobility programmes such as Erasmus+ student exchanges and the European Solidarity Corps. Currently, **165,000 young people across Europe are participating in an Erasmus exchange and 5,000 more in voluntary projects**. Erasmus students during COVID-19:

- 25% of student exchanges were cancelled due to the pandemic.
- 37.5% of the students experienced at least one major problem related to their exchange (e.g. could not go home, accommodation problems).
- Half of the students whose programme continued have moved on to online classes.
- 34 % have chosen partial online classes or postponed a part of them.

European Solidarity Corps

Created in 2018 to replace the European Voluntary Service. It aims to give young people the opportunity to volunteer or work on projects in their country or abroad. It aims to help vulnerable communities and individuals across Europe by bringing together young people who want to build a more inclusive society.

To reduce the negative impact on young people who volunteer or participate in Erasmus+, the European Commission has said that it will make the programmes as flexible as legally possible.

- maximum flexibility is applied, in particular, to help those who have had to return to their home countries for security reasons
- all exceptional costs related to COVID-19 are reimbursed.
- exchange students and participants in the European Solidarity Corps retain their status.
- exchange students do not lose the academic year and can obtain ECTS credits through distance learning agreements ■



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Military Solidarity in action: assistance in the fight against COVID-19 in Europe

Source: EU External Action Service

Published in EDC UAL: 15.05.2020

From the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the armed forces of EU Member States have played a critical role in fighting the virus – abroad, at home and in European solidarity. They are providing transport and logistic support, building field hospitals in record time, deploying their medical staff, and supporting national authorities and services.

The European External Action Service set up a dedicated task force to support these efforts, in particular by facilitating the exchange of information.

Role of the armed forces of EU Member States

The military in Europe are no exception:

- they are supporting our partners abroad and
- working around the clock to support Europeans at home.

As a matter of fact, the armed forces of EU Member States are playing a critical role in supporting European citizens in their respective home countries and across EU Member States, in a spirit of European solidarity. They support national authorities, the health sector and civil protection workers, as well as internal security forces, by providing personnel, material, logistics, transportation – and more.

European External Action Service task force

A dedicated task force was established within the European External Action Service to provide support, in particular by facilitating information exchanges. The task force created a special online platform for EU Member States to share information and best practice of military assistance to civilian authorities, inside the EU, to help the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

The list of examples goes on. All 27 EU Member States have already provided their points of contact in the Ministries of Defence for the information-sharing platform set up by the EEAS task force ■



ACCESS FULL NEWS



Global response to coronavirus crisis: EU creates humanitarian airlift

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 12.05.2020

The European Commission has established an **EU Humanitarian Airlift** to transport humanitarian workers and emergency supplies to some of the world's most critical areas in response to the coronavirus crisis.

The first EU flight, made in cooperation with France, leaves from Lyon and carries around sixty humanitarian workers from various NGOs and thirteen tonnes of humanitarian cargo. Two more cargo flights with another 27 tonnes of humanitarian supplies will follow in the coming days. On the return, the airlift flights will also bring in EU citizens and other passengers from the Central African Republic in a repatriation effort.

More EU humanitarian flights are being scheduled in the coming days, giving priority to African countries where the pandemic may worsen other humanitarian crises.

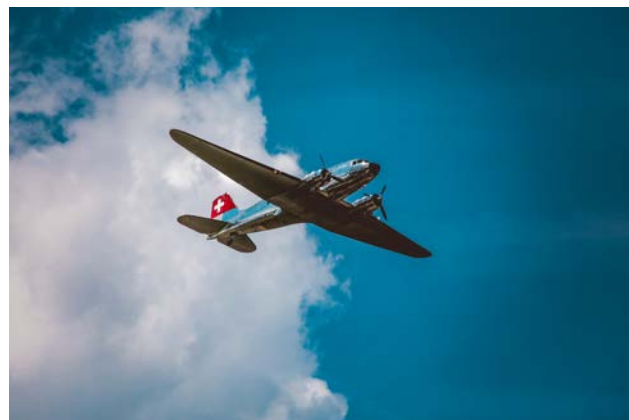
Operation

- In a joint effort by the Commission and the Member States, the Commission is financing the air transport of Member States' flights to and from the proposed destinations, as far as possible combined with ongoing repatriation flights, not forgetting humanitarian workers on rotation.
- Humanitarian workers from national administrations, NGOs or UN agencies can take advantage of the scheme.
- The Commission finances 100% of the transport costs, while the EU partners remain responsible for obtaining the humanitarian material.

The EU's global response to the coronavirus crisis follows a Team Europe approach. It builds on contributions from all EU institutions and combines resources mobilised by Member States and EU financial institutions to address the humanitarian, health and other consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

As part of its traditional solidarity with the people in need in the Central African Republic through its humanitarian aid, the EU is also supporting **15 new projects in 2020** with a total funding of **EUR 15.2 million**. These funds are aimed at providing vital assistance to the most vulnerable people. Since 2014, the Central African Republic has received more than EUR 770 million in humanitarian aid from the EU and its Member States.

In addition to humanitarian aid, the EU has mobilised more than **EUR 30 million for the response to the coronavirus crisis** through its different mechanisms, such as the Békou Trust Fund. This funding will contribute to addressing the immediate needs of the Central African Republic in the areas of health, water and sanitation, as well as supporting the state budget through an advance payment of budgetary aid ■



ACCESS FULL NEWS



Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 06.05.2020

The Commission has registered €7.4 billion, equivalent to \$8 billion, in pledges from donors worldwide during the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event. This includes a pledge of €1.4 billion by the Commission.

This almost reaches the initial target of €7.5 billion and is a solid starting point for the worldwide pledging marathon, which begins today. The aim is to gather significant funding to ensure the collaborative development and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus.

The pledging event was co-convened by the European Union, Canada, France, Germany, Italy (also incoming G20 presidency), Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (also holding the G20 presidency), Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom. The initiative is a response to the call from the World Health Organization (WHO) and a group of health actors for a global collaboration for the accelerated development, production and equitable global access to new coronavirus essential health technologies.



An ongoing pledging marathon

Extraordinary achievement but also the start of a process to mobilise more resources. The initial target of €7.5 billion will not be enough to ensure the distribution of coronavirus health technologies worldwide, as this involves significant costs in terms of production, procurement and distribution.

To help reach the objectives of the Coronavirus Global Response, the European Commission is committing €1 billion in grants and €400 million in guarantees on loans through reprioritisation of Horizon 2020 (€1 billion), RescEU (€80 million), the Emergency Support Instrument (€150 million) and external instruments (€170 million).

An ongoing pledging marathon

The global response must also include civil society, and the global community of citizens. For that reason, the European Commission is joining forces with NGOs such as Global Citizen and other partners. **The Global Vaccines Summit that Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**, will organise on 4 June will mobilise additional funding to protect the next generation with vaccines. As the world relies on Gavi's work for making vaccination available everywhere, the success of Gavi's replenishment will be crucial to the success of the Coronavirus Global Response ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



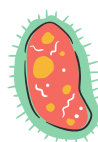
PROJECTS AND INICIATIVES COVID-19



UAL on the move. Actions against COVID-19

Group: Vice-rectorate for Research and Innovation

The University of Almeria maintains its commitment to society by providing knowledge, materials and solidarity to help tackle the pandemic generated by the COVID-19 ■



Research groups from the University of Almeria that have participated in the initiative:

AGR159 | AGR176 | AGR198 | BIO175 | BIO279 | BIO293 | CTS280 | CTS451 | CTS1024 | FQM376 | HUM057 | HUM061 | HUM297 | HUM472 | HUM493 | HUM498 | HUM861 | HUM923 | HUM760 | HUM861 | HUM891 | HUM1044 | HUM1028 | SEJ419 | SEJ581 | SEJ615 | TEP197 | TIC221

Measures and initiatives front al Covid-19



Eduardo Gracia Martin-Duarte, Sustainability Technician Cajamar Cooperative Group

We are currently facing an unprecedented health crisis. On March 14, a state of emergency was declared in order to reduce infections and try to control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. In view of this extraordinary situation, the sectors that, by their nature, are considered essential due to the service they provide to society have been defined, and among them is the financial sector. For this reason, Grupo Cooperativo Cajamar, as part of this sector and due to its social and cooperative nature, works daily to offer its partners and clients the solutions which best adapt to their needs in these difficult times, having its trusted bank on their side.

In order to offer a **safe service** to both partners and customers without neglecting the health and safety of employees, one of the first measures taken by the Group was to provide protective screens to the more than 800 operating offices and to equip employees with antiseptic gels, gloves and masks for their protection. In addition, the Group established teleworking for central service employees as a preventive measure against the virus even days before the aforementioned state of alarm was declared. Another of the packages of measures carried out by the Group are those aimed at families, the self-employed and companies with the aim of generating liquidity and credit so that the impact of the health crisis is as small as possible.

To achieve this, **different solutions** are offered to families, such as: advance payment of ERTE unemployment benefit, loans for payment of their debts as a result of Covid-19, mortgage moratoriums for permanent residence and advance payment of pension at zero cost, among others.

As **additional measures** aimed at facilitating the confinement of customers, especially the elderly, and avoiding travel and exposure to contagion, the Group offers various formulas such as electronic banking or the mobile banking app for banking transactions. In addition, it should be noted that Cajamar does not charge its customers commissions for withdrawing money from other financial institutions' ATMs.

