

EDC UAL

EDC UAL BULLETIN N° 50

JULY 2020

INTERVIEWS

MR. JOSÉ CARA GONZÁLEZ

President of IFAPA

MR. PEDRO CAPARRÓS

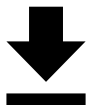
CEO of Caparrós Nature

EU: Agreement on recovery package



PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES UAL

*European project
Thermochemical Fluids in
Greenhouse Farming
Family and childhood
facing covid-19:
psychological impact*



Download this bulletin in PDF to navigate through its interactive index

INDEX

INTERVIEW

<i>Mr. José Cara González</i>	3
<i>Mr. Pedro Caparrós</i>	5

NEWS

<i>Economic Affairs</i>	10
<i>Institutional Affairs</i>	13
<i>Health</i>	20
<i>Sustainability</i>	25
<i>Agruculture</i>	30
<i>Juridic Affairs</i>	33
<i>Defence</i>	36

PROJECTS AND INICIATIVES UAL

<i>European project Thermochemical Fluids in Greenhouse Farming</i>	40
<i>Family and childhood facing covid-19: psychological impact</i>	41

CALLS AND PROJECTS

<i>H2020 Calls</i>	45
<i>Euraxess Calss</i>	47
<i>Other Calls</i>	49

STATISTICS AND INFOGRAPHICS **51**

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY, SERIALS, AND MAGAZINES **60**

MEDIA COLLECTION **67**



Download this bulletin in PDF to navigate through its interactive index

INTERVIEWS



INTERVIEWS

Mr. José Cara González

Source: EDC UAL

Ana Fe Gil Serra, Director of the European Documentation Centre in Almería interviews Mr. José Cara González.

José Cara González (Almería, 1971) has an Agricultural Engineering degree from the University of Córdoba, a diploma in Advanced Engineering Studies from the University of Almería and is a professor in the Department of Construction Engineering at the University of Almería.

His professional career began as a freelancer doing engineering work for companies related to agricultural activity, work that he combined with the technical management of Agroejido SA. In the last few years he has been working as the administrator of his own agricultural production and commercialization company.

Regarding his political activity, he has been Mayor of the Almería municipality of La Mojonera (2003-2015) and he was a regional deputy between 2008 and 2014, chairing, during this period, the Agriculture Committee of the Andalusian Parliament.

QUESTION. Spain is the fourth largest exporter of food products in the EU. The crisis caused by covid-19 has confirmed the strategic value of this sector, which represents 11% of our GDP. Being one of the most significant economic sectors in Andalusia, how do you think this Andalusian sector has responded to the challenge of maintaining the agri-food supply chain during the months of confinement?

ANSWER. The response of the sector has been exemplary, making a great effort during these months of so much uncertainty, to continue providing a service that is essential to society. From IFAPA we want to highlight and thank the impeccable work all the primary sector has been doing during these months in order to guarantee the supply of essential products, demonstrating once again that they are a key part of the agro-food chain.



QUESTION: According to the new CAP model, farmers will have to apply management practices and standards to mitigate climate change and preserve biodiversity. How does IFAPA's training work reflect the requirements of the European Green Pact?

IFAPA has been working for a long time to meet the new requirements set by Europe in order to offer our producers more sustainable alternatives. We are working on an Alternative Plan to the use of phytosanitary products in order to improve food safety and the environment.

All possible means have been put in place to work towards finding solutions for establishing a feasible alternative that will enable us to adapt to comply with the European directive on the sustainable use of phytosanitary products and the National Action Plan (NAP) that Member States are obliged to implement.

In the last year, we have trained 10,734 farmers in this field, instructing them on how to improve the effectiveness of treatments, reduce the cost of stock, decrease environmental pollution and reduce the risk for applicators.



INTERVIEWS

Mr. José Cara González

The measures in this plan include and will continue including practically all the research carried out by IFAPA with the aim of providing Andalusian agricultural systems with the necessary knowledge to improve the sustainability and competitiveness of Andalusian agri-food products.

"In the last year, we have trained 10,734 farmers in this field, instructing them on how to improve the effectiveness of treatments, reduce the cost of stock, decrease environmental pollution and reduce the risk for applicators"

QUESTION. IFAPA participates in numerous international research and innovation projects, such as the one it is currently leading on greenhouse production with passive heating and cooling systems and in which the University of Almeria, Cajamar and the Murcia Institute of Agricultural and Food Research and Development collaborate. Likewise, IFAPA's participation in various international meetings such as the European Geosciences Union, EGU General Assembly 2020, which took place last May, highlights the quality of the research carried out in Andalusia in this sector. How do you assess the work carried out by the institution you preside over in comparison with work carried out by other European regions?

ANSWER. One of the main goals of our Institution is the collaboration with public-private entities, both national and international. This enables us to provide solutions on a regional level as well as on both national and international levels by participating in national and European projects. As a result, we can join forces with other regions in the search for a joint response to current needs and problems in order to achieve more sustainable and economically viable agri-food sectors.

QUESTION: What are, in your opinion, the main challenges that the Andalusian agri-food sector will have to face in the coming years?

ANSWER. In line with the previous answer, the main challenge that the Andalusian agri-food sector will have to face is making these sectors more sustainable and competitive. By doing so, we will be able to reduce one of the major problems we are currently facing, which is depopulation of rural environments and with it, the loss of activity in the primary sector, which is so necessary for our society.

We must ensure not only that these sectors are sustainable, but also that they are viable in order to make them more attractive and to allow the rural population to remain in place.



"We must ensure not only that these sectors are sustainable, but also that they are viable in order to make them more attractive and to allow the rural population to remain in place"

INTERVIEWS

Mr. Pedro Caparrós

Source: EDC UAL

Ana Fe Gil Serra, Director of the European Documentation Centre in Almería interviews Mr. Pedro Caparrós.

Caparrós Nature is a family-run company, set up in 1984 in Almería, whose main activity is the production, handling, packaging and marketing of high-quality fresh products throughout Spain and abroad. Since the beginning, when Frutas Caparrós was born, quality, values and commitment to differentiation have guided its business strategy along the entire value chain, from production on its own farms, passing through the classification, packaging and marketing of fruit and vegetables to the end consumer. For Caparrós Nature, people come first; all those who are part of this company offer the best of themselves at the service of society.

"Caparrós Nature is the story of a dream that came true for all of us and with the effort of many"

One of the first lessons we have learned during this pandemic is the essential and strategic value of the Spanish agri-food sector. The fear among a large part of our population of suffering from food shortages, especially in the most populated cities, grew during the first weeks of confinement due to the implementation of the state of alarm. The effort made by food companies, transportation and supermarket chains allowed us to meet the demands of consumers. However, ensuring supply has meant, in the case of companies in the agri-food sector, which generate 19% of industrial employment in Spain, an increase in security measures for their employees, a rise in costs and more difficulty in maintaining our commitments to international clients as a result of border closures.

QUESTION: How did the Caparros Group deal with the first weeks of the Covid-19 crisis?

ANSWER. None of us could have imagined how this campaign would turn out, and I believe that we are not still capable of seeing the magnitude of the



situation, since it requires the perspective that time always provides in order to assimilate, if possible, everything that this virus has taken away from us, especially that many human lives.

We have lived it with much uncertainty and concern, but attempting within the initial confusion to anticipate what was coming upon us. Therefore, before the state of alarm was decreed, we'd already adopted the first measures of shift spacing, disinfections, and protocol of action, all with many difficulties due to the lack of PPE, and everything that is already known.

The advantage of having years of experience and a great team of people has allowed us to quickly and with great agility implement the prevention protocol and the contingency and continuity plan, all to ensure the health and safety of our employees. Having the Caparrós Group staff, with its values and responsibility, allowed us, from the very beginning, to adapt to the new circumstances and to be able to continue working with the necessary guarantees to supply the population while taking care of the health of our staff.



INTERVIEWS

Mr. Pedro Caparrós

No words can express my gratitude for the professionalism and courage of our employees and farmers who, in such difficult and exceptional times, brought out the best of each one to serve society.

Finally, at this time of so much anguish, with a confined country, and staying loyal to our values, we have been able to carry out, within our possibilities, actions of solidarity and affection with health workers, the elderly, the catering sector, all the taxi drivers in Almería and, of course, our workers. Each and every one of our employees and farmers have been recognized by the company for their work and effort. Without them it would not have been possible to feed society with our fundamental and strategic products in order to continue living.

QUESTION: Did European and Spanish consumer habits change during the months of confinement?

ANSWER. At the beginning we experienced a few days of compulsive purchasing, a consequence of the fear of the unknown and the uncertainty of the future; it generated a one-off increase of the demand in the households and then a slowdown of the sales due to the closing of the hotel and restaurant channel, and of the whole tourist sector worldwide. But in the end, the situation returned to a certain normality in terms of sales.

From now on, we must carefully observe the new trends that the post-covid 19 consumer will be demanding. Now we are all looking for security and confidence in general and especially if we talk about our own food. For this reason, Caparrós Nature has been the first Spanish company in our sector to be certified by AENOR against the coronavirus, which certifies that throughout the process carried out in our company, measures have been developed to guarantee security against covid 19 and this is a great external guarantee to verify the correct implementation of the measures adopted and their effectiveness.

I believe that from now on consumers will look for trustworthy and value-driven brands, which will give them security and confidence in these times of uncertainty.

There is also a trend towards local consumption. Caparrós has always opted for local suppliers and farmers. We are also producers with our own land, which allows us to guarantee food safety and traceability at every moment.

Apart from these two factors, I dare to point out a third one which is that there has been an increased concern and awareness about healthy habits and nutrition. In this respect Caparrós already has an advantage and experience, as we are the first company in the sector to be certified by AENOR as a healthy company.

"I believe that from now on consumers will look for trustworthy and value-driven brands, which will give them security and confidence in these times of uncertainty."

We must not forget either that the concept of integral sustainability has come to stay and following our commitment to this economic, social and environmental sustainability, we have just made our first sustainability report to be shared with the whole society.

Although these are very difficult times for everyone, difficulties must always be seen as opportunities and our company is, and will continue to be, a synonym for quality, guarantee, transparency and values.



INTERVIEWS

Mr. Pedro Caparrós

"Difficulties must always be seen as opportunities and our company is, and will continue to be, a synonym for quality, guarantee, transparency and values"

QUESTION: Currently, we are in a stage of uncertainty and both companies and the public administration are developing contingency plans, assessing the development of various measures according to foreseeable scenarios. What are the main conclusions that the Caparrós Group has drawn from this experience?

ANSWER. The first conclusion we draw is that, without a doubt, the most important capital that Caparrós has is its personnel, and for this reason it is the cornerstone on which our entire company is built. For us the first thing is our people. Without their effort and commitment, both of our employees and producers, it would not have been possible to continue with our activity.

With respect to the employees I would like to acknowledge their effort by coming every day to their workplace and without the support of schools, or day-care centres, or family members, etc.

Our producers have also proved to be a highly professional strategic sector. They have worked every day maintaining at all times the quality that they themselves demand. For example, two of our premium products, our Caparrós Premium watermelon and the Lobello branch cherry tomato, have achieved the highest quality score in the prestigious International Taste Institute in Brussels, during a blind tasting carried out by the best chefs in the world. This has been possible because our producers are great professionals in all circumstances.



For all these reasons, the second great experience is the capacity of adaptation and professionalism of our sector, becoming once again a dynamic and competitive one.

QUESTION: According to various analyses of the agri-food sector, it seems that in the very near future, trends in consumer behaviour, which were already evident in previous years, will become more relevant, such as the demand for healthy and sustainable products of national production or the concern for the nutritional properties of products. One of the main signs of identity of the Caparrós Group is the innovation and quality of its products. How do you prepare to continue being faithful to your commitment to your consumers?

ANSWER. It is true that innovation and quality have been two of the hallmarks of Caparrós since its beginnings 36 years ago, but we are always faithful to our values and our commitment to society through social responsibility, and this will never change.

"Two of our premium products, our Caparrós Premium watermelon and the Lobello branch cherry tomato, have achieved the highest quality score in the prestigious International Taste Institute in Brussels"



INTERVIEWS

Mr. Pedro Caparrós

We are currently working intensively on some innovation projects concerning the circular economy, pre-prepared convenience food, etc. The quality of our products has also been recognised this year by international chefs who have given us the highest possible score (only products which have passed a score of 90 out of 100 receive three gold stars) as well as by consumers who have awarded us with the Flavour of the Year 2019 and 2020 for both Caparrós Premium watermelon and Lobello pear cherry tomatoes.

Sandia Caparrós Premium Sin pepitas



Furthermore, our firm commitment to excellence and continuous improvement has led us to design and plan our sustainability strategy, in which economic, social and environmental development is a commitment and a strong pillar on which our business growth is based.

QUESTION: Tom Peters noted in a recent statement, "This is the moment you will be remembered for. The way you behave now will be the way people, your team, remember you. From your long management career, during which you have seen the Caparrós Group grow from a small company to a benchmark in the Almeria agri-food sector, what guidelines would you recommend to SMEs in light of the situation of maximum uncertainty such as the one we are experiencing?"

ANSWER. Consumer confidence and the brand's recognition is not achieved from one day to another, but rather it is achieved and earned every day. For me, the best way always, and in times of much more instability, is to act consistently with our values of ethics, integrity and transparency, no matter how much the winds may change, our values are well established. The key to success, if it exists, is to remain true to our commitment to our values and to the society that we work for. This is a different way of understanding the company, focusing on values and people to generate and share value.

The key to success, if it exists, is to remain true to our commitment to our values and to the society that we work for. This is a different way of understanding the company, focusing on values and people to generate and share value.

NEWS



EU: Agreement on recovery package

Source: European Council

Published in EDC UAL: 21.07.2020

"We have done it: Europe is strong, Europe is robust and, above all, Europe is united"

Charles Michel

EU leaders agreed a recovery package and the 2021-2027 budget that will help the EU to rebuild after the pandemic and will support investment in the green and digital transitions.

The socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 crisis requires a joint and innovative effort at EU level in order to support the recovery and resilience of the member states' economies.

To achieve the desired result and be sustainable, the recovery effort should be linked to the traditional MFF, which has shaped EU budgetary policies since 1988 and offers a long-term perspective.

EU leaders have agreed to a comprehensive package of **€1 824.3 billion** which combines the **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)** and an extraordinary recovery effort under the **Next Generation EU (NGEU)** instrument.

Long-term EU budget

The new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will cover seven years between 2021 and 2027. The MFF, reinforced by Next Generation EU, will also be the main instrument for implementing the recovery package to tackle the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The size of the MFF – €1 074.3 billion – will allow the EU to fulfill its long-term objectives and preserve the full capacity of the recovery plan. This proposal is largely based on the proposal made by President Michel in February, which reflected two years of discussions between member states.

The MFF will cover the following spending areas:

- single market, innovation and digital
- cohesion, resilience and values
- natural resources and the environment
- migration and border management
- security and defence neighbourhood and the world
- European public administration

Recovery Fund

The recovery fund, through NGEU will provide the Union with the necessary means to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the agreement the Commission will be able to borrow up to **€750 billion** on the markets. These funds may be used for back-to-back loans and for expenditure channelled through the MFF programmes. Capital raised on the financial markets will be repaid by 2058 ■



NEWS

The amounts available under NGEU will be allocated to seven individual programmes:

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), ReactEU, Horizon Europe, InvestEU, Rural Development, Just Transition Fund and RescEU.



Loans and grants

€390 billion from the package will be distributed in the form of grants to member states and €360 billion in loans.

Allocation from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) para la Recuperación y la Resistencia (FRR)

The plan ensures the money goes to the countries and sectors most affected by the crisis: 70% under the grants of the Recovery and Resilience Facility will be committed in **2021 and 2022** and **30% will be committed in 2023**.

Allocations from the RRF in 2021-2022 will be established according to the Commission's allocation criteria taking into account member states' respective living standards, size and unemployment levels.

For 2023 allocations, **the unemployment criterion** will be replaced by the drop in GDP in 2020 and 2021.

ACCESS FULL NEWS



#Economic Affairs

Governance and conditionality

In line with the principles of good governance, member states will prepare national recovery and resilience plans for 2021-2023. These will need to be consistent with the country-specific recommendations and contribute to green and digital transitions. More specifically, the plans are required to boost growth and jobs and reinforce the “economic and social resilience” of EU countries. The plans will be reviewed in 2022. The assessment of these plans will be approved by the Council by a qualified majority vote on a proposal by the Commission.

The disbursement of grants will take place only if the agreed milestones and targets set out in the recovery and resilience plans are fulfilled.

If, exceptionally, one or more member states consider that there are serious deviations from the satisfactory fulfillment of the relevant milestones and targets, they may request that the President of the European Council refer the matter to the next European Council.

Climate action

30% of the total expenditure from the MFF and Next Generation EU will target climate-related projects. Expenses under the MFF and Next Generation EU will comply with the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050, the EU's 2030 climate targets and the Paris Agreement.

