

**CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE**

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# COVID-19

PART 8

(08-14 May 2020)

**Approaches and practices for crisis management.  
European Union action to address the SARS-CoV-2  
coronavirus crisis and COVID-19 disease**

*This report represents a summary of open source information, gathered up to and including 14 May 2020, and was assembled on 15 May 2020. All views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author, unless otherwise stated and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CMDR COE or any government and non- government organisation or other group. The author does not bear responsibility for incomplete or incorrect facts cited or referred to herein. The majority of reference materials include official documents published by the World Health Organisation, governmental pages, and online statistical databases.*

## **The report is included as a part of ACERTA's Crisis Development Report on COVID-19 as of 15/05/2020**

A team of several academic organizations - the Center for the Study, Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence (CMDR COE), the Institute of Defense and the Bulgarian Academy of Science (Institute for Information and Communication Technologies and the Center for National Security and Defence Research) united by the idea of an Academic Crisis Collaboration Network) – ACERTA (Academic Civil Emergency Research Teams Association) committed to producing periodic reports based on model data collection crisis management and overcoming the consequences, organizing interdisciplinary research and preparing computer-assisted exercises (based on modeling and simulations, use of real data in real time) to develop and test good practices and implement them to improve crisis / emergency management in the future.

Based on initial experience, receiving feedback from ACERTA users / partners, the organization will create a database for use at national level, as well as in NATO and EU networks. The ACERTA partnership is open and the idea is to expand and create a register of experts in the academic community for emergency management, with the task of summarizing, analyzing, experimenting, testing and validating actions of state authorities and international organizations with a view to creating a network for international and interinstitutional cooperation.

A test for this initiative is the COVID-19 crisis monitoring, analysis, research and exercise, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020.

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### *Weekly Summary*

In last few weeks, most countries have implemented measures of strict physical distancing in an extraordinary effort to reduce COVID-19 transmission. These measures are working and there are already signs of improvement in some countries, where the number of new cases reported on a daily basis has started to decline. At this point, countries are beginning to plan and implement concrete steps for the future stabilization of their economies. Although there is still no country ready to abolish completely restrictions and in most there is a tendency to exert pressure to return to a normal rhythm of life. As a result, a number of questions are raised regarding how to carry out the process of restarting the economy in individual countries in the safest and most efficient way and under appropriate conditions.

At this stage in the development of the crisis, it is essential that each country makes a clear and informed rationale on how best to move from the phase of lockdowns to the next phase of gradual recovery.

A key point at this stage is for country leaders to have realistic expectations about the risks associated with business resumption and other sectors of day-to-day operations, based on the presumption that reopening would increase the risk of COVID-19 proliferation. Leaders need to know that such a return will increase the risks of COVID-19, and there is no way to completely prevent it.

Most models show that in the absence of social distancing, COVID-19 has a playback frequency between 2 and 3 (although some models show that it is higher). This means that each person with the disease will spread it to an average of 2 to 3 others. To end the epidemic, control measures must keep this number to a minimum of 1. This can be achieved with the help of a vaccine when it is produced and made available. Meanwhile, social distancing measures, combined with appropriate case-based interventions, are the key tools to keep the reproduction rate below 1. If the reproduction rate rises above 1, it means that the growth of the epidemic has resumed. In this case, it may be necessary to re-introduce large-scale physical distancing.

It is important to note that states need to continuously monitor and actively manage COVID-19 cases throughout the duration of the pandemic until a widely available safe and effective vaccine is developed.

Forty years ago, on May 8, 1980, the WHO officially announced that the world had defeated the smallpox. This is perhaps the greatest triumph of medicine in the XX century, a victory over a disease that killed more than 500 million people. Smallpox is also the first disease against which an effective vaccine has been

developed, with collective immunization becoming one of the pillars of resistance to primary prevention in medicine. According to WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, this should remind that victory over the coronavirus is possible if the countries join forces to combat the common threat of infection.

In many countries, the planning and phased implementation of concrete measures for the future stabilization of economies has begun. The release of the measures will show how well the situation has been controlled and whether the world has learned to live in conditions of sanitary distance, which turns out to be the so-called "New normal". Each "loose" measure will be monitored and analyzed to assess its effectiveness, with the aim of preventing a new wave of infection.

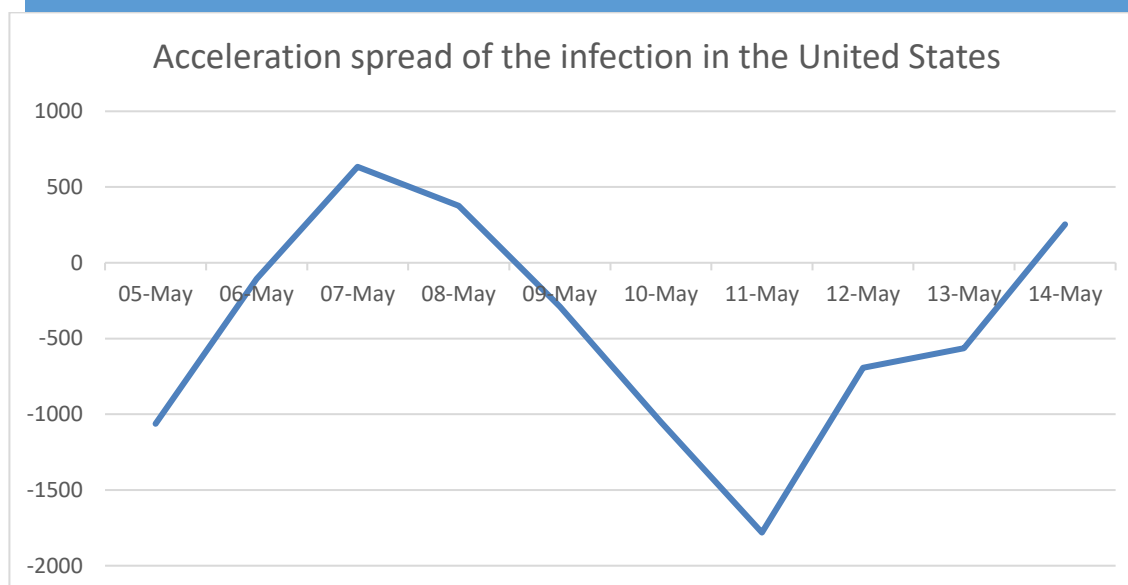
As a result of the observations and analyzes of the development of the pandemic, as well as of the behavior and decisions taken in a number of countries and organizations, CMDR COE presents the following information about the state of the pandemic as of 13.05.2020. the world is almost 4.5 million. More than 1.3 million of them are registered in the United States. The number of new infections in Russia and Brazil has risen sharply in the past week. Nearly 250,000 are registered in Russia and 190,000 in Brazil.

## **1. USA**

The number of deaths in the United States continues to rise. On 13.05, 1630 deaths of patients with COVID-19 were registered. Thus, the total number of coronavirus patients in the country reached 83,425. In the previous two days, the deaths related to the epidemic decreased significantly. Only 750 dead were registered on Sunday. On Tuesday, the number of people infected since the beginning of the epidemic increased by 22,802 to 1,408,636. However, the data show a slowdown in the epidemic, as the active cases of people with coronavirus for the first time decreased. The healed are already 296,746 scale. As of May 12, 2020, the United States has the most active and deaths in the world, with a mortality rate of 206 per million people, ranking the tenth largest country in the world.

A new model of coronavirus mortality in the United States predicts that nearly 147,000 Americans will die from COVID-19 by early August, almost double the previous forecast due to easing of physical distancing measures.

However, businesses open with appropriate constraints, such as allowing fewer customers, requiring workers and customers to wear masks, and imposing social distancing. Some health experts have expressed concern that the premature opening of the economy could lead to a jump in coronavirus infections, which will not be reported in official weekly reports, but about half of the states have begun to loosen restrictions.



The United States again fully confirms the forecast from the previous CMDR COE analysis. Acceleration dynamics continue to be observed. The ratio of newly infected and dead per day is still higher than 10, which means that the infection continues to spread with a positive trend. The main contribution to these data is the latent, unregistered infection of the population. We expect the situation to remain the same and not be controlled for another month.

## 2. Canada

The number of new cases of COVID 19 in Canada now is 72,728. The coronavirus pandemic took 5,302 people across Canada and just over 35,164 recovering from the virus. In this context, some of Canada's 10 provinces have announced plans to gradually open their economies.

The restrictive measures imposed began to loosen after a number of seasonal businesses and some major construction projects were allowed to restart, complying with physical distance protocols and other restrictions. The province of Quebec, which accounts for more than half of the country's new coronavirus cases, is reopening primary schools and kindergartens outside the Montreal area.

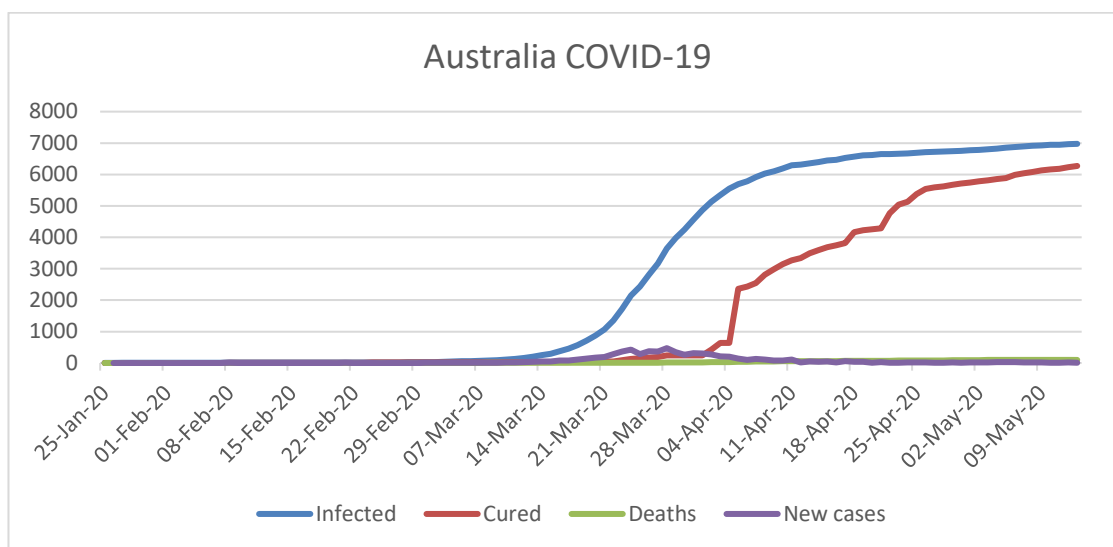
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on May 8 that the 12-week Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will be available after its initial deadline in early June, with details to be presented next week.

A new \$77 million fund for food processors of various sizes were announced on May 06. The money can be used to buy personal protective equipment for workers, adapt to health protocols and support other social distancing measures. The government is also adding \$125 million to the AgriRecovery fund, a federal-provincial-territorial program aimed at helping farmers during disasters.

