Restrictions on Fundamental Human Rights and Liberties in Selected EU Member States in Relation to the Effectiveness of the Fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2020





EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS GROUP

Contents

Introduction
Purpose of the study and the hypothesis
Context of the study
Aspects of the study
Aspect 1: Restrictions on personal freedom, inviolability and personal
integrity25
Aspect 2: Restrictions on religious worship in public41
Aspect 3: Restrictions on free movement of people and the
right to assembly, limitations on the right to assembly46
Aspect 4: Restrictions on business activity (closures of the economy)62
Aspect 5: Restrictions on the right to education and access to culture (closures
of schools and universities, centers of art and culture76
Aspect 6: Attitudes and response of the societies in the face of the restrictions
imposed
Aspect 7: Restrictions on the right to privacy and the confidentiality of
correspondence (monitoring social mobility and social contact
between citizens)94
Aspect 8: Restrictions on the equality in the eyes of the law and access to
healthcare103
Conclusions109

Introduction

The current report has retained the methodology of the first report, made on June 2020. The documentation was completed and the conclusions were drawn based on the analysis of the data concerning selected EU Member States, such as: the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of Poland, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands), the Kingdom of Belgium, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The selection of the countries was based on the need to capture the dynamics of phenomena in the countries of the "old" and "new" EU, as well as to examine it in relation to states classified as "large" and "medium". Based on reliable data, we decided to omit the analysis in terms of specific conditions, in the form of cultural and civilization issues, the model of intergenerational relations, the level of openness of societies, traditional social behaviors, etc. These issues, although not in the focus of the research, partially found their place in analysis as contextual factors.

With regard to the study of phenomena related to the expansion of the virus itself and its direct health effects, we adopted the principle of using one source – World Health Organization (WHO) data, recognizing that basing the statements on multiple sources of information would risk some cognitive chaos and deformation of the result. These data – although not free from minor errors – allowed for methodological consistency.

There has been a significant change compared to the data from the first part of the report. WHO moved away from publishing daily data in favor of weekly summaries. The picture of the situation, although it lost its liquidity as a result, did not change significantly with regard to the observation trends and tendencies.

With regard to the restrictions introduced as well as the lockdowns in the analyzed countries, the principle of homogeneity of sources was unsustainable. However, efforts were made to use sources specific to individual countries, as well as global websites. We decided to examine this part of the report in eight area aspects, presenting individual fields of activity in larger chunks of information.

The purpose of the study and the hypothesis

The main purpose of the report is to show the dynamics of the phenomena if the COVID-19 epidemic in selected EU countries, to make appropriate comparisons and to examine the scope and impact of the pandemic on the quality of social life (including social reactions) in the face of the restrictions on fundamental freedoms and civil rights introduced, and to assess the effectiveness of the different approaches adopted in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hypothesis 1: The dynamics of the second wave of the pandemic differs significantly from the phenomena observed in the first half of 2020. The infection pace and intensity indicators for Central European countries here are similar in comparison to the indicators recorded Western countries. This can be explained by the lack of a "time lapse" phenomenon in Central Europe in relation to the countries of the West and the South.

Hypothesis 2: As a rule, the analyzed countries limited the pandemicrelated restrictions in the summer period. Due to a growing number of infections in the autumn period, in October and November most of states decided to reintroduce some of previous restrictions and introduce a number of new restrictions.

Hypothesis 3: In the second wave of the pandemic, most countries did not decide to introduce massive and deep lockdowns. The "flexible", "selective" and sectoral approach dominates, although it should be noted that in some social areas the regulations and restrictions were very severe. In some of the countries surveyed, the development of the Covid-19 pandemic, despite previous decisions to maintain a significant "openness" of social life, led to the necessity to "close" most sectors of their national economies. There is a high risk of introducing further "deep" lockdowns. **Hypothesis 4**: The epidemic indicators of the "new Union" (Central Europe) countries do not differ significantly from the overall picture of the pandemic in the EU.

Hypothesis 5: In the analyzed period, the scope of restrictions on fundamental freedoms and civil rights in Central European countries was neither more severe nor more extensive than in most European Union countries.

Note: A full assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of policies designed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic will become possible only after the disappearance of the disease. The basic criterion will be the pace and quality of overcoming the economic crisis.

Context of the study

The conclusions and recommendations of the "WHO COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Progress Report (February 1st, 2020 -June 30th, 2020)" stated: "By working with countries, partners and communities, we have achieved a lot in the six months that have transformed the world under the influence of COVID-19, and the WHO has changed with it. (...) The vast majority (86%) of countries now have national COVID-19 plans, but many need a targeted operational and technical support to be able to fully implement them. The COVID-19 partner platform provides an up-to-date overview of the overall needs and resources available, enabling transparent and informed planning, implementation and sourcing of resources, and donors are encouraged to continue supporting plans through the portal. At the same time, WHO as part of the IASC identified 63 priority countries under the GHRP that require a more targeted support to rapidly strengthen and/or provide a basic response capacity and the necessary continuity of health services."1

The strategies adopted in February-June 2020 turned out to be very expensive in most cases as at least three opposing key tendencies have clashed.

¹WHO COVID-19 preparedness and response progress report (February 1st to June 30th, 2020): https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-covid-19-preparedness-and-response-progress-report---1-february-to-30-june-2020 (By working together with countries, partners, and communities, we have achieved a great deal in six months that have seen the world changed by COVID-19, and WHO change with it. (...) The vast majority (86%) of countries now have a national COVID-19 plan, but many need a targeted operational support and technical support to be able to fully implement them. The COVID-19 Partners Platform provides an up-to-date overview of the overall needs and resources available, enabling transparent and informed planning, implementation, and resourcing, and donors are encouraged to continue to support plans through the portal. At the same time, WHO as part of the IASC has identified 63 priority countries as part of the GHRP that require more targeted support to rapidly strengthen and/or provide essential response capacity and essential health service continuity).

Firstly, the obvious priority has been to reduce the extent of the pandemic and COVID-19 cases. A common model was the DDM regime (distance, disinfection, mask), but the real determinant of the crisis and its critical values was the efficiency of national health care systems. Catastrophic reports from southern Europe (Italy, Spain) and the United States were clear points of reference. The restriction of social activity eventually led to partial or deep lockdowns in economies. The introduced restrictions differed from each other in terms of effects destructive to economies, however, the negative effects of the pandemic in terms of economic indicators did not bypass any European country.

Secondly, the aspect of the crisis which emerged with full sharpness – in the opinion of most experts and analysts – the closures of economies, although justified from an epidemiological perspective, led to an economic catastrophe. Apart from the direct effects on domestic economies, negative phenomena also appeared in the field of international trade. Most supply chains have been disrupted and some markets (e.g. air travel, transport, tourism, etc.) have found themselves in a disastrous situation. This translated into previously unobserved phenomena, such as the oversupply of energy resources, which shook world prices, remodeling many sectors of the economy.

The third trend, related to the socio-political domain, was marked by a significant increase in social frustration and dissatisfaction.

Political decision-makers faced the difficult task of developing strategies that would reconcile these conflicting phenomena. During the "first wave" of the pandemic, it was common to define the actions of states in two "scenarios". In the first – the so-called Swedish model, which assumed a relatively high level of openness, based on recommendations (not on restrictions), with minimum values for economic closure, aimed to achieve a high level of "herd immunity" as soon as possible (currently estimated at around 70% by experts).

In June and July 2020, the pace of the expansion of SARS-CoV-2 clearly slowed down, which of course did not mean the end of the pandemic. The time was used by most countries to ease the restrictive regimes. It gave most economies time to catch some breath (to stick to the rhetoric popularized during the pandemic). Internal consumption became the main driving force behind these processes, as the conditions did not allow for the restoration of full international exchange and the reconstruction of all international supply chains. A common phenomenon of a radical increase in internal deficits was also noticeable², as predicted in spring³, which to a large extent was caused by the implementation of costly protective programs and state aid for the economic sector. Another negative trend at that time was the recorded increase in unemployment numbers⁴, although the numbers were far lower than previously expected⁵. The evaluation of the available data prompted most European Union countries to pronounce a steady success in the fight against the pandemic in the middle of the year, both in terms of healthcare⁶, as well as the economic results⁷.

The holiday period was marked by a significant lifting and loosening of restrictions in the space of social contacts, as well as definitely greater social mobility. In some countries (e.g. Poland⁸) the domestic tourist market recorded an unprecedented boom. The situation was

²https://www.statista.com/statistics/274179/national-debt-in-eu-countries/

³ https://www.ft.com/content/6f9932d4-5bf0-425d-b536-135d834ad20c

⁴https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-

explained/index.php?title=Unemployment_statistics

⁵https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/10568643/3-01092020-BP-EN.pdf/39668e66-2fd4-4ec0-9fd4-4d7c99306c98

⁶For example: Emerging COVID-19 success story: Germany's strong enabling environment - https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-germany

⁷https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/26/europe-taking-better-approach-to-pandemic-than-us-nobel-laureate-says.html

⁸https://www.statista.com/statistics/1135095/poland-growth-in-the-number-of-tourists-in-holiday-

resorts/#:~:text=Despite%20the%20crisis%20in%20Poland%27s%20tourism%20in dustry%20caused,recorded%20an%20increase%20of%20over%2040%20percent%20 year-on-year.

different in countries with a traditionally developed tourism industry (e.g. southern Europe). Unfortunately, the "dark scenarios"⁹ did partially materialize and the tourist sector losses turned out to be very severe. Still, for social and economic reasons, the holiday "injection of optimism" and even the appearance of "return to normality" played a huge role. Unfortunately, the end of summer and the beginning of autumn 2020 brought a sharp increase in the dynamics of COVID-19, reflected in the numbers of infected and in the statistics on deaths. The "second wave" of the pandemic hit with a force much greater than the spring wave, although it should be noted that the countries were incomparably better prepared for it. It also seems that most societies have to some extent managed to adopt to the fear connected with the pandemic.

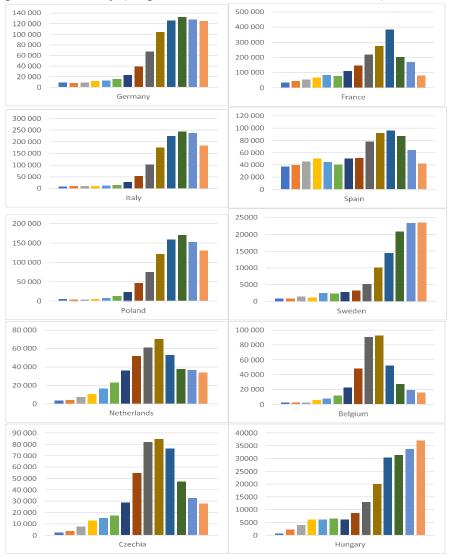
The beginning of September should be regarded as the symbolic end of the period of "psychological relaxation" and – in a sense – the beginning of the "second wave" of the coronavirus. The effects of several phenomena overlap here such as: the effects of the holiday season, the end of summer holidays and the return of children to school. In different countries of the European Union, they all appeared in slightly different forms. In that period most educational institutions adopted a hybrid approach, combining stationary and online classes. The functioning of schools was commonly conditioned by the observance of specific sanitary regimes. Nevertheless, the clear accumulation of negative pandemic trends in the second half of the month could not have been accidental.

Another important factor that should be taken into account was the socalled anti-COVID movements of the so-called "coronasceptics". Such social attitudes appeared in the spring of 2020 and from a sociological perspective, they should not raise any particular controversy. They are, in a sense, a natural social reaction to the

⁹International tourist numbers could fall 60-80% in 2020, UNWTO Reports (7 MAY 2020): https://www.unwto.org/news/covid-19-international-tourist-numbers-could-fall-60-80-in-2020

introduced restrictions, and in a quite significant dimension they were also a psychological response to the repression in a situation of intense stress, crisis and a number of other phenomena difficult to rationalize. However, these attitudes were fueled by social protests of economic, political or "libertarian" basis. One can speak of a specific and negative "symbiosis" between them. In many cases, the discerning of motivations of dissatisfaction becomes extremely problematic. Their impact, if only because of their mass scale, on the epidemic situation is rather beyond discussion, although its scale is difficult to estimate.

<u>Chart 1: Dynamics of the pandemic: "new COVID-19 infections"</u> presented weekly (August 31st, 2020 – December 1st, 2020)



Source: based on WHO Situation Reports¹⁰.

¹⁰ https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports

The analysis of trends in new cases of infection in the countries surveyed shows a fairly uniform trend. The second half of September recorded gradual increases in the numbers of daily (and weekly) "new" infections. This should be related, inter alia, to the post-holiday opening of educational institutions after the summer and the full-scale return of the pupils to educational institutions. In the second half of the following month, there was a sharp increase in the dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 infections.

The spikes of the "second wave" in most of the analyzed countries were recorded at the end of October and the first half of November. Afterwards, the dynamics of the phenomenon began to stabilize or even decrease. The exceptions include the data for Sweden and Hungary. However, these two countries showed a particular epidemic pattern even beforehand. This dynamics similar in 8 out of 10 countries studied can be explained by similar in terms of introducing quite radical restrictions on the functioning of societies – mainly related to social mobility, economic activity, etc.

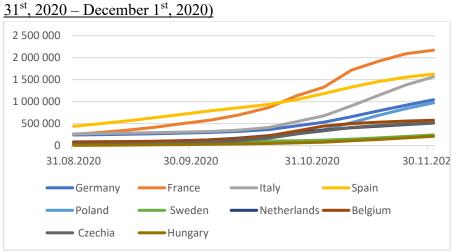
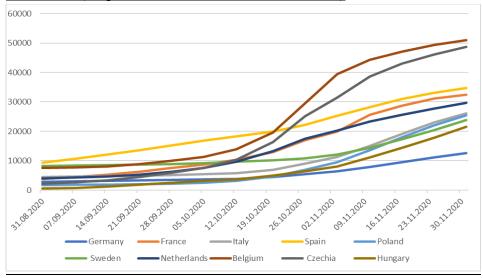


Chart 2: General number of confirmed COVID-19 infections (August

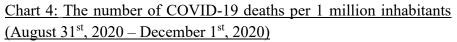
Source: based on WHO Situation Reports.

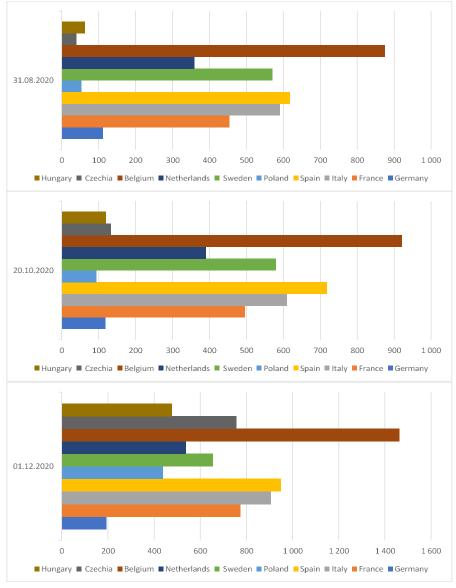
<u>Chart 3: The number of confirmed COVID-19 infections per 1 million</u> inhabitants (August 31st, 2020 – December 1st, 2020)



Source: based on WHO Situation Reports.

Charts 2 and 3 illustrate the dynamics of the pandemic in the ten countries studied in a comparative manner. Chart 2 presents data related to the numbers of the infections. Chart 3 shows the data per 1 million inhabitants. The latter approach seems more precise because it shows the proper perspective of the studied phenomena. The conclusion is that in most countries the course and dynamics of the pandemic were of a similar nature. Belgium and the Czech Republic are exceptional, as the number of infections per million inhabitants began to increase there from mid-October at a greater pace than in the case of other analyzed countries. The data for the Federal Republic of Germany are also slightly different, where the increases in the number of cases – however they occur, have a much lower dynamics.





Source: based on WHO Situation Reports.

The most tragic data concerns the COVID-19 death toll. The charts illustrate the growing dynamics of the pandemic in the most traumatic, but also the most decisive aspect. It is worth noting the dramatic and disproportionately high jumps in the statistics of deaths per 1 million inhabitants took place in the Czech Republic and Hungary and were recorded in the second half of October and November. This is a clear justification for radical increases in the level of restrictions imposed in these countries. Poland also recorded relatively high increases in this group in November, but nevertheless remains in the group of countries with the lowest death rate (second place in the study group). German data displays a stable low level throughout the whole period. This proves the nature of the actions taken effective, as well as the high efficiency of the health care system. This criterion has become, after the experiences of the first wave of the coronavirus (mainly southern European countries), one of the main determinants of the assessment of actions undertaken.

