

Europe in the Age of COVID-19: Public Health, Social Solidarity, and the Role of Government in a New International Environment



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A Note on Learning Standards Presented in this Packet:

Three sets of standards have been linked to each of the learning objectives in this packet. The **Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards** and the accompanying Grade Level Requirements are the social studies standards for WA State.

The **College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards** are the standards published by the National Council for the Social Studies. Guiding the packet as a whole is the Framework for Global Learning created by the Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers titled *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (2011).

Cross-objective standards are listed at the beginning of the packet, and content-specific standards can be found after each learning objective.

The standards provided have been selected for relevance, but are not exclusive: many other standards, such as Common Core, may be applicable to the resources and learning objectives identified in this packet. The intention for this packet's organization is to provide educators with an idea of resources available and possible uses for resources. Users should feel free to create their own learning objectives and to select resources according to the specific needs of their classrooms.



WASHINGTON STATE K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARDS

There are five EALRs in Social Studies, one for each of the discipline areas: civics, economics, geography, and history, and a fifth for social studies skills.

(1) Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

(2) Social Studies EALR 2: ECONOMICS

The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

(3) Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

(4) Social Studies EALR 4: HISTORY

The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes on local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

(5) Social Studies EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE C₃ FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The C₃ Framework is organized into the four Dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

The four Dimensions are as follows:

- (1) Developing questions and planning inquiries;
- (2) Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;
- (3) Evaluating sources and using evidence;
- (4) Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

C₃ Framework Organization

DIMENSION 1: DEVELOPING QUESTIONS AND PLANNING INQUIRIES	DIMENSION 2: APPLYING DISCIPLINARY TOOLS AND CONCEPTS	DIMENSION 3: EVALUATING SOURCES AND USING EVIDENCE	DIMENSION 4: COMMUNICATING CONCLUSIONS AND TAKING ACTION
Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civics• Economics• Geography• History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathering and Evaluating Sources• Developing Claims and Using Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions• Taking Informed Action

Dimension 2 has four disciplinary subsections: **(1) Civics; (2) Economics; (3) Geography; (4) History**. Each disciplinary subsection has three to four additional categories, which provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline.

Four Categories within Dimension 2

CIVICS	ECONOMICS	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY
Civic and Political Institutions	Economic Decision Making	Geographic Representations: Special Views of the World	Change, Continuity, and Context
Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Exchange and Markets	Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Religions, and Culture	Perspective
Processes, Rules, and Laws	The National Economy	Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Historical Sources and Evidence
	The Global Economy	Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Causation and Argumentation

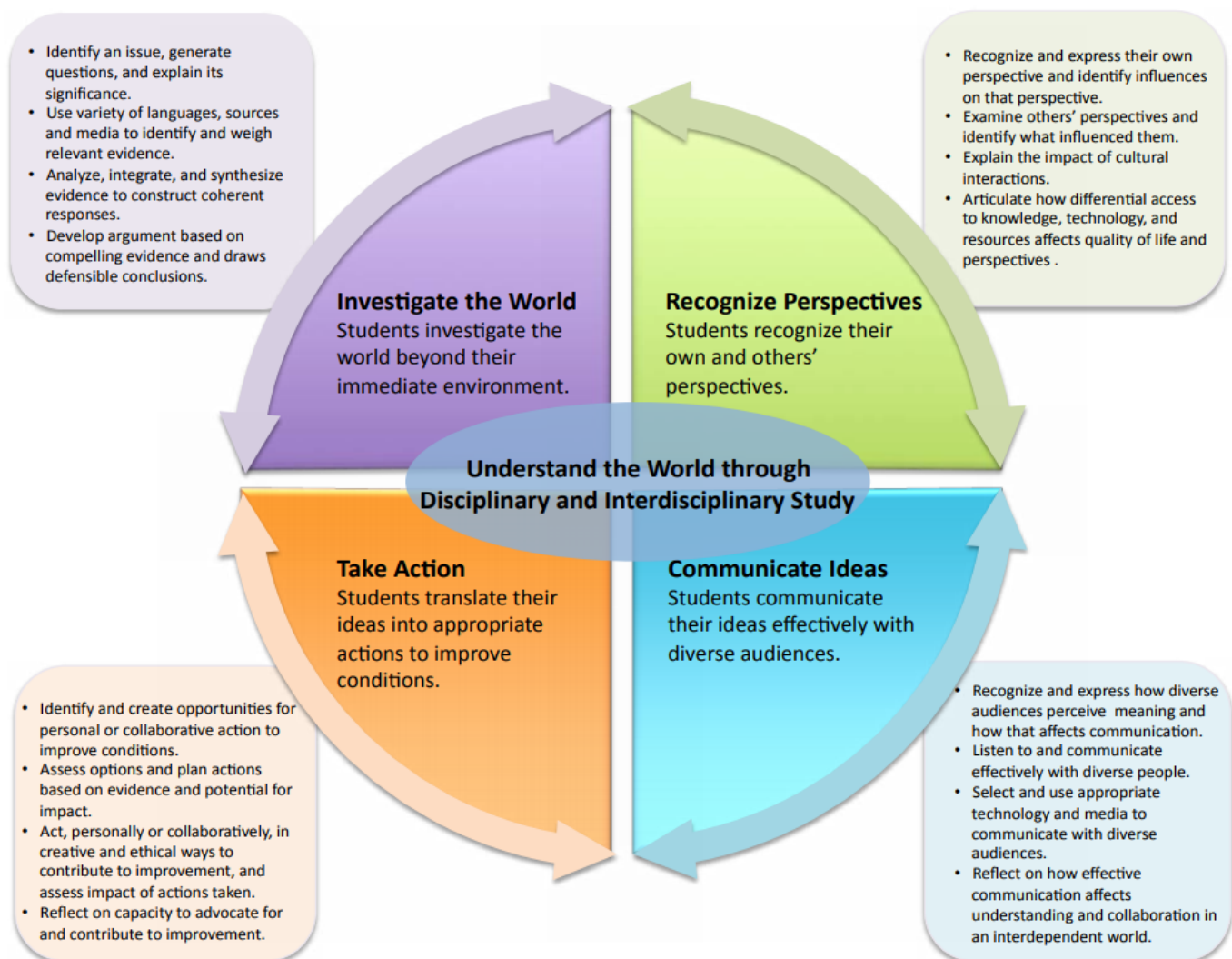
EDUCATING FOR GLOBAL COMPETENCE

Frameworks taken from *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers 2011).

“Global competence is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance” (Chapter 2).

Globally competent students are able to perform the following four competences:

1. **Investigate the world** beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
2. **Recognize perspectives**, others’ and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
3. **Communicate ideas** effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
4. **Take action** to improve conditions, viewing themselves as players in the world and participating reflectively.



Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify and evaluate the European Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, students will be able to analyze the role of the EU as a supranational organization and its effectiveness at addressing a pandemic affecting its member states.
2. Students will be able to identify and analyze policy responses (political, economic, and social) created by individual nations such as Germany, Spain, Italy, UK, Hungary, and/or Russia. In addition, students will compare policy responses across nations and assess how these nations worked with the EU to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Students will be able to identify and evaluate EU citizens' expectations of government and the role they play in mitigating crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, students may compare these popular expectations with citizen expectations about the role of government in nations outside of Europe (such as the United States).
4. Students will be able to explain and analyze the role of women leaders in the EU COVID-19 response. In addition, students will be able to compare the role of women in EU and national European institutions with other nations outside the region.
5. Students will be able to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the future of the European Union, including possible political, economic, and social consequences.
6. Students will be able to identify and analyze potential limitations to European solidarity and propose future policy responses to address the impact of future crisis (such as COVID-19).
7. Students will be able to analyze data in their assessment of COVID-19 and its impact on EU member states politically, economically, and socially.
8. Students will be able to identify and evaluate how populist leaders (such as Hungary's Viktor Orban) have utilized the COVID-19 pandemic to increase political power.

Guiding Questions

1. What strategies has the European Union utilized to address the COVID-19 pandemic? Which of these strategies have been effective and which have encountered challenges in terms of results or implementation?
2. What has been the role of individual EU member states in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic? How have individual member states created their own measures to addressing COVID-19, but also collaborated at the regional level with EU policymakers?
3. How have EU countries addressed testing challenges, rising COVID cases, lockdown procedures, and re-opening measures?
4. To what extent will the EU change (politically, economically, and/or socially) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Will there be limits to European solidarity in the future? Why or why not?
5. How has the EU response (and individual member states) been similar and/or different from the United States?
6. What has been the role of women leaders in addressing COVID-19 within individual member states and across the European Union?
7. How have leaders, such as Hungary's Viktor Orban, utilized the pandemic to increase political power? Should Europeans be concerned with perceived authoritarian policies connected to the pandemic response? Why or why?
8. What are the popular expectations of government (both at the EU level and within individual member states) by European citizens, especially in the context of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic? Does the role of the EU (and individual member states) in addressing the pandemic match citizen expectations? Are these expectations similar or different across nations, including the United States?
9. How can we utilize and analyze data to better understand the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU and other contexts? What might this data analysis help key stakeholders address global health crisis and its consequences?
10. How has the European Union collaborated with other nations or supranational organizations to address the COVID-19 pandemic?

Key Terms

Antibodies: A substance produced by special cells of the body that counteracts the effects of a disease germ or its poisons.

Brexit: The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Contact Tracing: The process of identification of persons who may have come into contact with an infected person and subsequent collection of further information about these contacts.

COVID-19: COVID-19, also called coronavirus disease 2019, is the respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, the technical name for the new coronavirus. COVID-19 is part of a family of coronavirus diseases that include the common cold, SARS, and MERS.

Epidemiology: The branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.

Essential Workers: Those who conduct a range of operations and services that are typically essential to continue critical infrastructure operations. Critical infrastructure is a large, umbrella term encompassing sectors from energy to defense to agriculture.

Eurobond: A debt instrument that's denominated in a currency other than the home currency of the country or market in which it is issued. Eurobonds are frequently grouped together by the currency in which they are denominated, such as eurodollar or Euro-yen bonds.

European Green Deal: A set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making Europe climate neutral in 2050.

European Union: An economic and political association of European countries as a unit with internal free trade and common external tariffs.

Eurozone: The group of European Union nations whose national currency is the euro.

Flattening the Curve: When viewed on a graph, a sudden surge in people getting sick with COVID-19 over a very short period (within a few days) can look like a tall, narrow curve, similar to a spike. The United States and countries around the world want to "flatten the curve" if possible, meaning that a smaller number of people are sick with coronavirus at any one time.

Healthcare: The organized provision of medical care to individuals or a community.

Herd Immunity: A form of indirect protection from infectious disease that occurs when a sufficient percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, whether through vaccination or previous infections, thereby reducing the likelihood of infection for individuals who lack immunity.

Key Terms

Immunocompromised: People who are immunocompromised have a weakened immune system, meaning their white-blood-cell counts are low or they have other conditions that make it harder to fight off infections and diseases.

Isolation/Quarantine: If a person has a confirmed case of coronavirus, they are instructed to practice isolation, which may be at home or in the hospital, depending on how sick the person is. It's meant to keep sick people from infecting other people by keeping them away from everyone.

Multilateral Organizations: Organizations formed between three or more nations to work on issues that relate to all of the countries in the organization.

Pandemic: A pandemic is the global outbreak of a disease; pandemics are usually classified as epidemics first, which is when a disease is spreading rapidly in a particular area or region.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment): Protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.

Social Distancing: Physical distancing, commonly referred to as social distancing, is the deliberate increase of physical space between people to keep them from spreading illness. Experts recommend staying at least six feet away from other people to reduce your risk of catching the coronavirus.

Stimulus: In economics, stimulus refers to attempts to use monetary or fiscal policy to stimulate the economy. Stimulus can also refer to monetary policies like lowering interest rates and quantitative easing.

World Health Organization: An agency of the United Nations, established in 1948 to promote health and control communicable diseases.

Vaccine: A biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular infectious disease.

A Note on Articles and Paywalls

Some of the resources found within this packet require a subscription or other payment in order to be viewed. If you do not have free access to these resources through your home institution, you may be able to access them through the University of Washington's borrowing program for educators. To find out how to utilize this program, please follow the link below:

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/services/borrow/card/eligible>

About the Speakers



Dr. Niko Switek— *European Policy Responses to COVID-19*

Niko Switek is DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor for German Studies at the Henry M. Jackson School for International Studies and the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington. His research interests focus on political parties and party systems as well as on coalition politics. He wrote extensively about the German green party 'Bündnis 90/Die Grünen' and the green party family in Western Europe. In addition he worked on parties on European level ('Europarties') and just recently compiled a volume on fictional TV series about politics.



Dr. Eva-Maria Maggi – *The Role and Popular Expectations of Government in Europe*

Dr. Eva-Maria Maggi teaches international politics and security at the University of Montana and the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Her research on the European Union and Middle East appeared in peer-reviewed journals and her book on Europe's relationship with North Africa was published in 2016. Her current research focuses on cyber security policies in the U.S. and Europe and Wilderness policy. She has been a frequent contributor on all issues Europe in daily news, as for example NPR's Planet Money, the magazine Europe Today or The Arizona Daily Star. As an avid outdoorswoman and mule packer, Dr. Maggi enjoys exploring Montana's wild places, preferably on horseback with her two kids and husband.



Phil Shekleton – *Crisis and the Limits of European Solidarity*

Phillip is a part-time lecturer in the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington. He is the Faculty Advisor for the Europe Track in the Certificate in International Studies in Business (CISB) program for undergraduate students and was the former Managing Director of the University of Washington's Center for West Europe Studies and European Union Center. He received his M.A. in Political Science from the University of Washington and his B.A. in Political Science and History from the University of California San Diego.

About the Speakers



Dr. Joyce Mushaben – *Women Leaders in the European COVID-19 Response*

Joyce Marie Mushaben (PRONOUNCE: MUS (like bus) – HAY (what horses eat)– BEN (big clock in London) received her Ph. D. from Indiana University in 1981. She recently retired as a Curators' Distinguished Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she also served as Director of the Institute for Women's & Gender Studies (2002-2005). She is now an Affiliated Faculty member in the BMW Center for German & European Studies at Georgetown University and works with Gender5 Plus, an EU feminist think-tank.

Having spent over 18 years living/researching in Germany, her early work focused on new social movements (peace, ecology, feminism, anti-nuclear protests and neo-Nazi activism), German national identity and generational change. She then moved on to European Union developments, citizenship and migration policies, women's leadership, Euro-Islam debates and comparative welfare state reforms.

She also taught as a Visiting Professor at the Ohio State University and Washington University, as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in Erfurt, and a Visiting Professor at universities in Stuttgart, Frankfurt/Main, Tübingen and Berlin. She has guest lectured at more than 35 institutions of higher learning, including Harvard, Cornell, Georgetown, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Washington, Berlin's Free University, the Humboldt University, the College of Europe, *Science Po*, and the London School of Economics.

Her honors include: the UM-St. Louis *Trailblazer Award* (1999) for advancing women's rights, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Creativity (2007) and the Missouri Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence (2012). That year she also became only the fifth woman (among 40 men) in the College of Arts & Sciences to be designated a Curators' Distinguished Research Professor. In 2016 she was named the College of Arts & Sciences first interdisciplinary Professor of Global Studies. She is commonly known as "Dr. J."



Ryan Hauck – *Workshop Facilitator*

Ryan Hauck teaches AP Comparative Government & Politics, Psychology, and World History at Glacier Peak High School in Snohomish, WA. Passionate about international education, Ryan is also the Director of the Global Classroom Program at the Seattle World Affairs Council. In this role, Ryan creates and manages global education resources and opportunities to empower teachers and students to become globally competent. Ryan completed his master's degree in Globalization and Educational Change from Lehigh's Comparative & International Education Department. In this program, Ryan worked with classmates to enhance teacher training and student learning in Cambodia. In addition, Ryan worked on a library project in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria with a local NGO and returned to the area 6

times to develop and implement educational initiatives. Most recently, Ryan participated in the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Teachers for Global Classroom Program to Senegal (2016), Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) to Germany (2017), and National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) to Taiwan. When Ryan isn't teaching or traveling, he's attending his nephew's baseball games, rooting for his hometown Seahawks, and enjoying the mountains and water of the Pacific Northwest.

European Policy Responses to COVID-19

European Union Response to COVID-19

What's the ECB Doing in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis? June 4, 2020

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/whats-the-ecb-doing-in-response-to-the-covid-19-crisis/>

The European Central Bank (ECB) has responded to the pandemic by pledging to lend freely and purchasing greater government debt. The ECB's policy rate has been negative and did not have any room to lower it during the onset of the pandemic. It has also offered forward guidance on the future path of its key interest rates which puts downward pressure on longer-term rates. It has further purchased assets and launched the €750 billion Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program (PEPP), which will last until the coronavirus crisis period is over.

Overview of the EU Economic Measures in Response to COVID-19 Crisis - April 15, 2020

<https://www.cece.eu/news/overview-of-the-eu-economic-measures-in-response-to-covid-19-crisis>

The European Commission responded to the coronavirus pandemic by adopting a comprehensive economic response, loosening the stability pact criteria and the State Aid rules. It has further launched a new instrument SURE - Support mitigating Unemployment Risks in Emergency, which will provide up to €100 billion in loans to ensure workers receive their income and that businesses keep their staff. The European Central Bank announced a new purchase programme of €750 billion to buy government and company bonds. The European Investment Bank Group proposed a €40 billion response plan designed to alleviate liquidity and working capital constraints.

Coronavirus Response— July 21, 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en

The European Commission has been working on all fronts to contain the spread of the coronavirus while mitigating its socio-economic impacts. It proposed a €2.4 trillion Recovery plan which will boost the EU budget with new financing raised on the financial markets for 2021-2024. It has also provided direct support to the public health sector with €3 billion from the EU budget to fund the Emergency Support Instrument and RescUE's common stockpile of equipment. Other initiatives include fighting disinformation by being in close contact with social media platforms and exposing disinformation narratives.

Coronavirus: EU Global Response to Fight the Pandemic - April 8, 2020

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/coronavirus-eu-global-response-fight-pandemic>

The EU will focus on addressing the immediate health crisis and resulting humanitarian needs, strengthening partner countries' health, water and sanitation systems and their research and preparedness capacities to deal with the pandemic, as well as mitigating the socioeconomic impact. The EU's response follows a 'Team Europe' approach, to support partner countries and address their short-term needs and longer-term structural impacts.

EU Chief Backs Investigation into Coronavirus Origin and Says China Should be Involved - May 1, 2020

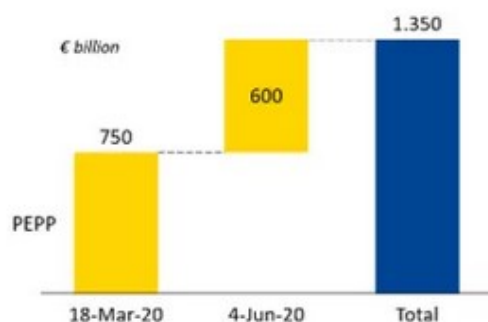
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/01/coronavirus-eu-chief-backs-investigation-with-china-into-origin.html>

Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, backed calls for an investigation into the origin of the coronavirus along with China.

EUROPE'S RAPID MONETARY AND FISCAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

Monetary response

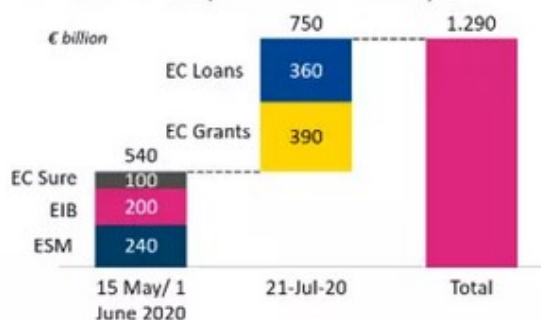
- European Central Bank's Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP)
- €750 billion was announced 18 March and increased to €1.3 trillion in June 2020
- This comes on top of the existing monetary policy



Source: ECB, EIB, EC and ESM

Fiscal response

- A rapid COVID19 response was put in place in 2 months' time: ESM €240bn for medical costs, EIB €200bn guarantees for companies (SMEs) and European Commission €100bn for unemployment support
- In July, an additional €750bn was approved of which €390bn are grants and €360bn loans
- This comes on top of all national fiscal response



THE EURO AREA GROWS – EVEN IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Source: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/history/>

The euro area grows – even in times of crisis.

European Union Response to COVID-19

EU Struggling to Overcome Muddled Coronavirus Response - March 18, 2020

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/03/18/eu-struggling-to-overcome-muddled-coronavirus-response-pub-81316>

Member states' disjointed efforts undermine a coordinated response equal to the scale of the crisis. Some countries, including France, Italy, and Spain, have enacted nationwide lockdowns. Some other countries—notably, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK—have kept shops and schools open. The best hope is for European leaders to scale up their efforts and favor solidarity.

EU Leaders Clash Over Economic Response to COVID-19 - March 27, 2020

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/eu-leaders-clash-over-economic-response-to-covid-19/1781257>

EU leaders are in disagreement over issuing Eurobonds to address the economic consequences of the coronavirus. EU states including Germany, the Netherlands, and Austria are traditionally against mutualizing debt.

Europe's Coronavirus Response: Selfish Member States and Active Institutions - March 18, 2020

<https://rusi.org/commentary/europe-coronavirus-response-selfish-member-states-and-active-institutions>

While supplies have finally been reaching Italy, European health coordination continues to be an issue of concern and a barrier to unity. EU institutions are still faring better as they continue to fight the crisis on behalf of the Union.