### 3. Australia.

In Australia, the infected are of all ages, with an average age of 48 years (0 to 101 years) and 80 years of death (42 to 96 years). Of the reported cases, 64% were related to travel abroad. During the reporting period, an average of 15 new cases per day. Most of them are from Victoria.

The rate of infection in each state and territory is relatively low, indicating that health measures were taken on time. To date, 909,000 tests have been performed, of which 0.8% are positive. After the peak in late March, there is an almost constant decline in the number of active cases with COVID-19.



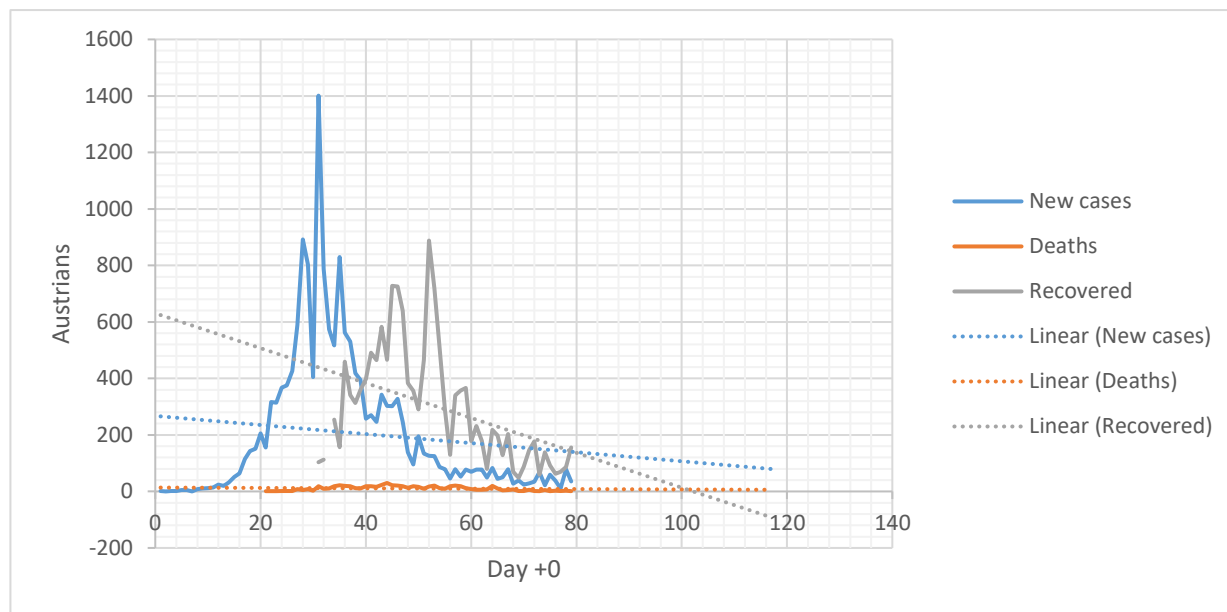
### 4. Austria

The positive trend in dealing with the coronavirus has continued in Austria over the past week. The new icases of the disease dropped to less than 80 per day and gradually decreased. In this regard, the country has taken legal measures to loosen the restrictions by amending several regulations, which are in force since 01 May, related to visits to public places, customer areas in retail outlets, workplace, shared travel, schools, restaurants for accommodation and sports.

Chancellor Sebastian Kurz announced that Austria is developing a plan to open the borders, which will be presented next week. In the short term, crossing from Germany, as well as from Switzerland and Liechtenstein will be easear (but not from Italy at this stage) - end of control on 15 June.

Austria is introducing support measures for sectors severely affected by the

outbreak, such as tourism and air transport, and is using existing measures to reduce hours worked. € 100 million is available for loans to hotels that suffer more than 15% of sales losses. The maximum is 80% of the loan or 500,000 euros.



### 5. Belarus.

The government of the country has not imposed requirements for social distancing or restriction of public activities. The Belarusian authorities do not envisage a general quarantine at all, despite the concern among the population. All this is happening against the background of increasing cases of coronavirus.

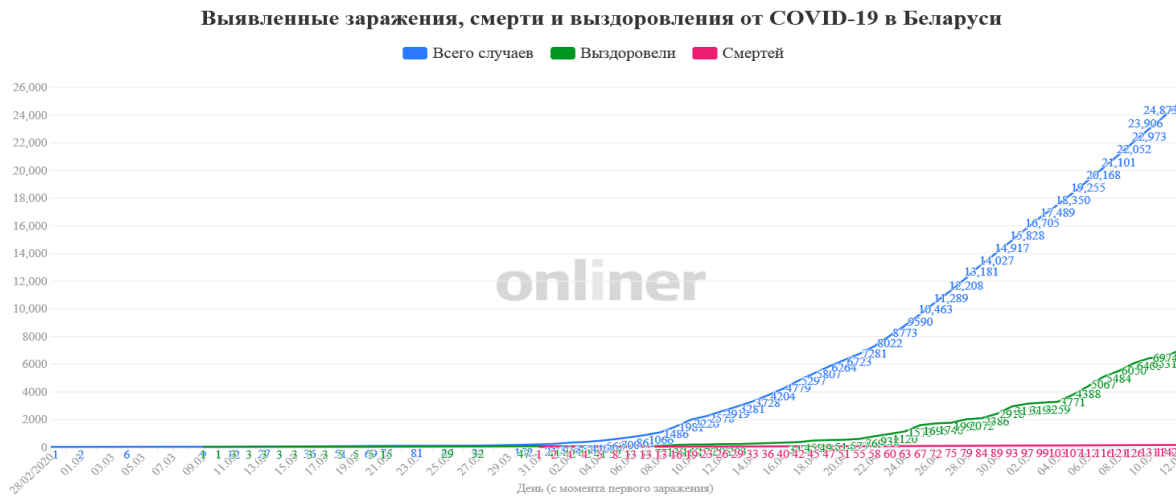
Belarus is an exception among European countries, with its heavy car traffic, crowded buses, crowded subways, open restaurants, shops and cafes, and in terms of sports - the football championship, is played in stadiums in front of an audience.

Despite WHO recommendations, Alexander Lukashenko rejected calls for quarantine measures to stop the spread of Covid-19. On May 9, thousands of soldiers were ordered to march in Belarus in commemoration of World War II Victory Day parade.

During the reporting period, the cases of coronavirus in Belarus continued to increase, albeit slowly. The number of infected during the reporting period has increased by more than 1.2 times.



As of May 12, 24,873 people were registered in Belarus, the total number of victims was 142, and 6,974 were cured.



## 6. Belgium.

The situation in Belgium remains stable. Since the beginning of the pandemic in Belgium, only people with severe symptoms of the disease have been tested for coronavirus. Patients with mild symptoms are instructed to stay at home, receive a doctor's consultation over the phone, and not visit hospitals.

Strict nationwide quarantine took effect in the country on March 14th. All educational, cultural and public institutions were closed, and students switched to distance learning. All mass events are prohibited, regardless of the number of participants. Belgium has closed its borders and banned domestic travel. Citizens are allowed to move only within their neighborhood, and in transport and shops they are obliged to keep a distance of one and a half meters.

On 4 May, Belgium began phasing out quarantine, requiring the public to wear mouth and nose guards in public.

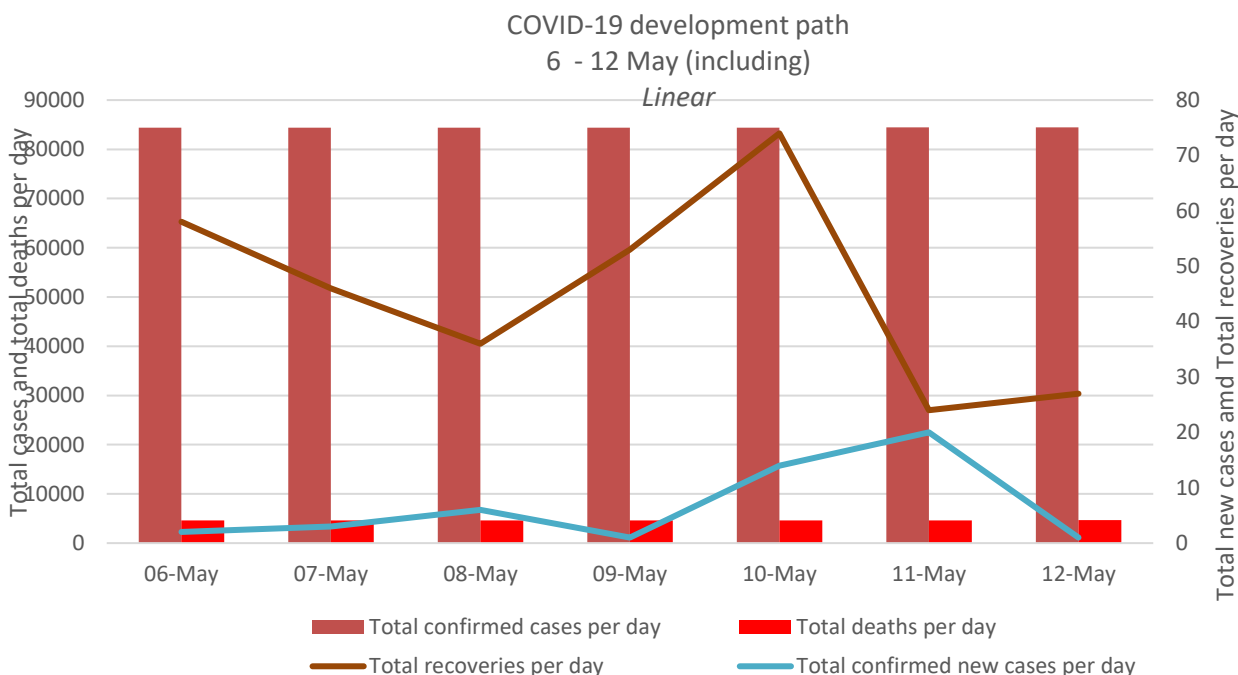
## 7. China

The trend for China remains largely unchanged from the previous weekly report - preventing imported cases and domestic resurgence, ensuring rapid response to an epidemic outbreak, providing effective treatment, and ensuring overall recovery of the social and economic order<sup>1</sup>. Lower emergency response to COVID-19 in accordance with reassessed risk (as of 7 May all counties classified as low-risk for COVID-19<sup>2</sup>). Prevention and control will nevertheless continue,

<sup>1</sup> Source: Guidelines on regular prevention and control of COVID-19, Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council – summary from the National Health Commission: [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/09/c\\_79992.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/09/c_79992.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Source: Xinhua in NHC: [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/07/c\\_79949.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/07/c_79949.htm)

relative to risk levels, to lower the risk of infection from imported cases and thus to avert a rebound of local cases. The risk of COVID-19 cluster infections caused by sporadic cases remains – 6 newly confirmed (12 May)<sup>3</sup> domestic transmission cases (China mainland), nevertheless the epidemic is in a generally stable state at the moment.



