



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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Bimonthly newsletter:

- to spread European opportunities and initiatives,
- to disseminate the respect of human rights and the awareness about the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity,
- to fight discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance and racism,
- to help, with youth activities, the democratic stability and social inclusion in Europe,
- develop active European citizenship and civil society by giving impetus to the training of youth leaders and youth workers working within a European dimension;
- to promote European youth activities, such as exchanges, seminars, conferences, debates and training courses,
- to encourage exchange of ideas, proposals, experiences and good practises at international level.

NEWSLETTER REALISED BY
THE ASSOCIATION EURO-NET
AS EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA CENTRE



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1. Coronavirus: Commission roadmap shows path towards

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

While we are still in firefighting mode, the necessary extraordinary measures taken by Member States and the EU are working. They have slowed down the spread of the virus and saved thousands of lives. However, these measures and the corresponding uncertainty come at a dramatic cost to people, society and the economy, and cannot last indefinitely. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said: *“Saving lives and protecting Europeans from the coronavirus is our number one priority. At the same time, it is time to look ahead and to focus on protecting livelihoods. Even though conditions in the Member States still vary widely, all*



Europeans rightly ask themselves when and in what order the confinement measures can be lifted. Responsible planning on the ground, wisely balancing the interests of protection of public health with those of the functioning of our societies, needs a solid foundation. That's why the Commission has drawn up a catalogue of guidelines, criteria and measures that provide a basis for thoughtful action. The strength of Europe lies in its social and economic balance. Together we learn from each other and help our European Union out

of this crisis.” Commissioner for Health and Food safety Stella Kyriakides said: *“Returning to normality after the corona lockdowns will require a carefully coordinated and European approach between Member States, based on science and in the spirit of solidarity. It is crucial that our healthcare systems have the capacity to treat increases in new cases, that essential medicines and equipment are available and that we have large-scale testing and tracing capacity in place. We know that this road will be long and gradual and that the consequences of this unprecedented health crisis will be long lasting. Until effective treatments and a vaccine are found, we will have to learn to live with this virus. But Europe will be back on its feet, together and united. This is the only way.”*

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

- **Timing is essential.** Deciding that the time has come to begin to relax confinement should be based on these criteria: **Epidemiological criteria** showing that the spread of the disease has significantly decreased and stabilised for a sustained period; **sufficient health system capacity**, for example taking into account the occupation rate for intensive care units, the availability of health care workers and medical material; **appropriate monitoring capacity**, including large-scale testing capacity to quickly detect and isolate infected individuals, as well as tracking and tracing capacity.
- **We need a European approach.** While timing and modalities for lifting containment measures differ between Member States, we need a common framework that is based on: **science with public health at its centre**, while acknowledging that ending restrictive measures involves balancing public health benefits with social and economic impacts; **coordination between Member States**, to avoid negative effects. This is a matter of common European interest; **respect and solidarity**. This is essential for both health and socio-economic aspects. At a minimum, Member States should notify each other and the Commission in due time before they lift measures and take into account their views.
- **Phasing-out confinement requires accompanying measures**, including: **gathering harmonised data and developing a robust system of reporting and contact tracing**, including with digital tools that fully respect data privacy; **expanding testing capacity and harmonising testing methodologies**. The Commission – in consultation with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control – has adopted Guidelines on different coronavirus tests and their performance; **increasing the capacity and resilience of national health care systems**, in particular to address the predicted rise in infections after lifting restrictive measures; **continuing to reinforce medical and personal protective equipment**

capacities; developing safe and effective treatments and medicines, as well as developing and fast-tracking the introduction of a vaccine to put an end to the coronavirus.

Next steps

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

- **Actions should be gradual:** measures should be lifted in different steps, with sufficient time left between them to measure the impact.
- **General measures should progressively be replaced by targeted ones.** For example, protecting the most vulnerable groups for longer; facilitating the gradual return of necessary economic activities; intensifying regular cleaning and disinfection of transport hubs, shops and workplaces; replacing general states of emergencies with targeted government interventions to ensure transparency and democratic accountability.
- **Internal border controls should be lifted in a coordinated manner.** Travel restrictions and border controls should be removed once the border regions' epidemiological situation converges sufficiently. External border should be reopened in a second stage and take account of the spread of the virus outside the EU.
- **The re-start of economic activity should be phased-in:** there are several models that can be implemented, e.g. jobs suitable for teleworking, economic importance, shifts of workers, etc. The entire population should not return to the workplace at the same time.
- **Gatherings of people** should be progressively permitted, taking into account the specificities of different categories of activity, such as:
 - Schools and universities;
 - Commercial activity (retail) with possible gradation;
 - Social activity measures (restaurants, cafes) with possible gradation;
 - Mass gatherings.
- **Efforts to prevent the spread of the virus should be sustained**, with awareness campaigns to encourage the population to keep up the strong hygiene practices and social distancing.
- **Action should be continuously monitored** and preparedness developed for returning to stricter containment measures as necessary.

While confinement measures are gradually lifted, there is a need to **strategically plan the recovery**, revitalising the economy and getting back on a path of sustainable growth. This includes enabling the twin transition towards a greener and digital society, and drawing all lessons from the current crisis for the EU's preparedness and resilience. **The Commission will develop a Recovery plan, based on a revamped proposal for the next long-term EU budget (Multiannual Financial Framework) and the updated Commission Work Programme for 2020.**

Background

The Commission, in cooperation with the President of the European Council, has developed the present roadmap responding to the call of the European Council of 26 March for a coordinated exit strategy. It takes into account the expertise of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the panel of scientific experts advising the Commission on the coronavirus. Evidently, any such reflection is based on the scientific knowledge available today, and should be revised as further evidence appears and measuring methods are harmonised. In parallel, the Commission continues to mobilise **funding to foster research** on the development of vaccine, treatments and medicines. The Commission is also working with the European Medicines Agency to **streamline regulatory steps**, from clinical trials to marketing authorisations. It will also foster **international cooperation** as a priority. Furthermore, to help Member States acquire the necessary equipment as rapidly as possible, including tests, the Commission has set up a **"Clearing house for medical equipment"**, launched **joint procurement actions and emergency stockpiling via RescEU** and proposed to support national health systems with the Emergency Support Instrument.



2. Coronavirus: Commission issues guidelines on testing

As part of the European Roadmap towards lifting coronavirus containment measures, the Commission is presenting guidelines on coronavirus testing methodologies.

The guidance aims to support Member States in effectively using testing tools in the context of their national strategies and during the different stages of the pandemic, including when phasing out confinement measures. The Commission also aims to ensure that high-quality tools are available to assess the performance of the tests.



Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: *“The capacity to perform large-scale testing is key to detecting and slowing down the coronavirus pandemic and is a crucial pre-condition for a gradual return to our normal way of life. The main priority for us all is to fight the virus and protect our citizens from further exposure and infection, and to do so, we need to know where the virus is. In the absence of a vaccine, safe and reliable testing is our best bet to protect our health care workers, the most vulnerable of our citizens and our societies at large. This is a cornerstone of*

our roadmap towards lifting coronavirus containment measures.” Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, responsible for the Joint Research Centre (JRC), said: *“We have been working hard to analyse the information on the quality assurance of the coronavirus tests and devices that are currently being used. The results show that there is a mismatch between the existing quality and what could be expected to ensure good performance of the tests. The European Commission has therefore developed test performance criteria which aim to improve the overall performance of these tests. This will benefit all European citizens and is a key part for of the exit strategy from the current crises.”* The availability of reliable data over time is key to lifting containment measures. In order to achieve this, there needs to be sufficient monitoring of the progression of the coronavirus pandemic, including through large-scale testing. In its guidelines, the Commission calls on manufacturers to produce “state of the art” testing kits. Although the science relating to testing is still evolving rapidly, this obligation is important as the information provided by these test kits is used for crucial public health decisions. Given the importance of tests in the current situation and the rapid development of the pandemic, the Commission is also insisting on pooling resources for the validation of coronavirus tests at EU-level. It is important to centralise the validation and to share the results at EU and international level. In order to ensure the highest possible testing quality, make sure that tests are correctly used and further align the evaluation and validation of test device performance, the Commission is proposing to launch the following actions in the coming weeks:

- an assessment of common approaches in national strategies;
- the sharing of information on the performance of tests;
- the establishment of a network of coronavirus reference laboratories across the EU to facilitate the exchange of information, and the management and distribution of control samples;
- the drafting of further guidance on performance evaluation and conformity assessment following additional dialogue with the industry and national competent authorities;
- making available tools for assessment of performance, such as reference materials and common methods for the comparison of devices;
- the fight against counterfeit devices through international cooperation and cooperation between Member States' authorities;
- the coordination of supply and demand by EU instruments such as the Clearing House, rescEU and joint procurement;
- solidarity between Member States by ensuring a fair distribution of available stocks and laboratory equipment focussing on where they are most needed.

