

WBC-RTI.info Newsletter



Update on tackling COVID-19 emergency

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, the EU and its member states are working together to reinforce national healthcare systems, contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus and mitigate its socio-economic impact.

The EU mobilised very swiftly a package of over EUR 3.3 billion to the benefit of the Western Balkans. This includes immediate support for the health sector, in particular through delivering essential supplies to save lives and significant support for the social and economic recovery needs of our partners, as well as a EUR 750 million package of Macro-Financial Assistance and a EUR 1.7 billion package of assistance from the European Investment Bank.

The scientific community is facing unprecedented challenges in the search for solutions against coronavirus. Good coordination and quick mobilisation of funds are essential to help researchers and innovators meet those challenges. As one of the 10 priority actions of the first [ERAvsCorona action plan](#), the European Commission has also launched the [ERA corona platform](#), a one-stop shop for information for current and prospective beneficiaries of the R&I Programmes. Looking ahead, countries shall be enabled to a gradual, science based and effective lifting of containment measures, with a view to entering the recovery phase and revitalising our societies and economy. In such a context, a highly coordinated way forward is a matter of common interest as well.

Find below our information on the common response to the COVID-19 outbreak and keep updated by visiting the related [portal section](#).



• NEWS

- Posted on May 15, 2020
THE EU PRESENTED A PLAN TO REOPEN ITS BORDERS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THE WESTERN BALKANS
European Commission presented yesterday a package of guidelines and recommendations to help the Member States gradually lift travel restrictions and allow tourism business to reopen, after months of lockdown...
- Posted on May 15, 2020
JRC LEARNING LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC: COMBINING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES TO TACKLE COVID-19
A JRC analysis of global risk mitigation shows how the COVID-19 outbreak took the world by surprise, and recommends a combination of measures to manage this kind of crisis in the future.
- Posted on May 15, 2020
INSPIRE CONFERENCE DUBROVNIK, CROATIA 2020 GOES VIRTUAL, 3-12 JUNE 2020
Because of the risk associated with COVID-19 infection and to ensure the health care of all the community, we have reluctantly decided to cancel the INSPIRE Conference 2020 and to host INSPIRE 2021 in...
- Posted on May 14, 2020
COVID-19 AND THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE WESTERN BALKAN
As part of the COVID19-containment strategy, governments of the Western Balkan implemented various strategies to prevent further spreading of the virus. On the other hand, taken measures such as border...
- Posted on May 12, 2020
COMMISSIONER GABRIEL'S MAY NEWSLETTER ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACTIONS
In the second edition of her monthly update newsletter, Commissioner Mariya Gabriel focuses on EU research action being taken to fight the coronavirus, stressing the key role researchers and innovators...

- Posted on May 12, 2020

LIST OF THE WINNING PROJECTS OF WBF 3RD CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Western Balkan Fund is happy to announce the List of 24 Winning Projects within the 3rd Call for Proposals, based on the recent decision of the WBF Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
- Posted on May 12, 2020

REGIONAL INNOVATION FUND COULD TRIGGER ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF THE WESTERN BALKANS

Following the first Meeting of the Leadership Group (LG) and the kick-off of the Western Balkans Competitiveness and Innovation Accelerator held in Tirana late February, the World Economic Forum (WEF) ...
- Posted on May 11, 2020

CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE: €7.4 BILLION RAISED FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO VACCINES

By 4 May 2020, the Commission registered €7.4 billion, equivalent to \$8 billion, in pledges from donors worldwide during the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event. This includes a pledge of €1.4 ...
- Posted on May 11, 2020

A EUROPEAN ROADMAP TO LIFTING CORONAVIRUS CONTAINMENT MEASURES

The coronavirus pandemic has claimed thousands of lives and put health systems under enormous strain. The Commission's immediate priority is fighting the virus and mitigating the socio-economic consequences...
- Posted on May 11, 2020

EC RELEASES VIDEO ON EU R&I ACTION TO FIGHT THE CORONAVIRUS

Following the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event that took place on 4 May 2020 and raised a total of € 7.4 billion in the fight against coronavirus, the European Commission has released a video...
- Posted on May 11, 2020

CORONAVIRUS: FURTHER RESCEU MASKS DELIVERED TO NORTH MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO

Following previous deliveries to Italy, Spain and Croatia, more batches of FFP2 masks are being delivered today to North Macedonia and Montenegro from rescEU – the common European reserve of medical equipment...
- Posted on May 11, 2020

VIVEO HEALTH MAKES ITS SECURE TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM FREE TO DOCTORS

Estonian telemedicine specialist Viveo Health, is making its platform technology Virtual office for doctors available free of charge to medical professionals around the world.
- Posted on May 7, 2020