### 8. Дания.

The Danish health authorities continue to follow the so-called "mitigation strategy", which aims to limit the effects of the spread of COVID-19 in society. The strategy aims to ensure the passage of the epidemic without endangering the well-being of Danish society by ensuring that the spread of the infection is prevented. On the basis of advice from the expert group of Statens Serum Institut (SSI) as well as the economic expert group, the parties in the Danish parliament have agreed on phase 2 of the reopening.

The reopening rests on five elements:

- An offensive testing strategy with testing in both a health track and a community track, infection detection and isolation of infected. Representative testing of the population is carried out at fixed time intervals and on the basis of a clear plan.
- Use of protective equipment, including to protect the vulnerable groups
- Physical distance guidelines by health authorities

<sup>3</sup> Source: National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China: [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/13/c\\_80133.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/13/c_80133.htm)

- Health authorities guidelines on good hygiene
- Avoid super-proliferation.

The nine political parties have agreed on a comprehensive reopening plan, which is based on trust in the people's basic common sense and their willingness to keep their distance and stick to a high hygiene standard. However the government is empowered to amend the plan if the level of infections starts to increase dramatically.

Before the June 8 reopening goes ahead, an expert group from Denmark's infectious diseases agency, SSI, will submit a report calculating the current level in infection, allowing the government to hold back from lifting some of the restrictions, and even to reimpose those that have already been removed. The agreement suggests raising the maximum number of people who can gather to 50 on June 8, that threshold could be raised higher, allowing for packed theatre performances. But the agreement stresses that the ban on events involving 500 people or more will stay until at least August 31.

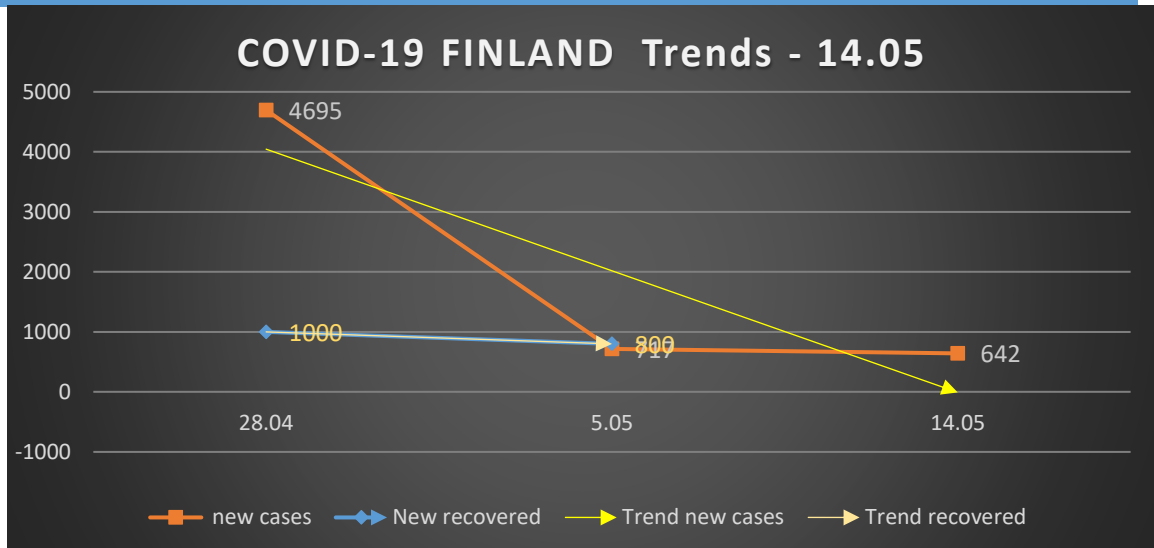
### **9. Finland.**

The main efforts of the government are focused at achieving a balance between measures to curb the spread of the virus and prevent the collapse of the economy. Some of the anti-epidemiological measures, which expire on 13 May, have been discussed, with measures such as the closure of cafes and restaurants, libraries and other cultural facilities possible.

Social gatherings in Finland have dropped dramatically as a result of instructions and restrictions on delaying the spread of the new coronavirus. Finns came into contact with 75 percent fewer people than usual during the state of emergency, and therefore the reproductive count of the coronavirus was below one percent in Finland in April.

The director of HUS expressed doubts about the resumption of activity in the services sector, while the use of services carries a risk of infection with the new coronavirus. According to him, suffocating the epidemic would be the economically cheaper option for Finland. Prime Minister Sana Marin (PSD) reiterated that the government did not believe it was possible to eradicate the virus completely and reaffirmed its support for a hybrid strategy to phase out restrictions, while allocating additional resources for testing and tracking infections. One of the first major concrete steps in the strategy is the resumption of personal education for young children and primary education on 14 May.

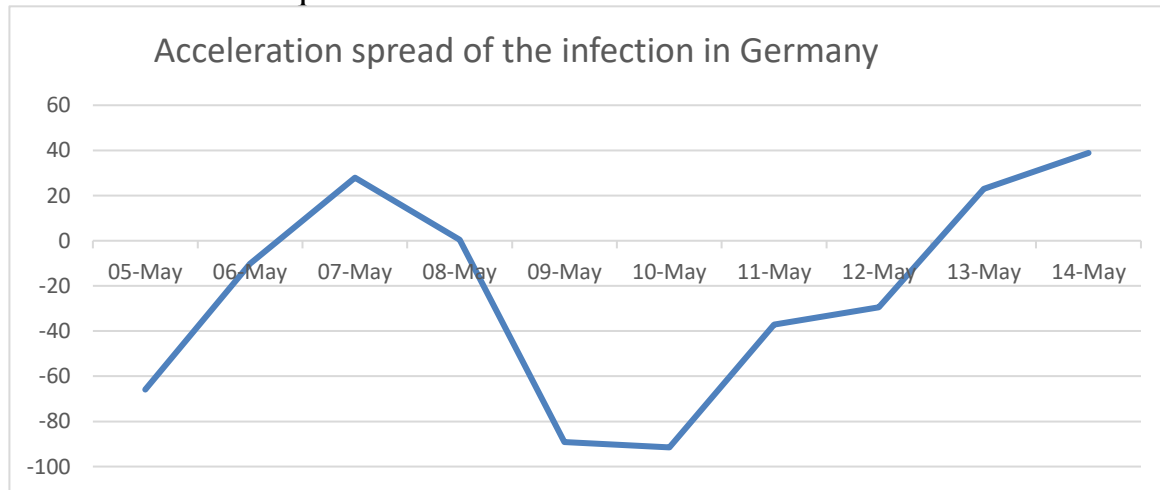
Based on statistics, charts and research (set out below), it can be assumed that Finland is on the right track to go through the crisis with minimal negative social, financial and political consequences.



## 10. Germany

The number of people infected with coronavirus in Germany is increasing. This is reported by the health authorities after the easing of the ban regime. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has announced that Germany is entering a new phase of the epidemic in which, despite the easing of restrictive measures, people must continue to adhere to the basic rules in the fight against coronavirus.

According to the latest data from the Robert Koch Institute, more than 170,500 people have been infected with coronavirus in Germany so far, and more than 7,500 have died. The reproduction rate has risen to 1.07, which means that one infected person transmits the infection to more by one person. Since 9 May, the coefficient in question has exceeded the critical value of 1.0.

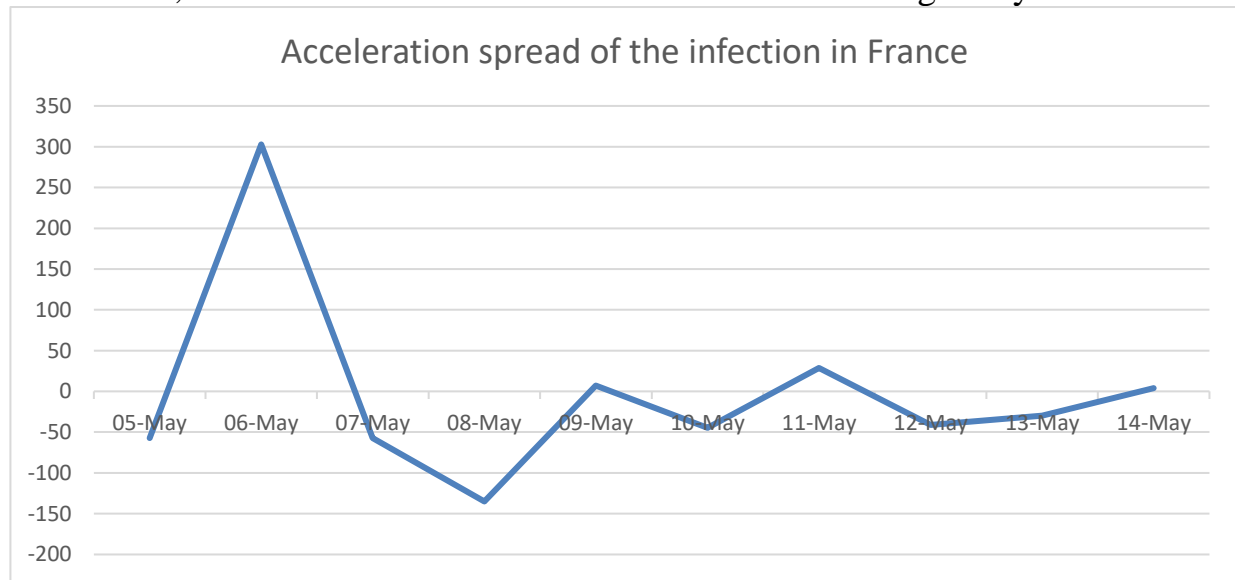


Similar to the previous week, there is decline in the acceleration of registered

new infections over the weekend. This decline was followed by a positive trend and a positive acceleration of the spread of the infection. These fluctuations allow arbitrary interpretation of the data, especially in media seeking short interest. In practice, acceleration data in the coming days are particularly important. Several options are possible. One of them is to observe the same cyclicity as last week, in which after 3 days there will be another decrease in the acceleration of new infections. According to this scenario, the number of registered patients will be less than 500 per day. This is the most likely development of the situation. The second scenario envisages maintaining the current acceleration values, which could be supported by the easing of measures. This would mean exceeding again the number of newly infected by 1000 per day. The latter scenario is the least likely and is associated with a possible small peak in the acceleration of the infection. With this development, the number of newly infected will exceed 1850. In support of the first scenario, the small coefficient of the ratio between newly infected and dead per day is the most probable. As the function of the number of victims of the virus lags behind that of the newly infected, it is possible to track the dynamics and trend by examining the relationship between them. In Germany, a coefficient below 10 is still observed, which indicates that despite the observed peaks in acceleration, the general trend is to reduce the rate of spread of the infection.

