



Gemeente
Amsterdam

The background of the entire page is a dark blue field with a large, stylized virus particle in the center. The virus particle is a dark grey circle with numerous black, T-shaped spikes protruding from its surface. The spikes are of varying lengths and are distributed across the entire surface of the virus particle. The virus particle is positioned in the lower half of the image, overlapping the blue background and the white text area.

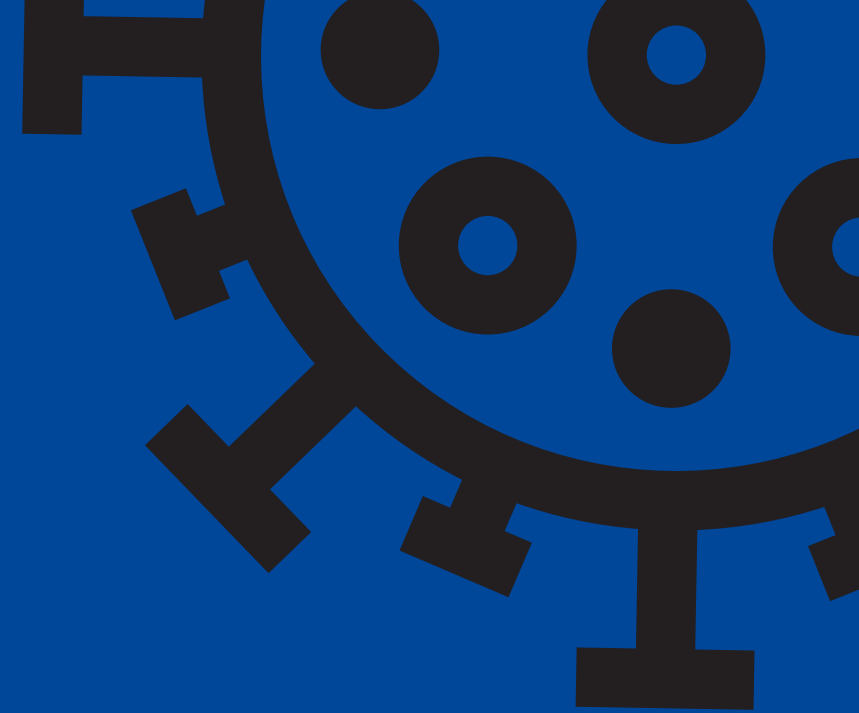
International monitor of urban approaches dealing with COVID-19

Edition 7, 29th of June 2020

If you would like to know more about an example in this monitor, have an additional question, or would like to receive the monitor by email in the future, please let us know via:
internationaloffice@amsterdam.nl

This fortnightly monitor aims to provide an overall picture of measures taken by other cities in Europe and beyond in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Different domains are discussed, and all examples focus on their relevance to cities and specifically Amsterdam. This document also contains an overview of EU measures and of information sources relevant to cities.

For more information on the Amsterdam approach of the coronavirus, please [check this link](#).



The previous monitor focused primarily on the easing of measures in cities across the world. Since, as in many other cities, the easing of measures in Amsterdam has so far not resulted in a tangible rise in the number of infections, questions regarding the long term are becoming ever more pressing. This also means that there is now greater scope to explore how our approach to COVID-19 affects values other than public health in cities, such as human rights and the right to protest. In this Monitor, we will examine the course of protests in other cities following the death of George Floyd, and how COVID-19 is affecting human rights in a country such as Brazil.

Other recurring long-term concerns are focused on economic impact and consequences for the labour market, which are also tangible in cities around the world. While there are no easy

answers or one-size-fits-all solutions from other cities, this Monitor retains a keen focus on the international trends that will also come to affect our city.

It is also striking that organisations are using the COVID-19 crisis to initiate transition from wide range of perspectives. C40, for example, is doing this in the field of sustainability, but we are also witnessing the trend in the socio-economic field. Previous Monitors identified how a number of cities are seeking a new balance regarding tourism. The crisis is being seen as an opportunity to review economic activities in cities, which means that the relationship between the government and the market changes, as reflected in the changes to European regulations regarding state support.

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Human rights in times of COVID-19

Very soon after the WHO had labelled the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, human rights organisations were warning of the potential consequences of the crisis for human rights and civil liberties.

Exceptional times call for exceptional measures: across the world, governments have introduced drastic measures to control the COVID-19 situation. This has impacted rights that are enshrined in international treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as national (fundamental) rights. This often happens following a hastily announced national state

of emergency, or hastily introduced emergency legislation.

On 7 April, the Council of Europe presented a [Toolkit](#) for member states: *Respecting democracy, rule of law and human rights in the framework of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis*

On 6 March, **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** Michelle Bachelet called for human rights to be respected, also in times of COVID-19 or under a state of emergency: *'Lockdowns, quarantines and other such measures to contain and combat the spread of COVID-19 should always be carried out in strict accordance with human rights standards and in a way that is necessary and proportionate to the evaluated risk'.*

On 14 April, Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, the **UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association**, presented [10 guidelines](#). Under these principles, restrictions to protect public health are justified, but they must be necessary, legal and proportional.

Amnesty International also [addresses](#) the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic affects human rights. Researchers [emphasise the risk](#) of infection during protests or, conversely, suggest that the [risk is limited](#).

The right to protest versus the right to health in Europe

Amsterdam was one of the first cities to see such a large turnout. The following weekend, protests all around the world attracted many thousands of people, which resulted in further debate on the right to protest in times of COVID-19. Some examples of responses from other cities.



Vienna

On 5 June, one of the largest protests in recent years was held in **Vienna**. Instead of the expected 3,000 protesters, more than 50,000 people took part. This meant that it was not possible to comply with the 1 metre distancing rule.

In **Austria**, the Minister of the Interior and the national police are responsible for matters of public order. In Vienna, too, the right to protest ultimately prevailed. In the words of the police chief in command *"Despite not keeping the safe distance, there was no reason to dissolve the meeting."*

Paris

In France, it is not the mayor but the préfet who is responsible for public order and security in cities and provinces. The préfet is the head of the Préfecture de Police, which is overseen by the Ministry of the Interior.

The Mayor of **Paris** therefore has no authority regarding public order and the right to protest. Discussions of public health versus the right to protest were not ignited in all cities which hosted protests.

In France, the debate on the potential spread of the virus during protests was less heated. Politicians on the Right did criticise the protests being permitted, but this was not front page news.



Madrid

In Spain, the right to protest is enshrined in the constitution. Protests must be reported to the provincial/regional authorities in advance, who – based on local police information and recommendations made by the local authorities – grant permission. The Public Safety Act introduced in 2015 bans unplanned protests and includes large fines for failing to give notice of protests in advance.

In recent weeks, anti-racism protests were held in a large number of Spanish cities. In the majority of cities, it was possible to maintain the 2 metre distance required in Spain, but this was impossible in Madrid and Barcelona due to the large turnout of several thousands of protesters. Most of them did wear face masks.

In Madrid, the authorities permitted a protest involving no more than 200 people. But thousands attended the protest. Nonetheless, the authorities did not intervene. Neither did they intervene in **Barcelona**.

Local authorities believe that the right to protest is too important, and there were no disturbances. The protests directly concerned racism and the position of migrants in Spain. There was little criticism from traditional media or opposition parties regarding allowing or preventing the protests. There was some criticism on social media.