Rule of law

The Union's financial interests will be protected in accordance with the general principles embedded in the Union Treaties, in particular the values referred to in Article 2 TEU. The European Council also underlines the importance of the respect of the rule of law. Based on this background, a regime of conditionality to protect the budget and Next Generation EU will be introduced ■

Summer 2020 Economic Forecast

Source: European Commission

Published in EDC UAL: 10.07.2020

The EU economy will experience a deep recession this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, despite the swift and comprehensive policy response at both EU and national levels. Because the lifting of lockdown measures is proceeding at a more gradual pace than assumed in our Spring Forecast, the impact on economic activity in 2020 will be more significant than anticipated.

The Summer 2020 Economic Forecast projects that the euro area economy will contract by 8.7% in 2020 and grow by 6.1% in 2021. The EU economy is forecast to contract by 8.3% in 2020 and grow by 5.8% in 2021. The contraction in 2020 is, therefore, projected to be significantly greater than the 7.7% projected for the euro area and 7.4% for the EU as a whole in the Spring Forecast. Growth in 2021 will also be slightly less robust than projected in the spring.

Recovery expected to gain traction in second half of 2020

The impact of the pandemic on economic activity was already considerable in the first quarter of 2020, even though most Member States only began introducing lockdown measures in mid-March. With a far longer period of disruption and lockdown taking place in the second quarter of 2020, economic output is expected to have contracted significantly more than in the first quarter.

However, early data for May and June suggest that the worst may have passed. The recovery is expected to gain traction in the second half of the year, albeit remaining incomplete and uneven across Member States.

An unchanged outlook for inflation

The overall outlook for inflation has changed little since the Spring Forecast, although there have been significant changes to the underlying forces driving prices.

While oil and food prices have risen more than expected, their effect is expected to be balanced by the weaker economic outlook and the effect of VAT reductions and other measures taken in some Member States.



For the UK, a purely technical assumption

Given that the future relations between the EU and the UK are not yet clear, projections for 2021 are based on a purely technical assumption of status quo in terms of their trading relations. This is for forecasting purposes only and reflects no anticipation nor prediction as regards the outcome of the negotiations between the EU and the UK on their future relationship ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



€400 million to finance the investments of SMEs in Spain and Italy

Source: EIB

Published in EDC UAL: 17.06.2020

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has provided €200 million in financing to DLL, a global asset finance company for equipment and technology, and wholly owned subsidiary of Rabobank, to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and contribute to a greener economy. As part of the agreement, DLL will provide a further €200 million, meaning that €400 million in total will be made available to SMEs in Spain and Italy. These two countries have seen their economies deeply impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis and local businesses should benefit greatly from this programme.



This EIB financing will strengthen DLL's capacity to support the investments of businesses, especially in the transport, machinery and bio-economy sectors. DLL will leverage this facility to increase its support of sustainability investments for Spanish and Italian SMEs. DLL will specifically increase its financing for projects focused on the transition to a low carbon- economy, which is a major goal of the EIB Group activity. These projects include the installation of solar panels, replacement of self-propelled agricultural tractors and substitution of diesel-fuelled forklifts with electric equipment.

Furthermore, the programme will promote leasing as an alternative financing solution to standard bank loans. This type of financing is particularly beneficial to SMEs, which typically have limited capital and have difficulty providing sufficient collateral to secure loan financing, especially during difficult times. The companies accessing this credit line will be able to receive financing with competitive maturity and interest rate terms.

This will be the third transaction the EIB has contracted with DLL, and the first one between both entities with a specific sustainability component for Spain and Italy. Spanish companies will have access to 65% of this facility, while Italian businesses will have access to 35%.

EIB Vice-President Emma Navarro, responsible for EIB operations in Spain and for the Bank's climate action, stated:

"Supporting SMEs is one of the EIB Group top priorities, specially in a difficult context such as the one we are in today, when these small businesses are among the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, the importance of signing this agreement to provide funding to SMEs in Spain and Italy. Thanks to this operation, companies will be able to access new credit lines to maintain or continue growing their business and thus create jobs, while contributing to a green economic recovery of the EU" ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



European Agenda: Institutionals Affairs

Source: EDC UAL

Published in EDC UAL: 24.06.2020

The European Union and its institutions act across a range of areas including EU enlargement and accession negotiations, international relations, issues relating to the EU's institutional structure and external action matters, all with the aim of offering and promoting an EU as a community of values, advocating a comprehensive and efficient approach to protecting and promoting the rule of law in the EU.

June 22, EU-Balkans: Zagreb Declaration: substantial partnership

In these unprecedented times, the European Union reiterated once again its explicit support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans at the virtual Zagreb Summit on 6 May 2020. Its main outcome, the Zagreb Declaration, agreed by the Heads of State and Government from EU Member States and the leaders of the six Western Balkans partners - Albania, Bosnia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo, confirmed the EU support to the Western Balkans and its commitment to actively support their efforts to combat the coronavirus outbreak, its impacts on societies and economies and the post-pandemic recovery. To that end, the EU has mobilised a package of over EUR 3.3 billion, including 750 million EUR of Macro-Financial Assistance, and a 1.7 billion EUR package of assistance from the European Investment Bank.

These measures will be followed by a new phase of close cooperation to address the enormous effects of the socio-economic crisis.

The Zagreb declaration highlights the promising prospect of lasting cooperation and could serve as a catalyst for a more substantial partnership to promote the research and innovation sector.



22 de junio, EU-China summit via video conference: bilateral relations

On the occasion of the 22nd EU-China summit which took place via video conference, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, accompanied by High Representative Josep Borrell, met with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang followed by exchanges with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the end of the meeting President Michel and President von der Leyen issued a joint press release setting out the direction for EU-China relations in a number of areas.

June 19, Albania and North Macedonia on the Road to EU Membership

In the wake of coronavirus pandemic, the European Commission welcomed the Council's decision to open accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia.

The negotiations round news is very well received by all sides. Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi commented: "Opening of accession talks sends a loud and clear message not only to the two countries, but to the Western Balkans as a whole. It reaffirms and delivers on the EU's commitment to the European perspective of the region: its present is with the EU and its future is in the EU".



NEWS

#Institutional Affairs

June 19, Video conference of the members of the European Council: recovery fund

On 19 June, the members of the European Council met via video conference. EU leaders discussed the issue of a recovery fund to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and a new long-term EU budget. They also followed up on EU-UK relations and on the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

On 23 April 2020, the European Council decided to work towards establishing a recovery fund to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. It tasked the European Commission with coming up with a proposal urgently, which would also clarify the link between the fund and the EU's long term budget.

President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen briefed the leaders about their discussions with Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the EU-UK high-level meeting held via video conference on 15 June 2020.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron informed the leaders about the state of play regarding the implementation of the Minsk agreements. The Council will proceed with the roll-over of the economic sanctions against Russia.

June 18, EU-UK talks: MEPs display unwavering support for the EU position

In a report adopted by a large majority on Thursday, Parliament takes stock of the EU-UK negotiations on a new partnership so far and acknowledges the negotiating parties' call to intensify talks in July.

They regret that no real progress has been achieved in the talks after four negotiating rounds, and that differences remain substantial.

MEPs emphasise that a comprehensive agreement is in the interest of both parties. However, having the UK side cherry-pick certain policies and push for access to the single market after Brexit is "unacceptable" for the EU, says the text, expressing deep concern over the British government's insistence on only wanting to negotiate areas that are in the interests of the UK.

The report also reiterates Parliament's full and unwavering support for the EU's Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier in his talks with the British negotiators, based on the political mandate given to him by EU member states and Parliament.

MEPs further call on the UK to respect its commitments set out in the Political Declaration, signed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and ratified by both the EU and the UK.

June 18, Eastern Partnership leaders' video conference: solidarity at the time of the COVID-19

On the occasion of the Eastern Partnership leaders' meeting which took place via video conference, EU leaders discussed with their six Eastern partners — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine — the response to COVID-19, the consequences of the crisis, the strategic partnership and its future.

Leaders stressed the importance of solidarity at the time of the COVID-19 crisis, including the EU's substantial support to address the impact of the outbreak in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region.

They reconfirmed their commitment and the high importance they attach to the Eastern Partnership as a foreign policy priority and highlighted different areas of cooperation such as trade, visa-free or visa facilitation agreements.



NEWS

June 16, VC of Ministers of European Affairs during the CP of the Council of the EU: Multiannual Financial Framework

The Ministers exchanged views on the Commission's modified proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027) and Recovery plan in order to prepare the videoconference of the members of the European Council and their orientation debate on 19 June, recognising that these proposals will play a key role in the European economic and social recovery. As the negotiations on these proposals now enter the decisive phase, State Secretary Metelko-Zgombić stressed that Member States should aim for a joint and robust EU response that remains at the level of this challenge.

The Ministers also discussed the EU-UK relationship and confirmed their dedication to negotiating a comprehensive and ambitious future partnership, while remaining vigilant of the correct implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement together with its Protocols. The EU's Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier informed the Ministers of the latest developments and the proposed further dynamics of the negotiations.

June 15, Cohesion Policy after the COVID-19 outbreak: a building block of EU's recovery

On 28th May, the European Commission published proposals of amendments to the legislative framework of Cohesion Policy. In response to the COVID-19 crisis and the post-crisis period of the EU's economic recovery, it is necessary to provide all the possible resources to enable a progressive and balanced growth in all the Member States.

The main topic of the video conference was the exchange of views between the EU ministers and representatives of the Member States on the presented proposals of amendments to the legislative framework of Cohesion Policy and discussion on the importance of Cohesion Policy for EU's recovery.

#Institutional Affairs

June 11, Video-conference of the Eastern Partnership foreign affairs ministers: future challenges

High Representative Josep Borrell chaired the video conference of the ministers of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) with the participation of EU Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi. The video conference brought together EU foreign ministers and their counterparts from the six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to work on the preparations for the video conference of EaP leaders scheduled for 18 June 2020.

Ministers confirmed the strategic importance of the relationship between the EU and the Eastern Partnership, and their strong commitment to continue developing it. They also expressed mutual solidarity and support to handle the health and socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministers agreed to keep working on future deliverables in the coming months, in order for these to be presented and endorsed at the physical EaP Summit due to take place in 2021.

June 8, videoconference of the EU Foreign Affairs Council in the development configuration: Team Europa

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Gordan Grlić Radman participated in a videoconference of the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union in the development configuration. Five sets of Council conclusions have been adopted, which have been agreed during the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



NEWS

#Institutional Affairs

German Presidency outlines priorities to EP committees: “Together for Europe’s recovery”.

Source; European Parliament

Published in EDC UAL: 09.07.2020

Ministers are outlining the priorities of the German Presidency of the Council of the EU to parliamentary committees, in a series of meetings. The priorities of Germany’s presidency are driven by its motto:

«Together for Europe’s recovery»

The presidency programme focuses on six main areas:

- overcoming the consequences of the coronavirus crisis for the long-term as well as economic and social recovery
- a stronger and more innovative Europe
- a fair Europe
- a sustainable Europe
- a Europe of security and common values
- a strong Europe in the world

Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

Franziska Giffey, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, told the Women’s Rights Committee that the presidency has two main priorities on gender equality: to tackle the lack of equality between men and women on the labour market, and, to put an end to all forms of gender-based violence, notably by pushing for the Istanbul Convention to be ratified by all member states, and establishing a single, European-wide helpline for women in emergency.

Environment and Public Health

Health Minister Jens Spahn told the Environment and Public Health Committee that, following the COVID-19 pandemic, coordinating EU health policies and strengthening crisis management, increasing EU production of essential medicinal products and devices (such as face masks) and creating a European health data space are the top German priorities.



Internal market and consumer protection

On 7 July, Economic Affairs and Energy Minister Peter Altmaier highlighted that the recovery fund is crucial in emerging from the COVID-19 crisis. Strengthening the single market through digitalisation will also be high on the agenda. Mr Altmaier told MEPs that the presidency will support the development of data infrastructure for European initiative Gaia-X, aiming to improve interoperability, availability and storage of data within the EU.

Committee on Legal Affairs

On Tuesday 7 July, Justice and Consumer Protection Minister Christine Lambrecht talked about how the repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis on the restrictions to freedom of expression, rule of law and the increased spread of disinformation and hate speech online must be tackled. She confirmed that the future framework for AI, the intellectual property rights strategy, digitalisation of justice, and corporate social responsibility will be the main focus of upcoming meetings ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



EU-UK talks: MEPs display unwavering support for the EU position

Source: European Parliament
Published in EDC UAL: 29.06.2020



Parliament regrets that differences remain substantial, with little time left to reach an agreement on the future EU-UK relationship.

In a report adopted by a large majority on Thursday, Parliament takes stock of the EU-UK negotiations on a new partnership so far and acknowledges the negotiating parties' call to intensify talks in July.

They regret that no real progress has been achieved in the talks after four negotiating rounds, and that differences remain substantial.

MEPs emphasise that a comprehensive agreement is in the interest of both parties. However, having the UK side cherry-pick certain policies and push for access to the single market after Brexit is "unacceptable" for the EU, says the text, expressing deep concern over the British government's insistence on only wanting to negotiate areas that are in the interests of the UK.

The report also reiterates Parliament's full and unwavering support for the EU's Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier in his talks with the British negotiators, based on the political mandate given to him by EU member states and Parliament.

MEPs further call on the UK to respect its commitments set out in the Political Declaration, signed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and ratified by both the EU and the UK.

Withdrawal obligations

Strict implementation of the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the faithful implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, for the EU citizens in the UK but also on UK citizens' rights in the EU, is a precondition to ensure the trust needed to conclude a deal on the future relationship, notes the text.

Competition on equal footing, fisheries

The text further emphasises that Parliament's consent to any future trade agreement with the UK is conditional on the British government agreeing to a level playing field (common rules and standards) in the area of, among others, environmental protection, labour standards, and state aid, and on the conclusion of a satisfactory agreement on fisheries. This is a necessity due to the UK's geographical proximity, level of interconnectedness and already high level of existing alignment and interdependence with EU rules.

The British government has so far not engaged in negotiations on the provisions ensuring equal competition, the report notes ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



MEPs condemn racism and police violence in debate on George Floyd's death

Source: European Parliament
Published in EDC UAL: 22.06.2020

Racism has no place in the EU, said MEPs in a debate on police violence and discrimination following massive anti-racism protests in the US and across the EU.

On Wednesday 17 June MEPs debated racism, discrimination and police violence, often faced by minorities such as those of African descent, with Council and Commission representatives.



At the opening of the plenary session, Parliament held a minute of silence for George Floyd before President David Sassoli gave the floor to a black MEP Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Greens/EFA, Germany). She gave an account of her own experience with police brutality in Belgium when she took photos of police officers during an incident with two young black people at Brussels' North Station. "I think we have to take a lot of measures to protect a lot of people who are not here and have not been able to escape police violence," she said.

Racism in Europe

Acknowledging the existence of racism in Europe, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, "We relentlessly need to fight racism and discrimination – visible discrimination, of course, but also more subtle – in the justice system and law enforcement, in our labour market and the housing market, in education and health care, in politics and migration."

Hermann Tertsch (ECR, Spain) said that in the current debate on racism, the focus has largely been on the US, who are seen as the bad guys, even though racism and hate also exists in Europe.

Alice Kuhnke (Greens/EFA, Sweden) agreed: "We need to send a strong signal to the US but also to clean our own house. This Parliament and the Commission will define how the EU steps up to create a sustainable society that leaves no-one behind. There can be no room for racism and discrimination."

"This Parliament and the Commission will define how the EU steps up to create a sustainable society that leaves no-one behind. There can be no room for racism and discrimination."

ACCESS FULL NEWS



EUROPEAN AGENDA: HEALTH IV

Published in EDC UAL

Date: 21.07.2020

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:

17 July, Ministry of Health: “Early response plan in a COVID-19 pandemic control scenario”.

The Inter-Territorial Council of the National Health System (SNS), of which the Ministry of Health and the Autonomous Communities are members, has approved the “Early Response Plan in a COVID-19 pandemic control scenario”.

This is a document intended to provide the National Health System with greater capacity to prevent and tackle possible increases in COVID transmission.¹⁹ It has been agreed that the Plan will be revised when necessary. The document incorporates improvements and technical specifications, at the proposal of the Autonomous Communities, different ministries and the Warning and Preparedness and Response Plans Committee, which reports to the Public Health Commission.

The Plan also establishes responses by specific scenarios, such as that of prisons. Given the special characteristics of these centres and the close contact of people with chronic pathologies, the appearance of a coronavirus outbreak could be a serious problem.



Therefore, the Plan recommends following the updates of the recommendations proposed by the health authorities. Prisons should collaborate in the collection, verification and reporting of data in order to be able to plan and intervene appropriately. It is also recommended that reinforced surveillance systems be adopted in these environments and that they should have contingency plans adapted to the specific characteristics of each centre.