**11.France.**

According to official data presented by the French Ministry of Health, the number of deaths for the last day on 13.May is 348. Thus, the total number of deaths in the country reached 26,991. This ranks France fourth in the world in the gloomy statistics.



In previous week report, CMDR COE predicted that despite the peak of acceleration

of newly infected people observed in this period, the general trend is to control the situation. This was confirmed later in the week. We expect in the coming days slight changes in the number of newly infected and mainly in the direction of reduction for the day.

### **12. Greece.**

Last week there was a transition to the level of safeguards applied, tentatively referred to as "Phase 2", which started on 4 May with the phasing out of the restrictive measures. The aim is a gradual return to normal economic and social life with strict observance of sanitary distance. On 11 May 2020, the transition from the first stage of phase 2 (the first wave of easing of blocking restrictions) to the second stage of phase 2 (second wave of easing of blocking restrictions) started. The main goal at this stage is to gradually and safely return to some kind of "normalcy".

The second stage is the resumption of operation of a large part of the retail outlets - 33% of the total part, whose activity has been suspended.

On May 11, schools were opened for students in the last year.

The country has extended until May 21st the blockade imposed in March on migrant camps and reception centers, which is expected to be lifted on May 11th.

The coming days will show how easing the measures will affect the spread of the virus.

### **13. Hungary.**

Hungary continues to implement its crisis strategy at a steady pace with minimal negative social, financial and political consequences. It is believed that the epidemic is far from over, but some of the restrictions have been lifted and further relief can be expected soon based on a cautious and adequate assessment of the current situation. Monitoring the rate of spread of the virus and the number of patients in serious condition remain the main factors in determining any relief restrictions.

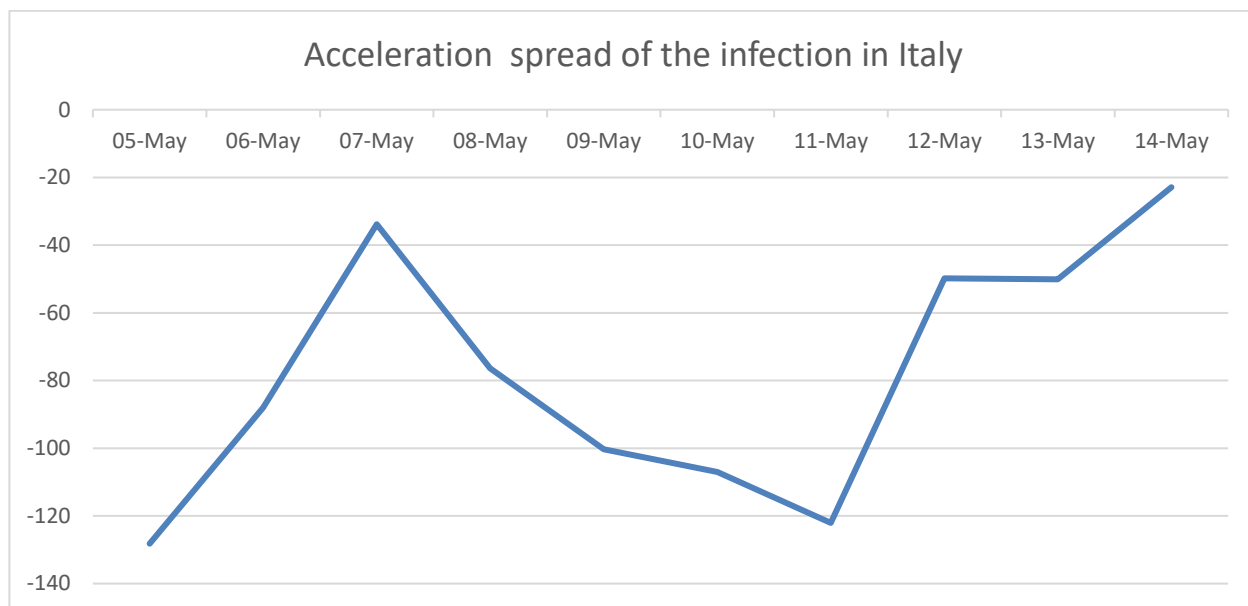
### **14. Italy.**

During the second phase of easing measures in the government, Italy called on citizens not to forget personal responsibility. The measures adopted must be balanced between the basic objective of protecting public health, which must be respected by all through a ban on collection, and the need to limit control over the daily lives of citizens.

The aim is to explicitly respect the restrictions in public transport, in the nightlife among young people and in fast food restaurants. Regular inspections will continue to be carried out in green areas and beaches.

As of May 13, there are 78,457 active cases in Italy, one of the highest in the world. The confirmed cases were 222,104 and the deaths were 31,106 (509 per 1 million), with 112,541 recovered. As of May 13, Italy had tested about 1,779,000 people.

Bars, hairdressers and restaurants are scheduled to open from 01.June, Provided that the number of infected continues to decline.



An almost identical situation to that analyzed for Germany is observed in Italy. The acceleration chart of the newly infected for the day also shows a temporary decline for the weekend like the one from the previous week, followed by a trend in a positive direction. The difference here is that the values remain entirely negative. This is due to the fact that the country was more severely affected by the virus. The powerful wave that passed now interferes in the less affected areas and this does not allow a sharp jump of the newly infected. Similar to Germany, the ratio of deaths to new infections for the day continues to be less than 10. This supports, as a possible scenario, a decline in the number of new infections over the weekend and a slight increase on Tuesday next week. In general, the trend is to continue to reduce the acceleration of the infection. This will allow easing of even more restrictive measures in the summer. Timely easing of the measures will allow the virus to circulate among the active part of society and thus avoid a strong second wave during the cold months of the year. At the moment, this is very likely. As CMDR COE analyzes in a number of its reports, the percentage of people exposed to the virus in Italy is much higher than reported. This is evidenced by research currently being conducted by the authorities there. CMDR COE is preparing an analysis of the hidden spread of the virus, which will allow to predict the moment

of elimination of the possibility of a second exponential development of the pandemic.

### **15. Japan.**

In Japan, the state of emergency was extended until the end of May. An expert working group set up by the Japanese government is working on issues related to its abolition. According to her, this will depend on three factors - the general condition of the outbreak, the availability of medical resources and the availability of coronavirus tests.

The group stipulates, as a necessary condition, that the number of new cases during the last seven days of a prefecture should be lower than those of the previous week by 0.5 per 100,000 people.

As additional conditions, experts determine a reduction in the number of critically ill patients and the ability of the health care system to deal with a possible jump in the number of patients infected with the virus.

In parallel, the Group is working to determine the conditions for declaring a second state of emergency in the event of a new wave of infections.

### **16. Netherlands.**

The government has decided to start easing the restrictive measures first at local, then at regional and finally at national level, with detailed measures to be developed in the coming weeks.

Primary and primary schools will reopen in the Netherlands on 11 May. Outdoor sports are allowed, and depending on the age group there will be certain rules for distance.

The government has made an official statement that while maintaining the downward trend in morbidity, secondary schools will reopen from June 1, as will cafes and restaurants, cinemas and museums.

### **17. Norway.**

Here, as in most countries, some of the restrictive emergency measures are in the process of easing. This includes the reopening of kindergartens and schools for the youngest children.

Norwegian Health Minister Bent Høy said the government believed it would take up to two years to be immunized with the vaccine. For this reason, the government has developed a strategy and has developed a plan to prolong life in the conditions of a virus, while opening up society. Three different scenarios are being considered. The first involves controlling the spread of the infection, the second considers a sharp increase in the number of patients and pressure on the health system. The third scenario is extreme and much more extreme, involving the breakdown of international cooperation.

### **18. Poland.**

Poland extends strict border controls until June 12 due to the coronavirus pandemic and maintains a ban on the entry of foreigners, the interior ministry said



today. Poland closed its borders in March due to the spread of the infection, after which the measure was extended four times. Exceptionally, Polish citizens, diplomats, foreigners with a permanent residence permit and foreign professional drivers may enter the country through certain checkpoints.

At the same time, the Polish authorities have eased some of the restrictions imposed. Malls, hotels, outdoor sports fields, and kindergartens were reopened.

### **19. Romania.**

The epidemic situation in Romania is unstable. The Romanian Chamber of Deputies has passed a law restrictive measures in connection with the pandemic of the new coronavirus during the period of alarm, which is introduced in the country on May 15.

Deputies made numerous changes to the government bill. The state of alarm must be approved by parliament if it operates in at least half of the country's territory. It may be in force for no more than 30 days, and the fines for violating its measures should not exceed 15,000 lei (EUR 3,100). During the period of its operation, shopping centers with an area of up to 15,000 square meters may operate, as well as the terraces of restaurants in compliance with sanitary safety measures.

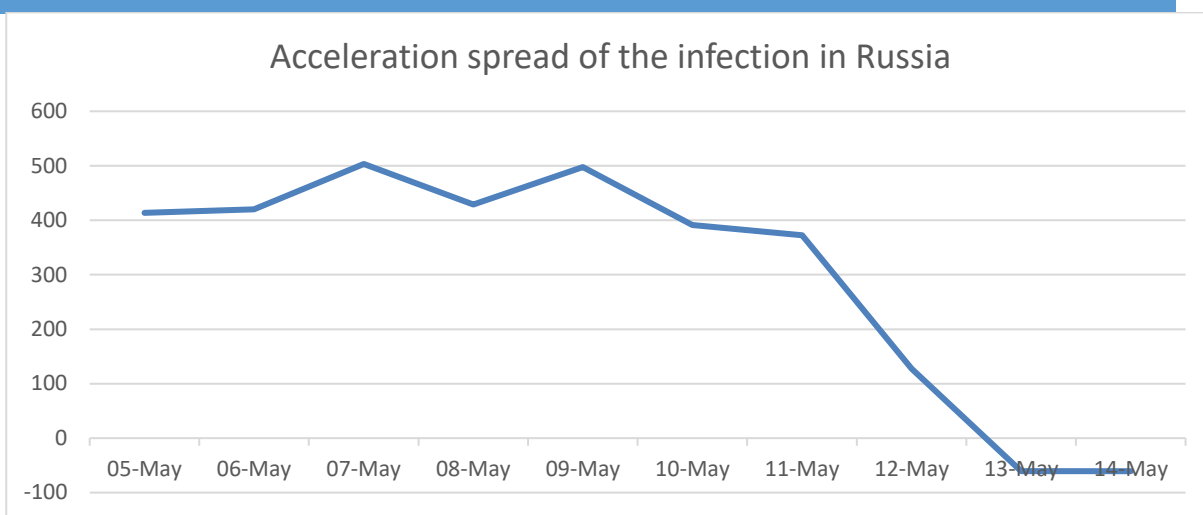
### **20. Russia.**

Russia has overtaken Spain and ranked second in the world in the number of officially confirmed cases of coronavirus infection, based on data provided by authorities in both countries. The number of registered infected in Russia according to the latest data of the operational headquarters for the fight against coronavirus reached 232 243, and in Spain they are 227 436. On Sunday, Russia ranked fifth in the world in the number of infected, but the next day climbed two places higher, ahead of Britain and Italy.