The Group has also launched various initiatives such as "together we will fight COVID19 ". This is an initiative promoted by Sicnova 3D, in which the Group collaborates



and whose challenge is to create a network of donors capable of providing all the products that are really needed in hospitals. On the other hand, Cajamar is collaborating with different local governments in the province of Almería in the manufacture and distribution of health hospital gowns, matching the production capacity and supply of material. Finally, the employees, together with the Entity, have launched a collection campaign to finance projects related to the Covid-19 and thus continue with their social work, especially in difficult times for everyone such as these ■

MORE INFORMATION :



COVID-19 Solidarity Initiatives

Research group: ICT-221

Team: Consolación Gil, Principal Investigator; Alfredo Alcayde, Coordinator; Francisco Gil, Coordinator

Solidarity initiatives that have emerged from the collaboration of different research groups.

Initiative 1

Coordination of the group of makers of 3D printers for the manufacture of protective material (protective shields and guards). Development of protective screens for toilets, state security forces, firefighters, pharmacists, etc., not only for the province of Almeria but also for other provinces.

Coordinator:
Alfredo Alcayde.

Initiative 2

Design and manufacture of **specific protection elements** for hospitals in collaboration with Torrecardenas Hospital and other hospitals in the province.

Coordinator: Alfredo Alcayde

- a. Intubation screens
- b. Bronchoscopy
- c. Adaptation of masks fittings for Decathlon



Initiative 3

Direction and coordination of the volunteer initiative "Acompañando-nos desde Casa". The telephone number to attend to people who need it is: 950385020. This initiative has emerged as a need to help those people who feel lonely, need to talk to someone, and feel accompanied and cared for in these days of social isolation. To do this, it has been necessary first to set up the entire computer system, which manages calls to the various volunteers according to their availability. The search for volunteers has been carried out in collaboration with the research group of the University of Almeria HUM-022 (Science, Awareness and Development) which has staff for this type of help relationship.

Coordinators: Francisco Gil and Consolación Gil

ACOMPANANDO-nos desde CASA

SI TE ENCUENTRAS SOLO/A LLÁMANOS
Tf: 950 38 50 20

NO HAY DISTANCIA- ESTAMOS CONTIGO

A través de la colaboración de varios grupos de investigación de la Universidad de Almería se ha creado este programa de Voluntariado a través del cual nos ofrecemos a escuchar a aquellas personas que, en estos momentos de confinamiento, enfermedad, etc., sientan la necesidad de hablar y de compartir su sentir con alguien. Se trata de llevar a cabo un ejercicio de escucha activa, esto es, un acto de atención y generosidad hacia el otro mediante el cual le ofrecemos un espacio de nuestra mente y nuestro corazón para atender su sentir.

Os atenderemos en el teléfono 950 385020
Todos los días de 9 de la mañana a 9 de la noche

MORE INFORMATION:



Opinion study on the impact of COVID-19 on Tourism

Research group: Marketing and strategy: research and innovation - SEJ254

Team: Manuel Sánchez Pérez; María Belén Marín Carrillo; Gema María Marín Carrillo; María Dolores Illescas Manzano; Eduardo Terán Yépez



The COVID-19 is affecting the lives of millions of people, and with it every sector of the world, but none has been so severely affected as the **tourism industry**. Thus, beyond the sphere of public health, tourism has become one of the main public players in COVID-19 in the media, as hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions, meeting and convention venues, cruise ships, airlines and various other means of transport, travel agencies, or tour operators, among others, have all been affected, significantly reducing their activity, or even more going into crisis. Without a doubt, this pandemic brings with it negative effects on the global tourism industry and all related sectors. COVID-19 represents a certain resumption of tourism activity. Thus, from the **Research Group SEJ-254-Marketing and Strategy, of the University of Almeria**, we are carrying out a study at national level which aims to know the role that tourism plays in people's lives, to understand the perceived impact of COVID-19 on tourism, to understand how tourism will be after this pandemic and to evidence the change in the habits of the tourist consumer that may occur as a result of this coronavirus.

Based on the data obtained from 1269 people, the results show that although tourism is part of people's lives and well-being, it can lose some of its importance as a leisure activity among the population. In terms of the perceived impact, the respondents consider that when it is possible to travel again, the effect of COVID-19 will be greater on the population as age increases. This means that older adults will have greater complexity in resuming their tourist trips.



Tourism has become one of the main public players in COVID-19

Also, it is expected that all types and products of tourism will be strongly affected, an increase in costs and an increase in the use of virtual tourism technologies. Analyzing how tourism will be after this pandemic and consequently the changes in consumer behavior, the findings allow us to observe a reorganization of tourism planning by the tourist and the products he or she wants to enjoy. In particular, the results obtained make it possible to envisage more local, individual and shorter holidays, less use of tourism intermediaries, more coverage (e.g. insurance, cancellation), less use of public transport and shared facilities, including flexibility on the usual travel dates in order to avoid crowding and overcrowding. These changes require an implementation effort from the sector both for the provision of services and for the promotion of tourist products and destinations ■

MORE INFORMATION



Impact of confinement on families

Research group: Health CTS-280 of the University of Almeria; InPaula

Team: Pilar Flores Cubos, Pilar Fernández Martín, predoctoral contract at the University of Almería, Rosa Cánovas López, psychologist specialized in child neuropsychology at the Institute of Child Neurorehabilitation, InPaula



The health research group **CTS-280** of the University of Almeria, together with the technology-based company **Instituto de Neurorehabilitación Infantil, InPaula**, is carrying out a study to find out what the impact of confinement has been on lifestyle and family dynamics in families throughout the country.

After more than a decade working with families on a daily basis from the InPaula Institute for Child Neurorehabilitation, we were aware of the main difficulties that were beginning to arise in homes due to confinement, such as: the **completion of schoolwork, changes in sleeping, exercise and eating routines, and a feeling of stress in parents** due to their own difficulties in reconciling family and work. Lifestyle and family dynamics vary considerably in those families that have children with **neurodevelopmental disorders**, who tend to spend more time in their daily routine on schoolwork and activities related to the rehabilitation of their children and present different levels of stress and coping strategies.

Therefore, the novelty of this study has been to focus on families with children with neurodevelopmental disorders, specifically **Attention Deficit Disorder with/without Hyperactivity (ADHD)**, since this is one of the most prevalent disorders worldwide and because of its own symptomatology (attention difficulties, impulsivity and motor hyperactivity) it can generate great challenges at home. More than a month of confinement for these children with problems of concentration, restlessness, and impatience, could lead them to manifest a low tolerance for frustration and boredom, demand a lot of attention, and show behavioral problems, which poses great challenges for family coexistence.

To assess the magnitude of these challenges, not only families with children with ADHD have been called upon to participate, but also families with typically developing children, in order to compare how the diagnosis and severity of the symptoms have modulated the response of families to the COVID-19 crisis and the period of confinement. Associations and centres throughout the country have collaborated to disseminate the study, which already has the participation of more than 200 families. Some preliminary results indicate that during the first month of confinement, impulsivity and hyperactivity problems have increased in all children, while attention problems have only increased in typically developing children. In addition, perceived stress seems to have increased only in the parents of the latter, suggesting that perhaps parents with children with neurodevelopmental disorders have coping strategies and a higher level of resilience that has prepared them better to deal with unexpected situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



The study aims to report on the changes caused in all areas of family dynamics in order to know which of them should be affected by assessment and intervention programmes and to generate sufficient knowledge to prevent psychological sequelae in future periods of confinement ■

E-MAIL:



PROJECTS AND CALLS

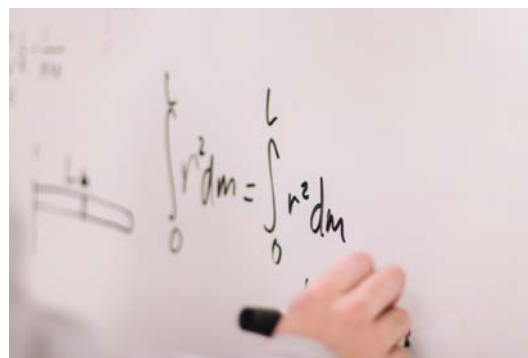


Scientific researcher COVID-19 project in Ghent University

Ghent University is a world of its own. Employing more than 8,000 people, it is actively involved in education and research, management and administration, as well as technical and social service provision on a daily basis.

Requirements

- Hold Master diploma in the field of (Bioscience) Engineering, Mathematical Biology or Applied Mathematics. For diplomas awarded outside the European Union, a certificate of equivalence (NARIC) must be submitted. The degree requirements need to be fulfilled at the start of your appointment.
- Interested in research within the field of mathematical modelling in general, and modelling of biological and natural processes more specifically.
- Master at least one programming language.
- Profoundly interested in project-based research.
- Excellent communication skills.



Dead line:
15 June 2020

MORE INFORMATION:

[WEB SITE:](#)

H2020. Innovations to accelerate vaccine development and manufacture



Vaccination is one of the greatest achievements in healthcare. However, developing a vaccine remains costly, time-consuming, and risky.

Advances in immunology, disease modelling, in silico modelling, including the analysis of big data and the application of machine learning (ML) artificial intelligence (AI), provide opportunities to innovate, de-risk and accelerate the vaccine-development process. Many of these advances have occurred in the academic sector.

Aims

The overall objective is to accelerate and de-risk the development of new vaccines by incorporating scientific and technological advances from the academic and biotech sectors into the industry, and to develop more predictive biological and mathematical models of vaccine performance.

Dead line:
5 November 2020

MORE INFORMATION:

[WEB SITE](#)

H2020. Pre-commercial Procurement for Digital Health and Care Solutions

Digital solutions supporting a continuum of care across a range of health and care services can relieve the pressure on governments to provide more cost-effective health and care systems by improving the use of healthcare and health outcomes.

Aim

Support the health and care service provider to procure the development of digital services that can facilitate the transition to integrated care models across health and social services and country-specific cross-institutional set-ups, including decentralised procurement environments and collaboration across institutions.