On the other hand, the Plan establishes specific measures for groups that are particularly vulnerable to the COVID, such as migrants who enter our country illegally. Specific measures will be adopted for the early diagnosis of these people.

15 July, European Commission: Commission reinforces preparation for future outbreaks

The Commission has presented immediate short-term measures to strengthen EU health preparedness for COVID-19 outbreaks. A continued vigilance and fast response from the Commission and the Member States is essential to ensure that the spread of the virus can be contained and new, generalised lockdowns can be avoided.

15 July, European Parliament: EU must step up efforts to tackle medicine shortage

In a report on the shortage of medicines, adopted by 79 votes to 1 with 0 abstentions, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety addresses the root causes of the shortage of medicines. It stresses the need for a greater EU response, as the problem has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 health crisis across Europe, with a direct negative impact on patient health and safety and on the continuation of treatment.

The report calls on the Commission to use the forthcoming pharmaceutical strategy to address the issue of availability, accessibility and affordability of safe medicines in Europe.

14 July, European Commission: commitments offered by Aspen to reduce prices for six off-patent cancer medicines by 73%

The European Commission invites all interested parties to comment on the undertakings offered by Aspen to meet the Commission's concerns about excessive pricing. Aspen proposes to reduce its prices in Europe for six critical cancer drugs by 73% on average. In addition, Aspen proposes to guarantee the continuous supply of these off-patent medicines for a significant period



10 July, European Parliament: Parliament supports facilitation of development of COVID-19 vaccines

The EP supported a temporary derogation from the rules on clinical trials to facilitate the development, authorisation and availability of safe vaccines for COVID-19. With 505 votes in favour, 67 against and 109 abstentions, the plenary adopted by urgent procedure a new regulation that should allow the faster development of vaccines and treatments against coronavirus.

Finding an effective and safe vaccine against the virus is the most viable option for controlling the pandemic. To this end, the Commission has proposed a strategy on vaccines that includes a temporary derogation, and strictly linked to the coronavirus, from certain rules on clinical trials.

09 July, European Medicines Agency: the presence of nitrosamines in medicines

Nitrosamines are classified as probable human carcinogens. The limits for nitrosamines in drugs have been set using internationally agreed standards (ICH M7(R1)) based on lifetime exposure. In general, patients should not be exposed to a lifetime cancer risk of more than 1 per 100,000 of the nitrosamines in their medicines ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



First COVID-19 treatment recommended for EU authorization

Source: EMA

Published in EDC UAL: 26.06.2020

EMA's human medicines committee (CHMP) has recommended granting conditional marketing authorisation to Veklury (remdesivir) for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age with pneumonia who require supplemental oxygen.

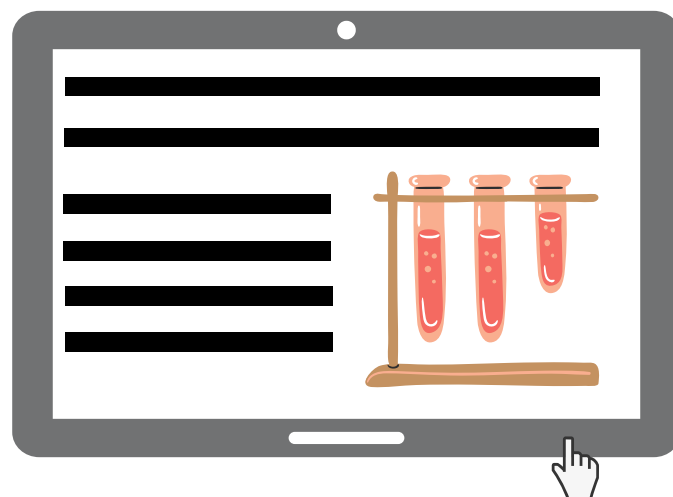
Remdesivir is the first medicine against COVID-19 to be recommended for authorisation in the EU. Data on remdesivir were assessed in an exceptionally short timeframe through a rolling review procedure, an approach used by EMA during public health emergencies to assess data as they become available. From 30 April 2020, the CHMP began assessing data on quality and manufacturing, non-clinical data, preliminary clinical data and supporting safety data from compassionate use programmes, well in advance of the submission of the marketing authorisation application on 5 June.

The assessment of the dossier has now concluded with today's recommendation, which is mainly based on data from study NIAID-ACTT-1, sponsored by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), plus supporting data from other studies on remdesivir.



Taking into consideration the available data, the Agency considered that the balance of benefits and risks had been shown to be positive in patients with pneumonia requiring supplemental oxygen; i.e., the patients with severe disease. Remdesivir is given by infusion (drip) into a vein and its use is limited to healthcare facilities in which patients can be monitored closely; liver and kidney function should be monitored before and during treatment, as appropriate. Treatment should start with a 200-mg infusion on the first day, followed by one 100-mg infusion a day for at least 4 days and no more than 9 days ■

Clinic Trial:



ACCESS FULL NEWS



European Commission unveils EU vaccines strategy

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 17.06.2020

The European Commission has presented a European strategy to **accelerate the development, manufacture and deployment of vaccines against COVID-19**. An effective and safe vaccine against the virus is our best bet for a permanent solution to the pandemic.

The Commission will support efforts to accelerate the development and availability of safe and effective vaccines within 12-18 months, if not sooner. This complex undertaking requires clinical trials to be conducted in parallel with investment in production capacity to produce millions, if not billions, of doses of an effective vaccine.

An important step towards joint action between Member States has already been taken with the formation of an Inclusive Vaccine Alliance by France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. A joint approach will be pursued in the EU's Vaccine Strategy in the future.

Strategy Objectives

- To ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of vaccines
- Ensure rapid access to vaccines for Member States and their populations, while leading the global solidarity effort.
- Ensure equitable access to an affordable vaccine as soon as possible



Pilars of the strategy

- Ensuring the production of vaccines in the EU and sufficient supplies for its Member States through advance purchase agreements with vaccine producers through the Emergency Support Instrument. In addition to these agreements, additional funding and other forms of support can be provided.
- Adapt the EU regulatory framework to the current emergency and make use of existing regulatory flexibility to accelerate the development, authorisation and availability of vaccines, while maintaining standards of quality, safety and efficacy ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Cholesterol-lowering drugs associated with improved gut bacteria profile in obese individuals

Source: CORDIS

Published in EDC UAL: 12.06.2020

Statins, the commonly prescribed class of drugs to reduce cardiovascular disease risk, are identified as a potential **microbiota-modulating** therapeutic, according to a new study.

The **microbiome**, the genetic material of all microorganisms that live in the human body, is essential for development, immunity and nutrition. Cardiometabolic diseases (CMDs) like heart disease and metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes are associated with dysfunction in the microbiome.

Research into this field has intensified in recent years. The gut microbiome, which refers to the genetic material of the gut microbiota, the complex microorganisms (bacteria, yeast and viruses) that are present in the gastrointestinal tract, has attracted particular attention in relation to CMDs. In addition, it's known that the use of some medications, such as stomach acid neutralisers, is associated with disruption of the gut's microbial communities.

A team of scientists partially supported by the EU-funded **METACARDIS project** has explored gut bacteria in about 900 participants from Denmark, Germany and France. The researchers published their findings in the journal *'Nature'*, where they identified **statins – the common cholesterol-lowering class of drugs – as a potential microbiota-modulating therapeutic**. A [news release](#) by METACARDIS project partner University of Copenhagen states: "The intestinal microbiota in obese individuals had previously been shown to differ from those in lean subjects with a poor bacterial diversity, a relative depletion of health promoting bacteria and the remaining bacteria dominated by an inflammatory tone." As noted in the same news release:



"the scientists now define a cluster of bacteria called Bact2 enterotype, which is found in 4 % of lean and overweight people but in 18 % of obese individuals who did not use statin drugs, a group of cholesterol lowering medications. [...] However, in other obese study participants who were treated with statins, the prevalence of the unhealthy Bact2 enterotype was significantly lower (6 %) than in their non-treated counterparts (18 %) – comparable to levels observed in non-obese participants (4 %). The same trend was validated in a Flemish study sample of about 2000 participants."



ACCESS FULL NEWS



EUROPEAN AGENDA: Sustainability

Source: EDC UAL

Published at EDC UAL: 16.06.2020

June 11, European Commission: Blue sectors contribute to the recovery and pave way for EU Green Deal

The European Commission published the “EU Blue Economy Report 2020”, which provides an overview of the performance of EU economic sectors related to the oceans and the coastal environment. With a turnover of EUR 750 billion in 2018, the EU’s blue economy is in good health. In 2018 there were also 5 million people working in the blue economy sector, a significant increase of 11.6% compared to the previous year. Although sectors such as coastal and marine tourism, fisheries and aquaculture are severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the Blue Economy as a whole has enormous potential in terms of its contribution to ecological recovery.

For the first time, the report addresses in detail the environmental dimension of the blue economy, thus also contributing to the achievement of environmental goals. With a 29% decrease in CO₂ per unit of gross value added between 2009 and 2017, the growth of fisheries and aquaculture is now firmly decoupled from the production of greenhouse gases. In addition, the report highlights the correlation between sustainable fisheries and positive economic performance.

The report also examines the economic value of various ecosystem services provided by the ocean, including habitats for marine life, carbon sequestration and processes that influence climate change and biodiversity.



June 9, European Council: Aviation emissions

The Council adopted a decision adapting the EU’s position on the reference period to be used for measuring the growth of CO₂ emissions in international aviation, in order to take account of the unprecedented drop in air traffic due to the coronavirus crisis.

In accordance with the EU position set out in the decision, the amended base period for the emission values used to calculate the growth factors should refer to the emission levels of 2019.

June 8, Cordis: Bringing solar manufacturing back to its European roots

A European Union initiative is supporting the development of an assembly solution for producers of building-integrated photovoltaic (PV) panels.

With continued efforts to accelerate the deployment of PV systems, which are already expanding faster than any other renewable energy source, it is essential to boost investment in this area. In this respect, the PV Impact project aims to stimulate private sector investment in PV research, development and innovation throughout the European Union.



June 5, European Council: Towards a carbon-neutral and competitive EU waterborne transport sector

The future of maritime and inland waterway transport is carbon neutral, accident-free, automated and competitive, as the Council pointed out in its conclusions adopted on 5 June.

The conclusions underline the vital importance of the maritime and inland waterway sector in supplying essential goods to European citizens, as highlighted by the key role played by the sector during the VOC-19 pandemic. The Council commended in particular the crucial role of seafarers, inland navigation workers and port workers in keeping supply chains open.

June 4, European Council: Space policy for a sustainable economy

Space policy can play an important role in achieving a sustainable economy in the European Union. The Council today adopted a set of conclusions recognising the important contribution of space activities to the development of the skills, technologies and services needed to build a society capable of addressing global challenges in a changing world. These include climate change, ecosystem degradation, health crises, food security and migration.

The Council underlines that Earth and Space Science data, services and technologies can contribute to the European Green Deal, enabling Europe to become a world leader in the transition towards a sustainable world, solving societal problems and preserving the functioning of natural ecosystems, for the benefit of future generations.

June 3, Agencia Europea de Medio Ambiente: New cars and vans sold in 2018 more CO2 intensive, final data confirm

According to the EEA report “Monitoring CO2 emissions from passenger cars and vans in 2018”, emissions from new cars registered in the EU, the United Kingdom and Iceland in 2018 increased mainly due to the growing share of petrol cars in new registrations, in particular in the segment of sport utility vehicles (SUVs), and the limited market acceptance of zero and low-emission vehicles, including electric cars. The 2018 data on new registrations can be explored through a new EEA data panel.

Many factors affected the increase in CO2 emissions from new vans in 2018, including the increase in mass, engine capacity and vehicle size. The market share of gasoline vans increased but remained limited, constituting 3.6 per cent of the new fleet (2.4 per cent in 2017). The share of zero and low-emission vans remained stable at 1.7 per cent of the fleet.

June 2, Cordis: How COACCH is steering innovative research on complex climate change impact chains

Climate change can cause serious or extremely serious socio-economic or environmental damage, and Europe is no exception. The COACCH project, funded by EU funds, aims to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the risks and costs of climate change in Europe that can be consulted directly by all the main end-users in the community of policy makers, investors, entrepreneurs and researchers ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Time to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, says European civil society

Source: EESC

Published in EDC UAL: 19.06.2020

As Europe slowly emerges from the coronavirus crisis, the climate emergency is starting to regain the place it deserves, coming back to the top of the EU agenda.

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which brings together civil society organisations from all Member States, developed this Opinion in response to a request by the Republic of Croatia's Presidency of the Council of the EU. The protection of the environment and the fight against climate change are the presidency's key issues.

Toni Vidan, rapporteur of the Opinion, emphasises that the speed of transition will depend on the courage shown by decision makers. It is time to stimulate EU-level debate on improving financing for the increasing needs of the transition to a low-carbon economy. We need to support decentralised decarbonisation projects and ensure active involvement and ownership by citizens and local communities. The EESC therefore welcomes the recent European Council conclusions and the announced European Green Deal, with the joint objective of securing the transition to a low-carbon economy. This long-term plan sets the terms for Europe to become the first carbon-neutral continent by 2050.

The EESC also supports the resolution by the European Parliament to place the European Green Deal at the heart of the upcoming EU recovery and reconstruction package – a key policy underpinning the acceleration in the transition. The EESC underlines that the European Green Deal Investment Plan along with the Just Transition Fund (aimed at supporting workers and citizens in the regions most impacted by the transition) are the first steps in the right direction.



One of the lessons of this pandemic, while the world ground to a halt, is that we need to shift away from the use of fossil fuels (gas, oil and coal) in global energy systems as soon as possible to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change. Fossil fuels comprise 80% of current global primary energy demand and the energy system is the source of approximately two thirds of global CO₂ emissions (according to the Sustainable Energy Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe). Those who would benefit from a transition vastly outnumber those who benefit from continuity. In fact, just 1% of the global workforce is employed by the fossil fuel industry, and most of the industry's profits end up in the hands of a small number of fossil fuel exporters, says a report of the World Economic Forum.

Europe and the world have a long way to go. Despite the fact that coal production and use has declined for decades in the EU, coal still provides about a quarter of EU power generation. And while EU-wide coal-and-lignite-based electricity generation in the second quarter of 2019 declined by 16%, gas-fired power production increased by 39% (according to the European Commission's new energy market report). Even though natural gas pollutes less than coal, switching from coal to gas still involves fossil fuels ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Online tools for SMEs and public sector to better adopt renewable energy sources

Source: CORDIS

Published in EDC UAL: 27.06.2020

An EU-funded initiative has introduced a search engine and a repository to gather data, share information, and match the needs of public procurers and SMEs in embracing renewable energy sources (RESs).

Green public procurement (GPP) is a system where public sector organisations use their purchasing power to choose environmentally friendly goods, services and works that can greatly contribute to sustainable consumption and production. GPP will play a key role in the EU's efforts to become a more resource-efficient economy.

Enter the EU-funded XPRESS project that is supporting public procurement to facilitate cooperation between SMEs and the public sector for RES adoption across the EU. To achieve its goal, the project has launched a search engine enabling SMEs to access tenders related to RESs and a database containing previous RES calls for tenders intended for public authorities keen on adopting RES technologies through GPP.

One-stop shop for all things RES

The search engine enables “users to find the most recent calls for tenders published on Tenders Electronic Daily (TED), according to a tailored set of CPV codes (contract topics), keywords, deadline, country and type of document,” according to a news item on the ‘Energy Global’ website. The database encourages “public buyers to implement Green Public Procurement with a set of more than 3900 SME-friendly tenders embracing RES published from 2016 to 2018, stored in an online database on



the] XPRESS platform.” All old tenders can be searched based on keywords, common procurement vocabulary code, budget range, year and country.

The XPRESS (Support for Public Procurements to facilitate the collaboration between SMEs and public sector for the development and adoption in renewables in regions) project will run until August 2022. It aims “to facilitate the introduction of innovative RES technologies and increase the share of renewable energy in the final energy consumption,” as stated on [CORDIS](#). The project will also “demonstrate the positive impact of innovative GPPs on cities and municipalities and SMEs in terms of energy savings, energy efficiency and lower carbon emissions” ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



How to develop sustainable and cost-efficient air mobility

Source: CORDIS

Published in EDC UAL: 04.06.2020

Partners of an EU-funded initiative say they have laid the groundwork methodology and tools for the design of a **near-zero-emission aircraft concept meant for smaller airports.**

The EU-funded, UNIFIER19, project offers commuters a radically new mobility solution that will be “as simple to use as a bus,” according to a statement. Project coordinator Pipistrel Vertical Solutions and its partners “have laid [the] groundwork methodology and tools for multi-objective interdisciplinary design and optimization of a brand-new near-zero-emission regional aircraft concept,” the statement notes. It adds: “Pipistrel’s ambition is to develop and demonstrate a zero emission 19-seat commuter aircraft to provide fully climate neutral aerial mobility in the next decade. By using hydrogen-based propulsion a 100% emission reduction is expected.”