Country	Regulations
Poland	In the period analyzed Poland did not introduce any constitutionally prescribed state of emergency. Poland did maintain a state of epidemic introduced on March 20 th , 2020 all over the country. Any limitations of civic rights, as a rule, were introduced on the basis of executive and implementing regulations. Most of the restrictions came into force in the form of regulations of the Council of Ministers issued based on Article 46a and Article 46b points 1-6 and 8-12 of the Legal Act of December 5 th , 2008 ,on the Prevention and Combating of Infections and Infectious Diseases in Humans (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1239, with amendments).

Legal basis for the restrictions imposed - a compilation.

Germany	The legal basis that equipped the public authorities in Germany in powers to respond to the threats caused by the coronavirus pandemic in the period from September to December 2020, was the Act on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (Infektionsschutzgesetzes). On its basis, individual federal states issued their legal acts, adjusted to their own specific environment as well as the rates of infection in a given period. The activities were coordinated through remotely held conferences of the federal government Chancellor with the authorities of the Länder, during which general principles of responding to various threats related to the pandemic were adopted. As a result of the agreements made, the Infektionsschutzgesetzes were amended so that the grounds for interference with human rights had a basis of a Legal Act, and not in government regulations (both federal and local states). The provisions refer to specific arrangements of the federal government with the authorities of the Länder, which formed a joint resolution of these entities. August 27 th , 2020 – The German chancellor and the heads of the federal states adopted a joint resolution on implementation of further measures to fight the pandemic. It was assumed that the undertaken actions are to be coordinated and based on the same
France	principles but adjusted to the regional infection rate. July 10 th , 2020 – The end of the state of sanitary
гансе	emergency in France (<i>l'état d'urgence sanitaire</i>).
	Based on the Legal Act of July 9 th , 2020 determining
	the process of exiting the sanitary hazard regime
	(LOI n ° 2020-856 du 9 juillet 2020 organisant la
	sortie de l'état d'urgence sanitaire) until October 30 th ,
	2020, on the entire territory of the country except

French Guiana and Mayotte, where the status of sanitary risk was maintained due to high incidence of the virus infections, a transitional regime (un régime transitoire) was applied.

During this period, the Act granted the Prime Minister the powers to rule by a decree based on a request of the minister responsible for public health. The decree may impose specific actions in the interest of public health and for the sole purpose of preventing the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic (e.g. restricting or prohibiting the movement of people and vehicle traffic, use of public transport, restriction of access to public facilities and other rooms open to the public, introduction of restrictions on the organization of gatherings, meetings and other activities in the open air and other places open to the public).

The Constitutional Council ruled that the powers granted to the Prime Minister under the Act constitute the implementation of the constitutional value of health protection and that the measures taken must be proportional to the sanitary risks, adapted to the circumstances and applied no longer than necessary (Décision n ° 2020-803 DC du 9 juillet 2020).

Due to the worsening of the epidemiological situation, the Council of Ministers issued a decree announcing a state of sanitary emergency throughout the country from October 17^{th} , 2020 with the Act of November 14^{th} , 2020 (Loi n ° 2020-1379 du 14 novembre 2020 autorisant la prorogation de l'état d'urgence sanitaire et portant diverses mesures de gestion de la crise sanitaire). The duration of the state of sanitary emergency was extended until October 16^{th} , 2021. Under the same law, the transitional regime was extended until April 1^{st} , 2021.

	The authorization of SI-DEP (Système
	d'Informations de DEPistage) and "Contact COVID"
	(digital tools for collecting data and tracking
	contacts) were also extended until April 1 st , 2021.
Italy	End of November – An introduction of a statutory
-	state of emergency throughout the country.
	December 4 th , 2020 – An introduction of a nighttime
	curfew (10 pm $- 5$ am). During the curfew hours,
	travelers are allowed to move only for justified
	reasons related to the performed work, in cases of
	greater necessity or in emergencies, e.g. related to
	health condition. Travelers are also allowed to return
	to your place of residence/stay. Fines for unjustified
	departure during curfew reach from €400 to €1000.
	December 21^{st} , 2020 – January 6^{th} , 2021 – A ban on
	free movement between regions.
	December 25 th , 2020 – December 26 th , 2020 and
	January 6^{th} , 2020 – A prohibition of a free movement
	between municipalities.
	All travelers entering Italy from December 21 st , 2020
	to January 6 th , 2021, were obliged to undergo a 10-
	day quarantine.
	The whole country got divided into 3
	epidemiological risk zones: "yellow", "orange" and
	"red". There are no restrictions when entering Italy,
	but there is no possibility of tourist entry stay in the
	"orange" and "red" zones.
Spain	March 14 th , 2020 – June 20 th , 2020 – The first period
~P	of the state of alert (<i>estado de alarma</i>) all over Spain.
	October 9 th , 2020 – October 24 th , 2020 – The second
	period of a state of alert in the Community of Madrid
	(Comunidad de Madrid) introduced based on the
	Real Decreto 900/2020.
	October 25 th , 2020 – May 9 th , 2021 – The third period
	of a statewide state of alert introduced based on Real
	Decreto 926/2020.

	Pandemic countermeasures shall apply on the
	territory of any Autonomous Community or
	Autonomous City if the competent delegated local
	authority decides so. Each of them will be able to
	establish, adjust and suspend the application of
	measures in view of changes in health,
	epidemiological, social, economic and social
	mobility indicators. However, the period of the
	introduction of the measure may not be shorter than
	seven calendar days.
Sweden	July 1 st , 2020 – A lift of Chapter19 § 6a, 6b, 6c of
Streach	a Legal Act on Counteracting Infectious Diseases.
	The government still retains special powers to
	prevent infectious diseases under Chapter 19 § 6 of
	the Act in the form of the possibility of issuing
	specific regulations to prevent the spread of
	infectious diseases. Based on Chapter 8 of the Act on
	Counteracting Infectious Diseases, Sweden
	introduces the possibility of appealing against
	decisions of the Government and individual organs
	via court of law.
	December 9 th , 2020 – A presentation of
	a governmental draft law on specific restrictions to
	counteract COVID-19, which is to apply from March 15 th , 2021 to March of 2022. It is to include
	instruments which can be used to limit trade, access
	to squares and bathing areas, parks, public transport,
	etc.
Netherlands	December 1 st , 2020 – An introduction of the
	temporary Legal Act on measures against COVID-
	19 (Dutch Wetsvoorstel Tijdelijke wet maatregelen
	COVID-19) for a period of three months with a
	possibility of renewals. It replaces legal measures
	that had been in force since March of 2020. It is also
	replaces the Public Health Act, based on an action
	strategy from March of 2020.
L	states, nom march of 2020.

Belgium	 July 1st, 2020 – Taking into consideration a stable epidemiological situation and low number or infections the National Security Council based on the opinion of a group of GEES (Groupe en charge de l'Exit Strategy) experts, decided to further lift counterpandemic restrictions. The National Security Council in tandem with a group of Celeval (<i>La Cellule d'évaluation du gouvernement fédéral</i>) experts announced a long term counterpandemic strategy placing the main stress on the citizens' responsibility. When in the first week of October Belgium recorded a 48% increase in the average number of cases (ar average of 2,309 new confirmed cases per day), the Conciliation Committee (Le Comité de concertation) decided to tighten preventive measures (including limiting close contacts of people): citizens were allowed to meet to up to a maximum of 3 people a month outside their circle of household members; private meetings in apartments and outdoors could reach up to a maximum of 4 people; cafes would be closed from 11 pm. Further restrictions were introduced in line with the progressive increase in the average number of cases over the previous 7 days, new admissions to hospitals and deaths. October 28th, 2020 – An issue of a ministeriar regulation, amended on November 1st, 2020 introducing a partial lockdown in the country. Following a slight improvement in the situatior (peak cases were recorded on October 27th, 2020 with 22211 new cases confirmed on that date), the Consensus Committee allowed for a slight relaxatior of the restrictions while setting out guidelines for the holiday season.

Hungary	The Constitution of the Kingdom of Belgium does not provide for the institution of a state of emergency. In emergency situations, it is possible to resort to the concept of delegation to the executive power extra "special powers" (pouvoirs spéciaux) to lift, supplement, suspend, adjust, amend and replace the existing legal standards to the extent necessary to achieve specific goals. During the second wave of the epidemic, as during the first wave of cases, the legal basis for most of the restrictions imposed were not royal decrees issued on the basis of statutorily delegated extraordinary powers, but ministerial orders based on the doctrine known in Belgian law of "general capacity of the executive power in the field of public order" (le pouvoir général de police du roi). June 17 th , 2020 – November 3 rd , 2020 – An introduction of a state of a crisis in the area of public health, on the basis of the Act on Public Health. The government has been empowered to issue regulations (there is no decree in Hungary) coordinating the functioning of the state. November 3 rd , 2020 – Introduction of a state of emergency caused by a pandemic with a regulation by a government (based on Article 53 of the Basic Law of Hungary). This is the legal environment that was in force in Hungary from March 11 th , 2020 to June 17 th , 2020. On November 10 th , 2020 – An extension of the special legal regime by 90 days the Parliament of Hungary.
Czech Republic	September 5 th , 2020 – The Czech Republic reintroduced the state of emergency (Czech nouzový stav) on its territory. The state of emergency initially lasted for 30 days. Subsequently, the government,

	based on to another Legal Act, with the consent of
	the House of Parliament, extended its term.
	November 20 th , 2020 – The state of emergency was
	extended again until December 12 th , 2020.

Aspects of the study



Aspect 1: Restrictions on personal freedom, inviolability and personal integrity

Poland¹¹

On October 24th, 2020, the whole territory of Poland was declared a "red zone". Before October 24th, 2020, the government would occasionally declare certain areas a "red zone" or a "yellow zone", depending on the intensity of the incidence of the virus infections in a given area. In case of the "yellow zone" the restrictions imposed were lighter and for example did not include the obligation to wear face masks in the open public spaces. There were also no restrictions on public gatherings and organization of mass events.

After October 24th, 2020 it became obligatory to cover face with masks in public spaces at all times except for forests, parks, botanic gardens, beaches, private gardens and during driving a private car. The government also re-introduced the obligation to maintain safe distance between people.

From September 2^{nd} , 2020, in case of a confirmed infection the authorities introduced an obligation to self-quarantine for asymptomatic carriers. When symptoms of the disease in fact do appear, isolation is extended to a minimum of 13 days. Persons subject to isolation are to be inspected by police officers. Failure to comply with the isolation will result in a fine. Similar rules apply to the observance of the quarantine.

Travelers must complete the Passengers Locator Form and Public Health Self Declaration.

¹¹Website of the Republic of Poland, Coronavirus: information and recommendations,

https://www.gov.pl/web/coronavirus/temporary-limitations, November 26th, 2020.

Germany¹²

In case of Germany, the rules applicable in individual federal states may differ significantly. Nevertheless, it is quite common to wear nose and mouth masks in shops and on public transport and maintain a safe distance of 1.5m.

The obligation to undergo quarantine in the event of contact with an infected person is also still maintained. The quarantine is expected to last a period of 14 days.

France¹³

On October 30th, 2020, France introduced the obligation to cover the nose and mouth in closed public spaces and additionally the obligation to wear masks for people over 11 years old in all public spaces. Masks are also compulsory in schools, except for kindergartens. It is also recommended to keep a distance of 1m from other members of the public.

In the event of disease symptoms, there is a 7-day isolation period. Similar regulations apply in a contact with an infected person.

People entering France from outside the EU and Schengen areas were encouraged to complete the PCR test within 72 hours of their entry to the country. People without such a negative result were instructed to undergo a 7-day quarantine. There were also health checks at borders (and airports). On the other hand, people from the French overseas territories were obliged to present a negative COVID-test result when entering France. Two documents were also required from travelers: The International Movement Certificate and a sworn health declaration.

¹²European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/DEU/5006, November 26th, 2020Federal Foreign Office, Information on entry restrictions and quarantine regulations in Germany.

https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/coronavirus#content_1, November 26th, 2020.

¹³European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/FRA/7001, November 27th, 2020; Gouvernment,

https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus#questions, November 27th, 2020.

Italy¹⁴

On November 3rd, 2020, Italy introduced more extensive restrictions by a decree of the Prime Minister.

According to these guidelines, it was obligatory to wear protective masks in confined spaces and in any other situation when it is impossible to maintain an appropriate social distance.

The government also introduced requirements for a 10-day quarantine for people who have contact with a sick person, and 10 or 21-day isolation in the event of symptoms.

Anyone who wanted to travel to Italy, was required to submit an appropriate health declaration. When traveling from selected countries, there was an obligation to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine or submit the PCR test result.

Spain¹⁵

In Spain, covering the nose and mouth is compulsory in all public spaces, both indoors and outdoors. Spain also obliges all citizens to keep social distance – the recommended distance is 1.5m.

When entering Spain, it was necessary to provide the result of the PCR test performed over the period of the last 72 hours. Passengers arriving by air also had a mandatory body temperature check performed. It was also necessary to complete a public health form.

Sweden¹⁶

¹⁴European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/ITA/7008, December 1st, 2020; Ministerio della Salute,

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/homeNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?ling ua=english, December 1st, 2020.

¹⁵European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/ESP/7008, December 1st, 2020; Gobierno de Espana,

https://www.spain.info/en/discover-spain/practical-information-tourists-covid-19-travel-spain/, December 1st, 2020.

¹⁶European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/pl/map/SWE/6001, November 30th, 2020; Public Health Agency of Sweden, Local general guidelines are issued in order to prevent the spread of infection,

https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/the-public-health-agency-of-

Over the course of the period analyzed in Sweden, the order to cover the nose and mouth in public spaces was yet not in force. However, it was recommended to keep social distance and avoid larger groups of people.

If symptoms of the disease appeared, it was recommended to stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days. However, there was no quarantine requirement for people entering Sweden from abroad (this is partially related to the suspension of entry to the country for citizens of foreign countries except for travelers from the EU and Schengen area). When traveling, people entering Sweden may have been asked to provide an appropriate health declaration, but this is not an official requirement.

The Netherlands¹⁷

The highest number of daily confirmed virus infection cases occurred at the end of October, but the tightening of anti-COVID restrictions took place on October 14th, 2020. However, there is no requirement to wear masks in all public spaces, only a recommendation. However, it was obligatory to cover the nose and mouth with medical masks on public transport for people over 13 years of age, and non-medical masks were mandatory at airports and on airplanes.

It was also recommended to maintain a safe social distance of 1.5m in the case of people over 12 years of age (while in the 13-17 age group it was necessary to keep the distance only from adults).

An obligation of home self-quarantine was imposed in the case of people with symptoms of the disease or people who had contact with an infected person for at least 15 minutes. People who underwent the tests and waited for their results and the family living with such a person were to be quarantined. The quarantine was usually 10 days long.

sweden/communicable-disease-control/covid-19/local-general-guidelines/,

December 1st, 2020; Krisinformation, https://www.krisinformation.se/en, November 30th, 2020.

¹⁷Government of the Netherlands, Partial lockdown needed to bring down infections, https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2020/10/13/partial-lockdown-needed-to-bring-down-infections, December 1st, 2020; Reopen Europe,

https://reopen.europa.eu/pl/map/NLD/6001, December 1st,2020.

In the case of entry to the Netherlands from some countries, including the EU, it was obligatory to undergo a quarantine for 10 days. In addition, it was also necessary to provide completed appropriate documents confirming the state of health.

Between 8 pm and 7 am it is forbidden to consume or possess alcohol in public spaces.

Belgium¹⁸

Belgium introduced an obligation to undergo a quarantine in the event of disease symptoms, direct contact with an infected person or after returning from a trip abroad which lasted more than 48 hours.

After returning from a trip abroad, it was necessary to fill in the Passenger Locator Form. In the case of return from a red zone country, quarantine was compulsory. Information about the necessity to undergo quarantine was sent in the form of text messages. Quarantine should last 7 days for people who have undergone testing, or 10 days for those who have not tested for COVID-19.

Belgium introduced an obligation to wear a mask for people over 12 years of age in public spaces – transport, shops, centers, museums, libraries, etc. In other public spaces it is advisable to cover only the nose and mouth and keep a distance of 1.5m.

In addition, Brussels introduced a mandatory requirement to wear protective masks in all public spaces.

Hungary¹⁹

People in public spaces, open parks, green areas and when practicing sports had to cover their nose and mouth. It was recommended to keep a distance of 1.5m. The guidelines for the necessity of quarantine included the obligation of home quarantine for people with mild symptoms of the disease.

¹⁸Belgian Government, COVID-19, https://www.info-

coronavirus.be/en/quarantine-isolation/, November 26th, 2020; European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/BEL/6003, November 26th, 2020.

¹⁹European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/pl/map/HUN/7001, December 1st, 2020.