EUROPE EASES THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN: 'WE ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE NEXT PHASE

The resumption of normal life is being attempted, but scientists warn that a new surge in infections can't be ruled out.
- Posted on May 7, 2020

ZAGREB DECLARATION, 6 MAY 2020

The EU-Western Balkans Zagreb summit took place via video conference on 6 May 2020. EU leaders agreed on the Zagreb declaration, with which the Western Balkans partners have aligned themselves.
- Posted on May 7, 2020

EBRD BOOSTING FINANCE AND REFORM SUPPORT TO HELP WESTERN BALKANS FIGHT CORONAVIRUS

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is planning a sharp rise in financing for the Western Balkans this year and has stepped up support for reforms to help the region deal with ...
- Posted on May 5, 2020

EU-FUNDED PROJECT DEVELOPS WEARABLE FOR MONITORING TEMPERATURE AND CORRECT SOCIAL DISTANCE

The €3.9 million EU Horizon-backed project Andy (Advancing Anticipatory Behaviours in Dynamic Human-Robot Collaboration) has refocused its research to develop a prototype for a wearable smartband that...
- Posted on May 5, 2020

EU TO DIVERT A FURTHER €675M OF HORIZON 2020 MONEY TO CORONAVIRUS R&D

European Commission helps raise €7.4B to fund global research on vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, but warns this sum represents only a “great start” to funding needed to deal with the pandemic .

- Posted on May 1, 2020
#EUVS VIRUS HACKATHON HAD MORE THAN 300 PARTICIPANTS FROM THE #WESTERN BALKANS
The #EUvsVirus hackathon had more than 300 participants from the #WesternBalkans, submitting 43 new ideas. Never has been cooperation so important. In total Over 20,900 participants from across the EU...
- Posted on May 1, 2020
WESTERN BALKANS' LEADERS MEETING: EU REINFORCES SUPPORT TO ADDRESS COVID-19 CRISIS AND OUTLINES PROPOSAL FOR POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY
The European Commission has recently announced over €3.3 billion of EU financial support mobilised jointly with the European Investment Bank to the benefit of the Western Balkans' citizens. This package...
- Posted on May 1, 2020
EUROPEAN COMMISSION #EUVS VIRUS HACKATHON IDENTIFIES 117 SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL RECOVERY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK
A total of 117 innovative solutions to tackle the coronavirus have been selected as winners of the European Innovation Council-led #EUvsVirus Hackathon. The solutions were selected by a jury and weighted...
- Posted on April 27, 2020
OPEN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY TO TACKLE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
The Coronavirus crisis shows us how fragile and sensitive our living environments are. Everywhere taken for granted infrastructures collapse, or it becomes clear that they are insufficiently available...
- Posted on April 27, 2020
BETTER PREPARED: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR A POST-COVID WORLD
Live Webcast, 28 April 2020 (14:30 – 16:15 CEST)
- Posted on April 27, 2020
CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE: EU LAUNCHES PLEDGING EFFORT
The European Union is joining forces with global partners to kick-start a pledging effort – the Coronavirus Global Response – starting on 4 May 2020. The World Health Organization (WHO) and global health...
- Posted on April 23, 2020
EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION BOARD - TWENTY-THIRD PLENARY SESSION: EDPB ADOPTS FURTHER COVID-19 GUIDANCE
During its 23rd plenary session, the EDPB adopted guidelines on the processing of health data for research purposes in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak and guidelines on geolocation and other tracing...
- Posted on April 22, 2020
EC PROPOSES €750 MILLION MACRO-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES
The Commission has adopted a proposal for a €3 billion macro-financial assistance (MFA) package to ten enlargement and neighbourhood partners to help them to limit the economic fallout of the coronavirus...
- Posted on April 20, 2020
CORONAVIRUS: COMMISSION ISSUES GUIDELINES ON TESTING
As part of the European Roadmap towards lifting coronavirus containment measures, the Commission is presenting guidelines on coronavirus testing methodologies.
- Posted on April 20, 2020
CORONAVIRUS: EUROPEAN ROADMAP SHOWS PATH TOWARDS COMMON LIFTING OF CONTAINMENT MEASURES
The Commission, in cooperation with the President of the European Council, has put forward a European roadmap to phase-out the containment measures due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- Posted on April 20, 2020
HACKATHONS MOBILISE START-UPS TO COMBAT COVID-19

Solar-powered hand disinfection station beats 500 other ideas to win Global Hack event.