In a special address to the nation, the President of Russia announced that the non-working days decided on by May 11 will be terminated from May 12, and the measures will be gradually relaxed, starting with the opening of enterprises in sectors such as construction, industry, agriculture, extraction of minerals because they do not have direct contact with many people, as in the case of services, for example.

Everyone over the age of 65, as well as people with chronic illnesses, must stay in their homes.

According to data from the Russian operational headquarters as of May 13, the spread rate of the infection in the capital Moscow has dropped to its lowest level of 0.94, while the same average for the whole of Russia has been kept at a minimum of 1.04 for three days now. The prevalence rate is calculated according to a formula given in a recommendation from the authorities to the regions to mitigate the restrictive measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus. To move to the first phase of easing the restrictions in each region of the Russian Federation, the indicator should not exceed 1.



Over the past week, the high acceleration of the spread of the infection was controlled and settled close to zero. The probable scenarios are several. The first of them is for the observed number of infected per day close to the current values - 9000. The second is for weak dynamics of acceleration around zero, which will lead to the possibility of transferring again a value of 10,000 newly infected, as well as drops to 7-8000. At the moment, from European countries, this has the strongest dynamics.

### **21. Serbia.**

The Serbian parliament voted to cancel the state of emergency on May 7th.

The number of people infected with coronavirus in Serbia is gradually declining, said Serbian epidemiologist Predrag Kon. In the coming tenth week of the health crisis, he expects no new deaths caused by Covid-19 disease.

From the 12th week, the number of infected is expected to fall below 0.5 percent of those tested, and the preliminary estimate is that the risk of infection will be 30 times lower than in the period around Easter. Kon pointed out that after the opening of the airports and the international movement, new regulations will be adopted, which will determine how the citizens will be able to test themselves for coronavirus and at what price.

### **22. Brasil.**

Brazil is the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in Latin America. Unfortunately, the situation to date shows the ineffectiveness of the measures in Brazil. Negative trends continue, and the number of new cases is growing exponentially and uncontrollably at the

moment. Brazil has registered its highest number of coronavirus deaths on a daily basis, the BBC reported.

As of 12.05.2020, the established number of new victims is 881, according to data from the Ministry of Health. The total number of deaths from COVID-19 in the country is 12,400. Thus, Brazil, which is most severely affected by the disease in the region, is now ranked 6th in the world in terms of casualties. According to experts, the real number may be far higher due to insufficient testing in the country. In Brazil, tests are performed only on those who are admitted to hospital.

### **23. South Korea.**

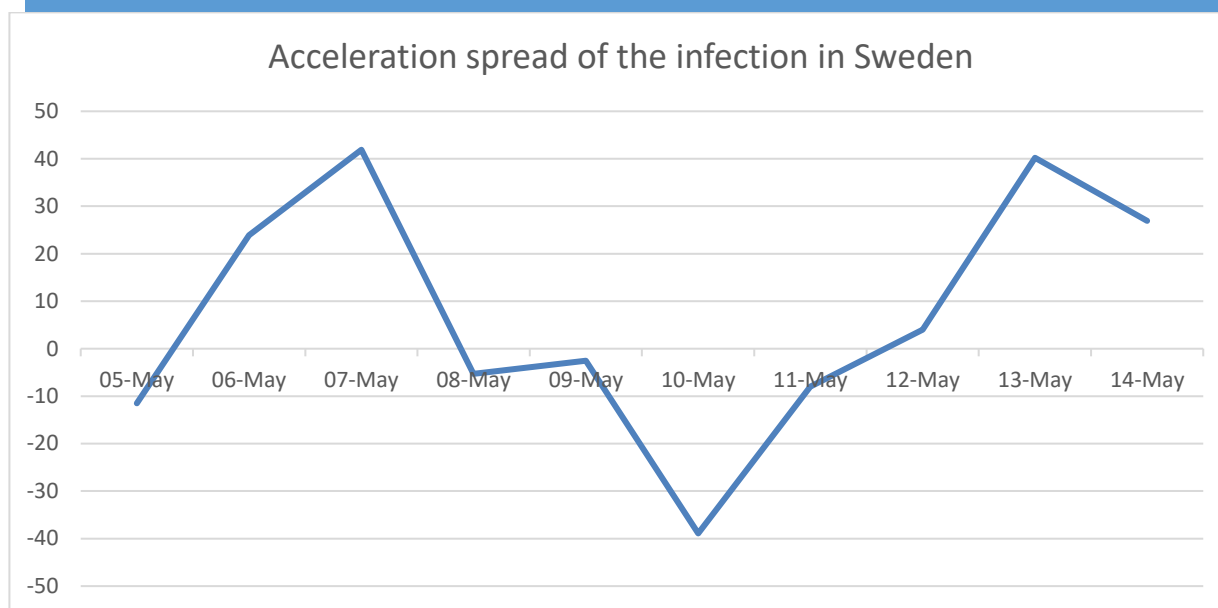
As of 06 May the loosening of the imposed restrictive measures to limit the spread of the infection began.

As a step in loosening the measures for social distancing, the establishments in the country were opened, and the necessary condition for admitting clients to them is to check the temperature, record all entrants, as well as the mandatory wearing of masks by employees. The South Korean government has been forced to close more than 2,100 nightclubs since the beginning of the week (May 11), restaurants, bars and restaurants, after a new outbreak of coronavirus broke out in one of them. Work is underway to track visitors, searching for about 1,940 people. As of 14 May in South Korea, 10,962 patients were registered, 259 died and 9695 recovered.

### **24. Sweden.**

On 13 May 2020, Sweden announced that it wanted to hire up to 10,000 health workers and carers on a permanent contract to improve care provided to the elderly. The situation with care for the elderly and staff shortages in this area is critical, and this came to light at the outbreak of the epidemic. The authorities' decision stems from an agreement reached between the Social Democrat-led government, Sweden's main union of municipal workers, Komunal, and the municipal authorities responsible for providing care for the elderly.

In Sweden, the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus are the most flexible in all of Europe. However, the country acknowledges that it has failed to protect the elderly. Of the 3,400 deaths recorded since the beginning of the epidemic in the monarchy, nearly half have taken place in old people's asulym.



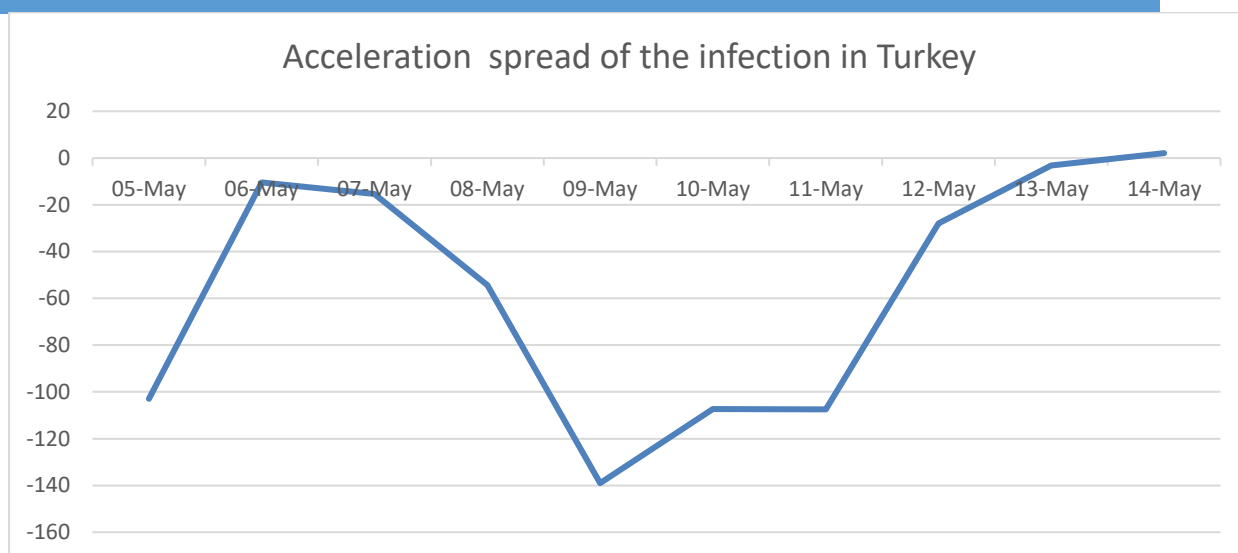
The situation in Sweden has not changed significantly this week and this was predicted in the previous CMDR COE analysis. At the moment, the acceleration is close to zero, which means a linear increase in the number of registered patients. This is not dangerous at the moment as there is already a balance between newly infected and cured for the day. The decisions of the Swedish government will be long discussed and analyzed due to the different approach to dealing with the crisis.

### **25. Turkey.**

Health authorities in Turkey have warned of an increase in coronavirus infections in the country's southeastern and Black Sea areas due to the easing of restrictive measures. As a result of the restrictions in the large metropolises of Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and others, the number of infected is decreasing, but in the southeastern and eastern areas is increasing, experts warn.

In the largest southeastern district of Gaziantep, home to about 2.5 million people, according to Governor Davut Gul, 49 out of 49 people initially jumped to more than 750 in 11,000 tests. A large number of Syrian refugees also live in the district.

According to the health authorities, the easing of the restrictive measures, more people going out in the warm weather, non-observance of the social distance, gathering of many people are the main reasons for the increase of the COVID-19 infection in these areas.



The number of people who have been in contact with the virus in Turkey is still not large enough to act as a deterrent to the growing acceleration of the spread of the infection. Current values are currently maintained by strict measures. Some of them are intensified periodically in order to avoid a peak in the development of the pandemic. This obviously gives results. Meanwhile, the hidden spread of the infection continues, which makes it possible to increase the number of people with acquired immunity. For now, the country is vulnerable to a second wave and this is especially true for the coming cold months at the end of the year.

**26. Taiwan.**

Taiwan is moving at a steady pace along the virus curve with a total of 439 reported cases (an increase of 10 cases in 7 days); 6 deaths and an ever-increasing number of recoveries. The main trend for the period 7 - 13 May is stabilization and recovery, based on two imperatives: protection of life and health and protection of livelihood - targeted and precise measures in accordance with the specific level of risk (risk assessment) of the epidemic situation at the local level - gradual and cautious stabilization and recovery - focus on imported and asymptomatic cases in order to prevent the recurrence of outbreaks of local infection. Travel restrictions and border control (medical examinations). Taiwanese citizens who have contracted COVID-19 outside Taiwan can return, albeit transport restrictions, only after passing two negative tests or showing no symptoms for a period of two months after infection.