Background

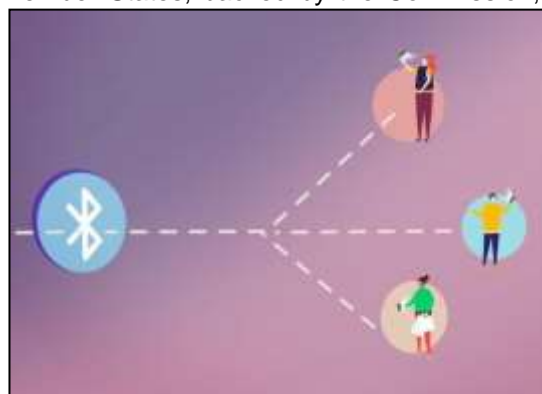
Currently, EU legislation lays down a number of requirements for tests. The manufacturer of a test must prepare a technical file, which demonstrates that the test is safe and performs as intended. There are currently two categories of tests: tests detecting the virus; tests detecting

antibodies; these tests detect whether the patient has already been exposed to the virus and therefore produced antibodies. Assessing the performance level of a test can be very challenging as the biological materials necessary for this assessment are not always available. Moreover, unified ways to compare tests do not always exist.

3. Coronavirus: An EU approach for efficient contact tracing

EU Members States, supported by the Commission, have developed an EU toolbox for the use of mobile applications for contact tracing and warning in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This is part of a common coordinated approach to support the gradual lifting of confinement measures, as set out in a Commission Recommendation last week.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, Member States, backed by the Commission, have been assessing the effectiveness, security, privacy, and data protection aspects of digital solutions to address the crisis. Contact tracing apps, if fully compliant with EU rules and well coordinated, can play a key role in all phases of crisis management, especially when time will be ripe to gradually lift social distancing measures. They can complement existing manual contact tracing and help interrupt the transmission chain of the virus. The toolbox is accompanied by guidance on data protection for such mobile apps. Welcoming the toolbox, Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry **Breton** said: “Contact



tracing apps to limit the spread of coronavirus can be useful, especially as part of Member States' exit strategies. However, strong privacy safeguards are a pre-requisite for the uptake of these apps, and therefore their usefulness. While we should be innovative and make the best use of technology in fighting the pandemic, we will not compromise on our values and privacy requirements.” Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella **Kyriakides** added: “Digital tools will be crucial to protect our citizens as we gradually lift confinement measures. Mobile apps can warn us of infection risks and support health authorities with contact tracing, which is essential to break transmission chains. We need to be diligent, creative, and flexible in our approaches to opening up our societies again. We need to continue to flatten the curve – and keep it down. Without safe and compliant digital technologies, our approach will not be efficient.”

A common approach for voluntary and privacy-compliant tracing apps

The announcement is the first iteration of a common EU toolbox, developed urgently and collaboratively by the e-Health Network with the support of the European Commission. It provides a practical guide for Member States in the implementation of contact tracing and warning apps. The toolbox sets out the essential requirements for these apps:

- They should be fully compliant with the EU data protection and privacy rules, as put forward by the guidance presented following consultation with the European Data Protection Board.
- They should be implemented in close coordination with, and approved by, public health authorities.
- They should be installed voluntarily, and dismantled as soon as no longer needed.
- They should aim to exploit the latest privacy-enhancing technological solutions. Likely to be based on Bluetooth proximity technology, they do not enable tracking of people's locations.
- They should be based on anonymised data: They can alert people who have been in proximity for a certain duration to an infected person to get tested or self-isolate, without revealing the identity of the people infected.
- They should be interoperable across the EU so that citizens are protected even when they cross borders.
- They should be anchored in accepted epidemiological guidance, and reflect best practice on cybersecurity, and accessibility.
- They should be secure and effective.

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

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

Next steps

The toolbox reflects the latest best practices in the use of mobile contact tracing and warning apps to tackling the crisis. It is part of an ongoing process where Member States work together to devise and refine in the coming weeks and months the use of this and other practical tools. This first version will be further enriched in light of the experiences of Member States. By 30 April 2020, public health authorities will assess the effectiveness of the apps at national and cross-border level. Member States should report on their actions by 31 May 2020 and make the measures accessible to other Member States and the Commission for peer review. The Commission will assess the progress made and publish periodic reports starting in June 2020 and throughout the crisis, recommending action or the phasing out of measures that seem no longer necessary.

4. EU rules on asylum, return procedures and resettlement

The Commission adopted guidance on the implementation of relevant EU rules on asylum and return procedures and on resettlement in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, which it will present to Member States.

This responds to Member States' request for advice on ways to ensure the continuity of procedures and the respect of, at a minimum, basic rights. The guidance was prepared with the support of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), and in cooperation with national authorities. Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinias**, said: *"The pandemic has direct consequences on the way EU asylum and return rules are being implemented and a disruptive effect on resettlement. We are acting to support Member States in providing guidance on how to use the flexibility in EU rules to ensure the continuity of procedures as much as possible while fully ensuring the protection of people's health and rights. While our way of life may have changed drastically in the past weeks – our values and principles must not."*



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fully acknowledges the difficulties that Member States face in the current situation. In the guidelines, we give advice for practical solutions which take into account Member States' legitimate concerns and constraints. Any measure taken in the area of asylum, resettlement and return should also take full account of the health protection measures introduced by the Member States to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Vulnerable persons, in particular unaccompanied minors, and families should receive particular care and attention."

Asylum procedures

Health measures taken to limit social interaction among asylum personnel and applicants have an impact on asylum processes. The flexibility provided for in EU rules should be used: **Registration and processing** of applications should continue. Maximum flexibility should be permitted in relation to deadlines and the duration for processing and examining claims. However, any delays in registration should not mean applicants are left without reception conditions. **Personal interviews** can be conducted with specific arrangements such as remotely through video conferencing or even omitted if needed. **Dublin Regulation:** Close cooperation between Member States is of fundamental importance for the good functioning of the Dublin system. The Commission encourages all Member States to resume transfers of applicants as soon as practically possible in view of the evolving circumstances. Before carrying out any transfer, Member States should consider the situation related to the coronavirus, including that resulting from the heavy pressure on the health system, in the Member State responsible. Where transfers to the Member State normally responsible cannot take place within the applicable time limit, Member States can still agree bilaterally to nevertheless carry out the transfer at a later date, which is to be encouraged for example for unaccompanied minors and family reunification cases.

The Commission and EASO are prepared to facilitate cooperation between Member States. **Reception conditions:** Quarantine and isolation measures must be reasonable, proportionate and non-discriminatory. Applicants must receive the necessary health care. Applicants in detention should continue to have access to open air and any restrictions, such as limitation of visitors, need to be carefully explained. **Fingerprinting:** In line with the Eurodac Regulation, where it is not possible to take the fingerprints of an applicant on account of measures taken to protect public health, Member States should take fingerprints as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after such health grounds cease to exist.

Resettlement

The outbreak of the coronavirus has led to a severe disruption of resettlement operations. Member States as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have temporarily suspended resettlement operations. Preparatory activities should continue to the extent possible so that resettlement operations can resume smoothly. The Commission will continue to support Member States to fulfil their 2020 pledges and will grant flexibility in relation to the implementation period.

