

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

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COVID-19

PART 9

(15-21 May 2020)

Approaches and practices for crisis management

Bring the world together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic

This report represents a summary of open source information, gathered up to and including 21 May 2020, and was assembled on 22 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.

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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.

Trends in notification rates and deaths¹

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

Many countries are facing challenges in collecting and submitting reliable syndromic and virological data from primary care sentinel surveillance for COVID-19 using the systems established for influenza. All countries that reported data observed decreasing trends in SARS-CoV-2 positivity among individuals with respiratory symptoms.

The number of countries reporting moderate to extremely high excess all-cause mortality to EuroMOMO is decreasing. All-cause excess mortality is an objective measure of the pandemic's impact, particularly during periods when competing drivers of excess mortality (influenza and high/low temperatures) are largely absent.

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.

¹ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/ecdc-launches-new-weekly-covid-19-surveillance-report>

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.

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.

Coronavirus pandemic threatens the survival of the European Union, says George Soros²

Billionaire investor and philanthropist George Soros has said that coronavirus threatens the survival of the European Union (EU) unless the bloc takes action to raise its budget and provide financial relief to its hardest-hit nations.

"Exceptional circumstances require exceptional measures," Soros said in an interview with Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf published Friday.

"Perpetual bonds or consols are such a measure. They should not even be considered in normal times. But if the EU is unable to consider it now, it may not be able to survive the challenges it currently confronts. This is not a theoretical possibility; it may be the tragic reality."

The billionaire added that the EU could provide perpetual bonds by authorising taxation in order to issue them, as the bloc would need to maintain its AAA rating for the idea to work.

Soros suggested that the money raised could be allocated to those in the greatest need, especially the hardest hit Southern countries. He was particularly concerned about Italy, which he said had been treated unfairly by the EU and Germany in the past.

"What would be left of Europe without Italy?" Soros said. "Italy used to be the most pro-European country. Italians trusted Europe more than their own governments, and with good reason. But they were badly treated during

² From CNN's Chris Liakos

the refugee crisis of 2015. That is when Italians decide to vote for [Matteo] Salvini's Lega and the Five Star Movement in a landslide." "More recently, the relaxation of state aid rules, which favor Germany, has been particularly unfair to Italy, which was already the sick man of Europe and then the hardest hit by Covid-19."

Soros said he expected the damage suffered by the Eurozone economy due to the virus to last longer than most people think it will.

Historic health assembly ends with global commitment to COVID-19 response

On the meeting of the 73rd World Health Assembly —its first-ever to be held virtually—delegates adopted a landmark resolution to bring the world together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The resolution, co-sponsored by more than 130 countries, was adopted by consensus.

It calls for the intensification of efforts to control the pandemic, and for equitable access to and fair distribution of all essential health technologies and products to combat the virus. It also calls for an independent and comprehensive evaluation of the global response, including, but not limited to, WHO's performance.

As WHO convened ministers of health from almost every country in the world, the consistent message throughout the two-day meeting—including from the 14 heads of state participating in the opening and closing sessions —was that global unity is the most powerful tool to combat the outbreak. The resolution is a concrete manifestation of this call, and a roadmap for controlling the outbreak.

In his closing remarks, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "COVID-19 has robbed us of people we love. It's robbed us of lives and livelihoods; it's shaken the foundations of our world; it threatens to tear at the fabric of international cooperation. But it's also reminded us that for all our differences, we are one human race, and we are stronger together."³

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 21.05.2020. the world is almost 5.2 million. Almost 1.6 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 320,000 are registered in Russia and 300,000 in Brazil.

1. Australia.

As at 3:00pm on 20 May 2020, a total of 7,079 cases of COVID-19 have been

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/19-05-2020-historic-health-assembly-ends-with-global-commitment-to-covid-19-response>

reported in Australia, including 100 deaths and 6,444 have been reported as recovered from COVID-19.

Over the past week, there has been an average of 14 new cases reported each day. Of the newly reported cases, the majority have been from Victoria.

COVID-19 cases were reported across all ages.

The median age of all cases is 47 years (range: 0 to 101 years).

The median age of deaths is 80 years (range: 42 to 96 years).

There is a relatively equal ratio of male-to-female cases across most age groups.

Following the peak of cases at the end of March, there has been a sustained and relatively low number of new cases reported daily since mid-April.

Of cases with a reported place of acquisition, 62% have recent international travel history, including over 1,300 cases associated with cruise ships.

The overall proportion of cases under investigation in each state and territory is relatively low, indicating that public health actions, including case identification and contact tracing, is occurring in a timely manner.

To date, over 1,111,500 tests have been conducted nationally. Of those tests conducted 0.6% have been positive.

The ‘cases in aged care services’ table presents the number of cases that have been reported among care recipients in Australian Government subsidised Residential and In Home Care settings in each state and territory.

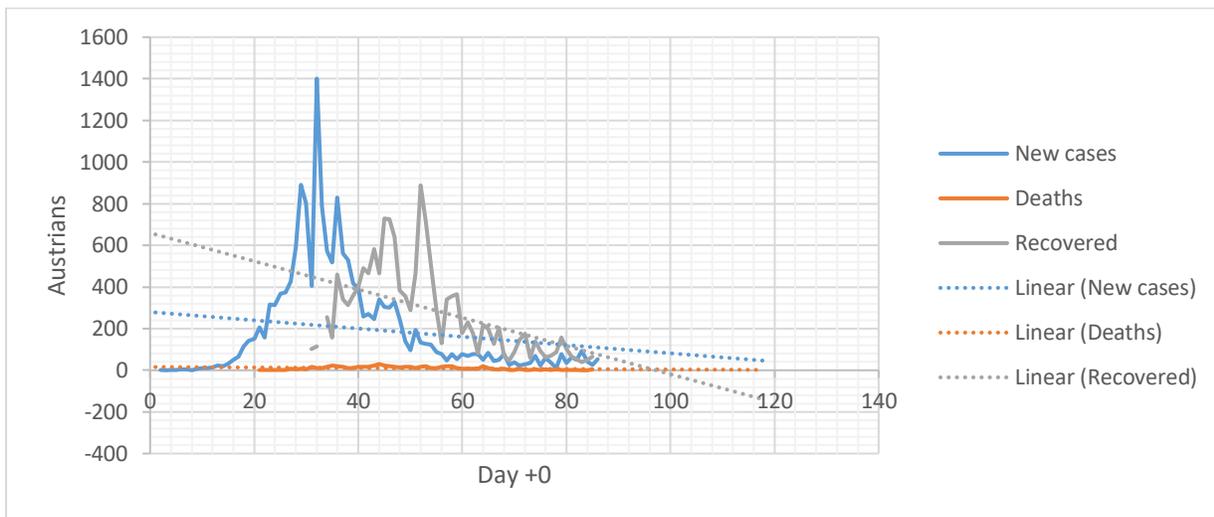
2. Austria

The measures implemented by the Austrian Federal Government and the discipline of the Austrian people have taken effect. The number of new infections in Austria is continuing to decrease and the strict measures for the containment of the coronavirus can therefore be loosened in a step by step process. Austria is currently in a phase of gradual, secure and monitored re-opening. The gastronomy sector and museums are open on May 15th, accommodation facilities and recreational operations will follow on May 29th. The next step will be allowing cross-border travel to neighbouring countries with comparable good results as Austria. The opening of the border to Germany has already been announced for June 15th. Below is a list of the current restriction measures and their duration:

- May 22: no landing for aircrafts from Covid-19 risk areas;
- May 22: suspension of rail transport from Italy, Switzerland and Liechtenstein;
- May 31: Entry by air and land ;
- May 31: Border controls with Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

From May 29th, accommodation facilities are permitted to reopen their establishment for touristic purposes.

Starting May 15th, gastronomic establishments are permitted to open until 11 pm. No more than 4 adults and their respective children may sit around one table. A minimum distance of 1 meter/3.3 feet has to be kept to people on neighboring tables. Service at the counter is not permitted. The wearing of face-masks is compulsory for the service staff; guests are not required to wear masks.



On the graph, we can clearly analyze Austria's situation and trends in the fight against the virus. We have a pandemic peak, a gradual decrease in the number of infected and increasing number of cured. The country has 16.321 registered patients, of which 14.678 are cured, 632 died and 1011 active cases.

3. Belarus.

In the period from 15 to 21 May, the trend of increasing the number of infected with the crown virus, albeit slowly, continues.

As of May 21, 32,426 people were registered in Belarus, the total number of victims was 179, and 11,415 were cured.

Belarus did not enforce lockdown measures in the country. May 9 saw a large-scale parade in Minsk to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). A campaign for the August 9 presidential election is also underway in Belarus. Meanwhile, experts of the World Health Organization have recommended the Belarusian authorities to step up the measures of social distancing and ban mass events.

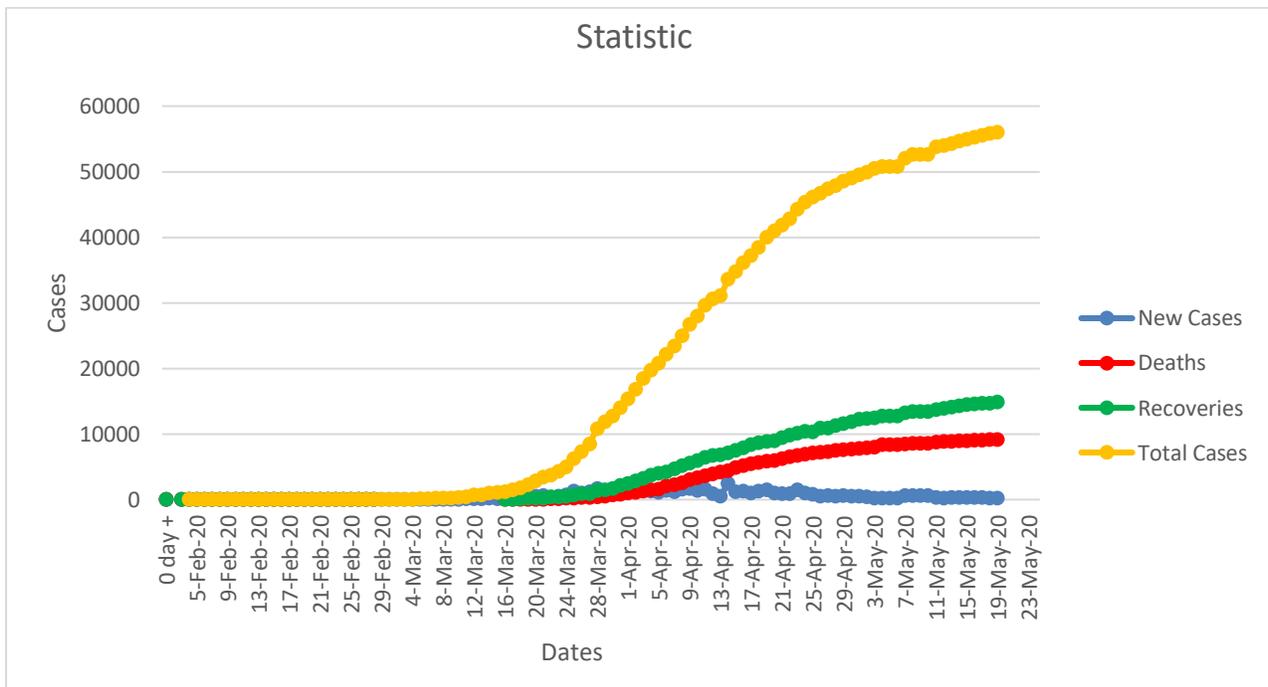
Belarusian experts predict a peak in COVID-19 cases in the country after May 20. Against this background, Belarusian citizens have chosen to keep social contacts to a minimum and self-isolate voluntarily.