- Posted on April 20, 2020
JRC SCIENTISTS HAVE DESIGNED A NEW CONTROL MATERIAL THAT LABORATORIES CAN USE TO CHECK THE CORRECT FUNCTIONING OF THEIR CORONAVIRUS TESTS AND TO AVOID FALSE NEGATIVES
Timely and accurate laboratory testing is an essential part of tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Posted on April 16, 2020
EIB EARMARKS €700 MILLION TO HELP THE WESTERN BALKANS FIGHT COVID-19
The European Investment Bank (EIB) group has prepared a package of emergency support measures of €5.2 billion to countries outside the European Union, and according to initial estimates, about €700 million...
- Posted on April 16, 2020
MONTENEGRO JOINS EU MECHANISMS FOR JOINT PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES
Government of Montenegro signed an Agreement on joint procurement of medicines, medical supplies and other goods on April, 13.

• CALLS

- Deadline: May 31, 2020
CALL FOR INNOVATIONS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC
The ENRICH in China project (European Network of Research and Innovation Centres and Hubs in China), a initiative funded under Horizon 2020, has just published a call for innovative companies...
- Deadline: June 1, 2020
CALL FOR PROPOSALS: RAPID-RESPONSE GRANTS ON COVID-19 AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
In partnership with the Henry Luce Foundation, The Social Science Research Council (SSRC), as part of its Covid-19 Initiative, seeks proposals from across the social sciences and related fields that address...
- Deadline: June 1, 2020
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- Deadline: July 1, 2020
HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19
Responding to the current lack of data on how citizens have reacted to the COVID-19 outbreak and the measures put in place, the JRC has launched an online survey covering the 27 EU Member States on the...
- Deadline: July 17, 2020
CFP AND CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION PROPOSALS: SMARTER CONFERENCE
Conference on Smart Specialisation and Territorial Development: Connecting grand societal challenges with local goals in place-based innovation policy.
- Deadline: September 30, 2020
MEDICAL ROBOTICS CHALLENGE FOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.
The UK-RAS Network is pleased to announce a new Medical Robotics Challenge for Contagious Diseases.

- Deadline: October 1, 2020
AMABLE CALLS FOR IDEAS FOR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING (COVID-19)
3D printing technology (Additive Manufacturing) allows to quickly and cost-effectively produce specialized surgical instruments and medical devices like valves, masks and everything that may...

• PROJECTS

- ICEDA
INCREASING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGENDA
Main goal of the project is to increase the engagement of the civil society organizations (CSOs) in the shaping and implementation of the Digital Agenda in the Western Balkans (DAWB).
- Andy
ADVANCING ANTICIPATORY BEHAVIOURS IN DYNAMIC HUMAN-ROBOT COLLABORATION
Recent technological progress in robot physical interaction permitted robots to actively and safely share with human a common workspace. Thanks to these technologies, Europe nowadays leads the robotic...
- Up2U
UP TO UNIVERSITY
Up2U is a 41-month collaborative project with €5M funding from the European Union (EU) that started in January 2017.

• DOCUMENTS

- **REINFORCED EU SUPPORT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS (INFOGRAPHIC)**
This infographic provides an overview of the EU financial support mobilised jointly with the European Investment Bank to the benefit of the Western Balkans' citizens in tackling coronavirus crisis and...
- **COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**
Support to the Western Balkans in tackling COVID-19 and the post-pandemic recovery. Commission contribution ahead of the EU-Western Balkans leaders meeting on 6 May 2020. In this document the European...
- **JRC SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN A TIME OF CRISIS**
From the preparation of guidelines and control materials for testing and better characterisation of the pandemic, to the detailed analysis of epidemiologic and economic impacts, the JRC is evaluating ...
- **QUARTELY REVIEW OF ACADEMIC LITERATURE ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**
This is a Quartely Review of academic literature on research and innovation for the first quarter of 2020. The current issue provides several insights on sustainability. We had a particular ...
- **GUIDELINES 04/2020 ON THE USE OF LOCATION DATA AND CONTACT TRACING TOOLS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**
The guidelines on geolocation and other tracing tools in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak aim to clarify the conditions and principles for the proportionate use of location data and contact tracing...
- **JOINT EUROPEAN ROADMAP TOWARDS LIFTING COVID-19 CONTAINMENT MEASURES**
The joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures, presented by the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council, responds to the European Council...
- **TESTING FOR COVID-19: A WAY TO LIFT CONFINEMENT RESTRICTIONS**
The OECD has published a new report on efficient testing strategies. The report recommends very wide testing strategies, with greatly increased government testing capacity. The number of asymptomatic...
- **HOW TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTION AND TREATMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH**

In February 2020, scientists, clinicians, patients and industry representatives met in Stockholm to discuss how governments, education systems, and new technologies can help treat and prevent mental health...