Return

Measures taken worldwide to contain the pandemic are having a significant effect on return. Despite the temporary disruption caused by the coronavirus, work on return procedures to third countries should continue, particularly on activities that can be carried out despite restrictive measures, to be ready for when return operations can be resumed. More than ever, voluntary returns should be prioritised, also because they present a lower health and safety risk. Frontex stands ready to assist Member States in organising air operations. Close cooperation and contacts with third countries on the identification, documentation and return of their nationals should also be maintained. As regards pre-removal detention, the temporary restrictions during the pandemic should not be interpreted as automatically leading to the conclusion that a reasonable prospect of removal no longer exists in all cases. The Commission invites Member States to examine each case individually to determine whether a reasonable prospect of removal still exists when deciding on appropriate action to take.

Background

The Commission invited Heads of State or Government on 16 March 2020 to introduce a temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU for an initial period of 30 days, prolonged until 15 May. Leaders endorsed this call on 17 March; and all EU Member States (except Ireland) and non-EU Schengen countries have since then taken national decisions to implement this travel restriction. The exemptions to the travel restriction extend to persons in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons respecting the principle of *non-refoulement*. This guidance will be complemented by dedicated thematic meetings organised by EU agencies to assist Member States with practical advice and facilitate the sharing of best practices.

5. President von der Leyen on the EU action on the coronavirus

Sung on 16 April before the European Parliament, meeting in plenary session.



"Check against delivery"

Dear President,

Honourable Members,

There are no words that can do justice to Europe's pain or to all those suffering across the world. We think and we pray for all of the families in mourning. And we promise to each other that we will tell their stories and honour their lives and their legacies. We will remember them all. We will remember Julie, the French teenager with her whole life ahead of her, Jan, the veteran Czech historian who always fought for what he

believed in, and Gino, the Italian doctor who came out of retirement to save lives. We will remember the Suzanne's incredible gesture to leave her ventilator to someone younger than her in Belgium, and the image of Francis who waved goodbye to his brother through a hospital window in Ireland. We will remember the new Polish mother who will not see her child grow up

and the young Spanish football coach who will never see his dream come true. We will remember them all. The mothers, the fathers, the sisters and brothers. The young and the old from the north or the south, the east or the west. The friends and the colleagues, the neighbours from nearby and the strangers from far away. Those with stories to tell and places to be. Those whose shoulder we cry on and whose love we rely on. Each and every one of those thousands of stories breaks off a little piece of our heart. But they also make our resolve that much stronger to ensure that Europe does everything it can to save every life it can.

Honourable Members,

You cannot overcome a pandemic of this speed or this scale without the truth. The truth about everything: the numbers, the science, the outlook – but also about our own actions. Yes, it is true that no one was really ready for this. It is also true that too many were not there on time when Italy needed a helping hand at the very beginning. And yes, for that, it is right that Europe as a whole offers a heartfelt apology. But saying sorry only counts for something if it changes behaviour. The truth is that it did not take long before everyone realised that we must protect each other to protect ourselves. And the truth is too that Europe has now become the world's beating heart of solidarity. The real Europe is standing up, the one that is there for each other when it is needed the most. The one where paramedics from Poland and doctors from Romania save lives in Italy. Where ventilators from Germany provide a lifeline in Spain. Where hospitals in Czechia treat the sick from France. And where patients from Bergamo are flown to clinics in Bonn. We have seen medical supplies go from Lithuania to Spain and respirators go from Denmark to Italy. In fact, we have seen every piece of equipment go in every direction across Europe, from whoever can spare it to whoever that needs it. This makes me proud to be European. Of course, there are still some who want to point fingers or deflect blame. And there are others who would rather talk like populists than tell unpopular truths. To this, I say stop. Stop and have the courage to tell the truth. Have the courage to stand up for Europe. Because this Union of ours will get us through. But it will only be as strong tomorrow as we make it today. And if you need inspiration, just look at the way the people of Europe are standing together - with

empathy, humility and humanity. I pay tribute to them all. To the delivery drivers and the food suppliers. The shopkeepers, the factory packers and the balcony clappers. The companies changing their production lines to make the supplies we urgently need. I pay tribute to the Portuguese volunteers sewing masks for their neighbours or the seven-year-old Greek pianist who composed an "isolation waltz" to keep people going. Above all else I thank and I pay tribute to our heroes: the medics, nurses and careworkers. They are the ones with bruises on their faces and tragic images in their hearts and minds. The ones holding the hands of the sick as softly and as lovingly as the families that cannot be there. They are the ones saving our lives and saving our honour. The ones we must protect so they can protect us all. And this is exactly what we are fully focused on. It is why we have created a common stockpile of medical equipment and invested in research for treatments and vaccines. It is why we have organised joint procurements for the most urgent supplies on the world market and set up a team of experts from across Europe to share the best knowledge to save lives. It is why we have waived customs duties and VAT on the import of medical devices from third countries. And it is why earlier this month we made a simple but big promise: We will use every available euro we have - in every way we can - to save lives and protect livelihoods of Europeans. In this spirit, we proposed to direct all our remaining budget for the year into an emergency instrument. This will allow almost 3 billion euro to go directly to where it needs to go – from securing new ventilators and protective gear, to scaling up testing efforts and providing medical assistance to the most vulnerable, including those in refugee camps. To back that up, we are proposing to allow every available euro of European Structural and Investment Funds to be used on the response to the Coronavirus. This means full flexibility: they can be moved between regions. And they can be used where they are needed most, irrespective of the usual requirements on co-financing, on policy objective or ceilings. With the package this House will vote on today, Europe is putting everything it has into doing everything it can. And the same principle applies to protecting people's livelihoods. Europe has had economic crises before. But we have never had an economic shutdown like this. Nobody is



to blame and everybody will need support. We need unprecedented measures to do this and to make sure our economy is ready to bounce forward as soon as it can. And here again, the truth matters. Europe has done more in the last four weeks than it did in the first four years of the last crisis. We have made our state aid rules more flexible than ever. In the last few days alone, we have approved schemes that will provide 1 billion euro to Croatian businesses, 1.2 billion for Greek SMEs or 20 million to Portuguese fishermen. There are many more examples I could pick, from Latvia and Estonia to Belgium or Sweden. For the first time in our history, we triggered the full flexibility in the Stability and Growth Pact. Along with bold measures taken by the European Central Bank, this provides unprecedented fiscal and financial firepower. And last week's decisions by EU finance ministers mean a further 500 billion euros will be available to all of those who need it to. As part of this, I urge all Member States to make the most of SURE – the new scheme proposed by the Commission to protect Europeans against the risk of unemployment. It will provide €100 billion to help governments make up the difference if your employer has to reduce your hours - or if you are self-employed and need support. The beauty of SURE is two-fold. First, it will help those in need to pay their rent, bills or food and keep other businesses alive in the process. And second, it is the definition of European solidarity. The Member States that can, will put up guarantees so others can support the hardest hit in their countries. As a result of all of this action, Europe's collective response is well above 3 trillion euros. This is the most impressive response anywhere in the world. But we know we will need more. A lot more. Because this will be a long haul and the world of tomorrow will look very different from that of yesterday.