4. Belgium.

Current trends in Belgium remain stable for the reported period. Belgium is in Phase 2 of the exit plan from 18 May. During this phase, schools reopen for some primary and secondary pupils, under strict organisational conditions. Pre-schools remain closed at this stage and higher education has already planned through to the end of the academic year in cooperation with the community authorities.

Museums, cultural attractions and libraries reopen their doors, they set up an online or phone ticketing system and take the necessary measures to avoid overcrowding.

Professions requiring close contact with customers can resume their activities in this phase, subject to certain conditions. Regular outdoor group sports training and lessons may resume, provided social distancing is adhered to and a coach is present. The next phase of the exit strategy will not take place before 8 June.



Graph 1

New infections continue to be diagnosed in Belgium, but the trends are going

downwards. Up to May 20, a total of 55 983 COVID-19 patients were reported in Belgium (Graph 1). To date, 14 847 of the patients have been recovered, 9 150 have died and 720 228 have been tested.

5. Brasil.

According to the latest coronavirus update published by the Brazilian Health Minister, 1,188 new deaths were registered over the past 24 hours - to a total tally of 20,047. The country has doubled its death count in just 12 days. Meanwhile, total cases reached 310,087, with 18,508 new infections recorded in the past 24 hours.

Among the top 5 worst-affected countries by Covid-19, only Brazil has an ascending curve. Over the past seven days, Brazil has registered, on average, 864 new deaths per day. It has been 66 days since the first casualty was recorded. At that same point into the outbreak, only the U.S. had more average new daily deaths (1,812). But the U.S. has a test rate per 1 million people that is 11 times higher than Brazil's.

Even with lower testing rates than all countries in the top 15 of total cases, Brazil has experienced a faster spread than most other nations. Brazil is the 5 most affected by the COVID-19 countries all over the world. During the last week there are 864 deaths per day.

Although Brazil has low testing level compared with the other countries, it has one of the fastest spreading temp compared with the most other countries.

It took months, but Congress is already discussing ways to postpone the October election. However, House Speaker Rodrigo Maia has adamantly opposed any change including an extension of incumbents' terms beyond December 31, 2020. He told reporters that giving politicians longer terms is a danger in Brazil - despite the special conditions imposed by the pandemic. Mr. Maia fears it would set a dangerous precedent, opening the door for leaders that could "fabricate emergency situations" to prolong their time in power.

Any change to the electoral calendar would take a constitutional amendment - meaning it must be approved by both houses of parliament in a two-round vote that calls for a 60-percent majority⁴.

A closer look at the data raises questions about the widely held idea that COVID-19 is mainly dangerous for the elderly. Of Brazil's victims, 69 percent were aged 60 or older, compared with 95 percent in Spain and Italy, according to official statistics. The disparity is partly driven by the age of the overall populace: Just 13.6 percent of Brazil's population is 60 or older, compared to 25 percent in Spain and 28 percent in Italy.

But demographics do not tell the whole story. "Since Brazil has a younger population, it's normal for the number of cases to be higher among under-60s. But it's also because young adults are observing stay-at-home measures less," said

⁴ <https://brazilian.report/coronavirus-brazil-live-blog/>

Mauro Sanchez, an epidemiologist at the University of Brasilia. "Young [Brazilians] aren't responding to the virus differently. It's because they're more exposed," he told AFP. "What's perverse is that a lot of the people who are exposing themselves to the virus are doing it because they don't have a choice."

'Worrying statistics'

The phenomenon has become more pronounced as the pandemic progresses here. In early April, 19 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Brazil were among under-60s. This week, that figure rose to 31 percent. Studies based on cell phone location data indicate Brazilians are observing stay-at-home measures less and less. Some experts pin the blame for that on disjointed government policies: Stay-at-home measures are decided at the state and local level, but at the federal level, far-right President Jair Bolsonaro regularly rails against them. Bolsonaro, who has famously compared the coronavirus to a "little flu," says business closures are needlessly hurting the economy, which is facing a deep recession this year. He has urged Brazilians to get back to work. But the working-age population is vulnerable to the disease, too. Brazil's official statistics do not break down coronavirus infections by age, and experts say under-testing means the real number of cases is probably far higher than the health ministry's figures.

A group of researchers called COVID-19 Brazil estimates the country has more than 3.6 million infected people -- more than 10 times higher than the official figure. It estimates the age groups with the most infections are 20 to 29 and 30 to 39 years old, with more than 580,000 infections each -- twice as many as those aged 60 to 69.

"The statistics are worrying, because we can see that lately young people are not taking the necessary precautions," said Patricia Canto, a pulmonologist at the National School of Public Health.

In a country where 20 percent of the population lives on less than \$5.50 a day, many Brazilians are forced to choose between staying home and putting food on the table. The poorest tend to work in the informal sector -- things like cleaning, cooking, childcare and other jobs that can only be done by leaving the house. The government has allocated emergency payments of 600 reais (about \$110) a month to help such workers get by. But many have had trouble registering. In a case of social distancing policy gone awry, crowds have thronged branches of state bank Caixa as people wait hours to sign up for the benefit.

6. Canada

The overall trajectory in Canada continued to be positive with no new cases being reported in six jurisdictions over the past week. Nine jurisdictions reported no new deaths in the last 24 hours. New cases continue to be reported across the country, however with a decreasing trend in daily reported cases observed. The majority of

cases (85%) and deaths (94%) continue to be reported from the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. The number of people recovering from Covid-19 pandemic in Canada has overtaken the number of people infected, there were 76,204 Covid-19 cases, including 5,702 deaths in the country, as of May 17. More than 38,159 or 50 per cent of cases are now recovered.

Canada and the United States have agreed to extend a ban on non-essential travel between the two nations by another 30 days, until June 21 as part of the fight against the coronavirus.

The government's emergency wage-subsidy program will be extended to the end of August to help employers keep their workers on the payroll during the pandemic, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said today. The program originally was set to expire next month.

The federal government will provide \$450 million in wage subsidies to universities and health research institutes to retain employees ineligible for the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy, which does not cover public sector workers. Institutions will also receive block grants through the federal granting agencies worth 75% of costs to retain or restart research-related activities.

Nearly 1,700 members of the Canadian Armed Forces are working in long-term care homes overwhelmed by COVID-19, and five have tested positive for the coronavirus – four in Quebec and one in Ontario.

Business in some provinces resumed on May 18 after the government eased restrictions aimed at curbing the COVID-19 pandemic. Provincial governments have each laid out plans to gradually restore their economies, which have been largely locked down since March to limit the transmission of COVID-19. The federal government will open areas of 38 national parks and 171 historic sites for hikes and other daytime activities after June 1. Camping overnight will not be permitted.

Ontario has given the green light to certain retail stores to open their doors beginning May 19 as the province enters the first stage of its reopening plan. The construction industry has also been given the go-ahead to resume operations, and some surgeries will be allowed to proceed. Workplaces can also gradually reopen, but people should work from home as much as possible. Schools in Ontario, Canada's most populous province, will not open at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of Canadians who have died from COVID-19 has doubled to more than 5,000 since the last weekend in April. More than 90% of the deaths have occurred in Quebec and Ontario, where infection rates have slowed only slightly since peaking in recent weeks.

More than a million people in Canada have been tested for the novel coronavirus, with over 79,000 positive tests including 5,909 deaths and 39,976 cases recovered.

Although cases and death tolls continue to climb, there are continual signs that undertaken public health measures have slowed the growth of COVID-19 overall.

7. China

The trend for China remains largely unchanged from the previous weekly report - coordination between regular control and production resumption - 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. Lower emergency response to COVID-19 in accordance with reassessed risk. Cluster cases are still a concern but new guidance identifies key areas requiring close attention - villages in urban areas, old residential communities, schools and elderly nursing homes. The epidemic is in a generally stable state currently, nevertheless, scattered cases and clusters of infection have occurred in Heilongjiang, Jilin (Shulan) and Wuhan. In general, fewer asymptomatic cases and significant slowdown in mortality (1 death in the past 7 days). The number of people going through nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 increases significantly in Hubei province and the number of asymptomatic cases is dropping. This is indicative of a weakening of the virus due to routine early detecting and intervention measures.

Special attention is placed on regional and international cooperation, particularly cooperation within the WHO. China has pledged to provide 2 billion U.S. dollars over two years to help with COVID-19 response and with economic and social development in affected countries, especially developing countries, including fostering the implementation of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the poorest countries. Furthermore, COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good.

Special attention on ever strengthening cross-sectoral information sharing and regular discussion and assessment of the epidemic trends with clear terms of reference for stakeholder involved in the coordination. Measures applied in clusters, here-below an update on measures which have reportedly enabled the realisation of China's strategy for tackling COVID-19:

The local government in Shulan announced plans to step up its lockdown measures by tightening movement control in all residential areas as the number of new cases in a COVID-19 cluster that was first detected there continues to rise. Residential blocks that have seen confirmed or suspected cases are barring residents from leaving and non-residents from entering. Daily necessities are delivered by local supermarkets.

8. Denmark.

Denmark's response to the spread of the virus was to first adopt a "suppression" strategy that included social distancing, lockdown for the entire population and screening of at-risk individuals.

When the Danish health care system was hit with the COVID-19 crisis, its response was to adapt quickly. In hospitals, dedicated units were set up in each facility and additional resuscitation beds were provided. Medical students helped support the teams already in place and retired doctors were called in to help. While successfully containing the spread of the virus, Danish hospital services did not become overburdened, which might otherwise have been a concern given the relatively low number of hospital beds. Small hospitals were closed and a university hospital - with specialized emergency units and state-of-the-art digital equipment - was established in each of the five Danish regions.

The Danish public affairs institute believes that the country faces two possible scenarios. The first scenario takes an optimistic view of how COVID-19 will impact the economy: fairly rapid stabilization. With the second, more pessimistic scenario, a bigger decline in GDP is predicted. As a solution, has been suggested reducing the tax on electricity and increasing taxes on CO2 in order to stimulate the economy and drive environmental change.