Dead line: 18 June 2020

MORE INFORMATION:

[WEB SITE](#)

CEPOL launches call to establish 4-year framework partner agreements



The EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training is launching today a Call to establish 4-Year Framework Partner Agreements to implement CEPOL training activities and learning products in 2021-2024. With this call, CEPOL aims at creating a stable and continuous framework of cooperation across Europe.

CEPOL is specifically looking for law enforcement agencies (at national, state, regional or local level), public training institutions, and public research institutes; and public universities that have working agreements/memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies, training institutions and research institutes of the Member States.

Dead line:
2 June 2020

MORE INFORMATION:

[WEB SITE](#)

H2020: Pan-European networks of practitioners and other actors in the field of security

This call of proposal is framed in the work programme Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens that belongs to the H2020 programme.

In Europe, practitioners interested in the uptake of security research and innovation are dedicated to performing their duty and are focused on their tasks.

Objectives

Professionals are invited to become partners in different networks in the field of security:

- Option 1: security and intelligence services
- Option 2: fight against cybercrime



Dead line: 27 August 2020

MORE INFORMATION

[WEB SITE](#)

ERC Advanced Grant



ERC Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigators are expected to be active researchers and to have a track record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years which must be presented in the application.

Advanced Grants may be awarded up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 000 for a period of 5 years (the maximum award is reduced pro rata temporis for projects of a shorter duration).

Dead line:
26 August de 2020

MORE INFORMATION:

[WEB SITE](#)

STATISTICS AND INFOGRAPHICS



STATISTICS

COVID-19 EVOLUTION
ACROSS EUROPE

SOURCE: EDC Almería

The European Commission is coordinating a common European response to the outbreak of coronavirus. Determined action is being taken to strengthen the public health sectors and to mitigate the socio-economic impact in the European Union. All available means are being mobilised to help Member States coordinate their national responses and objective information is being provided on the spread of the virus and effective efforts to contain it.



344.481



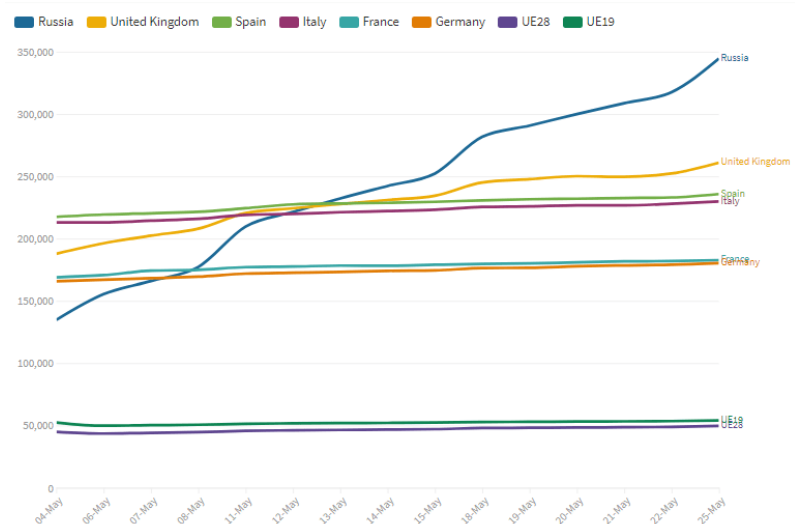
260.216



235.772

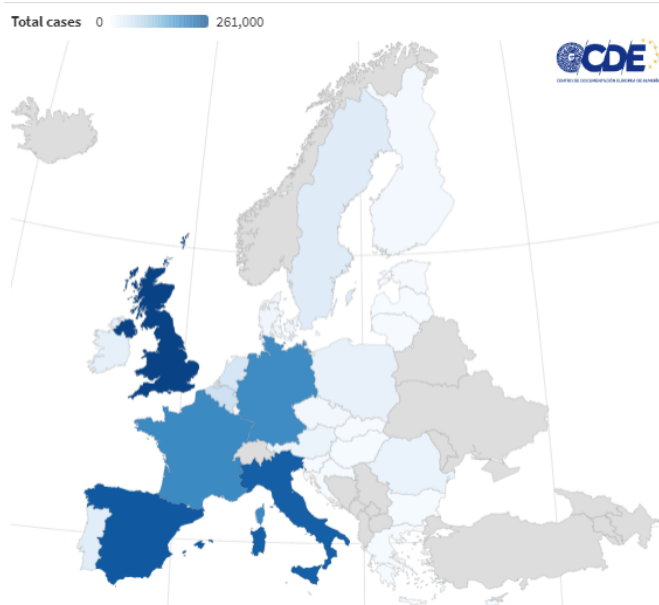
Cases by country

The epidemic is evolving differently in each country. Although many European countries still report a number of positive cases during May, the confinement measures taken by the leaders of Europe have resulted in a much smaller daily increase in cases compared to March and April. As of 25 May 2020, the countries with the highest number of reported cases are Russia (344,481 cases), the United Kingdom (260,216), Spain (235,772), Italy (229,858) and Germany (180,328). However, if we look at the number of inhabitants, the countries with the most infections are Luxembourg (with 637 cases per 100,000 inhabitants), Spain (504), Ireland (498) Belgium (492), and the United Kingdom (384).



Evolution of confirmed cases of COVID-19 from May 4 to May 25 in Russia, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, EU28 and EU19. Source: Johns Hopkins University.
Own edition

Cases rate

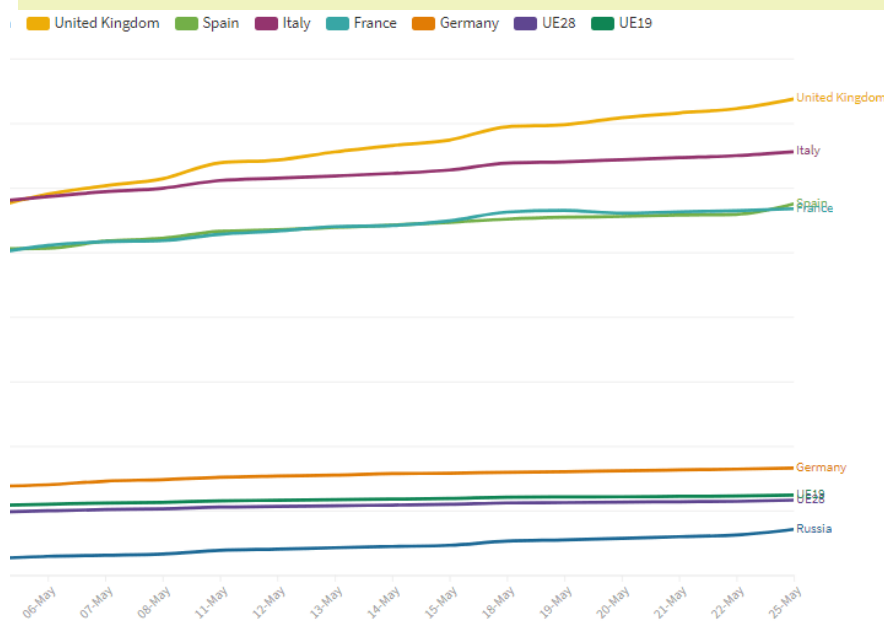


The countries with the lowest number of infections to date are Malta (584), Cyprus (935), Latvia (1,047), Slovenia (1,468) and Slovakia (1,509). Again, looking at the number of reported cases per 100,000 inhabitants, the countries least affected by the pandemic to date are Greece (27), Slovakia (27), Bulgaria (34), Hungary (38) and Croatia (54).

Total number of cases EU28. Data from 25 May 2020. Source: Johns Hopkins University. Own elaboration

Deaths by country

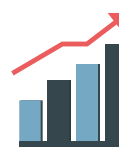
Regarding the lethality of the disease caused by the virus, those countries that have recorded the highest number of deaths to date are the United Kingdom (36,875), Italy (32,785), Spain (28,752), France (28,370) and Belgium (9,280). Taking into account the number of inhabitants of each country, the countries where the virus has shown the highest mortality are Belgium (80 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), Spain (61), United Kingdom (54), Italy (54) and France (43). Those countries that have thankfully recorded the lowest number of deaths are Malta (4 deaths), Cyprus (17), Latvia (22), Slovakia (28) and Lithuania (63). If we consider the number of inhabitants of each country, the countries with the least number of deaths caused by the virus are Slovakia (less than 1 death per 100,000 inhabitants), Latvia (1), Malta (1), Cyprus (1) and Greece (1).



Evolution of the number of deaths by COVID-19 from May 4 to May 25 in Russia, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, EU28 and EU19.