Protests in the United States

Partly in light of the fact that the division of powers often differs from state to state, it is not possible to offer a uniform, factual impression of the approach adopted towards protests in the United States, certainly not during the COVID-19 crisis.

Since the death of George Floyd, protests have been held in more than 140 cities.

The authorities in some cities expressly highlight the risk of the virus spreading at large protests, while other cities communicated more general warnings



Simbarashe Cha
for The New York Times



George Floyd was commemorated around the world, even in Syria.

Photo: Omar Haj Kadour/AFP - Getty Images

regarding COVID-19, not explicitly in the context of the protests. In the media, public health experts fairly regularly express their concerns regarding the impact of the protests on the development of the COVID-19 infection curve.

In Project Syndicate, physician and journalist Akash Goel provided an almost poetic articulation of the dilemma of balancing the right to protest with protecting public health: ***"The irony is that the protest refrain I can't breathe" has nothing to do with COVID-19. Rather, it is the cry of an entire people suffocating under the collective knee of racism"***.

Protest in Australia

In Australia, it is not the local authorities but the provinces (states) that are responsible. Lockdown measures were also introduced in Australia, and the dilemma of balancing public health with the right to freedom of opinion/right to protest is also a topical concern in the country. This did not dissuade large numbers of protesters from taking to the streets.

On Saturday 6 June, there were protests in various major cities and in countless smaller rural towns. The protests in **Sydney** and **Melbourne** attracted tens of thousands of protesters. *Another factor in Australia is that the Aboriginals are discriminated against, are over-represented in prisons and often fall victim to police brutality.*



The difficulty of decision-making on this matter is indicated by the government of New South Wales (NSW) banning the Sydney protest due to COVID-19. In NSW, meetings of more than 500 people are forbidden. The ban was challenged at the Supreme Court of

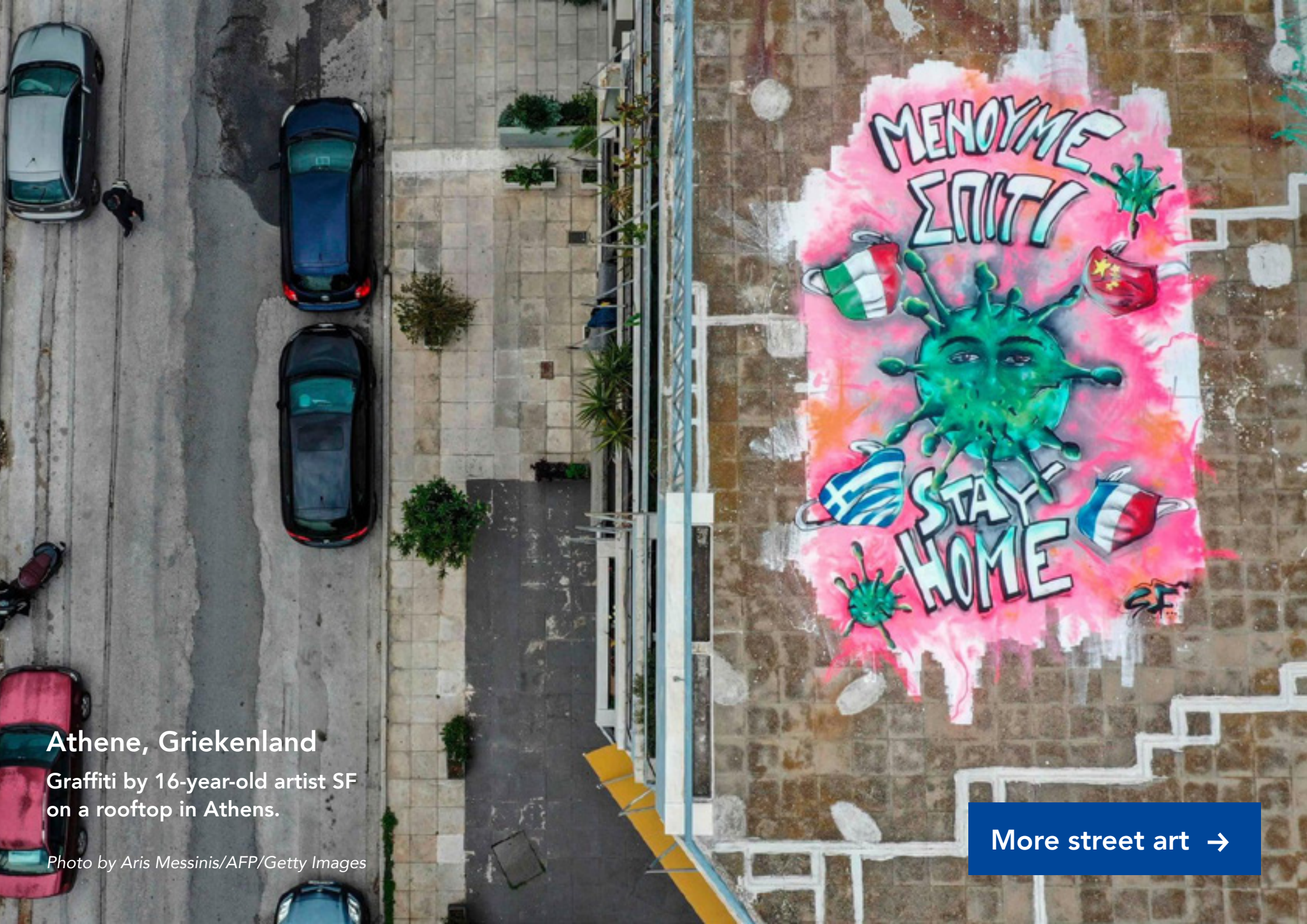
New South Wales. The court upheld the decision taken by the government. However, the appeal against this decision at the Court of Appeal was upheld. The protest was therefore legally permitted.



London, England

Graffiti by street artist Lionel Stanhope
on a bridge in Ladywell in South East London.

Photo by Matt Dunham/AP

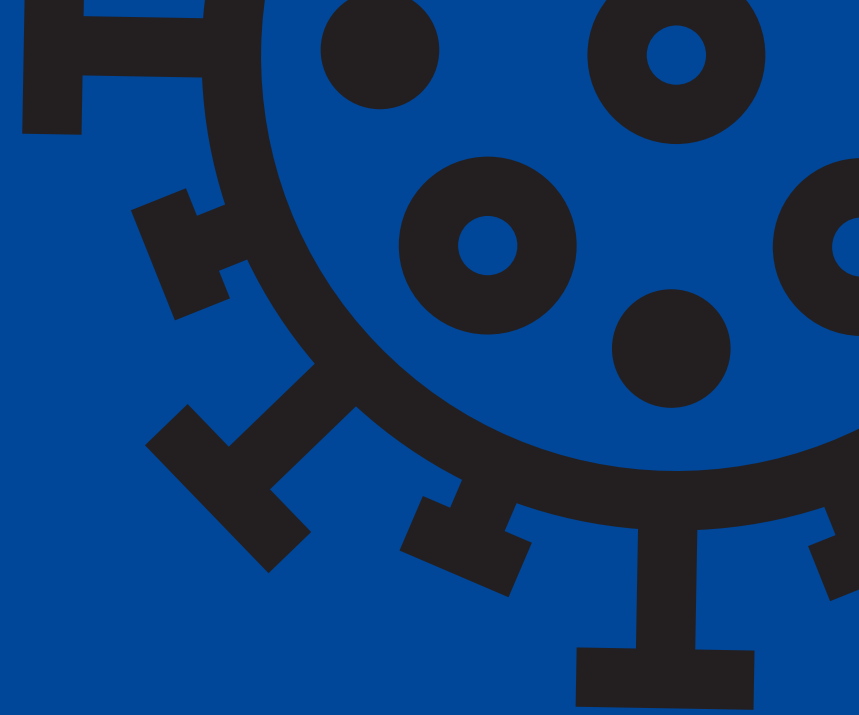


Athene, Griekenland

Graffiti by 16-year-old artist SF
on a rooftop in Athens.