The issue of reopening schools has been controversial, and opinions are still divided among both Danish and European researchers. In Denmark, although the rate of spread of infection has gone up since schools and kindergartens were reopened, the number of people infected has continued to fall.

The aim of the Danish strategy was highly likely to curb the expansion of the virus and avoid overburdening hospitals. The easing of restrictions has been implemented alongside a widespread testing campaign that aims to obtain a "representative sample" that will provide a clearer picture of the rate of infection in Denmark. Health economists are now examining the lockdown measures, which are regarded by some as excessive and it is highly likely the economic difficulties will face the most painful year for Denmark's economy since the Second World War.

9. Finland.

The corona virus situation has begun to change over the past couple of weeks and the numbers of infected and especially exposed people have increased quicker than before. The Finnish National Agency for Education (OPH) has instructed

schools to organise teaching in a way that minimises close contact: pupils should not move from one classroom to another and should take turns at lunch and recess, it was reminded of the importance of hand hygiene and social distancing.

The City of Helsinki on Monday reported that the infections have been detected in four of the eight hospital wards and led to a total of 12 deaths, the majority of which have occurred in the hospice and palliative care unit. The City of Helsinki emphasised that no new patients are admitted to the wards where infections have been detected and that everyone exposed to the virus has been placed into quarantine. All patients and employees will be tested for the virus, while the employees have also been instructed to don protective equipment in all nursing settings, including when interacting with their colleagues.

The City of Helsinki on Monday also communicated that more than a dozen pupils and teachers have been placed into quarantine after being exposed to the new coronavirus at two of its schools.

The pupils and staff members ordered into self-quarantine are required to stay at home and avoid contact with everyone outside their home. The pupils are also required to study remotely for the two-week duration of the quarantine.

Their family members, however, can continue their life as usual as they have not come into close contact with anyone infected with the new coronavirus.

Based on the statistics, diagrams and researches (exposed below) it could be assumed Finland is on the right track to get through the crisis with minimum negative social, financial and political consequences. The government undertakes relevant steps while mulling over relaxing the measures. Despite improvements in the tracing of infections, not all transmitters are reached. The margin is very small for the epidemic bursting into growth, so caution is warranted when lifting the measures. The key going forward will be to devise a feasible exit strategy and communicating it to promote predictability.

10. Germany

As of 20 May, in total, 176,007 COVID-19 cases and 8,090 deaths (fatality rate of 4.6) due to COVID-19 have been reported. 156,900 persons are estimated to have recovered and 1,115 patients are critical/serious condition. The first confirmed case reported on 28 January 2020 while the first death on 05 March 2020.

Since 15 April the number of people who are recovering is higher than the number of the infected ones.

As of 20 May, Germany has the 8th most coronavirus confirmed cases worldwide, same like a week ago.

New covid-19 infections rose again in the country last week, a few days after leaders loosened social restrictions. According to Robert Koch Institute, as of 20 May, the reproduction number, which indicates how quickly a disease is spreading, is 0,88 upper than 0.8 which was on 13 May (last report).

On 16 May, thousands of people protested the lockdown measures In Berlin and other German cities.

Starting from 11 May, Germany's 16 states rolled back further COVID-19 restrictions, although the news rules depend on the region. On 17 May, the German Football League has made its return. On 18 May, the most restaurants and café reopened The wearing of (non-medical) face masks in public transport and in shops is obligatory in all federal states.

As of 16 May, the border with Luxembourg have completely reopened. Restrictions are applied. Regarding Belgium and the Netherlands the boedres are effectively open. Spot checks are only being carried out away from urban centers.

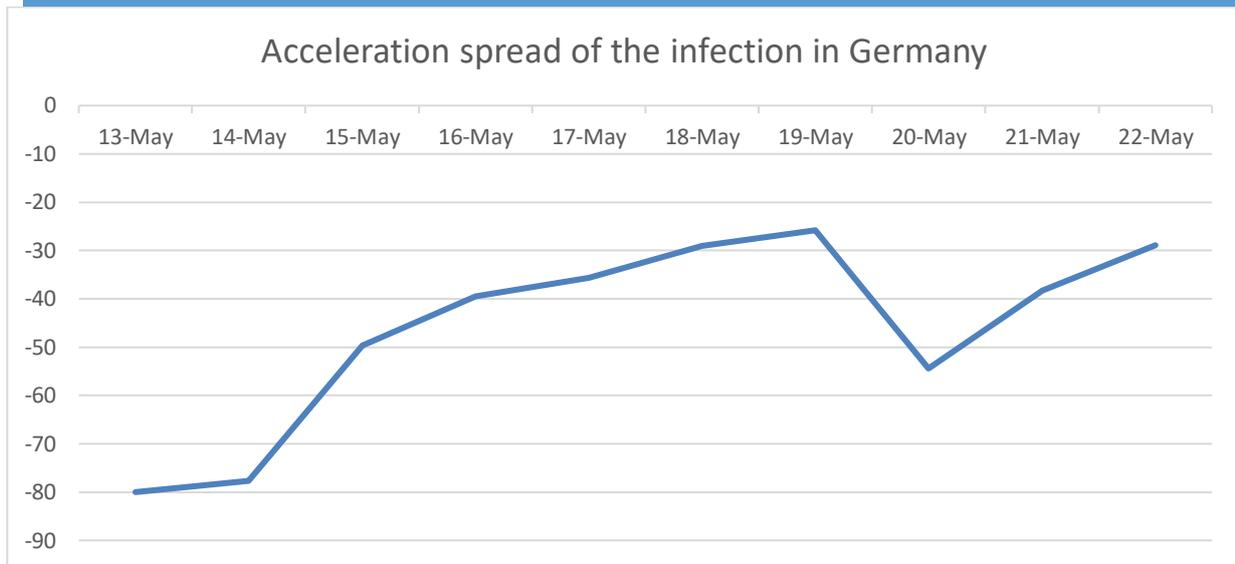
The German strategy is to return to a semblance of normalcy. The main goal is to continue testing hundreds of thousands of people for covid-19 per week. The country having a widespread testing system and a huge capacity in treating patients spares no efforts in increasing the number of intensive care beds.

The German economy shrunk by 2.2% in the first quarter of 2020, pushing the country into recession. The government has forecast a record recession of 6.3% this year. France and Germany on Monday proposed a €500 billion (\$548 billion) recovery plan that would offer grants to European Union regions and sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, to financially assist them without increasing their debt levels

The World Medical Association has accused the German government of acting solely on economic grounds and underestimating the risk to public health in deciding to ease restrictions.

On balance, Germany has dealt with its coronavirus outbreak much better than most nations around the world Germany had achieved fragile intermediate success slowing the spread of the virus.

German authorities intensify their efforts in order to cope with a possible second wave of COVID-19 infection as the country gradually comes out of limitations.



In a previous analysis of the situation in Germany, the CMDR COE outlined three possible options for development. In practice, the indicated with the highest probability is realized and we actually observed the number of newly infected per day below 500 in the past week. The acceleration graph shows a slight positive trend, although the acceleration is still negative. This is due to the loosening of measures and the potential for the development of the crisis in Germany. The observed is directly related to the number of people in the population who have been exposed to the virus. For Germany, this percentage is not as high as for Italy in the first place and then for Spain. According to the CMDR COE study, the total number of people in Germany who have been in contact with the virus or are "transparent" to it does not currently exceed 23%. This gives a window for a brief acceleration of the spread of the infection. It will be difficult to identify in the total number due to its small value. The process will continue in two different scenarios. The first most likely is the one in which the number of the above will reach 30% of the population relatively smoothly and this will begin to limit the possibility of increasing the acceleration of the infection. In the second scenario, it is possible for the spread of the infection to accelerate faster and, if it reaches 30%, to have a sufficient rate to continue its spread. This option is significantly less likely. In general, we expect weak dynamics in the spread of the virus.

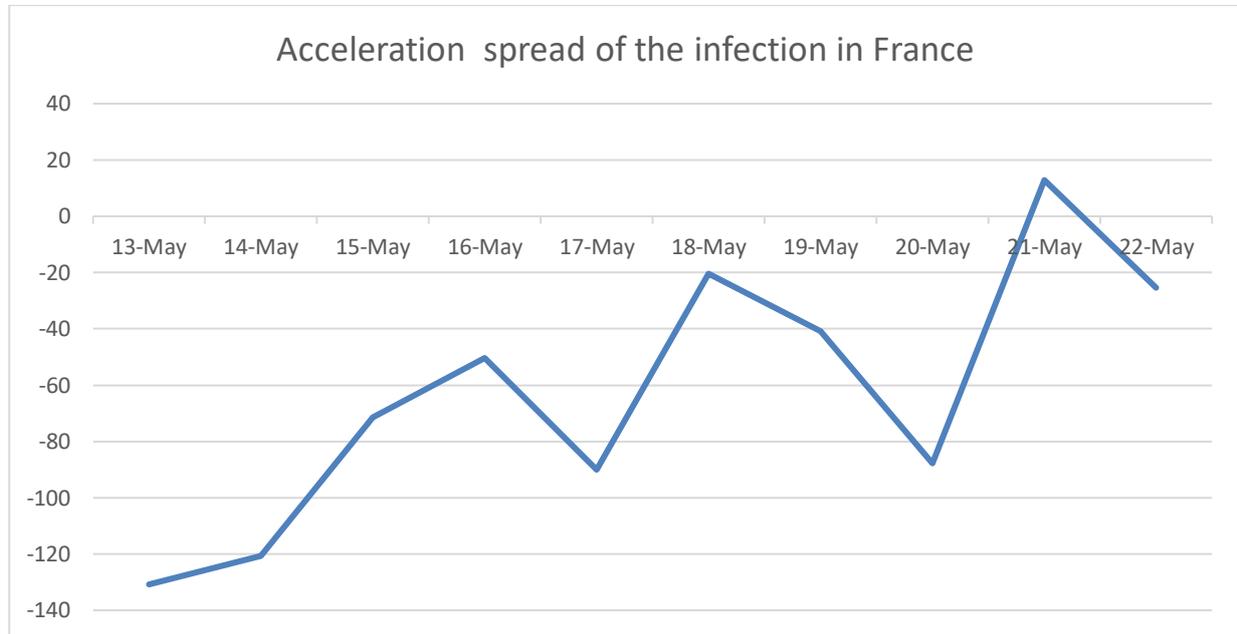
For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 179531, 179994, 180412, 180784, 181110.

11. France

As of 20 May, France has reported over 143,845 confirmed cases, 28,132

deaths, and 63,354 recoveries.

In France, under 5% of the total population, that is around 2.8 million people, may have been infected with COVID-19 according to a team of French epidemiologists. The rate was nearly double that in the Ile-de-France and Alsace.