Source: Johns Hopkins University. Own edition

MORE INFORMATION:



STATISTICS

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY & MEDICINECORONAVIRUS
RESOURCE CENTER

DATA

4 May to 29 May 2020

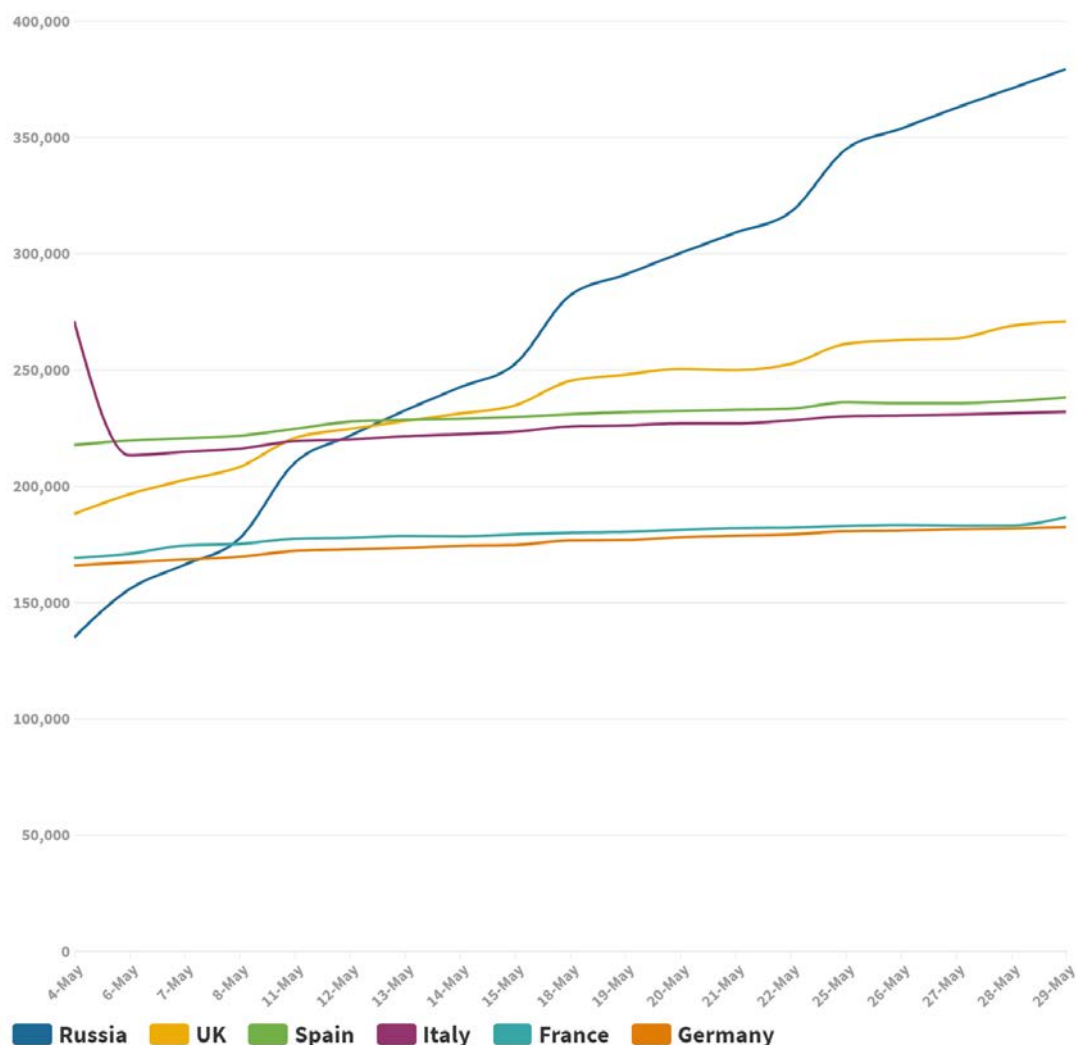
Edition: European Documentation Centre - Almería

SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN
EUROPE

Cases confirmed

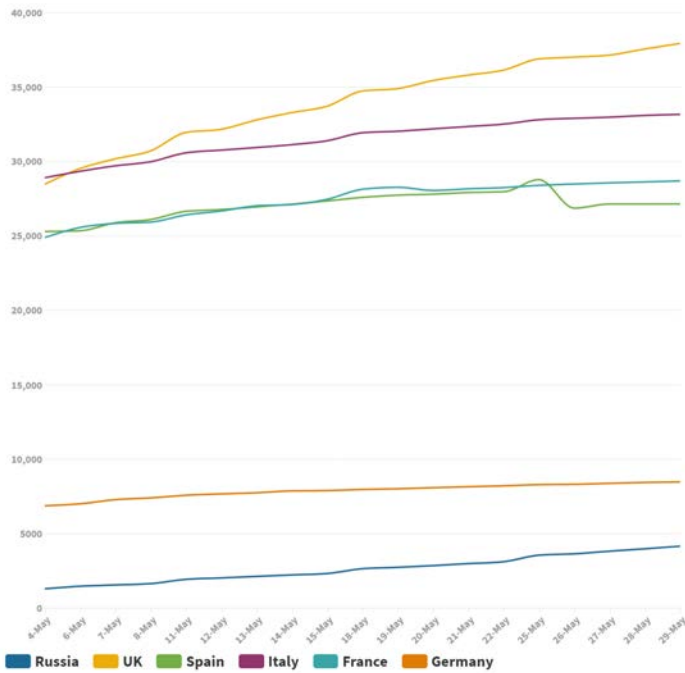


n° of cases

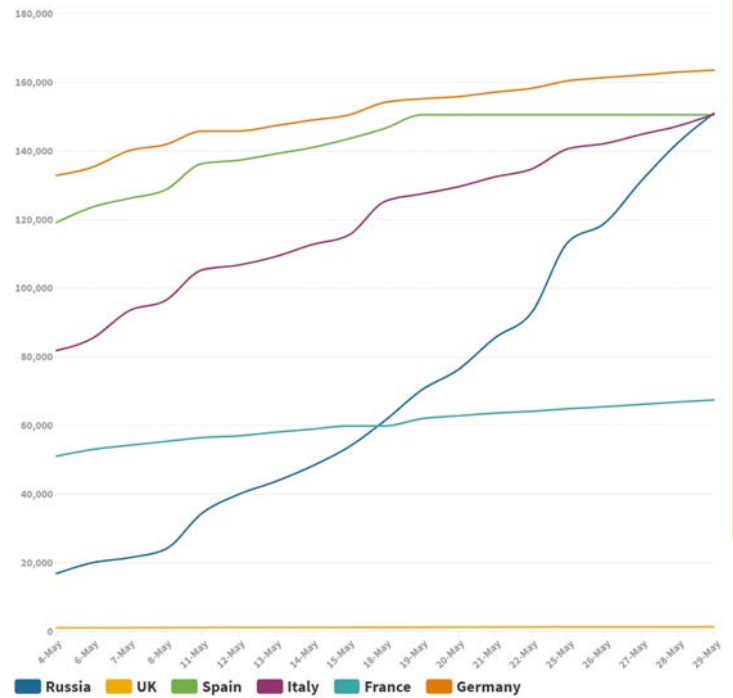




Total deaths

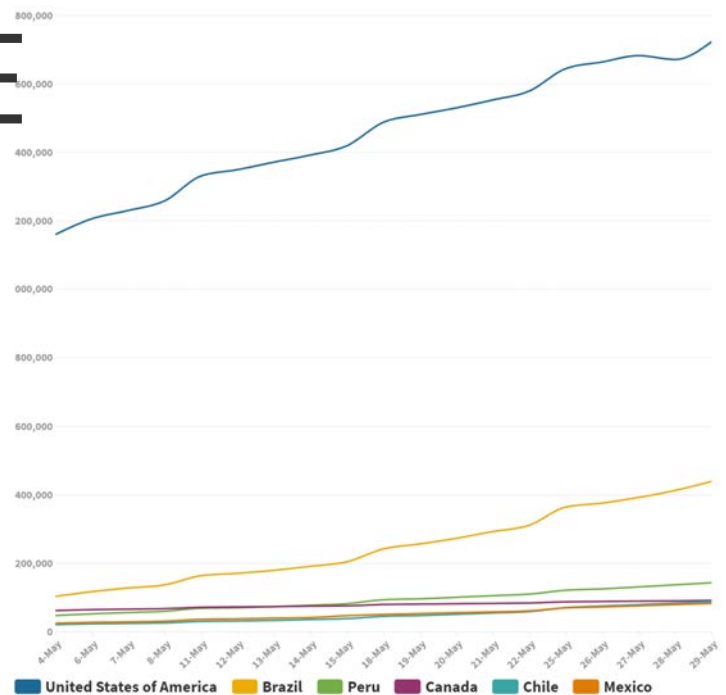


Total recovered



SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN AMERICA

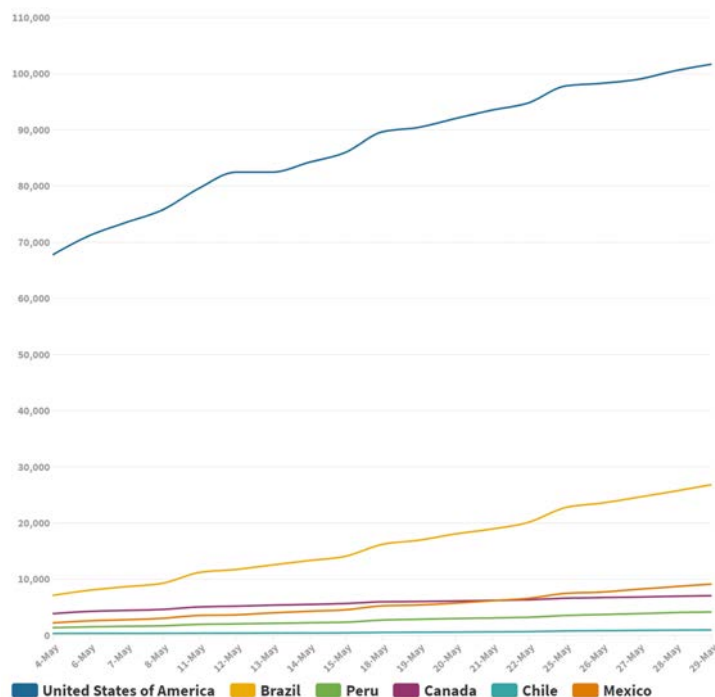
Total Cases



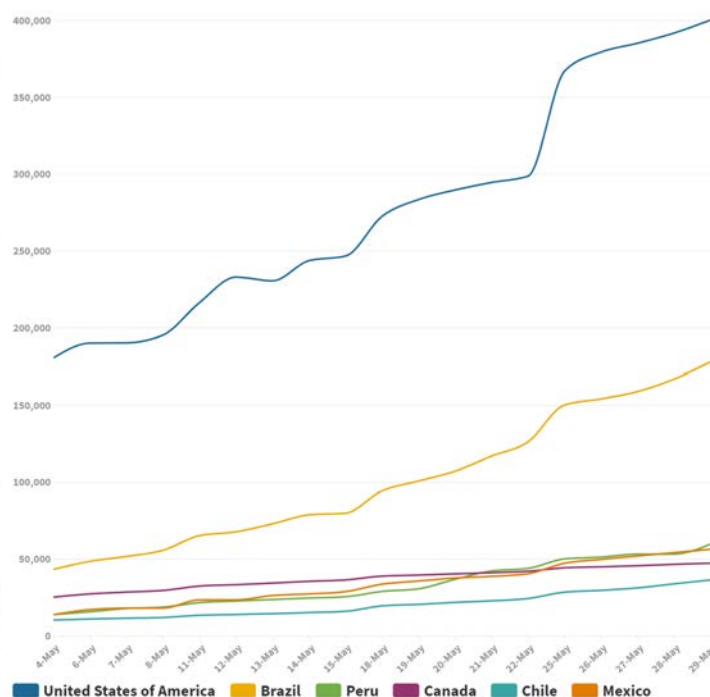


SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN THE AMERICA

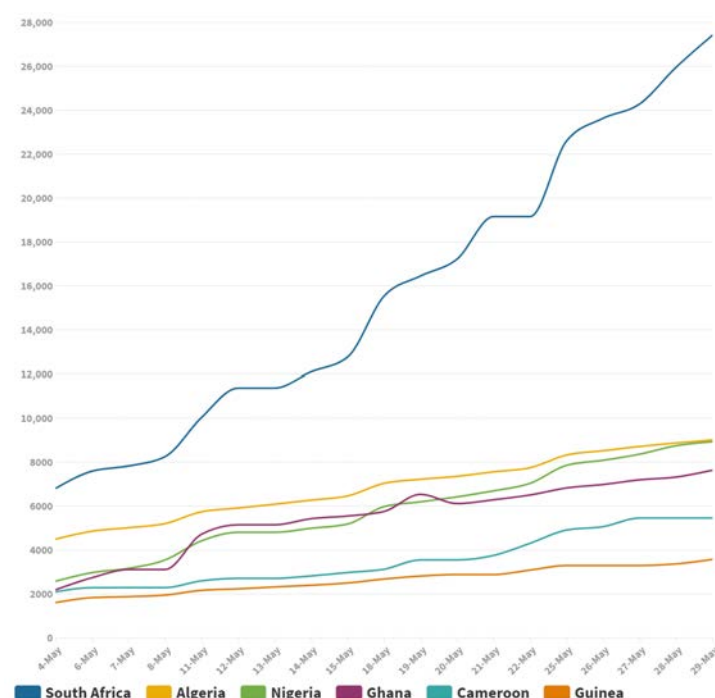
Total deaths



Total recovered



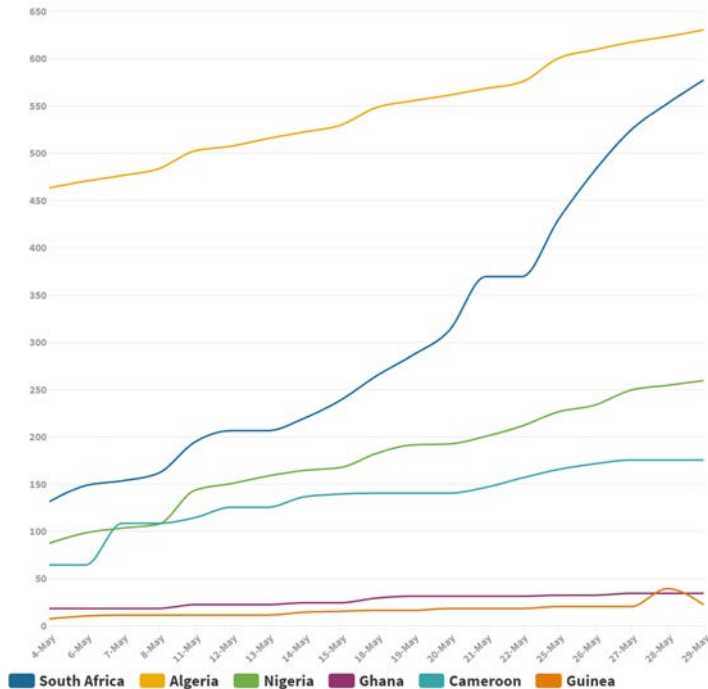
Total Cases



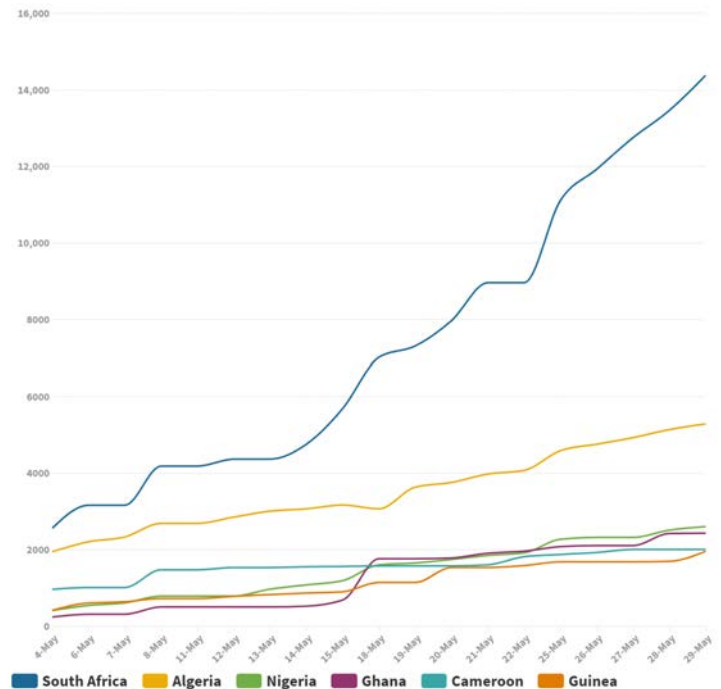
SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN AFRICA



Total deaths

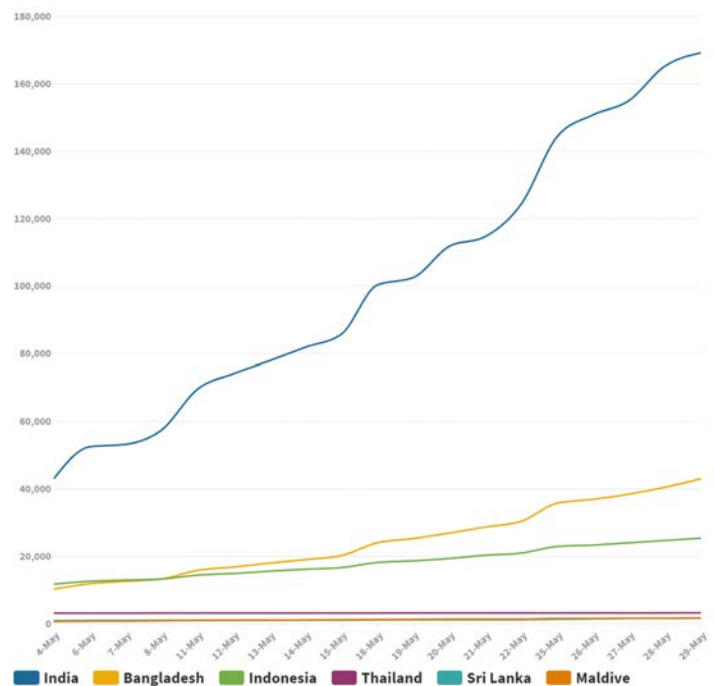


Total recovered



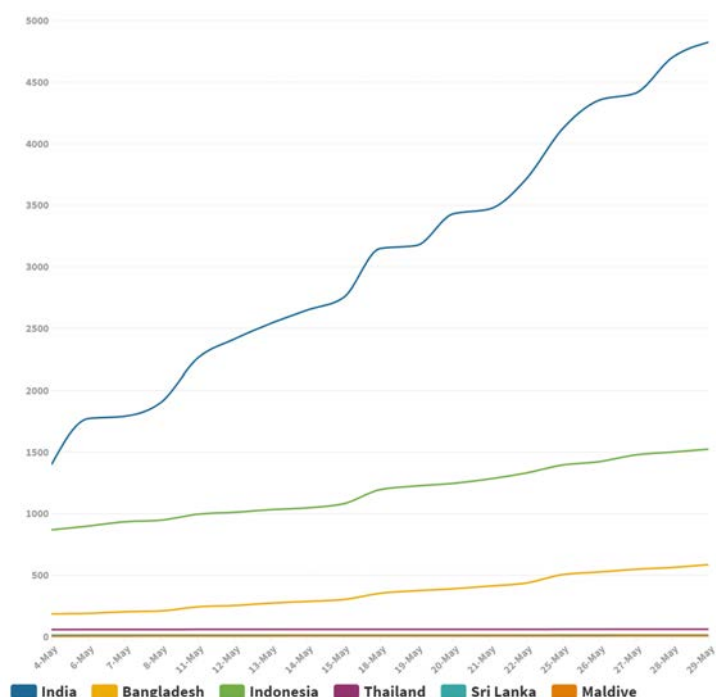
SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Total cases