Honourable Members,

I am convinced that Europe can shape this new world if it works together and rediscovers its pioneering spirit. And for this, I want to cite a sentence from the Ventotene Manifesto – written by two of Italy and Europe's greatest visionaries: Ernesto Rossi and Altiero Spinelli, one of our founding fathers. Writing from their prison on a remote island, at the height of the war, when all hope of a united Europe seemed lost, they gave us these words of confidence: *The moment has arrived in which we must know how to discard old burdens, how to be ready for the new world that is coming, that will be so different from what we have imagined.* Dear Friends, this moment has arrived once again. The moment to put behind us the old divisions, disputes and



recriminations. To come out of our entrenched positions. The moment to be ready for that new world. To use all the power of our common spirit and the strength of our shared purpose. The starting point for this must be making our economies, societies and way of life more sustainable and resilient. Finding the answers in this new world will require courage, trust and solidarity. And it will need massive investment to jumpstart our economies. We need a Marshall Plan for Europe's recovery and it needs to be put in place

immediately. There is only one instrument we have that is trusted by all Member States, which is already in place and can deliver quickly. It is transparent and it is time tested as an instrument for cohesion, convergence and investment. And that instrument is the European budget. The European budget will be the mothership of our recovery. And for that reason, the next seven year budget must be different to what we had imagined, just as Spinelli said. We will use the power of the whole European budget to leverage the huge amount of investment we need to rebuild the Single Market after Corona. We will frontload it so we can power that investment in those crucial first years of recovery. Because this crisis is different from any other one we have known. It is severely hitting completely healthy companies because public life has shutdown. This is why we will need innovative solutions and more headroom in the MFF to unlock massive public and private investment. This will kick-start our economies and drive our recovery towards a more resilient, green and digital Europe. By that, we not only support but we also reshape our industries and services towards a new reality. It will mean investing in our digital technologies, infrastructure and in innovation such as 3D printing to help us to be more independent and make the most of new opportunities. And it also means doubling down on our growth strategy by investing in the European Green Deal. As the global recovery picks up, global warming will not slow down. First-mover advantage will count double and finding the right projects to invest in will

be key. A more modern and circular economy will make us less dependent and boost our resilience. This is the lesson we need to learn from this crisis. Investing in large scale renovation, renewables, clean transport, sustainable food and nature restoration will be even more important than before. This is not only good for our economies, it is not only good for our environment but it reduces dependency by shortening and diversifying supply chains. We also need to keep another reality in mind. While the crisis is symmetric, the recovery will not be. Because not only the virus hits but the economic shock too. Some regions will bounce back and others will have a harder time. And therefore, cohesion and convergence will be more important than ever. The Single Market and cohesion policy are the two sides of the same coin. You need both to ensure prosperity across the whole EU.

Honourable Members,

This is the Europe that I believe can emerge from this crisis. One that does everything it can to protect lives and livelihoods. One that is open to the world but can take care of itself. One that is more resilient, green and digital and that invests in its future together. This is the path to recovery. It will be a long road and the whole world will be trying to find its way. This crisis will likely redefine our politics, our geopolitics and possibly globalisation itself. And in this new world Europe will need to stick together through thick and thin. And as I look around our Union – and I see all that humanity and that ingenuity - I know that we can and we will do just that.

Honourable Members,

They say a strong soul shines bright after every storm. If we all stand up for Europe today - with courage, trust and solidarity - I know that tomorrow Europe's soul will shine brighter than ever before. Long live Europe.

6. Restriction on non-essential travel to the EU

The Commission invited Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU until 15 May.

The experience of Member States and other countries exposed to the pandemic shows the measures applied to fight the spread of the virus require more than 30 days to be effective. The Commission calls for a coordinated approach to the prolongation, as action at the external borders can only be effective if implemented by all EU and Schengen States at all borders, with the same end date and in a uniform manner. The travel restriction, as well as the invitation to extend it, applies to the “EU+ area”, which includes all Schengen Member States (including Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania) and the 4 Schengen Associated States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) – 30 countries in total. Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinās**, said: *“All Member States have successfully implemented social distancing measures to limit social interaction and slow down the spread of the virus. The restriction on non-essential travel from third countries to the EU complements these measures at the EU's external borders. While we can see encouraging first results, prolonging the travel restriction is necessary to continue reducing the risks of the disease spreading further. We should not yet let the door open whilst we are securing our house.”* Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, added: *“The current situation compels us to call for a prolongation of the restriction on non-essential travel to the EU. While coordinated action is key at the external borders, we also need to work together at the internal borders to make sure our internal market continues to function properly, and that vital products such as food, medicines and protective equipment can reach their destination without delay. We will continue assisting Member States in all these strands of work.”* The Commission's assessment of the current situation points to a continued rise in the number of new cases and deaths across the EU, as well as to the progression of the pandemic outside of the EU, including in countries from where millions of people usually travel to the EU every year. In this context, prolonging the travel restriction is necessary to reduce the risk of the disease spreading further. The risk of increasing community



transmission is assessed by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to be moderate if mitigation measures are in place and very high if insufficient mitigation measures are in place, while the risk that the capacity of health and social care systems will be exceeded in the coming weeks is assessed as high, even with mitigation measures in place. Since the implementation of the travel restriction in the second half of March, air passenger traffic has been almost reduced to zero, with the remaining flights being mainly limited to cargo transport and repatriation. A similar trend of passenger traffic can be seen in other modes of transport, such as in ferry, coach and rail transport. The Commission will continue to assist Member States in implementing the restriction on non-essential travel to the EU, including through regular discussions in videoconference meetings with Home Affairs Ministers. Any further prolongation of the travel restriction beyond 15 May would need to be assessed again, based on the evolution of the epidemiological situation. Parallel and coordinated action at external borders will be an essential aspect of a concerted EU exit strategy and the gradual lifting of the containment measures in Europe.

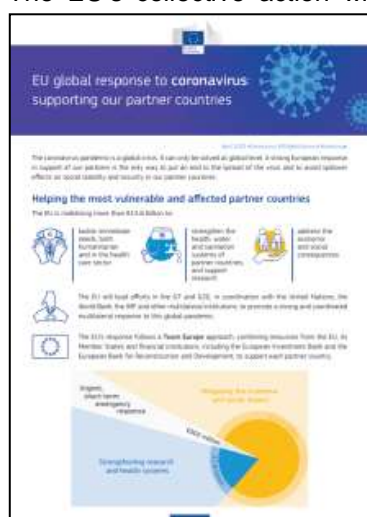
Background

The Commission invited Heads of State or Government on 16 March 2020 to introduce a temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU for an initial period of 30 days. Leaders endorsed this call on 17 March; and all EU Member States (except Ireland) and non-EU Schengen countries have since then taken national decisions to implement this travel restriction. The travel restriction does not apply to EU citizens, citizens of non-EU Schengen countries and their family members, and non-EU nationals who are long-term residents in the EU for the purpose of returning home. In addition, to limit to the minimum the impact of the restriction on the functioning of our societies, Member States should not apply the restrictions to specific categories of travellers with an essential function or need. Essential staff, such as doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, researchers and experts helping to cope with the coronavirus, as well as persons carrying goods, frontier workers and seasonal agricultural workers, should also continue to be allowed to enter the EU. To assist Member States, the Commission presented on 30 March 2020 guidance on how to implement the temporary travel restriction, facilitate repatriations from across the world, and deal with those compelled to stay in the EU longer than they are authorised to as a result of travel restrictions.

7. Coronavirus: EU global response to fight the pandemic

The European Commission and the High Representative set out plans for a robust and targeted EU response to support partner countries' efforts in tackling the coronavirus pandemic.

The EU's collective action will focus on addressing the immediate health crisis and resulting humanitarian needs, strengthening partner countries' health, water and sanitation systems and their research and preparedness capacities to deal with the pandemic, as well as mitigating the socioeconomic impact. To underpin these actions, the EU will secure financial support to partner countries amounting to more than €15.6 billion from existing external action resources. Together with our partners, we are making sure that the substantial EU funding already allocated to them is targeted to help them deal with the impact of coronavirus. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, commented: *"The virus knows no borders. This global challenge needs strong international cooperation. The European Union is working tirelessly to fight the pandemic. We all know that only together we can stop the worldwide spread of the coronavirus. To that end, the EU will soon convene a virtual pledging event to help mobilise the necessary funding and support the World Health Organisation to assist the most vulnerable countries."* High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell, added: *"The coronavirus pandemic requires united, global action in response. The European Union and its Member States are playing their part in tackling this health crisis and its severe consequences – at home and abroad. While we are doing everything we can to provide support of our citizens, we also need to assist our partners in our direct neighbourhood and beyond to address the impact it*



will have on their livelihoods, stability and security, as their problems are our problems. This is a global fight that we will either win or lose together. Cooperation and joint efforts at the international level and multilateral solutions are the way forward, for a true global agenda for the future.” Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen**, explained: “As long as the coronavirus threatens lives somewhere, we are not safe. This is the core of international cooperation and partnerships. We need to work together in order to tackle our shared challenges. The European Commission steps up and leads with this significant global response package of more than €15.6 billion the joint work with our partners, particularly in Africa, for a safer future for us all.” Neighbourhood and Enlargement Commissioner, Olivér **Várhelyi**, said: “As part of our global response to the coronavirus pandemic we are redirecting over €3.8 billion of foreseen funds for the Western Balkans and our immediate neighbours to the East and to the South, to where their real needs are: for urgent response to the health crisis, to strengthen the health systems and to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. We share a continent and we can only succeed together.” Janez **Lenarčič**, Commissioner for Crisis Management, warned: “We are facing what could become the biggest humanitarian crisis in decades. The impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the most fragile countries, migrants and the most vulnerable people is likely to be dramatic. This is particularly the case in the confined and often insalubrious setting of refugee and internally displaced people camps. That is why we need to respond vigorously to the public health emergency, make sure humanitarian actors continue to have access to carry out their life-saving assistance and support transport and logistic for key humanitarian operations.”