Photo by Aris Messinis/AFP/Getty Images

[More street art →](#)



Social domain

Impact on refugees and migrants in the EU

Interview Agnese Papadia of DG Home and Migration at the European Commission



How do you see that the corona crisis has impacted migrants and refugees in the EU?

COVID-19 affects us all, but some individuals and groups are particularly vulnerable because of their general health and socio-economic situation.

Disadvantaged migrants are particularly vulnerable to the disease due to their relatively limited access to information and protection measures such as self-distancing, due in particular to poor housing conditions, or access to culturally sensitive health care. Refugees and other migrants are more likely to have temporary contracts and are more exposed to the risk of unemployment.

There are specific concerns about the situation of migrant children who may fall behind in language learning and are often in households where the parents may not be able to work from home. Disparities in living conditions and access to digital devices might also hinder learning for migrant pupils.

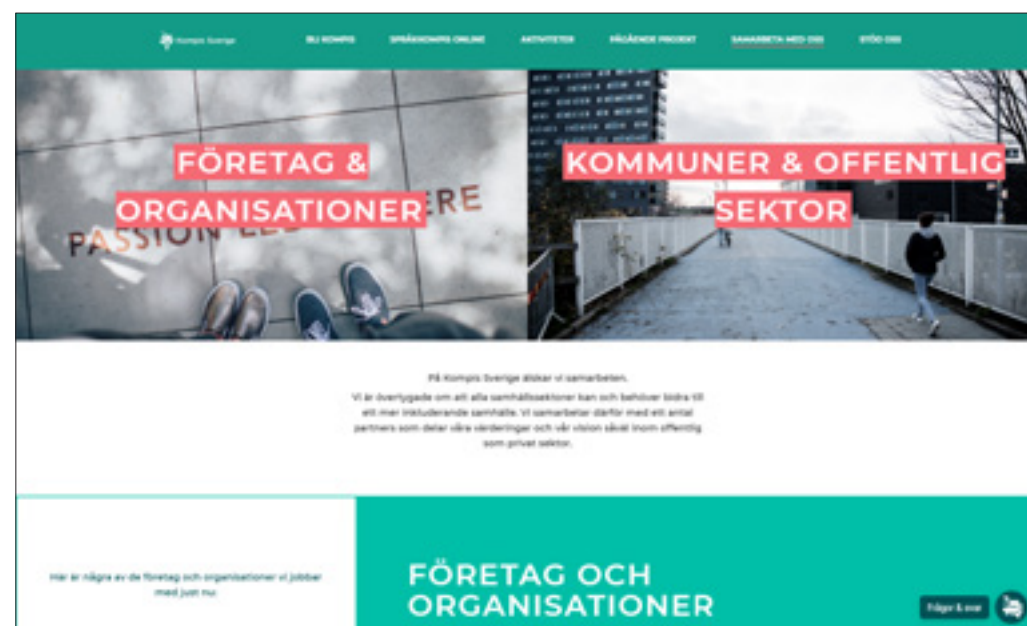
At the same time, many of those making it possible for all of us to get through the crisis are migrants. Around 13% of “key workers” in the response to COVID-19 in Europe are born outside the EU and in certain occupations their contribution is particularly large, including in the health sector.

Have you seen good examples from cities or member states with regard to the inclusion and/or protection of migrants and refugees during the corona crisis?

We have seen many good examples on how national governments, regions and cities are reaching out to migrants' communities, inform, and support them in this time of crisis. On our [European Website on Integration](#) we collected many interesting examples and materials that we hope can serve of inspiration and help.

For example, in **Portugal**, the municipality of Odemira has prepared [500 quarantine places](#) in case any migrant agricultural worker needs to be isolated. The Portuguese government has also published [guidance](#) on access to the national health service for migrants, refugees and professionals who provide care and support. The document helps ensure that migrants and refugees are able to obtain health care.

The region of **Catalonia** has published, with the help of volunteers and civil society organisations, information about COVID-19 and recommendations on what people need to do in 18 different languages. They have also prepared audio recordings about COVID-19 in 35 different languages, which can be shared through social media. The civil society has also been very active.



In **Sweden**, a non-profit organisation has launched an [online initiative](#) that sets up virtual meetings between a newcomer and a Swede, helping to tackle both the newcomer's need to continue language training and the need of both participants to stay connected to others.

What actions does DG Home and Migration take or is planning to take to support migrants and refugees during the corona crisis?

The Commission is working on several fronts to address the needs arising from the Covid-19 crisis and support migrants and refugees.

In April, the Commission has issued guidance with practical advice on how to ensure continuity of asylum procedures as much as possible while fully ensuring the protection of people's health and fundamental rights in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. This guidance also included elements on return and on resettlement operations.

Moreover, the Commission has put in place a new process to support the protection and care of unaccompanied migrant children including by relocating them from the Greek islands to other Member States. The first relocations have already taken place. A total of



1,600 unaccompanied minors will be relocated in the coming months.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the crisis and the recovery phase that will follow can represent also an occasion to make our societies more inclusive and cohesive. The Commission will strengthen the work on integration in the upcoming months to ensure that we seize this opportunity. We will closely involve cities, regions and other key stakeholders in the definition of our upcoming initiatives in the field of integration.

Only together can we achieve a recovery that builds on the skills and potential of migrants while taking their needs fully into account.

Agnese Papadia works as a policy advisor at DG Home and Migration at the European Commission. This part of the Commission is responsible for, among others, migration and integration policy. ■

Report from Brazil by Joëlke Offringa

Joëlke Offringa has been working in Brazil since 1993. She heads the Instituto Plataforma Brasil, which has represented the Anne Frank House in Brazil since 2006 and has cooperated with the Cruyff Court Ermelino Matarazzo in the city of São Paulo for 10 years. Thousands of children attend lessons there every week. Young people inspired by the project are now taking the lead in implementing changes in the favela Alemoa-Santos where they live. This includes social employment projects.

In 2016, Mayor of Amsterdam, Eberhard van der Laan presented Joëlke with the Frans Banninck Cocq Medal for her work for underprivileged youth in Brazil.

We have taken the same approach in the current crisis: supporting the most vulnerable groups and continuing to encourage children and young people. In this way we have tried to make a virtue



of necessity. There are currently Anne Frank Hubs at six locations in Brazil, where people organise training courses and meetings with young people. But now they are taking place at home for the first

time! Social distancing is bringing us even closer together, because it doesn't matter whether someone lives next door to me or 3000 km away.



The first major online project, using the diary of Anne Frank to encourage about 14,000 pupils to read and write, will start in Belo Horizonte soon. Local young people will help with teacher training and preparation. The young people will organise all kinds of online events, lectures and conversations to learn more about issues that concern them the most at this time. How do I deal with all my emotions during social isolation? And also to understand more about Anne Frank, the historical context and the link to Brazil today.