Travelers entering Hungary were obliged to undergo a 10-day quarantine. Hungarian citizens returning from high-risk countries were also required to undergo a double testing procedure. Citizens of neighboring countries and Hungarian citizens living abroad were able to enter Hungary without the need to take the test if they traveled for a distance of no more than 30km from the border and stayed abroad for a maximum of 24 hours.

The Czech Republic²⁰

On October 22nd, 2020, the government of the Czech Republic tightened the COVID-prevention restrictions which had been introduced some time earlier. From September 19th, 2020 the authorities obliged the citizens to cover mouth and nose with a protective mask in all public spaces. It was also recommended to maintain safe space of about 2m.

People with symptoms of the disease are quarantined and tested after 5 days. In the case of people entering the Czech Republic from the EU, from countries recognized as a red zone (high risk), it was necessary to submit the test result and fill in a form with address and location in the Czech Republic (Passenger Locator Form). Similar rules applied to travelers from outside the EU and Schengen area.

Country	Regulations
Poland	August 8 th , 2020 – Introduction of an obligation to cover the mouth and nose with a piece of clothing or parts of thereof, a mask, a visor or a protective helmet, among others in means of public transport, on passenger ships in domestic shipping, in motor vehicles used by people who do not belong to the same household, in generally accessible places such as: on

Legal regulations – compilation.

²⁰Covid Portal, https://covid.gov.cz/en/situations/churches-and-religiousactivities/services-and-religious-gatherings, December 1st, 2020; European Union, https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/CZE/7008, December 1st, 2020.

the roads, in cemeteries, parks, lawns, promenades, boulevards, botanical gardens, historic gardens, beaches, parking places for vehicles, forest parking lots, shared spaces of real estate as described by the Act on the Ownership of Premises, in workplaces and in utility buildings of public administration, public courts, centers of culture, places of religious worship, centers of education, higher education, science, health, social care, banking, in commercial or service during religious worship, including facilities. activities or religious ceremonies. The order to cover the mouth and nose raised doubts due to the lack of explicit authorization in the act to impose this type of restriction by means of a regulation. From November 29th, 2020 – Introduction of an order to cover the mouth and nose, in certain circumstances, places and buildings and in specific areas, by regulation, together with the manner of implementing this order through a clear Legal Act. September 2^{nd} , 2020 – The quarantine and home isolation becomes reduced from 14 to 10 days. The release from isolation is related to the principles of the patient's clinical condition. The doctor has the ability to decide to extend the isolation if the patient's health required it. Persons obliged to undergo a quarantine include: persons who have crossed the EU external border; persons who have had contact with an infected, sick or suspected person; persons who have symptoms that may indicate coronavirus infection, have been referred for a coronavirus test, lives with a person who remains in home isolation:

	 persons who have been infected and received a positive coronavirus test. October 24th, 2020 – Introduction of a limit on gatherings – a maximum of 5 people from outside a common household can take part in during events, meetings and gatherings in public spaces (except for business meetings). This also applied to assemblies ad defined by the Act on Public Assemblies. October 24th, 2020 – Persons over 70 years of age are allowed to move only for the purpose of: performing professional or official activities; satisfying the necessary needs related to the current affairs of everyday life; exercising or participating in the performance of religious worship, including religious activities or ceremonies. On the other hand, minors up to the age of 16 from Monday to Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm, are only allowed to move with the supervision of the person exercising parental authority, legal guardian or another adult, unless the purpose of the movement is to get to school or other educational facility or return to their place of residence.
Germany	services and related activities. August 27 th , 2020 – An obligation to maintain a safe
	social distance of at least 1.5m, supplemented by the obligation to cover the mouth and nose in some public spaces and where it is not possible to use the distance. There is a uniform minimum penalty of \in 50 for violations of the requirement to cover the mouth and nose in all Länder (except Saxony-Anhalt). September 15 th , 2020 – An end of free testing for travelers from non-hazardous areas. The obligation to carry out tests for travelers from risk areas has been

	maintained. The testing strategy was outlined aiming to catch infections in the most effective way. October 1 st , 2020 – An introduction of new self- isolation solutions. September 29 th , 2020 – During a videoconference between the Chancellor and the heads of government of the federal states, the policymakers decided that due to the infection threat, social and economic life cannot be excessively opened. It was agreed that individual hygiene measures should be supplemented with regular ventilation. Recommendations were also issued on the rules of the necessary hygiene regime in schools. November 16 th , 2020 – During a conference between the German Chancellor and the Land authorities, the previous restrictions were maintained. The federal and local Land governments have called for a significant reduction in the number of contacts, the protection of risk groups and the precaution of respiratory diseases. November 25 th , 2020 – The German Chancellor agreed with the heads of state governments to continue the measures in force until December 20 th , 2020. In some cases the restrictions have been tightened, in particular the obligation to wear masks has been extended. The quarantine obligation was maintained throughout the entire period, according to the rules set out in the unsubienee built for deared states.	
France	regulations by individual federal states.The announcement of a state of health emergency was the basis for introducing a curfew between 11 pm and	
	6 am first in the Île-de-France region and in eight capitals of other regions and from October 20 th , 2020	
	in 54 departments and in French Polynesia from 9 pm	
	to 6 am. The decisive factors quoted included as follows:	
	- the number of cases per 100,000 inhabitants;	
		-

	 the number of cases among the elderly; the number of beds occupied in intensive care units. During the curfew, only people with the right to do so (attestation de déplacement dérogatoire) were allowed to leave their place of residence and move. However, France decided to apply a more flexible approach with respect to other areas of life. November 28th, 2020 – A partial easing of restrictions introduced as a result of a drop in infection numbers. After November 20th, 2020 the number of new cases per day dropped below 20000, and the occupancy of beds in intensive care decreased from 96.9% on November 16th, 2020 to 74.4% on November 28th, 2020.
Italy	 Countrywide restrictions in Italy covered the following: an absolute prohibition of quarantined persons from leaving their place of residence in case of a positive COVID-19 test result until they are fully recovered; an absolute ban on leaving the place of residence for people with symptoms of infection and fever (over 37.5°C)
	 and an order to inform a family doctor about the disease; public transport, air and rail traffic were not stopped, but significantly reduced; persons whose body temperature exceeds 37.5°C are not allowed to travel by trains on long-haul routes. There is a strict requirement to wear masks and cover the respiratory tract all over the country in all confined spaces other than private dwellings and in the open air, except for those spaces which, due to the characteristics of the place or circumstances,

	 constantly provide isolation from people other than household members (all types of masks can be used, including fabric masks). This obligation does not only apply to the following members of the public: children up to 6 years of age; people with diseases or disabilities that exclude the use of the mask, as well as those who, when interacting with the above-mentioned people, are also unable to perform duties if wearing a mask; at the moment of practicing sports (the mask is not necessary for jogging/speed walking, but it is for walking/trekking); in addition, it is strongly recommended to cover the respiratory tract in private homes in the presence of people other than homeowners.
Spain	Spain limited the gatherings of groups of people in public and private spaces to a maximum of six people, with the exception of co-residents. The Autonomous Communities were allowed to reduce this number, such as Castilla y León, where only three people were allowed to meet. November 20 th , 2020 – The Supreme Court (Tribunal Supremo) approved the obligation to wear masks, and the government announced that it would be maintained it throughout 2021. An appeal brought by a citizen against the regulation of the Health Ministry number 422/2020 of May 19 th , 2020 was rejected, stating that "it is justified to order the use of the face mask as, with the current state of knowledge about the spread of COVID-19 virus, it is necessary and proportionate to the achievement of the general public health objective as it is a measure that can contain the progress of the pandemic". Social distancing restrictions were introduced in autonomous regions and ranged from 1.5m to 3m

	depending on the nature of the meeting, i.e. public space, sports, etc. An interesting example was Melilla, where smoking and water pipes were forbidden on public roads and on the open spaces.
Sweden	As regards compulsory medical response, the provisions have not been generally changed. Quarantine is possible when an infection is suspected. A person can be sent to isolation on the basis of the regulations of Chapter 5 of the Act on Counteracting Infectious Diseases and may last a maximum of 14 days. The law provides for two types of quarantine: voluntary and compulsory. A person is subject to compulsory quarantine if he or she does not want to voluntarily submit to measures aimed at reducing the risk of disease transmission, or if there are reasons to believe that the person will not abide by the rules of voluntary quarantine. From December 1 st , 2020 it has been indicated that asymptomatic children with COVID-19 infection must be quarantined and remain at home with a family member who suffers from COVID-19 infection.
Netherlands	 October 14th, 2020 – An introduction of new restrictions such as: the number of visitors in a private house must be limited to up to 3 persons per day; a closed space may accommodate up to 30 persons, including children; gatherings in the open air may reach 4 people; persons over 13 must wear face masks in public buildings, on public transport, at schools; cafes and restaurants ,ust be closed, home delivery is allowed; sports outside can be practiced at a distance of 1,5m from other people or in a group of no more than 4 people;

	- sports competitions are banned.
Belgium	July 1st, 2020 – A decision to lift several social
	restrictions.
	- the so-called "social bubble" (the number of
	people with whom household members can
	maintain contact without wearing a face mask
	and without social distancing) has been in-
	creased to 15 per week (une bull élargie);
	- a time limits for stays in stores are lifted on
	condition social distance is maintained. No ob-
	ligation to wear masks;
	- subject to appropriate quantitative restrictions
	and safety rules, swimming pools, cinemas,
	theaters, congress halls and banquet halls (up
	to 50 people) can be opened;
	- organization of events with the participation of
	the public up to 200 people indoors and up to
	400 people outdoors (the last condition also
	applied to organizing demonstrations with the
	consent of local authorities) is permitted;
	 night clubs remained closed;
	- all mass events are still banned.
	July 29 th , 2020 – Reintroduction of a number of
	restrictions:
	- the "social bubble" must be limited to 5
	persons;
	- family and social meeting must be limited to
	up to 10 people;
	- shopping time must be limited to 30 minutes.
	In spite of the restrictions imposed the infection
	numbers, hospital admissions and COVID-related
	deaths rose respectively by 101%, 87% and 67%
	(October 15 th , 2020). As a result, the government
	decided to issue stricter restrictions.
	December 19 th , 2020:
	- close contact with people must be restricted to

maximum 1 person;

- online work must be introduced wherever possible;
- travelling on public roads between 24.00 5.00 is banned except for essential travels;
- cafes and restaurants must remain closed.

After another growth in infection statistics (the number of infections reached 10 454, the number of hospital admissions -350, the average number of deaths reached 54 per week) the government decided to introduce a partial lockdown.

The most important restrictions introduced as part of the partial lockdown of the country came into force at the turn of October and November and concerned the social, economic and educational spheres. The restrictions imposed ruled as follows:

- each citizen may only maintain close contact with one person outside their own household;
- private meetings in the open air are limited to a maximum of four people and social distancing must be followed;
- participation in funeral ceremonies was limited to up to 15 people, weddings could only take place in the presence of the couple, witnesses and an official performing the ceremony;
- hotels remain open, but it is possible to eat meals from hotel restaurants only in private rooms;
- all shops not considered essential to meet the basic needs of the nation and the population must remain closed;
- it is forbidden to provide any services except medical services (hairdressers, beauticians, wellness centers, beauty salons, etc.);

	- wearing protective face masks is obligatory in public places and in those workplaces where it is not possible to organize remote work.
Hungary	 September 21st, 2020 – An order to use masks in shops, public transport, cinemas, theaters, offices, customer service points, etc. October 23rd, 2020: an order to wear masks in all public spaces for people over 6 years old; a curfew (ban of free movement) between 12 pm and 5 am. September 11th, 2020: a curfew between 8 pm and 5 am; a ban on all assemblies; a restriction on the number of people at family celebrations – only up to 10 persons allowed.
Czech Republic	 November 30th, 2020 – Introduction of a Legal Act issued by the Czech Health Ministry introduces special protective measures (Czech. mimořádná opatření). The act imposes among others the ban on free movement in all places except for a place of residence or accommodation (e.g. a hotel room), without the use of protective equipment such as face masks covering mouth and nose which protect from the spread of the virus. The regulation is in force from December 3rd, 2020 and remains in force indefinitely. The regulation does not apply to: children up to two years of age; children in the case of staying in groups of children in rooms intended for groups of children; pupils, students and teaching staff as well as students and academic staff as part of educational activities, if the nature of these activities

 makes it impossible to wear protective equipment; children, pupils and students during their stay in a room in a boarding school or youth center; people with mental disorders, with autistic disorders, with cognitive disorders, if their mental state makes it impossible to comply with the regulations on wearing protective measures; healthcare professionals, if required to provide medical assistance; persons operating public transport, if they are not in direct contact with travelers while driving; people in a closed vehicle if they all live in the same household. 	
	 children, pupils and students during their stay in a room in a boarding school or youth center; people with mental disorders, with autistic dis- orders, with cognitive disorders, if their mental state makes it impossible to comply with the regulations on wearing protective measures; healthcare professionals, if required to provide medical assistance; persons operating public transport, if they are not in direct contact with travelers while driv- ing; people in a closed vehicle if they all live in the

Aspect 2: Restrictions on religious worship in public

Poland

In the case of centers of religious worship, during religious ceremonies it is allowed for 1 person to stay per 1 sq m while keeping a distance of 1.5m and the covering the nose and mouth. During the All-Saints Holiday, the cemeteries were temporarily closed (from October 31st, 2020 to November 2nd, 2020). It should be noted that the situation remained dynamic, and the limitations on the number of participants attending religious ceremonies were proportional to the degree of the intensity of the pandemic.

Germany

Restrictions on gatherings in places of religious worship in force were the same as restrictions in the spring and differed depending on the individual federal states.

France

Places of religious worship remain open to the faithful, but the celebration of, e.g. holy masses and other ceremonies have been prohibited. Funerals can be held, but subject to the maximum limit of 30 participants.

Italy

The opening of a place of worship depends on safety measures adopted in a given region, limiting the epidemiological risk. It is possible to participate in the services with special regulations, e.g. social distance. The government and representations of religious churches sign appropriate protocols regulating the possibility of participating in religious rites.

Spain

Churches remain open, but nose and mouth must be covered while inside. Keeping a distance of 1.5m is obligatory. In some cases,

churches impose their own additional restrictions, e.g. one of the churches in Madrid requires you to wash your hands before entering.

Sweden

The authorities suggest that worshippers refrain from participating in public religious ceremonies attended by large numbers of people, such as baptisms, funerals, and weddings. Most regions in Sweden impose a limit of 20 people who can attend funerals.

The Netherlands

Places of worship remain open and accessible to the faithful, but social distancing and covering the nose and mouth are required. In the case of rituals, such as funerals, the limit is up to 100 people.

Belgium

Funerals can only be attended by 15 people, participation in the wedding except for the married couple is allowed only for witnesses and the person celebrating the ceremony. In places of worship, there are restrictions identical to the case of gatherings – a maximum of 4 people must be observed, an obligation to cover the nose and mouth and an obligation to keep a distance of 1.5m apply.

Hungary

Places of religious worship remain open with a limited number of participants in religious rites, such as weddings (young couple, priest, witnesses) or funerals (limit up to 50 people).

The Czech Republic

Places of religious worship remain open, but the number of participants in the various ceremonies is limited. In the case of funerals, a maximum of 20 people may attend and necessary regulations must be observed (covering the nose and mouth, safe distance). Weddings are limited to 15 guests (weddings are limited to 20). 20 people are allowed to participate in baptisms, the same number can participate in holy masses. From December 3rd, 2020, these



restrictions will be relaxed – the maximum number of participants allowed to participate in the rituals will increase to 30.

	ions – compliation.
Country	Regulations
Poland	From August 8 th , 2020, assemblies organized as part
	of the activities of churches and other religious
	associations could take place in the "red zone" on the
	following conditions:
	- in the closed areas: in buildings and other ob-
	jects of religious worship, with 50% of the
	occupancy of the building and when the par-
	ticipants fulfill the obligation to cover their
	mouth and nose;
	- outside, in the open air, if the participants, re-
	gardless of the distance between them, fulfill
	the obligation to cover their mouth and nose;
	On the rest of the territory of Poland, ceremonies can
	take part freely, provided that if the assembly takes
	place in buildings and other religious objects,
	participants must cover their mouths and nose.
	October 17 th , 2020 – November 6 th , 2020 – An order
	to guarantee 7 sq m for each person participating in
	a religious ceremony in the church.
	November 7 th , 2020 – December 27 th , 2020 – An
	order to guarantee 15 sq m for each person
	participating in a religious ceremony in the church.
Germany	In the field of religious freedom, especially regarding
	religious ceremonies, the restrictions were
	a consequence of general solutions related to social
	distancing, the requirement to wear masks, or
	restrictions on free movement and right to assembly,
	as well as the need to maintain a certain distance
	between individuals.

Legal restrictions – compilation.