In addition, “the aircraft will present a stepping stone for using zero emission technology on larger platforms such as the Regional and SMR [short/medium range] aircraft.” The UNIFIER19 concept focuses on two scenarios: the miniliner, connecting a potentially large network of small airports, and the microfeeder, providing both scheduled and on-demand shuttle flights from local airports and even unpaved airfields. Pipistrel’s statement adds: “In a future scenario, the 19-seat zero emission aircraft could replace larger conventional/non-zero emission aircraft leading to an increased positive climate impact and improved mobility for EU citizens.”



Miniliner and microfeeder

Pipistrel emphasises that both the miniliner and the microfeeder roles “are conceived as key components in the future development of a more connected European transportation network through enhanced, environmentally sustainable regional air travel.”

In addition to manufacturing an aircraft with “low noise footprint and near-zero impact to the environment,” project partners will focus on developing hydrogen and battery-based propulsion. “The design concept ..., as the final project outcome, will be a keystone for enabling Europe’s Flightpath 2050 vision, which envisages that virtually all EU citizens shall reach any continental destination in less than four hours, door to door, by the year 2050.”

The EU’s Flightpath 2050 seeks reductions of 75 % in CO₂ emissions, 90 % in nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions and 65 % in noise levels. The UNIFIER19 (Community Friendly Miniliner) project aims to achieve a reduction in CO₂, NO_x and acoustic emissions by at least 20 % compared to existing 19-seaters in service. The project will run until March 2022 ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



AU-EU agrifood platform: reinforcing the link between the EU and African private sectors

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 26.06.2020

Ahead of its official launch, introductory talks on the African Union-European Union agri-food platform was held on 25 June 2020 during an online event organised by the European Commission, the African Union and European Business Ghana. The participants set the scene, assessed the platform's aims and highlighted the role of farmers and rural youth in the platform.



The AU-EU agri-food platform aims at linking the African and European private sectors in the agri-food sector to foster sustainable and inclusive investments in African agriculture. This platform will help identify sector-specific barriers and challenges to private investment and trade. It will also promote agri-food twinning such as exchange of best practices or mentoring schemes between companies, as well as promote vocational training programmes. Finally, it will give a structure and an effective voice to the African agri-business sector comparable to those in Europe

This platform was included as a recommendation put forward by the Task force rural Africa in their report on 7 March 2019. This group of independent African and European experts was set up in May 2018 by the European Commission to provide advice on strengthening the Africa-Europe partnership in food and farming.

Furthermore, at the third AU-EU agricultural ministerial conference on 21 June 2019, AU and EU representatives endorsed a Political Declaration, accompanied by an action agenda and in line with the Task force rural Africa's recommendations. The agri-food platform is included in the action agenda ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Needs of farmers and agri-food companies are significant, also in light of the COVID-19 crisis

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 25.06.2020

Needs of farmers and agri-food companies are significant, also in light of the COVID-19 crisis, and EAFRD funded financial instruments have a role to play in bridging these gaps.

Based on the feedback of 7,600 farmers and 2,200 agri-food companies across the EU, 24 country-specific fi-compass reports present the main challenges faced by these two groups when it comes to access to finance. The reports also estimate the **financing gap for agriculture in the EU between €19.8 and €46.6 billion**, while for the agri-food sector the estimated gap is more than €12.8 billion. These financial needs are likely to be exacerbated by the current crisis.

The reports reveal that in most European countries, financing of agriculture is subject to higher interest rates and unfavourable conditions when compared to other sectors of the economy. In addition, no matter the performance of the sector, the reports found that there was insufficient flexibility in lending and repayment conditions – something that is particularly needed in agriculture.

Reports by countries



Fi-compass

Fi-compass, a joint initiative between the European Commission's ESIF services and the European Investment Bank, analysed in detail the financial environment in which farmers and processors in each country operate. This includes banking systems, major financial players for the two sectors, and what is offered as loans, guarantees and various financial schemes with national and/or EU financing. The reports also provide country-specific conclusions on how to improve existing financial instruments and set up new ones. They also identify weaknesses related to low levels of farmers' financial literacy and lack of banks' knowledge on agriculture ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Europe's resilience: halting biodiversity loss and building a healthy and sustainable food system

Source: European Commission
Published in EDC UAL: 28.05.2020

The European Commission adopted a comprehensive new Biodiversity Strategy to bring nature back into our lives and a Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system on 20 May. The two strategies are mutually reinforcing, bringing together nature, farmers, business and consumers for jointly working towards a competitively sustainable future.

The two strategies put the citizen at the centre, by committing to increase the protection of land and sea, restoring degraded ecosystems and establishing the EU as a leader on the international stage both on the protection of biodiversity and on building a sustainable food chain. In line with the European Green Deal, both strategies propose ambitious EU actions and commitments to halt biodiversity loss in Europe and globally and to convert our food systems.



This strategy, adopted at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, is a central element of the EU's recovery plan and is of crucial importance to prevent and strengthen resilience to future pandemics and to provide immediate business and investment opportunities for the recovery of the EU economy.

The strategy propousals

The strategy brings forward concrete steps to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030, including transforming at least 30% of Europe's lands and seas into effectively managed protected areas and bringing back at least 10% of agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features.

Funding

The actions foreseen in nature protection, sustainable use and restoration will bring economic benefits to local communities, creating sustainable jobs and growth. Funding of EUR 20 billion/year will be unlocked for biodiversity through various sources, including EU funds, national and private funding ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



The General Court of the European Union annuls the decision taken by the Commission regarding the Irish tax rulings in favour of Apple

Source: CURIA

Published in EDC UAL: 15.07.2020

The General Court annuls the contested decision because the Commission did not succeed in showing to the requisite legal standard that there was an advantage for the purposes of Article 107 TFEU.



In 2016 the Commission adopted a decision concerning two tax rulings issued by the Irish tax authorities (Irish Revenue) on 29 January 1991 and 23 May 2007 in favour of Apple Sales International (ASI) and Apple Operations Europe (AOE), which were companies incorporated in Ireland but not tax resident in Ireland. The contested tax rulings endorsed the methods used by ASI and AOE to determine their chargeable profits in Ireland, relating to the trading activity of their respective Irish branches. The 1991 tax ruling remained in force until 2007, when it was replaced by the 2007 tax ruling. The 2007 tax ruling then remained in force until Apple's new business structure was implemented in Ireland in 2014.

By its decision, the Commission considered that the tax rulings in question constituted State aid unlawfully put into effect by Ireland. The aid was declared incompatible with the internal market. The Commission demanded the recovery of the aid in question. According to the Commission's calculations, Ireland had granted Apple 13 billion euro in unlawful tax advantages.

By its judgment, the General Court annuls the contested decision because the Commission did not succeed in showing to the requisite legal standard that there was an advantage for the purposes of Article 107 TFEU.

According to the General Court, the Commission was wrong to declare that ASI and AOE had been granted a selective economic advantage and, by extension, State aid.

The General Court endorses the Commission's assessments relating to normal taxation under the Irish tax law applicable in the present instance, in particular having regard to the tools developed within the OECD, such as the arm's length principle, in order to check whether the level of chargeable profits endorsed by the Irish tax authorities corresponds to that which would have been obtained under market conditions.

However, the General Court considers that the Commission incorrectly concluded, in its **primary line of reasoning**, that the Irish tax authorities had granted ASI and AOE an advantage as a result of not having allocated the Apple Group intellectual property licences held by ASI and AOE, and, consequently, all of ASI and AOE's trading income, obtained from the Apple Group's sales outside North and South America, to their Irish branches. According to the General Court, the Commission should have shown that that income represented the value of the activities actually carried out by the Irish branches themselves, in view of, inter alia, the activities and functions actually performed by the Irish branches of ASI and AOE, on the one hand, and the strategic decisions taken and implemented outside of those branches, on the other ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Judgment of the CJEU on the sale of vehicles unlawfully manipulated by the manufacturer

Source: CURIA

Published in EDC UAL: 15.07.2020



The damage suffered by the purchaser occurs in the Member State in which he purchases the vehicle for a price higher than its actual value.

A motor vehicle manufacturer whose unlawfully manipulated vehicles are resold in other Member States may be sued in the courts of those States

The Verein für Konsumenteninformation (VKI), an Austrian consumer-protection association, has brought before the Landesgericht Klagenfurt (Regional Court, Klagenfurt, Austria) an action for damages against the German motor vehicle manufacturer Volkswagen on the ground of damage resulting from the installation, in vehicles purchased by Austrian consumers, of software that manipulates data relating to exhaust gas emissions. The VKI claims that Volkswagen should be ordered to pay it €3,611,806, plus associated costs, and be declared liable for all damage that is not yet quantifiable and/or that is yet to be suffered in the future.

The VKI bases its application on Volkswagen's liability in tort, delict and quasi-delict, relying on the fact that the 574 consumers who have assigned to it their claims for the purposes of that action purchased in Austria new or used vehicles equipped with an EA 189 engine before the disclosure to the public, on 18 September 2015, of Volkswagen's manipulation of data relating to exhaust gas emissions from those vehicles.

Volkswagen, whose registered office is in Wolfsburg (Germany), disputes in particular the international jurisdiction of the Austrian courts. In that context, the Landesgericht Klagenfurt has asked the Court of Justice to interpret the regulation on jurisdiction.

In its judgment, the Court replies that, where a manufacturer in a Member State (Germany) has unlawfully equipped its vehicles with software that manipulates data relating to exhaust gas emissions before those vehicles are purchased from a third party in another Member State (Austria), the place where the damage occurs is in that latter Member State (Austria).

In the present case, the damage alleged by the VKI takes the form of a loss in value of the vehicles in question stemming from the difference between the price paid by the purchaser for such a vehicle and its actual value owing to the installation of software that manipulates data relating to exhaust gas emissions.

Consequently, while those vehicles became defective as soon as that software had been installed, the view must be taken that **the damage asserted occurred only at the time when those vehicles were purchased, as they were acquired for a price higher than their actual value.**

The Court concludes that, in the case where vehicles equipped by their manufacturer with software that manipulates data relating to exhaust gas emissions are sold, **the damage suffered by the final purchaser is neither indirect nor purely financial** and occurs when such a vehicle is purchased from a third party ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Deal on digitalisation of access to justice will benefit citizens

Source: European Parliament
Published in EDC UAL: 02.07.2020

On 30th June, Parliament and Council negotiators reached an agreement to make access to justice faster, cheaper and more user-friendly for EU citizens and businesses.

The two pieces of legislation under negotiation between the two EU legislators, respectively on taking evidence and on service of documents, aim to make judicial cross-border cooperation between national courts more efficient through digitalisation in civil and commercial matters.

Main elements of the agreement

- **Courts will be able to exchange documents electronically:** changes in both regulations establish a decentralised IT system that will allow for faster, more secure and effective exchange of documents between member states;
- The **decentralised IT system** will be composed of national, interoperable IT systems, without involving any EU institutions;
- **Data protection:** information will be kept strictly confidential and personal data and privacy will be protected when documents are transmitted and evidence is being taken; personal data which is deemed irrelevant for a specific case will be deleted immediately;
- **Increased use of distance communication:** modern communication technologies, such as videoconferencing, that can lower costs and help evidence to be taken more quickly, will be used appropriately and with the consent of the person to be heard.



Greater legal certainty, combined with simple and digitalised procedures, will encourage individuals and businesses to engage in cross-border transactions, thereby boosting trade within the EU, and hence the functioning of the internal market.

Next steps

Parliament and Council now need to endorse the final version of the agreement before it is published in the Official Journal of the European Union. The two regulations will enter into force 20 days following their publication ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



First MRTT aircraft delivered to Eindhoven

Source: EDA

Published in EDC UAL: 02.07.2020

Preparations for the Multinational Multirole Tanker and Transport Fleet (MMF), aimed to increase Air-to-Air Refuelling capabilities in Europe, reached a significant milestone today when the first Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft was delivered to the fleet's main operating base in Eindhoven.

In total, the fleet could count up to 11 Airbus A330 MRTT aircraft of which eight have already been procured. While the first of them (MMF1) has now been delivered, the consecutive aircraft (2 to 8) will be delivered in the coming years: a brand new MRTT will be delivered roughly every six months to either Eindhoven (The Netherlands) as the 'Main Operating Base' or to Cologne (Germany) as the 'Forward Operating Base Plus'.

Six participating countries so far

The MMF, managed by the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) with strong support of the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR) under the ownership of NATO and operated by an international unit, will provide its six participating Member States (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and the Netherlands) with strategic tanker and transport capabilities.

Based on a pooling and sharing concept, the participating countries will have access to a total of 8 (and in the future perhaps to 11) Airbus A-330 MRTT aircraft which can provide strategic transport (pax and cargo), air-to-air refuelling and medical evacuation capabilities.



Example of excellent EU/NATO cooperation

The multinational fleet builds on the excellent cooperation between NATO and EU Member States and Agencies since the very beginning of the project. Back in 2011, the European Defence Agency started an initiative to address the long-standing European shortfall in the air-to-air refuelling capacity. Since then, this initiative has grown into a mature programme handed over to and managed by the NSPA on behalf of the participating countries and supported by OCCAR for the acquisition phase.

The MMF programme stands as an example on how European countries can cooperate, pooling and sharing resources to get access to state of the art capabilities that would be difficult or impossible to access individually. All the countries involved, independently of their size and the number of flying hours, have access to the MMF capabilities ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



Defence Ministers focus on sustaining EU capability development

Source: EDA

Published in EDC UAL: 01.07.2020

The European Defence Agency's (EDA) Steering Board in the composition of Defence Ministers discussed today how to sustain EU capability development in times of disruptive challenges. Defence Ministers pointed to the need for more collaborative projects, efficiency gains and economies of scale as the most effective way of navigating the current crisis while ensuring that Europe's armed forces are ready for the future.



In addressing an ever more dynamic security environment, including the impact of COVID-19, Ministers underscored the need for even more multinational cooperation in capability planning and development to overcome an unprecedented and diverse set of challenges. Ministers agreed that the EU defence initiatives advanced since 2016 need to be implemented with more decisiveness than ever before. They stressed the importance of delivering on the binding commitments under PESCO, implementing the EU Capability Development priorities, based on a fully-fledged defence review (CARD), and making full use of the European Defence Fund (EDF) as a powerful incentive at the EU level. Ministers also discussed how to better ensure that Europe has highly resilient and responsive armed forces, which are able to prevent, detect and respond to multiple threats and scenarios.

Head of the European Defence Agency, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell said:

"Whether we are prepared or not to respond to today's security threats depends on our ability to pull together our resources and act. Today, more than ever, it is crucial to spend better together, rationalise, strengthen our capabilities and deploy effectively to address crises and promote stability. The EU defence initiatives are in place, but to realise their full potential they must be fully integrated into Member States national defence policies and planning processes."

Next steps: CARD Report

The next EDA ministerial Steering Board will take place in November, when the first CARD (Coordinated Annual Review on Defence) Report will be presented. CARD provides an overview that will allow Member States to better coordinate their defence planning and spending and engage in collaborative projects, improving consistency in Member States defence spending and overall coherence of the European capability landscape. The report will act as a pathfinder to inform future investment decisions on the most promising, most needed and most pressing opportunities for multinational cooperation ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



EDA project aims for multifunctional smart textiles for defence

Source: EDA

Published in EDC UAL: 01.06.2020

Smart textiles are a new generation of innovative material offering very interesting multifunctional properties such as being integrable into uniforms and platforms. They therefore have drawn the attention of the defence sector.

Against this backdrop, EDA has incorporated smart textiles into the so-called Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of its capability technology group ('CapTech') devoted to Materials & Structures, and a specific Technology Building Block (TBB) was set up for them. Furthermore, other EDA CapTechs, such as those dealing with CBRN, Human Factors and Ground Systems, have taken initiatives related to smart textiles.



TILE project

The objective of STILE is to lay the foundation for a future 'European Multifunctional Smart Textile' for defence able to respond to a certain number of requirements in terms of functionality, integration, comfort and weight. More precisely, it was aimed to define a roadmap for developing a system offering several functionalities in a textile substrate, and to come up with a proof of concept that integrates various functionalities with state-of-the-art technologies.

Preliminary results

The initial analysis undertaken under the project confirmed that Europe lacks multifunctional smart textile capabilities in defence. Hence the importance for the STILE project to produce a proof of concept of multifunctional smart textiles able to integrate in a single model all the afore-mentioned features and requirements.

Preliminary results of the project give already an overview of the current R&T development and technology needs as well as the challenges laying ahead to overcome those needs. The methodology used was based on the technical knowledge of the consortium members and the collection of data coming from multiple sources, including a technology foresight workshop on smart textile technologies organised at EDA, a survey done among the Agency's 'Materials' CapTech experts as well as various meetings with experts.