And that is no luxury in a country with increasingly fascist tendencies. In May alone, 204 new social media and web pages with neo-Nazi content were launched in Brazil, and a total of 334 active neo-Nazi cells were identified in the country in 2019. The pandemic seems to magnify everything that has been simmering partly below the surface. The COVID-19 crisis in Brazil is exposing a government that does not seem particularly concerned about its people and is using the moment to push through elements of its own agenda, including the loosening of environmental legislation.

And indeed: the Amazon jungle is being cleared faster than ever before. Last year was already a year of extreme deforestation, which the whole world campaigned against, and the clearing has increased this year (12% more clearing in May of this year than in May 2019). In 2019, almost 99% of the clearing was illegal, and this brutal invasion is a direct threat to the indigenous population, especially those who have never had any contact with Western civilisation and do not have immunity to the common flu.

Violent actions appear to be encouraged rather than curbed, and there are increasing calls to further arm the local population. Figures on police violence were omitted at the launch of a recent report on human rights in Brazil. Meanwhile, we have many of our own George Floyds here, such as João Pedro Mattos Pinto, a 14-year-old black boy who was killed in his home during a police raid of the Complexo de Salgueiro in Rio. More than 70 bullets were fired.

There is a great deal of conflict between the federal state and municipal authorities about the best way to tackle this crisis, which has already claimed more than 50,000 victims, figures similar to those for the war with Paraguay, the bloodiest in Brazil's history. The next elections appear to play a key role against the background of political confrontations, and a gradual opening is being planned at the peak of the pandemic. On top of that, in São Paulo, education comes last.

As far as our own activities are concerned, it is not yet clear whether government funding will come through. In Rio, the governor has been accused of diverting

funds for an emergency hospital to himself. But the context is not entirely clear yet, because the police raid of his home may have been a counter-move by the federal government.

Meanwhile, our team is growing tired and drained after months working online, often with children at home and all the uncertainty and consternation about what is happening around us. The team has also experienced loss and mourning, and that is hitting closer to home. It has never been more difficult to predict what the future holds. Even though everyone is working harder than ever, we decided to reduce the income of the entire team by one-third to enable us to keep going longer, at least until the end of October.

In the meantime, we started receiving assistance: the Johan Cruyff Foundation provided emergency support and, fortunately, the Anne Frank House is continuing to support us this year. Last year, Vopak gave us the award for their best social project worldwide, which has enabled us to get our young people online this year with Wi-Fi access and mobile phones.

But, for the first time, I wonder whether it is best to keep working hard in the current crisis and try to make the shift upwards, or should we take a step back for now, and wait to see what emerges from the chaos before reacting to it? And then use with our energy and resources as effectively as

possible. And if that is the most sensible option, how do you do it; take a step back at a time when needs are so high?

[Read more](#)

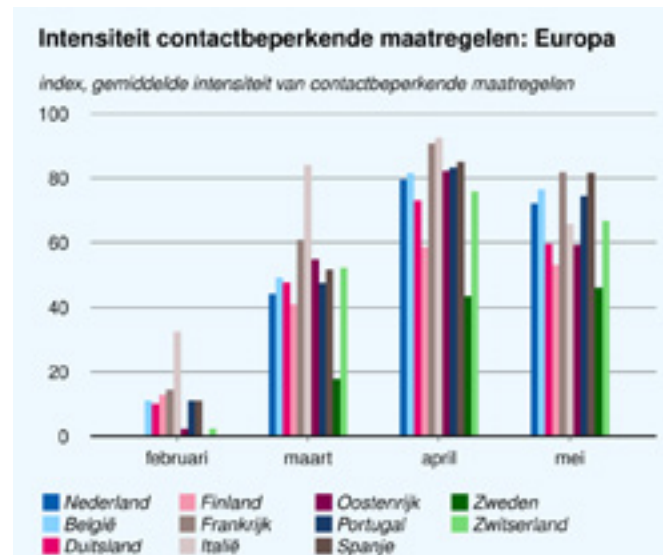
about Instituto Plataforma Brasil.



Dutch labour market in an international perspective

The Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) has examined the state of the Dutch labour market as a result of the coronavirus crisis in an international perspective. It is described in a '[Corona Publication](#)'. Although the decline in the employed workforce in the **Netherlands** in recent months is historically high, it appears to be lower than in other countries.

The decline in the employed workforce in the Netherlands is lower (namely 1.7%) than in many other Western countries. Germany, Finland and Austria saw their employed workforce decrease by 1.8%, 2.9% and 3.6%, respectively. This percentage is much higher in countries outside Europe: Canada and the United States both saw a decline of



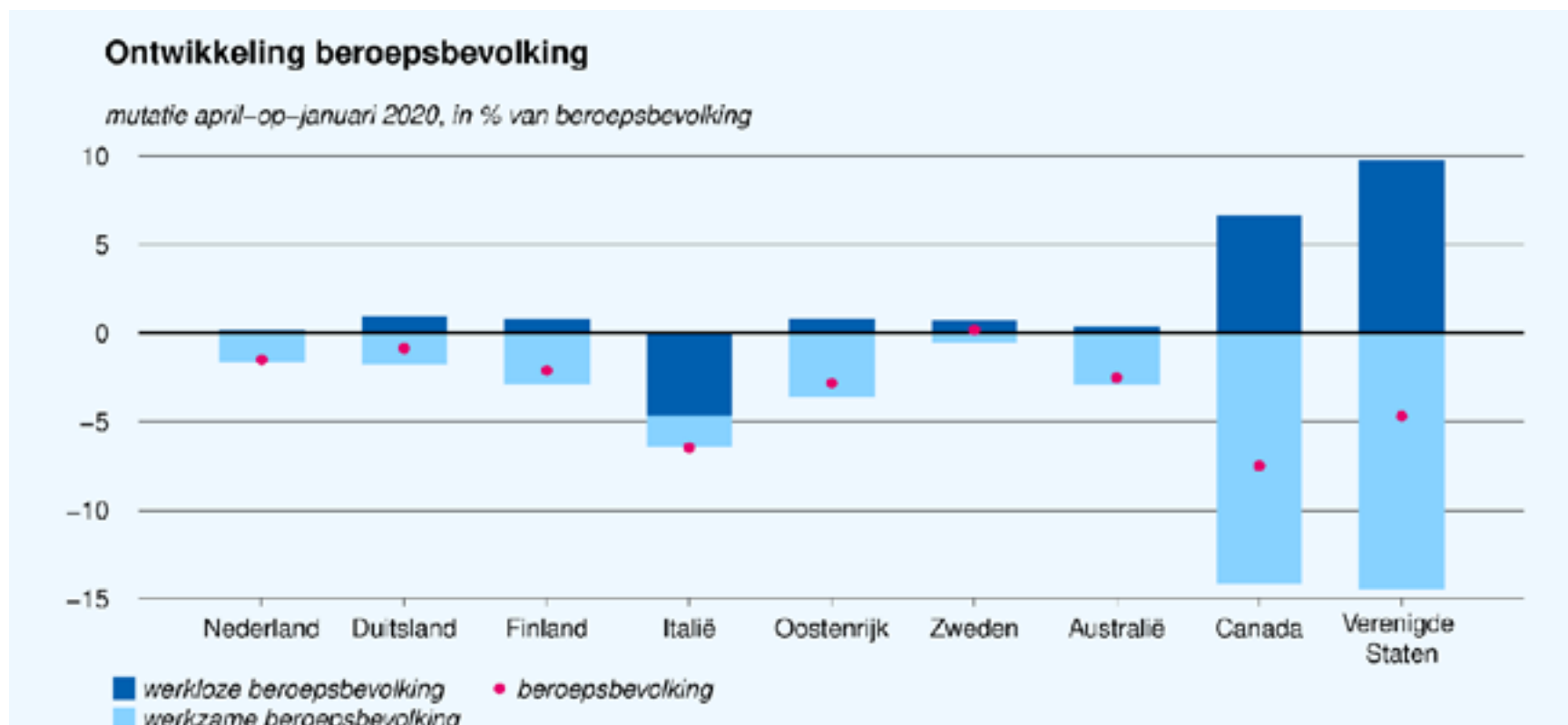
14%, largely due to fewer government measures to prevent dismissal.

