



European Committee
of the Regions

SEDEC Bulletin N°8

COVID-19 impact and response measures

4 December 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected our world and our way of living, with the loss of thousands of lives and unprecedented consequences for every aspect of our daily existence. The Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) at the European Committee of the Regions produces regular bulletins on the policy fields within its remit, reflecting recent research, articles and discussions on the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in Europe and on the different actions and response measures being planned and implemented at EU, national, regional and local level.

Anne Karjalainen (FI/PES), Chair of the SEDEC commission

On 25 November, the SEDEC commission held its last [meeting](#) for 2020.

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel held an open debate with SEDEC members, covering a wide range of policy areas, including research, innovation, education, culture, sports and youth. A [Joint Action Plan](#) was released and adopted by Ms Gabriel's services (DG RTD, EAC and JRC) and the CoR. Parallel to this, SEDEC members also approved the work plan for a more strategic Knowledge Exchange Platform.

Joost Korte, Director-General at DG EMPL, gave a speech and exchanged views with our members. He focused on the enhanced cooperation between DG EMPL and the CoR and the Commission's plans for 2021, namely the Action Plan for the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Social Summit to be held in Porto (7-8 May), the European Skills Agenda, improving working conditions for platform workers, the action plan for the social economy, the Child Guarantee and the Disability Strategy

Social policy and employment

Finland implements the Revised Posted Workers Directive, which entered into force on **1 December 2020**.

On 26 November, the Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ana Paula Zacarias, unveiled the priorities of the upcoming Portuguese Presidency. Among other things, the presidency intends to focus on Social Europe. *"We must preserve the European social model, study it and see how to strengthen it"*, she explained. While the European Pillar of Social Rights is an important achievement, it is only a set of principles, said Ms Zacarias, who called for it to be turned into action. *"I hope that this will be the mark of the Portuguese Presidency. It will be the heart of our Presidency to focus on people, the social agenda and social policies"*, she promised, explaining that people's trust had to be regained.



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On 23 November, the OECD presented its report on [Job Creation and Local Economic Development](#), which makes it clear that the impact of COVID-19 on local jobs and workers dwarfs those of the 2008 global financial crisis. The 2020 report considers the short-term impacts on the local labour markets, as well as the longer-term implications for local development.

On 10 November, Eurofound presented the [ERM report 2020: Restructuring across borders](#). This report has a dual focus. First, it reviews recent restructuring activity in the EU, from January 2019 up to and including the first impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. The second part presents an analysis of transnational restructuring cases – those that affect workers in more than one country. The aim is to highlight the types of dispute that arise, how restructuring is managed by management and the social partners, and what the outcomes are for the workers affected.

On October 28, the European Commission released its [Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on adequate minimum wages in the European Union](#). Although setting wages is viewed as an exclusively national competence, this directive proposes among other things, [elements that national wage levels](#) must contain in order to be considered "adequate". Furthermore, the CoR has received referral letters from the Commission and the Parliament for an opinion on the topic and plans to adopt a relevant opinion at the March 2021 Plenary.

On 13 October, Eurofound presented its report entitled [Workplace practices, unlocking employee potential](#). This describes a wide range of practices and strategies implemented by European companies in terms of work organisation, human resource management, skills use and skills development, and employees' voices. The report shows how these practices are combined and how the resulting 'bundles of practices' are associated with two outcomes beneficial to employees and employers: workplace well-being and business performance.

On 8 October, Eurostat presented its report on the [EU labour market in the second quarter 2020](#). Throughout the second quarter of 2020, the labour market across the European Union was affected by COVID-19 measures taken by Member States. Employment and unemployment, as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) are, in this particular situation, not sufficient to describe all of the developments taking place in the labour market. In this phase of the crisis, active measures to contain employment losses have led to temporary absences from work rather than dismissals. In addition, individuals could not search for work or were not available due to the containment measures, thus not counting as unemployed according to the ILO definition.



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SURE Instrument: The Commission has so far proposed to make EUR 90.3 billion of financial support available to 18 Member States. To date, the Commission has disbursed a total of EUR 31 billion to 10 EU Member States following two EU SURE issuances: Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Spain.