**27. Spain.**

According to the Spanish Ministry of Health, the number of deaths from COVID-19 on May 12 was 176. This is the fourth day in a row that Spain has registered fewer than 200 coronavirus deaths. There were 123 cases on Monday,

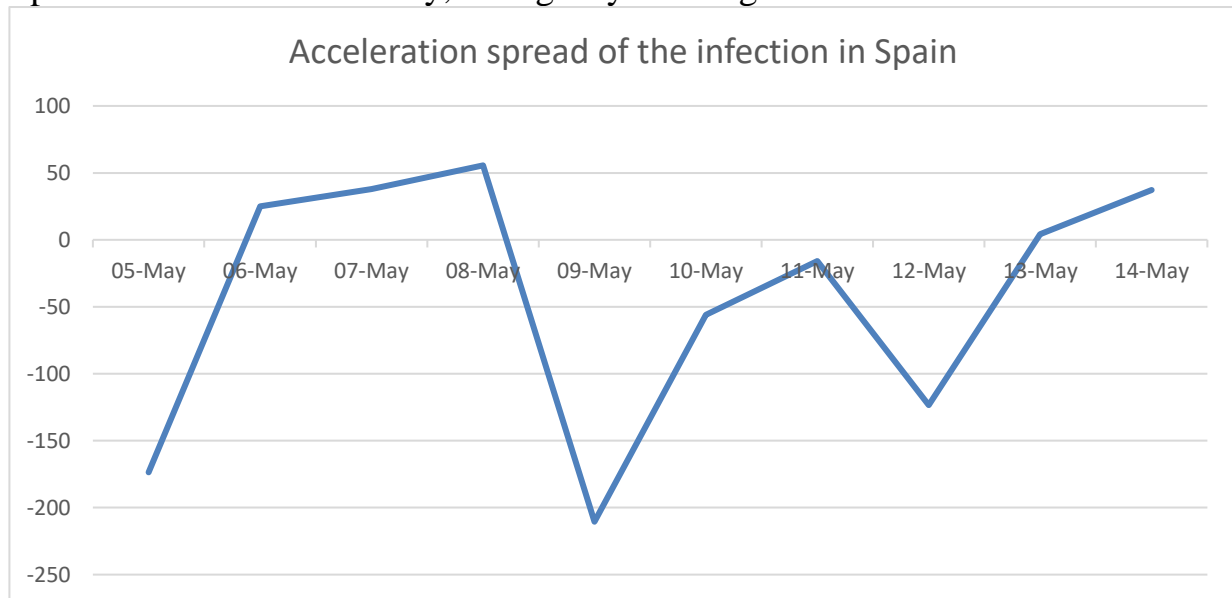
143 on Sunday and 179 on Saturday. Daily deaths from coronavirus for seven of the last 12 days of this month are less than 200. The total number of victims in Spain so far is 26,920.

For the first time, three Spanish regions – the Balearic Islands, Murcia and La Rioja – as well as the exclave city of Melilla in North Africa, recorded no new coronavirus cases. Another six regions reported fewer than 10 new infections on Tuesday. In the past 24 hours, 426 new infections were confirmed via PCR tests, up from 373 on Monday, but below Sunday’s figure of 621. This brings the total number of cases since the beginning of the crisis to 228,030.

The number of coronavirus hospital admissions also confirmed the downward trend of the outbreak. Only Castilla-La Mancha and Madrid reported more than one intensive care admission, with five and 14 respectively. Since the beginning of the crisis, a total of 138,980 coronavirus patients have been discharged from hospital after recovering from the disease.

Meanwhile, dissatisfaction is growing among some public circles over the steps the government is planning to restore normal operation. Spain's far-right group, Vox, has staged protests against the government in all of Spain's provincial capitals. The demonstrations are scheduled for May 23 and will be held by cars in columns on the streets to maintain social distance.

A Vox spokesman said on 11 May 2020 that "if the government bans the protests, it will be proof that they are using the state of emergency to secretly impose their intentions", referring to one of the three emergencies provided by the Spanish constitution: anxiety, emergency and siege.



In general, the acceleration of the number of new infections in Spain follows

that of those already mentioned in Germany and Italy. Stronger dynamics are still observed here and the spread of the infection is not broken. The country is lagging behind the pandemic in Italy, for example, and is expected to see persistently negative acceleration values in the next week or two. This is supported by the fact that the ratio of newly infected to dead per day is less than 10. Until recently, this was not the case.

### **28. United Kingdom.**

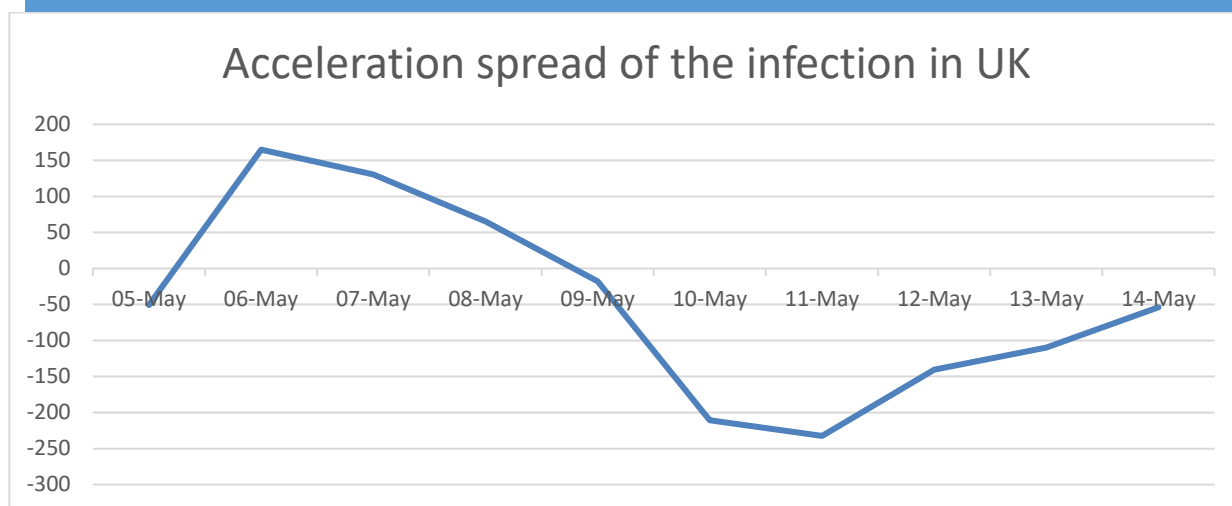
The COVID-19 spreading in UK is slowing down last week. The positive trends (total number of infected increased only with 10% and reached 229,705 people in the last week) allowed UK to stay on the 4th place on the world chart by the total COVID-19 cases just behind Russia, Spain and US. The United Kingdom registered 33,186 death cases (again 10% increase rate for the period) which is still the highest official death toll in Europe and the second highest in the world (Annex 4).

The number of people with coronavirus in hospitals had fallen from 13,168 to 11,141, over the past week - a decrease of 15%. The death cases in care homes is also slowing.

From the beginning of COVID-19 outbreak till now, 1,921,770 tests has been conducted in the UK. More than 100K tests were conducted on Monday, 10-May but the 100,000-a-day target has been reached only in couple of days so far. Missing the 100,000-a-day target for tests is becoming a bit of a recurring theme. The government has always said it does not have to hit the target every day - what matters is whether people who need a test get one.

As announced, on 10-May, the PM Boris Johnson revealed the Government's three phased plan to rebuild from the lockdown. First step, in effect from 13-May, is based on the R-factor (the number of people an infected COVID-19 contaminate). Step two marks the phased reopening of shops and allowing primary pupils back into school. Step three will happen in July the earliest and its implementation will be subject to all conditions and scientific advice. That phase will see more children being sent back to school and the opening of some hospitality services.

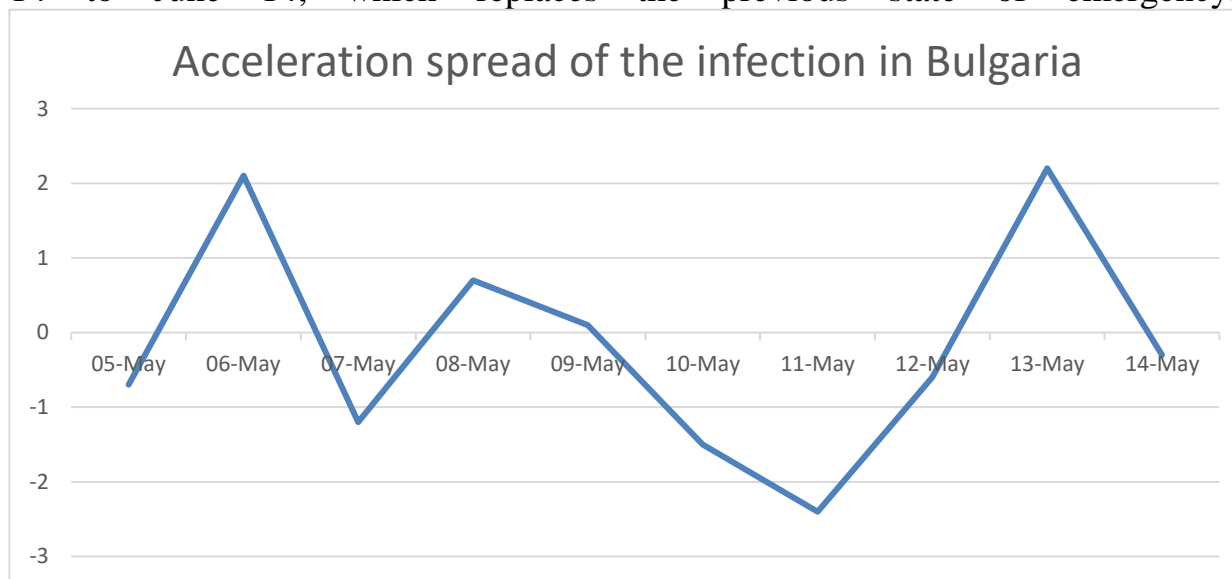
The governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have kept the stay-at-home message. They have decided to wait until the R number is lower before easing their measures, so that they have more headroom if the number of cases increase.



The development of the crisis in the UK does not differ from the forecast in the previous analysis of CMDR COE. We expect the already observed weak dynamics to continue this week as well. Standards and criteria for case reporting continue to differ from those adopted in other European countries and this requires pre-standardization of data before processing.