In Sweden, the decline in the employed workforce was limited to 0.5%. Is there a correlation between the strictness of measures to combat coronavirus and the economy/labour market? Probably

there is influence, but there are also other factors that affect the number of employed persons.

According to the CPB, contact-limiting measures in the Netherlands are comparable to those in many other Western European countries.

The CPB calculations are based on The Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. The figures are a weighted average of the following indicators: school closures, workplace closures, event cancellations, maximum group size, restriction of public transport, information campaigns, guidelines for staying at home, domestic mobility restrictions, international travel restrictions, level of testing and level of tracing.



There are many European countries that, like the Netherlands, have focused on reduced working hours, paid for by the government, in combination with stricter protection against dismissal. In the Netherlands, 18% of those employed at the end of April were employed by companies making use of reduced working hours under the Temporary Emergency

Bridging Measure for Sustained Employment (Tijdelijke Noodmaatregel Overbrugging voor Werkbehoud, NOW) Thanks to the NOW measure, employers who are faced with a turnover loss of at least 20% can apply to the Employee Insurance Agency (UWV) for compensation of 90% of employees' wages. In Switzerland, the percentage of reduced working hours

compensated by the government is 37% and in France the government compensates 50%. The Anglo-Saxon countries USA, Ireland, Australia and Canada do not offer so much contract protection, and instead have seen a large increase in benefit claims.

For more information, see the full [report](#) (in Dutch). ■

Working from home in Europe

All over the world, people have started working from home en masse. Everyone has different experiences in this respect. The question is whether working from home will become the new norm, even when it is no longer necessary. What is happening in other countries?

An [online survey](#) conducted by Eurofound showed that 37% of employed persons in the EU are now working from home, due to the pandemic. Eurostat had estimated that, before the coronavirus pandemic, around 5% of employed persons worked from home (based on a 2017 survey), whereas 57% could work from home. Because of the pandemic, this potential is now being seriously explored for the first time.



In the Netherlands, 44% of employed persons are working from home (some or all of the time), according to the [Knowledge Institute for Mobility Policy](#).

When comparing countries, there are large differences between the percentages of total employed persons who work from home.

According to research by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in Italy 24% of employed persons should be able to work from home, compared to 28% in France, 29% in Germany and 31% in Sweden. Globally, 18% of employed persons could work

from home effectively. This is influenced by factors such as: nature of the work; access to digital resources (internet and owning a computer), and whether the home situation allows people to work from home. See the [ILO policy brief](#) for more information.

What is certain is that being forced to work from home may have made people aware of the benefits. Various organisations, such as the [ILO](#) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)) see working from home as a future trend.

International students and the COVID-19 crisis

International students at universities all over the world were faced with a dilemma during the COVID-19 crisis: return home or not? A [survey](#) carried out by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) shows that 40% of exchange students have decided to return home.

Universities are doing their best to support students who stay, but these students are experiencing increasing loneliness and growing concerns in terms of money and of progress made in their studies. ESN also found that 24% of Italian students and 19% of Asian students have experienced some form of discrimination since the start of the outbreak due to their nationality.

In the US, international students are having problems [making ends meet](#). As their student visas prevent them from finding work off campus, they have no income. To help these students, **New York** University has set up an emergency fund, but the increase in costs and the cancelled lectures mean that some are worried that they will no longer be able to pay their tuition fees. These tuition fees are often considerably higher than those for national students, as in the Netherlands.



Several universities, including the University of Cambridge, have decided to continue to provide [online teaching](#) until the summer of 2021. In **Taipei**, the city is already preparing for the compulsory quarantine of returning international students.

There will be a decrease in the number of students choosing to study abroad, and therefore less money coming in for universities. However, in cities such as **Amsterdam** this will also [ease the pressure on student housing](#).

Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on young people

The COVID-19 crisis is having a large impact on young people (those born between 1990 and 2005). A recently published [OECD study](#) describes the toll that it is taking in the areas of education, employment, mental health and disposable income. These young people are now experiencing a second major crisis that affects them either directly (as a student or a job-seeker) or indirectly (impact on their family). Most likely, therefore, young people will bear the future burden of the costs of this crisis.

Youth unemployment

Within [OECD](#) countries, an average of 35% of young people (15-29 years old) are in low paid and/or insecure jobs, compared with 15% in the 30-50 age group and 16% of the working population aged 51 and over. Young people

are more likely to work in sectors that have been hard hit by the crisis, such as catering and the entertainment industry. The crisis will also lead to more unemployment. Furthermore, a decrease in income has a relatively bigger impact on young people, as they often have fewer savings.

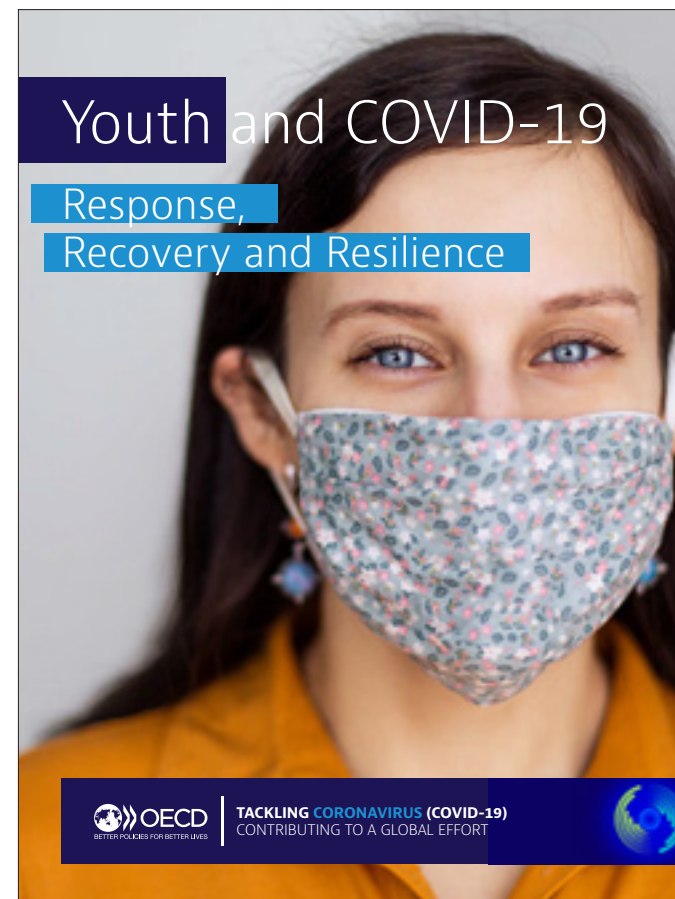
Unemployment at an early age also has a big impact on the rest of a person's working life. Young people who have been out of a job for a long period of time are more likely to have a lower income, fewer career development opportunities and poorer prospects for better jobs.