Research and innovation policy

On 25 November 2020, the EC adopted a new [Action Plan on Intellectual Property](#), aimed at helping companies, especially SMEs, to make the most of their inventions and to ensure that these benefit our society. The Action Plan's goal is to enable the European innovative industry to remain a global leader and to speed up Europe's green and digital transitions. The action plan also addresses the challenge of dependency on critical innovations and technologies, while making sure that critical Intellectual Property (IP) can be made available in times of crisis. You can find more information [here](#).

On 10 November, [the Commission welcomed the agreement](#) between the European Parliament and EU Member States in the Council on **Europe's next long-term budget** and **Next Generation EU**, the temporary recovery instrument. This agreement includes a targeted reinforcement of EU programmes, including an additional EUR 4 bn for [Horizon Europe](#) and EUR 2.2 bn for [Erasmus+](#), together with EUR 0.6 bn for [Creative Europe](#).

Negotiations on the **Horizon Europe** programme are [still going on](#), as divergences remain, among both Member States and the European institutions, regarding the specific amounts and scope of this programme.

On 20 October, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) unveiled a list of 29 European entrepreneurs nominated for the [EIT awards](#), standing out for the innovative value of their products and services. The three projects recognised as the best to accelerate Europe's transition to a greener, healthier and more sustainable society for Europe's citizens will be awarded at a virtual ceremony on 8 and 9 December.

The European Commission is about to launch Open Research Europe, its new scientific publishing service. The initiative will provide Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries with a high-quality forum for publishing their results with open access, benefiting from peer review and being free of charge. Publications from all fields of science will be welcome. Open Access Europe is set to launch in early 2021 and will be open for submissions soon. Learn more about the platform [here](#).



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The Commission continues to support research **into the coronavirus pandemic** and its effects, with a total of EUR 128 million for 23 new research projects. The projects involve 344 research teams from 39 countries, including 32 participants from 15 countries outside the EU. The funding will enable essential research to better address various aspects of the current and future pandemics, from the capacity to react more quickly to prevent contagion, to improving diagnosis and treatment, to better mitigation measures that take into account behavioural, social and economic aspects, including gender-related issues.

At its meeting of 25 November, the SEDEC commission discussed and adopted the draft opinion on [A new European Research Area \(ERA\) for research and innovation](#). The rapporteur, Christophe Clergeau (FR/PES), member of the Pays-de-la-Loire Regional Council, stressed that "*The ERA hubs can be an opportunity to give full institutional recognition to regional ecosystems and innovation hubs and fully promote a place-based approach to science and innovation. However, they must not merely be a tool for reducing the innovation gap; they can become an excellent framework to boost the emergence of collective research and innovation projects, combining several regional ecosystems and innovation hubs in a bottom-up approach*". The opinion is due for adoption at the CoR plenary session of February 2021.

Education and Youth, Culture and Sport

Education and Youth

On 25 November, at the 5th SEDEC commission meeting, the [draft opinion on Youth employment support – a bridge to jobs for the next generation](#), for which Romy Karier is rapporteur, was discussed and adopted. According to the rapporteur, among the most important contributions of the draft opinion are: the recommendations to set binding criteria for the quality of employment, traineeships and apprenticeship offers; the emphasis on regional inequalities; proposals for concrete implementation measures that can be taken at the local level and a ban on unpaid professional traineeships. The rapporteur reiterated that "*the proposal is particularly significant in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, which is having a disproportionate effect on young people. Local and regional authorities can act as a bridge between different stakeholders such as educational institutions, youth organisations and public employment services, to support the effective implementation of the Youth Guarantee, which should lead to stable and sustainable jobs.*"

At the same meeting, the draft opinion on the **European Skills Agenda** was discussed and adopted. Rapporteur **Csaba Borboly** (RO/EPP), President of Harghita County Council, said: "*Local and regional*



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authorities play a significant role in supporting education, workforce integration and skills-related initiatives at the local level. But it must be acknowledged that the 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not sustainable, due to the digital and economic gaps between regions. Therefore, we must cooperate closely with the EU institutions, SMEs and all stakeholders, and we need funds to be fast-tracked to LRAs and local actors for successfully adapted local strategies and action plans."