EU Offers 'Heartfelt Apology' to Italy Over Coronavirus Response - April 16, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/16/eu-offers-heartfelt-apology-italy-coronavirus-response-herd-immunity>

"Too many were not there on time when Italy needed a helping hand at the very beginning," Ursula von der Leyen told the European parliament. "And yes, for that it is right that Europe as a whole offers a heartfelt apology."

Fighting Pandemic, Europe Divides Again Along North and South Lines - March 30, 2020

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/30/coronavirus-pandemic-europe-north-south-eurobond/>

Southern European countries push for a euro bond while Northern European countries oppose it.

EU Extends Ban on American Travelers- Again -with US COVID-19 Cases Far Outpacing European Countries - July 30, 2020

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/news/2020/07/30/europe-travel-ban-americans-covid-19-rise-eu-to-us/5546206002/>

For the second time in July, the European Union extended its travel ban on Americans on July 30, as COVID-19 infections continued to rise across the United States. The EU first started lifting its travel restrictions outside the bloc on July 1, welcoming visitors from 14 countries, including Canada, South Korea, and Australia.

Lesson Plan

European Union - Class Activities

<https://prodemos.nl/english/activities/prodemos-for-schools/eu-lesson-materials/>

These activating lesson plans about the European Union will energize students to learn about politics in the classroom.

European Union Response to COVID-19

EU Adopts Groundbreaking Stimulus to Fight Coronavirus Recession - July 22, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/20/world/europe/eu-stimulus-coronavirus.html>

The \$857 billion stimulus package includes unprecedented steps to help less wealthy countries, including selling collective debt and giving much of the money as grants, not loans. It was spearheaded by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Emmanuel Macron of France, sent a strong signal of solidarity even as it exposed deep new fault lines in a bloc reshaped by Britain's exit.

EU Strikes Deal with Sanofi for Supply of Potential COVID-19 Vaccine—August 1, 2020

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-strikes-deal-with-sanofi-for-supply-of-potential-covid-19-vaccine/a-54398972>

The European Union has reached an agreement with French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi for the supply of 300 million doses of a potential coronavirus vaccine. The deal will allow all 27 member-nations to purchase the vaccine once it is proven to be safe and effective.

Lesson Plans

Teaching the EU

<https://europe.wisc.edu/outreach-opportunities/european-union-chocolate-simulation/teaching-the-eu/>

Find a list of lesson plans from grades 6-12 and resources to teach about the EU in general by UW-Madison. Helpful links about Anti-EU sentiment and nationalism are included.

EU Toolkits // Lessons and Resources

<https://europe.unc.edu/toolkits/>

EU Toolkits contain lessons and resources for elementary, middle, and high school students to learn about Europe and the EU provided by The Center for European Studies at UNC-CH. Toolkits are grade-specific and are organized by essential questions.

Learning Corner- by EU

https://europa.eu/learning-corner/home_en

Discover the EU in a fun way, in the classroom or at home for all age groups. Teachers will find inspiration for lesson plans. Find games, competitions, and activity books for students and teaching materials and networking opportunities with other opportunities for teachers.

Individual States Response to COVID-19

Russia

Russia's Response to Covid-19 - April 10, 2020

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-response-covid-19>

The impact of Covid-19 on Russia was delayed compared to the rest of the world, and so had been the government response. The coronavirus task force was formed along with the introduction of nation-specific restrictions on the entry of all foreign nationals into Russia. Two national addresses were given by Putin. Further critical questions were addressed about Russian foreign assistance in a Public Relations gesture and disinformation campaigns relating to Covid-19.

Ambulance Jams, Unprotected Doctors, and Mixed Messages From Putin: Inside Russia's Chaotic Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic - April 20, 2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-russia-chaotic-response-putin-2020-4>

Russia shut its borders with China and put several cities on lockdown in an attempt to curb the outbreak. These measures were still inefficient as hospitals were overflowing and did not have enough equipment. The Russian government's mismanagement of the problem is evident in the President's mixed messages on the virus shifting from admitting to the country having "a lot of problems" to saying 5 days later that everything was "under full control."

COVID-19: A Reckoning for Russia's Asian Energy Aims - May 21, 2020

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/covid-19-a-reckoning-for-russias-asian-energy-aims/>

The damage to the Russian economy by the pandemic is forcing Russia to depend more on China as the key demand-side energy market driver underpinning Russia's flow of dollars. This continued reliance can be seen as a loss of economic sovereignty.

Putin Is Warping Russia's Pandemic Response - June 4, 2020

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/06/04/putin-is-warping-russias-pandemic-response/>

Russians are left in a fog of doubt about the validity of the data because of authorities' alleged manipulation of statistics. Because of this, the rate of compliance with restrictions is considerably low. This is only a narrow example of the many consequences of the authoritarian regime that cares more about optics than people.

'Rage Is Brewing': Navalny Warns of Public Anger Over Russia's COVID-19 Response - May 21, 2020

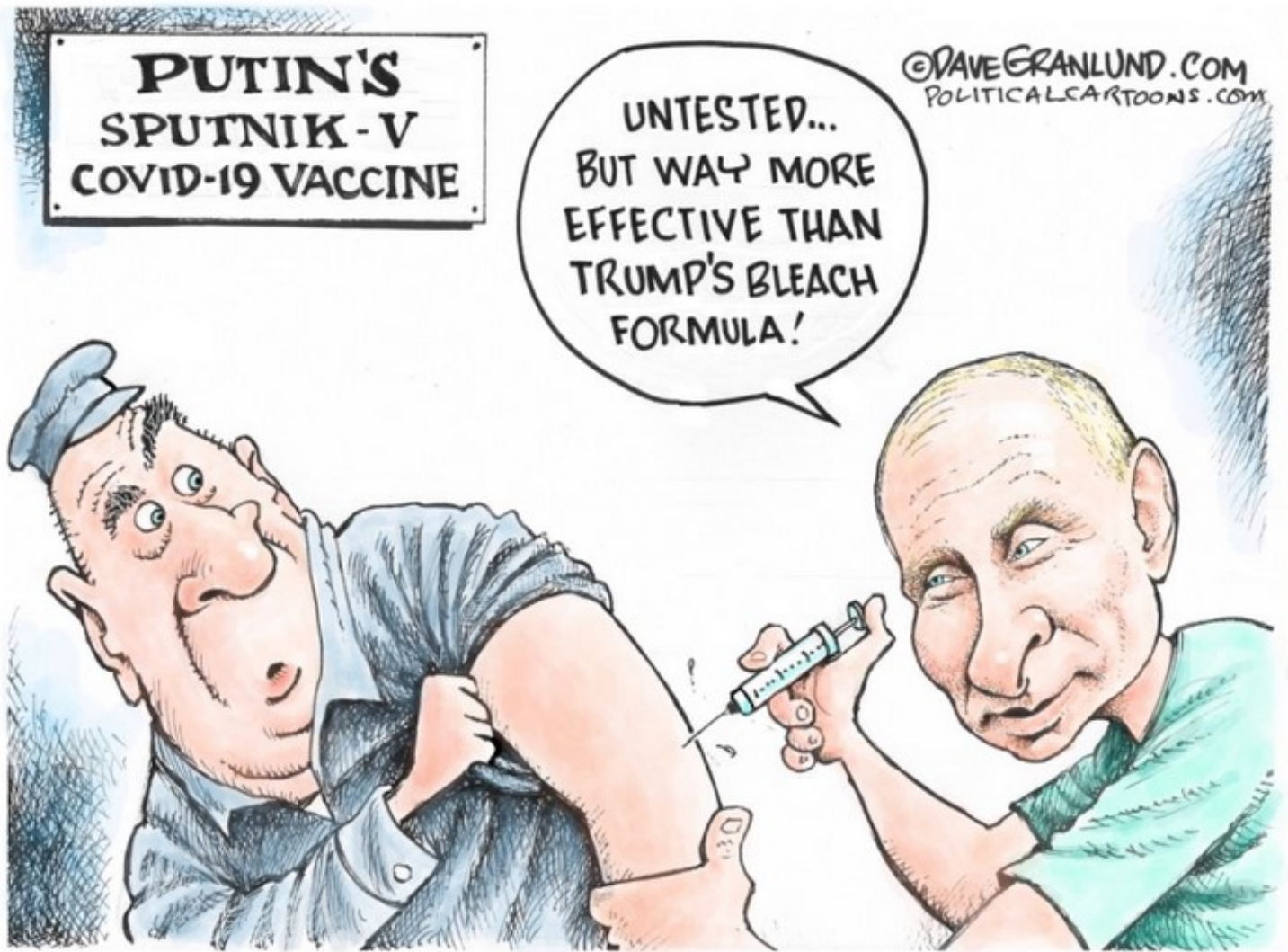
<https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-navalny-protests-coronavirus/30625050.html>

With the added pressure of the pandemic on underfunded hospitals and employment, more and more people are joining protests angry about the slow and inadequate response by the Russian government. Aleksei Navalny, the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation is working against the upcoming vote to approve constitutional changes that could allow President Vladimir Putin to remain in power until 2036.

Russia Starts to Dig Its Way Out of a Coronavirus Economic Hole - June 10, 2020

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/06/10/russia-starts-dig-out-coronavirus-economic-costs-a70530>

The relaxation of quarantine measures will not be enough to restore lost ground. The impact on private sector companies are especially large and aggravated by the policy response focused on supporting the country's largest firms and leaving smaller companies to fend for themselves.



Lesson Plan

Utilize political cartoons as a warm-up activity or as a whole classroom lesson to engage students in the study of COVID-19, including national responses to the virus. Political cartoons provide an opportunities to teach 21st century skills including critical thinking, analysis, and media literacy. For a political cartoon teaching guide, see the U.S.

Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/>

Russia

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Policy Response to Macro-Fiscal Policy in Russia - May 7, 2020

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/russia/brief/covid-19-response-macro-fiscal-russia>

Russia introduced fiscal policy measures such as increasing funding to the healthcare sector and greater social protection but there seems to be a need for a more accelerated response. It has also introduced monetary policy measures by selling foreign exchange reserves and approved a RUB 500 billion package to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Policy Response to Enhancing Institutions for Effective and Transparent Management - June 5, 2020

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/russia/brief/covid-19-response-enhancing-institutions-russia#russia>

To confront the challenges Covid-19 has put on public institutions and businesses, Russia introduced anti-crisis measures including boosting pay for medical workers and raising unemployment payments to equal the minimum wage, and others. There is still room for more work to be done in the face of this unprecedented disruption by inter-governmental coordination, the use of digital technologies, and effective public resource management.

Russia Cuts Interest Rates to a Post-Soviet Union Low - June 19, 2020

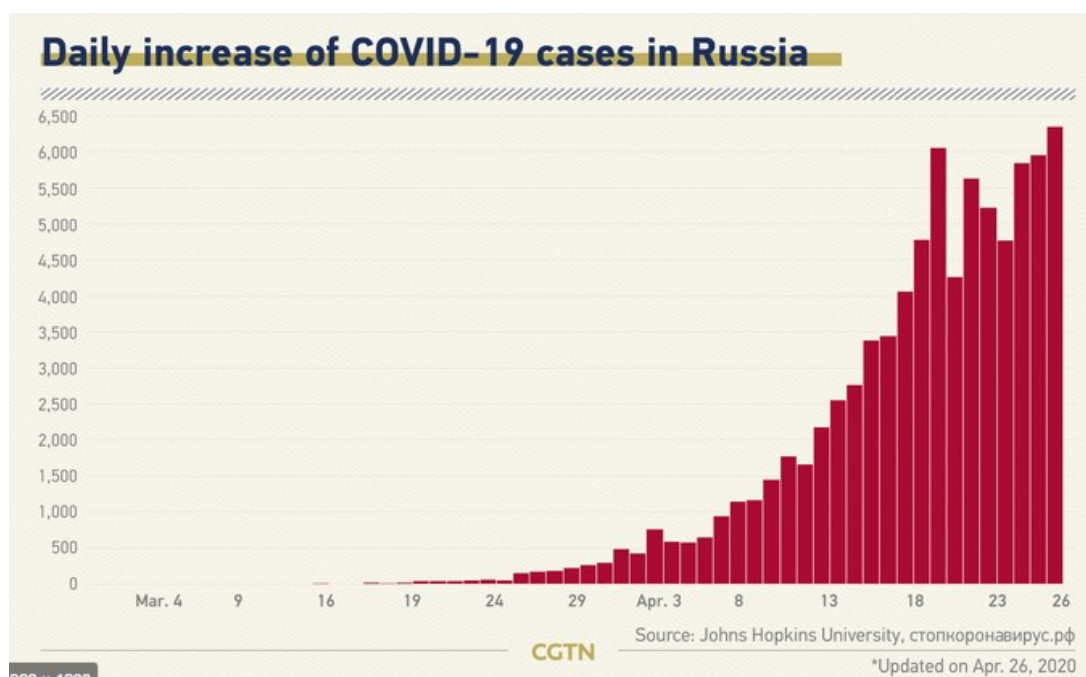
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/19/russia-cuts-interest-rates-to-a-post-soviet-union-low.html>

After already having cut interest rates by 50 basis points in April, The Central Bank of Russia recently cut interest rates by 100 basis points to 4.5%, their lowest level since the fall of the Soviet Union, as it attempts to reel from the deflationary effects of covid-19.

Russian Coronavirus Aid Delivery to US Prompts Confusion And Criticism - April 3, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/04/02/politics/russia-medical-supplies-us-propaganda/index.html>

Despite complaints about an underfunded healthcare system in Russia, the United States purchased medical supplies from Russia at a number "below market price" sparking criticism.



Russia

Industry Body Calls Russian COVID-19 Vaccine a Pandora's Box - August 10, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-10/russian-covid-19-vaccine-is-pandora-s-box-industry-body-warns>

Russia's race to allow civilian use of a potential coronavirus vaccine before clinical trials are complete could put people at risk, according to a local association of multinational pharmaceutical companies.

Russian Deaths Soar 19% in June From 2019 as COVID-19 Toll Rises - August 10, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-10/russian-deaths-soar-19-in-june-from-2019-as-covid-19-toll-rises>

The number of deaths in Russia rose 19% in June from a year earlier, with nearly half of the additional victims diagnosed with Covid-19. The figures are significantly higher than the fatalities initially reported by authorities. Russia has faced questions about the low number of Covid-19 deaths it registers compared to other countries with major outbreaks of the pandemic.

Russia Offers to Supply Philippines with COVID-19 Vaccine - August 7, 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-philippines-russia/russia-offers-to-supply-philippines-with-covid-19-vaccine-idUSKCN2531H1>

Russia is willing to supply a coronavirus vaccine to the Philippines, or team up with a local firm to mass produce it, its ambassador to Manila said on August 7, as infections in the Southeast Asian nation surge. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has sought closer ties with Russia, as well as with China, in part due to his dislike for their historic ally, the United States.

Sweden

Sweden's Constitution Decides Its Exceptional Covid-19 Policy - June 18, 2020

<https://voxeu.org/article/sweden-s-constitution-decides-its-exceptional-covid-19-policy>

The Swedish approach to introducing information without legally binding measures in response to the pandemic has drawn international attention. The reason for this is due to the design of the Swedish constitution which mirrors the norms held by the public concerning freedom and the power of the central government.

Sweden: Will COVID-19 Economics be Different? - June 4, 2020

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/01/nao60120-sweden-will-covid-19-economics-be-different>

Sweden's relaxed containment measures may have meant a smaller economic pitfall in the beginning, but uncertainty lingers about the impact this will have in the long run. Most forecasters agree that Sweden will face a recession this year, but the final verdict will depend on whether, as a by-product of its approach, Sweden is closer to achieving herd immunity, thereby increasing its resilience in the event of another wave of infection.

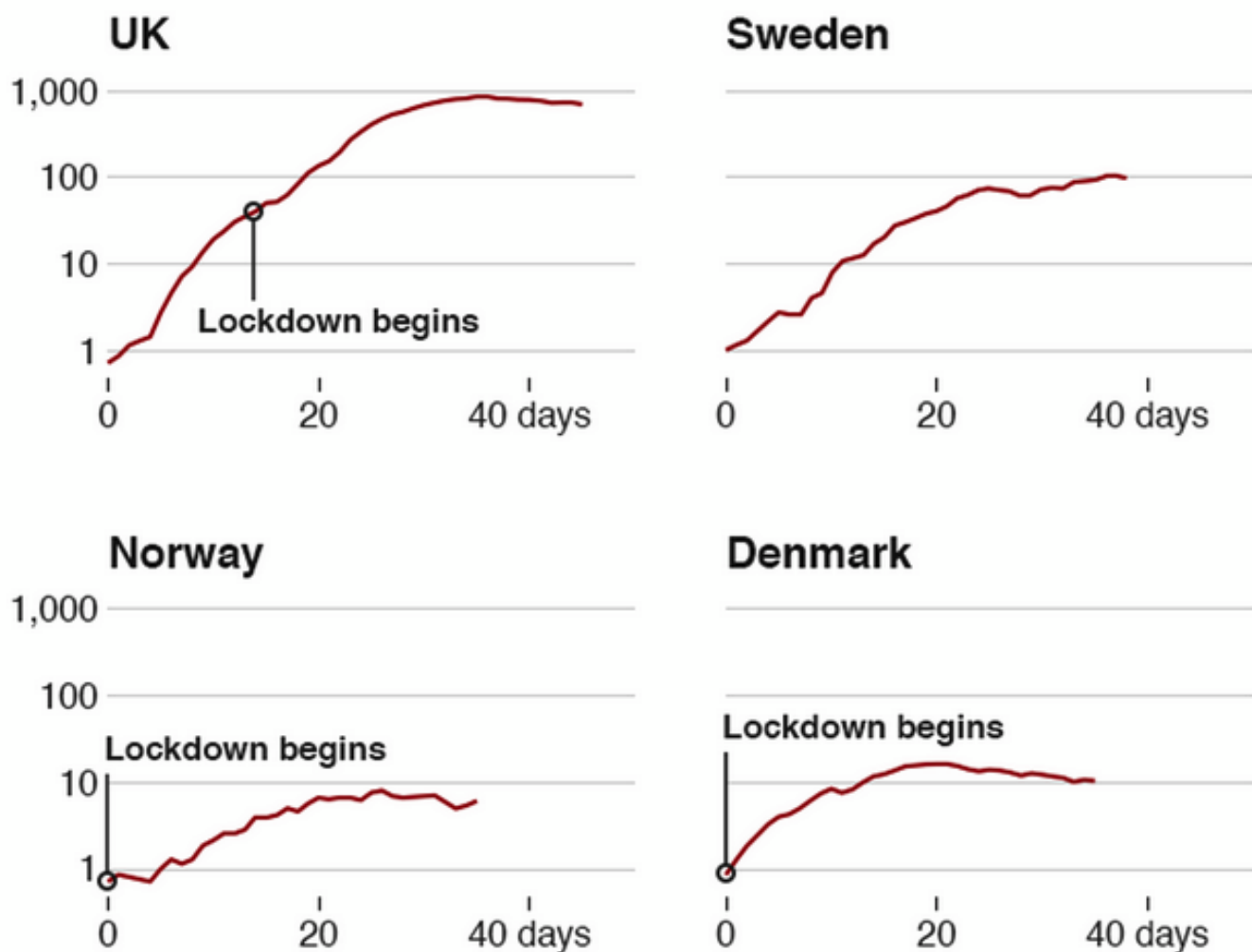
Sweden Sticks With Controversial COVID-19 Approach - May 1, 2020

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200501/sweden-sticks-with-controversial-covid19-approach>

Sweden's approach to the pandemic is to get enough healthy people to get infected to build herd immunity that would prevent them from getting infected again. Measures were however not introduced for the country's most vulnerable as the virus ripped through nursing homes. Despite the public outcry, Anders Tegnell, PhD, an epidemiologist who helped design this strategy defended this system saying its based on individual responsibility and voluntary compliance, rather than legal enforcement.

Coronavirus deaths in selected countries

Weekly rolling average of fatalities since fifth death



Log scale.

Note: Denmark and Norway introduced lockdowns before reaching five deaths

Source: ECDC, updated 24 April

BBC NEWS

Sweden

Coronavirus: What's Going Wrong in Sweden's Care Homes? - May 19, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52704836>

Elder people in nursing homes account for nearly half of all Covid-19 cases in Sweden. An increasing number of people have been voicing complaints about institutional reluctance to admit elder patients to hospitals. Ms Löfvenberg, a nurse and local politician explained, "We don't have many older people. It's a lot of younger people born in the 90s, 80s, 70s."

Five Problems With the Swedish Approach to COVID-19 - June 4, 2020

<https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/five-problems-swedish-approach-covid-19>

The problems named include Sweden's failure at meeting its herd immunity goal and reducing movement, high rates of elderly death, high disease transmission compared to neighboring countries, and the lag in testing.

Sweden Touts the Success of its Controversial Lockdown-free Coronavirus Strategy, But the Country Still Has One of the Highest Mortality Rates in the World

<https://www.businessinsider.com/sweden-praises-coronavirus-strategy-despite-high-death-rate-2020-5>

Experts have been split on whether Sweden's response had been working with some being optimistic about future results and others acknowledging serious shortcomings. Sweden's former state epidemiologist said, "We should have known how underprepared we were in healthcare, and elder care."