Trust in government

For some time, a lower level of trust in the government has been noted among young people. In some OECD

Youth and COVID-19

Response,
Recovery and Resilience



countries, this has worsened as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. People are also worried about disinformation regarding corona, discrimination and public debts.

Involvement of young people in recovery measures

The OECD makes an appeal to governments to prevent intergenerational

inequality and to involve young people in the decision-making process concerning recovery measures. This will also help increase young people's trust in the government.

How governments are involving young people:

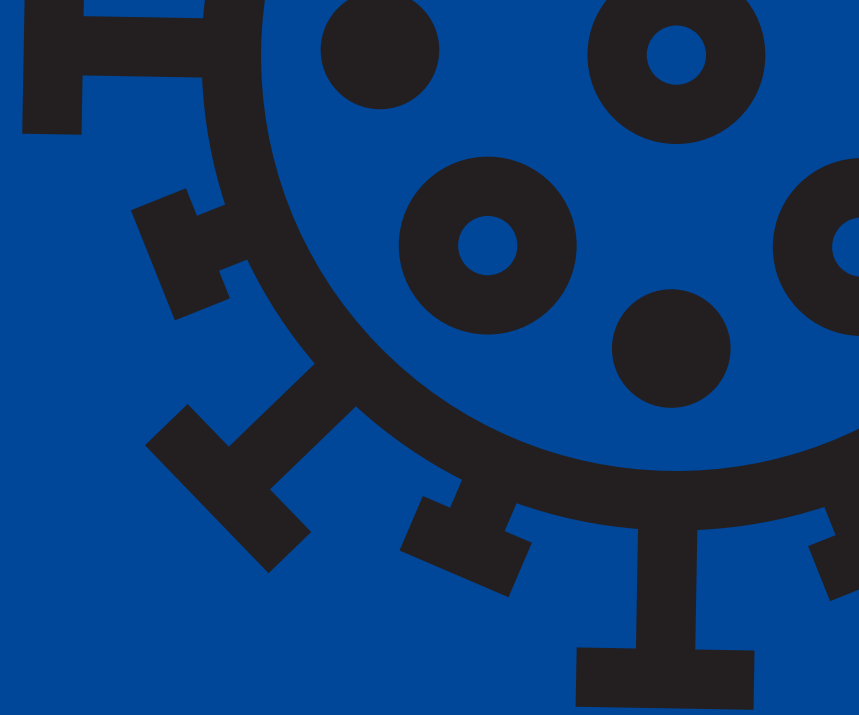
- The government of New Zealand has published a number of surveys carried out among young people to provide youth workers with information about the government's approach;
- In many countries, explicit attention is paid to intergenerational solidarity;
- The British Youth Council has called for the introduction of a dedicated youth minister to ensure that young people's voices are heard;
- In Denmark, youth organizations have been working together with the government during the COVID-19 crisis to provide practical advice to young people.



Key policy messages

To build back better for all generations, governments should consider:

- Applying a youth and intergenerational lens in crisis response and recovery measures across the public administration.
- Updating national youth strategies in collaboration with youth stakeholders to translate political commitment into actionable programmes.
- Partnering with national statistical offices and research institutes to gather disaggregated evidence on the impact of the crisis by age group to track inequalities and inform decision-making (in addition to other identity factors such as sex, educational and socio-economical background, and employment status).
- Anticipating the distributional effects of rulemaking and the allocation of public resources across different age cohorts by using impact assessments and creating or strengthening institutions to monitor the consequences on today's young and future generations.
- Promoting age diversity in public consultations and state institutions to reflect the needs and concerns of different age cohorts in decision-making.
- Leveraging young people's current mobilisation in mitigating the crisis through existing mechanisms, tools and platforms (e.g. the use of digital tools and data) to build resilience in societies against future shocks and disasters.
- Aligning short-term emergency responses with investments into long-term economic, social and environmental objectives to ensure the well-being of future generations.
- Providing targeted policies and services for the most vulnerable youth populations, including young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs); young migrants; homeless youth; and young women, adolescents and children facing increased risks of domestic violence.



Physical Domain



Mobility in Europe

Cycling

The European Cyclists Federation has placed an interactive map, a summary and graphs on its [website](#) showing an [overview](#) of European cities with plans to implement measures to encourage cycling.

For example, **Rome** has announced plans to develop 150 km of cycle lanes, and **Lisbon** is planning to build 76.5 km of cycle lanes.

Traffic accidents

One result of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a sharp decrease in traffic accidents, as there are fewer people on the road and more people choose to cycle or walk. However, the European Transport Safety Council ([ETSC](#))

cautions that the European Union, despite this decrease, is still not on track to achieve the target of cutting road deaths by half in the decade between 2010 and 2020.

[ETSC director](#) Antonio Avenoso has even warned that: *"If we simply revert to business-as-usual after this crisis, the results could be even worse than before"*. He is worried about the large numbers of speeding offences being reported as lockdowns are being lifted.

New EU legislation that puts in place stricter vehicle and infrastructure safety standards may help, but the ETSC says that much depends on *"the detailed technical standards for the new laws, which are currently being worked out"*.



Cities call for inclusion of urban mobility in EU recovery package

EUROCITIES has written an open letter to the European Commission calling for urban mobility to be made part of the Commission's recovery package.

The letter emphasizes the role that the recovery plan could play in the protection and renewal of public transport, as well as supporting the development of infrastructure for cycling and walking in urban areas.

The letter is addressed to Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, also responsible for the European Green Deal, and Adina Vălean, European Commissioner for Transport. The letter was co-signed by the cities of **Bonn**, **Brussels**, **Dublin** and **Milan**.

The signatories of the letter call for:

- Green public procurement, in which new and extended services should be met with zero-emission vehicles;
- A portion of the CEF Digital budget to be devoted to modernising public transport;
- Support for the development of infrastructure for cycling and walking.

Mobility in de United States

Shared scooters back in Cleveland

Shared scooters are allowed back on the streets of **Cleveland** from 21 June. The city has drawn up [new coronavirus protocols](#) for shared-mobility companies and their customers.

For example, companies must comply with federal and local health regulations and clean the scooters every time they are charged or serviced. Users are asked to wash their hands before and after the ride and to carefully clean those parts of the scooter that are frequently touched (such as handles) before they ride.

Shared bicycles will also soon return as part of Cleveland's shared-mobility system.

Crowd monitoring in buses

Several cities in North America, including Boston, New York and [Laval](#) (Canada) are introducing apps and tools that allow public transport users to see how full the next metro or bus will be.

In **Laval**, this tool provides an estimate of the number of passengers on board, both at the time of boarding and throughout the journey, based on information collected about past journeys (i.e. the app does not provide real-time information).

In **Boston** they expect the app will be able to provide real-time information about the number of passengers on buses. However, due to a lack of modern sensors, the information for the metro will be based on the number of check-ins and check-outs at stations.

Speaking softly and no phone calls on public transport in New Jersey

In **New Jersey** [new rules](#) were drawn up for public transport to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The new guidelines appeal to passengers not to speak too loudly on public transport and to keep calls to a minimum.

The guidelines are based on Japanese healthcare guidelines that appeal to passengers not to have conversations in confined spaces, such as on public transport. Face masks also remain mandatory on public transport in New Jersey.