The rate of spread in France continues to decline. There is a slight positive trend in the acceleration of the spread of the virus. This is in response to the easing of restrictive measures. The warming of the weather and the achieved percentage of contacts with the virus in France have the opposite effect. Unfortunately, this percentage is not as high as in Italy and Spain, for example. This allows similarly in Germany to realize a short not very high peak in the speed of spread of the virus.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 182256, 182623, 182928, 183170, 183350

12. Greece.

As of 20 May, in total, 2,850 COVID-19 cases and 166 deaths (fatality rate of 5.8%) due to COVID-19 have been reported. 1,374 persons are estimated to have recovered and 22 patients are critical/serious Condition.

During the last three days (from 18 May to 20 May) in total only 16 new

cases of covid-19 and 3 deaths were recorded

As of 20 May, each disease carrier infects significantly less than other person. The reproduction number, which indicates how quickly a disease is spreading, is significantly between 0,35-0.40 according to Greek National Health Organization.

Intensive care unit (ICU) cases, considered a good indicator of where a country stands on the curve, appear to have peaked on April 5 at 93 patients and have been gradually declining ever since. In one and half month, the numbers of hospitalized in ICUs declined from 91 to 22.

The 18th May 2020 signaled the transition from the second stage of phase 2 (second wave of easing the lockdown restrictions) to the third stage of phase 2 (third wave of easing the lockdown restrictions). The main goal of this stage is to safely return to somehow a semblance of “normalcy”.

The third stage represents the resumption of Divine Liturgies and all kinds of religious ceremonies, operation of organised beaches, shopping malls, outdoor archeological sites, zoos, indoor sport halls and swimming pools (for personal training only) and travels across the mainland and Creta island.

As of 18 May, schools have reopened for the grades 7-11. One week ago the schools had reopened for last year students.

The country prolonged until 21 May the lockdown imposed in March on migrant camps and reception centres, which had been expected to be lifted from 11 May.

On 15 May, a strict lockdown has been imposed on a Roma settlement in Larissa, central Greece, after 35 residents tested positive for coronavirus. This was the second time the settlement of around 3,000 residents has been quarantined in just over a month

Greece took strict but necessary measures timely. The first measures were taken just one day after the first confirmed case and quite before the first death. Actions such as the lockdown and fully-quarantine vulnerable towns and villages have protected the national health system and eliminated the number of deaths. The lockdown was imposed much earlier than in most countries in the western world while Greeks reacted to the lockdown with full compliance. Similarly, Greece has strained easing the strict measures when the epidemiological status had been improved significantly. The key to further success remains the individual responsibility and disciplined alongside collective maturity

The use of face mask usage is mandatory in all means of public transport, taxi and health premises. Highly recommended into supermarkets and stores.

The likelihood of serious local disease spread still exists in close structures

such as refugee and Roma camps.

Since Greece base almost 30% of its total GDP on tourism, there are a lot of concerns and debates about what is going to happen taking into consideration the decade-long economic crisis which struck the country. On 20 May, Greek Prime Minister announced the government's plan for labour , the economy and tourism. A 24 billion package which will be released in three pillars of the economy (job support, tax cuts and boosting entrepreneurship). The tourist season will resume on 15 June in Greece.

The overall situation is assessed as positive and optimistic. However, can quickly get out of hand continued vigilance is vital.

13.Hungary.

The rules of easing the lockdown that came into effect, but social distancing measures will continue to apply. It will be compulsory to wear a mask in shops and on public transport in Budapest in order to prevent the spread of the infection. Public areas, parks and outdoor playgrounds can be visited as well. People over the age of 65 will continue to be allowed to visit groceries, drugstores and pharmacies between 9am and noon and everyone else during the remaining opening hours, but municipalities have the right to set different rules for the opening hours of markets. All shops and service providers will be allowed to open, and at restaurants, cafes and bars, the outdoor areas and terraces can be opened in the capital. Outdoor swimming pools, museums and the zoo can reopen to visitors. Religious services, weddings and funerals attended by up to 200 people will be permitted from June 1 outside of the capital and after June 15 in Budapest. Family events can also be held at hotels and restaurants. Catering units will not have to pay a fee for using public spaces for their terraces from Monday until September 1 because they have suffered huge losses. Universities can be reopened in Budapest, but this will require the decision of the rector everywhere. It is still prohibited to visit student accommodation establishments. Minister of Human Resources, has told that “a new phase in re-launching hospital services” is coming. The health government’s “focus is on gradually restarting services” . According to the authorities, hospitals could now “handle the number of beds more flexibly” and reintroduce planned inpatient therapies and elective procedures, as well as screening programs.

It could be considered that as a result of timely government action and a disciplined approach by residents the number of active and hospitalized coronavirus cases had decreased, and a third of the reserved beds in hospitals could again be used for routine treatments. However, it is almost certain that the

epidemic is not over and future plans would stress on the importance of taking steps gradually. Screening patients for coronavirus will be a crucial component aimed at protecting hospitals from the infection. Concerning plans to concentrate COVID-19 patients in only few hospitals, the ministry will likely transfer those to central facilities “at a higher level of prevention”.

14. Italy.

These are the indications contained in the circular of the Chief of Cabinet Matteo Piantedosi dated 19 May 2020:

- The gradual resumption of commercial and social activities may determine the need to recalibrate the anti-Covid-19 controls and to remodel the use of the personnel of the Armed Forces, already employed in the Safe Roads Operation.

- The same circular highlights that, starting from May 18, people can move without any limitation in the regional territory. State and regions can adopt or extend measures that limit circulation, always in the regional territory, if an epidemiological situation worsens.

- The movement of people between regions remains prohibited until June 2, as well as those to and from abroad, except for proven work needs, of absolute urgency or for health reasons.

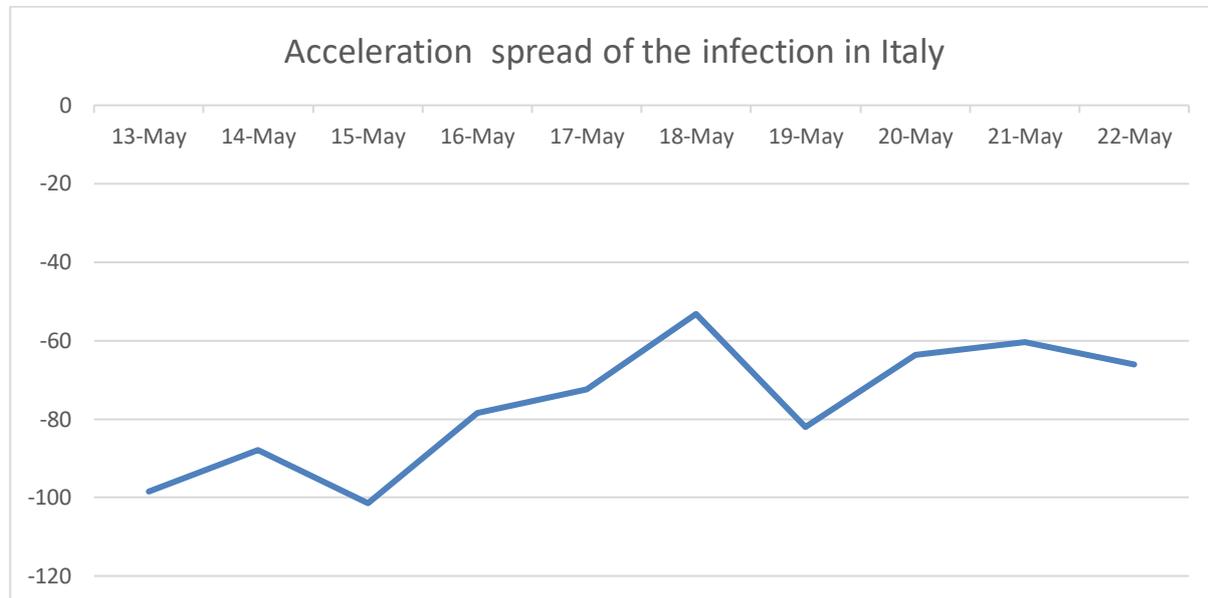
- It is also forbidden to move from home to people subjected to quarantine because they are positive for Covid-19. The circular also indicates that it is still possible to return to your home / residence.

- Events and shows of any nature, in public places or open to the public, can take place on the basis of the trend of the data on the infections, according to methods established by state measures, always without prejudice to the prohibition of gatherings. The mayor may order the temporary closure of areas open to the public, when it is not possible to respect the distance of at least one meter between people.

- Access to public areas such as parks and gardens is allowed respecting social distancing, gatherings are prohibited. Minors can access the play areas and, from June 15, children and young people will be able to attend places intended for recreational and educational activities, such as summer centers, always in the presence of dedicated operators and respecting the safety protocols.

- The circular also indicates that retail businesses can restart . They must ensure delayed customer entry and interpersonal distance. It will not be possible to stay in the premises longer than necessary to purchase the goods.

As of 20 May 2020, Italy has 62,752 active cases, one of the highest in the world. Overall, there have been 227,364 confirmed cases and 32,330 deaths (a rate of 536 deaths per million population), while there have been 132,282 recoveries or dismissals. By 19 May, Italy had tested about 2,000,000 people.



For Italy, as in the previous week, there is a very close picture to that analyzed in Germany. Acceleration values continue to be negative with a very weak positive trend. With this preservation of development, which is very weak, it is likely to lead to a positive acceleration of the development of the infection again after more than a month and a half. Some dynamics and again a decrease in the acceleration of the infection are more likely to be observed.

In its early reports, CMDR COE analyzed that in Italy the number of people who had contact with the virus was much higher than registered. Statistics and research data are already being found that largely confirm these assumptions. According to the current analysis of the CMDR COE, the percentage of the Italian population who has been exposed to the virus or is "transparent" to it is over 30%. This explains the development function in recent days and the strong predictability. It stems from the fact that the crisis in Italy is currently developing almost naturally and is less affected by people's behavior. The outlook for the country remains positive and we do not expect a sharp increase in acceleration associated with the easing of a significant part of the measures.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 228579, 229075, 229495, 229839, 230106.

15. Japan.

On 13th May, Antigen Testing Kits was approved and it has the following characteristics:

- It can quickly determine whether those tested are infected or not;
- It does not require any special equipment or reagent, or transportation of samples;
- It requires at certain minimum amount of viruses to detect antigens.
- The test is expected to be conducted mainly on symptomatic patients, and necessary testing systems should be secured along with those for PCR tests.
- It is important to secure systems to allow a wide range of medical institutions to conduct antigen tests, and it is necessary to establish these systems along with reporting systems to appropriately gather information on conducted tests.
- At the same time, efforts should be made to expand PCR and other tests.

On 14th May, it is decided 8 prefectures to remain under “specific cautions”, whilst other regions will be released from the state of emergency.

The country has 16,367 registered patients, of which 11,564 are cured, 768 died and 4035 active cases.

16. Netherlands.

The situation in the Netherlands is stable for the reported period. The number of new infections is going downwards, for the past day, only 108 new cases are registered, through the peak period the number of new patients reached 1335 per day.