Team Europe package

The EU's response follows a “Team Europe” approach, aimed at saving lives by providing quick and targeted support to our partners to face this pandemic. It combines resources from the EU, its Member States and financial institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to support partner countries and address their short-term needs, as well as the longer-term structural impacts on societies and the economy. The first Team Europe packages are already being implemented in the immediate

neighbourhood: the Western Balkans, in the East and to the South. The EU, as global actor and major contributor to the international aid system, will promote a coordinated multilateral response, in partnership with the United Nations, International Financial Institutions, as well as the G7 and the G20. The European Union will continue to adapt its response to the evolving situation and focus on the most affected countries in need of health support, such as countries in Africa, the Neighbourhood, the Western Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa, parts of Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.



The EU's response will focus on the most vulnerable people, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities and integrate its strategic objectives set out in the Green Deal and the Digital Agenda. From the overall package of €15.6 billion, €3.25 billion are channelled to Africa, including €1.19 billion for the Northern African neighbourhood countries. The EU is securing in total €3.07 billion for the whole neighbourhood – €2.1 billion for the South and €962 million for the Eastern Partner countries – and €800 million for the Western Balkans and Turkey. In addition, the overall package includes another €1.42 billion in guarantees for Africa and the neighbourhood from the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD). The EU will support Asia and the Pacific with €1.22 billion, another €291 million will go for the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific region, €918 million to support our partners in Latin America and the Caribbean and €111 million to support Overseas Countries and Territories.

Delivering the EU global response package in practice

€502 million for **Emergency response actions** focus amongst others, on: providing immediate support to the Response Plans of the World Health Organisation and the United Nations, as well as to the appeal of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to boost emergency preparedness and response in countries with weaker health systems and those dealing with humanitarian crises; providing immediate humanitarian support in affected countries, in particular in health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and logistics; supporting increased production in Europe of personal protective equipment and medical devices to meet urgent needs in Europe

and in partner countries; organising the supply of in-kind assistance to affected countries through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism; providing guarantee and liquidity provisions to local banks via International Financial Institutions and European Development Finance Institutions, supported by the European Fund for Sustainable Development; supporting global efforts to combat export restrictions and ensure supply chains remain intact, notably for essential medical supplies and pharmaceuticals; associating the Western Balkans to EU initiatives such as the Joint Procurement Agreement for medical equipment and the European rapid alert system for communicable diseases. Countries negotiating their accession can also apply for the EU Solidarity Fund. €2.8 billion to **support research, health and water systems**. The EU is, amongst others: supporting partner countries in building resilient, responsive health and social protection systems; supporting communication and awareness efforts on basic protective measures and hygiene advice to prevent the spread; allowing some EU funding from global health initiatives like the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and the Global Financial Facility to be used to respond to the coronavirus, while ensuring continuation of vital health programmes; supporting further research on diagnostics, treatment and prevention, and once a vaccine is available, fast-tracking approval and subsidizing vaccines and their delivery in vulnerable countries; supporting experts training, epidemiological surveillance and strengthening regional health organisations in Africa, Latin American and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific; welcoming candidate countries in the Western Balkans to the EU's Health Security Committee and reflecting how best to associate potential candidates; supporting equal access to health systems for migrants, refugees and host communities. €12.28 billion to **address the economic and social consequences**. The EU is amongst other: providing direct budget support and concessional financing for partner countries to adopt reforms for socio-economic development and poverty reduction, and measures to protect workers during the crisis; mobilising macro-financial assistance for Western Balkan and neighbouring countries with the International Monetary Fund (IMF); supporting the private sector, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the self-employed, via guarantees, liquidity provisions and technical assistance and further reorient guarantees from the European Fund for Sustainable Development towards short-term risk-sharing on loans; providing public sector loans from the European Investment Bank, notably for healthcare equipment and supplies; working with international organizations and European companies to build strong and resilient value chains in strategic sectors and ensure labour rights and corporate social responsibility; promoting forms of debt relief considered by the IMF in affected countries.

8. Coronavirus: Optimise supply and availability of medicines

The Commission is calling on Member States to ensure that Europeans have access to essential medicines during the coronavirus outbreak.

The pandemic has highlighted significant challenges in ensuring the supply of the critical medicines needed and the impact such an outbreak can have on the supply chain of medicines in the EU. The Commission guidelines focus on the rational supply, allocation and use of vital medicines to treat coronavirus patients as well as medicines which may be at risk of shortage due to the pandemic. The proposed actions should allow for a more coordinated approach across the EU, preserving the integrity of the Single Market whilst protecting public health.

Commissioner Stella **Kyriakides**, in charge of Health and Food Safety, said: *"This unprecedented health crisis is putting our health care systems under enormous strain – with stocks of essential medicines in many European hospitals at risk of running low. We cannot afford to have shortages of life-saving medicines at such a critical moment. We are presenting concrete actions to Member States to proactively prevent shortages and ensure that our hospitals have the essential medicines needed to save lives. I call on the solidarity and responsibility of the EU pharmaceutical industry to increase the production of medicines needed to treat seriously ill coronavirus patients."*



The Commission guidelines on the optimal and rational use of medicines stress the need for national authorities

to: **Show solidarity** through the lifting of export bans and restrictions, ensuring that essential medicines are available in hospitals and pharmacies and that national stockpiling is avoided. National authorities should also fight misinformation that could lead to unnecessary stockpiling due to panic buying. **Ensure supply** by increasing and reorganising production through the monitoring of stocks and production capacities, the coordination of joint efforts by industry and implementing demand support and procurement initiatives to encourage supply. Where Member States need to support industry increasing their manufacturing capacity through fiscal incentives and state aid and implement regulatory flexibility, the Commission stands ready to provide guidance and legal certainty. **Promote the optimal use of medicines** in hospitals, in particular by adapting existing hospital protocols or establishing new validated protocols to prevent the overuse of medicines, as well as providing the possibility to extend the expiry dates of medicines. **Optimise sales in community pharmacies to avoid hoarding** through the introduction of restrictions on sales for medicines at risk of shortages and temporarily



considering the limitation of online sales of essential medicines. Over the past weeks, the Commission, with the support of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), has been gathering data on current challenges with a view to monitor, assess and identify medicines at risk of shortages. This includes monitoring overall demand from Member States, as well as the impact of third country export bans. The risk of shortages is due primarily to the increase in demand for medicines to treat coronavirus patients in hospitals. Stockpiling by citizens,

an increased demand for experimental medicines for coronavirus, the introduction of protectionist measures within and outside the EU such as export bans and national stockpiling, as well as transportation barriers between countries, also play a role. Additionally, Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager** in charge of competition policy, is putting forward a temporary framework explaining when and how firms can obtain guidance or written comfort that cooperation to avoid shortages of essential scarce products and services is in line with competition rules.

9. Coronavirus: Guidance to ensure full data protection

The European Commission has published guidance on the development of new apps that support the fight against coronavirus in relation to data protection.