International travel

EU reopens

The European Commission has introduced a web platform called '[Re-open EU](#)' which provides information to facilitate a safe relaunch of the free movement of persons and the tourism industry in Europe. The platform aims to allow people to confidently plan trips and holidays for the coming summer and beyond. It provides up-to-date information on border formalities, the availability of public transport, travel restrictions, public health, and safety requirements (e.g. wearing face masks and keeping sufficient distance).

Testing passengers for coronavirus

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has [stipulated](#) that the coronavirus testing often required by

governments must be carried out before passengers come to the airport. This prevents infections spreading at airports and reduces waiting times and also means there is less risk of arriving passengers testing positive for COVID-19 and having to be sent back to their destination.

Mallorca coronavirus measures tested

As part of a pilot, almost [200 passengers from Germany](#) arrived in Mallorca on 15 June to test the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. [Germany and Spain](#) reached this agreement because both countries are currently in a similar stage of the pandemic. Spain reopened its borders to all European Member States and Schengen countries on June 21.



C40 City Network

Added value during coronavirus crisis

Amsterdam is a member of the C40 City Network. On Monday 22 June we interviewed the C40's Deputy Director for Europe, Stelios Diakoulakis. We talked to him about the C40's response to the coronavirus.

1. C40 and Amsterdam

The C40 is an international network of 96 cities that are actively engaged in [addressing climate change](#). The 200+ staff members of the C40 help cities to cooperate and share their knowledge, among others through various [programmes](#) and [networks](#).

This is a strong network that, together with the mayors, further ensures that the urban perspective on climate change is given plenty of attention in the political arena.

C40 increases its impact by working together with companies, NGOs, youth organizations and other networks. This is the vision of its

new Chair and Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti enshrined in the [Global Green New Deal](#) that was announced at the C40 Summit in 2019.

As a member of the C40, Amsterdam has [collaborated](#) in drawing up the Circular Strategy and participates in a climate adaptation forum.

2. Response to the coronavirus

Twelve Chinese cities are also members of the C40 network. As a result, the C40 was quickly aware of the impact of the coronavirus crisis in the Chinese cities. When the global spread of the coronavirus crisis became apparent in early March, the C40 was able to take immediate

action to provide support to cities around the world. This support currently takes two forms:

I. Knowledge sharing and advice

The C40's existing networks and programmes have been used intensively to share successful examples and experiences on the website ([knowledge hub](#)) and through the provision of webinars.

The choice of themes for the webinars and research conducted by C40 staff was determined based on the questions the cities themselves put forward. Experts and relevant cities were involved in the various activities based on these questions. As a result, within a few days after the start of the lock-downs various cities were already communicating with each other about



“The Covid-19 pandemic has created the momentum to have the discussion on how we would proceed as a society. We should not return to ‘normal’, our goal is to build a better, more sustainable, more resilient and fairer society out of the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis’

Stelios Diakoulakis,
Deputy Director for Europe, C40

their approaches to issues such as public transport, promotion of walking & cycling, food policies and economic recovery. This helped them to formulate new and/or temporary policies to respond to the crisis and help them in the recovery.

II. Political and administrative

Administrative action was also taken immediately. Four meetings for mayors

were organised to discuss how the city administrators could respond during the coronavirus crisis. The mayoral meetings led to an initiative in mid-April to establish a [Mayoral Taskforce](#) (led by **Milan**) dedicated to a healthy and sustainable future society.

The mayors will deploy their administrative clout to encourage coronavirus recovery plans aimed at

creating a better, more sustainable and fairer society, rather than returning to ‘the old ways’. The results of the Task Force will be published this summer and will not only describe what needs to be changed, but also how. The results of the Task Force clearly and strongly promote the idea of a green recovery in which social factors play an important role.

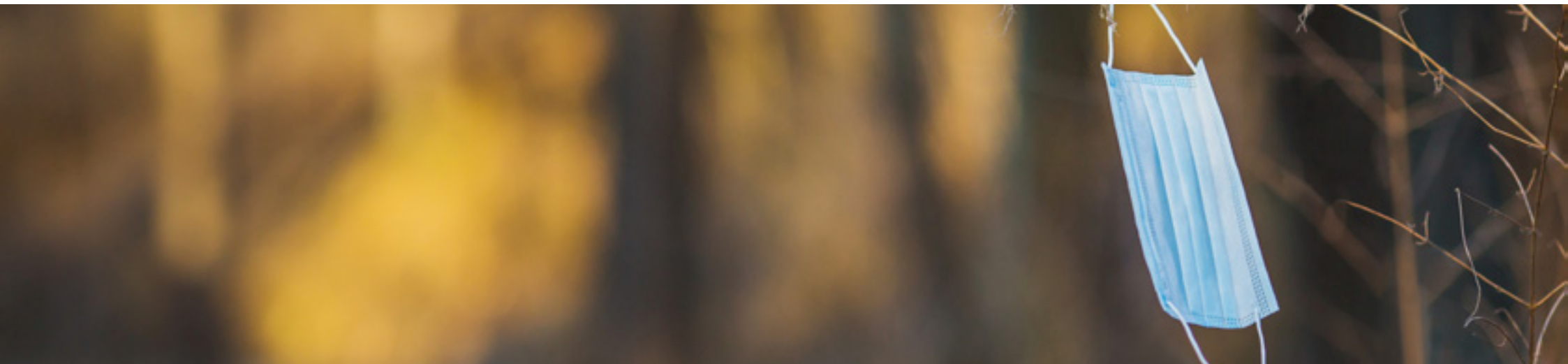
The C40 recognises that the coronavirus has brought about a permanent change. The coronavirus crisis has shown that there is even more urgency behind their message and that social health also needs to be given a prominent position in the green recovery.

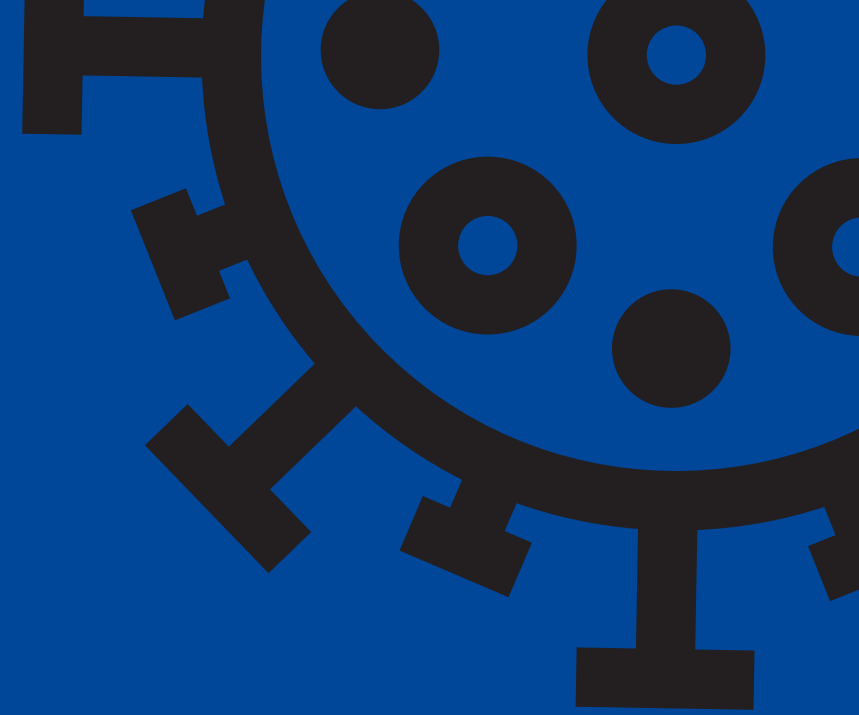
"This a unique opportunity for global cities to shape the future, to use all our instruments and power to demand that governments make green recovery their aim, but also to help and support each other." Stelios Diakoulakis,
Deputy Director for Europe, C40

Access to C40 expertise and networks

If you want more information, you can visit the C40's website to view the various thematic [programmes](#) and [networks](#). There you can also read more about the various C40 statements that have been published on the themes. If you want to get in touch with the C40 or one of its cities, or if you have any questions about the C40, each member city will have a point of contact.