Testing in the field

From June 2020 onwards, the STILE prototype will be further tested in the field to make sure that it fulfills the stringent military requirements. At the end of the project (expected in May 2021) an exhibition centre will be organized to reveal the fully tested STILE model to the European defence and dual use community, reaching out the potential users in the European Ministries of Defence ■

ACCESS FULL NEWS



PROJECTS AND INICIATIVES UAL





PROJECTS AND INICIATIVES UAL

The University of Almeria obtains a new European Project in the field of Greenhouse Climate Control



The European project Thermochemical Fluids in Greenhouse Farming (The GREEFA) obtained in the last Horizon 2020 call, involves the development of a new technology for heating, cooling, air humidity control and water recovery in greenhouses in several European climate zones. For this purpose, the project will use saline solutions and the hygroscopic property of thermochemical fluids, using in the process the absorption of steam from the air and the consequent release of heat. The resulting heat will dry out the agricultural production and the by-products obtained in greenhouses, meaning that no external energy sources are required.

As Diego Valera, the researcher in charge of the project at the University of Almeria, points out, this project will make it possible to fully use the energy potential of the sun and the residual heat on greenhouses, as well as to convert and store this heat in thermochemical potential without incurring thermal losses in the process. Furthermore, the project will allow the implementation of these principles in real conditions in greenhouses through pilots and simulations for both continental and Mediterranean climates.

"This project will make it possible to fully use the energy potential of the sun and the residual heat on greenhouses"

In words of Diego Valera, the project fits perfectly with the background of the Research Group he leads, since tests and simulations will be carried out based on models already tested in previous and current projects of the State Plan. Also, scientific-technological applications in desalination will be studied, a subject in which the University of Almeria already has a European LIFE project led by the researcher himself.

As with all large Horizon 2020 projects, The Greefa places special emphasis on the market application of the solutions obtained, as well as the spread and transfer of the project activities. At the same time, the project is fully aligned with European priorities in terms of agricultural production and environment. As Diego Valera points out, The Greefa deals directly with the four pillars of the so-called "nexus", consisting of agricultural production, water, energy and climate, as it enables the maximum reduction of energy consumption in greenhouses and for water desalination by using clean technologies.

As well as the University of Almeria, institutions from Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Poland and Tunisia are participating in the consortium ■

Research Group: Rural Engineering (AGR198).

Responsible: Diego Valera.



PROJECTS AND INICIATIVES UAL

Family and childhood facing Covid-19: psychological impact



The SARS-Cov-2 pandemic has brought with it unprecedented changes to the life course of all human beings in recent months. The disease control measures put in place by some governments have challenged the habits and practices, social norms, and day-to-day and economic functioning of the nations that have adopted them. Our country declared a state of alarm last March which, in practice, locked the Spanish population in their homes for several weeks. And despite the low incidence of COVID-19 among the child population, the children seemed, according to the health authorities, to have the profile of asymptomatic contagion, so they had to be confined to their homes, and our country was among those that took the strictest measures of isolation. In a situation of confinement, the families' emotional welfare is expected to be affected, both for the parents and for the children, although not all families may have faced the situation with the same psychological adaptation tools. Specifically, in the face of diverse adversities, the role of different salutogenic or protective factors is known, both in parents and in their children, such as the capacity to tolerate discomfort, experiences of previous frustration, strategies of emotional regulation, self-control, psychological flexibility, coping with psychosocial stressors and resilience.

The emotional, social and academic anomaly in which the children and teenagers were involved raised the interest of several research groups, which

joined together in an effort to learn about the situation that families were going through and the emotional, physical and academic effects that confinement had on the youngest. We were especially interested in knowing the impact of confinement on those family units with special vulnerability, whose sons and daughters had functional diversity and, therefore, could encounter more difficulties and require greater support.

For this purpose, we created a battery of surveys (practically all of them are validated psychological evaluation instruments with optimal psychometric properties), with which we measure and analyze the following variables: the sociodemographic aspects of the families, the presence of psychological disorders, disability or physical illnesses prior to confinement, as well as the general psychological state of the children and teenagers (possible behavioural changes, emotional symptoms, behavioural problems, hyperactivity, etc); the possible alteration in the sleeping, eating, playing and academic activities and routines of the children; the emergence of fears of illness and viruses, both in the children and their families, brought about by this crisis situation; the psychological flexibility and acceptance capacity of the parents; parental stress; and the resilience capacity of the families. It was transferred, as circumstances prevented any other form of administration, to an online assessment protocol.

Dissemination through social networks has allowed us to collect comprehensive information from more than 1078 families, of which a total of 349 families had children with disabilities or non-standard health situations.

The first results suggest moderate changes in sleeping routines, but not in eating and hygiene. As hypothesized, confinement has modified the

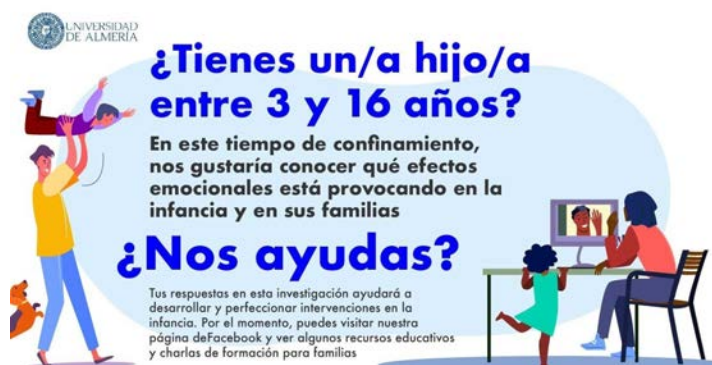




PROJECTS AND INICIATIVES UAL

habits of social relations with families and friends, which from the beginning has meant problems in prosocial behavior. In the psycho-emotional field, according to parents, the emotional and behavioural stability of children and adolescents has been altered, reporting an increase in emotional and behavioural difficulties as confinement has progressed over time.

affects their children's well-being. Thus, **an optimal resilience capacity of families has proven to be an important protective factor**, as does a high psychological flexibility and tolerance to discomfort on the part of parents, materialized in their ability to accept and be open to adverse conditions, to face these adversities with awareness or full attention and to be consistent with their actions in the direction of their values and commitments.



Similarly, it is worth noting the emergence of fears related to viruses, which have increased as the weeks have gone by and which have been linked to some behavioural problems in children. In addition, **we have found that there is a relationship between changes in habits and the level of stress of the parents**. Thus, in the homes where the parents showed more difficulties in facing the situation, there have been more noticeable changes in the children's habits and routines. Similarly, a high level of fears of illness and viruses, both in the parents and in the children, has been a risk factor for greater emotional and behavioural destabilisation.

Regarding strategies to improve the well-being of the children during confinement, most parents responded that they have maintained their routines, done handicraft activities, played family games, watched movies and increased screen time (playing with cell phones, tablets, etc.). Many of these strategies implemented by the families have served to maintain a certain emotional well-being in the youngsters. However, the same reactions have not occurred in all parents: those who have shown greater resilience skills - in other words, the ability to emerge stronger from complicated situations or from discomfort, have the capacity to better regulate their parental stress, which positively

One remarkable discovery is that the behavioural and emotional difficulties presented by the youngest have not followed a static pattern, but rather a gradual upward trend as the time of confinement progressed, affecting children and adolescents differently. As confinement lengthened, the psychological state of children and adolescents worsened. Although prosocial behaviour problems are present from the beginning of the state of alarm, in children the percentage of problems in emotional symptoms, behavioural problems, hyperactivity, problems with peers and total difficulties increased over time, while among adolescents it was the fear-related ratings that suffered such an increase.

On the other hand, this study has resulted in a collaboration with the University of Miami in the process of validating one of the instruments we have applied, specifically the scale for assessing fears associated with diseases and viruses, which is unique and innovative for the objective it assesses, both nationally and internationally. Similarly, it has led to an invitation from one of the leading national and international research groups in child clinical psychology, AITANA, to include some of our results in an upcoming monograph on the psychological effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and adolescents in the Journal of Clinical Psychology with Children and Adolescents.




PROJECTS AND INICIATIVES UAL

Complementarily, together with the research tasks themselves, it generated, immediately and in parallel, an intensive line of knowledge transference since, during the confinement, information was provided, in a generic way, from a series of psychoeducational resources. We created the Facebook page "Support for children during covid-19", with more than 400 followers and 2000 interactions during the weeks of confinement. Through this page we have provided help and advice, holding talks and creating discussion groups among parents ■

Research group: Research groups: HUM057 (Advances in Intervention and Epidemiology in children, adolescents and families) and HUM-861 (Psychoeducational research in human development processes and contexts)


Working team: Pilar Sánchez López, Inmaculada Gómez Becerra, Juan Miguel Flujas Contreras, María Mercedes Fernández Torres and Magdalena P. Andrés Romero



“ Problemas de sueño en la infancia durante el COVID-19

Viernes 17 de abril a las 18.30 h.

Inmaculada Gómez Becerra
Catedrática en Universidad de Almería.
Departamento de Psicología.

 **Red Apoyo a la Infancia durante el COVID-19**
HUM057 - Avances en Intervención y Epidemiología con infancia, adolescencia y familias
HUM-861 - Investigación Psicoeducativa en procesos y contextos de desarrollo humano

Access to these transfer actions is available through:



The screenshot shows the Facebook page for 'Apoyo a la infancia durante la covid-19'. The page has a cover photo of a rainbow and a profile picture of a rainbow. The main post is a text announcement about a study on the psychological well-being of children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic, dated April 4th at 10:54. It mentions that the study is authorized by the University of Almería's Ethics Commission and asks for participation in a survey. The survey link is provided: <http://encuestas.ual.es/limesurvey/index.php/682256?lang=es>. The page also shows a list of pages liked by the user, including COCEMFE and Atención Temprana. The right sidebar shows a list of contacts and a group chat section.

PROJECTS AND CALLS



Optimal treatment for patients with solid tumours through Artificial Intelligence

The scope of this call topic is to establish guideline-based decision support and platform solutions to generate knowledge discovery for breast, lung and prostate cancer with applicability to other indications, in several European (EU member states and H2020 associated countries) 'model' regions.



Objectives

The three core objectives of this call topic are as follows:

Objective 1: Establish a guideline-based decision support for prioritised indications

Objective 2: Establish a structured and interoperable data platform to unlock real-world-data potential in an oncology network

Objective 3: Leverage the real-world-data gathered by the action to establish an AI-knowledge base and support treatment decisions for prioritized indications.

Deadline
29 September 2020

MORE INFORMATION:

[WEBSITE](#)



International cooperation with Canada on advanced biofuels and bioenergy



The optimisation of advanced biomass supply chains and overcoming specific conversion technology barriers are needed to improve the market up-take of sustainable advanced biofuels and bioenergy and accelerate their deployment for replacing the use of fossil fuels in the transport, power and heating sectors. International collaboration is mutually beneficial in strategic areas where knowledge can be exchanged and Europe can obtain leadership together with its international partners.

Fecha límite:
01 de septiembre de 2020

Scope

Proposals will aim at international cooperation with Canada for fostering the deployment of advanced biofuels and bioenergy while substantially decreasing the costs of the feedstock supply or the conversion process.

MORE INFORMATION:

[WEBSITE](#)



EIC Scalator Pilot

Only 5% of European start-ups scale-up and pursue the position of world tech leaders. As high growth companies are the ones largely responsible for job creation and economic benefit, this is a missed opportunity. These growth barriers are even higher for truly high-risk deep tech innovators, the main target of EIC instruments. Considering the high-tech characteristics of the EIC beneficiaries, which have a longer time to market than digital start-ups, access to a broader pan-European enterprise market is a key factor to succeed.



Deadline: 02 September 2020

Objective

This EIC Scalator Pilot aims at accelerating investments and partnerships among the most mature EIC beneficiaries and create European deep-tech success stories (sustainable global deep-tech leaders) by connecting relevant EIC beneficiaries to corporates (private buyers, Mergers and Acquisition, Corporate Venture Capital), to investors that provide strong networks and late-stage investment (equity or venture debt), to international markets, and to stock exchanges.

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



Mutual learning and resources for supporting innovation projects of start-ups and SMEs



This aims to enhance cooperation among innovation agencies of the European innovation ecosystem by establishing a mutual learning process at a national and regional level, as well as by developing joint tools and resources to assist start-ups and SMEs to innovate.

Objectives

- cooperate, learn from each other and exchange knowledge by using joint tools in order to provide high-level services and support high-quality start-ups and SMEs for their innovation projects;
- create and operate national and/or regional support schemes regarding feasibility studies and external expertise, thus ensuring that the most promising high-potential innovation proposals of start-ups / SMEs are supported at their critical stage of development.

Deadline 22 September 2020

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)

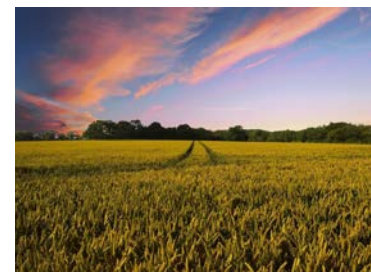


Research Assistant Agricultural Economy in Germany

The EU H2020 research and innovation project AGROMIX, aims to unlock the full potential of synergies and resilience in Mixed Farming and AgroForestry systems (MF/AF) and to develop and promote value chains and infrastructure for MF/AF produce.

Tasks

- Data collection on farm structures and production systems in the case study regions.
- Adapt and apply a farm model for typical farms of the case study regions to assess the competitiveness of Mixed and Agroforestry based systems.
- Develop policy scenarios and examine these scenarios by the bio-economic modelling approach.
- Integrate economic and ecosystem service assessments to analyze policy options supporting MF/AF systems.
- Presentation and discussion of results within policy workshops.
- Publication of results in scientific journals.



Deadline
30 August 2020

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



Professor/Associate Professor in Artificial Intelligence



Deadline
31 August 2020

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



A permanent 100 % position is available at the University of Agder, Faculty of Engineering and Science, as Professor/Associate Professor in Artificial Intelligence, at the Department of Information and Communication Technology. The position is located at Campus Grimstad. The starting date is negotiable with the Faculty.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the position include:

- Research and PhD/master's student supervision in the area of machine learning
- Teaching on artificial intelligence (theory, algorithms and implementation) at the bachelor's, master's and PhD level.

PhD position in nanostructured materials for energy storage in Spain

MDEA Materials seeks a full-time Ph.D. with a priority to candidates with experience and interest in nanostructured materials for energy storage. We are looking for an individual with initiative and motivation to start her/his career in the Multifunctional Nanocomposites Group.

Objective

The project is focused on developing new battery electrodes based on composites of active materials and nanostructured carbon nanotube fabrics. The aims are to design novel integration routes, increase understanding coupled mechanical-electrochemical properties, and apply advanced spectroscopic and X-ray characterization tools to these complex hierarchical structures in order to identify critical structural descriptors for battery performance.



Deadline:
26 September 2020

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



Research Associate in Law in Luxembourg



Deadline:
31 August 2020

The Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance of the University of Luxembourg has an opening for a Research Associate in Law.

Responsabilidades

- Conduct desk research on the different topics falling into the scope of the research;
- Organise focus groups and interviews with practitioners working in the banking field in selected EU Members States and in the US
- Draft comparative analyses and reports on the topics of the research project
- Disseminate results through scientific publications, workshops and conferences;
- Offer research assistance and coordinate young researchers working in the same field;
- Contribute in preparing further research proposals within the research unit of law the University of Luxembourg

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



CALLS

#Other Calls

Graphic Design Internship at Eurodesk

With a network of national coordinators connected to over 1.500 local information providers and partners in 36 European countries, Eurodesk is the main source of information on European policies and opportunities for young people and those who work with them.



Tasks

- Designing layouts for publications
- Contributing to the creation of promotional and communication materials for campaigns;
- Assisting in designing visual assets such as posters, banners, flyers etc; Creating visual assets for social media (social videos, gifs, pictures);
- Taking photos at events, and editing them;
- Recording and editing videos for promotional and educational purposes;
- Other duties as directed by the director of the office.

Deadline
5 August 2020

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



Vacancy for a post of Social Media Assistant in the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)



The European Asylum Support Office ("EASO"), established by Regulation 439/20101, strengthens European Union (EU) Member States' practical cooperation on asylum, enhances the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and supports Member States whose asylum and reception systems are under particular pressure.

Tasks

The Social Media Assistant will be working in the Communications and Public Relations Sector within the Communications and Public Relations Unit and will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Manage/Administrate EASO's social media accounts
- Monitor and moderate comments on social media posts;
- Liaise continuously with the Agency's different Centres, Departments and Units, as well as operational offices;
- Other tasks.

Deadline
3 August 2020

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



CALLS

#Other Calls

Supporting European SMEs to participate in public procurement outside EU

The participation of SMEs in public procurement is a win-win situation. It helps SMEs to grow and scale-up, it improves their reputation, and helps them to obtain more business in the private sector. For public authorities, it increases the number of offers the public buyers get, ultimately increasing the chances to obtain the best value for money.