Swedish Coronavirus Chief Concedes He'd Change 'Herd Immunity' Covid-19 Response - May 26, 2020

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/swedish-coronavirus-chief-concedes-he-d-change-herd-immunity-covid-19-response-1.1029028>

Anders Tegnell's words about applying tougher measures against a second wave attracted critics. With its high death rate, Sweden accepted that initial high fatalities would put it on the road to building herd immunity against the virus whilst maintaining its economy undisturbed. The success depends on whether the global effort to find a vaccine will fail.

Sweden's PM Hits Back at Criticism Over Covid Strategy - June 14, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-06-14/sweden-s-pm-hits-back-at-criticism-over-outlier-covid-strategy>

Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven has faced increasing criticism after the epidemiologist he entrusted with Sweden's Covid-19 response acknowledged the shortcomings of his strategy. Löfven defended the strategy pointing at increased testing to be the reason behind the spike in reported infection rates. "But if you look at people in hospitals with Covid, the number is diminishing, as is the number of deaths," he said.

How Did Sweden Flatten Its Curve Without a Lockdown? - July 29, 2020

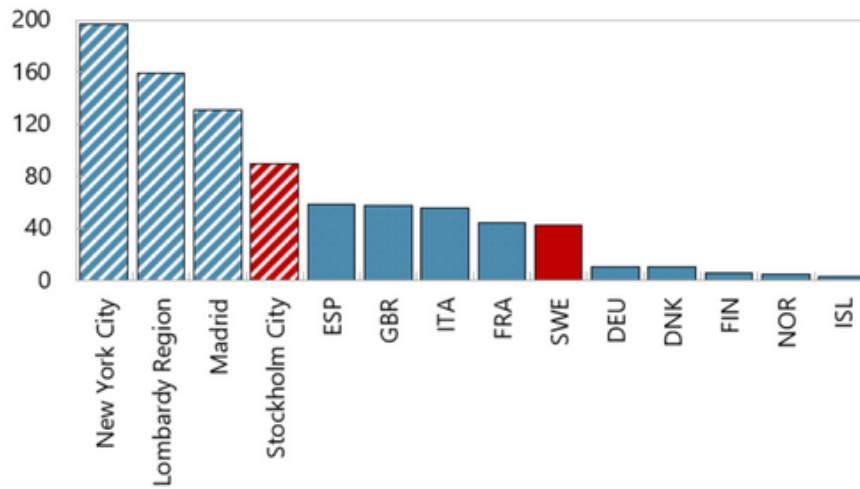
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/87812>

The Swedish Public Health Agency has not openly stated that herd immunity was its goal, though many suspect this was the intention. Instead of mandatory lockdown, behavior changes were supported to control the spread of COVID-19.

Europe: total number of reported COVID-19 deaths

Sweden had a much higher death rate than Nordic comparators.

(Per 100,000 inhabitants; data as of June 1st, 2020, or latest available)

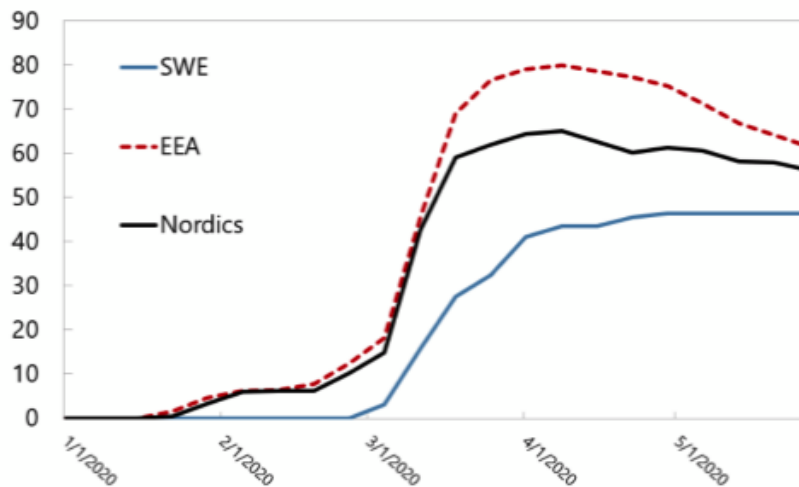


Sources: Johns Hopkins University; WEO; Wikipedia; Smittskydd Stockholm; and Spanish Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare.

Strictness of social distancing measures

Sweden's social distancing measures are less restrictive than in its European and Nordic neighbors.

(Index, data as of May 31)



Sources: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker; IMF Staff calculations.

Notes: Weekly averages. 'EEA' is the average of all countries of the European Economic Area excluding Latvia and Lichtenstein and including the UK. 'Nordic' is the average of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

Sweden

Sweden's No Lockdown Strategy is Beginning to Look Like Less of an Outlier, but Still Doesn't Compare Well to Other Countries - August 8, 2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/sweden-coronavirus-rates-fall-but-other-countries-still-fare-better-2020-8>

Although Sweden's numbers of daily deaths and new cases has declined from its own peak, they still compare poorly to its immediate neighbors, which took a harder line on the virus. Their new daily coronavirus cases are, as a proportion of population, more than 1.5 times higher than those in the UK, and around six times higher than in Italy.

Coronavirus: Sweden's Economy Hit Less Hard by Pandemic - August 5, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-53664354>

Sweden, which avoided a lockdown during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, saw its economy shrink 8.6% in the April-to-June period from the previous three months. However, it was still the largest quarterly fall for at least 40 years.

Britain

Britain Unveils \$39 Billion Spending Package as it Tries to Tackle Coronavirus Slowdown - March 11, 2020

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/11/uk-government-announces-12-billion-pounds-to-tackle-coronavirus-in-2020-budget.html>

The fiscal stimulus is expected to mitigate the economic consequences of the virus. The government additionally announced plans to lower taxes for workers, freeze duties on cider, wine and fuel, and introduce a new plastic packaging tax.

Not Perfect but Positive – The UK Response to Coronavirus - March 26, 2020

<https://theconversation.com/not-perfect-but-positive-the-uk-response-to-coronavirus-134824>

Starting out with intensive testing, the measures became heavily restricted almost overnight. Still the UK's £330 billion package of loan guarantees for businesses is a bold step. There is still hope as most people heed public health advice and stay at home.

Britain Drops its Herd Immunity Response to Coronavirus - March 17, 2020

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/17/britain-uk-coronavirus-response-johnson-drops-go-it-alone/>

Imperial College epidemiologist Azra Ghani explained that his team had been "expecting herd immunity to build [but] we now realize it's not possible to cope with that." Thus, The U.K.'s has officially shifted from containment to "epidemic suppression ... [as] the only viable strategy.

Coronavirus Lockdown: Scots' Concerns Over UK Response - May 26, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52795997>

The explanation behind the different opinions in how well the UK and Scottish governments are thought to have handled the coronavirus crisis is thought to be due to long standing differences in attitudes towards the two governments. Voters in Scotland may be more inclined to favor their government more highly regardless of the issue.

Britain

How Brexit Infected Britain's Coronavirus Response - April 20, 2020

<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/brexit-infected-britain-coronavirus/>

How Brexit affected the coronavirus response. An example is how the UK had opted out of various EU schemes that would have allowed it to purchase ventilators and personal protective equipment in bulk failing the expected due course in the coronavirus response.

How Did Britain Get Its Coronavirus Response so Wrong? - April 18, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/18/how-did-britain-get-its-response-to-coronavirus-so-wrong>

At the start of the year, Britain was still distracted by Brexit with the UK finally about to leave the EU on 31 January. It took a "screeching U-turn" after Johnson delivered the news about the grave consequences that were to be expected of covid-19. Many scientists continue to question Britain's slow response to the warnings.

UK Using Dexamethasone to Treat Patients - June 17, 2020

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2244804-covid-19-news-archive-uk-using-dexamethasone-to-treat-patients/>

After a trial found that the drug could save patients by a third for those on ventilators and a fifth for those receiving oxygen, it has been used immediately.

The Comforting and Misleading Political Response to Britain's Coronavirus Disaster - May 5, 2020

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-comforting-and-misleading-political-response-to-britains-coronavirus-disaster>

Despite being cited as prepared for the pandemic by the Department of Health, it hesitated to implement a lockdown to slow the spread of the virus embracing the concept of herd immunity. Johnson's government did not switch to stringent quarantine measures early enough and even abandoned testing for the coronavirus outside hospitals with claims that this method is unsuitable for the UK.

Coronavirus Could Hit the U.K. Harder Than Any Other European Country. Here's What Went Wrong - April 17, 2020

<https://time.com/5823382/britain-coronavirus-response/>

Aside from the clear delay in Britain's response, its consequences of obtaining enough testing kits is adding greater damage to the impact. Hospitals are still dealing with shortages of equipment with a report saying that NHS bosses were preparing to ask doctors and nurses to work without full-length gowns due to being understocked.

Young People's Trust in Government Damaged Long-term By COVID-19 - June 19, 2020

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/News/Latest-news-from-LSE/2020/f-June-20/Young-peoples-trust-in-government-damaged-long-term-by-COVID-19>

A new study shows that the coronavirus pandemic likely will have a lasting impact on generation Z's faith in elections and their own government. This effect was most marked in democracies and less seen in autocracies.

Britain

Discovering the Real Impact of COVID-19 On Entrepreneurship - June 19, 2020

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/how-covid-19-will-change-entrepreneurial-business/>

The UK government has shown support to start-ups with its £1.25 billion rescue package, but the current crisis is showing the importance of other entrepreneurial activity like small businesses.

The UK's Public Health Response to Covid-19 - May 15, 2020

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1932>

SPI-M and SAGE are dominated by modellers and epidemiologists whose experts are not trained in developing and implementing a public health response. Furthermore, the involvement of two influential political advisers with SAGE casts uncertainty on SAGE's claim of independent scientific advice. This paper further works out the needed public health approach in ensuring the protection of lives that are most vulnerable to the spread of the virus.

UK COVID-19 Daily Death Count Could Be Scrapped

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-infections/uk-covid-19-daily-death-count-could-be-scrapped-telegraph-idUSKCN2550X2>

Britain paused its daily update of the death toll in July and the government ordered a review into how Public Health England reports coronavirus deaths, after academics said the daily figures may include people who died of other causes.

The Psychological Toll of Coronavirus in Britain- a Visual Guide - July 22, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/jul/22/psychological-toll-coronavirus-britain-visual-guide-anxiety-mental-strain>

The psychological impact of the pandemic is an evolving and complex picture that is unlikely to be fully understood for some time. To help navigate the emerging landscape, the Guardian has collected data on five issues faced by the population to measure what life has been like in Britain over the past four months.

UK Halts Easing Coronavirus Lockdown Measures in Response to Rising COVID-19 Cases - July 31, 2020

<https://time.com/5874222/uk-halts-easing-covid19-lockdown/>

Prime Minister Boris Johnson put some planned measures to ease the U.K.'s lockdown on hold on July 31st, just hours before they were due to take effect, saying the number of new coronavirus cases in the country is on the rise for the first time since May. The affected region has a large Muslim population, and the restrictions coincide with the Eid al-Adha holiday, where many people would normally gather in each other's homes.

More Than a Million People in the UK Have Quit Smoking Since the Start of the Coronavirus Pandemic, new study shows - August 8, 2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-smokers-quit-record-numbers-study-2020-8>

According to a recent survey by the UK charity Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), conducted between April 15 to June 20, more than one million people in Britain have given up smoking. Of those people, almost half (41%) said it was a direct response to heightened health concerns during the coronavirus pandemic, the study added.

Hungary

Hungary's Troubling Coronavirus Response—April 6, 2020

<https://freedomhouse.org/article/hungarys-troubling-coronavirus-response>

Freedom House's Zselyke Csaky answers key questions about the state of emergency and what other actions we can expect from the newly empowered government.

Is the Hungarian Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic a Move to Cement Authoritarianism in Europe?

Video – 26 minutes - May 20, 2020

<https://www.dw.com/en/is-the-hungarian-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-move-to-cement-authoritarianism-in-europe/av-53514162>

Budapest's response to COVID-19 has been to suspend parliament and give Prime Minister Viktor Orban open-ended powers to rule by decree. Will this latest move by the ruling Fidesz cement authoritarianism in Europe?

The Shocking Coronavirus Coup in Hungary was a Wake-Up Call, - March 31, 2020.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/31/viktor-orban-hungary-coronavirus-coup/>

This article discusses how Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orban, has used the Coronavirus to justify a consolidation of power including the power to rule by decree. Concerns over the rise of authoritarian measures in Hungary and other nations are highlighted.

Hungary Moves to End Rule by Decree, but Orban Powers Might Stay—June 16, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/world/europe/hungary-coronavirus-orban.html>

This NY Times article discusses legislation to drop the state of emergency prompted by the coronavirus and seen by some as effectively codifying Prime Minister Viktor Orban's extended authority.

Coronavirus: Is Pandemic Being Used for Power Grab in Europe? - April 18, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52308002>

This BBC article discusses the pandemic and the possible maneuver of specific leaders, such as Hungary's Viktor Orban, to consolidate power. Also briefly discussed is President Putin of Russia and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

How Authoritarianism Has Spread Since the Coronavirus Pandemic Began (Video – 9:31) —August 4, 2020

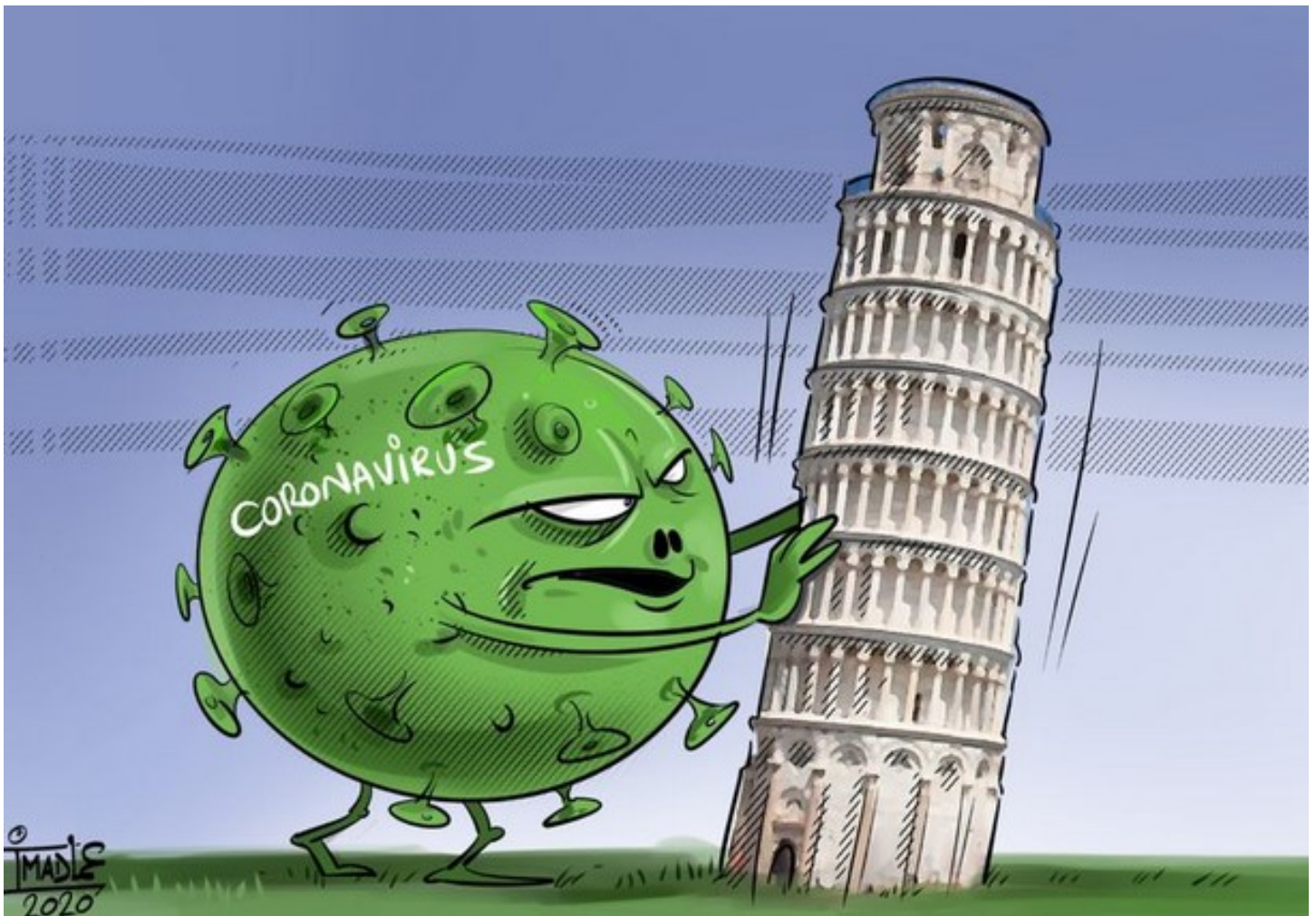
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-authoritarianism-has-spread-since-the-coronavirus-pandemic-began>

According to pro-democracy institutions, authoritarianism was on the rise globally even before the coronavirus pandemic hit. But experts say the distraction of the crisis has allowed some leaders to indulge their dictatorial impulses without attracting much attention from the people they govern. Nick Schiffrin reports and talks to The Atlantic's Anne Applebaum about this dangerous global dynamic.

Death By a Thousand Cuts: Press freedom in Viktor Orban's Hungary (VIDEO - 26 minutes) - August 1, 2020.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/listeningpost/2020/08/death-thousand-cuts-press-freedom-viktor-orban-hungary-200801072700157.html>

This video discusses the decline of the free press in Hungary.



Italy

Italy's Inspiring Response to the Coronavirus - March 26, 2020

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200325-italys-inspiring-response-to-the-coronavirus>

The empty piazzas in Italy due to the lockdown is an eerie sight to many who are used to its typically bustling atmosphere. This emergency measure taken in early March was an attempt to slow the virus. Italians boosted morale by singing Italian songs from their windows.

Italy's Coronavirus Response is a Warning From the Future - March 8, 2020

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/italy-coronavirus-covid19-west-europe-future/607660/>

The dramatic steps taken to slow the virus caused a lot of chaos and uncertainty. Even officials were uncertain about how the new measures would work. The world watched as Italy's health care system was strained by the virus, and wondered if Italy's adjustment would soon become the new normal for them as well.

Six Takeaways For Policymakers From Italy's Response to Covid-19 - April 14, 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jiese/2020/04/14/six-takeaways-for-policymakers-from-italys-response-to-covid-19/#5e5ef99443b8>

The six best practices for policymakers mentioned are to prioritize citizens' health and well-being, emphasize transparent communication, focus on flexibility and taking an integrated approach, develop an effective emergency logistical system, emphasizing professional responsibility, and urging a coordinated international response.

Italy, Pandemic's New Epicenter, Has Lessons for the World - March 21, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/world/europe/italy-coronavirus-center-lessons.html>

The tragedy of Italy quickly gave lessons to its European neighbors. Measures to slow the spread of the virus must be taken early, with complete clarity, and strict enforcement.

How Italy Turned Around its Coronavirus Calamity - July 31, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/31/world/europe/italy-coronavirus-reopening.html>

Despite having bore the brunt of the virus early this year, Italy's hospitals are basically empty of Covid-19 patients. Parliament voted to extend the government's emergency powers through October 15th, which would allow the restrictions to remain in place. "Even if the situation is better than in other countries, we should continue to be very prudent," said Dr. Rezza of the National Institute of Health.

Italy's Pandemic Plan 'Old and Inadequate', Covid Report Finds - August 13, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/13/italy-pandemic-plan-was-old-and-inadequate-covid-report-finds>

A report investigating alleged errors by Italian authorities calls its pandemic plan outdated and holds it culpable for the country's thousands of Covid-19 deaths. The claim is that the pandemic plan was not updated according to the new guidelines established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)'s guidelines.

Italy Imposes Mandatory Covid-19 Testing on All Arrivals for Four Countries - August 13, 2020

<https://www.thelocal.it/20200813/italy-imposes-mandatory-covid-19-testing-on-all-arrivals-from-four-countries>

Italy has imposed mandatory testing for travelers arriving from Croatia, Greece, Malta, and Spain in an attempt to prevent another wave of infections. The Health Minister Roberto Speranza said, "We must continue to be cautious in order to protect the results obtained thanks to sacrifices made by all in recent months."

How the EU Deals With Matters of Public Health

Improving Public Health: EU Measures Explained—August 6, 2020

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20190705STO56307/improving-public-health-eu-measures-explained#:~:text=The%20EU%20works%20to%20promote,always%20been%20an%20EU%20priority.&text=It%20causes%20about%2033%2C000%20deaths%20per%20year%20in%20the%20EU.>

The EU works to promote health and prevent diseases in areas such as cancer, mental health and rare diseases, and provides information on diseases via the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Public Health: Fact Sheet on the EU

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/49/public-health>

The Treaty of Lisbon has enhanced the importance of health policy, stipulating that 'a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities'. Primary responsibility for health protection and, in particular, healthcare systems continues to lie with the Member States. However, the EU has an important role to play in improving public health, preventing and managing diseases, mitigating sources of danger to human health, and harmonising health strategies between Member States.

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About European Union Health Policies But Were Afraid to Ask

https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/259955/Everything-you-always-wanted-to-know-about-European-Union-health-policies-but-were-afraid-to-ask.pdf?ua=1

This book gives an in depth explanation of EU health policies. They are complicated and can be difficult to understand due to the complex nature of the EU and different relevant treaties/policies that have been established over the years. There is no single strategy with a neat body of legislation implementing it; rather, there are many different objectives and instruments, some of which appear in surprising places.