The development of such apps and their take up by citizens can have a significant impact on the treatment of the virus and can play an important role in the strategy to lift containment measures, complementing other measures like increased testing capacities. It is important, however, to ensure that EU citizens can fully trust such innovative digital solutions and can embrace them without fear. The largest possible participation of EU citizens is necessary to exploit the full potential of tracing apps. EU rules, notably the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the ePrivacy Directive, provide the strongest safeguards of trustworthiness (i.e. voluntary approach, data minimisation, time limitation) for such apps to operate widely and accurately. This guidance aims to offer the necessary framework to guarantee that citizens have sufficient protection of their personal data and limitation of intrusiveness while using such apps. The European Data



Protection Board was consulted on the draft guidance. By committing to those standards, the full effectiveness and compliance of such tools can be ensured, even in times of crisis. Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra **Jourová**, said: *“This is the first global crisis where we can deploy the full power of technology to offer efficient solutions and support the exit strategies from the pandemic. Trust of Europeans will be key to success of the tracing mobile apps. Respecting the EU data protection rules will help ensure that our privacy and fundamental*

rights will be upheld and that the European approach will be transparent and proportional.” Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders**, said: “The use of mobile phone apps have the potential to really help in the fight against coronavirus, for example by helping users to diagnose themselves, as a safe communication channel between doctors and patients, by alerting users who are at risk of catching the virus, and to help us lift confinement measures. At the same time, we are talking about very sensitive data being collected on the health of our citizens, which we are duty-bound to protect. Our guidance supports the safe development of apps and protect our citizens' personal data, in line with the EU's strong data protection rules. We will get out of the sanitary crisis, while keeping our fundamental rights intact. This guidance follows the recent publication of the Commission Recommendation on a common EU approach for the use of mobile applications and mobile data, and is accompanying an EU toolbox on contact tracing apps.

What kind of apps and functionalities?

The guidance focuses on voluntary apps with one or more of the following functionalities:

- accurate information for users on the coronavirus pandemic;
- questionnaires for self-assessment and guidance for individuals (symptom checker functionality);
- alerts for people who have been in proximity of an infected person to get tested or to self-isolate (contact tracing and warning functionality); and
- a communication forum between patients in self-isolation and doctors including where further diagnosis and treatment advice is provided (telemedicine).

Main prerequisites for the development of coronavirus apps

- **The role of national health authorities:** It must be clearly established from the start who is accountable for compliance with EU personal data protection rules. Given the high sensitivity of the data and the ultimate purpose of the apps, the Commission sees this as a role for national health authorities, who would in turn be responsible for ensuring GDPR compliance in their use of data collected, including providing individuals with all necessary information related to the processing of their personal data.
- **Users remain in full control of their personal data:** The installation of an app on a user's device should be voluntary; a user should be able to give their consent to each functionality of an app separately. If proximity data is used, it should be stored on an individual's device and only shared with the user's consent; users should be able to exercise their rights under the GDPR.
- **Limited use of personal data:** An app should adhere to the principle of data minimisation, which requires that only personal data that is relevant and limited to the purpose in question can be processed. The Commission considers location data not necessary for the purpose of contact tracing and advises not to use location data in this context.
- **Strict limits on data storage:** Personal data should not be kept for longer than necessary. Timelines should be based on medical relevance as well as the realistic duration for necessary administrative steps to be taken.
- **Security of data:** Data should be stored on an individual's device and encrypted.
- **Ensuring the accuracy of the data processed:** It is a requirement under EU personal data protection rules that any personal data processed by a third party must be accurate. To ensure maximum accuracy, which is also essential for the efficiency of contact tracing apps, technology such as Bluetooth should be used to provide a more precise assessment of individuals' contact with one another.
- **Involvement of national data protection authorities:** Data protection authorities should be fully involved and consulted in the development of an app and should be tasked with reviewing the deployment of an app.



Background

The Member States, supported by the Commission, published an EU toolbox for mobile contact tracing and warning apps, following the adoption of a Commission Recommendation for a common EU approach for the use of technology and data in the fight against coronavirus. To ensure that the data of European citizens is protected at all times, in line with EU data protection rules, this guidance accompanies the toolbox as advice for the development of new apps

and the subsequent use of data by national health authorities.

10. Erasmus+ students during Covid-19: MEPs call for more support

The 165 000 current Erasmus+ exchange students and 5000 EU volunteers need reassurance that they will be reimbursed and retain their status, MEPs say.

In a letter addressed to Commissioner Mariya Gabriel on Wednesday, the Members of the Culture and Education Committee point out that the Commission's current way of communicating,



as well as the different approaches and lack of information from national agencies, do not provide certainty that extra costs will be reimbursed and that Erasmus+ exchange students and participants of the Solidarity Corps programme will be able to retain their status. They also ask for students to be supported to ensure that they do not lose this academic year and can obtain the necessary academic credits via virtual learning.

EU volunteers must retain their status and be deployed to national schemes

In their letter, MEPs also call on the Commission to ensure that Solidarity Corps programme participants can retain their status as volunteers for the planned duration of their placement, even if it has been suspended. They would therefore be able to complete their voluntary service and not risk losing family income, like child support, that is linked to the volunteer status. They also recommend repurposing the voluntary activities for the suspended European Solidarity Corps participants, for example by deploying volunteers to national support schemes being implemented to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, MEPs call for “a clear policy, clearly communicated and consistently implemented across member states”, saying that people and organisations affected are “deeply worried” and “need to feel that the Commission is on their side”.

“The class of 2020 needs us”

“We call on the Commission to directly support all those participating in education, culture and youth programmes. That means working with national agencies, universities, technical colleges, schools, youth organisations and voluntary organisations to make sure our participants are safe and are given help to get home where necessary. It also means reassuring them that extra costs will be reimbursed, that project rules will be applied flexibly and that they will retain their status as Solidarity Corps volunteers or Erasmus+ learners.”, said Sabine Verheyen (EPP, DE), Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education. “We have a duty to make sure that those who signed up to our programmes get the help and the support they need. The class of 2020 needs us”, she stressed.

Background

Currently 165 000 people across Europe are on an Erasmus+ exchange and 5 000 more are involved in Solidarity Corps volunteering projects. The Commission has communicated that member state agencies which coordinate the projects may invoke force majeure clauses to enable grants to be paid when exchanges are cut short or otherwise interrupted, to enable activities to be postponed and to allow exceptional costs to be reimbursed.

11. Youth4Regions – the programme for aspiring journalists

Youth4Regions is the European Commission programme helping journalism students and young journalists to discover what the EU is doing in their region.

What do we offer?

- Trainings on journalism and EU regional policy
- The chance to receive mentorship from established journalists from your country
- Working side by side with renowned journalists during the [EU Regions' Week](#)
- Visits of EU affairs media headquarters and EU institutions
- The unique opportunity to take part as a journalist in European Commission press trips to Member States
- Accommodation and travel expenses covered by the European Commission

What do we ask for?

- Interest in what EU regional policy is doing in your region

- Background in journalism (studies or up to 2 years of experience)
- EU or neighbouring country citizen aged from 18 to 30 years old
- Availability during 11 – 16 October

Until when can I apply?

The application period runs from 6 April until 13 July, 17:00 CET.

Are there any age limitations or other criteria which will determine the eligibility of candidates?



The application criteria are: EU or neighbouring country citizenship, age 18 to 30 years and to demonstrate a real interest in journalism through studies and/or work experience. Applications from former participants are not accepted.

Besides EU Member States, which other countries are accepted in the programme?

These are EU candidate countries (Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey), potential candidates (Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo) and ENI countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, Syria and Tunisia, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).

I am studying journalism in a communications degree. Am I eligible? Yes.

I am working part-time for a news outlet. Am I eligible? Yes.

I am no longer working as a journalist, but I used to study journalism 3 years ago. Am I eligible?

No. Only applicants with up to 2 years since graduation (calculated until the moment of the closing of the application period) are eligible.

I have been working as a journalist for 3 years. Am I eligible?

No. Only journalists with up to 2 years of experience (calculated until the moment of the closing of the application period) are eligible.

What themes should I focus on in my article and video report?

You must send a short article (2500 to 6250 words) or a short video reportage (2 – 3 minutes) depicting a project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (including Interreg) or Cohesion Fund. The theme is up to you to choose.

What costs associated with coming to Brussels in October will be covered by the European Commission?