Objective

The objective pursued is to improve SMEs' access to public procurement in the non-Union countries with which the Union signed an agreement covering public procurement (for example, the Government Procurement Agreement of the World Trade Organisation, Stabilisation and Association Agreements, Free Trade Agreements, etc.).

Public procurement contributes to the growth and the global competitiveness of SMEs. The European Union has invested significant resources in negotiating these agreements in order for Union companies to be able to take advantage of the opportunities outside the Union. This action will focus particularly on the public procurement area and falls under the second specific objective of the COSME programme: access to markets.

Deadline
15 September 2020

MORE INFORMATION;

[WEBSITE](#)



Selection of partners to carry our Europe Direct Activities (2021-2025) in Ireland



Deadline
15 October 2020

The European Commission, via its Representation in Ireland, is launching a call for proposals to select partners to run EUROPE DIRECT in 2021-2025.

EUROPE DIRECT engage with citizens on a pro-active and continuous basis to ensure greater ownership of the European project. By organizing information and engagement activities, it enables citizens to make informed choices about the future of the EU by fully participating in the European democratic process.

Tasks

- Task 1: Information and engagement with citizens
- Task 2: Relations with local media and multipliers
- Task 3: Awareness about sensitive EU topics at local level
- Task 4: The EU in schools
- Task 5: Promoting a regional network of networks

MORE INFORMATION

[WEBSITE](#)



STATISTICS AND INFOGRAPHICS



COVID-19 STATISTICS

#Europa



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY & MEDICINE | CORONAVIRUS
RESOURCE CENTER

DATA

June 1 to June 30, 2020



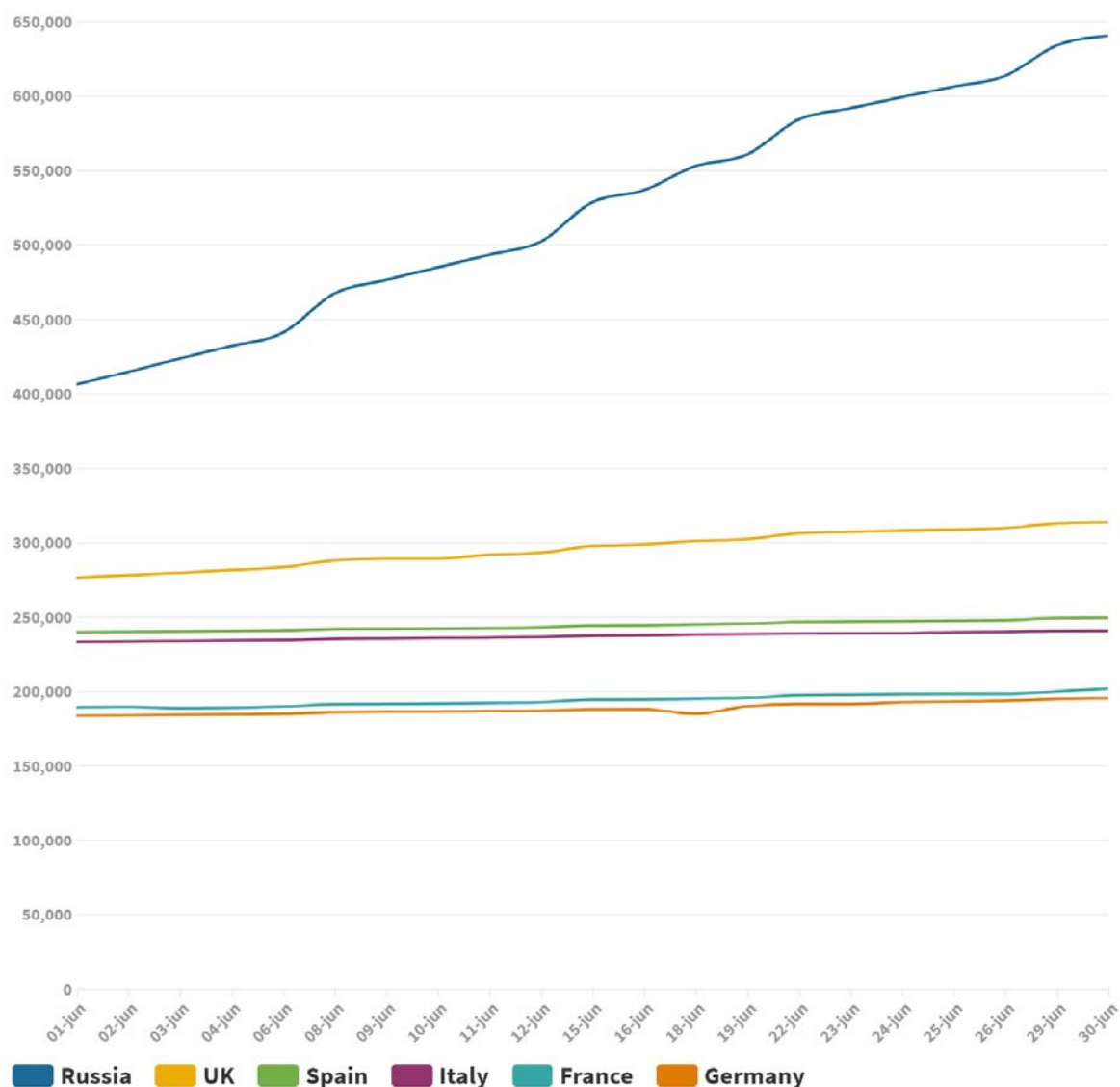
Prepared by: UAL European Documentation Centre