Does Health Matter in the European Parliament Elections? - March 29, 2019

<https://epha.org/does-health-matter-in-the-european-parliament-elections/>

With health considered to be one of the issues resonating most with Europeans (in a recent Eurobarometer survey, 70% of European citizens wanted more action on health) it can be argued that strong leadership on health from the European institutions will bring the EU closer to them, and can help to restore their trust in them. EPHA has carried out an initial analysis of the manifestos or publications setting out the groups' positions for the elections in May 2019. Visit this link to see these positions.

Call for Action: Time to Strengthen the EU's Public Health Policy Powers - May 8, 2020

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/opinion/call-for-action-time-to-strengthen-the-eus-public-health-policy-powers/>

Europe is going through an unprecedented challenge caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a health crisis, an economic crisis, and, potentially, a social crisis. It is abundantly clear that during the Covid-19 crisis, our citizens are asking the European Union to do more, but the hands of the EU institutions are tied. The Union can only operate on the basis of powers allocated by the Treaties. Accordingly, the European Commission has no legal basis to strengthen its own resources to address public health crises.

European Education Policy and COVID-19

Europe's Schools Face New Test: Teaching Safely in a Pandemic - May 14, 2020

<https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2020/0514/Europe-s-schools-face-new-test-Teaching-safely-in-a-pandemic>

Two months after most countries in Europe began closing down in response to the coronavirus, many are cautiously reopening schools alongside their economies, welcoming tens of millions of students back into the classroom in staggered shifts. European governments have been unrelenting with logistical and sanitary requirements. But most countries have otherwise allowed schools to make their own decisions about how lessons should be delivered and physical space partitioned.

Europe Learning the Dangers of Going Back to School After Coronavirus - May 20, 2020

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/20/coronavirus-back-to-school-272592>

It is essential to weigh the risks of opening schools again against the potential damage done by keeping them closed, whether to economic recovery or mental health. Even more challenging may be convincing anxious parents that now is the time to send their children back to school. It's not just the risk of transmission increasing, but also there's a danger of children being cut off from all social life and being deprived of the structure that school gives them.

Schools Reopening Has Not Triggered Rise in COVID-19 Cases, EU Ministers Told - May 18, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/18/french-minister-tells-of-risks-of-missing-school-as-more-pupils-return-covid-19>

The reopening of schools in 22 European countries has not led to any significant increase in coronavirus infections among children, parents or staff, a videoconference meeting of education ministers from around the EU has heard.

We Need to Reopen Schools- but How? - June 8, 2020

<https://prospect.org/coronavirus/we-need-to-reopen-schools/>

The news from the more than 20 European nations that have reopened schools has been extremely encouraging, and the urgency of duplicating that achievement in the US is indisputable. We cannot have a functioning economy, or any hope of reducing economic inequalities, without a functioning educational system. But key questions need to be answered to get schools back in session in the fall, and this country has not yet taken the necessary steps to resolve those issues.

School Reopenings in Europe Reduce Virus Concerns- Mostly - June 10, 2020

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/10/european-school-reopeningsreduce-virus-concerns-for-most-312595>

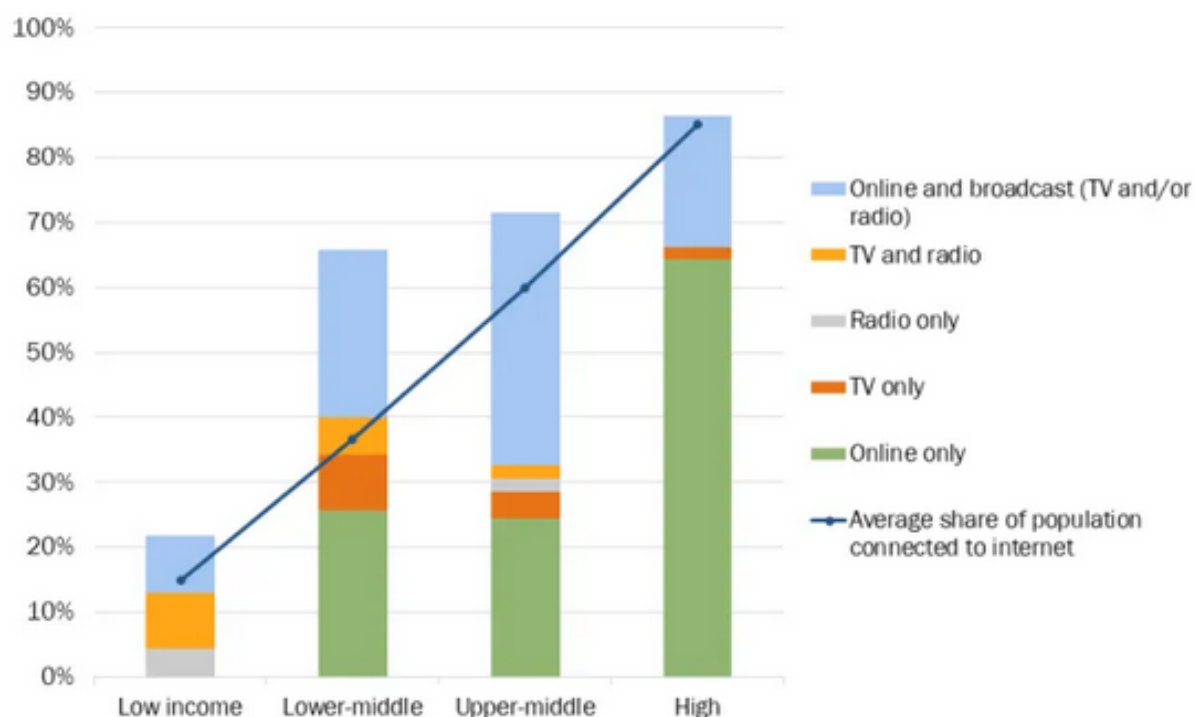
Incremental returns to school and robust infection control measures have been part of the game plan in those countries that have reopened classrooms successfully. With big questions around the virus still hanging in the air, some experts are issuing plenty of caveats.

Risks as Germany Reopens Schools in Coronavirus Pandemic

<https://www.dw.com/en/risks-as-germany-reopens-schools-in-coronavirus-pandemic/a-54507732>

As the summer holidays end, the number of new COVID-19 infections is rising again in Germany, as in many European countries. Despite this, kindergartens, schools and educational institutions are being reopened, partly, officials say, to take the burden off of working parents, but also for the children — even as fresh outbreaks have swiftly shut schools back down.

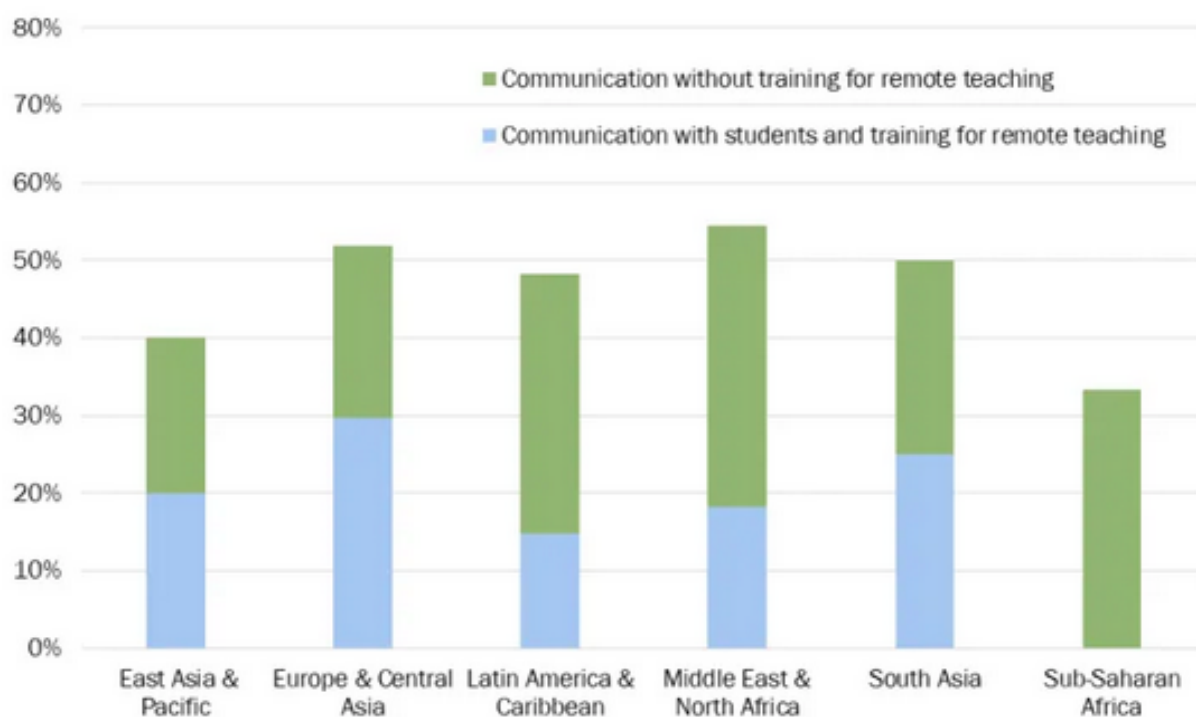
Figure 1. Share of countries responding to school closures with different forms of remote learning, by income group



Source: Center for Global Development and the World Bank

BROOKINGS

Figure 4. Share of countries providing official guidance and training to teachers for remote teaching, by region



Source: Center for Global Development and the World Bank

BROOKINGS

European Education Policy and COVID-19

**The Achievement Gap, Widened by COVID-19, Calls for a Greater EU Role in Education Policy—
July 22, 2020**

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/the-achievement-gap-widened-by-covid-19-calls-for-a-greater-eu-role-in-education-policy/>

The Covid-19 pandemic has made obvious a disconcerting truth in the EU – namely that a child’s socio-economic background is determinative of their access to quality education. Factors include the unequal availability of educational resources at home, access to preschool, and resources devoted to schools.

Pints or Primers? UK’s Push to Open Schools May Force a Choice - August 10, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/10/world/europe/UK-schools-pubs-coronavirus.html>

Prime Minister Boris Johnson calls it a “moral duty” to open Britain’s schools, but with cases already rising slightly, that might mean closing pubs and restaurants. Mr. Johnson cannot order schools to open or close;

Lesson Plans

Coronavirus: Online Learning Resources

https://ec.europa.eu/education/resources-and-tools/coronavirus-online-learning-resources_en

This online platform for teachers and educators has teaching materials and training opportunities in European school education available in 23 European languages.

Resources For Teachers- by EU

https://europa.eu/european-union/documents-publications/teachers_en

Find information on European history, citizenship, or something as specific as reducing individual energy consumption tailored to age group.

Lesson Plans and Classroom Resources

<https://euro.indiana.edu/outreach/k-12/lesson-plans.html>

This is a resource for the K-12 educator to prepare lessons on all aspects of European culture and society, government and politics, and current topics including immigration and the economy.

Cooperation with the United States

First Regulatory Workshop on COVID-19 Facilitates Global Collaboration on Vaccine Development - March 18, 2020

<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/first-regulatory-workshop-covid-19-facilitates-global-collaboration-vaccine-development>

The first global regulatory workshop on COVID-19 was convened under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA). The virtual meeting brought together delegates from 17 different countries, representing more than 20 medicines regulatory authorities globally, as well as experts from the World Health Organization and the European Commission, to discuss the development of vaccines against COVID-19. The event was co-chaired by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The goal of the meeting was to encourage exchange of information about the global efforts towards developing new vaccines against COVID-19.

Transatlantic Cooperation on COVID-19 - May 12, 2020

<https://useu.usmission.gov/transatlantic-cooperation-on-covid-19/>

In addition to the leadership of the US President and Secretary of State with their G7, G20, NATO and other counterparts, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Biegun has led weekly deputy minister-level coordination calls with Transatlantic Allies and partners since March 19, including the European Commission. These calls have allowed the United States and Transatlantic Allies and partners to share ideas and best practices in responding to the unique and complex challenges presented by the global pandemic and plan for safely reopening US economies and commerce.

EU Leads (an almost) Global Effort to Fight Coronavirus—May 5, 2020

<https://www.politico.eu/article/world-leaders-pledge-to-fight-coronavirus/>

An EU-led fundraising event for COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and diagnostics fell just short of the European Commission's €7.5 billion goal- even after organizers decided to count money already spent or allocated. Russia and the United States, one-time superpower rivals in science as well as politics, pointedly did not participate, highlighting the real risk that some wealthy countries could look to control vaccines or treatments to benefit their own citizens first.

E.U. May Bar American Travelers as It Reopens Borders, Citing Failures on Virus - June 23, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/23/world/europe/coronavirus-EU-American-travel-ban.html>

European Union officials are racing to agree on who can visit the bloc as of July 1 based on how countries of origin are faring with new coronavirus cases. Americans, so far, are excluded, according to draft lists seen by the New York Times.

The U.S. Can't Defeat Coronavirus Alone

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-05-19/covid-19-vaccine-will-require-u-s-china-europe-to-collabo>

The Trump administration has launched an unprecedented drive to speed domestic development of a vaccine, but remains aloof from international efforts to coordinate funding and distribution of any successful candidates. Although China also declined to contribute to a European-led pledging conference earlier this month, President Xi Jinping joined European nations on Monday in promising that any vaccine developed by his country would be treated as a "global public good," in theory available to all.

Cooperation with the United States

U.S. Stirs Sharp Divisions Between Old and New Europe in Cynical Strategy—August 11, 2020

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1197348.shtml>

For the Eurasian continent where geopolitical competition and cooperation are intertwined, the US geo-strategy aims to ensure the balance of power in the region and prevent the emergence of regional powers. Against the background of major-power competition and the return of geopolitics, Washington is looking for new strategic pivots and Central and Eastern Europe has become its target.

Europe's Digital Sovereignty: From Rule-Maker to Superpower in the Age of US-China Rivalry—July 30, 2020

<https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/>

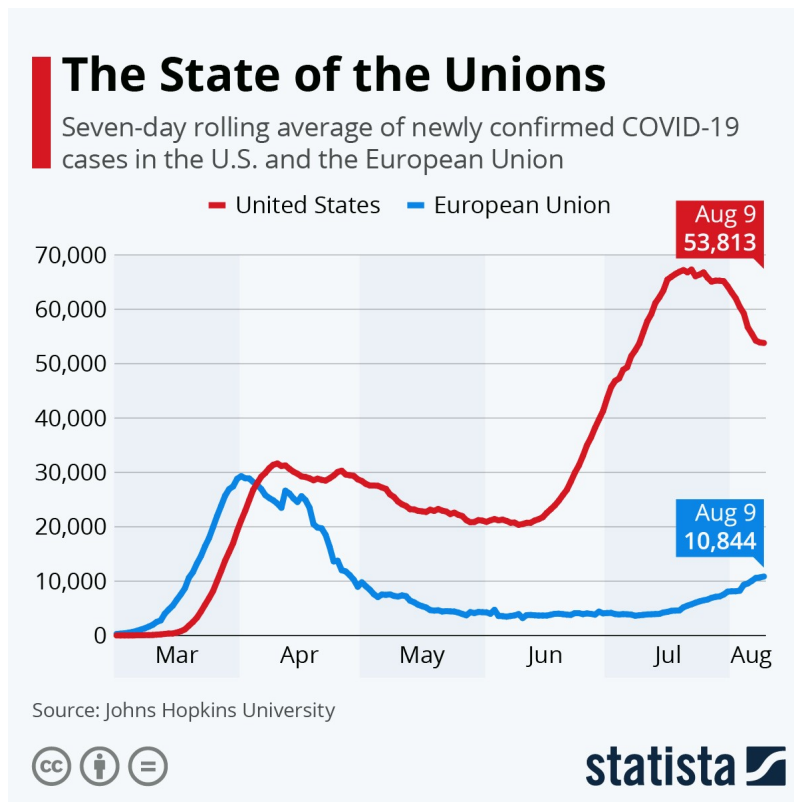
[europe digital sovereignty rulemaker superpower age us china rivalry](#)

Covid-19 has revealed the critical importance of technology for economic and health resilience, making Europe's digital transformation and sovereignty a question of existential importance. Rising US-China tensions are an additional incentive for Europe to develop its own digital capabilities; it risks becoming a battleground in their struggle for tech and industrial supremacy.

EU in Talks with Moderna, BioNtech, CureVac to Secure Possible COVID Vaccines - July 17, 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-vaccines-exclus/exclusive-eu-in-talks-with-moderna-biontech-curevac-to-secure-possible-covid-vaccines-idUSKCN2411HA>

The EU is negotiating advance purchase deals of potential COVID-19 vaccines with drugmakers Moderna (US), Sanofi (French) and Johnson & Johnson (US) as well as biotech firms BioNtech (German) and CureVac (German). The multiple talks confirm the bloc's more assertive stance on procuring potential COVID-19 shots and drugs after early U.S. moves in securing promising treatments and vaccines.



<https://www.statista.com/chart/22102/daily-covid-19-cases-in-the-us-and>

Covid-19 and the EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal - May 19, 2020

<https://fsr.eui.eu/the-european-green-deal/>

The European Green Deal presented by the EU commission in 2019 presents a dedicated roadmap for economic stability. The goal is for Europe to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This would require movement away from coal, oil and natural gas including comprehensive restructuring of the economy. Eight policy areas are at the heart of the Deal.

Why Europe's Green Deal Still Matters - March 24, 2020

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-europes-green-deal-still-matters>

The deeply familiar details of the ECB come with a few big bets. These bets are: the issue of a Just Transition, Industrial Policy for Green Growth, the turning of the European Investment Bank (EIB) into a "climate bank," Trade for a Low-carbon World, rules and methodologies for measuring the carbon-intensity of goods., and The idea of the "circular economy".

A European Green Deal

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

The goals of the European Green Deal are that there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth is decoupled from resource use, and that no person and no place is left behind. Reaching this target will require action by all sectors of the economy.

The Relevance of the EU Green Deal in a Post-COVID-19 World - May 11, 2020

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/the-relevance-of-the-eu-green-deal-in-a-post-covid-19-world/>

Swift economic support programs will allow recovery in the shortest time possible. Despite the primacy of the moment, it is important that decarbonisation plans in the EU be balanced with the need to create jobs. Infrastructure projects are often drivers of employment. Building new green energy infrastructure projects can have multiple benefits including furthering economic growth, increasing energy access, replacing aged infrastructure, providing jobs and meeting national carbon dioxide reduction policies.

Leaked Document Lifts Lid on EU's Green Deal 'Recovery Package' - May 21, 2020

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/a-green-hydrogen-cfd-and-eu-wide-renewables-tenders-leak-lifts-lid-on-eus-green-deal>

The European Union is planning a 15-gigawatt renewable energy tender and auctions for green hydrogen projects as part of a trillion-dollar Green Deal package, according to draft proposals leaked recently. It will have a string of near-term policies added to act as an economic stimulus and will be an early indicator of policymakers' willingness to act on promises of a "green recovery."

Europe's Moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation - May 27, 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_940

The Press Release for the updated Green Deal highlights the significant efforts being made to invest for the next generation and build a more resilient EU. To ensure the recovery is sustainable, even, inclusive and fair for all Member States, the European Commission is proposing to create a new recovery instrument, Next Generation EU, embedded within a powerful, modern and revamped long-term EU budget.

Covid-19 and the EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal Must be at the Heart of the COVID-19 Recovery - May 14, 2020

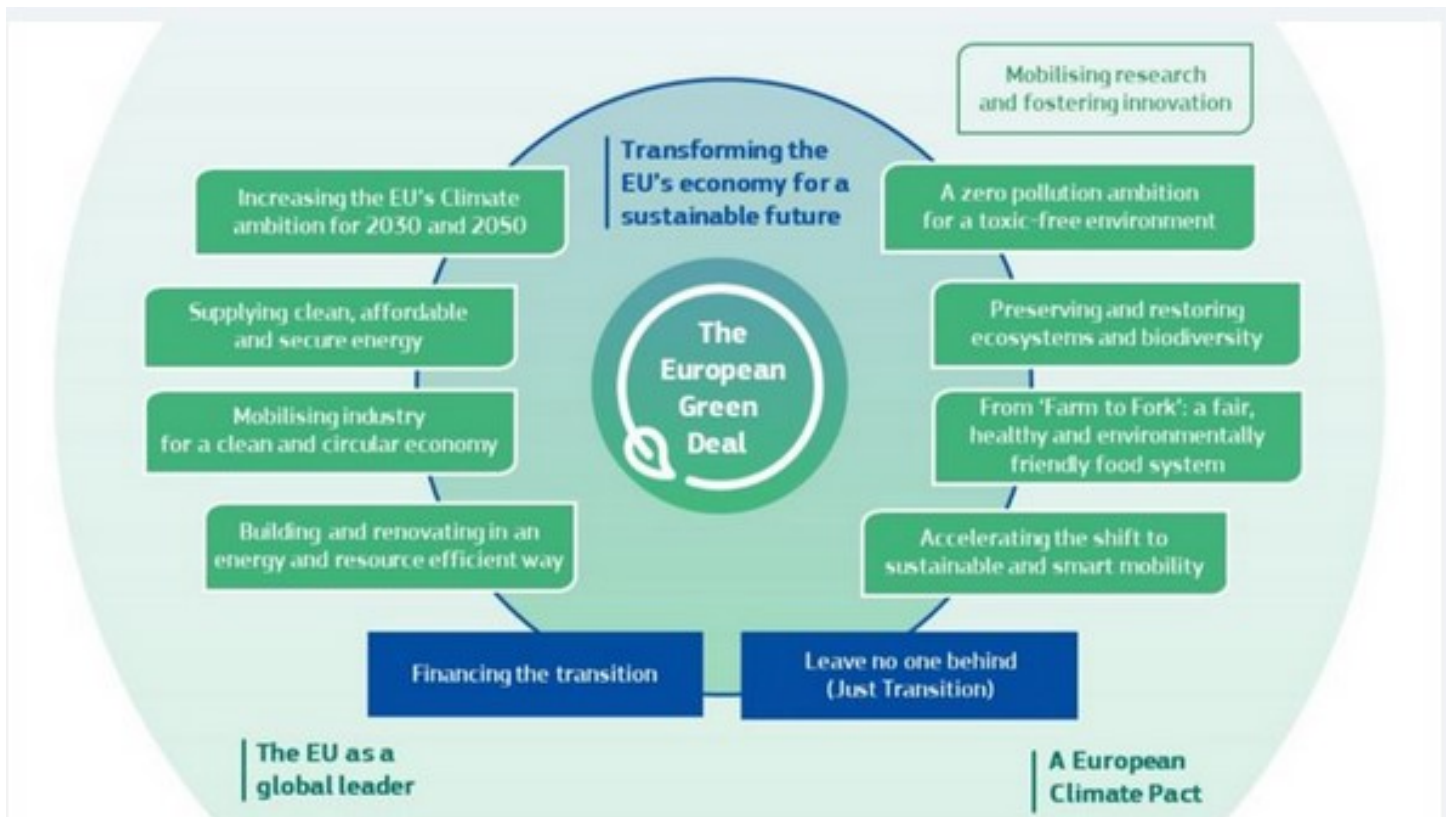
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/the-european-green-deal-must-be-at-the-heart-of-the-covid-19-recovery/>

Business and industry leaders are joining forces to make the coronavirus recovery a chance for a reset to build a sustainable, inclusive economy, revitalizing industry, preserving vital biodiversity systems and increasing economic growth in Europe. The European stimulus packages will shape Europe's economies and societies for decades to come – we should make sure these lead to a greener, more resilient and inclusive future.