The government has started by relaxing restrictions at local level and announced that from 1st of June the Netherlands will relax a few more measures. People will be able to do certain things together again, like:

- Secondary schools will reopen on 2 June;
- Primary schools will be open their regular hours from 8 June;
- Restaurants, bars and cafés can open with a maximum of 30 guests (so not counting staff);
- Cinemas, theatres and concert halls can reopen with a maximum of 30 audience members per auditorium.

The Netherlands’ approach is aimed at keeping the virus under control as

much as possible in order to protect vulnerable groups and make sure the healthcare system can cope. Thanks to people complying with the measures, the situation has improved. The figures show a positive trend and so we can move step by step towards having more freedom.

The ministers of Home Affairs of Belgium, of Germany, and the Netherlands are working together intensively and continuously to slow down the spread of COVID-19, by keeping in close contact and regularly exchanging critical information, proposals and solutions.

In their most recent discussions, the ministers have spoken about the ways forward, since the transition to the next phase of this crisis must be planned carefully. Bearing in mind the common interest of a controlled exit and recovery, especially in the areas with shared borders, the ministers are determined to come to well-coordinated plans to ensure a successful exit and recovery of both the individual and the combined Member States.

Up to and including May 20, a total of 44 447 COVID-19 patients were reported by National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in the Netherlands. The Dutch government is not reporting on Covid-19 recovery cases explaining that getting recovered from the virus is a long and hard period not always easy to track. To date, 5 748 have died. RIVM monitors the distribution of COVID-19 in the Netherlands.

17. Norway.

Norway will likely keep travel restrictions in place until Aug. 20 as it negotiates a path between restarting economic activity and preventing a new wave of coronavirus infections.

The restrictions include official advice against travelling abroad unless necessary, a 10-day quarantine for all people returning from abroad, and no entry to most non-Norwegians who do not have the right to live and work in Norway.

The three Baltic republics have set up a “travel bubble” allowing free travel between each other but that is yet to happen for nearby Nordic countries, which collaborate closely, though this would be considered before June 15.

Norway may decide to loosen restrictions imposed on leisure travel from other Nordic states - which include Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and Finland - by June 15, and will consider admitting travellers from selected other European countries by July 20.

Foreigners working in sectors considered crucial to Norway, such as agriculture, fisheries or the oil industry, are already allowed to come into the country though they still have to submit to a 10-day quarantine.

It could be assumed the government does not wish to maintain the restrictions longer than it has to, and at the same time it is highly likely it wants to give people as well as the travel industry in this country as much predictability as it can. While the government advice is to plan for holidays in Norway, encouraging domestic tourism this summer, the exclusion of foreign tourists without offering substantial financial support to travel firms will certainly trigger a string of bankruptcies. Some lobby groups consider it is likely “The government is suffocating the charter holiday industry”.

18. Poland.

From the beginning of pandemic number of infected people is still growing and reached 19 739 (+ 2 535), disease rate grew during last week and is above linear trend line now. Average number of infected also grown and is 362 (recently 352) people a day during last week, which placed Poland on 8th place in Europe and 31st on the world.

Number of tests done so far is 674 861 / +146 739 from last report;

Reported number of people cured from coronavirus so far – 8 183 / +1 773 from last report

962 people died so far (490 men and 472 women), average age of died person is 75 years, the youngest persons who died was 18th years young man who died on 24th APR in Kędzierzyn Koźle Hospital. The patient had cerebral palsy and epilepsy. On 14th MAY also 18th year old women passed away in Regional Hospital in Radom. Local epidemic institution informed that she had coronavirus and comorbidities, but not informed which specific once.

Silesia District is still the most affected region in Poland with more than 6000 confirmed cases which is 31% of all cases in Poland now. Still the main source of infection are coal mines located in this area where virus is transfer among miners and their families. However, new outbreak of infection was discovered in Wielkopolskie District where more than 150 employees from big furniture company was tested positive.

Ministry of Health informed that next easing of restrictions could be done differently for respective districts, pending current sanitary situation. For example probably first districts where wearing protection masks outside could be abolished are Lubuskie, Lubelskie and Podlaskie.

19. Romania.

The state of emergency in Romania lifted on May 14. It replaced with the state of alert, less restrictive than the state of emergency. The government declared the state of alert at the national or regional level to protect the population

and limit the negative effects of an emergency situation. The restrictions are going to be lifted gradually every two weeks, depending on the epidemiological evolution. In general, the epidemic has not passed yet.

A government order, published in the Official Monitor on May 16, included the measures that airports and airlines need to follow during the state of alert to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

On May 19, Romania recorded 155 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 17,191 cases. Of the confirmed cases, 10,166 patients declared cured and discharged from the hospital. At the same time, 1,126 Covid-19 patients died. They had been admitted to hospitals in Bucharest and in Dolj, Iași, Suceava, Arad, Bacău, Timiș, Cluj, Neamț, Hunedoara, Constanța, Satu Mare, Sibiu, Ialomița, Bistrița-Năsăud, Covasna, Dâmbovița, Vrancea, Galați, Caraș-Severin, Mureș, Giurgiu, Bihor, Argeș, Vaslui, Botoșani, Alba, Sălaj, Brașov, Mehedinți, Teleorman, Gorj, Prahova, Vâlcea, Călărași, Maramureș, Olt and Ilfov counties.

GDP in Romania will likely fall by 5 per cent in 2020, before growing by 3.8 per cent in 2021. Romania's Government paid RON 1.78 billion (EUR 367 million, 0.18% of the year's projected GDP) in supplementary social aid in the state of emergency. During the two-month state of emergency, 362,000 employees lost their jobs.

20. Russia.

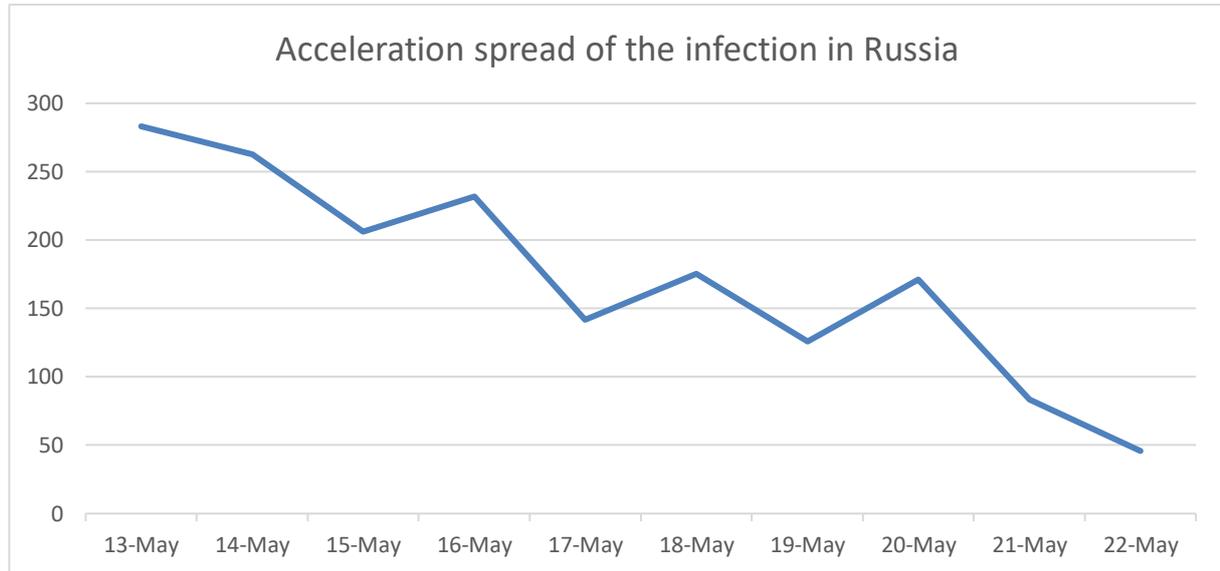
In Russia, there is a reducing trend in the cases of COVID-19. In about 1/3 of the country's regions, there are conditions for the gradual lifting of the restrictions imposed due to the spread of the virus.

The President of Russia announced in a special address to the nation that from May 12 the non-working days decided until May 11 will be terminated 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.

For the first time since the beginning of the epidemic in Russia, the number of recovered patients exceeded those of infected per day. The ratio for Wednesday (20.05) is 9262 discharged from hospital against 8764 newly patients. The total number of patients with CIVID-19 in the country reached 308,705. For the last 24 hours, the death toll was 135. In Moscow, which is the leader in the black ranking of the cases of coronavirus, there is also a positive trend.

In the capital, the number of people recovered per day hit the record of

5440, as well as the number of new cases is record low - 2699. Against the background of this positive news, it became clear that domestic tourism in Russia is gradually resuming its work from June 1. At first, the sanatoriums with medical license will be opened, as well as the small hotels. It is still ongoing the development of the action protocols in cases when an infected persons with corona virus is found among the guests of a hotel. From next month, domestic charter flights to Russian resorts will be launched.



In a previous report, the CMDR COE said it was likely to keep the number of new infections around the clock at around 9,000. That was exactly what was observed last week. The graph of the acceleration shows the steady trend in a negative direction, which speaks of a rapid control of the situation. This poses risks of a second peak. If the acceleration is maintained at values close to zero, a constant rate will be established, which will reach 30% of the population in contact with the virus. At the moment there are similar conditions. We expect quick adequate measures of the government in this direction and they will be related to the easing of restrictive measures soon.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 326829, 336277, 345897, 355690, 365656.

21. Serbia.

The Serbian government is slowly lifting restrictions on movements designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 with certain measures still in force

until further notice. Air Serbia postponed renewal of limited regular passenger air traffic from May 18 to June 15. The entry to Serbia for foreign citizens will require a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours before arrival AND a “stay authorization” or “authorization to transit” from the Serbian government.

Minister of Finance participated in a meeting between the ministers of economy and finance of the Member States of the European Union, Western Balkans and Turkey. European Commission (EC) and the European Central Bank representatives also joined. The main topic of the event was the mitigation of economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic by Economic reform programmes.

The best economic growth rate is expecting by the end of the year. Serbia and the EU agreed on six recommendations regarding further mitigation of the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic on growth and employment through adequate discretionary fiscal policy measures, support to economic recovery through increased capital expenditures aimed at growth, in terms of the increased share of GDP in 2020, as well as in the medium term.

The recommendations also aimed at closely monitoring the challenges to financial stability resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and taking adequate measures, providing effective, transparent and non-discriminatory support to affected companies, taking measures to preserve employment through short-term programmes and effective labour market policies, as well as improving social transfers to provide adequate support to low-income people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

A video conference of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Western Balkans and the EU members conducted (Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia) on the topic “How successfully to contribute, through cooperation, to the next phases of dealing with socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.”

The government intends to relax some measures, due to the current epidemiological situation, which will additionally liberalize the entry into Serbia. Starting on Friday, 22 May, a negative test or a special permit for both domestic and foreign citizens will not be required to enter the Republic of Serbia.