France	The facilities for religious worship remained open,
	but the organization of meetings and gatherings was
	forbidden there. Funeral ceremonies were allowed,
	but with a maximum limit of 30 people). Since the
	end of November, it has been allowed to organize
	services in facilities intended for religious worship,
	with the principle that every third place and every
T4 - I	second row of benches may be occupied.
Italy	Throughout the country (even in the "red zones"),
	religious ceremonies were allowed with the
	participation of the faithful, provided that the
	sanitary regime standards were maintained:
	a distance of at least 1m and wearing masks.
	The organization of banquets accompanying
	religious and secular ceremonies, (e.g. wedding
	receptions) or other events is suspended.
Spain	The presence of persons in places of worship has
	been restricted. The relevant delegated competent
	authority determines the capacity for religious
	meetings, ceremonies and gatherings, taking into
	account the risk of transmission that could occur.
	This restriction may not affect the private and
	individual exercise of religious freedom.
	Autonomous communities establish the capacity of
	places allowed for public religious worship, e.g. in
	the Basque Country it is 35% of the capacity – the
	customary number of worshippers allowed.
Sweden	No restrictions concerning the closure of churches
Sweuell	and places of worship. Due to the general ban on
	gathering to no more than 8 people, the possibility of
	participating in religious ceremonies was limited.
	The exceptions were funerals, where the limit of 20
	people applies. In practice, many places of worship
	remained open, but the ceremonies were not
	celebrated. The penalty for breaking the prohibition
	of restriction is a fine or imprisonment for

a maximum of six months, in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 29 of the Act on Counteracting Infectious Diseases (2004: 168). The role of the police in prosecuting violations of prohibitions changed.
There are no specific regulations for the closure of
churches and places of worship.
October 13 th , 2020 – Introduction of restrictions
according to which a maximum of 30 people are
allowed to stay in a closed room (this number also includes children).
,
Places of worship remained open, but without the possibility of holding ceremonies and mass
ceremonies.
During the second wave of the pandemic, no
restrictions on the functioning of places of worship
were introduced.
November 11 th , 2020 – A suspension of weddings
were completely suspended.
From December 3 rd , 2020 the Czech Republic
government introduced restrictions on the
participation in religious services: no more than 30%
of the number of seats in a given place of worship
may be occupied, provided that a minimum distance
of 2.0m is maintained between the individuals in the
place of worship. This obligation does not apply to
people living together in the same household. People
who want to participate in the service must disinfect
their hands before entering the room. In addition, as
part of participation in the service, it was forbidden
to pass each other the sign of peace and singing
together.

Aspect 3: Restrictions on free movement of people and the right to assembly, limitations on the right to assembly

Poland

The whole territory of Poland has been covered by the "red zone" regime since October 24th, 2020. The restrictions include a ban on gatherings of more than 5 people, cancellation of all public events, regardless of their nature, ban on attending sports events which now need to be held without the audience. Only private events organized in houses of up to 20 people are allowed.

Children up to 16 years of age are not allowed to stay outside the home without the supervision of a legal guardian or an adult on weekdays from 8 am to 4 pm. People over 70 have been asked to limit their activities as much as possible. Additionally, the so-called "hours for seniors" have been introduced at grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, etc. The places are available exclusively to seniors between 10 am and 12 pm on working days.

From June 13th, 2020, Poland restored border traffic with the exception of travel to a group of specifically listed countries from which travel is still banned. The list of these countries changes on a regular basis depending on the epidemiological situation in the world.

Germany

The borders of Germany remained open, but the obligation to selfisolate in line with the rules of isolation and quarantine was introduced for travelers from countries identified as high-risk countries.

France

Assemblies of more than 6 people have been forbidden, with exceptions of taking part in business meetings, using public transport and, for example, funerals (the limit of up to 30 people applies).

The possibility of free movement is also limited to situations that are strictly necessary.

Italy

From November 6th, 2020, certain restrictions on freedom of assembly apply. All sporting events and competitions have been suspended, except for professional and amateur competitions recognized by the National Olympic Committee and the Italian Paralympic Committee. Restrictions also apply to public performances in theaters, concert halls, conferences, festivals and fairs.

It is recommended to avoid meetings with outsiders in private homes. Cities are allowed to close streets and squares from 9 pm in order to avoid public gatherings. A nationwide nighttime curfew limiting the freedom of movement is in force daily between 10 pm and 5 am.

The decree of the Prime Minister of November 3rd, 2020 introduced the division of regions in Italy into three categories:

- the "yellow zone", where there are no restrictions on free freedom of movement of people;
- the "orange zone", where it is not allowed to drive into or outside the region;
- the "red zone", with restrictions analogous to the orange zone.

Spain

Spain has adopted a nationwide nighttime curfew (with the exception of the Canary Islands) between 11 pm and 6 am. Additionally, a few selected regions have implemented a border lock that prevents people from leaving and entering the area. The freedom of assembly is also limited. In open spaces only gatherings of up to 6 people are allowed (previously, in September, it was only limited to 10 people^{21}).

Sweden

Sweden introduced ban on gathering of over 50 people. At the same time, it is allowed to organize events with up to 300 people when participants remain in seats and it is possible to ensure at least one meter of distance between them. Additionally, from November 1st, 2020, night clubs can accept a maximum of 50 people. It is possible to introduce additional restrictions at the local level, depending on the assessment of the current epidemiological situation and the possibility of the pandemic outbreaks. For example, on November 24th, 2020, events and gatherings are limited to a maximum of 8 people in all regions, also including sit-down events.

There were no restrictions on the freedom of movement of people within the country. The country however encourages minimizing unnecessary travel and undertaking remote work wherever possible.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands restricts visits in private homes to up to 3 people from outside. Children under the age of 13 are not included in this limit. In the case of outdoor gatherings, group meetings of up to 4 people from different households are allowed. In the case of closed spaces (e.g., theaters, cinemas), the limit of 30 people must be observed. Restrictions also apply to physical activity. People of over 18 years of age are allowed to be active in groups of up to 4 people whenever a distance of 1.5m can be ensured.

In the case of freedom of movement, no major restrictions on the possibility of traveling within the country have been introduced. However, unnecessary travel and trips are not recommended. It is widely recommended to take up remote work whenever possible.

²¹Republic World, Spain Churches comply with stricter coronavirus measures, September 7th, 2020, https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/europe/spainchurches-comply-with-stricter-virus-measures.html, December 1st, 2020.



Belgium

Belgium limited meetings in public spaces to only 4 people. Only one person from outside may be admitted in private houses. It is also recommended to work remotely whenever and wherever it is possible, especially in the case of people with symptoms of the disease.

Additionally, some restrictions on freedom of movement were introduced at local levels. A curfew has been introduced in many regions from midnight to 5 am (in Brussels from 10 pm to 6 am).

Hungary

Hungary imposed a ban on gatherings and organizing events of any kind (cultural, sports or Christmas fairs). Sports competitions are held without the attendance of the public. Family meetings are possible only in a group of 10 people. From November 3rd, 2020, nightclubs remain closed.

From November 11th, 2020, Hungary also enforced a nationwide nighttime curfew from 8 pm to 5 am. During this period, movements are allowed for essential reasons only.

Entering Hungarian borders from the outside of the country is also not allowed on principle. Only certain exceptions remained in terms of border crossing, which include business, diplomatic, family, judicial, administrative or scientific reasons.

The Czech Republic

From November 23rd, 2020, the Czech Republic restricted the gatherings in public spaces to up to 6 people. Open-air gatherings can be organized with a maximum attendance of 100 participants but broken down into groups of maximum of 20 people. It is obligatory to ensure safe distance and cover the nose and mouth. From December 3rd, 2020 outdoor meetings in groups of 10 and 50 in open spaces as well as in places of religious worship will be allowed.

The possibility of free movement of people is also limited. Between 11 pm and 4.59 am it is forbidden to move outside a house barring exceptional situations and situations of the highest need. Also,

between 5 am and 10.59 am, outdoor activities are allowed only in justified cases.

The border entry to the Czech Republic is also blocked from October 22nd, 2020, with some exceptions including essential business trips, health and family reasons.

Country	Regulations
Poland	 August 8th, 2020 – Pedestrians are allowed to move only on condition they respect the 1,5m safe distance, unless the preservation of safe space is impossible when taking care of a minor, a disabled person, a person with special needs, a person who for health reasons is unable to move by themselves or a member of the same household. On the public means of transport and motor vehicles intended for the transport of not more than 9 people, including the driver, the seats can be occupied at not more than 50% capacity. If the vehicle has standing space, 30% of the capacity of the total number of seats and standing spaces can be occupied. These restrictions do not apply to means of special transport intended for the transport of disabled persons. It is forbidden to take a plane for any passenger who: their body temperature is equal to or exceeds 38°C; did not submit a health declaration according to the form provided by the air carrier during check-in; does not comply with the obligation to cover their mouth and nose with a mask.
Germany	August 27 th , 2020 – As agreed by the German Chancellor and the Heads of State of local
	governments it was established that travelers
	returning from high-risk areas were required to go

Legal regulations – compilation.

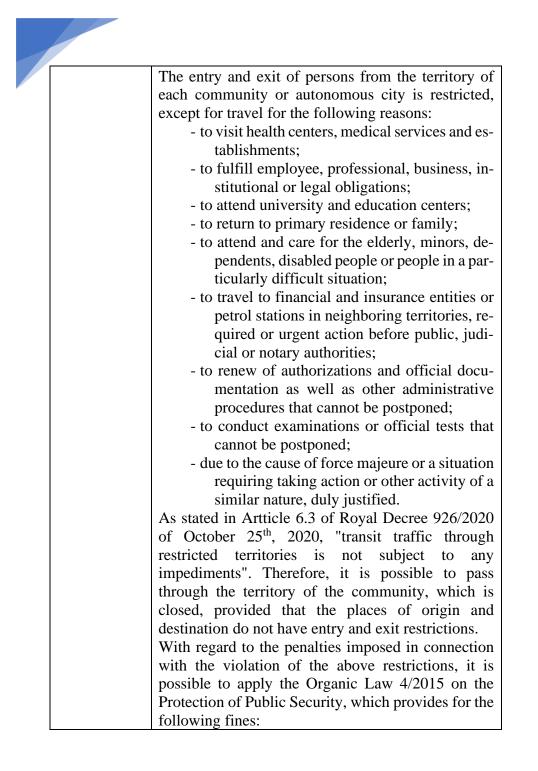
directly to their own home as soon as they entered	
the country and remain in isolation there for a period	
of 14 days after entering the country. The local	
authorities were responsible for monitoring	
compliance with these obligations. They had the	
right to impose fines for violating the isolation	
requirement.	
August 27 th , 2020 – An extension of a ban on the	
organization of events during which monitoring of	
contacts and compliance with hygiene rules were not	
possible until December 31 st , 2020.	
September 29 th , 2020 – A permission to deny	
accommodation to travelers from endangered areas.	
October 7 th , 2020 – The German Chancellor, Heads	
of Lands and the Chancellery of the Senate of the	
Lands introduced the so-called hotspot strategy to	
fight coronavirus. This strategy was announced on	
May 6 th , 2020. It included the definition of a "fallback mechanism" that was to be used to	
respond to new epidemics in a region-specific	
manner. In counties or cities with more than 50 new	
infections per 100000 inhabitants within seven days,	
a coherent concept of restriction must be re-	
implemented. In several Lands, the limit was later	
lowered to 30–35 new infections per 100000	
inhabitants over 7 days. October 14 th , 2020 –	
a decision to implement further measures, which	
should be recommended in the group of 35 new	
infections per 100000 inhabitants or introduced, as	
a rule, from one in 50. The requirements include	
covering the mouth and nose in public places and the	
restrictions on gatherings to 25, 15 or 10 people	
(depending on the intensity infection and situation).	
October 28 th , 2020 – During a videoconference	
between the Chancellor and the heads of government	
of the Lands the policymakers established that	

	citizens were obliged to limit social contacts to an absolute minimum and avoid unnecessary travel. It was established that spending time in public places can be allowed only with members of a maximum of 2 households and in a group of up to 10 people. November 25 th , 2020 – An introduction of further restrictions on private meetings and a policy on extended social distancing in stores. It was recommended that in areas with more than 200 new infections per 100000 inhabitants per week, the Lands should introduce more stringent measures. It was recommended that during the Christmas period, restrictions on private contacts should be eased so that up to 10 adults from several households can have the ability to meet. December 13 th , 2020 – A decision that shops will be closed between December 16 th , 2020, and January 10 th , 2021, except for the shops providing essential items. The same restrictions apply to hairdresser saloons and other services, except for medically necessary treatments. Depending on the infection rate, an acceptable exception to the normal contact restrictions has been established for the period from December 24 th , 2020, to December 26 th , 2020. It was found that during this time it will be possible to meet in groups of up to 4 people, excluding members of your own household and children up to 14 years of age from the closest family circle, even if this means more than two households or 5 people over 14 years of age. It was also confirmed that there will be a ban on gatherings on New Year's Eve and New Year's Eve.
France	During the period of sanitary emergency, restrictions on rights and freedoms to a large extent were analogous to those in force at the time of the first closure and covered the following:

Italy	 the possibility of leaving the place of residence only on the basis of a certificate; closure of most shops and public utilities; restriction of free movement of people with justified exceptions; the possibility of leaving the place of residence without justification, "to catch a breath", for a distance of no more than a kilometer away from home and for no more than an hour; a ban on of public gatherings and private meetings involving people from outside the biological family. The end of November – a permission to leave home without justification for up to three hours. The allowed distance was increased to 20km (but without the possibility of visiting friends and family). December 15th, 2020 – A permission to allow movement between regions without a legal permit (with the exception of the day of Dcember 24th, 2020, when a curfew was in force between 8 am and 6 pm). In the regions covered by the so-called "orange zone" regulations the national restrictions applicable throughout the country and additionally regional ones which include: prohibition of entry to and exit from the region, with the exception of movements motivated by legitimate professional necessity, health reasons or a situation of higher need.
	- return to the place of primary residence and
	transit to areas not covered by the above-
	mentioned limitation;

 movement, both by public and private means of transport, to the place other than the place of primary of residence/registration, reasons related to justified professional, educational, health needs, situations of higher necessity or the desire to undertake permitted activities or use services not covered by the suspension, and which were not available in the place of primary residence/registration; take away and home delivery sales at restaurants (until 10 pm). Stationary activities of catering facilities were suspended. There are stricter restrictions in the "red zone": a ban on leaving the place of residence, except for trips motivated by a proven professional necessity, health reasons or a situation of greater need; a ban on entry into and exit from the region, as well as travels within the region, with the exception of movements motivated by proven professional necessity, health reasons or a situation of the sale of groceries and basic necessities; pharmacies and pharmacy outlets remain open, as well as kiosks, tobacconists and art shops; suspension of operations of restaurants and cafes and catering facilities; take-away and home-delivery can be available until 10 pm; personal activity allowed only near the place of residence; suspension of all personal services, with the exception of laundry, funeral services, hairdressing services;

 an order to limit the presence of staff at the workplace in public institutions to activities that cannot be postponed and absolutely require stationary performance. Spain The movement of people on public roads or public spaces is restricted between 11 pm and 6 am, except for the following reasons: to purchase medicines, other health products and other necessary goods; to attend a health care centers and institutions or veterinary care centers in emergency situations; to fulfill professional, business, institutional or legal obligations; to return to your primary residence after performing some of these activities; to help and care for the elderly, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or people requiring special care; due to force majeure or a situation requiring such assistance or other activity of a similar nature; to refuel a car at petrol stations, if it is necessary to perform the planned activities. The competent designated local authority may define, within its territorial scope, a curfew starting between 10 pm and 12 am and an end of a curfew between 5 am and 7 am. Its enforcement is country-wide with the exception of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, due to the epidemiological situation. Castilla y León and Catalonia decided to tighten the schedule by enforcing the curfew start time to 10 pm, while the Community of Madrid, the Community of Valencia, 		
 spaces is restricted between 11 pm and 6 am, except for the following reasons: to purchase medicines, other health products and other necessary goods; to attend a health care centers and institutions or veterinary care centers in emergency situations; to fulfill professional, business, institutional or legal obligations; to return to your primary residence after performing some of these activities; to help and care for the elderly, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or people requiring special care; due to force majeure or a situation requiring such assistance or other activities. The competent designated local authority may define, within its territorial scope, a curfew starting between 10 pm and 12 am and an end of a curfew between 5 am and 7 am. Its enforcement is country-wide with the exception of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, due to the epidemiological situation. Castilla y León and Catalonia decided to tighten the schedule by enforcing the curfew start time to 10 pm, while the Community of Madrid, the Community of Valencia, 		workplace in public institutions to activities that cannot be postponed and absolutely re- quire stationary performance.
Extremadura and Cantabria decided to postpone it to 12 am.	Span	 spaces is restricted between 11 pm and 6 am, except for the following reasons: to purchase medicines, other health products and other necessary goods; to attend a health care centers and institutions or veterinary care centers in emergency situations; to fulfill professional, business, institutional or legal obligations; to return to your primary residence after performing some of these activities; to help and care for the elderly, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or people requiring special care; due to force majeure or a situation requiring such assistance or other activities. to refuel a car at petrol stations, if it is necessary to perform the planned activities. The competent designated local authority may define, within its territorial scope, a curfew starting between 10 pm and 12 am and an end of a curfew between 5 am and 7 am. Its enforcement is country-wide with the exception of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, due to the epidemiological situation. Castilla y León and Catalonia decided to tighten the schedule by enforcing the curfew start time to 10 pm, while the Community of Madrid, the Community of Valencia, Extremadura and Cantabria decided to postpone it to



	 a very serious violations would be fined from €30001 to €600000; serious infringements between €601 and €30000; minor violations from €100 to €600. Another option is to apply Act 17/2015 on the National System of Civil Protection. Here too, the sanction for offenses were the following fines: minor offences are fined up to €1500; serious from €1501 to €30000; very serious from €30001 to €600000. On the other hand, Act 33/2011 on Public Health in Article 57.2.b) rules that serious infringements such as actions which may cause a risk or serious harm to the health of the population or neglect or omissions which may cause a risk or serious harm to the health of the population shall be fined from €3001 to €60000. The same Act also establishes in Article 57.2.a) fines of up to €600000 for an act or omission which causes risk or very serious harm to the health of the population. In turn, on the basis of an internal circular of the Ministry of the Interior, the perpetrator can be fined from €601 for unauthorized travel to €10400 for participation in celebrations and events.
Sweden	November 24 th , 2020 – An announcement of a limitation on gatherings held during Christmas season and the New Year season to up to 8 people. The ban does not apply to: - sports competitions, dance performances,
	 party trains and amusement park rides; street markets and fairs, circus performances; schools, public transport, private events; shops and restaurants.