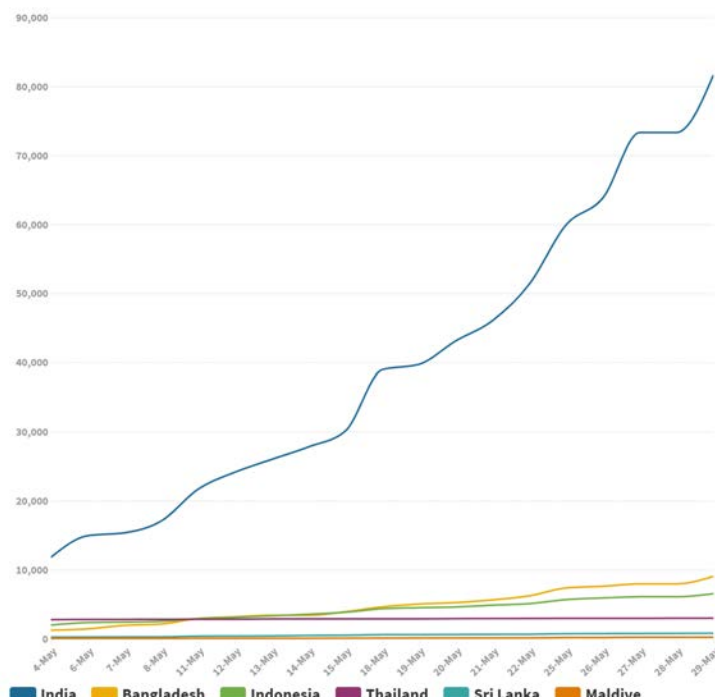




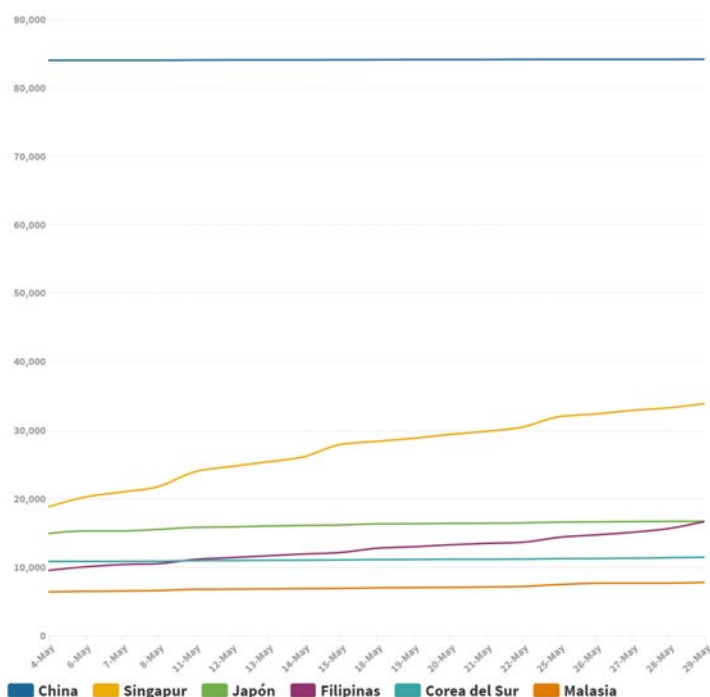
Total deaths



Total recovered



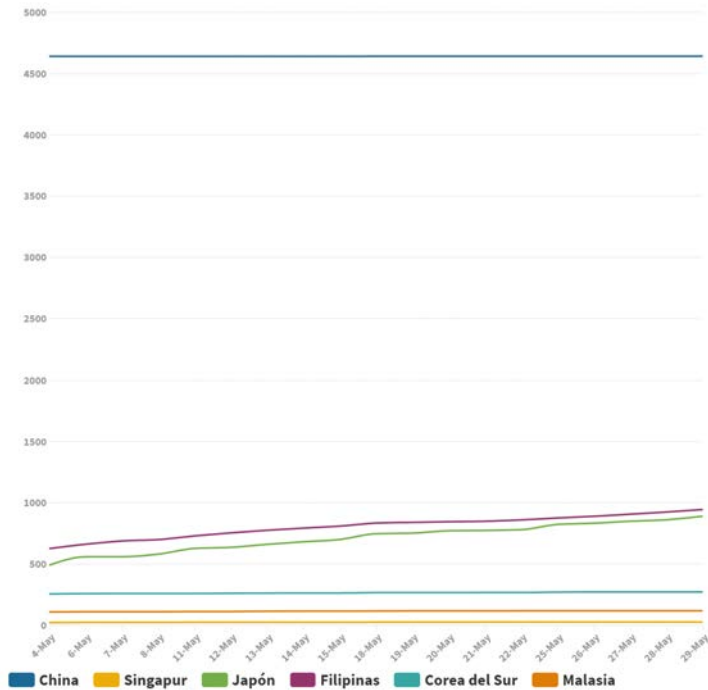
Total cases



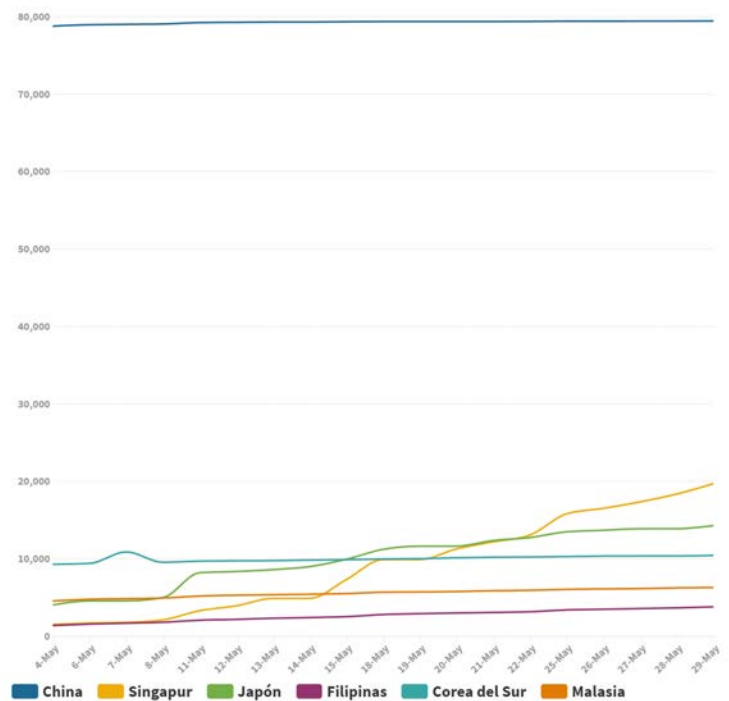
SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN WESTERN PACIFIC