The two opinions will be discussed and adopted at the CoR plenary session of February 2021.

On 30 November, EU Education Ministers held a policy debate via [videoconference](#) on [Shaping the European Education Area and the next strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training – the way forward](#). On the same day, **EU Youth Ministers** also met via [video conference](#) to discuss how to revitalise European and international youth mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond - [Youth mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond – Revitalising international youth exchanges and cross-border volunteering activities](#).

On 16 November a new, revamped [European Youth Portal](#) was launched online by Commissioner Mariya Gabriel. Through this tool, young people can learn more about opportunities in the EU, interact with peers, participate in democratic discussions and find all the latest information on programmes and initiatives to study, train and volunteer abroad. The European Youth Portal is also a precious tool to get youth-oriented and up-to-date information on COVID-19.

On 30 October, the Council adopted its recommendation on [A Bridge to Jobs – Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and replacing the Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee 2020/C 372/01](#). The new Youth Guarantee reaffirms the will of EU Member States to put in place national arrangements through which young people can be offered a job, training, internship or apprenticeship within four months of losing their job or of leaving formal education. At the same time, the recommendation increases the age limit for the young people targeted from 25 to 29 and provides for better integration of people from vulnerable groups, such as NEETs, young women and people with disabilities.

On 19 October, the [Eurydice network](#) published the [Report on equity in school education in Europe](#). The report looks at 42 European education systems across 37 European countries and identifies which policies and structures are associated with higher levels of equity in student performance.

Between **15 and 17 October**, 75 countries all around the world celebrated the [#ErasmusDays 2020](#) with more than 3 000 events – both digital and physical. Commissioner Mariya Gabriel said *"This year especially, it is very important to celebrate the unique opportunities offered by the programme and convey a message of strength and resilience to the whole Erasmus+ community."*



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In 2020, we celebrate 15 years since the launch of the **eTwinning portal**, an e-learning platform involving teachers from 36 European countries and 8 neighbouring countries and offering schools in Europe a means to communicate, share ideas and run online collaborative projects. The eTwinning annual conference took place online this year, on the theme of [Classrooms in Action on Climate Change](#) (22-24 October).

The [2020 virtual enlightED event](#) brought together over 90 international experts to share solutions and analyse the challenges that COVID-19 poses for the ways in which we learn, teach and work. All talks, workshops and round tables can be re-watched on the [event website](#).

Culture and Cultural Heritage

On 25 November, SEDEC members also discussed and voted on the draft of the own-initiative opinion on the [Restart of Cultural and Creative Sectors](#). Rapporteur **Giuseppe Varacalli** (IT/Renew E.), Member of Gerace Municipal Council, stated that *"the cultural and creative sectors alone account for 4.2% of European GDP, and with the related activities, this percentage rises to well over 5%. Despite the use of new technologies, a vast majority of their activities is based on physical presence, so many of them have been unable to operate during the COVID-19 crisis. The opinion calls on Europe to act as a leverage for the Member States to use all available funding and measures to support culture, with the aim of leaving no one behind."* The opinion will be discussed and adopted at the CoR plenary session of February 2021.

On 1 December, European ministers for culture and audio-visual policy held a [video conference](#), where they discussed how to ensure that cultural and creative industries, including the media, make the most of the European rescue aid and that the most appropriate national solutions are found to alleviate the impact of the crisis. Ministers also held a policy debate on [Preparing for the future - recovery of the culture and media sector from the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

The **2020 ENCATC Digital Congress** [Cultural management and policy in a post-digital world – navigating uncertainty](#) was held from 3 to 11 November and explored the potential challenges to emerge for the cultural sector in a post-digital context and after the coronavirus outbreak. The Congress was held with the support of the **Creative Europe programme**.