	 November 1st, 2020 – A permission to hold gatherings of up to 300 people at sports, educational and cultural events. A recommendation issued by the government to reduce meetings with other people and avoid traveling during the Christmas holiday season.
Neth	 ands October 13th, 2020 – An announcement of a partial lockdown and a recommendation of remote work. The restrictions included: a ban on all travel, restricted only to what was absolutely necessary; a ban on and public gatherings; a closure of restaurants and bars, except for take-away sales and home deliveries. December 14th, 2020 – A countrywide introduction of much more severe restrictions. Public transport operates regularly but is only intended for travel essentials. In terms of foreign travel, it is strongly discouraged to book foreign travel until mid-March 2021, unless it was absolutely necessary. People from outside the EU must present a negative COVID-19 test result when entering the Netherlands. People coming or returning from the countries marked in orange must undergo a 10-day quarantine after their arrival in the Netherlands. An official issue of a governmental recommendation: "stay at home, don't travel".
Belg	n July 1 st , 2020 – An opening of swimming pools, cinemas, theaters, congress halls, banquet halls (up to 50 people) on condition that appropriate quantitative restrictions and safety rules are maintained. A permission to organize events with the audience of up to 200 people indoors and up to 400 people outdoors (the last condition also applied to organization of demonstrations with the consent of

	local authorities). The night clubs remained closed
	and the ban on mass events remained in place.
Hungary	September 1 st , 2020 – A closure of Hungarian borders (cross-country transit remained unchanged). A person entering Hungary had to undergo a 14-day quarantine, then changed to a 10-day quarantine (from September 22 nd , 2020). In September, the citizens of the Visegrad Group were excused from quarantine if they were planning to spend a vacation in Hungary booked before August 30 th , 2020, and were able to produce a negative PCR test for COVID-19. September 21 st , 2020 – An extension of an irrevocable ban on all mass events of more than 500 people.
Czech	November 30 th , 2020 – An issue of a decree by the
Republic	Czech Republic Health Ministry introducing a number of restrictions regarding travel across the territory of the Czech Republic from the December 3 rd , 2020, onwards. Presently, in the event of any symptoms of an onset of an infectious disease (especially fever, cough, shortness of breath, indigestion, loss of smell, general weakness or other symptoms) people must immediately report this fact, by phone or otherwise, to a registered general practitioner. In addition, people entering the border of the Czech Republic were required to undergo a medical check- up for the symptoms of an infectious disease, and if symptoms of such an infectious disease were detected, they must also report to a medical point for a COVID-19 test. Moreover, persons entering the Czech borders arriving from a territory of a country that is outside the list of low-risk COVID-19 countries, are obliged to notify about this fact before entering the Czech

Republic by completing the electronic form (Czech Příjezdový formulář) on condition that the stay exceeded 12 hours in the period of the last 14 days. In addition, the arriving travelers are obliged to notify the regional hygiene station at the place of residence or declared stay, and upon its request, submit a proof of completing the electronic Arrival Form (application) at the border. They must also within 5 days of entering the territory of the Czech Republic undergo a RT-PCR for the presence of SARS-CoV-2, at their own expense unless the public health authority has decided on other quarantine measures on a case by case basis. The Czech legislator introduced a number of exceptions, according to which certain categories of people do not have to undergo these procedures.

The Czech legislator introduced a number of exceptions, according to which certain categories of people do not have to undergo these activities.

For example, the following cases are exempted from the above obligation:

- employees of international transport;
- citizens of the European Union, including citizens of the Czech Republic and foreigners with a long-term or permanent residence permit in the European Union, who transit through the Czech Republic or travel to or from the Czech Republic within 12 hours for a period not exceeding 24 hours;
- members of diplomatic missions accredited in the Czech Republic, including private officials, holders of diplomatic passports traveling to the Czech Republic for business purposes and officials of international organizations registered with the Czech Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, if their stay on the territory
does not exceed 14 days;
- citizens of the Czech Republic, citizens of the
European Union and their family members
residing in the Czech Republic and foreign-
ers with a residence permit of more than 90
days issued by the Czech Republic, who have
stayed only in the regions mentioned when
traveling with a travel agency or through a
travel agency;
- cross-border workers or students and stu-
dents who regularly cross the border with a
neighboring country at least once a week to
work or study.

Aspect 4: Restrictions on business activity (closures of the economy)

Germany

In the Federal Republic of Germany, economic restrictions were imposed in November. Shops and service outlets remained open, however a number of restrictions were introduced, e.g. the need to ensure safe distance between people as well as restrictions on the number of people allowed into stores. Tourist overnight stays in hotel facilities were forbidden. Food outlets may only operate on a takeaway or home delivery basis. Gyms and beauty salons have been closed, but hairdressers may operate. Restaurants, bars and cafes can only sell in take away or delivery mode.

France

France introduced a significant tightening of restrictions aimed at limiting the spread of the coronavirus from October 30th, 2020. The only shops and service outlets that are allowed to operate are the ones selling basic, essential products. The remaining open stores that are allowed to stay open need to follow tight additional restrictions, e.g. regarding the number of people admitted. Large stores are only allowed to offer sales from shelves with basic items or which are allowed to be sold elsewhere. These restrictions do not apply to mini markets of up to 400 sq m. There is also a ban on overnight accommodation at hotel facilities for tourist purposes. Food outlets can only operate by selling take-away or offering home delivery. Beauty salons, gyms and sports halls have also been closed.

Italy

In Italy, the tightening of restrictions took place from November 6th, 2020. Two kinds of restrictions have been introduced: nationwide as well a regional, dependent on the level of infection regime enforced in a given region. As for the national restrictions, night clubs were closed,

and the organization of festivals and fairs was banned. Hotel operation is permitted as long as distance is ensured. Hairdressing salons may operate under tight the sanitary regime. Beauty salons, swimming pools, closed gyms, and ski resorts are only available to professional athletes.

Regarding the restrictions in individual regions, in low-risk regions all commercial activity is allowed as long as safe distance is ensured and restrictions on the number of people admitted to establishments are followed. Shopping centers and markets remain closed at weekends. Food outlets may be open between 5 am and 6 pm, with additional restrictions, e.g. regarding the number of people at one table. Take-away sale is possible until 10 pm, with unrestricted home delivery. In medium and high-risk regions, shops and markets are closed except for sales of essential items. The operation of catering outlets is suspended, except for take-away sales (until 10 pm) and with home delivery. Beauty salons remain closed.

Spain

Shops in Spain remain open with the provisions that the use of disinfectants is ensured and safe spaces between customers are kept. Hotels are also open, but the scope of their service has been limited (e.g. the operation of hotel parking lots and the operating time of hotel restaurants got limited). Food outlets have also remained open, provided there are safe spaces between people and proper disinfection. The number of people at one table is limited. Small businesses, such as hairdressers, are available only by appointment, while nightclubs are closed. Additionally, specific restrictions may differ between Autonomous Regions.

Poland

In Poland, as part of the autumn restrictions, shops in shopping centers have been closed, except for the essential industries. They are planned to reopen on November 28th, 2020, but they will be allowed to operate

with certain restrictions, e.g. regarding the number of customers in the store. From 10 am to 12 am on weekdays, the shops are accessible to senior citizens only. The hotels can only be open to business travelers (guests are allowed to use the hotel's restaurants, gyms and swimming pools). Food outlets may only offer take-away or home delivery service. Beauty salons and hairdressing salons may operate following the sanitary regime. Gyms and swimming pools have been closed, except for organized groups and sportsmen.

Sweden

In Sweden, like in spring, most of the restrictions were to be treated only as recommendations. From November 1st, 2020, Sweden introduced a limit of 50 people allowed to stay at nightclubs. Most shops remain open, together with accommodation facilities, hotels and catering facilities, with the latter following certain restrictions, e.g. observing a limit of 8 people who can sit at one table, an order to avoid crowds and the permission to eat and drink only at the tables. Beauty saloons and hairdressing saloons also remain open.

Belgium

In Belgium, all shops except those selling essential goods have closed. Online orders and personal collection orders are possible. Supermarkets can only sell basic goods and a maximum of two people can shop together at the same time. There is also a ban on sales of alcoholic beverages after 8 pm and night shops may only be open until 10 pm. Accommodation facilities may operate, but hotel restaurants, bars and other communal facilities must be closed. The holiday parks with some exceptions have been closed. Food outlets can only offer take away food until 10 pm. Sports facilities, such as gyms, closed sports halls, hairdressers and beauty saloons have been closed.

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, only shops and service outlets selling essential goods and services are allowed to operate, and they must close at 8 pm on weekdays and on Sundays. A number of additional sanitary restrictions has been also introduced. Accommodation facilities can only accept business travelers, and their restaurants are only allowed to serve hotel guests. Food outlets may only operate with the option of home delivery or take-away (until 8 pm). Beauty salons and hairdressing salons have also been closed. Beauty salons, gyms and swimming pools have been closed.

Hungary

Shops in Hungary are allowed to operate only from 5 am to 7 pm, and shopping hours for the elderly were also introduced (between 9 am and 11 am on weekdays and between 8 am and 10 am at weekends). Hotel facilities are not allowed to accommodate tourists. Food outlets can only sell their products to take away or with home delivery. Gyms and swimming pools have also been closed.

Country	Regulations
Poland	August 8 th , 2020 – An introduction of a ban on the operations of discos and nightclubs. Conducting activities related to the organization, promotion or management of events, such as fairs, exhibitions, congresses, conferences, meetings and service activities related to the improvement of physical condition is allowed, provided that viewers or customers fulfill the obligation to cover the mouth and nose. Acceptable organization, promotion or management of events, such as fairs, exhibitions, congresses, conferences, meetings, provided that organizers ensure 2.5 sq m of space per 1 participant, viewer or customer, excluding service.

Legal regulations – compilation.

Conducting economic activities involving preparing and serving meals and drinks to guests sitting at tables or guests making their own choice of dishes from the displayed menu, eaten on the spot, was initially allowed, provided that:

- they remain seated in places where they will eat or drink;
- the restaurant staff ensures the customers cover their mouth and nose.

Hairdressing services are permitted, provided that only the service and clients are present in the place where this activity is carried out. If the client requires care, also his guardian can be admitted.

Running recreational parks is allowed, provided that the number of people using it is not more than 1 person per 5 sq m of an the are in amusement park or recreational park, excluding parking lots.

People staying in commercial and service facilities were required to wear disposable gloves or use hand disinfectants.

To take part in a therapeutic rehabilitation in a rehabilitation center a patient needs a negative result of the SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test.

October 10th, 2020 – An introduction of special provisions in the transport industry. Conducting activities related to passenger air transport is permitted, provided that:

- liquids for disinfecting hands are provided on board the aircraft;
- disinfection of the aircraft (once a day in the case of air operations with passengers, after each flight operation with a sick person or suspected of being infected with an infectious

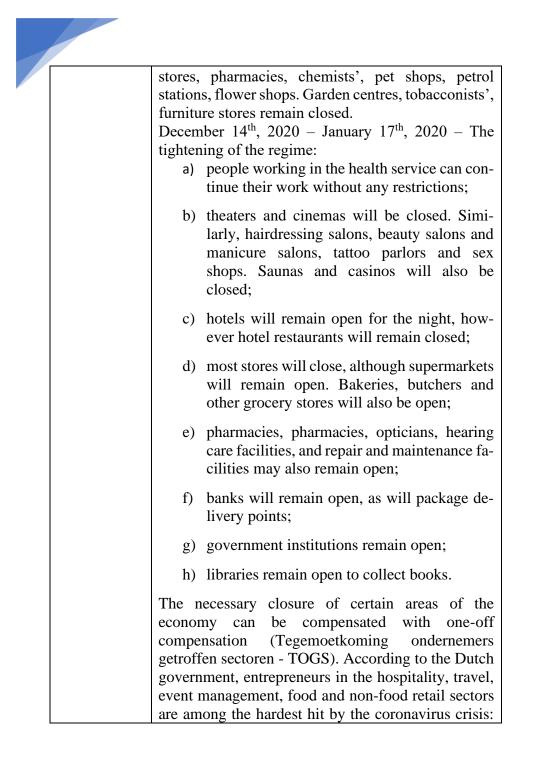
disease, before and after each flight operation with passengers lasting at least 6 hours);	
 completion of the travel location card forms for health purposes by passengers and collection of completed cards – if the passenger crosses the state border in order to go to his place of residence or stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland. 	
October 15 th , 2020 – Commercial or service facili- ties, the main activity of which is the sale of food and cosmetics, hygiene products, cleaning products, etc. must ensure access exclusively to senior citizens over the age of 60 on weekdays between 10 am and 12 pm. Commercial centers are obliged to clearly inform about "senior hours" on their premises in a manner typical to them. November 3 rd , 2020 – Conducting activities consist- ing in preparing and serving meals and drinks to guests sitting at tables or guests making their own choice of dishes from the displayed menu, eaten on the spot, is allowed only in the case of services con- sisting in preparing and serving food to go. November 7 th , 2020 – November 29 th , 2020 – Provi- sion of hotel services was allowed only to the niche	
of the activities of workers' hotels or hotels for sea- sonal workers, as well as for the business travelers using hotel services as part of a business trip or a trip in connection with business or professional activi- ties, or related to business activities, November 28 th , 2020 – A ban on conducting eco- nomic activities involving: - operations of discos and night clubs or activ- ities involving providing space for dancing	

	organized indoors or in other closed spaces, with the exception of sports dance clubs;
	- operations of swimming pools, aquaparks, gyms, clubs and fitness centers;
	- offering services related to the improvement of physical condition.
	November 27 th , 2020 – Conducting activities involv- ing the preparation and serving of meals and drinks to guests sitting at tables or guests making their own choice of dishes from the displayed menu, eaten on the spot and related to the consumption and serving of drinks is allowed only in the case of services based preparing and serving food to go. The organization of sports competitions, sports activities and sporting event is allowed, provided that the games are held without the participation of the public.
Germany	 September 29th, 2020 – An announcement about the extension of the economic aid to sectors of the economy especially harmed by the lockdowns. October 28th, 2020 – A closure of all catering and personal hygiene services (except for necessary medical treatments and hairdressing salons). The stores remained open. It was agreed that 1 customer should be allowed space of 10 sq m in shops. Additional economic aid for the companies affected by the restrictions was also announced. December 2nd, 2020 – The heads of Lands agreed with the chancellor that the partial state closure should last until January 10th, 2021. However, on December 13th, 2020 – A decision to apply more restrictions from December 16th, 2020 to January 10th, 2021. Shops must remain closed, except for those offering basic necessities. Similarly, hairdressing and