Total deaths

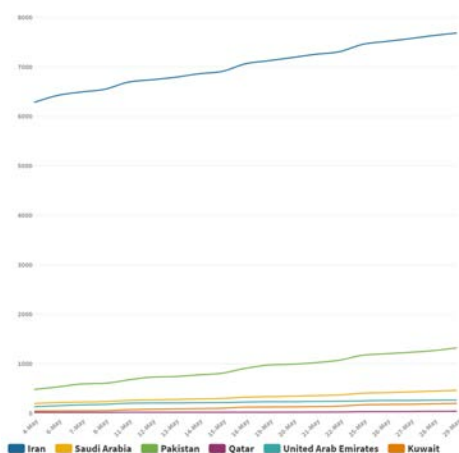


Total recovered

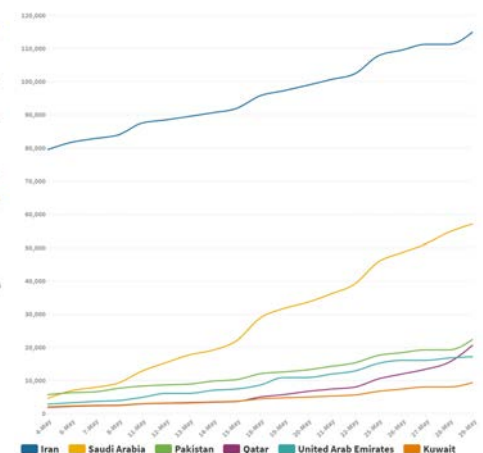


SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

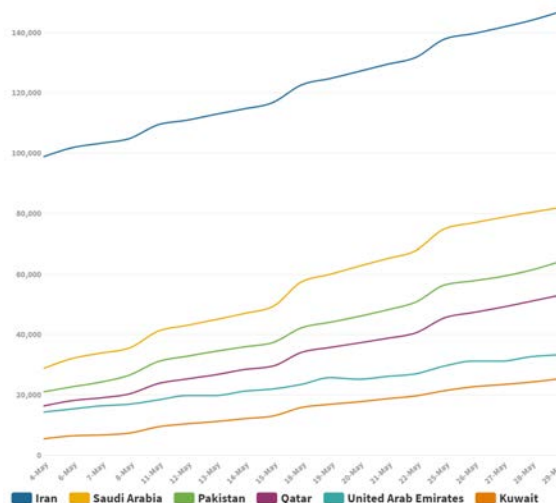
Total deaths



Total recovered

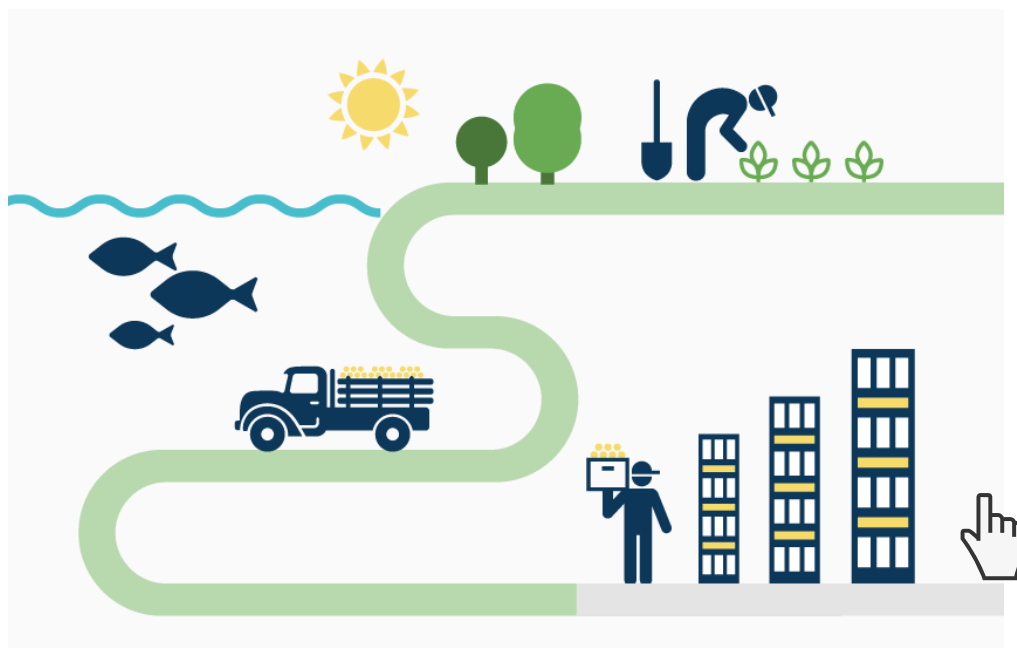


Total cases



INFOGRAPHICS

COVID-19: EU support to agriculture and fisheries



COVID-19: €3.3 billion EU package for the Western Balkans



The EU's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY



EUROPEAN AGENDA

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EUROPEAN AGENDA: AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK FARMING AND FISHERIES. N°1

Summary: In the context of the exponential growth of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the European Union, through its various institutions and agencies, continues to propose support measures for European farmers. In this publication we highlight the most significant measures taken between 27 April and 13 May 2020.

Publication Date: 14-05-2020

Author: European Documentation Centre of Almería

Keywords: Coronavirus, Covid-19, agriculture, food security, aid to agriculture and fisheries

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EUROPEAN AGENDA N°1: HEALTH

Summary: The EU complements national health policies by supporting local EU governments to achieve common objectives, pool resources and overcome shared challenges. In addition to formulating EU-wide laws and standards for health products and services, it also provides funding for health projects across the EU. In this document we highlight what the European institutions have been working on between 04 May and 14 May 2020.

Publication Date: 15-05-2020

Author: European Documentation Centre of Almería

Keywords: Coronavirus, Covid-19, Health, Member States, European Institutions

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EUROPEAN AGENDA: JUSTICE. N° 1

Summary: The European Union and its institutions are the main arena in which they focus, shape and plan what they face and how they will address many of the new regulatory challenges facing their societies. They therefore carry out valuable legislative proposals. To this end, we point out below significant events in this agenda from 06 May - 18 May 2020

Publication Date: 20-05-2020

Author: European Documentation Centre of Almería

Key words: justice, law, European Union

EUROPEAN AGENDA

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EUROPEAN AGENDA: DECONFINEMENT COVID-19. N°1

Summary: In order to face the lack of financing after the COVID-19 crisis, the European Union, the Spanish Ministry and the United Kingdom Government have established a series of measures for the citizens, with the aim of making a slow and efficient de-escalation. In this publication we highlight the most significant measures taken between 15 April and 26 May 2020.

Publication Date: 20-05-2020

Author: European Documentation Centre of Almería

Keywords: Coronavirus, Covid-19, deconfinement, confinement, mobility, Member States, European Institutions

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EUROPEAN AGENDA: EDUCATION AND CULTURE. N° 1

Summary: The European Union, through its various institutions and agencies, continues to propose support measures in the field of culture and education, focusing on the well-being of Europeans and increased educational opportunities throughout the Member states.

Publication Date: 22-05-2020

Author: European Documentation Centre of Almería

Keywords: Coronavirus, education, culture, sports, european institutions

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EUROPEAN AGENDA: ECONOMY. N° 1

Summary: European institutions and agencies are acting decisively to mitigate the socio-economic impact in the European Union of the crisis caused by the coronavirus. In this document we highlight what the European institutions have been working on to date.

Publication Date: 29-05-2020

Author: European Documentation Centre of Almería

Keywords: Coronavirus, economy, European Institutions, Agenda

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



THE ECONOMY AND CORONAVIRUS - WEEKLY PICKS 12/05/2020

Summary: This paper summarizes some recent analyses of the macroeconomic effects of the coronavirus and some policy recommendations made in the public domain to mitigate these negative effects.

Publication date: 12-05-2020

Author: European Parliament; et al.

Keywords: preparatory documents, guidelines, guidelines, policy area, economic and monetary affairs, financial and banking affairs, public health, coronavirus

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



THE COVID CONFINEMENT MEASURES AND EU LABOUR MARKETS

Summary: This document assesses the potential impact of COVID containment measures in early 2020 on EU labour markets, based on an analysis of the restrictions on economic activity imposed in three EU Member States (Italy, Spain and Germany).

Publication date: 29-04-2020

Author: Joint Research Centre (European Commission); Fernández-Macías, Enrique; Urzi Brancati, Cesira; Tolan, Songül; Fana, Marta; Torrejón, Sergio

ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-76-18366-2/1831-9424

Keywords: public health, labour market, free movement of workers, economic activity, Germany, Spain, Italy,

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EXCEPTIONAL CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT MEASURES OF BENEFIT TO EU REGIONS

Summary: The coronavirus pandemic is affecting EU regions in a variety of ways. Although the virus has spread throughout Europe, some western regions of the EU have recorded relatively higher numbers of Covid-19 cases and deaths. Most of the deaths from the virus have so far been concentrated in certain regions of Italy, Spain and France.

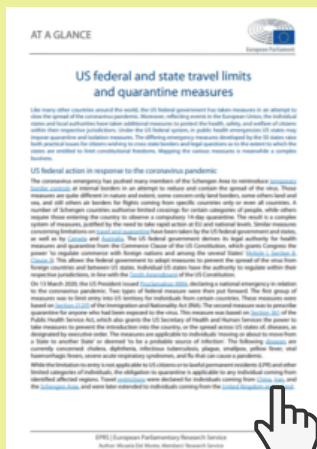
Publication date: 19-05-2020

Author: European Parliament; Margaras, Vasileios

Keywords: Coronavirus, Covid-19, health, public health, regional development, guidelines, patterns

GLOBAL QUARANTINE

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



US FEDERAL AND STATE TRAVEL LIMITS AND QUARANTINE MEASURES

Summary: Like many other countries around the world, the U.S. federal government has taken steps to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, reflecting developments in the European Union, individual states and local authorities have taken additional measures to protect the health, safety and well-being of citizens within their respective jurisdictions.

Publication date: 24-04-2020

Author: European Parliament; Monte, Michaela del

Keywords: Coronavirus, Covid-19, health, public health, United States, pandemic, citizen welfare

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



CANADA: CORONAVIRUS MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS AND QUARANTINE

Summary: Like many other countries in the world, Canada has introduced restrictions in an attempt to curb the spread of Covid-19 in the country. The federal and provincial governments have taken steps to limit international and domestic travel. Canada has banned entry to foreigners, with some exceptions. Some provinces and territories have banned entry of non-residents and/or imposed self-quarantine on travelers.

Publication date: 27-04-2020

Author: European Parliament; Hallak, Issam

Keywords: Coronavirus, Covid-19, health, public health, foreign affairs

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



AUSTRALIA'S RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Summary: The Australian federal government and state and territory governments are working together to provide an effective national response to the coronavirus pandemic. The federal government's response, in terms of emergency measures to limit the spread of the virus, includes travel restrictions and efforts to ensure that travellers are self-isolated upon arrival in Australia.

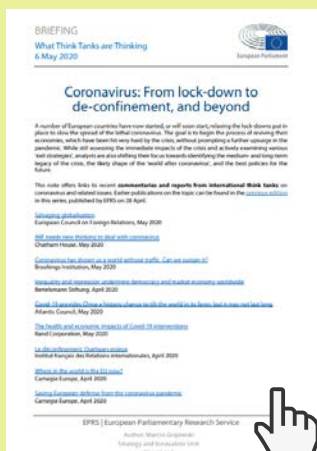
Publication date: 27-04-2020

Author: European Parliament

Keywords: Coronavirus, Covid-19, health, public health, preparatory documents, foreign affairs

DECONFINEMENT

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



CORONAVIRUS: FROM LOCK-DOWN TO DE-CONFINEMENT, AND BEYOND

Summary: Several European countries have begun, or will soon begin, to relax the blockages put in place to stop the spread of the lethal coronavirus. The aim is to begin the process of reviving their economies, which have been badly affected by the crisis, without causing a new upsurge in the pandemic. Analysts are also focusing on identifying the medium- and long-term legacy of the crisis, the likely shape of the "post-Coronavirus world" and the best policies for the future.