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On **28 October**, the German city of [Chemnitz](#) was awarded the title of **European Capital of Culture 2025**, the fourth city in Germany to win this honour. With the motto “C the unseen”, Chemnitz2025 focuses on the unseen of the “silent middle of the society”. Barbara Klepsch, Saxon Minister of State for Culture and Tourism: *“I am overjoyed at the decision of the European jury. This moves a strong city in the heart of Europe even further into the heart of the continent. The award is a distinction for cultural work on the ground and opens up new opportunities for cultural life.”*

From **September 24 to October 28**, the [10th European Creative Industries Summit #ECIS2020](#) took place, organised by the European Creative Business Network in collaboration with the current German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Commissioner **Mariya Gabriel** delivered the message that *“Funding, innovation and cross-sectoral cooperation are all key to the recovery of Europe's cultural and creative industries. Only through the joint efforts of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States can we shape the sector's future”*.

Sport

On **1 December**, EU Sports Ministers held a policy debate via [video conference](#) on [International sporting events during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

On **17 November**, the European Commission organised the high-level conference [The recovery of the sport sector after the COVID-19 crisis: the way ahead](#). The conference was hosted by Commissioner **Mariya Gabriel**, who used this opportunity to announce her new flagship initiative [Healthy Lifestyle for All](#). The initiative will take a cross-sectoral approach to promoting an active, healthy lifestyle for all Europeans.

The [Annual #BeActive Report](#), which provides an overview of the fitness sector's contribution to the European Week of Sport 2020 and to the overall #BeActive message throughout the year, has been published. The **European Fitness** sector has been instrumental in the success of the campaign by reaching over 30 million Europeans with the **#BeActive** message and helping to get almost 1.5 million people active through thousands of events across the continent.

EuropeActive has put together an [interactive map](#) to provide the latest information on fitness club openings and restrictions around Europe, to keep people informed on what is happening in the fitness and physical activity sector during these uncertain times.



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Information society, artificial intelligence and audiovisual/telecommunications technologies

Information society

[The OECD report on The territorial impact of COVID-19: Managing the crisis across levels of government](#)

This paper highlights the strong territorial dimension of the COVID-19 crisis. It advocates multi-level governance to minimise the risk of a fragmented crisis response. The COVID crisis has massively accelerated some pre-existing trends, in particular digitalisation. A number of local and regional best practices in the EU are included in the report, which also stresses the importance of place-based approaches for a successful recovery from the current crisis.

Artificial intelligence

[The CoR opinion on Artificial Intelligence](#)

The CoR opinion on the European Commission's *White paper on Artificial Intelligence – a European approach to excellence and trust* was adopted during the last CoR plenary session in October. In this opinion, the CoR calls for significant EU support to stimulate private and public investment in AI, to meet the needs of local and regional ecosystems. According to the rapporteur, Mr Guido Rink (NL/PES), "*the strength of local communities and networks lies in open, interconnected and adapted local and regional cooperation.*" The rapporteur stresses the importance of future EU policy to facilitate reliable sharing and re-use of data between businesses and public authorities (B2G), especially when it can serve the public interest, as in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[European Robotics Week, 19-25 November](#)

From 19 to 25 November, hundreds of interactive robotics events took place in countries across Europe and beyond, demonstrating how robots will impact the way we work, live, and learn. In a year when humanity has faced a global pandemic crisis, robotics companies and researchers across Europe have been able to demonstrate how robotics help societies and economies to keep operating in a world affected by COVID-19. European Robotics Week (ERW) promotes digital skills for everyone, to be used everywhere, be it in school, at university or on the job, putting the emphasis on inspiring girls to follow STEM-related careers.

[2020 report on the European market for Artificial Intelligence in radiology](#)

The Integrated Radiology Information Systems segment is predicted to dominate the market by 2027, owing to the rising demand for AI-based applications for radiology, according to the Europe Radiology Information Systems (RIS) Market to 2027 – Regional Analysis and Forecast. The healthcare industry



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has always been a leader in innovation. The constant mutating of diseases and viruses makes it difficult to stay ahead of the curve. However, with the help of artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms, it continues to advance, and has recently been developing as a valuable healthcare tool for addressing new healthcare challenges locally and regionally.

Audiovisual/telecommunications technologies

[Media and audiovisual action plan](#)

Vice-President of the European Commission, Margrethe Vestager, presented the new Media and Audiovisual Action Plan on 2 December. This is of great interest to local and regional authorities across the EU, many of which have shown best practice in supporting the sector throughout the current crisis. The plan is expected to help streamline available financial support and lead the way to successful digitalisation.