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2020

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn728_jN6K4

The EU is hosting debates with prominent leaders, such as from the Parliament, trying to determine how to link both – the fight against climate change and the Covid-19-recovery plans. Their mission is having a greening of the recovery being the main priority. Huge synergies are possible to strengthen and modernise the economy, whilst leaving no-one behind.



Privacy Issues - Apps and Contact Tracing

EU Privacy Body Urges Anonymization of Location Data for COVID-19 Tracking - April 22, 2020

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/04/22/eu-privacy-body-urges-anonymization-of-location-data-for-covid-19-tracking/>

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) has published guidance for the use of location data and contacts tracing tools intended to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Europe's data protection framework wraps around all such digital interventions, meaning there are legal requirements for EU countries and authorities developing tracing tools or soliciting data for a coronavirus related purpose.

Contact Tracing Apps: A Test for Privacy in the EU - April 24, 2020

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/04/contact-tracing-apps-privacy-in-europe/>

Developed by EU states with the Commission, the guidelines contain guidance for member states navigating new methods of data collection in a public health crisis, while reminding them of their existing human rights obligations. This 'common European approach' of standard-setting and oversight, if rolled out properly, could help foster movement of people between EU member states and stimulate economic growth.

Contact Tracing Apps: Why Tech Solutionism and Privacy by Design are Not Enough - May 7, 2020

<https://iapp.org/news/a/contact-tracing-apps-why-tech-solutionism-and-privacy-by-design-are-not-enough/>

As it becomes apparent, privacy issues are being addressed in the design of the contact tracing apps (no centralized location data monitoring, but decentralized contact tracing processing), we suddenly see, for example, the French government requesting Apple and Google facilitate centralized processing. According to this opinion piece, it is important to not only focus on the app itself and its privacy issues, but also address relevant behavioral issues.

Perspective: EU Contact Tracing Should be Enabled by Default - May 27, 2020

<https://iapp.org/news/a/perspective-eu-contact-tracing-apps-should-be-enabled-by-default/>

This opinion piece explains why the European Commission's focus on consent may not be the best avenue to take with the apps going forward. "Leaving it up to individual users to choose to opt in to such an app would be a mistake," they write. "The only way this type of mobile app will reach a critical mass is if it is enabled by default."

Cyberwatching.eu Online Survey on Cybersecurity and Privacy in the COVID-19 Period Published—August 9, 2020

<https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/421841-cyberwatching-eu-online-survey-on-cybersecurity-and-privacy-in-the-covid-19-period-published>

On July 22nd, Cyberwatching.eu launched an online survey on cybersecurity and privacy (CS&P) in the Covid-19 period. The online survey asks for the input of CS&P communities and beyond to understand the change in social interactions and at the same time to understand society's acceptance of the social good of people giving up some of their privacy.

Passport to Privacy: Lessons From EU Guidance on COVID-19 and Personal Data - August 4, 2020

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/passport-to-privacy-lessons-from-eu-82740/>

Attempts by U.S. legislators to address the privacy issues raised by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have stalled. But for companies seeking to balance the goals of furthering public health and protecting individuals' privacy, the European Union is providing policy guidance that may be exportable.

Privacy Issues - Apps and Contact Tracing

Coronavirus Tracing Apps: Is Privacy Protection to Blame for Few Downloads in the EU? - July 28, 2020

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/07/28/coronavirus-tracing-apps-is-privacy-protection-to-blame-for-few-downloads-in-the-eu>

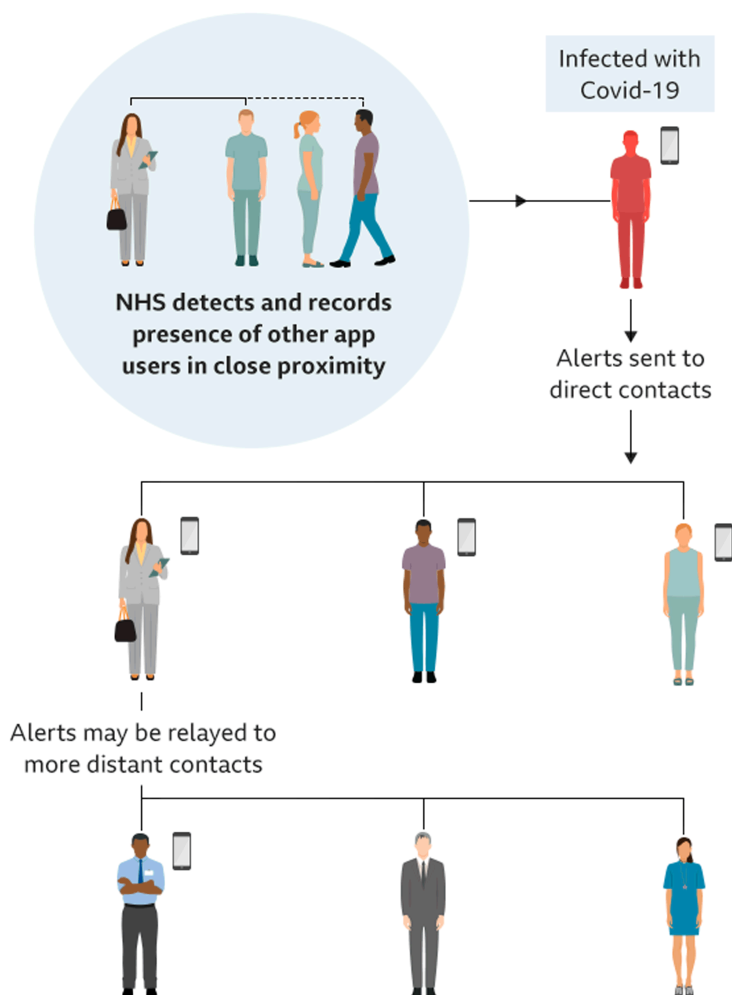
Track and trace apps once promised to be the technological solution to slow the spread of coronavirus. Yet the software is complicated, and privacy issues have held up rollouts. Italy, France, and Germany have released such apps in recent weeks, but privacy advocates have voiced concern they're putting nations on a slippery slope towards a new kind of surveillance state.

The Privacy Mindset of The EU vs The US - July 29, 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2020/07/29/the-privacy-mindset-of-the-eu-vs-the-us/#1479f357d013>

It's become the norm in the US that online behavior gets tracked and used for a slew of subsequent manipulation. U.S. legislation isn't even close to providing adequate protection of consumer privacy interests. In contrast, in internet privacy rankings, 14 of the top 20 countries demonstrating the highest commitment to digital privacy are European (the U.S. placed 18th).

How app contact tracing works



<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-52938660>

BBC

The Role and Popular Expectations of Government in Europe

What Do EU Citizens Expect from Their Governments?

What Do the People Want? - October 1, 2015

<https://eupinions.eu/de/text/what-do-the-people-want>

This report examines the opinions, needs, and preferences of EU citizens after the strenuous effect of The Eurozone Crisis. While the majority of citizens support their country's membership with the EU, they are not satisfied with policy direction in the EU. There has been increased wariness about the EU's current direction.

EU Citizenship: New Survey Shows EU Citizens Are More Aware of Their Rights—July 9, 2020

<https://europeansting.com/2020/07/09/eu-citizenship-new-survey-shows-eu-citizens-are-more-aware-of-their-rights/>

A new Eurobarometer survey on EU Citizenship and Democracy released demonstrated a high level of awareness among EU citizens about their citizenship rights, benefits of free movement in the EU, and good knowledge of EU electoral rights.

Major Changes in European Public Opinion Regarding the European Union—November, 2016

http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/OtrasPublicaciones/Internacional/2016/EuropeanPublic_Opinion_ExploratoryStudy_Nov2016.pdf

This study monitoring public opinion found that the EU can be seen as a buffer against the crisis initially and that surveys conducted after enlargements mostly recorded significant improvements in opinion.

Citizens' Expectations for Europe Focus on Climate and Social issues—March 27, 2019

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/average-citizens-want-a-europe-that-focuses-on-climate-and-social-issues/>

Ten ideas that garnered the most support among participants were presented to a small group of MEPs. Social justice, together with climate change issues, came highest on the agenda.

Delivering On Europe - Executive Summary

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/files/be-heard/eurobarometer/2018/delivering_on_europe_citizens_views_on_current_and_future_eu_action/executive-summary.pdf

The European Parliament's Eurobarometer which sets out several survey waves since 2016, finds that a clear majority of European citizens want the EU to speak with one voice and act together.



What Do EU Citizens Expect from Their Governments?

Unsettled status: EU Citizens Want Card to Prove Right to Stay in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jan/20/unsettled-status-eu-citizens-want-card-to-prove-right-to-stay-in-uk>

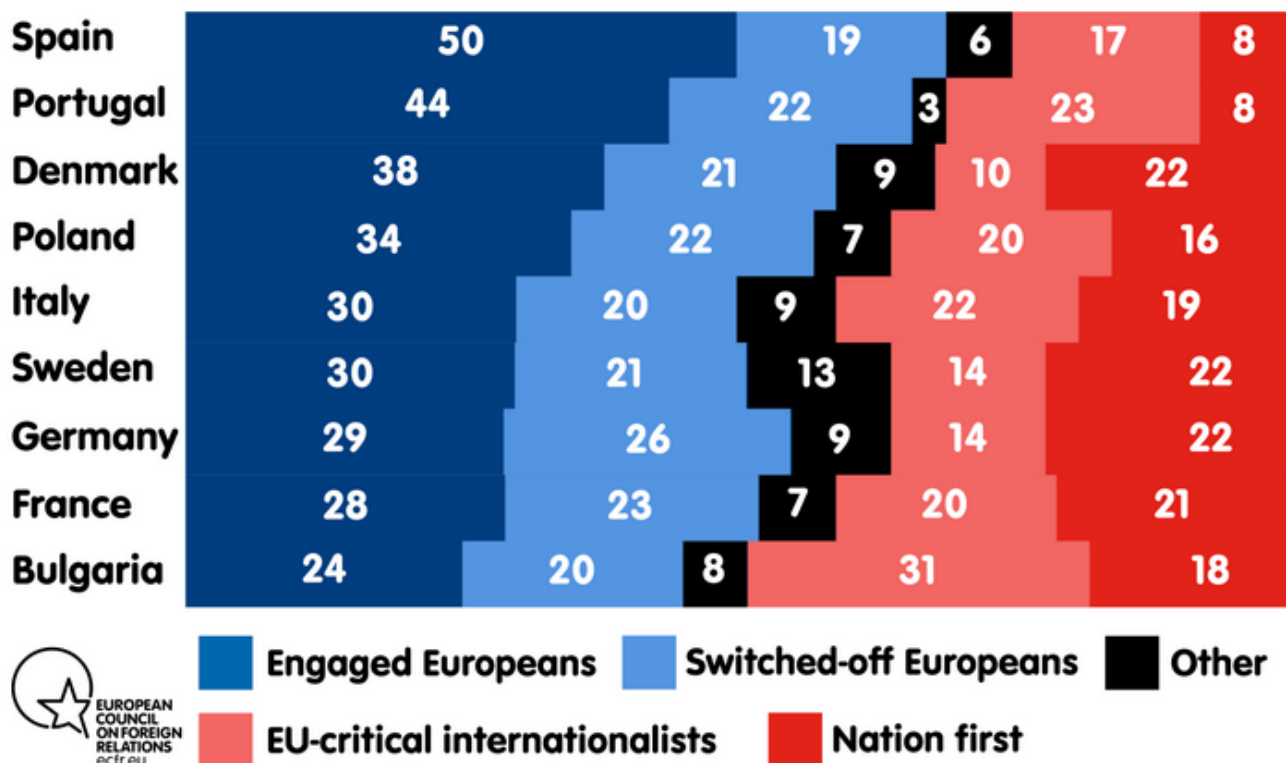
A report found nine out of 10 EU citizens in the UK would prefer a card over the digital evidence they have now to demonstrate their rights in future to employers, banks or landlords as fears over discrimination, loss of identity and a continuing lack of trust in the government's willingness to deliver guaranteed lifetime rights loom over them.

Give the People What They Want: Popular Demand for a Strong European Foreign Policy

<https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/popular-demand-for-strong-european-foreign-policy-what-people-want>

This policy brief examines European voters' desire to see a European Union come of age as a geopolitical actor and chart its own course in the face of other powers. They further believe in the importance of addressing existing challenges such as climate change at the European level.

Voters' broad attitudes towards the EU (%)



<https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/>

EU's Response to Unemployment

The European Union's SURE Plan to Safeguard Employment: A Small Step Forward - May 20, 2020

<https://www.bruegel.org/2020/05/the-european-unions-sure-plan-to-safeguard-employment-a-small-step-forward/>

The so-called Temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE), will provide temporary support of up to €100 billion in loans to EU countries that request financial assistance in an effort for greater unity.

European Unemployment is Half that of America. Here's Why - June 4, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/03/business/europe-unemployment-coronavirus/index.html>

The data indicates that Europe has been able to soften the blow on unemployment despite battling its worst economic crisis since the 1930s through their short-term work programs which are far more common than in the United States. Programs of this type make it harder to hire and fire workers with many employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

The US and Europe Have Addressed COVID Unemployment in Divergent Ways: The Differences are Revealing - June 8, 2020

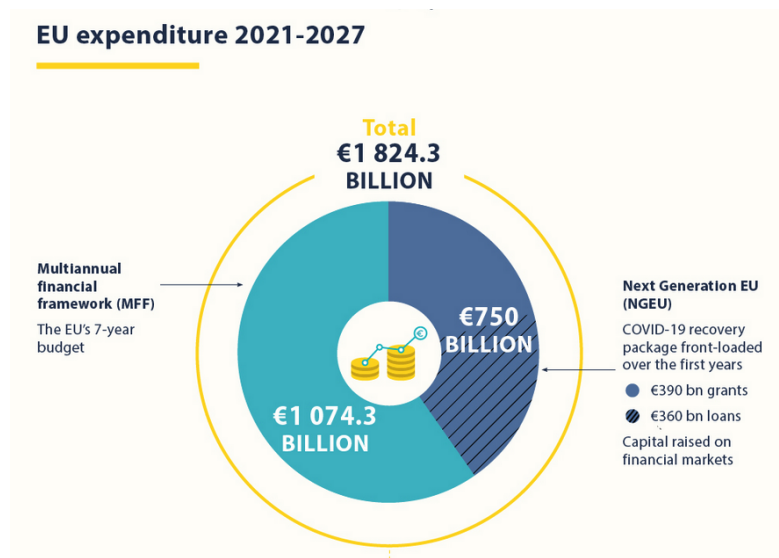
<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-us-and-europe-have-addressed-covid-unemployment-in-divergent-ways-the-differences-are-revealing/>

In contrast to the US approach, the European approach emphasizes subsidizing companies to maintain their workforces in short-time work schemes at reduced pay. This approach allows for a stable work environment for workers and their employers in a recession. It also helps maintain their existing level of human capital and avoid the transition costs of firing and hiring workers for companies.

How EU Member States Reacted to the Commission's Recovery Fund Proposal - May 28, 2020

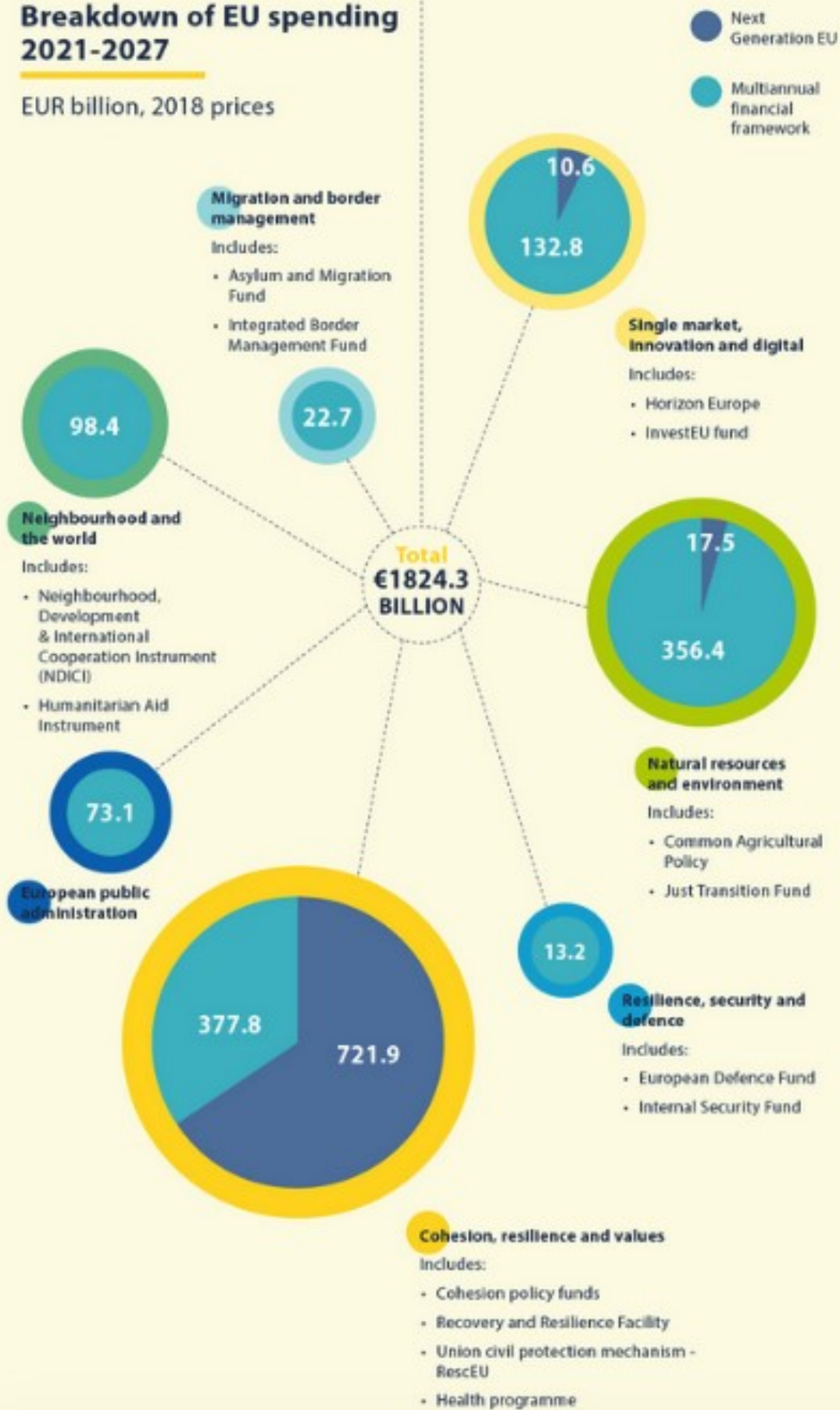
<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/how-eu-member-states-reacted-to-the-commissions-recovery-fund-proposal/>

Most EU member states have reacted positively to the European Commission's €750 billion Recovery Fund proposal, which aims to help the bloc cope with the devastating economic implications of the pandemic with the proposal's advocates pushing for quick approval. The EU governments will have a crucial role in deciding how the money will be spent.



Breakdown of EU spending 2021-2027

EUR billion, 2018 prices



EU's Response to Unemployment

EU Unemployment Crisis: Joblessness Continues to Rise As Pandemic Hits Economy - July 30, 2020

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1316383/EU-news-unemployment-eurostat-coronavirus-pandemic-europe-economy-latest-update>

The EU unemployment rate has continued to rise, putting millions of people out of work, even though most member states have eased their COVID-related restrictions. Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, has claimed more than 15 million men and women were out of work in June, a 0.1 percent jump from the previous month.