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

TOTAL CASES



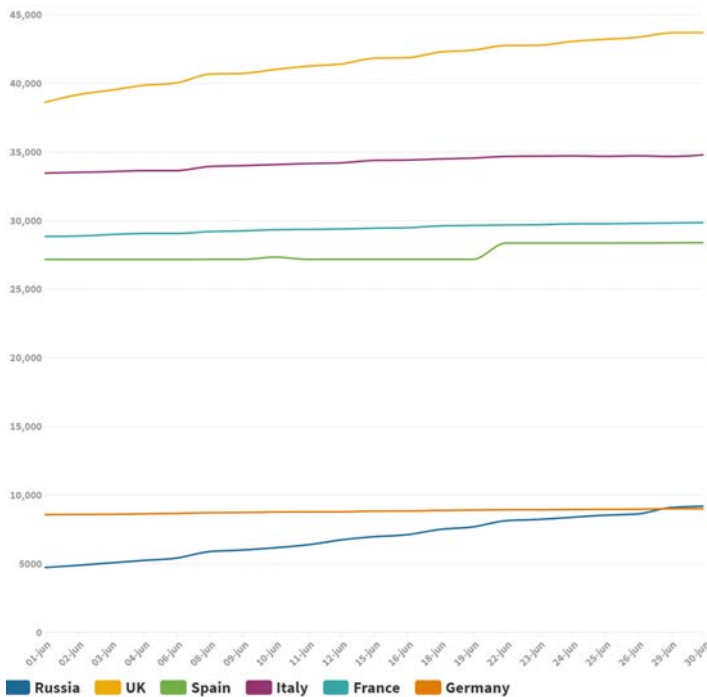
No. of cases



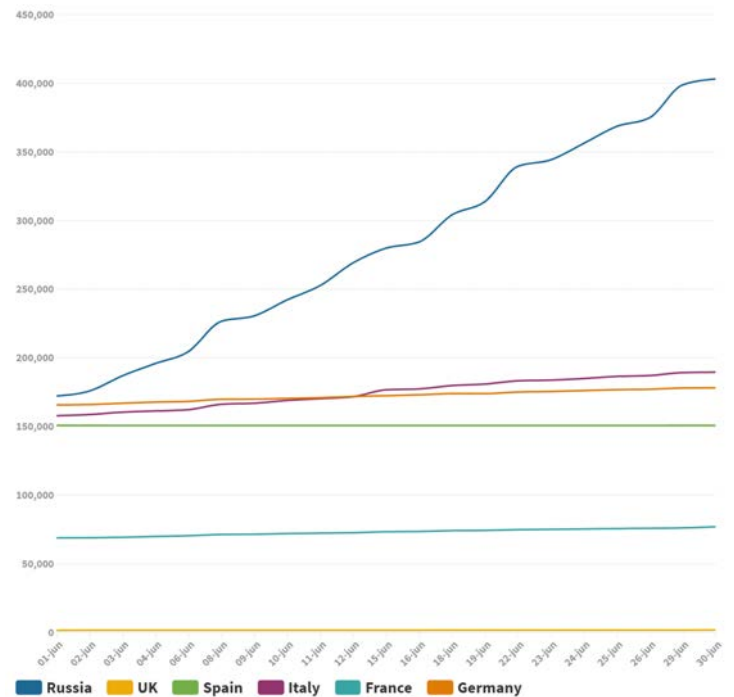
COVID-19 STATISTICS

#Europe

TOTAL DEATHS

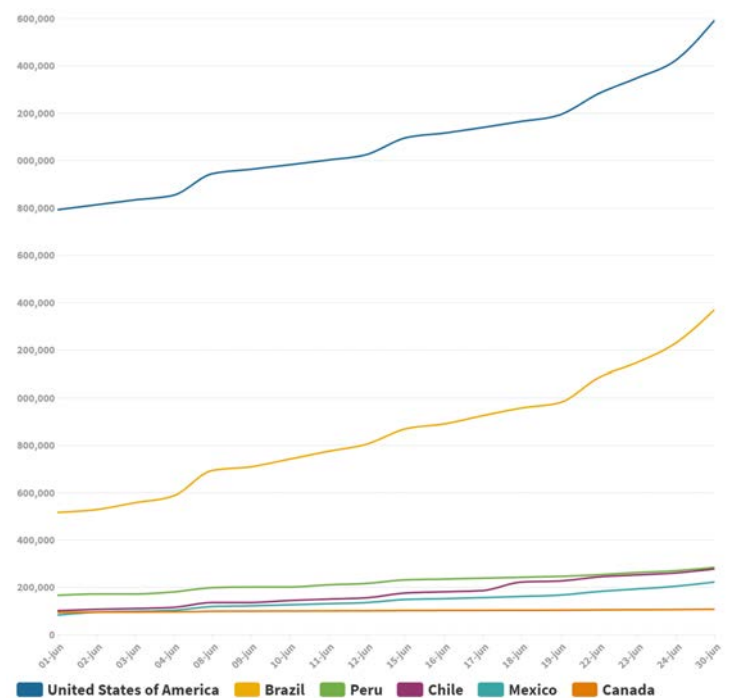


TOTAL RECOVERED



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

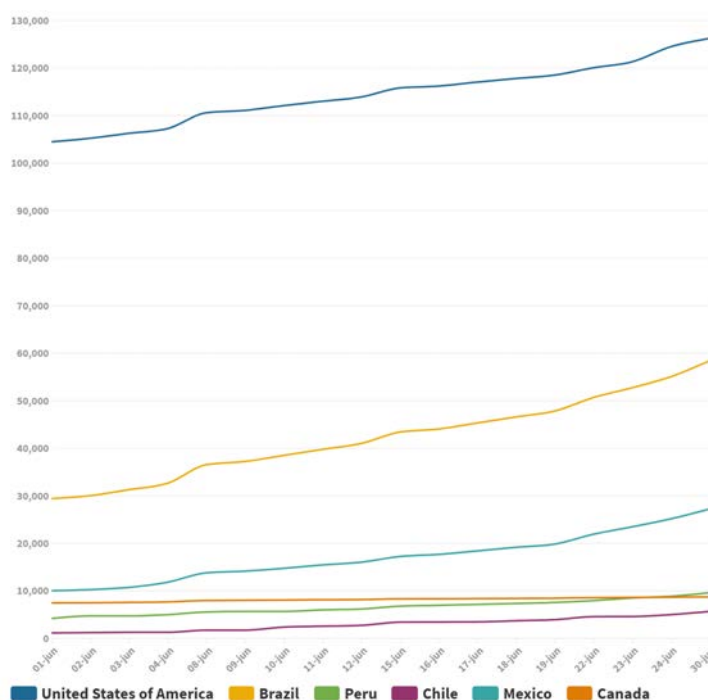
TOTAL CASES



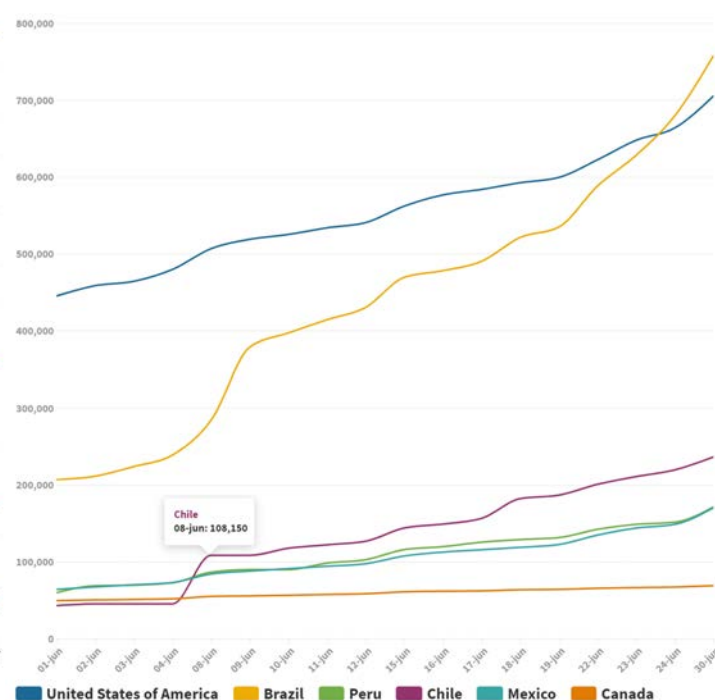
COVID-19 STATISTICS

#America

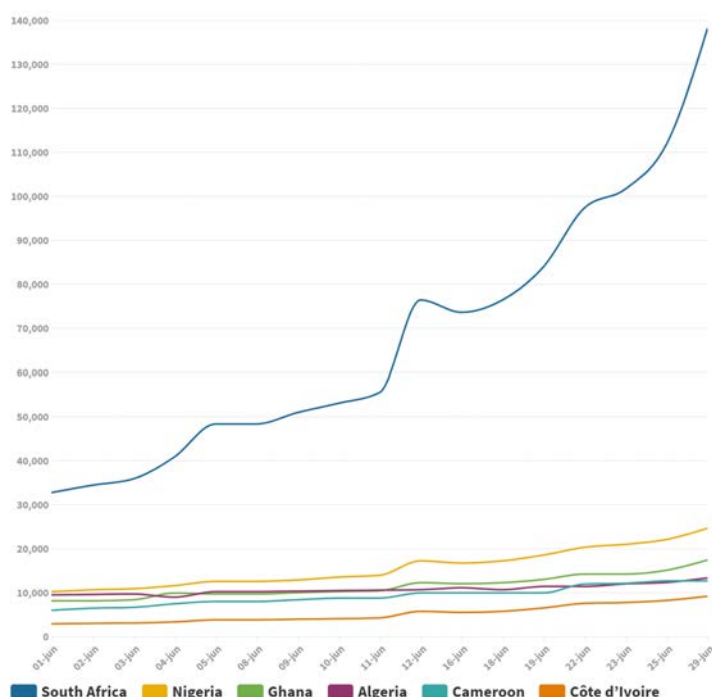
TOTAL DEATHS



TOTAL RECOVERED



TOTAL CASES

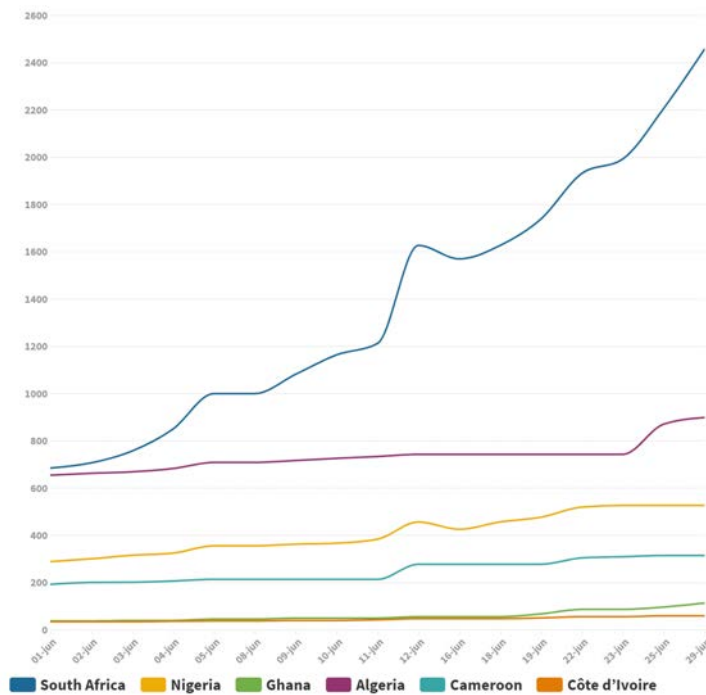


**SARS-COV-2
(COVID-19)
DISEASE
SITUATION IN
AFRICA**

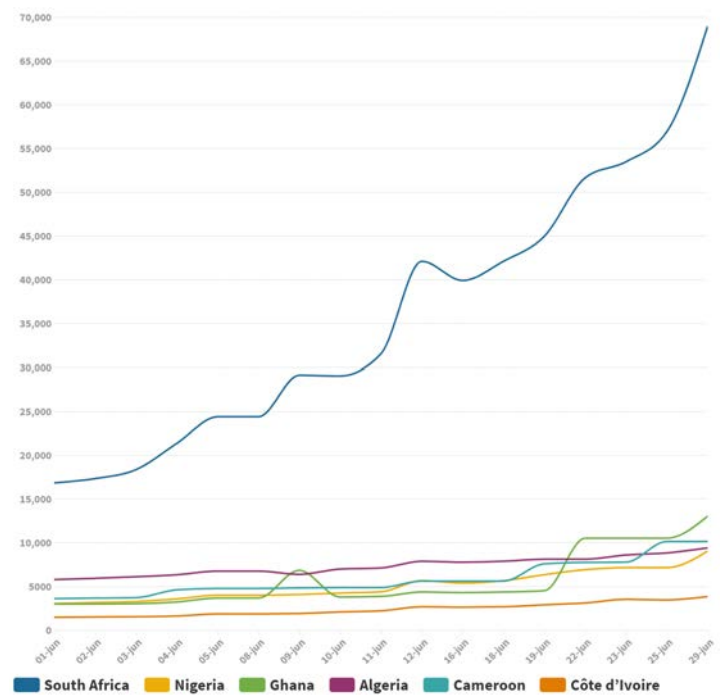
COVID-19 STATISTICS

#Africa

TOTAL DEATHS

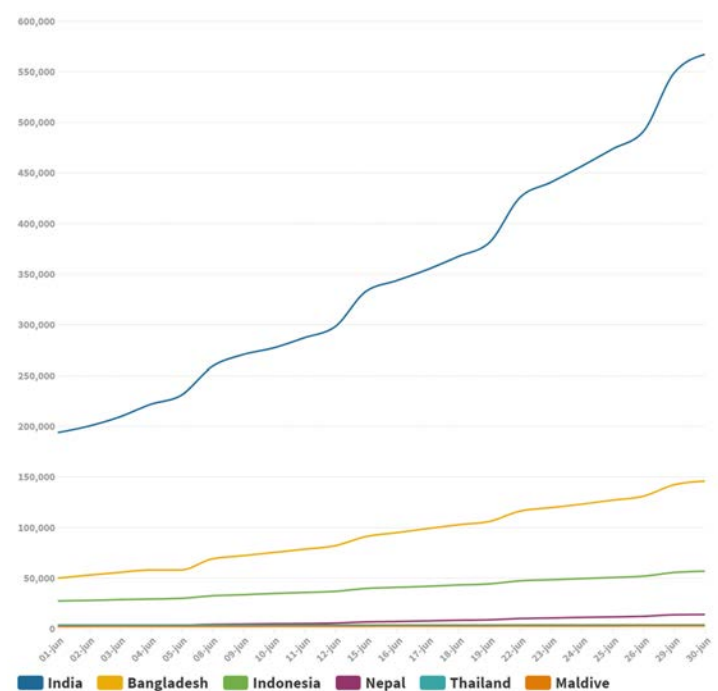


TOTAL RECOVERED



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

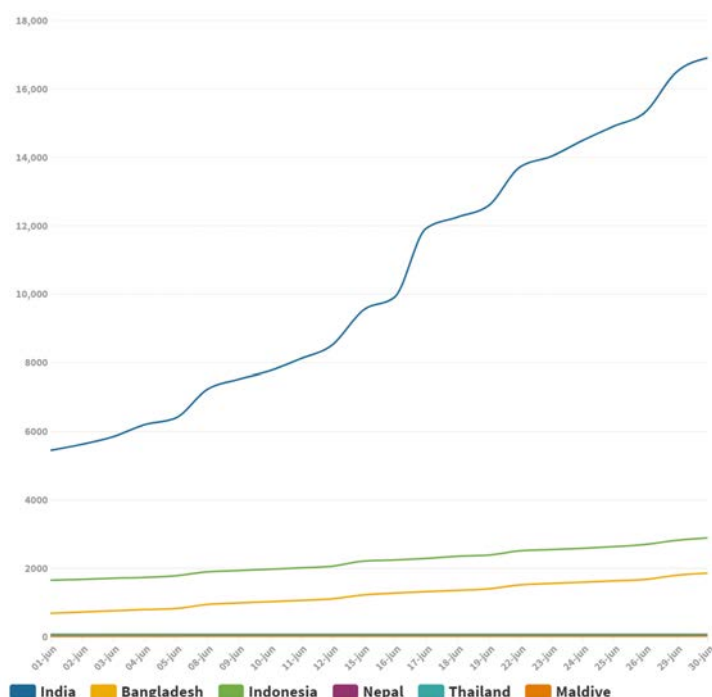
TOTAL CASES



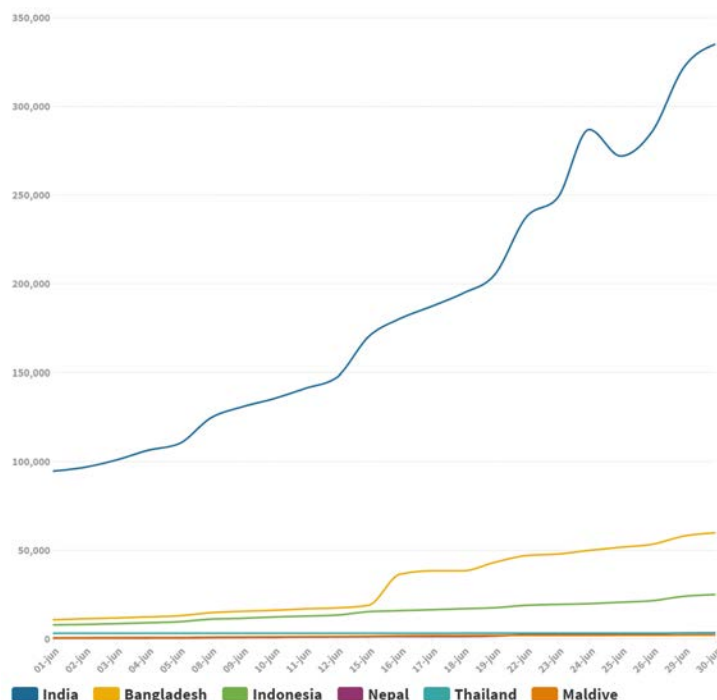
COVID-19 STATISTICS

#South-East Asia

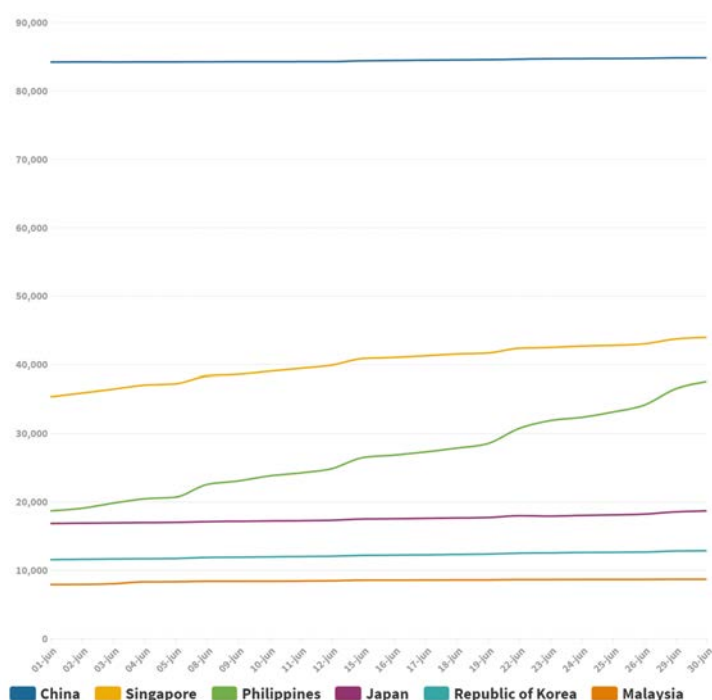
TOTAL DEATHS



TOTAL RECOVERED



TOTAL CASES

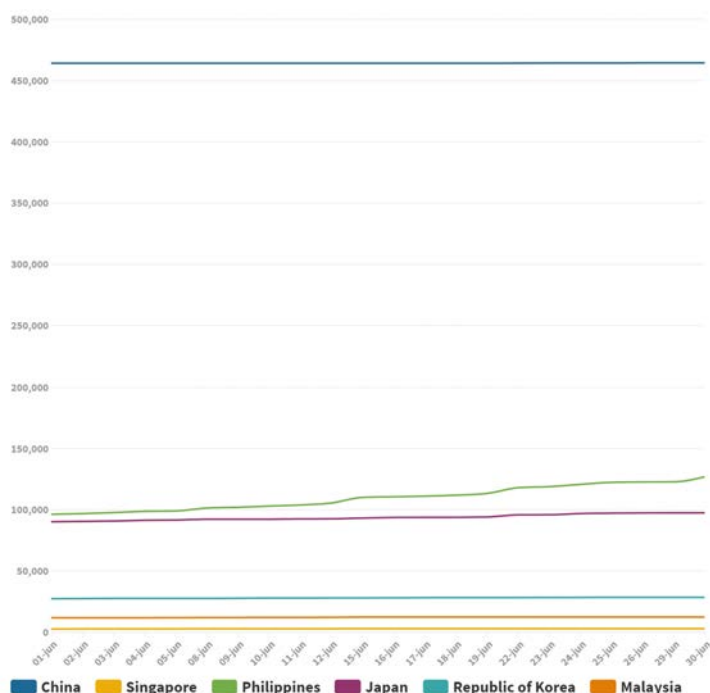


**SARS-COV-2
(COVID-19)
DISEASE
SITUATION IN THE
WESTERN PACIFIC**

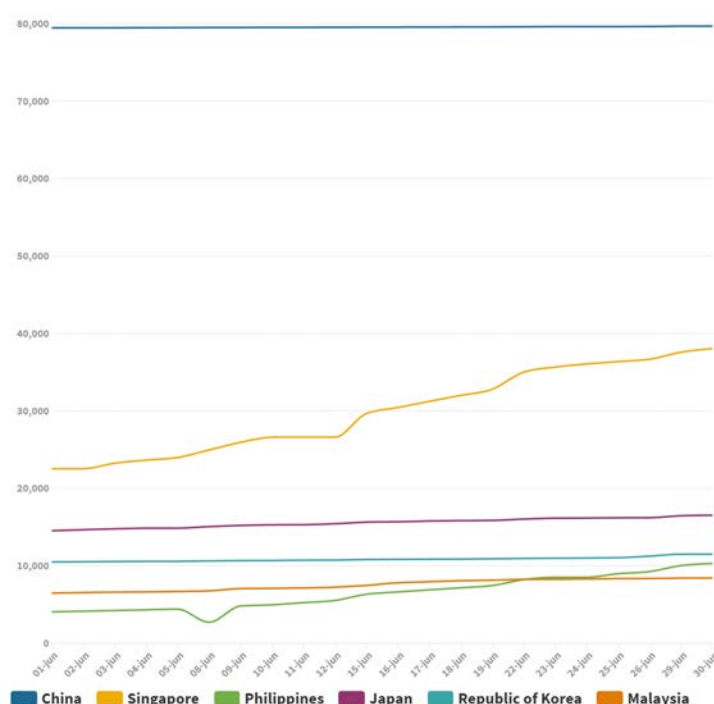
COVID-19 STATISTICS

#Western Pacific

TOTAL DEATHS

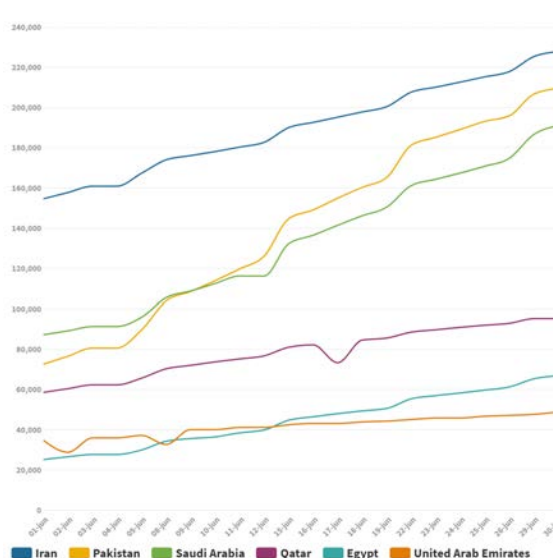
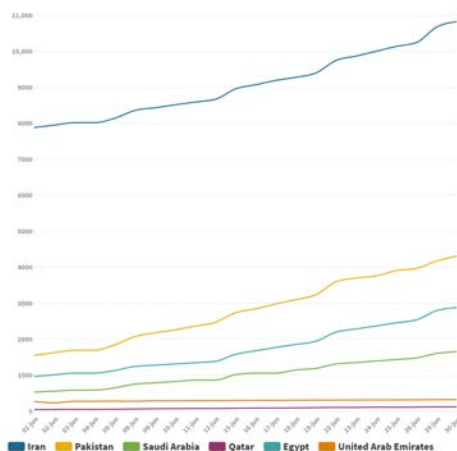


TOTAL RECOVERED

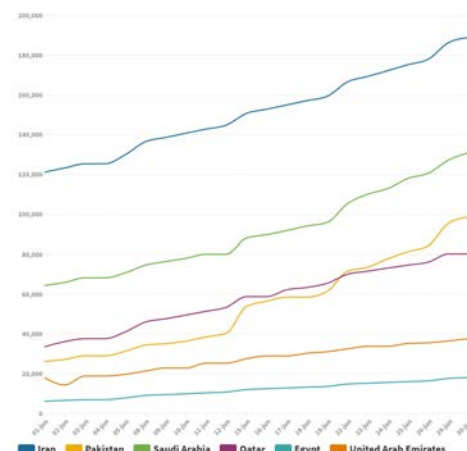


SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) DISEASE SITUATION IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

TOTAL DEATHS



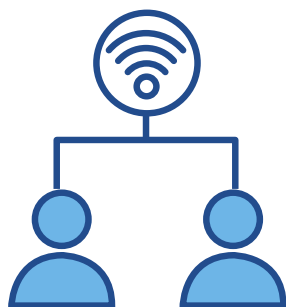
TOTAL RECOVERED



TOTAL CASES

EU Digital Economy and Society

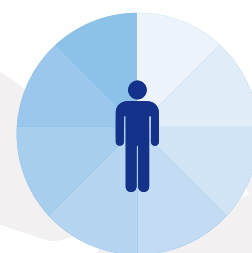
CONNECTIVITY



- Next Generation Access (NGA) coverage increased to **86% of households by 2019**.
- Very high capacity fixed networks (VHCN) are available to **44% of households**.
- **4G networks** cover almost the entire European population, but little progress has been made in 5G spectrum allocations.
- **Finland, Germany, Hungary and Italy** are the most advanced in the preparation of 5G.
- **Denmark, Sweden and Luxembourg** have the highest scores in connectivity overall.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIGITAL SKILLS

- The percentage of people with at least **basic digital literacy** reached **58%** in 2019.
- **64% of large companies and 56% of SMEs that hired ICT specialists** during 2018 reported that ICT specialist vacancies are difficult to fill.
- In Romania and the Czech Republic, at least **80% of companies** that recruited or tried to recruit ICT specialists reported such difficulties.
- Only **one in six** ICT specialists are women.
- **Finland, Sweden and Estonia** are the most advanced in human capital.



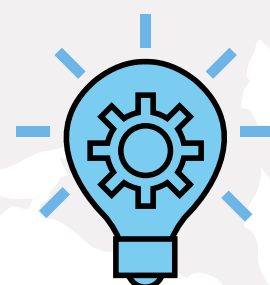
USE OF INTERNET SERVICES BY CITIZENS



- **85% of Europeans surf the internet** at least once a week (compared to 75% in 2014).
- The use of video calls has grown the most, from **49% of internet users in 2018 to 60% in 2019**.
- Internet banking and shopping are also more popular, being used by 66% and 71% of Internet users respectively.
- Only **11% of Europeans completed an online course** in 2019.
- In this category, the figures range from **67% in Bulgaria to 95% in Denmark**.