Smart specialisation

[Ideas for future cooperation between the CoR and the JRC within a broader Action Plan](#)

According to the Action Plan, discussed between the CoR SEDEC members and Commissioner Mariya Gabriel during the SEDEC commission meeting on 25 November, smart specialisation will be an important element in the future cooperation between the CoR and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. One of the aims is to examine the governance implications of including local authorities in the design and implementation of sustainable development agendas and the Green Deal, as well as the prominent role that innovation-led agendas based on the Smart Specialisation governance approach could play, especially for recovery from the pandemic.

❖ Responses at regional and local level

Social policy and employment

Madrid

EMT, the municipal transport company for Madrid, has created a [Women and Safe Transport Observatory](#), to study and implement measures to promote the safety of women using the services managed by the municipal company.



Research and innovation

A new JRC research on online schooling and digital skills

Europe's parents played a huge role in helping children keep up with schooling online during the COVID-19 lockdown in spring, according to [a Joint Research Centre analysis published in November](#). Families were surveyed in several EU countries as part of a project mapping developments in children's digital activity during these times. The results show how important digital skills are at this time, for both parents and children.

European Researchers' Night 2020

On 27 November, over 29 countries and 388 cities hosted the [European Researchers' Night](#), which this year featured a combination of physical and virtual events. Across Europe and beyond, people of all ages got the chance to discover who is behind research, to see it through researchers' eyes and to experience science for themselves. It was important to celebrate the vital role researchers have in society, this year more than ever: their work is key to ensuring a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the crisis.

Smart bot in Helsinki alleviates pressure on coronavirus hotlines

The [bot](#) not only helps people to determine whether they need a test but also to book appointments without the need to call the hospital. Since the very first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, those living in the Helsinki Hospital University District (HUS) have had access to a coronavirus bot that helps them self-diagnose and thus decide whether they should isolate or take a coronavirus test.

Smart solutions are key to protecting the population in a crisis. Thus, cities across Finland, [such as Espoo](#), have been embracing these solutions in order to boost their capabilities to help, advise and protect their populations during the pandemic.

"Sofia Chooses" campaign heralds Bulgarian capital's first-ever participatory budget

Sofia Municipality has informed locals that they can take part in local governance through its new programme to implement citizen-backed projects. Simply by voting, locals will be able to choose which projects will then be implemented.

The ["Sofia chooses" programme](#) aims to encourage the direct participation of citizens, non-governmental and professional organisations in proposing projects and in distributing the municipal budget. Some BGN 1.5 million (EUR 750 000) have been allocated for the programme in the 2021 municipal budget.



Irish start-up develops robot capable of crushing coronavirus

The [invention](#) can prove to be much faster and more effective than chemical disinfectants. A start-up attached to Trinity College Dublin (TCD) is developing a robot that could prove crucial in the fight against coronavirus, reports [The Irish Times](#). The device can kill viruses and bacteria using UV light, which is key to the disinfection of spaces and surfaces.

Education and Youth, Culture and Sport

Madrid, Spain

Madrid City Council agreed an [action plan](#) to deal with the corona pandemic and lay the foundations for recovery. The plan includes a comprehensive programme for education and young people: *Reducing the digital divide in children and adolescents in vulnerable situations; Online Education in Municipal Nursery Schools; European Volunteer Programme (Europa Joven)*.

Malta

[Science in the City](#) (Malta 2020) was held online between 27 and 29 November and is part of the European Researchers' Night, an EU-wide celebration. It was funded by the European Union's [Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme](#), and a number of corporate sponsors. It is recognised as a festival by Europe for Festivals and Festivals for Europe (EFFE).

Athens, Greece

At the beginning of the lockdown, the municipality invited artists, by means of an open procedure, to suggest events for the special situation under the pandemic. More than 600 proposals from all cultural sectors – arts, music, theatre, performance, dance, cinema, literature – were submitted and now form a [comprehensive programme](#), including Culture@Home, with live streaming, writers' videos and live events that adhere to COVID-19 restrictions. The city coordinates the activities and provides free support for streaming and publicity, with Athens City Hall even hosting some smaller cultural events.