COVID-19: 10 Things the EU is Doing to Ensure Economic Recovery - July 24, 2020

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20200625STO82007/covid-19-10-things-the-eu-is-doing-to-ensure-economic-recovery>

The 10 actions the EU is taking to help the economy bounce back include providing massive economic stimulus, supporting EU health systems and infrastructures, protecting small and medium-sized businesses, mitigating unemployment risks, supporting the tourism industry, banking package to support households and businesses, supporting agriculture and fisheries, helping countries fund their crisis response, relaxing state aid rules, and protecting weakened European businesses from foreign competitors.

Europe's Labor Measures: Short-term Gain, Long-term Pain? - July 24, 2020

<https://www.advisorperspectives.com/commentaries/2020/07/24/europes-labor-measures-short-term-gain-long-term-pain>

Some experts are blaming Europe's relatively stable unemployment rate (given the circumstances) on providing incentives for employers to keep their employees. Europe has prioritized job protection through short-time work schemes (STWs), where governments pay a portion of employees' salaries (ranging from 60% to 85%) as their work time is reduced.

EU Myan Ku Fund Pays Over 45,000 Myanmar Workers - August 13, 2020

<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-news/eu-myan-ku-fund-pays-over-45-000-myanmar-workers-269187-newsdetails.htm>

The Myan Ku Fund was initiated in April, 2020 by the EU as a rapid response measure to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on predominantly female garment workers in Myanmar who lost their jobs due to the crisis. It aims to provide cash support for around 50,000 garment workers, compile data and research on the impact of COVID-19 on the garment sector in Myanmar, and in cooperation with the ministry of labour, immigration and population, offer technical guidance in the set-up and refinement of future unemployment insurance schemes.

Health Services Provided by the EU

Rethinking Health Care Delivery: What European And United States Health Care Systems Can Learn From One Another - December 15, 2017

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20171214.835155/full/>

Solidarity in Europe has been kept alive through the availability of healthcare benefits and guaranteed pensions. Most Europeans further accept the notion of redistribution when individuals' incomes and ability to pay for care are unequal.

Health Care Reform: The European Experience - 1994

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK231468/>

Healthcare in Europe is in a state of flux. Healthcare policymakers in Europe and the U.S. should ensure that health policies are rooted in thorough analyses of the problems and based on feasible and affordable solutions.

The Future of Healthcare in Europe

<https://www.medischcentrumhuisartsen.be/documents/focus/future-health-care-challenges-in-europe.pdf>

European nations are contemplating new solutions to the challenge of meeting health care demands within constrained budgets in Europe. This forum examines the nature of these challenges and potential solutions.

How European Nations Run National Health Services - May 11, 2011

<https://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2011/may/11/european-healthcare-services-bel>

This article looks at individual European nations' different way treatment is controlled at the point of care, and how the patient pays and is reimbursed. These differences can have huge implications on how many people including the unemployed or homeless are treated.

Parliament Wants a European Health Union - July 10, 2010

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200710IPR83101/parliament-wants-a-european-health-union>

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to engage in far stronger cooperation in the area of health for the future of the EU's public health. The resolution calls for a European Health Response Mechanism to be created rapidly to respond to all types of health crises through better coordination and management.

Digitalising the Healthcare Ecosystem in the European Union - June 25, 2020

<https://www.healtheuropa.eu/digitalising-the-healthcare-ecosystem-in-the-european-union/100949/>

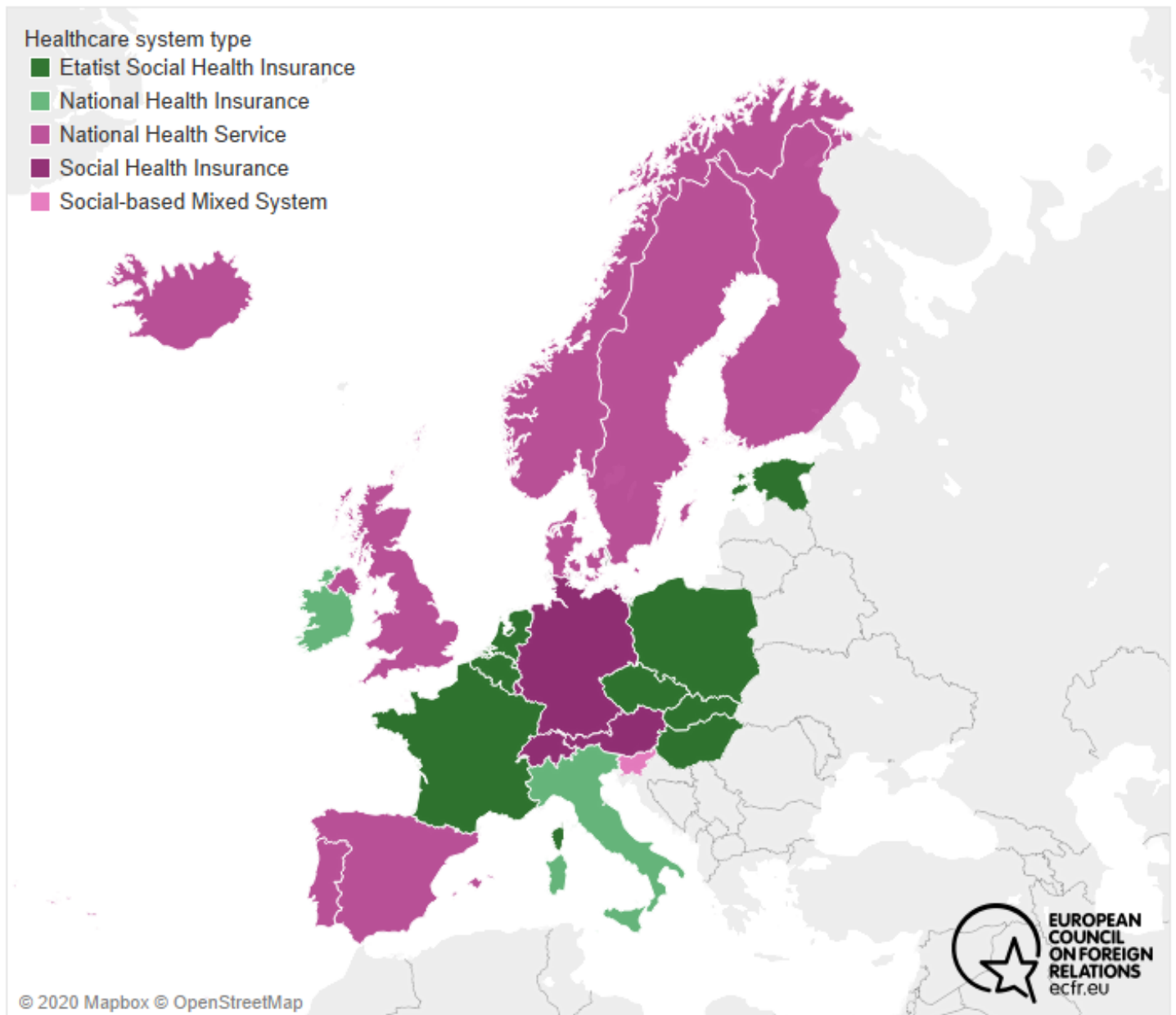
There is increasing interest across EU institutions, national governments, healthcare industries and stakeholders to digitalise the healthcare ecosystem. The EU has an important role to play in the making of the EU Electronic Health Record (EHR).

Humanitarian Aid: EU Announces €24 Million in Uganda Amid Coronavirus Pandemic - July 14, 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1341

The EU will provide €24 million in humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable people in Uganda in 2020, with a special focus on refugees and their host communities.

Healthcare Systems Boehm Model



Source: Boehm et al.

Countries categorised by state, societal and private degree of control over regulation, financing and provision of healthcare.

EU's Role in Public Health and National Governments

Coronavirus: Commission Unveils EU Vaccines Strategy - June 17, 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1103

The European Commission presented a strategy to support efforts to accelerate the development and availability of safe and effective vaccines in a timeframe between 12 and 18 months, if not earlier.

COVID-19: EU Must Step Up Efforts to Tackle Medicine Shortages - July 14, 2020

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200712IPR83214/covid-19-eu-must-step-up-efforts-to-tackle-medicine-shortages>

In a report on the shortage of medicines, the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee stresses the need for an increased EU response to address the issue of availability, accessibility and affordability of safe medicines in Europe.

The EU's Role in Fighting Disinformation: Taking Back the Initiative - July 15, 2020

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/07/15/eu-s-role-in-fighting-disinformation-taking-back-initiative-pub-82286>

This engages EU policy in order to combat disinformation and suggests recommendations for the EU commission. The four pillars are: a new approach to terminology, a new assertiveness, a new consultative process, and a new regulatory regime.

Health Sovereignty: How to Build a Resilient European Response to Pandemics - June 29, 2020

<https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/health-sovereignty-how-to-build-a-resilient-european-response-to-pandemics>

Member states' reliance on third countries for goods and services during the pandemic undermined Europe's capacity to respond autonomously. This policy brief discusses steps Europe must take in order to build greater health security for decisive action in future public health emergencies.

Medicine Shortages in the EU: Causes and Solutions - July 16, 2020

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200709STO83006/medicine-shortages-in-the-eu-causes-and-solutions>

The reasons for medicinal shortages are complex and have geopolitical dimensions. This report highlights three areas for action in order to reduce medicine shortages in the EU. These are: a return to EU independence, securing supplies of medicine and equipment, stronger EU coordination, complementing national measures to guarantee affordable and high-quality health services, and closer cooperation between EU countries.

European Parliament: Relations with the National Parliaments

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/22/european-parliament-relations-with-the-national-parliaments>

This identifies the role of the European parliament and the instruments introduced for cooperation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments.

Public Opinion of the EU

Attitudes Toward EU are Largely Positive, Both Within Europe and Outside it - October 21, 2019

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/10/21/attitudes-toward-eu-are-largely-positive-both-within-europe-and-outside-it/>

According to new Pew research, the EU is viewed favourably by much of the world. These attitudes towards the EU vary by age and ideology as young people around the globe have more positive views of the EU and those on the ideological left in 12 countries have more positive assessments than those on the right.

Major Changes in European Public Opinion with Regard to the European Union (2016 edition)

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/major-changes-in-european-public-opinion-with-regard-to-the-eu-2016>

This is a 2016 edition of research dedicated to the major changes in European public opinion with regard to the EU since 1973. The results are presented on a timeline, in order to measure the perception Europeans have of the EU through its major steps, being institutional, political, economic, and social.

Europe's Pandemic Politics: How the Virus has Changed the Public's Worldview - June 24, 2020

https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/europes_pandemic_politics_how_the_virus_has_changed_the_publics_worldview

New research reveals that the crisis has revolutionised citizens' perceptions of global order where one group sees a nineteenth-century world of every nation for itself and the other supporting the EU's sovereignty through joint foreign policy, control of external borders, and localised production.

Public Opinion On the Euro

https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/euro-area/public-opinion-euro_en

Each listed Flash Eurobarometer includes a summary report, containing country scorecards from 2006 onwards, and a detailed analytical report.

Public Opinion Split on EU's Response to Coronavirus Pandemic - April 28, 2020

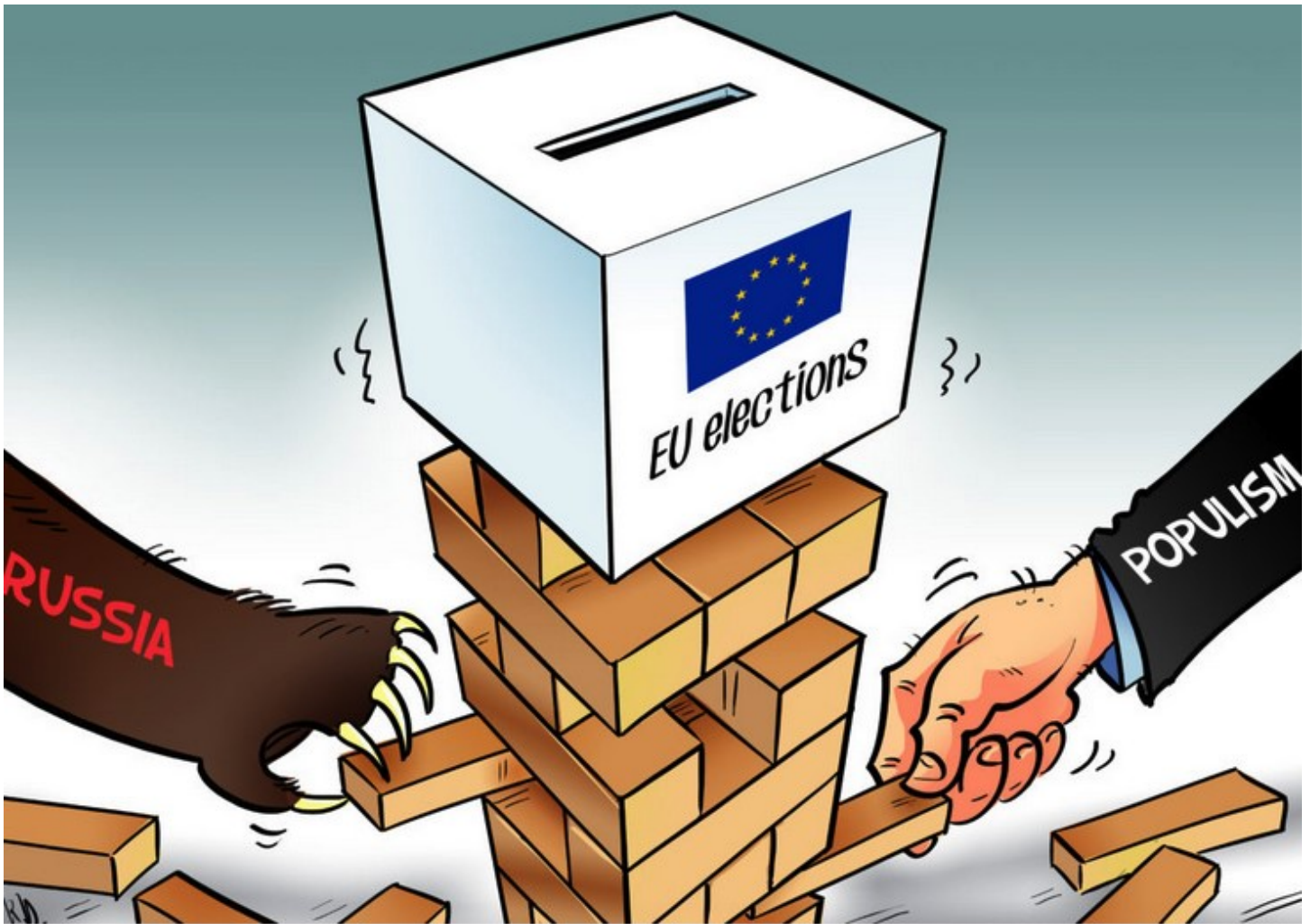
<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/public-opinion-split-on-eu-s-response-to-coronavirus-pandemic-1.4239291>

Public support for Ireland's membership of the European Union has fallen to its lowest level in seven years with some 84 percent of people who said they believed Ireland should remain a member of the EU, down from 93 per cent last year and the lowest level since the annual poll began in 2013 when 85 percent of people were supportive of membership.

New Data Reveals Serious Problems with the EU's Official Public Opinion Polls - December 3, 2019

<https://www.information.dk/udland/2019/12/new-data-reveals-serious-problems-with-the-eus-official-public-opinion-polls>

Experts fear that the EU's official public opinion polls, Eurobarometer, may systematically overestimate public support for the EU. Eurobarometer have however already taken action to improve the quality of the whole process, of which response rates are an element.



Public Opinion of the EU

Public Support for European Integration - May, 2016

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-042214-044157>

This article reviews the large literature on public support for, and opposition to, European integration. It reveals that more work is needed to understand the ways in which opinions are shaped by their national context and how increasing public contestation of the European Union poses a challenge to, and an opportunity for, the future of the integration project.

The 'Old' and the 'New' Europeans: Analyses of Public Opinion on EU Enlargement in Review - April, 2014

https://userpage.fu-berlin.de/kfgeu/maxcap/system/files/maxcap_wp_02.pdf

The first conclusion drawn is that EU citizens are getting increasingly hesitant towards the possibility of EU enlargement in the future. There is also a significant gap in EU enlargement attitudes and evaluations between the elites and the general public which leads to the conclusion that citizens' opinions and perceptions of enlargement should be studied in the context of the discourses which influence them.

Europe Divided?: Elites vs. Public Opinion on European Integration - September 1, 2003

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/14651165030043002>

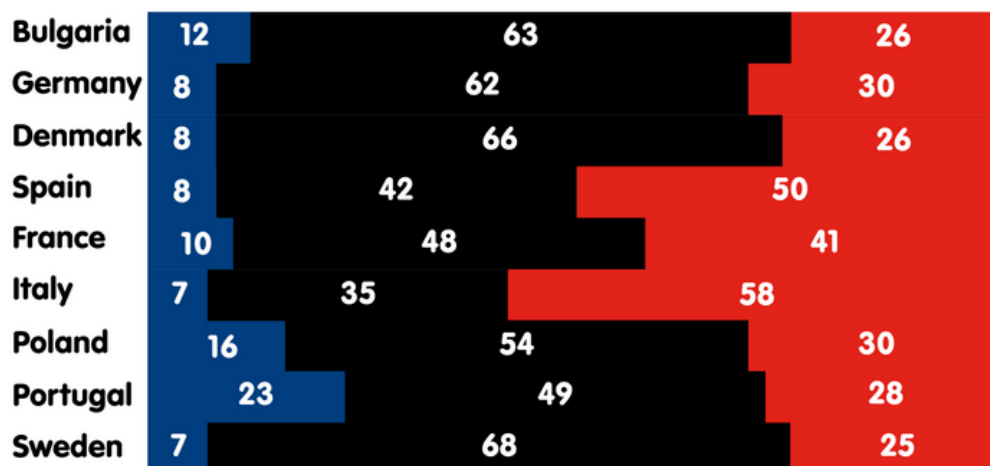
This article compares preferences among European elites, national elites, and public opinion. Elites and public preferences are similar in that both are least enthusiastic about Europeanizing high-spending policies.

Europe Belongs to the Young? Generational Differences in Public Opinion Towards the European Union During the Eurozone Crisis - January 30, 2020

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13501763.2019.1701533>

Findings demonstrate how the Eurozone crisis shapes generational divides as younger cohorts in debtor countries have become significantly more sceptical of the EU than their peers in creditor states. The opposite pattern emerges for older cohorts.

How has your view of the EU changed during the coronavirus crisis? (%)



Improved

Stayed the same

Worsened

Source: ECFR

Women Leaders in the European COVID Response

What Can We Learn from Women Leaders During the Crisis

Gender Expert on Why Women Leaders are Doing A Good Job in Response to Covid-19 Crisis Video—May 7, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2020-05-07/why-women-leaders-are-doing-a-good-job-in-response-to-covid-19-crisis-video>

Gender expert Avivah Wittenberg-Cox identified the motivation behind the women leaders saying they shared truth with complete clarity, decisiveness, the use of technology, and love. These traits exemplify good leadership and highlight a long-term trend.

Will the Pandemic Reshape Notions of Female Leadership? - June 26, 2020

<https://hbr.org/2020/06/will-the-pandemic-reshape-notions-of-female-leadership>

With the stellar performance exhibited by female leaders in the face of the Pandemic, the question can be raised on whether this will be a continued trend. The data has some limitations as there are not enough women running countries to legitimately examine gender effects. Other limitations include conflating factors, the issue of assuming causality, and selection bias. Regardless of the evidence, a small number of female leaders have emerged and shown true leadership whilst being applauded for it.

Female Leadership During COVID-19: What Can We Learn? - June 19, 2020

<https://www.businessbecause.com/news/insights/7028/learn-female-leadership-covid-19>

There have been fewer cases in countries led by women, raising the question of whether gender plays a role in leadership style. While it is difficult to draw concrete conclusions to obvious limitations, research suggests that women in leadership tend to display more empathy, and be more self-directed than their male counterparts. They also tend to be less risk-averse than men. These qualities serve leaders well in an emergency as displayed by leaders' actions in the Covid-19 Pandemic. New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern combined empathy with quick action to contain the virus. Chancellor Angela Merkel and Iceland's Katrín Jakobsdóttir led a similar decisive response.

Why Are Women-Led Nations Doing Better With Covid-19? - May 18, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/15/world/coronavirus-women-leaders.html>

Some lessons can be drawn from the low cases exhibited by women-led nations. One lesson is the importance of having diverse perspectives as Having a female leader is one signal that people of diverse backgrounds are able to present their perspectives on how to best combat the crisis. However, it is important to note that gender effects may be muffled by political partisanship according to emerging research. Perceptions on gender traits further does not evade their ties to leadership as traditionally masculine traits are associated with effective leadership.

The Pandemic Has Revealed the Weakness of Strongmen—May 6, 2020

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/05/new-zealand-germany-women-leadership-strongmen-coronavirus/611161/>

This article suggests that the assumption that female leaders fare better because of their gender can potentially harm women's progress in politics. The true argument should be that strongmen are just doing worse. It delves into different explanations behind the disparity with the final explanation that women find gaining power easier in "a political culture in which there's relative support and trust in the government".

Iceland

How Iceland Beat the Coronavirus—June 1, 2020

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/06/08/how-iceland-beat-the-coronavirus>

Iceland never imposed a lockdown, and yet it managed to flatten the curve with almost no one left to track by mid-May. This article written perspectives shared by a staff-writer on how Iceland managed to effectively lower the number of cases.