**29. Bulgaria.**

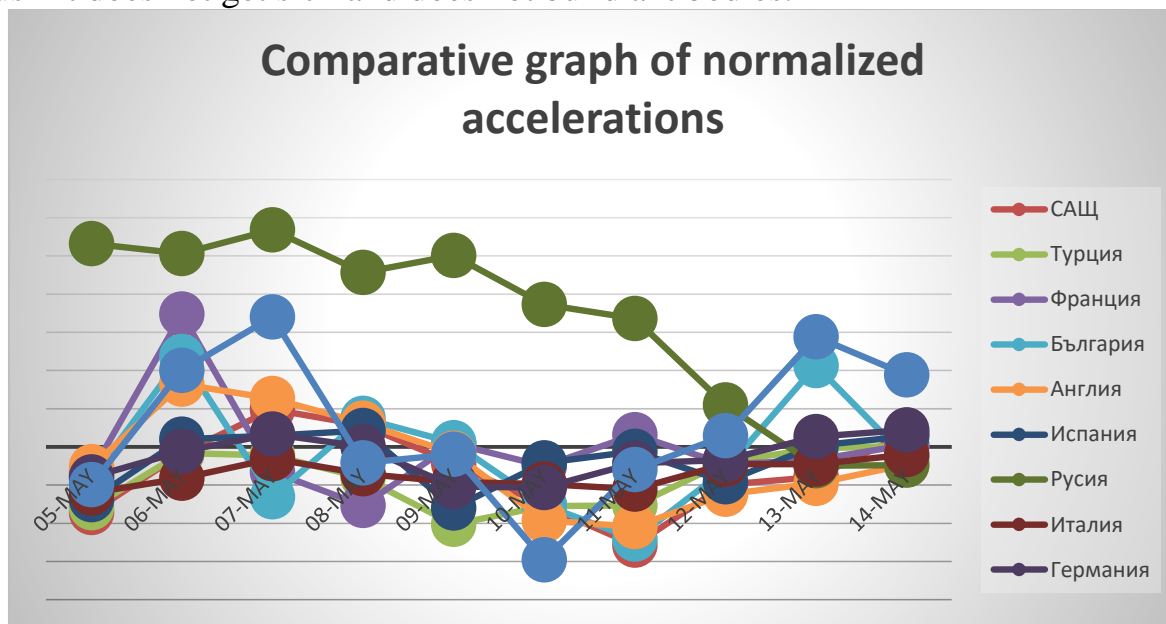
At an extraordinary government meeting via videoconference on Wednesday, May 13, the government declared an emergency epidemic from May 14 to June 14, which replaces the previous state of emergency.



The forecast for the number of new infections in the country of CMDR COE was confirmed this week. The development of the crisis differs significantly from what is happening in the severely affected Western European countries. The media



repeatedly mentioned a peak in the number of newly infected, but in practice there was no such in the country. For the scale of Bulgaria, the peak would be realized with the number of newly infected not less than 500 per day. The country continues to see an almost linear increase in the total number of infected people. This weak dynamics, despite the easing of some of the restrictive measures, is even surprising. Opinions are beginning to be shared that part of the population is transparent about the virus - it does not get sick and does not build antibodies.



The graph of normalized acceleration is impressed by two countries - Sweden and Russia. You can see how strong the virus was in Russia compared to other European countries. It is expected that the approach to the development function will start everywhere in Europe.

### 30. European Union action to address the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus crisis and COVID-19 disease<sup>4</sup>

By its very nature, the European Union is not a crisis response organization. This is (at least for now) primarily an alliance for economic integration with limited political powers and very limited competences in the fields of health, security, defense and crisis management.

In this context, the EU's "blaming" for inaction on the coronavirus crisis is not correct, as crisis management is simply not within its remit and is largely outside

<sup>4</sup> Prepared by Prof. Stefan Hadjitodorov, and Dr. Nikolay Vasilev, Center for National Security and Defence Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

the Union's mandate as an international organization.

Quite logically, the EU's crisis response institutions are underdeveloped and can in no way replace the institutions of nation states. Attempts to "glorify" the EU's role in security and crisis management actually show ignorance of the EU and lead to unrealistic expectations among European peoples and, consequently, frustration and low confidence in the European institutions.

The sharpest hybrid operations against the EU are those that, while seemingly glorifying it, actually reduce trust in it in the long run by setting unrealistic expectations in the public consciousness.

In terms of terminology, it should be borne in mind that the very term "crisis" itself is not present in basic EU constitutional legal acts, such as the Lisbon Treaty. In lower-ranking EU documents, such as administrative acts, the term "crisis" is most often used interchangeably with the term "disaster".

Attempts to shape a pan-European crisis management policy are based on two constitutional principles enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. According to the first principle, the principle of subsidiarity (additionality), a disaster (crisis) should be managed at the lowest possible level (national or local).

The second guiding principle (enshrined in Article 222 of the Lisbon Treaty) is the principle of solidarity, according to which Member States must help each other in large-scale crises or emergencies. The actual implementation of these abstract principles as EU policies is very problematic, as the coronavirus crisis clearly shows.

In practice, the EU has a partially established Mechanism for Cooperation in the Field of Civil Disaster Protection, which has limited operational capabilities. The EU mechanism is institutionally implemented by the EU Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC), which is part of DG ECHO.

According to current information from the ERCC website, its main activity in connection with the coronavirus crisis is to coordinate the repatriation of 12,000 EU citizens from around the world and to send an EU medical corps to affected areas of Italy<sup>5</sup>.

At the central political level, a coronavirus response team has been set up under the President of the European Commission, with the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety playing an active role. The main activities of the Commission in this direction are of a financial and technical nature.

The European Commission will fund the Emergency Assistance Instrument and the **RescEU** initiative with € 3 billion. The **RescEU** initiative aims to acquire vital equipment, including fans and personal protective clothing for healthcare

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<sup>5</sup> <https://erccportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

professionals<sup>6</sup>. The European Commission is trying to organize a centralized (at EU level) purchase of masks and protective clothing, but the procedures are still ongoing. In the field of transport, the main efforts at EU level are aimed at ensuring the so-called green corridors and easing of some requirements for airlines, which further exacerbate the current difficulties in the sector.

The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, which has the status of an agency of the EU, is also trying to implement countermeasures<sup>7</sup>. The Center carries out risk assessments and reports on the global spread of the coronavirus<sup>8</sup>. In the research area, the EU funds 18 projects, mainly in the field of developing diagnostic tests for coronavirus. The Innovative Medicine initiative also funds vaccine development projects (see below). At the same time, the idea of creating an independent scientific program to combat COVID-19 was not accepted

The European Union has joined forces with France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway and Saudi Arabia to launch a global donation campaign on 4 May 2020 entitled Global Action Against Coronavirus. EC President von der Leyen called on heads of state and government, as well as other partners around the world, to commit to helping achieve the initial funding target of 7.5 billion euros. The funds will help to develop and implement effective diagnostic, treatment and vaccine methods that are generally available and affordable.

In general, at this stage, EU activities have a limited scope and effect, which is fully in line with the nature and mandate of the organization. The European Union has no sovereignty of its own and cannot exist without national member states. It is significant that the borders between the Member States were closed and each country declared a state of emergency on its own. According to the classical definition of Carl Schmidt, a sovereign is one who has the power to declare a state of emergency.<sup>9</sup>

Obviously, the bearers of sovereignty are the nation states and their governments, not the EU at the central level. Like all other international organizations, the EU is a secondary, derivative subject of international relations. This fact has a direct impact on the EU's response to the current non-military crisis. Even in the field of civilian crises, the EU's claims should be assessed in the light of its real capabilities. It can be expected that the most significant EU contribution will be the measures to support the economic recovery of the Member States after

<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/resceu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/resceu_en)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en>

<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research_en)

<sup>9</sup> Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*, 70 (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press 1985)

the end of the crisis through financial instruments (see below), such as the SURE tool for combating unemployment.

At the political level, larger-scale economic measures are also being discussed, such as issuance of corona-bonds, new Marshall Plan, etc. similar. However, negotiations on these measures have serious conflict potential and it is currently difficult to predict their future development. Below are some of the measures that the EU has decided and announced it will take. In any case, the EU's role should be seen in comparison with other international organizations such as NATO and the World Health Organization, which have also been severely criticized for not being particularly active in responding to the coronavirus crisis.

Notwithstanding the above-mentioned circumstances related to the EU's powers, it should be noted that in addition to the action taken at national level, there is a clear political will for the EU to be a catalyst for a collective response by national governments. In practice, it is debatable whether there is a country among the current members of the union that has autonomous production and research capacity, as well as the necessary financial resources to deal with the coronavirus crisis, but it is certain that for the most part Collective action by the Member States through the structures of the Union is particularly important in procuring what is needed to combat the virus on a daily basis, which has yet to have an impact on the socio-economic aspects of vote in Europe.

What are the EU's concrete actions on the COVID-19 crisis? They are focused on three main areas:

1. limiting the spread of the virus and guaranteeing the provision of medical equipment;
2. support for enterprises and the economy;
3. promotion of scientific research in the field of treatment and vaccines.

*What exactly has been done in these three areas:*

- 1. Limiting the spread of the virus and ensuring the provision of medical equipment*

**Many countries impose export restrictions that disregard integrated supply chains established in the EU. These restrictions create barriers to the production of essential goods by blocking raw materials in certain Member States. They disrupt logistics and distribution chains and encourage supply chain replenishment.** The European Commission has published guidelines for Member States on how to put in place appropriate mechanisms to control trade

structures and transport corridors within and between Member States to ensure security of supply across Europe<sup>10, 7</sup>.

In addition to road transport, special attention is paid to ensuring unhindered sea and river transport. These sectors are of key strategic importance to the collective interests of the European Union and the individual interests of the national governments of the Member States:

- 75% of goods arrive in the EU by sea,
- 30% of intra-EU trade takes place through vessels.

The European Commission (EC) is currently working to coordinate with Member States to ensure the continued flow and functioning of the internal market. To this end, the EC publishes: "*Commission guidelines on EU rules and general objectives for export measures adopted in the context of the Covid-19 crisis*"<sup>11</sup>

### 1.Support for enterprises and the economy

The EU Investment Initiative in Response to Coronavirus aims to provide immediate liquidity in Member States' budgets. To this end, the following actions will be taken:

- A. Provision of EUR 37.0 billion in European public investment. Some of them will be unspent pre-financing from the European Structural and Investment Funds, which was provided to national governments in 2019. At the beginning of the crisis, 8 billion euros were available between all beneficiaries of these funds - unspent capital. The amount was to be reimbursed to the EU budget by the end of June 2020. At the suggestion of the EC, the EP approved that these capital assets, combined with co-financing from the EU budget of around 29 billion euros, be provided to stabilize the European economies to some extent in their forthcoming efforts to deal with the economic consequences of the crisis.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> „COVID-19 — Съветът приема мерки за незабавно отпускане на средства“, Съвет на Европейския Съюз, Съобщение за печата, 193/20 от 30/03/2020г.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/bg/press/press-releases/2020/03/30/covid-19-council-adopts-measures-for-immediate-release-of-funds/>

<sup>11</sup> „Насоки на Комисията относно правилата на ЕС и общите цели във връзка с мерките за износ, приети в контекста на кризата Covid-19“, Официален вестник, С 91 I, от 20 март 2020 г.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/BG/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C:2020:091I:FULL&from=EN>

<sup>12</sup> „Коронавирус: Парламентът одобри осигуряване на 37 млрд. евро срещу кризата“, Европейски парламент, 20200323/STO/75617, Брюксел, 25-03-2020

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/bg/headlines/economy/20200323STO75617/koronavirus-parlamentt-odobri-osighuriavane-na-37-mlrd-evro-sreshchu-krizata>

B. The EC has decided to apply maximum flexibility in the application of EU rules for spending the available but already allocated financial resources from the Structural and Investment Funds. In practice, the EC will allow governments to use funds from:

- the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund to invest in their health systems in order to purchase health and safety equipment, disease prevention, medical devices (including respirators, masks, etc.), safeguard the working environment in the health sector. healthcare and providing access to healthcare for vulnerable groups;

- The European Regional Development Fund to help companies cope with the short-term financial turmoil associated with the crisis. This could include, for example, the working capital of SMEs, paying special attention to the sectors particularly affected by the crisis;

- The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to guarantee the incomes of fishermen and aquaculture producers affected by the crisis<sup>13</sup>.