France	other services were closed, with the exception of treatments necessary for medical reasons. December 13 th , 2020 – The ban on sale of fireworks. The possibility of running catering services and selling meals only to take away or with home delivery was maintained. The ban on consumption at restaurants was maintained. December 16 th , 2020 – January 10 th , 2021 – A ban on consumption of alcoholic drinks in public places. A fine can be imposed for violation of the prohibitions. Provision of services is only possible under strict conditions. Nursing homes and care homes, as well as mobile care services, are obliged to apply special protective measures. It was decided that the hotspot strategy should cover areas with a frequency of 50 or 200 new infections per 100000 inhabitants per week. The government introduced compensation systems for lost profits. November 28 th , 2020 – After the "deep closure of the economy" (September, October, November), France decided to open stores regardless of the retail space (including bookstores, music stores, art galleries, antique shops), in compliance with the enhanced sanitary protocol providing, inter alia, admission of one person per 8 sq m. The country plans to expand trading opportunities on Sundays (however, bars and restaurants will remain closed until January 20 th ,
T4 1	2021).
Italy	October 26 th , 2020 – Restrictions on the activities of bars, pubs, restaurants, confectioneries and ice cream parlors: they may be open from 5 am and 6 pm. Only 4 people are allowed to stay at 1 table, except for per- sons from the same household. Additional suspen- sion of:

	a) operations of theme parks and amusement parks, museums and other cultural sites;
	b) shows in theaters, concert halls, cinemas and other spaces, also outdoors;
	c) organization of fairs and congresses;
	d) operations of swimming pools and arm wres- tling;
	 e) operations of lifts and ski stations (December 4th, 2020 – January 6th, 2021);
	 f) cruises on cruise ships (December 21st, 2020 – January 1st, 2021).
	Shopping centers are closed on public holidays and days before public holidays, except for phar- macies, grocery stores and kiosks with newspa- pers and tobacco products. Hotels remain open.
Spain	The restriction of economic activity is at the hands of the authorities of the autonomous communities. Due to the differences in the number of infections in the territories of each of them, different levels of restrictions were established in individual counties and municipalities. One of the most severe ones is, for example, the closure of the entire hotel industry in the autonomous community of Castile and León, although it is emphasized that these were temporary exclusions. Most of the autonomous communities issued regulations concerning the functioning of gastronomy. It is worth presenting the example of Catalonia, where gastronomy remains completely closed. The government of La Rioja, in turn, has ordered the restriction of the operation of hotel and

	catering establishments based on the distance from coronavirus hotspots. In the rest of the territory, these establishments must close at 9 pm, except pharmacies, supermarkets and restaurants with take- away offers. In Melilla, food establishments must close at 22.00 without the possibility of accepting more customers from 9.30 pm to respect the curfew, and home catering can be provided until 11 pm. Caterers are unable to accept orders after 10 pm, while the collection by customers is limited to 9.30 pm.
Sweden	 November 20th, 2020 – An introduction of a ban on sales of alcohol at nighttime between 10 pm and 11 am. Supervision on the enforcement of this restriction is carried out by the local authorities. Until January 1st, 2021 – An enforcement of a Temporary Infection Control Act at service outlets which imposes the following obligation which must be observed while providing services to the public: a) food is only supposed to be served at the tables. If the group of people who visit together, e.g. restaurants exceeds 8 people, the restaurant operator must divide them into a group of up to 8 people at the table
	 b) places which serve alcohol should be closed for about an hour after the end of serving al- cohol and reopened as recommended at around 11.30 pm;
	The state provides an aid package for entrepreneurs in the form of subsidies for employees, grants and other types of assistance.
Netherlands	December 14 th , 2020 – A closure of all shops, cafes and restaurants. Restaurants have the possibility to order a take-away. The closure exempts grocery



	the loss of turnover they have suffered is serious, if not impossible to make up for. The Dutch government has adopted a compensation scheme under which companies in these sectors that have suffered such losses can claim compensation of €4000. A separate program (Tegemoetkoming Vaste Lasten MKB) was introduced for small and medium- sized enterprises if they did not meet the criteria for applying for TOGS. The existing system of loan guarantees for small and medium-sized enterprises (Borgstelling MKB-Kredieten or BMKB) and other were also extended.
Belgium	In the summer most restrictions in the functioning of the economy were eased. October 19 th , 2020 – A closure of gastronomy (cafes and restaurants) was ordered due to the increase in infection rates and the number of people needing help in hospitals. October 26 th , 2020 – An extension of a partial lock- down. Hotels have remained open, but it is possible to eat meals from hotel restaurants only in hotel rooms. All shops not considered "essential to meet the basic needs of the nation and the population" must be closed. The provision of all services except medical services (hairdressers, beauticians, wellness centers, beauty salons, etc.) was prohibited.
Hungary	September 21 st , 2020 – An issuance of a decision that all entertainment centres including musical and dance spots must be closed from September 23 rd , 2020. October 23 rd , 2020 – Shops/service outlets, etc. be- come responsible for the observance of the obliga- tion to wear face masks. The consequence of not re- specting the instruction to wear masks may even be closure of a given place.

Czech Republic	 November 2nd, 2020 – An obligation to wear masks in restaurants (except when drinking and eating), an order to wear masks during music events/performances. November 3rd, 2020 – An introduction of free parking all over Hungary (based on government decree). During sports and cultural events only one in 3 seats can be occupied. November 9th, 2020 – Shops and service outlets may only operate until 7 pm. November 23rd, 2020 – Reintroduction of senior hours in shops between 9 am and 11 am on weekdays and 8 am and 10 am at weekends. November 30th, 2020 – A decree of the government of the Czech Republic to reintroduce crisis response measures from December 3rd, 2020. The decree reintroduced restrictions in the sector of gastronomy. The following restrictions were imposed:
	 food service providers may carry out their ac- tivities as long as they provide customers with a distance of at least 1.5m, except for customers sitting at one table;
	- the catering venue may operate at 50% capacity.
	In the territory of the Czech Republic, there is a general restriction on the activities of sporting events

providing that all sporting events organized by professional and amateur associations must take place without the participation of spectators. In the case of sports events organized in closed spaces, individual sports may be practiced, provided that a maximum of 10 people can stay in such rooms at the same time. The activity and use of bathing centers, wellness centers, saunas and brine graduation towers have been restricted except for the ones operating as part of health services provided. The restrictions limit the number of people allowed in the external rooms to a maximum of 50 people, and internal rooms may house a maximum of 1 person per 15 sq m. Moreover, all sauna ceremonies have been banned.

The activities of shopping centers with an area exceeding 5000 sq m were limited. Restrictions provide that the use of places previously used for rest (benches, chairs, tables) was limited so that they would not be used for gathering people. In addition, the operator of the shopping center is required to introduce visible signs with instructions to keep a distance of at least 2m between people in public areas in the shopping center.

There is an obligation for shop owners to ensure the space of 15 sq m for each customer. In addition, they are required to ensure a two-meter gap between queuing customers with a marking of clear spacing. In addition, the shop operator must provide disinfectants at the points of frequently touched objects.

Aspect 5: Restrictions on the right to education and access to culture (closures of schools and universities, centers of art and culture)

Germany

Among the autumn national restrictions, all cultural and entertainment facilities got closed, including the "Köllnischer Park" near Berlin. Schools remained open, while universities that initially operated in a mixed model switched to distance learning since November.

France

All cultural facilities were also closed in France, while schools, kindergartens and nurseries remained open. Classes at universities are held online apart from the laboratory and workshop classes.

Italy

In Italy, all cultural venues were closed and the organization of cultural and sporting events outside the disciplines recognized by the Italian Olympic Committee and the Italian Paralympic Committee was banned. The restrictions in the field of science depended on the epidemic situation in a given region. In the orange and yellow zones, remote teaching was introduced in secondary schools, except for laboratory classes and services for students with disabilities. In the red zones, remote learning was also introduced for the higher grades of secondary schools. At universities, Italy introduced remote learning, with some exceptions (e.g. laboratory and workshop classes).

Spain

In Spain, restrictions on cultural facilities were not introduced by the central government and are dependent on the authorities of the autonomous regions. In general, they can stay opene as long as the visitors can ensure safe distance. Schools and colleges remain open.



Poland

Poland closed all cultural institutions. Remote teaching was gradually introduced in schools, and now is obligatory for all students from mid-November Kindergartens and nurseries remain open. Colleges and universities also operate through distance learning with the exception of laboratory and workshop classes.

Sweden

Sweden has not banned access to cultural facilities, but many of them are closed based on issued recommendations. Nurseries, kindergartens and schools remained open, and there was no general recommendation for the closure of universities.

Belgium

In Belgium, with the exception of Brussels, cultural facilities remained open, provided they can ensure safe distance among visitors and the sale of tickets is conducted online. Day care facilities remained open, while schools extended the autumn holidays from the beginning of this month till November 11th, 2020. It was followed by the opening of schools provided that in the higher grades of secondary schools the students rotate. Classes at universities are held remotely. From December Belgium is planning to ease these restrictions (for first-year students).

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, all cultural institutions have been closed, and distance learning has been introduced at universities, with the exception of laboratory and workshop courses. In mid-October, schools switched to distance teaching, while from the November 18th, 2020, students of the first and second grades of primary schools returned to schools, and further easing of restrictions on schools is planned for the end of November.

Hungary

Cultural facilities have also been closed in Hungary. The secondary schools have switched to distance learning, while primary schools, kindergartens and nurseries have remained open. Universities operate via distance learning.

Legal regulations – compilation.

Country	Regulations
Poland	 From August 8th, 2020 – Conducting creative activity related to any group forms of culture and entertainment and activities related to the projection of films or video recordings in cinemas, in the open air is allowed: indoors, including in music clubs and sports and entertainment halls, as well as in amphitheaters, and concert halls, provided that: viewers or listeners are seated in every second seat in the audience and occupy no more than 50% of the number of seats. In the absence of designated seats in the audience, while maintaining a distance of 1.5m between the audience or listeners; organizers ensure that viewers, listeners, visitors or participants comply with the obligation to cover their mouth and nose. From October 10th, 2020 – Conducting the abovementioned activity in the red and yellow zones was allowed in the following way: in rooms, including music clubs and entertainment and sports halls, as well as in amphitheaters or listeners are seated in every fourth seat in the audience and not more than 25% of the number of seats are occupied, or in the absence

of designated seats in the audience maintain a
distance of 1.5m between viewers or listeners.
Additionally, organizers ensure that viewers,
listeners, visitors or participants comply with
the obligation to cover their mouth and nose;
- in the open air, provided that organizers ensure
that the number of spectators, listeners, visitors
or participants is not greater than 100 people at
the same time, the spectators maintain a safe
distance of at least 1.5m from other people by
marking places for the public with horizontal
signs. Additionally, organizers must ensure
that viewers, listeners, visitors or participants
comply with the obligation to cover their
mouth and nose.
From November 28 th , 2020 to December 27 th , 2020 –
Conducting creative activity related to any group
forms of culture and entertainment is allowed without
the participation of the public in the following forms:
- activities necessary to prepare arts events such
as rehearsals, workshops, trainings;
- phonographic and audiovisual recordings;
- events transmitted by means of direct remote
communication.
Cultural institutions are prohibited from operation and
the following forms of artistic activity are restricted:
- making the art collections available to the pub-
lic;
- organizing events with the participation of the
public - with the exception of activities carried
out by means of direct remote communication
and making the art collections available in
a contactless form, in compliance with the rel-
evant sanitary requirements. The prohibition
of activities related to the projection of films or
video recordings in cinemas, in the open air or

elsewhere and the activities of film clubs is included.

From September 1st, 2020 – A permission to offer onsite classes at all levels of education. The school directors have the capacity to suspend full-time teaching and introduce hybrid teaching combining onsite and remote teaching or switch to fully remote education depending on the intensity of infections in a given area. The consent of the governing body and a positive opinion of the competent sanitary inspector are required for that.

October 19th, 2020 – The districts covered by the "yellow" and the "red" zones of sanitary regime limit the operations of the following institutions: hhigh schools and universities, primary schools for adults, continuing education establishments and vocational training centers.

October 24th, 2020 –Grades IV-VIII of primary schools become suspended.

November 9th, 2020 – All primary school classes become suspended. Classes in schools whose functioning was limited were, as a rule, carried out with the use of distance learning methods and techniques. On the premises of the school, classes were conducted in special needs schools, as well as tutorials and educational classes in support for early development of a child. The traditional form of teaching is also offered to students who, due to the type of disability, cannot benefit from classes with the use of distance learning methods and techniques.

Germany The German government has undertaken several initiatives to support the cultural and educational institutions in the face of the pandemic crisis. August 27th, 2020 – A pledge to direct another €500 in support for digital learning if face-to-face learning is not possible. It was also established in connection with

	the need to support parents, that in 2020 people with statutory health insurance will receive 5 additional daily sickness benefits per parent. A single parent would receive 10 of these benefits. October 28 th , 2020 – A closure of all theaters, swimming pools and amusement parks. Entertainment events were prohibited. The possibility of practicing professional sports has remained but without the participation of the public. Sports facility closures and contact restrictions affected recreational and amateur sports, which were banned. Schools and kindergartens remained opened. December 13 th , 2020 – A closure of schools. Distance learning is allowed.
France	France has introduced remote teaching at universities. Institutions which have remained open include kindergartens, schools, junior high schools and high schools with the appliance of a strict sanitary regime (mainly the obligation to wear masks for people over 6 years old), university libraries and administrative services in higher education, direct customer service points as part of providing public services, cemeteries, green areas, including parks, gardens, beaches (water sports and recreational activities are forbidden). The possibility of paying visits to nursing homes and institutions for the elderly (Établissement d'hébergement pour personnes âgées dépendantes) was retained on condition that compliance with the sanitary regime is followed.
Italy	Schools have remained opened. Recommendations were issued regarding the students' entry time to lessons, also for the afternoon shift. Restrictions in this regard have been announced so far by individual regions: Campania, Calabria, and Tuscany, where educational institutions of various levels were closed in late October and early November, sometimes

	including kindergartens and universities, and distance
	learning was introduced instead.
Spain	The regulations remain in the hands of local authorities. It should be emphasized, however, that since September there has been a significant increase in the incidence of COVID-19 infections of pupils in schools, which has resulted in successive closings of given facilities. In Catalonia, for example, gyms and training centers, and cultural centers such as cinemas and theaters remain closed, while traditional university classes as well as extra-curricular activities remain suspended.
Sweden	November 23 rd , 2020 – An introduction of remote classes for middle schools parallelly with traditional on-site classes. December 7 th , 2020 – A partial closure of middle schools and introduction of online classes until January 6 th , 2021. The exception is offered to students with special needs who can still participate in classes at schools. November 24 th , 2020 – An implementation of a restriction on entry to universities. Primary schools remain open. Restrictions covering sports events, and cultural events were not severe. From November 1 st , 2020 – A permission to organize sports, educational and culture events with the participation of up to 300 people.
Netherlands	Schools have remained open in autumn. October 14 th , 2020 – An introduction of an obligation to wear face masks. December 14 th , 2020 – Some exceptions are offered to particularly vulnerable students. Vocational education may also be continued at school. Classes for other students and examinations will be held remotely in general if possible.

	 All art galleries and museums will be closed. Regulations on sports activities rule that: practicing sports are allowed alone or with 1 accompanying person; all sports activities are allowed only outside in the open air; all gym halls are closed; practicing professions related to sports is forbidden. canteens remain closed; locker rooms, shower areas and cloakrooms remain closed. the best sportspeople from all areas are allowed to practice; total ban on the attendance of the public. These regulations concern all people above the age of 18. Children under 18 years of age are allowed to play
Belgium Hungary	outside in larger groups. November 12 th , 2020 – A suspension of education at all levels with the possibility to reopen from November 16 th , 2020 (schools and universities are on the list of institutions and services "essential to satisfy basic needs of the nation"). Until December 1 st , 2020 – Teaching in grades 2 and 3 of high school may take place only with the attendance of 50% of students; universities introduced remote teaching until the end of the calendar year. The restrictions were enforced for a period of 6 weeks. October 1 st , 2020 – A start of compulsory daily taking temperature for all persons at educational facilities (a ban on entry to schools for persons whose temperature exceeds 37,8°C). November 9 th , 2020 – Online classes for students over 14 years of age.

Czech Republic	 November 30th, 2020 – An issuance of a regulation by the government of the Czech Republic on the appliance of the crises response, effective until December 12th, 2020. The regulation provides for a ban on entry of students to educational institutions at primary, secondary and university level. The regulation allows for numerous exceptions in the area of higher education, including: the attendance at laboratory and workshop classes for students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy is allowed; attendance at laboratory and workshop classes with a limit of up to 20 students is allowed; a permission to organize examination on condition that no more than 10 people attend at the same time; in the case of primary education institutions, the abovementioned restriction applies to students of grades 1 and 9. For students in grades 6-8, teaching has been divided in such a way that 50% of students participate in traditional classes in even weeks, and the remaining attend schools in odd weeks. With regard to the operation of libraries, their activities have been limited in such a way that the manager has to comply with the following conditions: there may not be more than 1 person per 15 sq m of space in the room; there will be a distance of at least 2m between the people, except for people from the same household. In addition, the manager is to ensure that library staff wear gloves at all times when handling books or similar goods, and before entering the library, the user himself must be able to disinfect his hands, with a disinfectant provided by the library manager.