The Commission covers travel and accommodation. Most meals are also provided during the programme in October.

If selected, how long will I be in Brussels for?

You should come to Brussels from 11 to 16 October.

[Apply for Youth4Regions 2020!](#) More information are available at the following [link](#).

12. In Practice 2021 Open Call for Artists

The In Practice open call program supports emerging artists and curators in creating new work for exhibition at SculptureCenter. Since 2003, In Practice has supported more than 200 emerging artists with the essential resources of space, funding, time, curatorial support, and administrative guidance to help turn their ideas into reality. Exemplifying the spirit of SculptureCenter's mission, In Practice supports innovative artwork, fosters experimentation, and introduces audiences to underrecognized practices and new ideas. The program offers participants the opportunity to develop and present work in what is often their first institutional exhibition in New York City. Past In Practice participants include: Korakrit Arunanondchai, Fia Backström, A.K. Burns, Crystal Z Campbell, Aleksandra Domanović, Brendan Fernandes, Raque Ford, Jules Gimbrone, Samara Golden, Ellen Harvey, Madeline Hollander, Elizabeth Jaeger, Meredith James, Baseera Khan, Simone Leigh, Molly Lowe, Justin Matherly, Virginia Overton, Essex Olivares, Marlo Pascual, Sean Raspet, Rachel Rose, Xaviera Simmons, Josh Smith, Valerie Snobeck, Agathe Snow, Kenneth Tam, Marianne Vitale, and Jon Wang, among many others. SculptureCenter is a not-for-profit museum that takes the history and legacy of sculpture as a framework from which to

consider the diverse activity taking place in the field of contemporary art. SculptureCenter's program encourages artists and audiences to explore the possibilities of sculpture and the multifarious ways in which sculpture is developing and connecting to other forms of expression, including installation, video, performance, architecture, and other media. They invite artists to submit proposals for new projects to be presented in January 2021. Artists selected for the In Practice exhibition will receive a \$250 honorarium and up to \$2,000 in production support. The level of production support will depend on the scope of accepted works and available funding. You are proposing work for inclusion in the annual *In Practice* group exhibition, which will open in **January 2021**. The 2021 In Practice Open Call for Artist Proposals opened on **March 15, 2020**. Proposals are due by 11:59pm (your local time) on **June 15, 2020**. SculptureCenter curatorial staff and a select advisory committee of artists, curators, and critics will conduct a preliminary review of proposals. A limited number of artists will be contacted for further information and/or studio visits during fall 2020. All applicants will be notified of their application status by email in **fall 2020**. **To complete your application, you will be asked for:**



- Contact information
- CV (PDF)
- Artist statement (up to 250 words)
- Project proposal (up to 400 words)
- Project budget
- Images (up to 15 JPEGs, each under 5MB)
- Image captions
- Links to video/audio (up to 5) *Video/audio must be streaming; your video will not be reviewed if download is required.

They recommend completing your writing in a Word document before beginning the submission form. If you have questions, need more information, or encounter issues with this submission form, [please first read our FAQ](#), then contact us by email at: inpractice@sculpture-center.org. **More information are available at the following [link](#).**

13. #EUvsVirus Hackathon



The European Commission, in close collaboration with the EU member states, will host a pan-European hackathon from 24 to 26 April 2020 to connect civil society, innovators, partners and investors across Europe in order to develop innovative solutions for coronavirus-related challenges. euvsvirus.org is a Europe-wide online hackathon organized by the most plugged in and nationally connected actors from all over Europe. It builds upon already conducted national hackathons to enable the rapid execution of brilliant solutions. The #EUvsVirus is a call to action to each and everyone to participate in the fight against COVID-19: Demonstrate unity and share your skills for the common good across borders and generations! Let's digitally open EU-borders during this collective challenge!

Social Impact

Drive a meaningful project and help your family, friends, neighbours, and all EU countries respond to COVID-19 crisis.

International Recognition

Be part of the solution and get recognized all across the European Commission, the European Parliament and all partner networks. **More information are available at the following [link](#).**

14. Internships at the European GNSS Agency (GSA)

The European GNSS Agency (GSA) provides university students and graduates with a unique and first-hand experience of the workings of the GSA, in particular, and of the EU institutions in general. Currently, there are various traineeships open for applications until **30 June 2020** (see the list below). The eligible applications will be evaluated on a regular basis. The starting date of traineeship depends on the Agency's needs and budget availability. **You are advised to submit your application as soon as possible, the earlier you submit the sooner your application can be considered.** You may find more information about the eligibility criteria as well as the rights and duties of the trainees in the [Rules governing the traineeship scheme](#) of the European GNSS Agency. We recommend you to read them carefully before submitting your CV. When applying, please carefully read the [GSA e-recruitment guidelines](#). Please note that it is recommended to use Google Chrome to ensure all functionalities of the e-recruitment portal. Should you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact jobs@gsa.europa.eu. **For more information please consult the following [link](#).**



15. Internships at the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is looking for enthusiastic graduates to join the Agency for a paid traineeship of six months (with a possibility for further extension of six months). The Agency is organising a selection procedure for traineeships at EU-OSHA for the nationals of the Member States of the European Union and Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein (parties of the EEA agreement). The traineeships will be based in the Bilbao office and at the Agency's Brussels Liaison Office. Further information on our activities can



be found on our website: <http://osha.europa.eu>. **Candidates may apply for one of the following Units:** Resource and Service Centre (RSC); Network Secretariat (NET) – Bilbao; Network Secretariat (NET) - Brussels Liaison Office; Communication and Promotion Unit (CPU); Prevention and Research Unit (PRU). Applications must reach recruitment@osha.europa.eu by not later than **04 May 2020 at 13:00 noon Central European Time (CET)**. The EU-OSHA **Application Form** shall be used. Candidates are requested to follow the instructions available on the **Call for applications for traineeships at EU-OSHA**. For detailed information on the EU-OSHA traineeship programme 2020/2021, applicants are advised to read carefully the **Rules Governing the EU-OSHA Traineeship Programme**. **For more information please consult the following [link](#).**

16. Concluded the first training course of the Ruralities project

In the period 17-21 February 2020 took place in Tolosa, France, the first training course (JSTE) of the project "Ruralities" that is developed in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships program for Adult Education. The main commitment of the Ruralities project is to allow citizens of rural and remote areas to become real actors for the improvement of social and physical living conditions in their localities. The specific project goal is to create a game based learning tool for being used in local trainings on participatory processes, in the frame of non-formal education. The target groups of Ruralities are:



trainers, educators and experts working with disadvantaged learners in rural areas; citizens living in rural and remote areas. The project partnership is made up of: IPSO FACTO (France); EV COMPARATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS (Greece); ARBEIT UND BEBEN LAG MV (Germany); KRAJOWY INSTYTUT POLITYKI PRZESTRZENNEJ I MIESZKALNICTWA (Poland). More information are available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Ruralities-102581444663436/>.

17. Concluded the final meeting of the INDi project took place in Italy

In the days 21-22 February took place in Potenza, Italy, the final meeting of the project "Intercultural dialogue: a holistic approach to teaching drama, storytelling and video making techniques" (acronym InDi) that is an initiative approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education - Exchange of Good Practices.



The partnership is composed by: Sirius Training C.I.C. (UK) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Mitra France (France); EESTI People to People (Estonia); Youth Information Centre-Municipality Kordelio Evosmosi (Greece). The objectives of the project are: to share best practices among project partners; to increase professional development of adult educators; to collect and develop methods of intercultural dialogue; to develop and reinforce EU networks for teaching and learning; to enrich partnership of adult education

providers in partners' countries and Europe; to support social and educational value of European cultural heritage. Educators who work in adult education - teachers, tutors, mentors, social workers involved in lifelong learning in partners' institutions – are the main target group. The final beneficiaries are adult learners, including people with fewer opportunities. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/IN-DI-1421157744681293/>.