Taking into account the importance of tourism for the Bulgarian economy, a brief look at the approach of the European institutions to alleviate the economic consequences for tourism is appropriate. To monitor the problem and assess the impacts and risks, the EC maintains constant contact with the ministries responsible for tourism in the Member States, specialized international organizations (the World Tourism Organization and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and EU industry. In addition, the EC, in cooperation with the European Commission for Tourism, is setting up an ad hoc network of European travel agencies and travel industry associations to exchange information and assess the impact in real time in support of the coronavirus action team<sup>8</sup>.

### *1. Promoting research in the field of treatment and vaccines*

*The EU is accelerating and promoting COVID-19 research through investments totaling more than € 300 million:*

- *EUR 48.5 million allocated to 18 projects and 151 vaccine and treatment research teams were provided through the Horizon 2020 research program;*

- *EUR 90 million will be invested in public and private funds for therapy and diagnostics, funds will be available through the Innovative Medicines*

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<sup>13</sup> „Европейски координирани мерки в отговор на коронавируса“, QANDA/20/458 Европска Комисия, Брюксел, 13.03.2020 , [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response\\_bg](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_bg)

*Initiative (IMI). An emergency call for proposals was launched, funded by up to € 45 million under Horizon 2020 and targeted at the pharmaceutical industry. The Commission has offered aid of up to 80m euros in the form of an EU guarantee to provide a loan from the European Investment Bank to CureVac, a high-tech European vaccine development company. The company's goal is to start clinical trials of the vaccine by June 2020;*

- *EUR 164 million is available for start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises whose activities involve innovative solutions to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic through the European Innovation Council's Accelerator program. Proposals were invited<sup>14</sup>.*

*The European Commission has set up a European data platform for COVID-19, which will enable the rapid collection and exchange of research data.<sup>15</sup> The platform has been implemented through the collective efforts of the European Commission, the European Institute of Bioinformatics at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL-EBI), the intergovernmental scientific organization Elixir and the COMPARE project, as well as EU Member States.<sup>16</sup>*

*At the meeting held on April 6, 2020. A video conference chaired by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell agreed on the need for a working group to be chaired by the EU Military Secretariat and aimed at better information exchange and sharing of good practice between EU Member States.<sup>17</sup> On 15 April 2020, Mr Borel commissioned the establishment of a working group of the European External Action Service.<sup>18</sup>*

#### *1. Repatriation of EU citizens*

*550,000 citizens have been returned home thanks to consular cooperation in the EU. More than 65,000 EU citizens with 262 flights have been repatriated through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.*

<sup>14</sup> „COVID-19: изследователският пакет е приветстван, ЕС трябва да бъде по-добре оборудван в бъдеще“, Европейски Парламент, 20200313/IPR/74903, Съобщение за пресата, 20-03-2020, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/bg/press-room/20200319IPR75304/covid-19-izsledovatelskiiat-paket-e-privetstvan>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/bg/headlines/society/20200424STO77802/borbata-s-koronavirusa-khronologhiia-na-merkite-na-es>

<sup>16</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/bg/IP\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/bg/IP_20_680)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/bg/meetings/fac/2020/04/06/>

<sup>18</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage\\_en/77582/Coronavirus:%20Taskforce%20to%20facilitate%20information%20exchange%20among%20EU's%20armed%20forces](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/77582/Coronavirus:%20Taskforce%20to%20facilitate%20information%20exchange%20among%20EU's%20armed%20forces)

*Finally, it should be noted that in an environment of prolonged stress posed by threats to the health and lives of an unprecedented number of European citizens, it is essential to pay attention to and make systematic efforts to ensure the confidence and transparency of public communication and information structures. With the increase in the number of information channels, there is a serious increase in the importance of three important socio-political issues in the EU Member States.<sup>19</sup> The problems are the following.:*

1. Increase in fake news and deliberate dissemination of misinformation by foreign and / or politically biased social groups.<sup>20</sup>
2. Increasing economic abuses - financial fraud and speculative distribution of goods that do not meet their quality standards.<sup>21</sup>
3. The low media culture of some EU citizens (from all Member States, but we can talk mostly about the countries of Central and Eastern Europe), which under the influence of a systematic and structured disinformation campaign creates risks of all kinds ( primarily for health) and creates preconditions for financial abuse<sup>12</sup>.

And as can be seen from the above-cited sources related to these issues, in this respect the EC and the EP have also reacted and adopted and published certain documents and guidelines.

The European Commission is working on a recovery plan for the coronavirus pandemic, which will include new investment, solvency and health schemes, as well as proposals for new revenues in the EU. This was announced on 13.05 before the European Parliament by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

The recovery plan will be in addition to the EU's long-term net budget, and the scheme's funding will be channeled through the budget to ensure parliamentary

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<sup>19</sup>Борба с дезинформацията, Европейската Комисия, Брюксел  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response\\_bg](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_bg)

<sup>20</sup> „Дезинформация: как да разпознаете и да спрете митовете за коронавируса“, Европейски парламент, Брюксел, 30.03.2020г. 20200326/STO/75917, Европейска Комсия, 3 APRIL 2020, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/bg/headlines/society/20200326STO75917/dezinformatsiia-kak-da-razpoznaete-i-da-sprete-mitovete-za-koronavirusa>

<sup>21</sup> “COVID-19: Комисията и националните органи за защита на потребителите са в състояние на повишена бдителност и призовават платформите да спрат измамите и нелоялните практики“ 3 APRIL 2020, JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/bg/headlines/society/20200402STO76414/koronavirus-pazete-se-ot-izmami-i-nechestni-praktiki-onlayn>



scrutiny of how it is spent.

Rehabilitation funds will be raised in the Commission's markets against EU government guarantees and will be invested where they are most needed - the regions most affected by the pandemic and which show the greatest potential. In parallel, the EU has already committed more than € 380 million in research and innovation measures to develop vaccines, new treatments, diagnostic tests and medical systems to prevent the spread of the virus.

## Conclusions:

1. Despite easing of the measures imposed in most of the affected countries, the risk of spreading the coronavirus has not yet passed. Based on historical experience and the nature of the crisis, in the months by the end of the year a second and even a third waves of the infection are expected.
2. Currently, Bulgaria manages to successfully suppress the level of the infection curve to ones that do not endanger the country's health system. In this regard, the desired natural mass immunity could not be reached to limit its spread until the discovery of a vaccine.
3. A certain level of discipline of the society has been acquired in the country, as well as the necessary knowledge related to the protection against the spread of the disease.
4. Physical distancing and social contacts with certain limitations are becoming the norm, which will continue to be observed in the future, as the restrictions enforced on society cannot continue throughout the whole time span of the pandemic. The eradication of smallpox indicates that victory over the coronavirus is possible.
5. Resilience has moved to the forefront, approaches on behalf of the whole society work in societies with sufficient social cohesion. Greece has proved to be a good example of this. By allocating all public resources and remaining united, the Greeks were able to level the curve and record one of the lowest mortality rates in Europe during the pandemic.
6. The causes for different mortality, as well as the disproportionate number of those infected in different countries have yet to be investigated. Defining the factor determining these large disproportions will be essential to deal with possible subsequent waves of the infection.
7. Many developed countries are preparing for a possible second wave of the virus. The WHO together with other expert organizations need to propose recommendations to handle the problem, but this time avoiding this huge impact on the economy.
8. In the event of a second wave, it is expected the countries currently reporting lower morbidity rates to be more vulnerable.
9. The observed emergence of fatigue in the society is partly due to the increase in disinformation campaigns aimed at taking maximum advantage of the current situation by

manipulating society and creating artificial tension and opposition. This, in line with the economic and financial problems that will inevitably arise in the forthcoming months, will exacerbate social tensions in each country.

10. Efforts to find drugs and rapid testing tools for people continue at a varied success. At this stage it is relied on existing, tested, and the WHO-approved medicines to partially support the treatment of patients. The prospect is to create quick tests that can be used at home.

11. The success in the countries with best results in the fight against the virus is due to the large number of daily tests, which allow early detection of infected people, even of those, who are asymptomatic but are carriers of the infection.

12. The ease of the measures started on 1 May in many countries will show to what extent the situation is under control and whether the world has learned to live in conditions of sanitary distance.

**Recommendations:**

1. The state needs to adhere to the gradational exit strategy imposed because of the coronavirus and the developed restriction mitigation plan.
2. In the event of a possible second strong wave of virus spread, the country must have a detailed plan in place to cope with it. In this situation, our economy would hardly once again withstand the strain of all the measures that have been imposed to deal with the current crisis.
3. The current situation should be used to prepare the country for a possible next wave or crisis of a similar nature, which includes:
  - preparing of a set of response measures to be activated based on the already acquired experience and performed analyzes;
  - strengthening the health system and manning the medical institutions with the necessary medical staff;
  - creating stocks of protective equipment and medicines to successfully meet the next crisis;
  - maintaining the established discipline among the population for compliance with the imposed measures until the final resolve of the pandemic;
  - planning educational activities and exercises at local, regional and national level to train decision-making and action against the spread of the disease;
4. Decisions to move to each subsequent stage of easing the measures to be taken after meeting the necessary conditions: analysis of the trend of new cases, efficiency of health care and level of compliance with sanitary guidelines by the population.
5. The focus in the fight against coronavirus is to remain the reliable capacity for increased testing and monitoring of morbidity.
6. Each stage of the fight against coronavirus should include attention to the mental health of the population. To this end, a comprehensive approach to dealing with the crisis is to be applied and it is therefore necessary to use the expertise of specialists in many different fields.

7. The EU and NATO are expected to come up with concrete measures for preparation and compliance by member countries. National plans are to be coordinated, oriented and prepared for them.