INTEGRATION OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY BY BUSINESSES

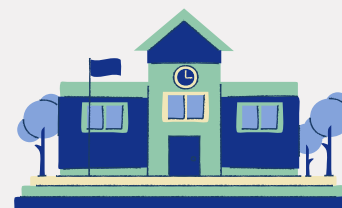
- **38.5% of large companies** rely on advanced cloud services.
- **32.7%** use large data analysis.
- However, the vast majority of SMEs do not use these technologies, only **17% use cloud services and only 12% carry out data analysis**.
- The best-ranked countries in terms of these indicators are Malta, with **24% of companies using large data, and Finland, with 50% relying on cloud services**.
- Only **17.5% of SMEs** sold products online in 2019. In contrast, **39% of large companies used online sales in 2019**.
- The leading EU countries in business digitisation are **Ireland, Finland, Belgium and The Netherlands**.



INFOGRAPHICS

DIGITAL PUBLIC SERVICES

- **Quality as well as use of digital public services** increased in 2019.
- **67% of Internet users** who submitted forms to their government reported that they now use online channels (compared to 57% in 2014).
- The best countries in this area are **Estonia, Spain, Denmark, Finland and Latvia.**



Over the past year, all EU countries improved their digital performance. Finland, Sweden, Denmark and The Netherlands scored the highest in DESI 2020 and are among the world leaders in digitisation. These countries are followed by Malta, Ireland and Estonia. However, other countries have a long way to go, and the EU as a whole needs to improve in order to compete on the global stage.

SOURCES:

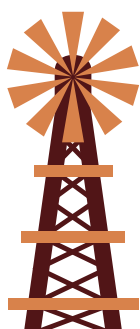
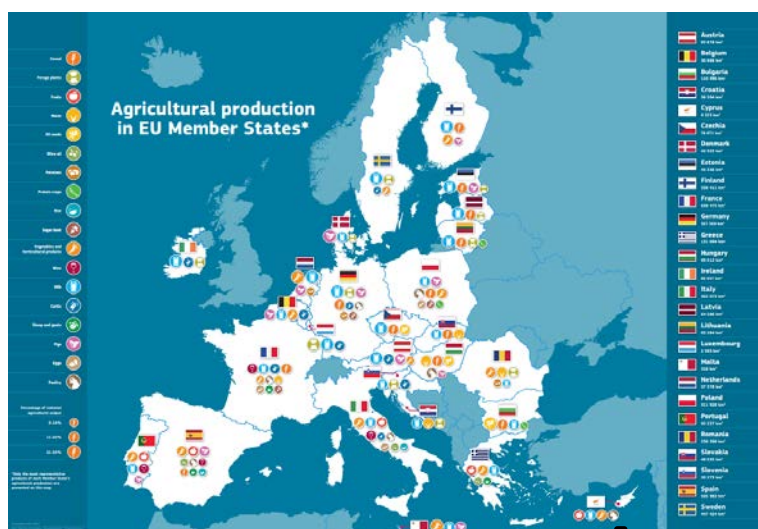


DESI 2020 REPORT



COUNTRIES' PERFORMANCE IN DIGITISATION

Agricultural production in EU Member States



Biodiversity in Europe



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY, MAGAZINES AND SERIALS



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC FORECAST. SPRING 2020

Summary: To contain the virus, EU Member States have had to take drastic measures that have put their economies into a state of hibernation. Economic activity in the EU fell by about a third, virtually overnight. Without these measures to contain the pandemic, however, the final damage to society and the economy would undoubtedly be greater.

Publication Date: 06-05-2020

Author: Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs

Key words: economic forecast, economic fluctuation, economic growth, economic policy, economic situation, EU Member State, euro area, European Union, gross domestic product, report, short-term forecast

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



QUANTIFYING RISKS TO SOVEREIGN MARKET ACCESS. METHODS AND CHALLENGES

Summary: This paper uses a rich dataset of financial and macroeconomic variables for euro area economies, and a range of econometric techniques, to discuss challenges in predicting episodes of market access tensions by sovereign borrowers.

Publication Date: 16-03-2020

Author: European Stability Mechanism

Keywords: econometrics, economic forecasting, economic indicator, economic model, euro area, financial market, financial risk, market access, monetary crisis

ACCEDE A LA PUBLICACIÓN:



EUROSTATISTICS DATA FOR SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC ANALYSIS. 03/2020

Summary: Eurostatistics — Data for short-term economic analysis - shows the evolution of the economic activity in the European Union, euro area and Member States. This monthly review gives a synthetic picture of the macroeconomic situation in the recent past. It is based on Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs), complemented by some business cycle indicators.

Publication Date: 23-03-2020

Author: Eurostat

Keywords: economic analysis, economic situation, economic statistics, EU statistics, short-term economic prospects

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

HEALTH

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



GUIDANCE ON INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COVID-19 IN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE RECEPTION AND DETENTION CENTRES IN THE EU/EEA AND THE UK

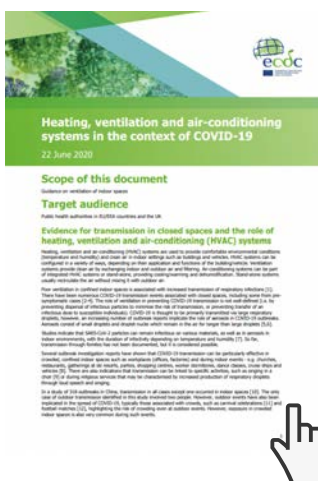
Summary: The main objective of this guidance is to provide scientific advice on public health principles and considerations for infection control and prevention of COVID-19 in migrant and refugee reception and detention centres in the European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA) and the United Kingdom.

Publication Date: 15-06-2020

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Key words: coronavirus, COVID-19, fever, ebola, influenza, flu in humans, middle eastern seasonal respiratory syndrome, public health threat, infection

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Summary: This document is intended to provide guidance to public health authorities in EU/EEA countries and the UK on indoor ventilation in the context of COVID-19.

Publication Date: 18-06-2020

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

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

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



COVID-19 INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR PRIMARY CARE, INCLUDING GENERAL PRACTITIONER PRACTICES, DENTAL CLINICS AND PHARMACY SETTINGS

Summary: This document provides guidance on infection prevention and control to health care providers in the EU/EEA in order to prevent COVID-19 infection.

Publication Date: 09-06-2020

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

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

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

RESEARCH

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



INDICATORS FOR MONITORING THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA. THE TRIMIS INDICATOR FRAMEWORK TO ASSESS TRANSPORT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRESS

Summary: The European Commission's Transport Research and Innovation Monitoring and Information System (TRIMIS) maps and analyses research trends and innovation capacities across the European transport sector.

Publication Date: 07-05-2020

Author: Joint Research Centre

Keywords: economic indicator, electric vehicle, industrial research, information system, innovation, intelligent transport system, research and development, research report, social indicator, sustainable mobility, traffic control, transport infrastructure, transport market, transport network, transport policy

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EIDES 2020. THE EUROPEAN INDEX OF DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYSTEMS

Summary: Digitalisation is shaping and even transforming both the location and nature of entrepreneurial opportunities in the economy and the practices to pursue them. In order to help maximise the productivity potential of the digitally enhanced entrepreneurial dynamic in countries, policymakers need to understand the state of their countries' digital framework conditions for entrepreneurship.

Publication Date: 24-06-2020

Author: Joint Research Center

Keywords: business policy, business start-up, decision-making, digital technology, digitisation, economic growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, productivity, research report

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



STANDARDS4QUANTUM. MAKING QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY READY FOR INDUSTRY: PUTTING SCIENCE INTO STANDARDS

Summary: The Quantum Technologies Flagship, officially launched on 29 October 2018 in Vienna, is a EUR 1 billion initiative, supported by the European Commission and Member States, funding over 5,000 of Europe's leading Quantum Technologies researchers over the next ten years and aiming at placing Europe at the forefront of the second quantum revolution.

Publication Date: 07-05-2020

Author: Joint Research Centre

Keywords: computer systems, industrial policy, information security, information technology, innovation, market access, new technology, research report, scientific research, standardisation, technological change

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

SUSTAINABILITY

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



THE GREENIUM MATTERS. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL DISCLOSURES, AND STOCK PRICES – STUDY

Summary: This study provides evidence on the existence of a negative Greenium, i.e. a risk premium linked to firms' greenness and environmental transparency, based on European individual stock returns.

Publication Date: 20-04-2020

Authors: Joint Research Centre; Ossaola, Elisa ; Alessi, Lucia ; Panzica, Roberto

Keywords: climate change policy , corporate social responsibility , environmental economics , environmental impact , financial institution , greenhouse gas , market , price of energy , research report.

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. MONITORING REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGS IN AN EU CONTEXT: 2020 EDITION

Summary: Sustainable development is firmly anchored in the European Treaties and has been at the heart of European policy for a long time. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, have given a new impetus to global efforts for achieving sustainable development

Publication Date: 29-06-2020

Authors: Eurostat

Keywords: development policy , EU Member State , EU statistics , report , sustainable development

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



GOING GREEN. WHO IS INVESTING IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND WHY IT MATTERS : EVIDENCE FROM THE EIB INVESTMENT SURVEY

Summary: Investments in energy efficiency improvements are vital to ensure Europe's future as a sustainable, yet prosperous economy. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, however, there is a great risk of losing sight of the benefits of energy efficiency investments by European firms.

Publication Date: 03-07-2020

Authors: Banco European Investment Bank

Keywords: building , economic survey , energy efficiency , energy law , EU investment , European undertaking , sustainable development

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

AGRICULTURE

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EU AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FOR MARKETS AND INCOME 2019-2030

Summary: This report provides a medium-term outlook for major EU agricultural markets and agricultural income to 2030. It is based on a set of coherent macroeconomic assumptions deemed most plausible at the time of the analysis, including the continuation of current agricultural and trade policies.

Publication Date: 02-06-2020

Author: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Keywords: agricultural economics, agricultural levy, agricultural policy, agricultural production, agricultural productivity, economic forecasting, EU agricultural market, farm income

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE CAP ON HABITATS, LANDSCAPES, BIODIVERSITY. FINAL REPORT

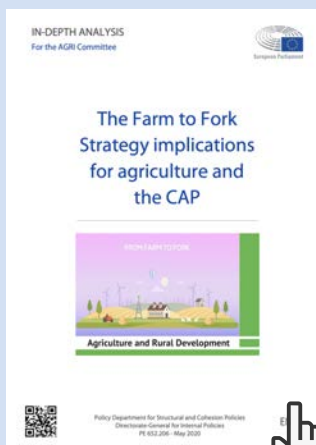
Summary: The objective of this evaluation study is to carry out 'an evaluation of the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on habitats, landscapes, and biodiversity'.

Publication Date: 25-03-2020

Author: Alliance Environnement, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Keywords: agroforestry, aquatic ecosystem, biodiversity, common agricultural policy, degradation of the environment, environmental impact, nature reserve, pollution from agricultural sources, protected area, terrestrial ecosystem, water pollution

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



RESEARCH FOR THE AGRI COMMITTEE – THE FARM TO FORK STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE AND THE CAP

Summary: The aim of this In-Depth Analysis prepared by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies is to explore the possible implications of the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) for agriculture and the CAP and, as a result, on the legislative works of the AGRI Committee over the 2020 - 2023 period.

Publication Date: 15-05-2020

Author: European Parliament; Massot Marti Albert

Keywords: Agriculture, CAP, Farming

MAGAZINES AND SERIALS

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



RESEARCH*EU. #93, JUNE 2020

Summary: Special feature: a quantum leap forward for European fundamental research. Showcasing innovative EU research in quantum technologies, how hands can help identify child abusers and the importance of nuclear safety.

Publication Date: 28-05-2020

Author: Publications Office

Keywords: Research policy and organisation, applied research , diffusion of innovations , EU research policy , innovation , research project , serial publication

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES NEWSLETTER. 29 MAY 2020

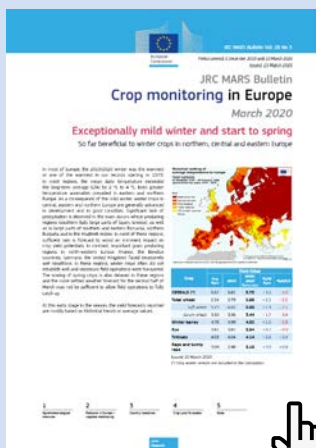
Summary: In this February newsletter you will find news, events and calls related to the topic of fisheries in the EU.

Publication Date: 07-05-2020

Author: Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Keywords: Fisheries policy , Agricultural and fisheries research, common fisheries policy , innovation , serial publication , shipping policy , sustainable development

ACCESS TO PUBLICATION:



JRC MARS BULLETIN. CROP MONITORING IN EUROPE. VOL. 28 NO 3, MARCH 2020

Summary: Exceptionally mild winter and start to spring. So far beneficial to winter crops in northern, central and eastern Europe.

Publication Date: 17-07-2020

Author: Joint Research Centre

Keywords: Agriculture — Forestry — Fisheries , agricultural situation , atmospheric conditions , crop production , crop yield , meteorology , serial publication

MEDIA COLLECTION





MEDIA COLLECTION

EU missions – Soil health and food



The earth and soil are essential to all life support processes on our planet. They are the basis of the food we grow, as well as many other products such as animal feed, textiles or wood. Soils also provide a number of ecosystem services that are important for clean water, support for biodiversity or for nutrient cycling and climate regulation. Soils are very dynamic and fragile systems and are a finite resource.

EU Science & Innovation

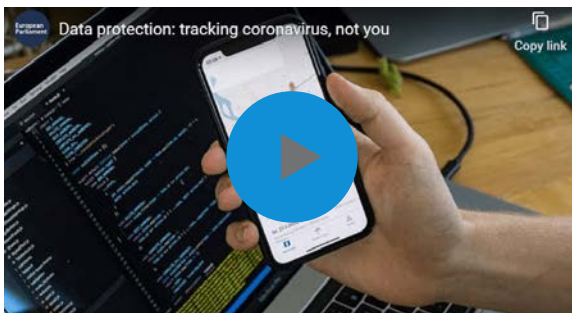
Protecting cross-border workers



Being a cross-border, seasonal or frontier worker means navigating between different national rules. During the Covid-19 border closures, travel from the country where they live to the country where they work became complicated or even impossible. Parliament wants to ensure that their rights are protected, even after the pandemic.

European Parliament

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. Members of Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee support EU efforts to ensure that the introduction of such applications does not violate fundamental European rights, such as data protection and privacy.

European Parliament

Protecting cross-border workers



Parliament has stated its position on the ambitious coronavirus recovery plan to restart the EU economy. MEPs call for citizens, the environment and digitisation to be at the heart of the next long-term budget and economic recovery.

European Parliament



MEDIA COLLECTION

Diversified and secure European energy



European energy supplies should be secure, diverse but also green. This is why Parliament wants to update trans-European energy network funding guidelines, to fit EU climate goals, in line with the green deal, while ensuring no region is left out.

European Parliament

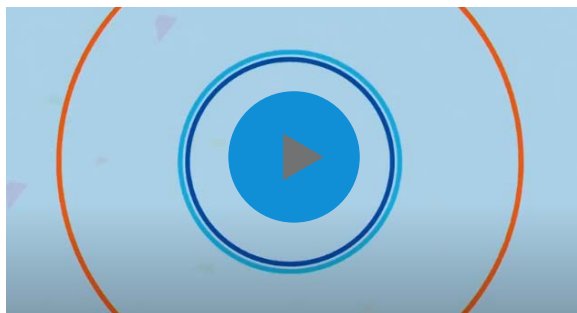
Covid-19: 10 things the EU is doing to support recovery



Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the EU has been at the forefront of coordinating measures, fighting both the health crisis and its economic impact. Here are 10 things the EU is doing to get Europe back on its feet. MOSTRAR MÁS

European Parliament

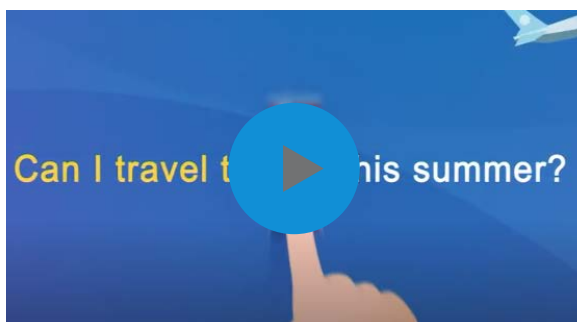
EU budget support – How it works, what it achieves



The video explains how EU budget support operates (objectives, types of contract, conditions and indicators, accountability).

European Commission

Reopen EU website – Can I travel this summer?



The answer is just a click away. You can find all the info you need to safely plan your travels on the Re-open EU website

European Commission



WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR OPINION:

**Did you find this
information useful?**



CDE@UAL.ES



CENTRO DE DOCUMENTACIÓN EUROPEA DE ALMERÍA

**VICERRECTORADO DE
INVESTIGACIÓN E INNOVACIÓN**

INFORMATIVE BULLETIN