Iceland Now Feels Like the Coronavirus Never Happened—June 19, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/iceland-reopens-coronavirus/index.html>

Iceland can owe its early reopening to its rigorous regime of tracking and tracing that more or less eliminated the virus. It has been so efficient that it can boast one of the lowest virus death rates in the world.

Iceland's Aggressive COVID-19 Testing Helped Curb Outbreak—April 16, 2020

<https://www.genengnews.com/news/icelands-aggressive-covid-19-testing-helped-curb-outbreak/>

"The methods that we have used in Iceland, to test widely, to sequence the virus from everyone infected, to bring about this kind of control... these are all methods that we learned from the Americans." said Kári Stefánsson, MD, Dr. Med., the co-founder, president, and CEO of deCODE genetics—a population genetics powerhouse.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir Highlights COVID-19 Gender Equality Concerns—April 22, 2020

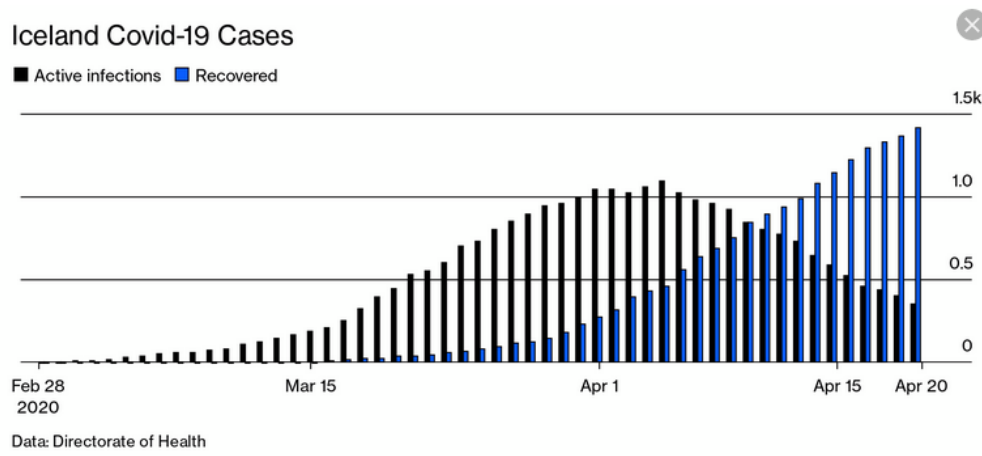
<https://grapevine.is/news/2020/04/22/katrin-jakobsdottir-highlights-covid-19-gender-equality-concerns/>

A UN conference on the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality and the status of women, Icelandic Prime Minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir highlighted the increased risk of domestic violence, the pivotal role women play in the healthcare system and the additional economic and social pressures women are facing during the pandemic.

Iceland's Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir's Key to Leading Through Coronavirus: 'Put Your Ego as a Politician Aside' - May 21, 2020

<https://time.com/5838375/katrin-jakobsdottir-time-100-talks-iceland/>

Iceland's prime minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, explains that humility and listening to science have been the key to leading her country through the coronavirus crisis. "Being ready to admit that we are all learning by doing, and probably will make mistakes. That has been the biggest issue of leadership, and maybe that comes easier to women than men." she said.



Germany

Emerging COVID-19 Success Story: Germany's Strong Enabling Environment - June 30, 2020

<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-germany>

This guest post reveals Germany's strong environment that contributed to its prognosis in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Its protocols included early establishment of testing capacities, high levels of testing, an effective containment strategy among older people, and treatment.

How Germany Contained the Coronavirus - May 23, 2020

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/how-germany-contained-the-coronavirus/>

This article lists three main reasons for Germany's success at curbing the virus. First, the German health-care system was in good shape going into the crisis; everyone has had full access to medical care. Second, Germany had time to prepare for the virus as it was not the first country hit. Third, Germany developed the first rapid COVID-19 test.

How Angela Merkel Went From Lame Duck to Global Leader on Coronavirus - May 7, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/07/europe/angela-merkel-coronavirus-legacy-grm-intl/index.html>

Angela Merkel's leadership was questioned in the beginning of the year following backlash against her "open door" refugee policy, but her approach of handling the coronavirus pandemic revived her leadership worldwide. She was able to grasp the gravity of the situation at an early stage while offering a dose of compassion.

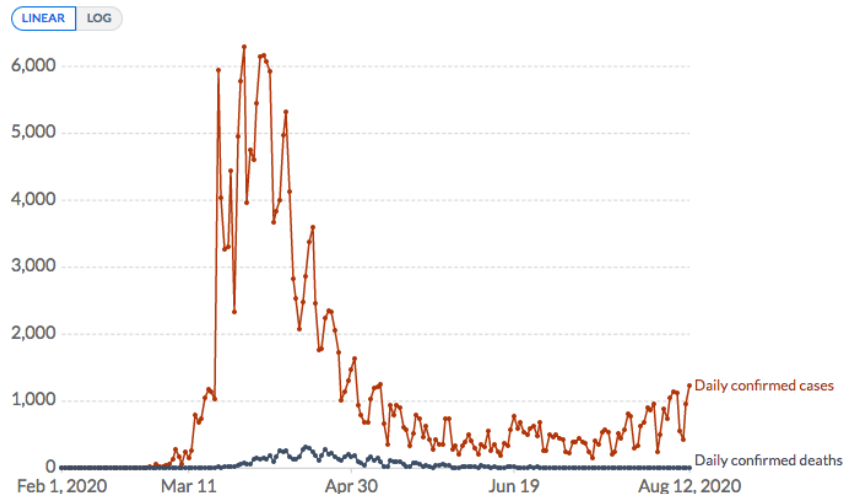
The Secret to Germany's COVID-19 Success: Angela Merkel is a Scientist - April 20, 2020

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/04/angela-merkel-germany-coronavirus-pandemic/610225/>

Germany's performance in combating the outbreak is at least partially attributable to Chancellor Merkel's leadership. This begins from Merkel's early days as a research scientist. In her quest for social and economic stability during this outbreak, Merkel enjoys several advantages: a well-respected, coordinated system of scientific and medical expertise distributed across Germany, the hard-earned trust of the public, and the undeniable fact that steady and sensible leadership is suddenly back in style.

Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, Germany

The confirmed counts shown here are lower than the total counts. The main reason for this is limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death.



Source: European CDC - Situation Update Worldwide - Last updated 12 August, 10:34 (London time)

CC BY

► Dec 31, 2019 ◀ Aug 12, 2020

Denmark

First to Close — First to Reopen: Denmark's Gain From Virus Response | Free to Read - May 27, 2020

<https://www.ft.com/content/ca2f127e-698a-4274-917f-cbe2231a08d7>

Denmark's early response to Covid-19 seems to have paid off as it has become the first nation to reopen primary schools. In order to minimize a second wave of infections, it plans on ramping up testing facilities.

Europe Versus Coronavirus - Putting the Danish Model to the Test - May 12, 2020

<https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/europe-versus-coronavirus-putting-danish-model-test>

This indicates a timeline of Denmark's response to Covid-19 starting with its first case on February 17th and ending on May 10th which is the scheduled day for the reopening of middle schools, high schools, restaurants and bars.

Denmark Says Coronavirus Spread has not Accelerated Since Reopening Began - April 30, 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-denmark/denmark-says-coronavirus-spread-has-not-accelerated-since-reopening-began-idUSKBN22C2EU>

The nordic country announced no acceleration of cases since reopening in mid-April. They added that there is no indication that they will be entering another wave of infections.

The Covid-19 Pandemic in Denmark: Big Lessons From a Small Country - June, 2020

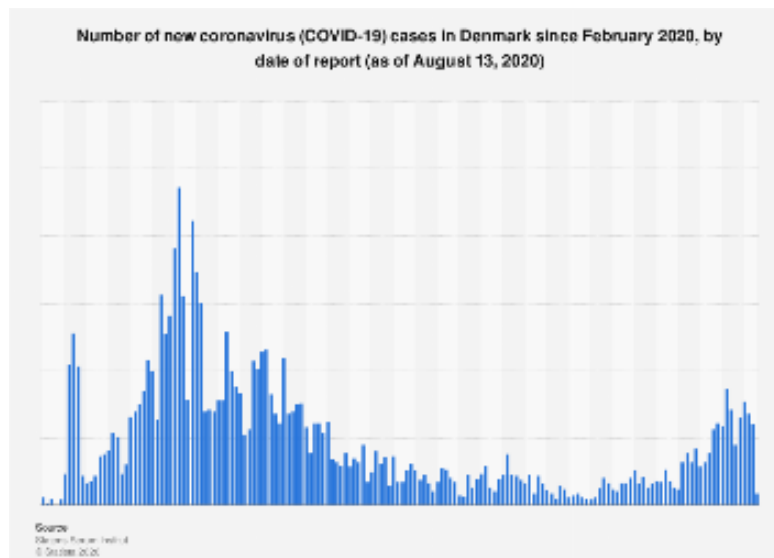
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7217796/>

This delves into the factors behind Denmark's success in combating Covid-19. It mentions the Danish healthcare system as a contributing factor to its preparation for treating admitted patients. It also mentions Danish social heritage and tradition as a contributing factor where citizens obeyed the rules following the announcements.

Mette Frederiksen Shows a Steady Hand Guiding her Country Through the Crisis - June 14, 2020

<http://cphpost.dk/?p=114759>

PM Mette Frederiksen and her government have been credited with the great turnaround seen in Denmark. Frederiksen was quick to lock down the country and had a down-to-earth approach with citizens. The Danes have been admirable of their country's response despite some flaws according to a new poll.



Crisis and the Limits of European Solidarity

Historical Overview

Brexit

EU Budget: Who Pays Most in and Who Gets Most Back? - May 28, 2019

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48256318>

The UK was a net contributor to the EU which means it contributes more to the EU budget than it receives back from it. It paid the 4th biggest proportion of its gross domestic product (GDP) - a measure of the amount produced in an economy in a year - in 2017 with 0.32% of GDP.

Brexit: All You Need to Know About the UK Leaving the EU - July 13, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>

Brexit refers to the UK's exit from the EU. It formally left the EU after a public vote (referendum) on 31 January 2020. There is a transition period whereby the UK will continue to follow all of the EU's rules and its trading relationship will remain the same. Many other aspects aside from trade also need to be decided such as data sharing and security.

The Brexit Vote's Lasting Impact on Britain and Europe - October 17, 2019

<https://www.economist.com/films/2019/10/17/the-brexit-votes-lasting-impact-on-britain-and-europe>

The effects of Brexit have been difficult to quantify with various conclusions drawn by experts. Watch an excerpt to learn more about the challenges facing the EU and its relationship with Brexit.

The EU's Recovery Fund is a Benefit of Brexit - May 30, 2020

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2020/05/30/the-eus-recovery-fund-is-a-benefit-of-brexit>

Europe is taking steps that would have been blocked by its former member Britain. EU officials hope that a €750bn (\$825bn) recovery fund proposal from Brussels would help the struggling economies of southern Europe, paid for with debt issued by the bloc.

Four Years After Brexit, Support for the EU Surges in Britain - June 26, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/25/uk/uk-supports-eu-four-years-after-brexit-intl-gbr/index.html>

New research shows that the majority of British voters would now opt to remain inside the European Union.

Lesson Plan

European Union Teaching Resources

<http://www.activecitizensfe.org.uk/european-union-teaching-resources.html>

This is a collection of resources for teaching learners about the European Union and Brexit; including detailed lesson plans and activities as well as items that teachers can use in developing their own plans.

Historical Overview

2008 Financial Crisis

Bad Times Ahead - October 16, 2008

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2008/10/16/bad-times-ahead>

This article from 2008 outlines consequences of the financial crisis. Fear of job losses would undermine the EU's whole climate package which in effect is a pact of solidarity between generations. Another foreseeable threat is the "politics of nostalgia" whereby the combination of unemployment, home repossessions and inflation could benefit extremist parties from left and right, derailing Europe's parliament.

Causes of the Eurozone Crisis: A Summary - February 21, 2014

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sno6831/>

The causes of the eurozone crisis are summarised in this two-page overview, which examines why Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Cyprus have had to take emergency loans - or "bailouts" - from other eurozone and EU governments and the IMF.

Eastern Europe's Misery - October 23, 2020

<https://www.economist.com/news/2008/10/23/eastern-europes-misery>

With stock markets plummeting, currencies under pressure, Eastern Europe looked to be hit the worst by the intensifying global financial instability and ensuing economic slowdown. Forecasts showed that eastern Europe as a whole was set to decline to 4.3% in 2009 from an estimated 6.3% in 2008, and a high of 7.6% in 2007 testing its resilience.

How Did the Financial Crisis Change Europe? - December 18, 2015

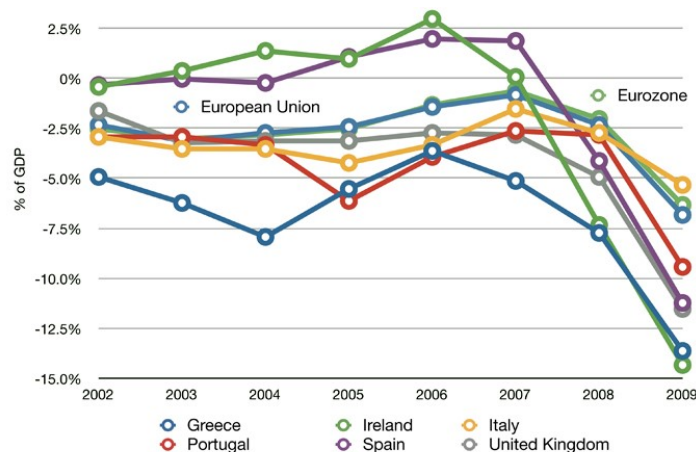
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/12/how-did-the-financial-crisis-change-europe/>

This is an assessment of the approaches taken in Europe following the financial crisis. It draws conclusions that in many cases, the fiscal response was not well enough to make the most of the opportunity. We may currently have to settle for reforms that do not add to existing deficiencies.

The 2008 Financial Crisis: Crash Course Economics #12—October 21, 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPOv72Awo68>

This is a video by Crash Course that talks about the 2008 financial crisis and the US Government's response to the troubles.



<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/>

Historical Overview

Eurozone crisis

Timeline: The Unfolding Eurozone Crisis—June 13, 2012

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-13856580>

This is a timeline on the twists and turns for the countries that use the euro. It starts with the official existence of the euro in 1999 and ends in 2012.

The Eurozone in Crisis—February 11, 2015

<https://www.cfr.org/background/eurozone-crisis>

Following the global financial crisis in 2007-2008, liquidity dried up, revealing unsustainable deficits and large public debt that was most largely felt in Greece. To combat the potential crises that could face other countries across Europe in the event Greece exits from the euro, the European Financial Stability Facility was formed to provide Greece with a \$163 billion bailout loan. The terms of its bailout evolved and at the end of 2011, the center of the debt crisis shifted to Italy. Countries like Greece underwent years of political and economic turmoil before emerging again as a crisis point in 2015. Structural reforms have been implemented as countries continue to face high unemployment, weak banking systems, and huge debt.

The European Debt Crisis Visualized Bloomberg Business—February 22, 2015

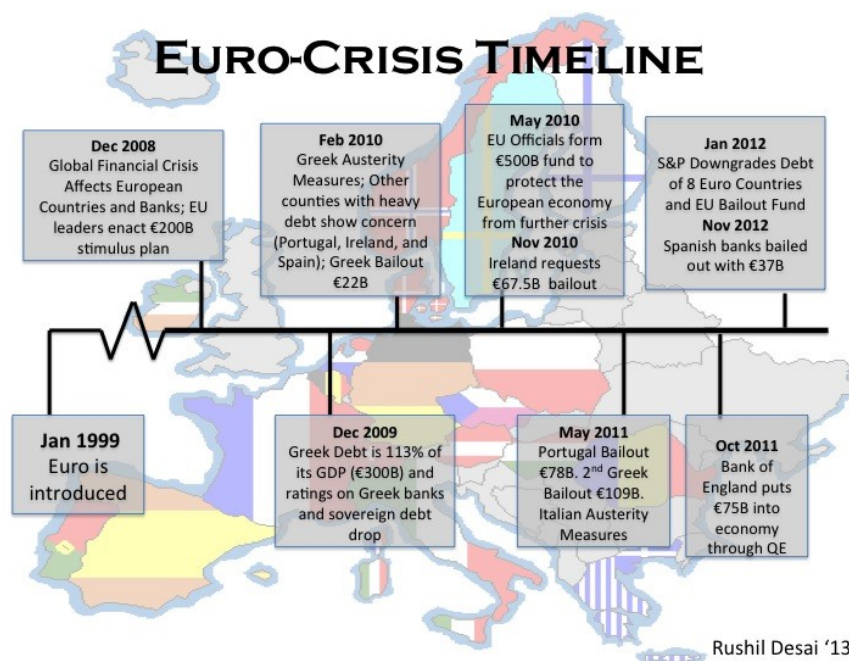
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbcvdKwmCtg>

A visualized video explaining the euro crisis and the flawed system behind it beginning with looking at the euro currency that ties together 18 countries.

Why the European Debt Crisis Is Likely to Get Worse—February 23, 2019

<https://fee.org/articles/why-the-european-debt-crisis-is-likely-to-get-worse/>

High economic growth coupled with low-yield investment seems to be dragging indebted countries towards insolvency and possibly another global recession. Job creation is still low despite monetary assistance and policy support.



<https://eurozonecrisistimeline.weebly.com/eurozone-crisis-timeline>

Historical Overview

Border Management

Why is the EU struggling with Migrants and Asylum? - March 3, 2016

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>

The EU has faced difficulties with harmonizing the asylum policy as each member state has their own police force and judiciary. Furthermore, putting the rules into practice is a whole other challenge. Advocating for the rights of migrants continues to be a distant ideal.

Migrant Crisis: Migration to Europe Explained in Seven Charts—March 4, 2016

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>

More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, with the conflict in Syria constituting the biggest driver of migration. Some countries faced a disproportionate influx creating tensions in the EU and divisions over how best to resettle people.

The EU's Migration Crisis: When Solidarity and Sovereignty Collide—September 9, 2015

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/eus-migration-crisis-when-solidarity-and-sovereignty-collide>

A plan was proposed by the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg that all twenty-eight EU member states accept binding quotas for accepting refugees and develop a common European list of safe countries of origin. It also mandates shares of refugee admissions of which some believe is the only way to equitably distribute the number of asylum-seekers. Divergent national attitudes about how much national sovereignty to sacrifice put European solidarity to the test.

European Solidarity: Social & Political Impact of the Refugee Crisis—May 28

<https://medium.com/discourse/european-solidarity-social-political-impact-of-the-refugee-crisis-b45830e752ad>

Nationalism garnered so much support in Europe following the crisis as citizens were uncomfortable with rising immigration, pessimistic about globalization, apprehensive about Islam, and threatened by Islamic terrorism. The rise of nationalist movements across the continent undermined EU solidarity and reinforced pessimism.

Towards an Effective and Principled EU Migration Policy—June 18, 2018

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/06/18/towards-effective-and-principled-eu-migration-policy>

Recommendations of what course the EU should take with regards to an effective Migration Policy. This includes adopting a commitment of shared responsibility for saving lives at sea, implementing a dedicated rescue mission with an operational plan, and more.



<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border>

Corona Bonds, the Euro, EU North v. South Divide

A Practical Solution for Europe to Fight COVID-19—March 30, 2020

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/03/30/a-practical-solution-for-europe-to-fight-covid-19/>

There is a proposed solution for the EU in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Eurobonds are seen as a solution but financially stronger states oppose them as they would underwrite the debt for financially weaker ones like Italy. The solution to this contentious struggle, according to this article is for richer countries to abandon ESM conditionality, make ESM affordable, and scale up their available resources.

Nine European Countries Say it is Time for 'Corona Bonds' as Virus Death Toll Rises—March 25, 2020

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/25/nine-eu-countries-say-its-time-for-corona-bonds-as-virus-deaths-rise.html>

As the death toll rises in the EU, the debate of issuing Corona Bonds, a debt instrument that would combine securities from different countries, resurfaces. Nine EU leaders issued a joint statement declaring their support for it.

'Corona Bonds': Here are Three Reasons Why Germany and the Netherlands Oppose the Idea—April 8, 2020

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/08/corona-bonds-reasons-why-germany-and-the-netherlands-oppose-the-idea.html>

This article discusses populism, fragile coalitions, and the ECB stimulus that deter EU powers like Germany and the Netherlands from the idea of corona bonds. Nine EU nations have said this new debt instrument, which would combine securities from different countries, is needed to mitigate the vast economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Corona Bonds: Europe's Path to Resurgence? - April 7, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7EzfPNJZgw>

There is a polarizing dispute happening over corona bonds in the EU as a response to the coronavirus pandemic. Italy, having a high amount of debt and thus the highest amount of owed interest rates, would favor corona bonds in order to ease the burden and help its economy. However, this is not in favor of stronger economies like Germany.

Coronavirus Outbreak Eats into EU Unity—April 3, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52135816>

While Germany assisted EU members by acts like taking in coronavirus patients from France and Italy into its hospitals for treatment, it has also rejected a plea by Italy, Spain, France and others to share out coronavirus-incurred debt in the form of corona bonds (or Eurobonds). There is a seemingly lack of cooperation between EU governments as the coronavirus crisis brings into question what the EU is all about.