18. Concluded the kick off meeting of the PRIMAE project

In the period 26-28 February took place in Oxford, United Kingdom, the kick off meeting of the

project "Participation and Recreation through Inclusive Martial Arts Education and E-Learning" (acronym PRIMAE). The project aims to develop an international recognition of certification and promote martial arts education through the industry's first online platform to also promote inclusion of people with disabilities. The project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: IKKAIDO LTD (England); AREADNE OE (Greece); DIGITAL FUTURE (Italy);



EURO-NET (Italy); IKKAIDO INCLUSIVE MARTIAL ARTS (Ireland); STOCKHOLM VASTRA IDROTTSFORENING FOR FUNKTIONSNEDSÄTTA (Sweden); UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS (Cyprus); AUX COULEURS DU DEBA (France). During the meeting the partners defined the project activities to be carried out in the coming months. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/IkkaidoPrimae/>.

19. My Community 2020: the digital skills training course

In date 29/02/2020 took place in Potenza, Italy, one of the module of the digital skills training course planned for the project of "My Community 2020" that is an initiative approved by the UK



Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education. The project aims to improve the digital skills, self-esteem and occupational skills of adult learners, as well as to encourage them to play an active role in their community as citizens. The purpose of these training modules, which involve young people from Pakistan, Gambia, Nigeria, Albania and Italy, is to improve digital skills, provide security in encouraging, meeting and interviewing others, arouse interest and

make an important contribution to the local cultural heritage. In the last day of February, the trainer Pegah Moshir held the fifth module which was intended to teach the boys the transition from storytelling to video editing. The module that was to be held on 7 March, for the covid-19 pandemic, has been moved to a date to be set and will be held by trainers Luca Caggiano and Maria Cristina Porfidio. The European initiative can already be followed on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/My-Community-2020-893155357540688/>.

20. Postponed to a date to be set for the training course of the "Dis-Act"

The training course (a JSTE) planned under the "Dis-Act" project (acronym DA) which was to take place from 1 to 9 March in Plovdiv in Bulgaria has been postponed to a date to be set due to the Coronavirus. The project aims to increase the inclusive potential of the theatre such as. The project aims to increase the inclusive potential of theatre as a tool to open up opportunities and dispel prejudices against people with disabilities by producing a quality educational offer for operators and disabled adults themselves in the so-called "Devised Theatre". The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. The partners of the project are: NGO Nest Berlin (Germany); Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany); Champions Factory (Bulgaria); EURO-NET (Italy); Sihtasutus Noored Teaduses Ja Ettevotluses (Estonia); Centrul Pentru Educatie Consulting Structural Instrument (Romania). More information about the meeting will be available in our upcoming newsletters.



21. Fourth project meeting "Youth Lifestyles" postponed

Has been postponed the last meeting of the European project "Life Styles, Deviance and



Prevention: Non Formal Education and Interdisciplinary Resources for Vulnerable Youth" that is an initiative approved by the Slovak Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth. The last and fourth meeting was to take place from 10 to 12 March in Potenza, Italy. During the meeting the partners should have taken stock of the activities developed in the last months and should have defined the

further steps of the project to be carried out in the coming months. More information on the project can be found on the official Facebook project page at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/YouthLifestyles-deviance-and-prevention-330204640941364/>.

22. The first meeting of the F.A.M.E.T. project has been postponed

Has been postponed the first meeting of the project "Fostering Adult Migrant Entrepreneurial Training and Qualification" (acronym F.A.M.E.T.) focuses on adult education and lifelong learning, excluding barriers and obstacles to discrimination through the provision of education and training. The project is aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills and is aimed at migrants and refugees who wish to start a business. The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark. The partners of the project are: AALBORG UNIVERSITET (Denmark); MARKEUT SKILLS SOCIEDAD LIMITADA (Spain); KAINOTOMIA & SIA EE (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); DANMAR COMPUTERS SP ZOO (Poland); CROSSING BORDERS (Denmark) More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.



23. Postponed the third My Community 2020 project meeting in Latvia



Was postponed the third meeting "My Community 2020" that should be realised at the end of March in Gulbene, Latvia. "My Community 2020" is an initiative approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education. The project aims to improve the digital skills, self-esteem and occupational skills of adult learners, as well as encourage them to play an active role in their community as citizens. The project involves the realization of the following 3 intellectual outputs:

1. **Design training course Digital Skills to Create Local History:** The purpose of the training course is to create a product which combines meeting the needs of improving digital skills, provide confidence in engaging, meeting and interviewing others, raising interest in and making an important contribution to local cultural heritage. Combining these different aspects into one training course will provide an innovative way to widen interest in local history and cultural heritage.
2. **Development of a pilot training course:** Development of training course in order to gain an appreciation of what works well and what can be improved, as well as enabling the creation of materials for the online platform.
3. **My Community Handbook:** The aim is to create a manual that can be used as a kit to effectively implement the activities developed in intellectual products 1 and 2.

The partnership is composed by: Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service LTD (UK) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Magenta Consultoria Projects SL (Spain); Gulbenes novada dome (Latvia); Pistes Solidaires (France); Catro Bulgaria (Bulgaria); Exchange House Ireland (Ireland). The European initiative can already be followed on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/My-Community-2020-893155357540688/>.

24. The training course of TheArThee" project has been postponed

For coronavirus pandemic was postponed also the training course of the project "TheArThee" (acronym "TAT") that should be realized in Sofia, Bulgaria. The project is exploring the inclusive potential of theatre and the performing arts as a methodology to create opportunities, acquire new skills, improve communication and dispel prejudices towards young people who face social exclusion. This has to be achieved through the sharing of best practices and the exchange of skills between intersectoral organizations working in the field of youth empowerment and alternative learning. The project is exploring how theatre can be used as a tool to bring together elements of society to empower young people regardless of perceived class, race, gender and

disability and ability. The project complements the attention on the exclusion of young people with an additional attention to physical and cognitive disorders. TAT implements an intervention on the emotional and skills-related dimension of the condition of excluded young people through the exploration of the educational, integrative and creative dimension of the so-called "Devised Theater". The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: CHICKEN SHED THEATER TRUST LTD (England); MV INTERNATIONAL (Italy); CHAMPIONS FACTORY (Bulgaria); EURO-NET (Italy); IYDA E.V. (Germany); PRO IFALL AB (Sweden); COUNTY LIMERICK YOUTH THEATER (England). The project can be followed on the official Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Thearthee-114642043269776/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



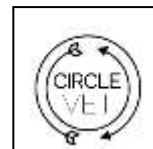
25. Third meeting in Italy of the ENTER project has been postponed



Was postponed, for coronavirus pandemic also the third meeting of the project "ENTER – FROM PROBLEMS TO ACHIEVEMENTS IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT" (acronym ENTER), action n.2018-1-PT02-KA205- 005148, approved to the association Potenza Youth Europe Service in the framework of the Erasmus Plus Youth programme. Who is interested can follow the project on the following official Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ENTER-725346554497726/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

26. CircleVET: postponed the meeting in Germany

The Berlin meeting of the project "CircleVET – Exploring the Educational Potential of Circular Economy" was postponed for covid-19 pandemic. The CircleVET project, in which the company GODESK SRL is the Italian partner, was approved by the German National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET Exchange of Good Practices as action n.2018-1-DE02-KA202- 005022. The project involves 7 organizations from the following countries: Germany (2 partners), Italy, Slovakia, Turkey, Finland and Spain. More information on the official project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Circlevet308447786426005/>.



27. Sixth EDACate meeting in Athens postponed



Was postponed also the sixth meeting of the project "ECACate - European Dialogue for Active Citizenship" (action n.2018-1-DE02-KA204-005181) of which the association Youth Europe Service is the Italian partner, that should be realised in Athens, Greece. The initiative (approved by the German Erasmus Plus National Agency) follows a cross-sectoral approach with the aim of collecting, reviewing and publishing new and innovative approaches in training on active citizenship to break down the boundaries between the education sectors and to facilitate more open and innovative training. More information on: <https://www.facebook.com/edacate.project/>.

28. "Think global, entrepreneur local": postponed the first course

Was postponed also, the first training course foreseen in Potenza, Italy, within the project "Think global, entrepreneur local" initiative approved within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme. More information on the project (and on the meeting) in which GODESK SRL is the Italian partner will be available in our next newsletters.