Serbian representatives received at the Nikola Tesla Airport humanitarian aid from the State of Qatar intended to fight the COVID-19 epidemic. A plane delivered approximately 470,000 surgical masks, 70,000 high-quality N95 masks, 85,000 epidemiological masks, tens of thousands of gloves, goggles, visors, surgical coats, 4,700 overalls and more. Also, a plane from Azerbaijan delivered medical equipment to Serbia.

Samples of 5298 persons were tested over the past 24 hours, of whom 114 tested positive for coronavirus, bringing a total of COVID-19 cases in Serbia since the start of the epidemic to 10733.

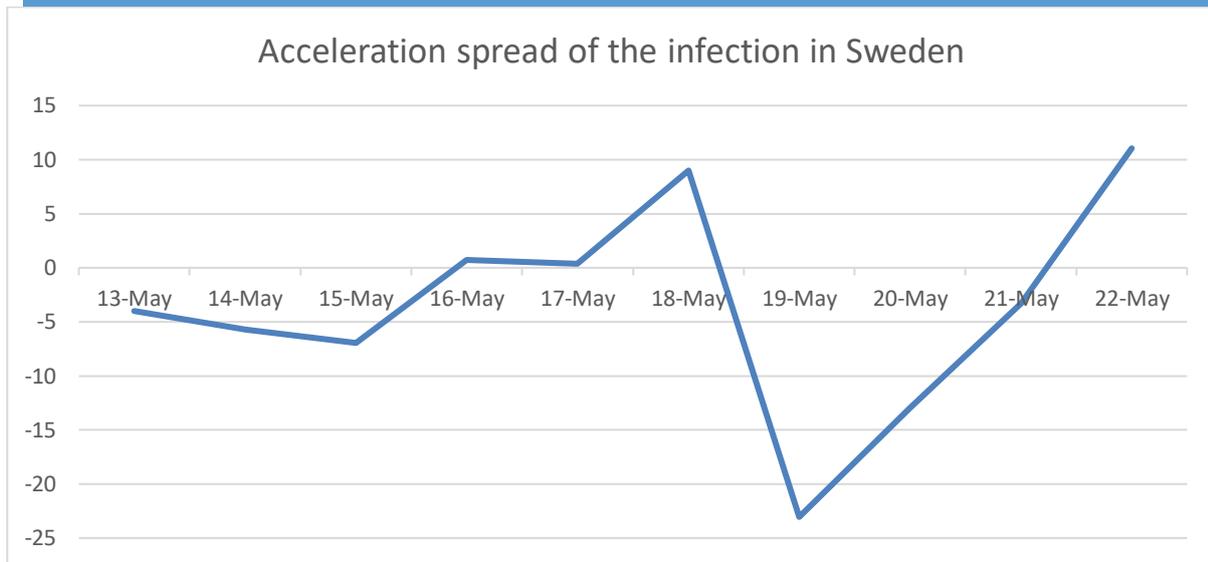
A total of 808 patients are currently hospitalized, while 4904 have recovered. Three more persons died, bringing the total number of fatalities to 234, with the death rate being 2.18%. Serbia made a total of 190683 tests since the outbreak of the epidemic.

22. Sweden.

Sweden offers an appealing model to many people who are fatigued by the hardships of pandemic lockdown or who were never convinced it was entirely necessary. The Nordic country took some measures to control the spread of the coronavirus, but it did not take a draconian approach. Schools for those under 16 remained open, as did many bars, restaurants and gyms, with social distancing. That raises the question of whether the example is worth emulating. In terms of illness and death, it appears Sweden has paid a higher price for its approach. More than half of elderly Covid-19 victims in Sweden have died in care homes. Some healthcare workers believe an institutional reluctance to admit patients to hospital is costing lives. However, Sweden's death rate remained lower than those of Britain, France, Italy and Spain, which all imposed strict lockdowns. The virus ravaged Sweden's nursing homes, which accounted for a large portion of the deaths. At the same time, Sweden will not escape the economic damage of the pandemic. Travel has plunged, and many businesses have closed, while joblessness is expected to rise.

To achieve a level known as herd immunity, in which the virus is largely unable to spread, two-thirds or more of the population would have to acquire protection stemming from exposure. But if a vaccine is found relatively soon, it will provide immunity with a far lower cost in lives.

What Sweden has demonstrated is the advantage of a high degree of trust in government. What Sweden may gain by its approach, over the longer term, is a population with a greater natural immunity to the virus if there is no vaccine. Respectively it might have more natural resiliency against a second wave. The verdict is still out on Sweden. The near-term costs of its approach seem to be high in death and illness, and not inconsequential in economic pain, while the longer-term payoff could be more resilience. The best outcome for all is a vaccine as soon as possible.



This week, too, there is still a very weak trend in the change in the number of new infections in Sweden. The country is not currently implementing its plan to build collective immunity very well. The goal was for this to happen much earlier. At the same time, risky members of society were not effectively protected. As a result, the country has a significantly higher number of deaths than its neighbors. As the CMDR COE described in a previous report, this will have a strong long-term impact on society and the next course of decision-making.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 32668, 33160, 33648, 34133, 34615.

23. Switzerland.

Switzerland is gradually easing unprecedented Covid-19 restrictions in a bid to avoid further damage to the economy. An “extraordinary situation” is still in place. The government has announced plans to re-open its borders with Germany, Austria and France on June 15, if the situation allows. There are, however, no immediate plans to re-open the border with Italy, one of the epicentres of the crisis in Europe.

The population is required to follow social distancing and hygiene recommendations. There is no obligation to wear face masks in public. The government approach to loosening the lockdown is based on some factors and expert recommendations aimed at protecting the public. The economy growth is also a consideration. Partial unemployment claims increased sharply due to the

pandemic and expected to continue to rise. Following concerns voiced by the sports sector, the government allocated CHF500 million for sports leagues, associations and organisations in the country.

The risk of contracting the new coronavirus in Switzerland is currently moderate. The number of cases still puts Switzerland among the most affected countries in Europe in terms of known cases. In order to prevent and slow down the spread of the virus as much as possible, people known to be affected have been isolated. The government is planning on reintroducing contact tracing measures in late May. Swiss International Air Lines has significantly reduced its flight schedule.

Under the Swiss Abroad Act, Swiss nationals living abroad cannot claim the right to an organised departure from a crisis area.

However, after the government requested that Swiss travellers return to the country as soon as possible, the foreign ministry urged tourists to register with a special travel application and chartered flights to repatriate stranded citizens. Most Swiss stranded abroad have since managed to return to Switzerland, according to the foreign ministry. Nearly 7,000 people, including some 4,000 Swiss nationals, were repatriated on over 30 flights arranged by the Swiss authorities.

24. Turkey.

On May 19, 28 more people have died from COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 4199. The death rate is the lowest registered since the end of March, 1022 new infections were confirmed, which makes the total number of cases 151615 in the nation of 82 million people. More than 112895 people have recovered, according to the statistics.

Other easing measures have gone into effect, including the opening of malls, barbershops and hairdressers. The number of provinces under lockdown on weekends and national holidays has dropped from 31 to 15.

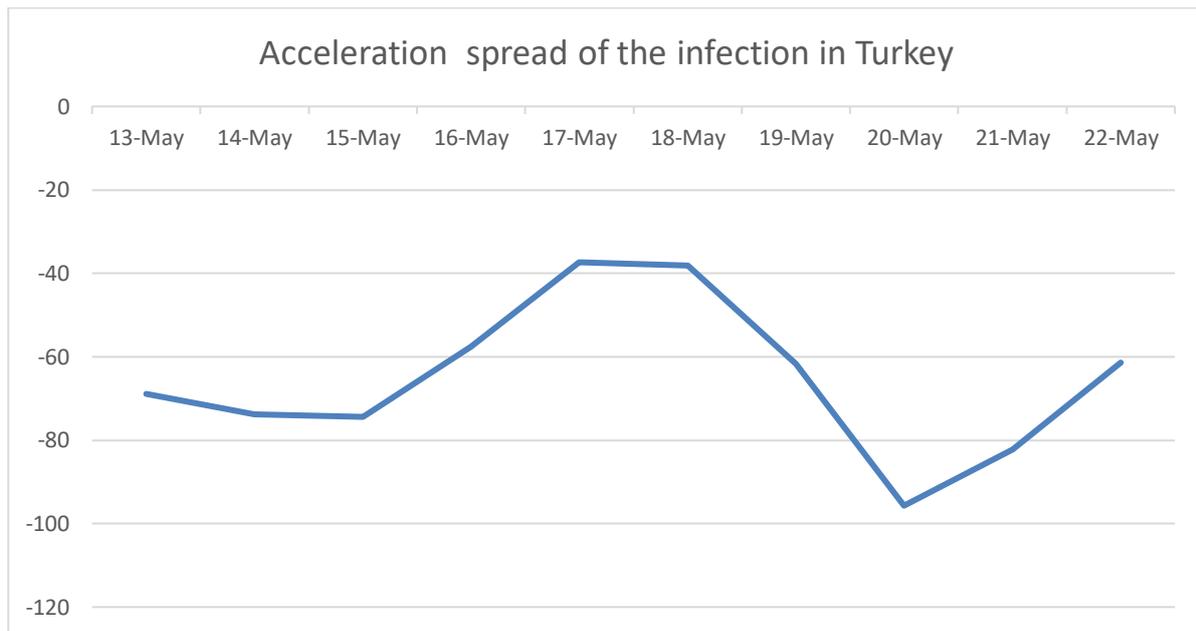
The fifteen provinces, including Istanbul, are on a four-day lockdown. The country has instituted partial lockdowns to combat the novel coronavirus. People under 20 and above 65 have been stuck at home for weeks though they are now allowed to leave for a few hours on allotted days. The young people aged 20 and below were also allowed to go outside in separate periods for four hours following nearly 42 days of stay-at-home orders.

The 15 provinces that have the curfew include the country's most populous city Istanbul and capital Ankara, as well as Balıkesir, Bursa, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Izmir, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Manisa, Sakarya, Samsun, Van and

Zonguldak.

Turkey’s Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy announced domestic tourism to begin after May 28 if COVID-19 statistics continue on a downward trend.

The number of confirmed cases depends on levels of testing, and higher numbers may merely reflect a larger testing capacity. İstanbul – the heart of production in the country – was reported to have 36% more COVID-19-related deaths. Later, however, it was seen that many other countries were no different than Turkey in this respect. Healthcare services in Turkey have worked well for managing this crisis since these large cities were the epicentres of COVID-19 in the country. The containment measures are expected to have unavoidable consequences for production and trade. For Turkey, a decrease of 5 per cent of GDP in 2020 and growth of the same amount in 2021 estimated. Turkey has recently announced a gradual lifting of containment measures. As both Turkey and its international production partners lift their COVID-19-related restrictions, production will soar to satisfy the appetite of shopping-deprived customers. Add to that the unrestricted access to previous value chains and we will certainly see a boom of production in the short-run.