With regard to museums, galleries and exhibitions, restrictions have been introduced that must be met in order for these institutions to be open: the institutions are allowed to operate at 25% capacity. In the case of group tours, they can take place in groups of up to 10 people. This limitation is now in force until December 12th, 2020 but may be extended.

Aspect 6: Attitudes and response of the societies in the face of the restrictions imposed

Germany

In Germany, in particular in mid-November, citizens organized largescale protests against restrictions aimed at limiting the spread of the coronavirus. Demonstrations took place in several cities. Berlin manifestation was accompanied by an explosion of a small explosive package in the vicinity of the association of German research institutes with a note demanding an end be put to the restrictions. Manifesters threw numerous bottles with explosives at the Robert Koch Institute. The group responsible for majority of the protests was a right-wing corona-skeptics group of Querdenken. In general, the protests were directed at general restrictions, including the requirement to wear masks as well as planned vaccinations. The protests were also directed against the planned increase in the governmental powers to impose anti-COVID restrictions. In some situations, the police used means of direct coercion, especially during a demonstration on November 18th , 2020, in Berlin staged in the protest against the increase of the governmental powers. The police used water cannons and tear gas as a reaction against the protesters' refusal to wear masks and refusal to ensure a safe distance. Over 200 people were arrested.

France

In France, mass expressions of public dissatisfaction did not directly concern the pandemic restrictions. There were no mass protests related to the restrictions, but some smaller demonstrations took place. In early October, cooks who opposed the closure of catering establishments expressed their dissatisfaction. In mid-November Catholics protested against the ban on organizing masses in churches.

At the same time, opposing protests took place. Students and teachers protested against keeping schools open during the November lockdown in the face of the threat of the pandemic. At the end of November, the French protested against the enforcement of a new security law that banned the publication of photos of police officers.

Italy

In Italy, the largest of the fall protests against anti-COVID restrictions took place in late October. In some cities, the manifestations were relatively intense and dangerous. In Turin, policemen were pelted with bottles of explosives. In Milan, the police used tear gas. According to the police, most people, including representatives of professional groups particularly affected by the restrictions, protested peacefully and calmly, while football hooligans turned out to be particularly aggressive. Protests erupted in response to the government's decision to close restaurants, bars, gyms and cinemas.

Spain

Spain recorded numerous protests over the course of the pandemic. They can be categorized into local and national protests. Local protests were particularly frequent in Madrid, including the November 20th, 2020 manifestation opposing the local restrictions. Residents of poorer, more epidemic-stricken neighborhoods protested against restrictions banning free movement of people in their communities. There were also protests on a national scale. In early November, for example, there was a demonstration against the government's decision to introduce a 6-month state of emergency. During these gatherings, small groups behaved particularly aggressively, set trash bins on fire and broke shop windows. The protests were organized by extreme leftwing groups, but according to the police records, members of the farright also took part.

Poland

In Poland, autumn 2020 was a period of increased intense protests, although the vast majority did not concern the limitations related to

the pandemic but were formed in response to the controversial ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal banning the right to the termination of pregnancy.

Protests against pandemic restrictions were also staged, especially opposing the obligation to wear masks or restrictions on economic activity, but their scale was significantly less intense.

Sweden

In Sweden, there were no protests against the restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic, although it should be remembered that the scale of restrictions in this country was incomparably smaller than in other analyzed countries, and most decisions of the authorities were issued as guidelines and recommendations only.

Belgium

There were also protests against the restrictions aimed at stopping the pandemic in Belgium. The most widespread demonstrations took place from the end of October. They were staged in the protest against the new restrictions introduced at that time. The organizers of the protests (some of whom were denied permission to organize due to community restrictions) argued that the new regulations were restricting the human and citizens' rights of Belgians. There were also other protests on a smaller scale, for example against the obligation to wear masks. However, they did not reach a wider scale.

The Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, the most fierce and most intense protests against restrictions aimed at stopping the spread of the coronavirus took place in mid-October. They were staged in connection with the planned introduction of a lockdown, primarily in response to the ban on sports competitions and the closure of bars and restaurants. The demonstration in Prague at that time was particularly intense and forced the police to use tear gas and water cannons.



Hungary

In Hungary, like in Poland, there were protests against general restrictions aimed at limiting the spread of the coronavirus. The most significant protests concerned a matter not related to the pandemic but were staged against the government's actions assessed and perceived as limiting the autonomy of universities.

Country	Regulations
Poland	October 10 th , 2020 – A string of protests against restrictions aiming at limiting the spread of the COVID- 19 pandemic took place in several main cities including Warsaw, Katowice, Rybnik, Czestochowa, Olsztyn, Plock, Koszalin, Gdansk. October 24 th , 2020 – A countrywide protest against COVID-19 regulations The march was attended by COVID-deniers, groups of football supporters and other groups. November 21 st , 2020 – The "Freedom March" in Warsaw attended by COVID-deniers and anti-vaccine groups. The anti-COVID movement in Poland won support from circles of Confederation Liberty and Independence political movement, whose politicians protest the restrictions on the parliamentary stage. The punishments introduced: in case of a failure to comply with the obligation to hospitalize, quarantine or isolate an administrative fee of PLN 30000 applies. November 28 th , 2020 – An introduction of a a provision that rules as follows: "Whoever fails to observe the bans, orders, restrictions or obligations set out in the provisions on preventing and combating infections and infectious diseases in humans, shall be liable to a fine or a reprimand".

Legal regulations – compilation.

	caused by the draft Law on Public Safety providing for, inter alia, possible imprisonment and a fine of €45000 in the case of committing a crime involving the dissemination of an image of a policeman or gendarme "with the aim to violate mental or physical safety".
Italy	A fee can be imposed for an unjustified violation of a curfew to the amount of \notin 400 to \notin 1000. October 26 th , 2020 – the manifestations swept across the biggest cities: Turin, Milan, Treviso, Trieste, Rome, Naples, Salerno, Palermo, Syracuse and Catania (in the protest against restrictions announced on Sunday, October 25 th , 2020). In some of the cities the protests lasted the whole weekend of October 23 rd till October 25 th , 2020.
Spain	In late October and early November, there were weekend-long demonstrations staged in cities across the country against the government's decision to introduce a six-month state of emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The largest demonstrations took place in Madrid on Saturday evening when the garbage bins at Gran Vía were set on fire and after fights with the police. Protests also took place in Barcelona, Málaga, Vitoria, Valencia, Santander and Burgos.
Sweden	There is no clear tendency to show dissatisfaction against restrictions in Sweden. In terms of penalties, the general legal provisions apply. The penalty for breaking the regulations is a fine or imprisonment for a maximum of six months, in accordance with Chapter 2, Art. 29 of the Act on Counteracting Infectious Diseases (2004: 168). It should be emphasized that the role of the police in the prosecution of the violations of prohibitions was emphasized and strengthened.

Netherlands	In the summer, there were quite a few protests against the restrictions usually attended by around 1000 people. The situation repeated in mid-October. The manifestations regarding the rigors introduced from mid-December is much more serious and aggravated with several violent protests especially in large cities.
Belgium	A failure to comply with anti-pandemic restrictions was punishable by a fine of €250 for individuals and €750 for companies or organizers of illegal gatherings. The partial lockdown of the country sparked another wave of protests. The most serious riots took place on November 28 th , 2020, in Liège. As a result of an illegally organized demonstration, in which about five hundred people participated, seven people were injured, three hundred and fifty people were detained, and seventeen detainees were charged.
Hungary	No institutionalized, organized anti-COVID movements were recorded in Hungary, and no mass demonstrations took place either during the first or second wave of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The government maintains the criminalization of the spread of fake news concerning the coronavirus pandemic (punishable with up to 5 years in prison). Violation of the quarantine rules is punishable by imprisonment up to 5 years. If, as a result of breaking the quarantine, an outsider who is infected dies, the perpetrator may be imprisoned for up to 8 years. The number of violations found (as of December 6 th , 2020): the violation of the prohibition of free movement – 10,084; the violation of home quarantine rules – 4206, the violation of the order to wear protective masks – 11329.
Czech Republic	Depending on the specific violation, the person who committed the violation of anti-virus regulation may be fined. If a natural or legal person or a natural person conducting business activity commits an offence by

Aspect 7: Restrictions on the right to privacy and the confidentiality of correspondence (monitoring social mobility and social contact between citizens)

One of the tools of efforts to monitor and reduce the scale of the pandemic by EU member states are applications installed on mobile phones. They allow an anonymized way to monitor interpersonal contacts and thus detect potential infections and – depending on the application – create social mobility maps.²² Anonymous data is not protected by European Union regulations in the same way as individual data, which is considered as sensitive data.²³ The European Data Protection Board expressed a clear and unequivocal view that applications in the European Union should be voluntary, and their operation should be based exclusively on the collection of data concerning the contacts between anonymous users, and not on monitoring the actual location of a user.²⁴ In the case of the latter, the informed consent of the user is required in accordance with the ePrivacy Directive.²⁵

The European Union member stated did not manage to adopt EU-wide standards for data collection applications, including data collection methods. The dominant solution among the European Union countries, including Poland, is the use of the DP-3T protocol (Decentralized Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing), which, unlike PEPP-PT (Pan-European Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing) – at some point

²²https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/mobile-data-used-by-european-authorities-to-monitor-covid-19-spread-1.4235882

²³https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/mobile-data-used-by-european-authorities-to-monitor-covid-19-spread-1.4235882

²⁴https://edpb.europa.eu/sites/edpb/files/files/file1/edpb_guidelines_20200420_contact_tracing_covid_with_annex_en.pdf

²⁵https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12027-020-00629-3

postulated by Germany and adopted by France (StopCovid application)²⁶ – saves data locally (on owners' devices) instead of using a central data collection and data processing servers. Hungary adopted a solution that, according to some experts, protects the privacy of users to a lesser extent – the data from mobile phones was collected on an external server.²⁷

Applications of this type appeared at the very beginning of the pandemic and for the next months, efforts in this area focused mainly on improving them. In recent months, numerous applications have been enriched with the function of informing citizens about epidemiological procedures, including national quarantine rules. Nevertheless, there is no reliable data that would show their actual usefulness. These applications were not widely used, and their effectiveness requires that they be installed and used by the majority of citizens.²⁸ According to the Dutch authorities, for the application to be effective, at least 60% of citizens would need to use it. For example, the French application Tous Anti-Covid was downloaded by 4 million people, while reaching the level of 20% of the population would require 15-20 million active users.²⁹

The social contact tracking phone applications have been developed in a number of European Union countries, including Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, France and

²⁶https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/contact-tracing-apps

²⁷https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-europe-tech-explaiidUSKCN2510MX

²⁸https://nltimes.nl/2020/04/30/majority-dutch-willing-use-safe-coronavirus-tracking-app-study

²⁹https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-apps-idUSKBN27A0AZ

Hungary.³⁰ They are all voluntary and rely on the Bluetooth module. At the moment, there is no evidence supporting the thesis that permanently enabled Bluetooth and the data obtained through it would generate threats to the privacy of citizens. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, no credible allegations of actual breach of the right to privacy have been recorded in the European Union. Denmark, where the Norwegian Smittestopp application was used, may be the only possible exception. In June, the use of their application was suspended due to a "very invasive approach to personal data",³¹ in the form of continuous collection of data about the user's location and their transfer to an external server.³² In turn, Slovakia has passed a law that gives the state institutions the right to collect personalized data from mobile phones, in order to monitor compliance with quarantine.³³

Like the UK and Norway, France was in talks with Google and Apple about collaboration, but their common project ultimately didn't go through. Originally, Paris asked them to lower the security rules for the Bluetooth protocol to facilitate the creation of a centralized system.³⁵ Finally, a proprietary solution was developed, based on the ROBERT protocol (ROBust and privacy-presERving proximity Tracing), which takes advantage of data processing by the central

³⁰https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-europe-tech-explaiidUSKCN2510MX

³¹https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2020/temporary-suspension-norwegian-covid-19-contact-tracing-app_pl

³²https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/06/bahrain-kuwait-norway-contact-tracing-apps-danger-for-privacy/

³³https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/mobile-data-used-by-european-authorities-to-monitor-covid-19-spread-1.4235882

³⁴https://www.ft.com/content/64539a44-6e87-11ea-89df-41bea055720b

³⁵https://www.zdnet.com/article/france-asks-apple-to-relax-iphone-security-forcoronavirus-tracking-app-development/

server.³⁶ The French model, the result of which is currently the TousAntiCovid application (which replaced the unsuccessful StopCovid), is criticized, inter alia, for the lack of proper compatibility with the systems of other countries, created under the DP-3T.³⁷

In Germany, the Corona-Warn application is promoted. Its code was used by the Belgians to create their application (Coronalert). Originally, there was a plan for a voluntary data collection application with a central database (PEPP-PT). After protests and concerns about privacy, as well as the lack of will to cooperate on the part of Apple,³⁸ the model dominant in Europe was adopted, i.e. the local collection of anonymous data.³⁹ The application is based on a voluntary entry of a code into the phone, by people diagnosed as infected, that anonymously marks the device as a source of threat.⁴⁰

The solutions adopted in Poland do not differ in any way from those implemented in other member states of the European Union. In Poland, the use of the voluntary ProteGO application is invariably dominant, which, like similar systems in other countries with the use of the Bluetooth Low Energy module allows to detect potential contact with another infected user (information from the last 14 days is collected). It does not violate the right to privacy, because the data is anonymous and decrypted only on a phone device.⁴¹ It is also used to monitor one's own health and to provide information about a pandemic by authorities.

³⁷https://tekdeeps.com/on-ios-tousanticovid-works-as-little-as-stopcovid/

³⁹https://www.zdnet.com/article/germany-pivots-from-centralized-coronavirus-tracing-app-to-privacy-protecting-alternative/

³⁶https://bonjour.stopcovid.gouv.fr/privacy-en.html

³⁸https://tekdeeps.com/on-ios-tousanticovid-works-as-little-as-stopcovid/

⁴⁰https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-52650576

⁴¹https://www.komputerswiat.pl/artykuly/redakcyjne/jak-wyglada-i-dziala-protegosafe-rzad-naklania-do-zainstalowania-aplikacji/e7fwbx4

All published information is confirmed by the Ministry of Health or the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate, compiled on the basis of data from the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).⁴² The system also includes PulsoCare which is the official application of the Ministry of Health for remote monitoring of COVID-19 patients in home isolation. The application works in conjunction with a pulse oximeter. The PulsoCare app reads the patient's pulse and oxygen saturation data from the oximeter. Additionally, the patient completes the questionnaire with other parameters on his own and enters them into the system, although its use is also voluntary.⁴³ PatientMpower is a similar application in Ireland, which collects data issued and processed by public institutions.

ProteGO has been prepared by the Ministry of Digitalization and the Ministry of Health. Due to the fact that this "is not very popular, especially among the really sick", the government of the Republic of Poland issued an appeal asking for its more widespread use.⁴⁴ The first versions were criticized for the insufficient level of user security and the fact that some data was transmitted to phone providers such as Google and Apple. "Currently, the application seems safe and follows the principles of good practice for this type of solutions." A similar Bluetooth-based solution available for the use and transfer of data to medical services has been adopted in Hungary.⁴⁵

⁴²https://www.gov.pl/web/koronawirus/protegosafe

⁴³https://www.gov.pl/web/domowaopiekamedyczna/pobierz-aplikacje-na-system-android

⁴⁴https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/kraj/koronawirus-stop-covid-protego-safe-rzad-apeluje-o-instalacje-

aplikacji/n8srkc4?utm_source=www.komputerswiat.pl_viasg_wiadomosci&utm_medi um=referal&utm_campaign=leo_automatic&srcc=ucs&utm_v=2

⁴⁵https://hungarytoday.hu/coronavirus-hungary-app-virusradar/

Phone applications promoted by EU governments aimed at monitoring the spread of the epidemic and fight against the COVID-19 virus, which track the social interaction between people – a compilation.

Country	Application	Volunt ary?	Technology
Germany	Corona-Warn-App	-	Bluetooth, data Google/Apple
France	TousAntiCovid	Yes	Bluetooth
Italy	Immuni	Yes	Bluetooth, data Google/Apple
Poland	ProteGo	Yes	Bluetooth
Sweden	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-
Belgium	Coronalert	Yes	Bluetooth, data Google/Apple DP3T
Czech Republic	eRouška	Yes	Bluetooth
Hungary	VirusRadar	Yes	Bluetooth

Source: based on officially reported data.46

Legal regulations – compilation.