- **EU SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS TO TACKLE CORONAVIRUS**

The coronavirus pandemic is an unprecedented global crisis, a severe public health emergency for citizens, societies and economies. The virus knows no borders. It is a global pandemic that requires a ...

- **LINKS**

- **SCIENCE|BUSINESS 'CORONAVIRUS R&D GATEWAY'**

The online hub is a one-stop-shop for a number of tools and information sources supporting the ongoing efforts to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **SCIENCE BUSINESS DATABASE: CORONAVIRUS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

As a service to the global R&D community, Science|Business has compiled this database of funding opportunities. Users are encouraged to let us know of funding calls that could be incorporated into...

- **COVID-19 DATA PORTAL**

The COVID-19 Data Portal was launched in April 2020 to bring together relevant datasets for sharing and analysis in an effort to accelerate coronavirus research. It enables researchers to upload, access...

- **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

General Data Protection Regulation published on the website of European Data Protection Board.

- **EU RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE WESTERN BALKANS (INFOGRAPHIC)**

This infographic provides an overview of the EU support package to Western Balkan partners in their fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

- **EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE FROM OPEN SOURCES (EIOS)**

The Epidemics Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) platform is a collaboration between the World Health Organization and JRC that is collating up to 120,000 articles per day related to the coronavirus...

- **JRC DATABASE FOR DETECTION, MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF CORONAVIRUS**

A daily-updated JRC database provides data, maps and visuals of the evolution of the coronavirus pandemic and the measures taken in the 34 Participating States to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, plus...

- **EU CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE WEBPAGE FOR INDUSTRY AND SMES**

The Coronavirus Response webpage for Industry and SMEs has been launched by the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) of the European Commission...

- **CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE (BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION)**

The European Commission is coordinating a common European response to the Coronavirus outbreak. We are taking resolute action to reinforce our public health sectors and mitigate the socio-economic...

- **WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-2019) SITUATION REPORTS**

Situation daily reports based on data as received by WHO from national authorities.

- **COVID-19 IN THE EU/EEA AND THE UK**

Sources of updated information on COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK:

- **CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

The European Commission has been at the forefront of supporting research and innovation and coordinating European and global research efforts, including preparedness for pandemics. In addition...

- **EUROPEAN CRISIS MANAGEMENT LABORATORY (AN OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 CASES, FATALITIES AND NATIONAL MEASURES ACROSS EUROPE - BY JRC)**

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) has been supporting the European Commission in multidisciplinary areas to understand the COVID-19 emergency, anticipate its impacts...

- **COVID-19 SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH TRACKER**
This international list tracks new research about COVID 19, including published findings, pre-prints, projects underway, and projects at least at proposal stage. [LINK](#) and more information
- **OECD SURVEY ON THE STI POLICY RESPONSES TO COVID-19**
Science and innovation (S&I) policies have crucial roles to play in our responses to the Covid-19 crisis, with countries introducing new S&I policy measures on an almost daily basis across the...
- **COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK AND THE EU'S RESPONSE (BY COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION)**
The EU and its member states are working together to reinforce national healthcare systems and contain the spread of the virus. At the same time, the EU and its member states are taking action to mitigate...
- **EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA CORONA PLATFORM**
Website dealing with latest H2020 calls deadlines updates due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Reacting to the Covid-19 crisis, deadlines for some calls are extended to give more time for applicants to prepare...
- **COVID-19 INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS RESPONSE PORTAL**
This webpage supports the efforts of industrial clusters to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 epidemic in Europe. Over 1100 offers from companies were already channeled to the European...
- **EC CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH**
Research projects and initiatives to tackle the spread of coronavirus and preparedness for other outbreaks.

[FIND MORE RELATED ARTICLES](#)

ABOUT THE INFORMATION PORTAL

Access, registration and upload of content to WBC-RTI.info platform is free of charge. The Platform will be regularly updated in the upcoming years, and in particular focus on one selected theme per month; however much more information is collected and included in one of our databases - see below. If you would like to suggest a research topic or promote your R&I project or your research results to over 11,000 interested researchers and policy makers in WBC and Europe-wide, or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at office@wbc-rti.info.

[INFORMATION SERVICE](#)

The WBC-RTI.info platform acts as a source of high quality targeted information on research, technology and innovation in/with/for the Western Balkan countries (WBCs). The Platform supports the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries and is funded by the European Commission (contract №30-CE-0838742/00-87).



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