Publication date: 06-05-2020

Author: Parliament of the European Union, Marcin Grajewski

Keywords: guidelines, de-confinement, de-escalation, comments, reports, policies, think tanks, coronavirus

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



CONTACT TRACING FOR COVID-19: CURRENT EVIDENCE, OPTIONS FOR SCALE-UP AND AN ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES NEEDED

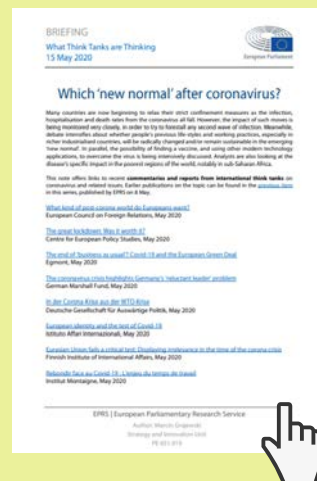
Summary: This document outlines a number of resource measures, including the use of well-trained non-public health sector staff and volunteers; the re-use of existing resources such as call centres; the reduction of contact tracing intensity; and the use of new technologies such as contact management software and mobile applications.

Publication date: 05-05-2020

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Keywords: coronavirus, covid-19, health, prevention, risk

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



WHICH 'NEW NORMAL' AFTER CORONAVIRUS? [WHAT THINK TANKS ARE THINKING]

Summary: Many countries are beginning to relax their strict containment measures as rates of infection, hospitalization and death from coronavirus decline. However, the impact of such movements is being closely monitored to try to avoid a second wave of infection.

Publication date: 15-05-2020

Author: European Parliament; Cesluk-Grajewski, Marcin

Keywords: public health, covid-19, coronavirus, de-escalation

MEDICAL RESEARCH

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EXCEPTIONAL CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT MEASURES OF BENEFIT TO EU REGIONS

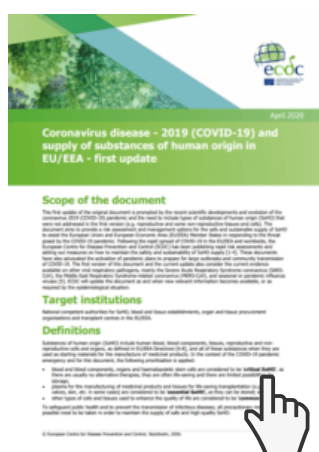
Summary: The Global Coronavirus Response brings together global players and helps align their efforts to ensure that all new vaccines, diagnostics and treatments are available worldwide at an affordable price, regardless of where they were developed.

Publication date: 06-05-2020

Author: Directorate-General for Communication (European Commission)

Keywords: public health, scientific cooperation, international cooperation, right to health, medical diagnosis, infectious disease, testing, epidemic, medical research, international role of the EU, public health, therapeutics, vaccine

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND SUPPLY OF SUBSTANCES OF HUMAN ORIGIN IN THE EU/EEA – FIRST UPDATE

Summary: This first update of the original document is due to recent scientific developments and the evolution of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic (COVID-19) and the need to include types of substances of human origin (SoHO) that were not addressed in the first version (e.g., reproductive and some non-reproductive cells and tissues).

Publication date: 29-04-2020

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Keywords: coronavirus, covid-19, health, prevention, risk, transport

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



RAPID RISK ASSESSMENT: PAEDIATRIC INFLAMMATORY MULTISYSTEM SYNDROME AND SARS -COV-2 INFECTION IN CHILDREN

Abstract: Several countries affected by the coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19) recently reported cases of children who were hospitalized in intensive care due to a rare pediatric multisystemic inflammatory syndrome (PIMS).

Publication date: 15-05-2020

Keywords: coronavirus, COVID-19, fever, ebola, influenza, influenza in humans, middle eastern seasonal respiratory syndrome, public health threat, children

TRANSPORT

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



CONSIDERATIONS FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Summary: This document provides advice on personal protection measures in public transport (e.g. bus, metro, train, commuter boats).

Publication date: 29-04-2020

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Keywords: coronavirus, covid-19, health, prevention, risk, transport

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EU SHIPPING AND PORTS FACING CORONAVIRUS

Summary: Maritime transport accounts for about 75% of the EU's external trade and 30% of the intra-EU transport of goods. As part of the wider international maritime community, it supports the complex supply chains that transport food, energy and raw materials, manufactured goods and components, as well as medical supplies. Given this situation, maritime transport, ports and shipping are facing a new set of challenges that require EU support and a coordinated approach from governments around the world.

Publication date: 11-05-2020

Author: Parliament of the European Union, Marketa, Pape

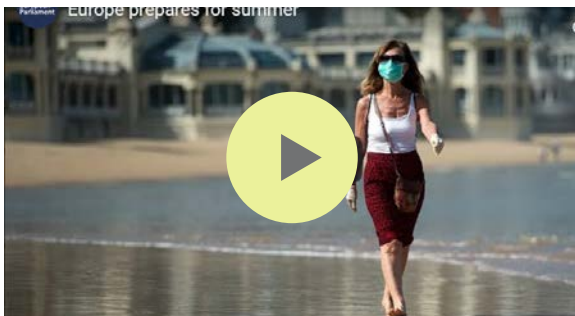
Keywords: report, Coronavirus, Covid-19, maritime transport, ports, inland navigation



MEDIA COLLECTION



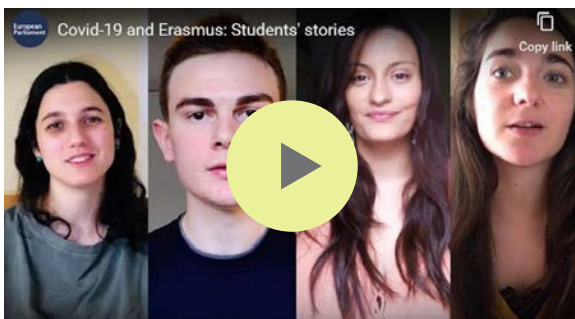
Europe prepares for summer



Tourism and transportation have suffered months of confinement, but now some travelers are hoping to take a summer break. Parliament has consistently called on the Commission to support the tourism sector during the Covid-19.

Source: European Parliament

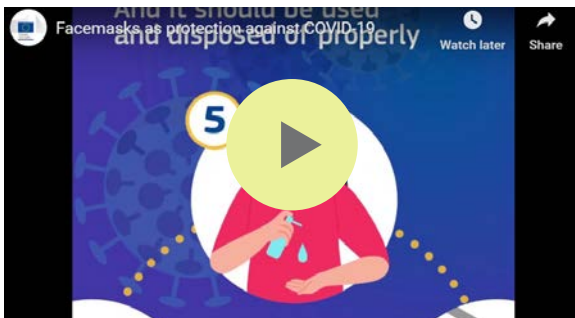
Covid-19 and Erasmus: Students' stories



165,000 Erasmus exchange students and 5,000 Solidarity Corps volunteers have had their projects suspended due to health restrictions at Covid-19. Four students tell their stories.

Source: European Parliament

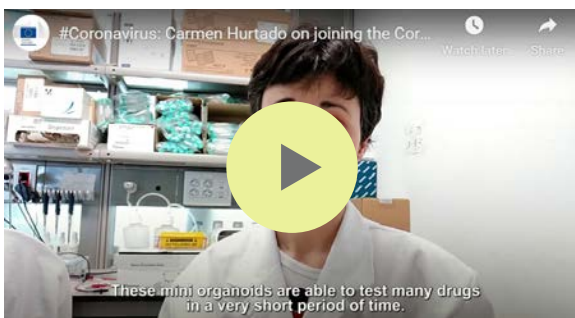
Facemasks as protection against COVID-19



Wearing a mask in public is, above all, an act of solidarity. They can help keep us safe and healthy, if used properly and in combination with other preventive measures.

Source: European Parliament

#Coronavirus: Carmen Hurtado on joining the Coronavirus Global Response



Carmen Hurtado, researcher at the Institute of Bioengineering of Catalonia, explains the importance of participating in initiatives such as the Coronavirus Global Response.

Source: European Commission

RescEU delivers face masks to Spain



The EU has mobilised medical teams, masks and aid to EU countries affected by the coronavirus. RescEU is the first common stock of medical and protective equipment; RescEU is sending masks, ventilators and vaccines..

Source: European Commission

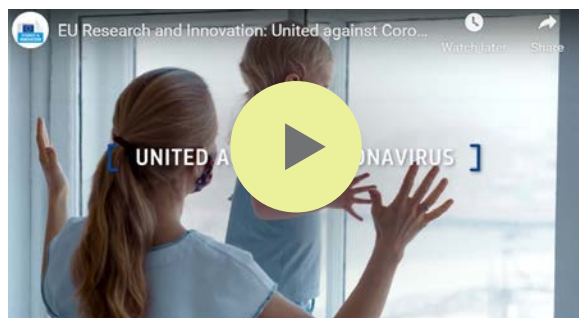
10 things the EU is doing to fight coronavirus



The EU continues to play a central role in the response to the coronavirus pandemic. While the short-term priority is to fight the spread of the virus and to support Member States, the long-term goal is to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the crisis.

Source: European Parliament

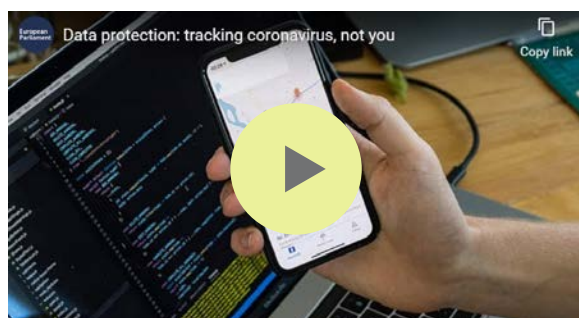
EU Research and Innovation: United against Coronavirus



Progress and results of EU research and innovation in the fight against coronavirus.

Source: Science & Innovation EU

Data protection: tracking coronavirus, not you



To track the evolution and spread of Covid-19, national governments are exploring the potential of coronavirus tracking applications.

Source: European Parliament



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