The situation in Turkey seems to be under control, but there are values of acceleration close to zero and positive values, respectively.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the

model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 154579, 155545, 156446, 157282, 158052.

25. Taiwan.

The trend for Taiwan remains largely unchanged from the previous reporting period - stabilisation and recovery – two imperative: safeguarding lives and safeguarding livelihoods – targeted and precise measures according to the specific risk level (i.e. risk assessment) of the epidemic situation at the local level – phased and cautious initiation of stabilisation and recovery – focus on (virus) carriers from abroad and asymptomatic cases as possibly rebounding to an outbreak, therefore – travel restrictions and border controls (medical checks). As of 20 May, Taiwan CECC confirms no new cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus for the 13th consecutive day, keeping a total of 440 confirmed cases since the pandemic began late last year. The country also marks the 38th straight day with no domestically transmitted infections – the last time Taiwan recorded a domestic infection was on April 12. 349 have been classified as imported and 55 as local infections. The other 36 cases are a cluster infection aboard a Navy vessel that returned April 9 from a Pacific goodwill mission. Those cases have not yet been classified as either local or imported. 402 patients have recovered, with 7 deaths, the remaining still hospitalised.

As of 25 May, Taipei will begin to reopen more public venues after their temporary closures due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic in accordance with strict preventive measures and a requirement for registration (ID card) at the entry points.

Hostess club or ballroom could restart their businesses as of 21 May if they submit their resumption applications by 19 May and pass all relevant government safety inspections

A stricter set of quarantine measures for returning far-sea fishermen went into effect on May 18. The measures, announced on May 1, require workers on far-sea fishing boats to undergo a 14-day period of mandatory quarantine on returning to Taiwan, either in individual rooms on their vessels or at a quarantine hotel. Workers on ships that for the duration of their journey do not dock at any ports, undergo no crew changes, are not inspected at sea, or do not transfer their cargo to other ships, are exempted from this requirement.

Taiwan has developed a three-stage plan for loosening restrictive travel and transportation measures:

- 1) First phase - between 27 May and 31 July, the priority will be to form new standards for travel, with a group consisting of local tourism operators traveling

along the West Coast Expressway on May 27 to demonstrate safe methods of travel.

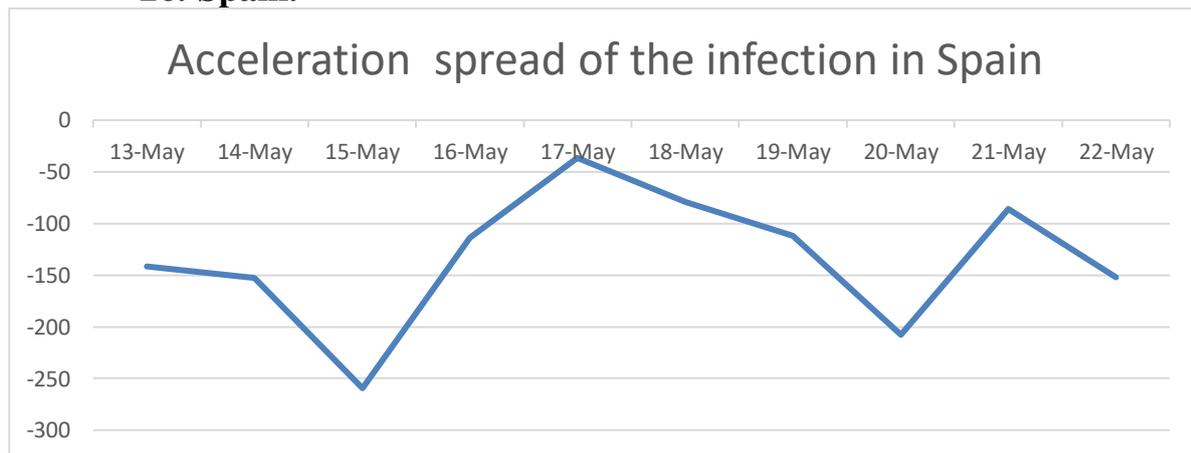
2) Second stage - between 1 Aug and 31 Oct, during which subsidies will be given to certain group and individual travel packages, promoting domestic travel with local governments. No longer be restrictions on eating and seating arrangements on regular trains and high speed rail, and it is likely that people will no longer have to wear masks, have their temperature taken, and keep social distancing when they use public transportation, depending on how the pandemic unfolds.

3) Third stage - between 1 Oct and 31 Dec, the country will start to open up to overseas travel and will first encourage travel to countries where COVID-19 is under control. Border control measures could continue to be relaxed during that period, including restrictions on certain flights and bans against arriving passengers using mass transportation. International cruise tourism, cross Taiwan-Strait air and marine travel will likely resume during this time

Taiwan is planning to reduce the quarantine period for visitors arriving on short-term business trips given the lack of new COVID-19 cases for 13 consecutive days. Business travelers on two- or three-day trips, arriving from countries classified as low risk for COVID-19, such as New Zealand, will be required to remain in quarantine for five days instead of two weeks. At the end of the five-day quarantine, the visitors will be tested for COVID-19 (at their own expense) and released upon a negative result. Short-term business travelers from countries with relatively high risk of COVID-19 will be quarantined for 10 days, after which the procedure will be the same.

The suspension of all outbound and inbound tours on Taiwanese travel agencies will be further extended until the end of June in line with global trends of continuing COVID-19 pandemic spread.

26. Spain.



The development of the crisis in Spain in terms of the number of newly infected confirmed the CMDR COE forecast from the previous week. Although the country has lagged behind Italy as a function of new infections, we expect a sharper decline in new infections and a faster end to the spread of the infection. This will happen in a very short time. As can be seen from the graph, the acceleration has negative values and some dynamics. We expect a gradual reduction in the number of new infections in the coming days, despite the start of the process of easing measures against the spread of coronavirus.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 280705, 281159, 281479, 281665, 281717.

27. United Kingdom.

The COVID-19 spreading in UK is slowing down with an increase of 21585 new cases for the reported week. This is about 7K (or 25%) new cases less than the previous week. It must be noted that on 20 May no official data on new cases, except for the new deaths figures, has been provided by the Government.

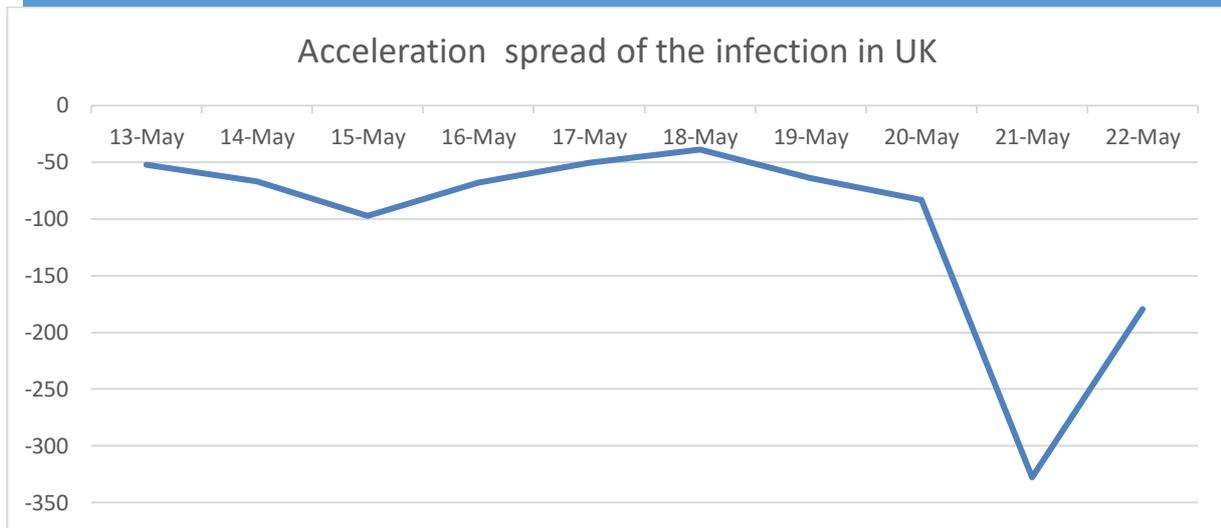
In the last week UK dropped one position to the 5th place on the world chart by the total COVID-19 cases due to Brazil's spread. The United Kingdom registered 35,704 death cases (2,518 new cases for the week) which is a decrease of 592 cases (or 4%) in comparison to the previous week but it is still the highest official death toll in Europe and the second highest in the world (Annex 4). The majority of deaths involving COVID-19 have been among people aged 65 years and over, with 45% of these occurring in the over-85 age group.

The number of people with coronavirus in hospitals had fallen from 11,141 (13 May) to 9,406 (on 16 May), a decrease of 15% in just 3 days.

From the beginning of COVID-19 outbreak till now, 2,962,772 tests has been conducted in the UK. More than 177K tests were conducted on Wednesday, 20-May.

A drug that could help treat coronavirus is to be trialled on a small number of patients in England and Scotland.

The UK government updated its COVID-19 advice on Monday, 18-May, adding the loss of smell and taste to the list of symptoms induced by coronavirus.



Using data from the Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey and analysis on homeworking, ONS estimated that the industries being encouraged to go back to work since Sunday 10 May 2020 is about 16% of the UK workforce.

The reduction in the acceleration of the spread of the virus is also observed in the United Kingdom. This trend will continue next week.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 252955, 254898, 256739, 258478, 260113.

28.USA

The number of deaths in the United States continues to rise. The coronavirus death toll in the United States surpassed 90,000 on May 18 as the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases climbed above 1.6 million across the country, according to the Johns Hopkins University tally. The grim milestones came as US President Donald Trump tweeted to "REOPEN OUR COUNTRY!" and the White House attempted to shift blame, including onto its own scientists, for the high number of deaths.

As states across the U.S. experiment with lifting lockdowns in varying degrees, economists, policymakers and many others are struggling to find the right approaches to reopen the economy while putting safeguards in place to avoid a spike in new COVID-19 cases. How exactly things will play out remains largely uncertain – and the stakes couldn't be higher.

Some governors are loosening rules in select parts of their states, rather than everywhere. Social distancing remains a constant, and face coverings are increasingly required in stores. Los Angeles County has ordered that face masks are mandatory whenever people are outside their homes. Some states, including

Florida, Texas and Montana, continue to require self-quarantine for travelers and visitors from certain states for two weeks. More than a third of people with COVID-19 hospitalized in New York City developed acute kidney injury, and 14.3% required dialysis, according to a study published in *Kidney International*.

Although nearly all 50 states are reopening, only 13 had met federal government guidelines for lifting measures as of May 17, according to a Reuters news agency analysis, raising concerns that infections and deaths could surge anew. Areas in the United States with no physical distancing policies had 35 times more cases of COVID-19 than areas with those measures, according to a study published in *Health Affairs*. They warned that their findings illustrate “the potential danger of exponential spread in the absence of interventions.”