Europe and The Existential Challenge of Post-COVID Recovery—April 20, 2020

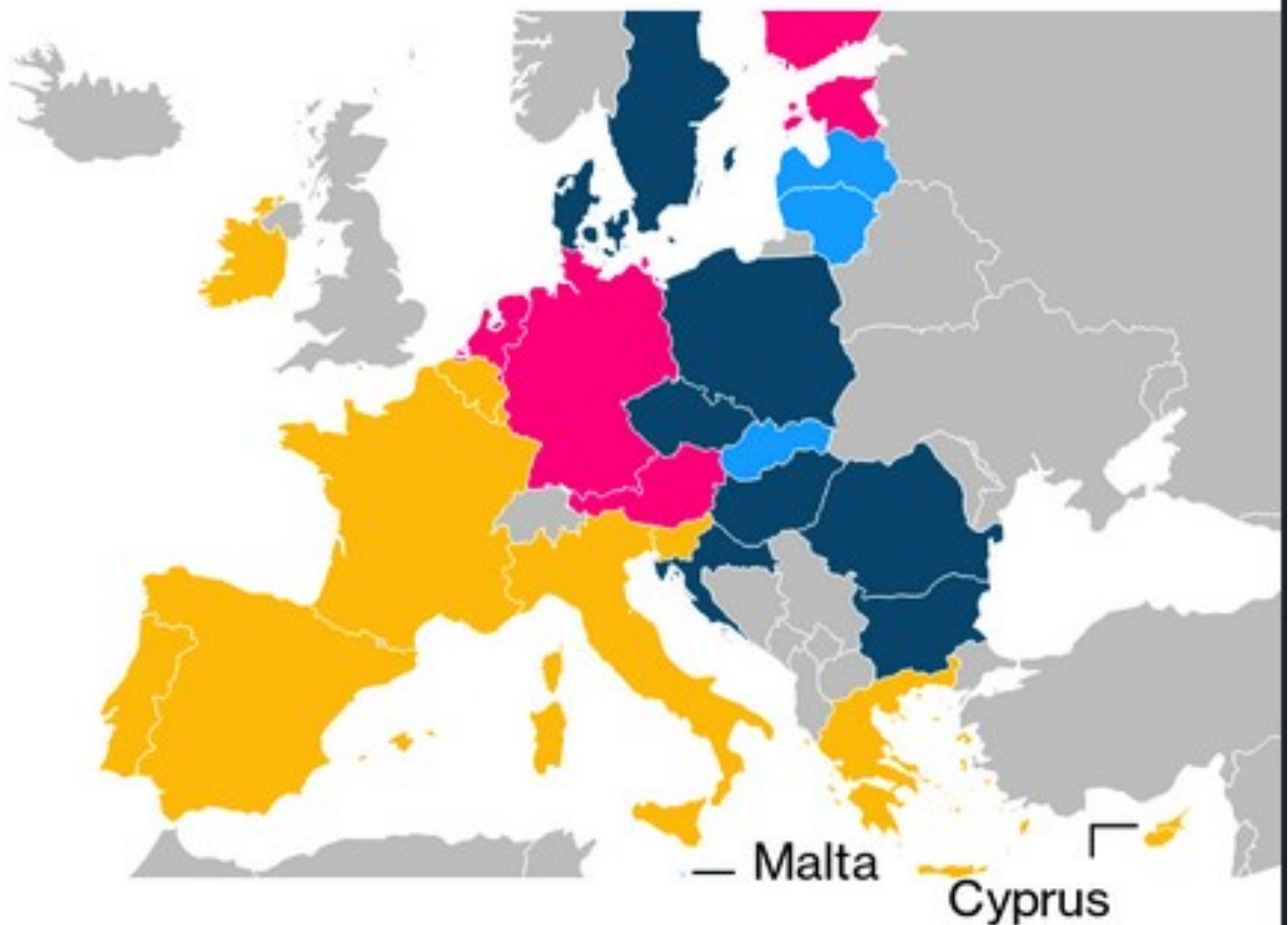
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/04/20/europe-and-the-existential-challenge-of-post-covid-recovery/>

The issues putting pressure on the EU are putting a lot at stake. Corona Bonds reopened the earlier divide which reflects the costs and benefits EU or euro area membership itself. Failure to cooperate would undermine the EU's single market and lead to internal fragmentation which could further weaken EU negotiating power with other countries.

Bond Dispute

EU countries are split on issuing joint coronavirus bonds

- Supports bonds
- Opposes bonds
- Other euro members
- Other EU members



Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg

Corona Bonds, the Euro, EU North v. South Divide

Revisiting the Euro's North-South Rift—November 7, 2020

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2019/11/07/revisiting-the-euros-north-south-rift>

The North and South divide has caused numerous fights over monetary policy as the Northerners fear transfers going to the South as the South need backing of their national sovereign debt. The listed divisions make reforming the currency union a difficult task.

Pandemic Won't Cause Euro Debt Crisis, but a North-South Divide—April 22, 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-debt-analysis-idUSKCN224oN6>

Markets and eurozone officials are worried about the huge debt that will be incurred on Southern European and the potential risk of eurosceptic parties in the South to swing public opinion against the EU. In order to prevent a greater divide between the North and South, the EU is attempting to prevent the buildup of debt in the south.

Coronavirus Widens Europe's North-South Economic Divide—April 28, 2020

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-widens-europes-north-south-economic-divide-11588069310>

Political tensions between the North and South are being exacerbated by the pandemic's greater effect on the South while the north enjoys a lighter lockdown and more fiscal power.

Economic Response To Coronavirus Again Exposes North-South Divide In EU—April 6, 2020

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/06/828303901/economic-response-to-coronavirus-again-exposes-north-south-divide-in-eu>

A discussion about the resurfacing divide discussing the loss of employment differences in the countries affected by the pandemic. Countries in the North are unsupportive of assistance to Southern countries which opens the wounds of the euro crisis.

The Coronavirus Could Tear the EU Apart—April 21, 2020

<https://www.vox.com/world/2020/4/21/21228578/coronavirus-europe-eu-economic-crisis-eurozone-debt>

Solidarity is the key to the survival of the EU as the South bears the brunt of the pandemic's impact. Officials are echoing the belief that countries with financial power need to step up and assist their neighbors.

Lesson Plans

Gathering Ideas About Europe

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/lesson/gathering-ideas-about-europe/>

Students gather their ideas about the land and peoples of Europe. They map and create lists of things they know about Europe and generate questions they have about the land and peoples of Europe. Grades 6, 7, 8

How to Teach Kids About the European Union

<https://kidworldcitizen.org/how-to-teach-kids-about-the-european-union/>

Download the Europe in a Nutshell information sheet and lesson plan at the bottom of the page and access other resources to learn more.

What Will Be the Outcome of COVID-19 in the EU?

As Europe Confronts the Coronavirus, What Shape Will Solidarity Take? - April 8, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/world/europe/eu-coronavirus-aid.html>

European officials report broad agreement on some measures such as a loan program valued at 100 billion euros that would help member countries with unemployment benefits, but consensus has yet to be reached regarding the euro area bailout fund. The survival of each individual economy and potentially the euro is at stake if a solution to the damage caused by the pandemic is not reached.

Coronavirus: Europeans Say EU was 'irrelevant' During Pandemic—June 24, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/23/europeans-believe-in-more-cohesion-despite-eus-covid-19-failings>

Newly released polling across the European continent has reflected the sentiment towards the EU's failed performance in the wake of the pandemic. 63%, including 55% in Germany, 80% in Spain and 91% in Portugal, believed the pandemic reflected the need for EU governments to act more cooperatively.

In the Wake of Covid-19: Troubled Waters Ahead for the European Union—April, 2020

<https://isdpeu/publication/in-the-wake-of-covid-19-troubled-waters-ahead-for-the-european-union/>

The narrative has pointed out the lack of a cohesive European government response and that the medical equipment was being provided by other countries like China. Some European member countries have further issued draconian measures that will remain in place even after the pandemic is over. Questions remain about how the EU can strengthen solidarity in the wake of a mass recession and security challenges.

The European Union Will Survive COVID-19—April 30, 2020

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/04/the-european-union-will-survive-covid-19/>

This article sees plenty of chances to make things right for the EU. The real reason the EU may not survive is not due to not mutualizing debt, but because of a political crisis of legitimacy.

Will the EU Survive the Coronavirus? - April 8, 2020

<https://fpif.org/will-the-eu-survive-the-coronavirus/>

The failure of European solidarity for Italy and Germany's tightfistedness in the midst of the crisis only add on to the pre-existing conditions that the EU was facing. Nathalie Tocci, a former adviser to the EU foreign policy chief, described the situation as a "make-it-or-break-it moment for the European project". Uncertainty still looms about the EU's survival, but we can be certain to expect a difference regardless of the outcome.

Seven Early Lessons From the Coronavirus—March 18, 2020

https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_seven_early_lessons_from_the_coronavirus

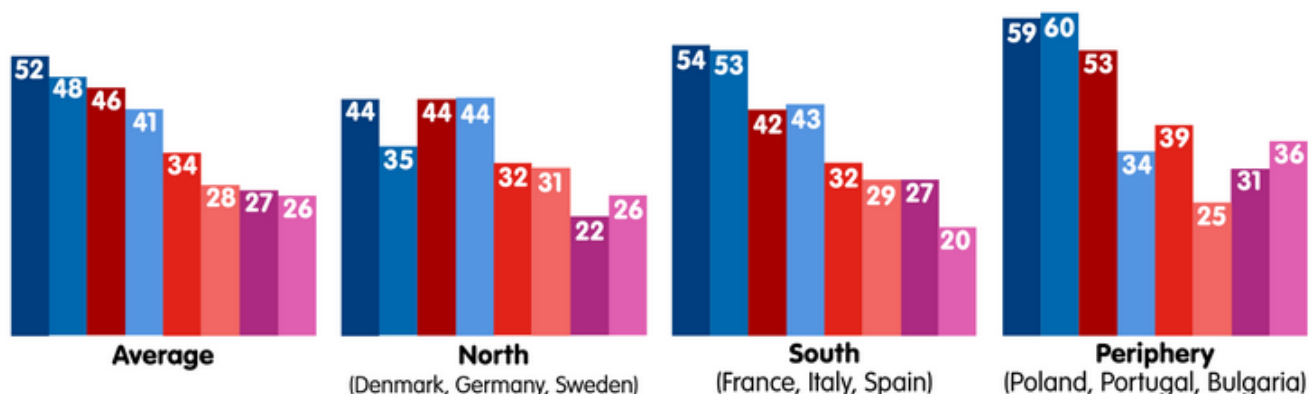
Views from the European Council on Foreign Relations with regards to how COVID-19 will reshape the EU's response to all other crises it has shaped in the last decade.

EU Nationals Flee UK Workforce as COVID Crushes Hospitality - April 11, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-11/eu-nationals-flee-u-k-workforce-as-covid-crushes-hospitality>

The number of EU citizens working in the U.K. shrank to the lowest since 2015 as the hospitality industry buckled. EU citizens make up a greater proportion of staff in Britain's accommodation and food services than any other industry, and have seen that sector among the hardest hit by a pandemic that shuttered many businesses and prevented people from traveling.

How should the coronavirus crisis change Europe? (%)

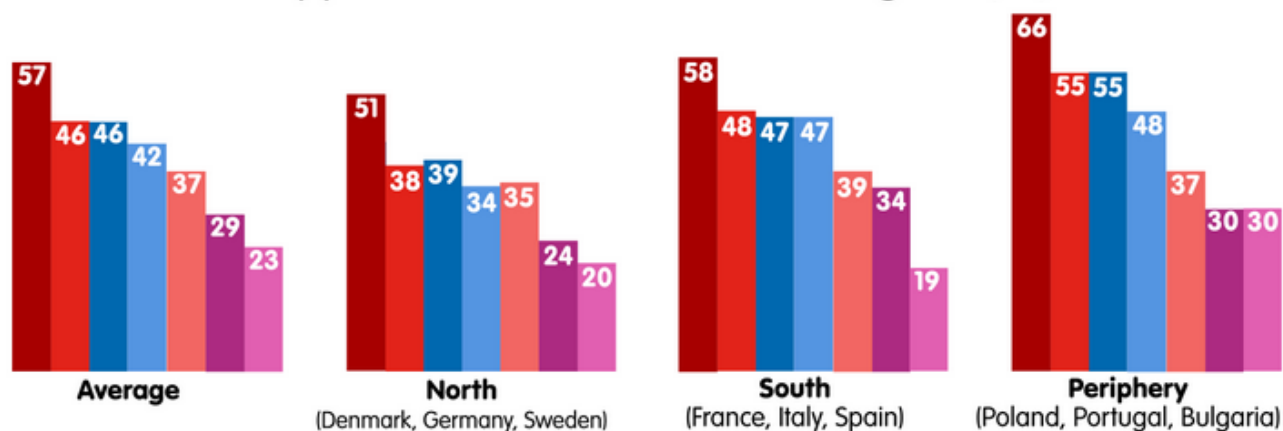


- The EU should have a more unified response to global threats and challenges
- Member states should be more prepared to share the financial burden of a crisis
- The EU should have more control over its external borders
- Member states should push businesses to produce more medical goods in the EU
- Member states should have more control over their borders with one another
- Member states should push businesses to produce more non-medical goods in the EU
- Some EU powers should return to member states
- Citizens should think twice before working, living, or travelling abroad

Source: ECFR



Which measures have you become more supportive of since the crisis began? (%)



- Stricter border controls
- Surveillance of individual behaviour for reasons of public health
- Respect for the rule of law, human rights, and democracy
- Fulfilment of climate change commitments
- Higher government spending
- Reform of the capitalist system
- Greater powers for leaders and governments

Source: ECFR



What Will be the Outcome of COVID-19 in the EU?

What We Can Learn From Europe's Response to the COVID-19 Crisis - August 10, 2020

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/europe-response-covid-19-coronavirus-economic-crisis-euro-fiscal-monetary-policy-green-deal/>

Despite the crisis, Europe has firmly stood by the concept of multilateralism – collaborating to seek solutions and showing solidarity with hard-hit nations within and – equally important – outside the European Union. The EU's bold monetary and fiscal response demonstrated solidarity and strengthened Europe's position globally.

Asia Can Learn From Europe's Response to COVID Crisis - May 30, 2020

<https://www.asiatimesfinancial.com/asia-can-learn-from-europe-s-response-to-covid-crisis>

Asia can learn from the efforts Europe is making to reinforce the foundations of its economy and to demonstrate solidarity between stronger and weaker nations. There is a lot Asia could do to help itself and promote regional interdependence at a time when globalization is fracturing and the institutions of international governance are under attack.

Positive Outlook for Financial Services Work in Europe - August 13, 2020

<https://www.fm-magazine.com/news/2020/aug/positive-outlook-financial-services-work-in-europe.html>

Some researchers provided an in-depth forecast that looks ahead to 2030, highlighting that the current health crisis has accelerated certain shifts, such as automation, that had been on the horizon before the COVID-19 pandemic.



Curriculum Resources

Coronavirus Lesson Plans and Resources

<https://sharemylesson.com/collections/coronavirus>

Sample lesson Plans discussing Coronavirus and other infectious diseases.

COVID-19, Coronavirus, and Pandemics

<https://www.nctm.org/Coronavirus-and-Pandemics-Math-Resources/>

A developing set of resources for teachers and the community for all age groups to teach about the COVID-19 pandemic through math.

Teaching Our World: The Coronavirus

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/coronavirus.html>

Resources to teach young learners about what germs are and how they spread. There are also links to other organizations with their own listed tools and resources.

Pandemic Lesson Plan

<https://www.aidr.org.au/media/5273/aidr-pandemic-lesson-plan.pdf>

The pandemic lesson plan provides teachers and students with an opportunity to investigate pandemics through individual classroom activities

Student Journal Assignment During Covid-19 Pandemic

https://docs.google.com/document/d/116FGQAow7uAbu1vJLAx2jnHeWljyrMoGvH4h1tRH7uA/edit?fbclid=IwARoHdX3G_stpH4ncvsoROAhmYd8gpaXSdvkD5aykmczYvJ55MX2dy7mpDXQ

Note: This assignment was created for a high school history class, but it could be used across content areas and adapted across grade levels. We hope you are inspired to make a copy and revise it for your context.

Lesson Plan—(Password to access= “fruitfly”)

<https://www.scienceandmathwithmrslau.com/free-resource-library/>

In her molecular genetics class, Ronstadt plans to introduce a lesson by the popular curriculum developer Bethany Lau that looks at how the virus replicates and dives into the viral RNA genome. (The lesson is being offered by Lau for free; the password to access it is “fruitfly.”)

Coronavirus Worksheets

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:coronavirus/>

COVID-19, Coronavirus, and Pandemics – Math Resources: Teaching and Using Mathematics to Understand our World

<https://www.nctm.org/Coronavirus-and-Pandemics-Math-Resources/>

A developing set of resources for teachers and the community to teach through the mathematics associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and learn math. Discussion also in the MyNCTM community.

Epidemiology: Solve the Outbreak

<https://www.common sense.org/education/lesson-plans/epidemiology-solve-the-outbreak>

This is a middle school science lesson for students on the field of epidemiology and the dissemination of diseases.

Curriculum Resources

How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus

<https://www.meetthehelpers.org/meet-the-helpers-coronavirus/>

How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus

G3-4 - Google Doc

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nXPsuaz3ghXfTY1ZPuJk1SoVkYAtmEIRg>

A document for teachers to access and teach grades 3-4

G5-6 - Googledoc

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_7lW_rDHjKmjeWZMOJ4qF83ZwTP8ub1S

This document includes quizzes and a class sheet to teach about the pandemic for grades 5-6.

What is a Pandemic?

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/What-is-a-Pandemic-Freebie-5331387>

For Kindergartners, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. Free ebook (20 pages) on What is a Pandemic?

As Coronavirus Spreads, Racism And Xenophobia Are Too

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/09/813700167/as-coronavirus-spreads-racism-and-xenophobia-are-too>

As Coronavirus Spreads, Racism And Xenophobia Are Too - 13 minute listen for kids.

Coronavirus Syllabus - File of Resources

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dTkJmhWQ8NcxhmjeLp6ybT1_YOPhFLx9hZ43j1S7DjE/edit

An open access crowdsourced cross-disciplinary resource since 12 March 2020 with articles, books, videos, syllabi, teaching resources, and more.

Pandemic: A Lesson Plan

<https://www.mathalicious.com/lessons/pandemic>

In this lesson, students use exponential growth and logarithms to model how a virus spreads through a population and evaluate how various factors influence the speed and scope of an outbreak.

The Flu in Context: Epidemics, Vaccines and Prevention

https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/flu-epidemics-vaccines-science.shtml

For grades 5-12, students learn about epidemics and pandemics, as well as vaccines and other precautions that can help prevent infections such as influenza.

Best Instructional Videos: Pandemics Through the Years

https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/best-instructional-videos-pandemic-plague.shtml

This video lists three videos with links on smallpox, the black death, and the Spanish Flu.

Pandemic & Epidemic Lesson Plan

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/pandemic-epidemic-lesson-plan.html>

To unlock this lesson you must be a Study.com Member. This lesson plan familiarizes students with past and present pandemics and epidemics through a video and a text lesson.

Curriculum Resources

Viruses and Outbreaks

<https://www.discoveryeducation.com/corona-virus/>

Discovery Education has created a special channel within Discovery Education Experience—the Viruses and Outbreak Channel—featuring digital content that helps educators discuss the Coronavirus outbreak with students.

From My Window: Children at home during COVID-19

<https://issuu.com/unpublications/docs/from-my-window>

This United Nations book for young readers looks at the lives of housebound children during the coronavirus epidemic.

Comic Series: Baffled Bunny & Curious Cat

<https://sph.nus.edu.sg/covid-19/public-education/>

In the midst of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, Baffled Bunny and Curious Cat seek advice and clarification from Doctor Duck in this comic series.

A Comic Strip On Coronavirus For Kids – Kids, Vaayu & Corona: Who Wins The Fight?

<https://countercurrents.org/2020/03/a-comic-strip-on-coronavirus-for-kids-kids-vaayu-corona-who-wins-the-fight/>

A comic strip on coronavirus for kids.

My Hero is You: Story Book for Children

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-04/My%20Hero%20is%20You%2C%20Storybook%20for%20Children%20on%20COVID-19.pdf>

This is a story developed for and by children around the world.

Oaky and the Virus

<https://www.oaky.co.za/>

Free Download picture book for children in many languages.

Explaining Covid-19 to Kids

<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/category/explaining-covid-19-to-kids/>

Explaining covid 19 to kids through these short cartoon videos

Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>

This comic explaining the coronavirus is also available in chinese and Spanish

Coronavirus: A Book for Children

<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>

free audio edition of the book, read by Hugh Bonneville.

Curriculum Resources

Covid-19 Comics

<https://www.graphicmedicine.org/covid-19-comics/>

Graphics/comics tailored towards adults

The Class That Can: Coronavirus

<https://www.citizensofcan.com/>

This book will teach children in grades K-4 about coronavirus and what they can do to stay safe.

A kids book about COVID-19

<https://akidsbookabout.com/pages/covid-19>

English, Spanish, and Printable versions available for kids to learn more about covid-19.

Film - The Seventh Seal (1957) - *one resource says 14+

<https://www.criterion.com/films/173-the-seventh-seal>

About: Returning exhausted from the Crusades to find medieval Sweden gripped by the Plague, a knight (Max von Sydow) suddenly comes face-to-face with the hooded figure of Death, and challenges him to a game of chess.