Florence, Italy

The Metropolitan City of Florence has guaranteed EUR 650 000 in funding grants to support culture throughout the pandemic this autumn, half of which is to be assigned to cultural associations. In addition, associations organising events up to October can present the project to the offices and the Metropolitan City will cover up to 80% of the expenses, to a maximum of 30 000 euros.



Barcelona, Spain

In light of the downward trend in the number of coronavirus cases in Catalonia, the region has initiated a plan for the gradual resumption of some activities. Phase 1 is now under way (from 23 November to 7 December). [Cinemas, theatres, auditoriums and concert halls](#) are now opening at 50% of capacity and permitting a maximum of 500 people. In addition, museums, libraries and exhibition halls remain open at 50% of capacity.

Bologna, Italy

Bologna is promoting cycling after the COVID-19 pandemic. The messages of the campaign [#andràtuttinbici](#) (#everyonewillrideabike) are that travelling by bike allows for physical distancing, is good for your health, strengthens the immune system and keeps the air clean. The initiative is promoted by the Bicycle Council of Bologna and forms part of Bologna's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan.

Madrid, Spain

As part of the '[Acuerdos de la Villa](#)', Madrid City Council has decided to promote outdoor sports activities in Municipal Sports Centres and in public spaces. The Sports Department will make the recommendation, insofar as the programming of the Municipal Sports Centres permits, to carry out the listed activities in available open spaces. Likewise, the campaign *Madrid Recupera el Paso* [*Madrid gets back on its feet*] will promote different street sports programmes.

Information society

[Examples of local and regional best practices in digitalisation reported by the OECD](#)

In Estonia, The municipality of Järva is using its community engagement app to inform citizens about national and local level actions and guidelines to prevent and stop the spreading of the coronavirus. The engagement app publishes targeted question cards, feedback, calendar events, social media content and notifications. City officials can also detect how many users have seen the shared info and when.

In Spain, in September 2020, nine Spanish regions benefited from a EUR 1.2 billion reallocation from the European Regional Development Fund to strengthen their healthcare system capacity, support SMEs, and develop ICTs in education in response to COVID-19.

In Portugal, in October 2020, the European Commission approved the reallocation of EUR 1 billion from EU Cohesion policy funds to support seven Portuguese regions, in response to COVID-19. Funds will support the digitalisation of schools, SMEs, and the tourism sector.



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Additional useful links

Horizon: the EU Research & Innovation magazine: <https://horizon-magazine.eu/>

Portail de la Recherche et des Technologies en Wallonie: <https://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/>

Innoviris.brussels: <https://innoviris.brussels/fr>

European Institute of Innovation & Technology: <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/covid-19-response>

UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org/covid19>

Association of European Regions: <https://aer.eu/covid19/>

European Research Council:

https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/magitem/ERC_actions_on_Covid-19.pdf

European Medicines Agency: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-whats-new>

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

EU support for the cultural and creative sectors:

https://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/coronavirus-how-eu-responds-outbreak-support-cultural-and-creative-sectors_en; <https://creativesunite.eu/>

EU Learning Corner: https://europa.eu/learning-corner/home_en

JRC (Science Hub): <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en>

EU local news: <https://www.themayor.eu/en>

EPRS and other EP publications: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html>

See also <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/eu-response-to-coronavirus>

ESPON programme: <https://www.espon.eu/collecting-experiences-and-evidence-local-and-regional-responses-covid19>

Eurocities: <https://covidnews.eurocities.eu/>

CEMR: <https://www.ccre.org/en/actualites/view/3994>

OECD New Digital Hub for COVID-19: <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/>

ERRIN news: <https://errin.eu/news> (primarily R&I/regional focus)

EARTO news: <https://www.earto.eu/news/> (primarily R&I)

EUA (European University Association): <https://eua.eu/news/>

Vanguard Initiative: <https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/news>

Lisbon Council: <https://lisboncouncil.net/newsandevents/> (Digital/AI/Social/R&I)

Bruegel: [The latest on COVID-19](#)

CEPS: [Research on COVID-19](#)

WHO: [Coronavirus Dashboard](#)