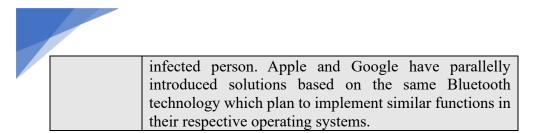
Country	Regulations
Poland	No restrictions on the right to privacy and the confidentiality of correspondence. March 2020 – Poland introduced an application "Home quarantine", which can be downloaded from App Store, Google Play or AppGallery. It is aimed at people with a

⁴⁶https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/05/07/1000961/launching-mittr-covid-tracing-tracker/

https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/contact-tracing-apps

	 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and covered by the obligation to quarantine at home. The program allows the confirm the location of the infected person which is the basis for a quarantine. The legal basis for the solution was Article 7e of the Legal Act of March 2nd, 2020, on Special Solutions Concerning the Prevention and the Fight against COVID-19, Other Infectious Diseases and Consequences Crises Caused by them (Journal of Laws item 374, with subsequent amendments) as well as regulation issued by the Council of Ministers on Ma 29th, 2020, concerning the implementation of special restrictions, obligations and bans in the event of a state of epidemic. Additionally, the government recommended to use the ProteGO application, which was prepared by the Minister of Minis
Germany	 Ministry of Digitization and the Ministry of Health. September 29th, 2020 – The government of the Federa Republic in agreement with the Land authorities pointe the reasons for the use of a "Corona" application, whic monitors the spread of the coronavirus and is categorize as a tracking application.
France	Based on the Legal Act of November14 th , 2020, (Loi n 2020-1379 du 14 novembre 2020 autorisant 1 prorogation de l'état d'urgence sanitaire et portar diverses mesures de gestion de la crise sanitaire) th period of the enforcement of the state of sanitary dange was extended till February 16 th , 2021. On the basis of the same Law the authorization of the use of SI-DE (Système d'Informations de DEPistage) and "Contac COVID" was extended till April 1 st , 2020 (a digital too enabling the collection of data and tracking of socia contacts).
Italy	Summer 2020 – a trial test of an Immuni program developed by Bending Spoons company based on Appl and Google programs in the regions of Liguria, Abruzzo Marche and Puglia. Social confidence towards the test

	was low (around 40%). By the beginning of December 10 000 000 people had downloaded the application. Presently it operates only in Italy.
Spain	Spanish Ministry of Economy and Digital Transformation approved a phone application called Radar COVID for use across the country. Also, a group of volunteers developed an additional application called OpenCoronavirus which is currently being used across Spain.
Sweden	No restrictions concerning the right to privacy and confidentiality of correspondence.
Netherlands	No restrictions concerning the right to privacy and the confidentiality of correspondence. The Dutch Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Sport promoted CoronaMelder – a phone application aiming at monitoring social contacts. The application digitally supports and complements the efforts of Public Health Services (GGD) in search for pandemic sources and search for information and contact data and social contacts and mobility of citizens.
Belgium	No restrictions concerning the right to privacy and confidentiality of correspondence.
Hungary	May 13 th , 2020 – Hungary introduced an application "virus radar" – monitoring social mobility. Bluetooth technology application registers phones operating in the area, as well as the time spent in their vicinity. When one of the persons is diagnosed as COVID positive services immediately receive information about the network of social contacts of the infected person.
Czech Republic	Czech Republic introduced of a phone application – eRouška, a privacy-based application performing tracking and identification of potentially infected persons with Bluetooth technology which turns out to be a proper solution also in terms of the protection of privacy. The application issues a warning in case of a contact with an



Aspect 8: Restrictions on equality in the eyes of the law and equal access to healthcare

None of the European Union member states has introduced restrictions on access to health care or selection based on age or "social status" at the institutional level. However there have been reports about dramatic choices that doctors were forced to make, mainly due to insufficient staffing, overload of the social welfare system and progressive depletion of resources, including shortages of personal protective equipment, limitations in the number of beds available at hospitals and, at some point, available equipment such as respirators. The only institutional restrictions recorded concerned the fact that the outside visitors were often prohibited from visiting their families staying inside the healthcare facilities.

The critical problem, closely related to access to medical care, has been a marked deterioration in access to other medical specialists beyond the COVID-19 prevention units in many European Union countries. There have been numerous restrictions on the numbers of planned medical procedures or admissions to other units at hospitals. The freeze of other health sectors is caused by insufficient resources, leading to necessary prioritization in the medical services offered but also health facility closures due to the fear of an increase in infections. However, this has had a negative effect on services offered to other patients who thus lose access to healthcare, which is an example of a reduction in equal access.

Regarding the need to prioritize medical assistance, medical staff were forced to provide assistance to people with better chance of recovery, while those weaker patients with poorer prognosis were occasionally denied care. Reports of such practices appeared during the first wave of the pandemic in several countries, including Spain and Italy.⁴⁷ The summer period brought a temporary relief to the problem and a return to a state of fully functioning medical care. This, however, ended with the arrival of the "second wave" of the pandemic. In the autumn of 2020, the risk of having to make a selection between weaker and stronger patients appeared in Belgium.⁴⁸ In case of France, the number of beds occupied in intensive care units increased from 50% to 70% during the week of October 2020, which also posed a risk of an occurrence of a similar situation.⁴⁹ Some doctors in Spain also alerted about the "collapse of the system".⁵⁰ In order to avoid a similar scenario, doctors in Belgium were instructed to continue working even if they showed asymptomatic COVID-19 infection.⁵¹ Similar instructions were also issued in the Netherlands,⁵² while Italy recruited doctors abroad, even outside Europe.⁵³

It is feared that the protracted pandemic, declining resources and progressive fatigue of the medical staff pose a threat and may cause a collapse of the health service in the near future, especially in the event of the third wave of the pandemic, which will first affect the

⁵¹https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/belgium-covid-hospitalsschools/2020/10/23/85358010-14a9-11eb-a258-614acf2b906d_story.html
⁵²https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/covid-coronavirus-europehospitals-capacity/2020/10/31/fe074b56-188a-11eb-8bda-814ca56e138b_story.html
⁵³https://www.euronews.com/2020/11/17/italy-asks-overseas-doctors-to-fly-in-tohelp-fight-covid-19

⁴⁷https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200428-coronavirus-how-doctors-choose-who-lives-and-die

 ⁴⁸https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/covid-coronavirus-europe-hospitals-capacity/2020/10/31/fe074b56-188a-11eb-8bda-814ca56e138b_story.html
 ⁴⁹https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/covid-coronavirus-europe-hospitals-capacity/2020/10/31/fe074b56-188a-11eb-8bda-814ca56e138b_story.html
 ⁵⁰https://www.euronews.com/2020/09/18/the-system-s-collapsed-doctors-alarm-over-covid-s-impact-on-healthcare-in-madrid

poorer countries of the European Union, already struggling with serious problems in the medical sector. Nevertheless, even the richer countries of the European Union face challenges that will generate a number of difficulties, including progressive restrictions on the opening all medical facilities and offering equal access to healthcare for all citizens. The list of endangered countries includes the Czech Republic, Poland, France, Belgium and Germany.⁵⁴

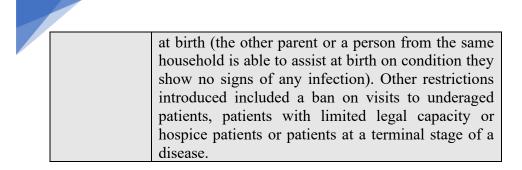
Country	Regulations	
Poland	No regulations restricting the access to healthcare or	
	selection based on "social status", or the criterion of	
	age.	
Germany	In terms of the pandemic response there have been	
	no clear actions that would constitute clear	
	restrictions on the equality before the law or equal	
	access of healthcare except for those already taken	
	before September 9 th , 2020.	
	The only questionable strategy may be considered	
	the "strategy of hotspots", which provides that the	
	degree of the restrictions imposed in a given area is	
	dependent on the number of infection cases per the	
	total number of inhabitants. This differentiation may	
	be justified however, as it is the most precise	
	criterion in response reaction to the threat of the	
	pandemic rather than the criterion of equal	
	pundernite ruther than the effection of equal	

Legal regulations – compilation.

⁵⁴https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/covid-coronavirus-europehospitals-capacity/2020/10/31/fe074b56-188a-11eb-8bda-814ca56e138b_story.html; https://www.rp.pl/Ochrona-zdrowia/201109746-Niedzielski-System-ochronyzdrowia-jest-na-granicy-wydolnosci.html; https://rmx.news/article/article/pm-babisnegotiates-hospital-beds-for-czech-patients-abroad-as-deputy-pm-warns-ofimpending-health-care-system-collapse; https://www.dw.com/en/polands-healthsystem-faces-collapse-amid-covid-19-crisis/a-55455561

	restrictions of legal rights in a situation when the	
	level of the pandemic threat posed is of a different	
	intensity depending on the area monitored.	
France	No data.	
Italy	No data.	
Spain	No restrictions concerning the equality in the eyes of	
	the law or on the access to healthcare.	
	November 24 th , 2020 – The Council of Ministers	
	approved a COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy. The	
	Ministry of Health admitted, the priority should be	
	given to senior citizens, workers of care institutions	
	and medical personnel as well as persons with a high	
	degree of dependency on assistance of other people.	
	These regulations hovever have not been legally	
	confirmed.	
Sweden	No restrictions concerning the equality in the eyes of	
	the law or on the access to healthcare or selection	
	based on "social status".	
	August 8 th , 2020 – Sweden underlined that the	
	obligatory vaccinations will firstly cover senior	
	citizens and high-risk groups of patients.	
	October 1 st , 2020 – Sweden lifted the ban on hospital	
	visits to senior citizens at healthcare facilities. At the	
	same time Sweden imposed stricter restrictions on	
	the activities of senior citizens. These, however, do	
	not have statewide reach but the decisions as to their	
	implementation are left to the authorities of each	
	particular medical or care institution.	
Netherlands	In terms of compulsory treatment and quarantine in	
	response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regulations	
	imposed have followed the general provisions in	
	force before the pandemic, relating to public health	
	and the response to the emergency situations. These	
	include:	
	- the obligation to undergo certain medical pro-	
	cedures, the order to hospitalize a person for	

	the purpose of isolation, the individual quar- antine;
	- the mayor's right to limit gatherings;
	- the possibility of introducing, by way of an in- dividual decision, the restriction or prohibition on professional or commercial activities which pose a serious risk of spreading this in- fectious disease.
	Regulations concerning the use of the vaccine indicate that it would not be compulsory. Initially, carers from social welfare homes, care workers for disabled people and home care workers as well as residents of social welfare homes and institutions for people with intellectual disabilities will be given priority for vaccination. Ultimately, vaccination will be available to every Dutch citizen.
Belgium	No data.
Hungary	No restrictions on the access to healthcare or selection based on "social status". Hungary has the highest number of respirators per 100000 inhabitants. September 16 th , 2020 – Hungary imposed an official maximum fee on the price of a PCR test for SARS- CoV-2. The fee amounts to 19500 HUF (around \in 54). October 1 st , 2020 – Hungary ensured a free anti- COVID vaccine for each Hungarian citizen. November 9 th , 2020 – Hungary introduced weekly PCR tests for teachers at schools and for healthcare professionals.
Czech Republic	The Czech Republic has introduced no restrictions on the access to healthcare or selection based on "social status". However, it has introduced a general ban on hospital visits with the exception of assistance



Conclusions

The "second wave" of the coronavirus was predicted by experts as early as in the spring and summer of 2020. The pandemic slowed down noticeably during the holiday season. However, the impact and scale of the autumn "second wave" surprised both European societies and political decision-makers. The analysis of the level of infections in the monitored countries shows that in the second half of October a significant growth in the infection dynamics was recorded. It should be emphasized that the growth of infection numbers was fairly widespread across the continent. After the increase in the first half of November, the numbers of infections remained at relatively high levels in the following period.

The hypotheses presented at the beginning of the report should be considered as confirmed during the research. As opposed to the phenomena observed in the first half of 2020, the analyzed countries recorded a similar pandemic dynamic in the period covered by this study. The assumed lack of a "time lapse" in the pandemic expansion in Central Europe in relation to the countries of the Western and the Southern Europe can be proven directly by quantitative research. This dynamic is proven best by the most objective (though at the same time the most tragic) rate of deaths from Covid-19 per one million inhabitants. Compared to the first wave, the analyzed countries of Central and Eastern Europe (the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland) recorded the most radical increases in the death rate. Nevertheless, the picture of mortality as a result of the pandemic still remains similar to the average for all EU member states (except the countries which recorded extreme numbers of deaths, namely Belgium and Germany). Among the above-mentioned CEE countries, Poland observes slightly better results than Hungary and the Czech Republic, which in some way explains the different approaches to limiting the country's economic and social activity.

Another phenomenon observed was more or less simultaneous arrival of the developing epidemic in each member state analyzed. Thus, no effect of "learning from others' experiences" was observed, which was to a large extent a feature of the first wave. Furthermore, it is also worth noting that all the countries studied entered the second wave of coronavirus from the infection levels which were much higher than the levels that started the first wave.

Policymakers faced the tough dilemma, with largely incomplete data and an incomplete picture of the pandemic and as a consequence unable to make accurate predictions about the development of the situation. In this chaotic reality, decisions stemmed from conflicting information and guidance. From the perspective of mathematical modeling used by all countries, the optimal solution would be to achieve herd immunity as quickly as possible. This would be achieved by maintaining the greatest possible social openness (the so-called Swedish model). Medical premises however, mainly taking into account health issues and issues related to the efficiency of health care systems, generated demands for the enforcement of strict sanitary regimes, maximum limitation of social mobility, which translated into the closures of the economies. The economy itself obviously hates closures and restrictions, the effects of which, both short-term and long-term, have been disastrous for all sectors of state activity. Similar dilemmas relate to virtually all areas of social activity (including culture, education, the practice of religious worship, etc.).

In the group of countries monitored, it is difficult to identify a consistent pattern of relief approach, primarily with regard to restrictions to the functioning of the economies. The "flexible" and sectoral approach dominated, although it should be noted that in some areas of social life the regulations and restrictions imposed were very strict. In some of the countries analyzed, the expansion of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite previous intentions to maintain a significant "openness" of social life, led to the necessity to "lock down" most sectors of the national economies. The decisions taken at the state level in each of the analyzed countries naturally cause deep frustration among citizens and certain social conflicts. The scope of restrictions on fundamental freedoms and civil rights in the countries of Central Europe is not more severe or extensive than in most of the other European Union countries. One may even observe that in many areas the solutions adopted in the CEE countries were milder compared to the Western countries. The strength and scale of social protests somehow reflect this situation. The strength of the so-called anti-COVID movements in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland is relatively small. There have been few and sporadic demonstrations against the pandemic restrictions. The picture of the situation is slightly distorted as a result of the activity of the political opposition, present and active even before the pandemic. It is obvious and natural that the moods of frustration and social tensions that are common throughout Europe constitute additional source "fuel" and support for the political competitors of the ruling parties and coalitions.

On the international arena the year 2021 is likely to be a period of fierce economic competition in the context of recovery efforts after the pandemic crises. This will also concern the European Union member states. The preparations for this task can to some extent explain the image and media campaign conducted by some countries against one another, where accusations of "authoritarianism" or violation of human rights frequently appear. This trend is easily noticeable despite the officially declared solidarity and unity attitudes. It can be assumed that these trends will intensify.

Copyright: European Conservatives and Reformists Group Made by: Fundacja Instytut Strategii Narodowej (The Institute of National Strategy Foundation) Concept and supervision conceived by ISN members: Jakub Roszkowski Marcin Henryk Wawrzyniak Michał Wiśniewski Scientific editor: Professor Jacek Reginia-Zacharski, University of Lodz Authors: Professor Jacek Reginia-Zacharski, University of Lodz Professor Karol Dobrzeniecki, Nicolaus Copernicus University Professor Bogusław Przywora, Jan Dlugosz University Professor Grzegorz Krawiec, Pedagogical University of Cracow Professor Marta Osuchowska, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University in Warsaw Dominik Héji, PhD Anna Jachimowicz, PhD Anna Krzynówek-Arndt, PhD Aleksandra Svrvt. PhD Aleksander Wróbel, PhD Mateusz Żaba, PhD



The Institute of National Strategy Foundation ("ISN") is and independent, nonpartisan, non-profit think tank, dedicated to research, formulating and promoting a national strategy in scope of public, economic, security and development matters. ISN is headquartered in Warsaw (Poland). It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on strategic, political and economic matters. ISN is registered in accordance with Polish law under the registration number 0000845090.

For more information: info@instytut-strategii.pl

Explore our work: www.instytut-strategii.pl



Published with support of the ECR Group.