Sports are trying to resume. Major League Baseball has a plan to start the season in July — but would keep fans out of ballparks. Many NBA teams have reopened training facilities for voluntary workouts.

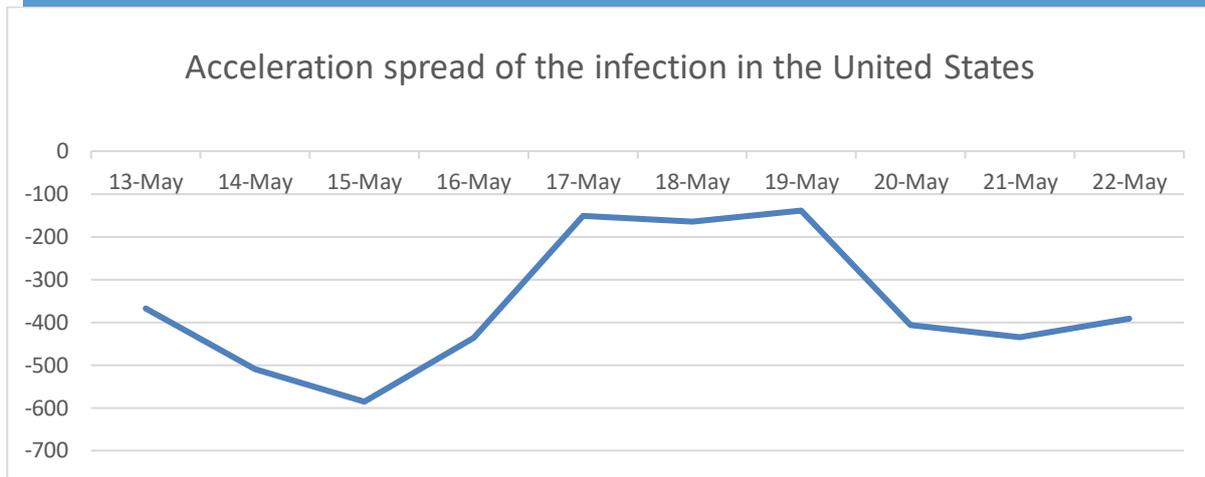
On May 19 US President Donald Trump has said he is considering imposing a ban on travel from Brazil, which has the world's third highest number of people infected by the novel coronavirus.

The border between Canada and the United States will remain closed to all non-essential travel until June 21. Previously, the border was set to reopen on May 21.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to permanently halt funding for the WHO and withdraw the United States from the United Nations health agency if it does not make "substantive improvements" in the next 30 days.

In the weeks since the virus shut down much of the U.S. economy, more than 36 million people have applied for unemployment benefits, though some have since returned to work as businesses reopen.

The death toll in the US continues to surge with 94,620 deaths and 1,585,860 cases and more than 366,591 patients have recovered as of May 20. The US continues to lead worldwide cases and deaths from the virus. As of May 20, 2020, the U.S. has the most confirmed active cases and deaths in the world; and its death rate was 206 per million people, the tenth highest rate globally.

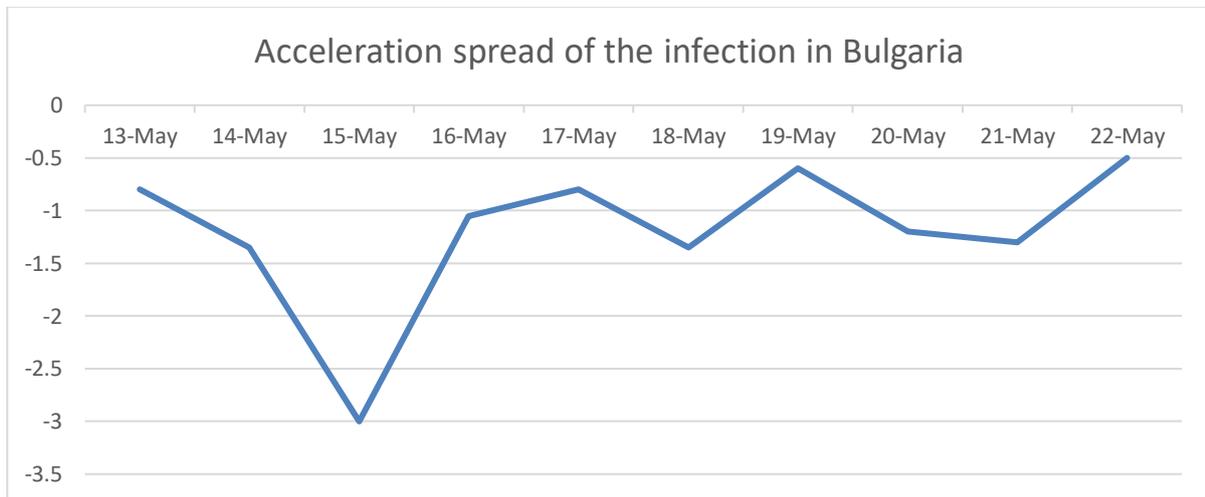


The absolute value of the acceleration of the spread of the infection in the United States is significant and with a negative sign. The relative is below that of the severely affected European countries. However, it can be seen that the trend is to control the situation. This happens quite slowly despite the warmer weather and people's motivation for distance.

As CMDR COE wrote in the previous report, we expect at least three more weeks with a significant number of new infections per day.

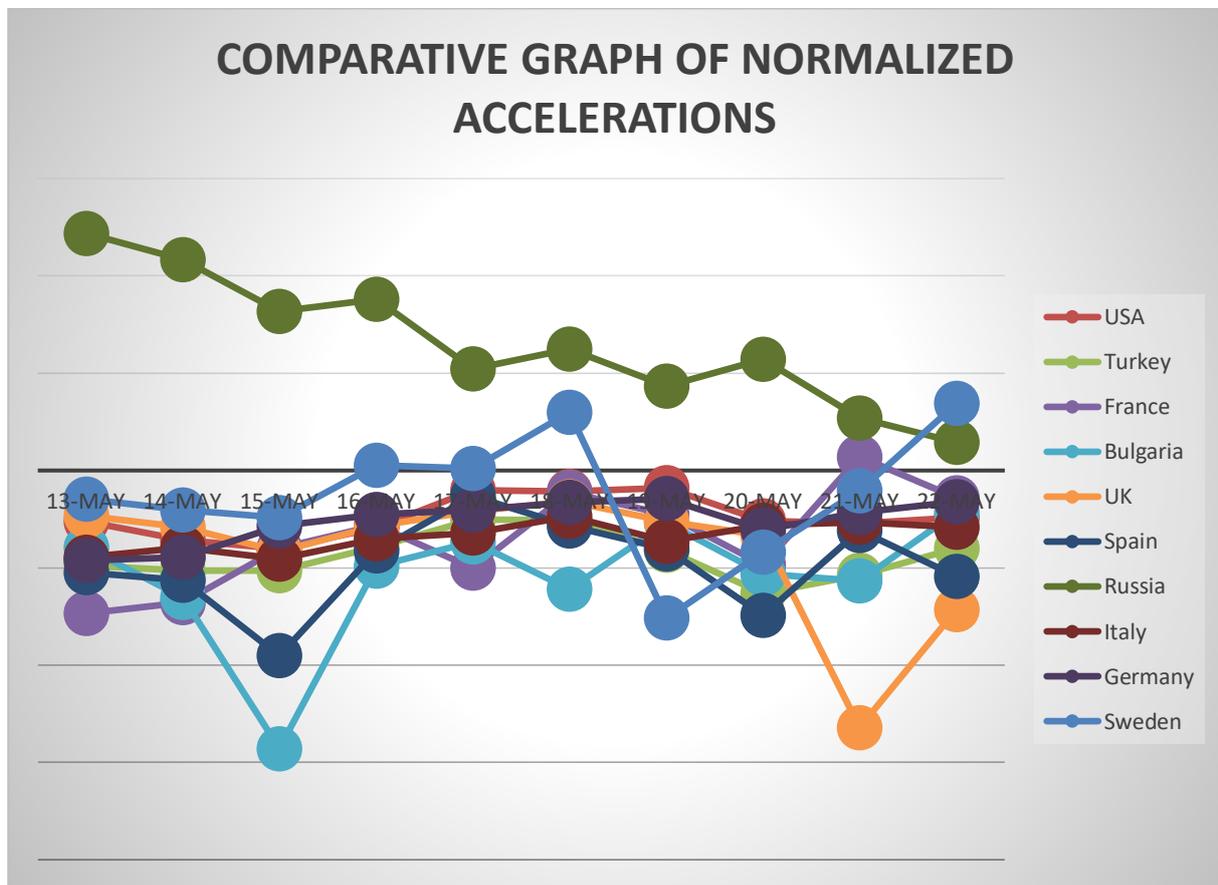
For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 1643169, 1665078, 1686627, 1707819, 1728651.

29. Bulgaria.



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.

For the next 5 days the forecast for the number of registered infected on the model created by CMDR COE is as follows: 2361, 2390, 2417, 2444, 2469.



The graph of normalized accelerations shows that Russia has almost caught up with the other analyzed countries in terms of development. Sweden remains vulnerable to the infection. Bulgaria also has some extreme values, which are due

to the weak reaction of the country's population to the virus. The number of people in the country who are "transparent" to the virus seems to be significant. Whether this is due to the BCG vaccine or a genetic feature will become clear in at least half a year.

30. NATO

NATO with the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), stands ready to assist in the coordination of any offers being considered in support of the stricken nations. At this moment, seven (7) Allied and eight (8) partner nations have requested international assistance through the EADRCC. In chronological order of requesting, these are: Ukraine, Spain, Montenegro, Albania, The Republic of North Macedonia, The Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Colombia, Slovenia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Bulgaria and Tunisia. Recently the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), requested international assistance through EADRCC. To date thirteen 13 requests for International assistance are active right now, since Spain and Italy and Slovenia have retrieved their respected requests. It is proven that the majority of Member States are difficult to react, since each of them needs the same materials and equipment.

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.
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. Although it is still not clear how the mutation of the virus will affect the efficiency of the potential vaccine.
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.
13. Early detection together with the timely implementation of outbreak control measures that are carefully adhered to, can effectively minimize transmission of infection, thereby preventing or more quickly bringing an outbreak under control.

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;
 - If possible, to be posted visual reminders in the residential areas or in the media that instruct residents and workers to report symptoms of a respiratory infection. It should be also used visual alerts to encourage the practice of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette;
 - If possible, screen for respiratory illness among workers upon arriving at work. In case the workers do not have symptoms of respiratory illness upon arriving at work, tell them to report any new respiratory symptoms to staff when they first occur;
 - Establishing of mechanisms and procedures for sanitary control of the the private companies, organizations, social and community centers and how they check the health status of their employees/members/customers.

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.
8. To be thoroughly studied all best practices worldwide and developing a LL database.