The top priority of C40 is the D2020 program which sets the level of commitment and ambition of its members to keep global heating below the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement and to develop integrated and inclusive Climate Plans. The [D2020 commitment](#) is open to non-C40 members as well, and that is why C40 has made its CAP tools and methodologies publicly available on the [C40 Resource Centre](#). ■

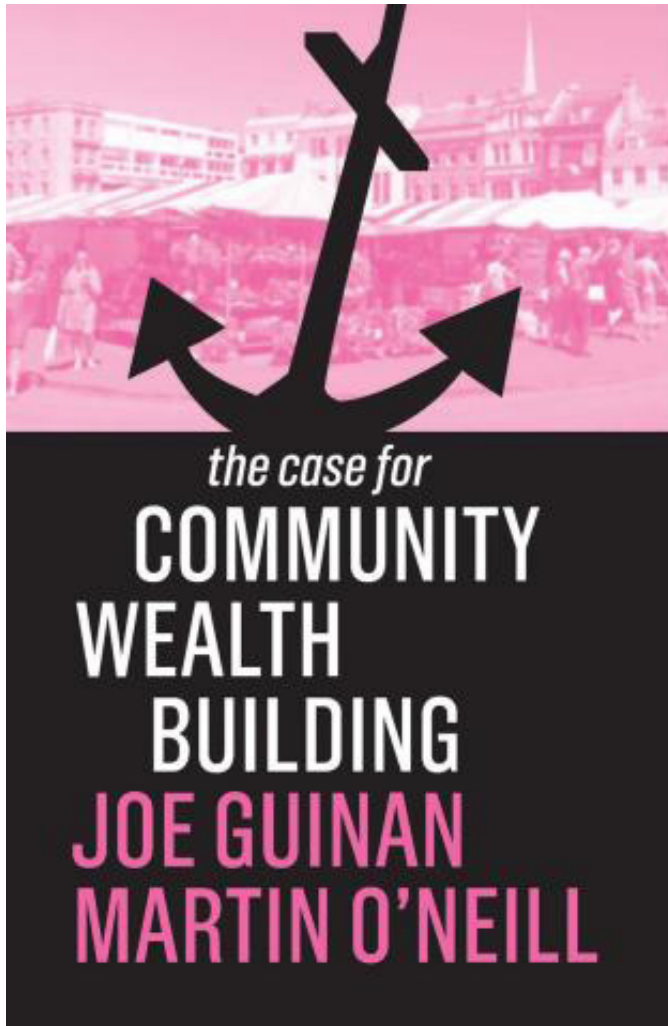




Economy

Democratization and local economy

Interview Martin O'Neill en Joe Guinan: Community Wealth Building



Martin O'Neill and Joe Guinan are both political economists and the authors of *The Case for Community Wealth Building*, in which they explain their views on how democratic participation can be a driving force behind a more equitable economic development. They also published an analysis of the way in which [Amsterdam](#) could kick-start the local economy in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Can you explain how democratization could contribute to local economic development, in your opinion?

What we call Community Wealth Building begins with considering the practical challenges at a local level, also in terms of policy. We do that from a normative perspective: how can we build a fairer, more sustainable, more democratic community? What part should the government play in addressing these challenges?

We are convinced that economic development should support this effort, rather leaving it to the big companies. The local community should be able to co-determine the direction of economic development.

How do you believe the COVID-19 crisis will impact the local economy?

People still underestimate what the economic impact of the crisis will be. We cannot possibly return to the

old situation. We must not allow the direction of this crisis to be determined by whoever has the deepest pockets. It is not the big companies that should be receiving huge subsidies and support packages. Right now, it's the people who are hardest hit who need to be supported.

There is also a real risk that big investors will take advantage of the crisis to buy out small failing businesses at far too low a price. The property market faces the same risk.

What role could local government play in promoting a different kind of economy?

The corona crisis is also an opportunity to consider a different approach to local economic development and to give the local community a more important role. The crisis is certain to destabilise, but what is uncertain is which way the balance will tip. What the government does now will

either increase existing inequality or lead to a new strategy by ensuring that private investment will play a less influential role. Procurement can play an important part in this respect.

We do not necessarily have to buy everything from businesses, for example, some services could be regulated publicly. Give citizens a chance to set up their own cooperative for larger purchasing processes, for instance.

We tend to have a rather instrumental take on the role of local government. But local government can also play a distributive role and use the various tools available to ensure that we have more ownership of the city and that the economy is geared more towards a democratic society.



Joe Guinan

Do you have any examples of how this has been done in other cities?

Procurement alone is not going to save the world. Reshaping the economy calls for a city-wide strategy. A fine example is the **London** Industrial Strategy of the 1980s, in which citizens, local businesses, scientists and the local government and public services collectively set up a local food supply chain to ensure that the poorest in the community still had enough to eat during the economic crisis of the time. We could do something similar here now, such as the production of medical goods.

A city-wide analysis should be conducted in which Amsterdam identifies its own strengths and weaknesses and, particularly, which sectors the city needs in order to develop. Such an analysis should look at more than ways to attract as much money from abroad as possible.

It is dangerous to only consider the short term when the economy is set

to change fundamentally. **Amsterdam** used to be quite dependent on tourism, a situation which we may never witness again.

And how does that contribute to one of our biggest concerns right now: unemployment?

The first question with regard to local economic development is: What are our main objectives? Such as accessible health care for everyone, green energy and electric transport. Those are the sectors in which you need to bring the business community and citizens together, and encourage the development of cooperatives with small funding programmes. That would enable local government to play a part in creating new jobs to replace those that have recently been lost, in sectors that would generate more value in the city than, say, polluting air traffic.

Now is the time to do this, with the EU relaxing government aid regulations. This would be the right moment to implement revolutionary change. ■



Martin O'Neill

Organising festivals during the corona crisis

Great Southern Nights in Sydney

The government of New South Wales (NSW) has launched an [initiative](#) together with ARIA, a trade organisation for Australian record labels and companies, to organise the '[Great Southern Nights](#)' festival in **Sydney** and its surrounding area.

With this initiative they aim to stage no fewer than 1,000 Covid-safe live performances in November. Artists and event venues across the state can still register to take part in the festival.

The organisers hope 'Great Southern Nights' will help revive the live music industry and at the same time boost the local culture sector.

Exit-Festival in Novi Sad (Serbia)

The Serbian government has granted permission for the famous Serbian [EXIT-festival](#) to go ahead this year in **Novi Sad**. The festival dates have been moved from July to August. The festival started 20 years ago as a student movement fighting for democracy and freedom in Serbia and the Balkans - a so-called 'exit strategy' from a decade of isolation and civil war in the 1990s.

The reason why the organisers allowed the 20th edition to go ahead is to show that it is time this pandemic is brought to an end across the world.

The festival is being organised in collaboration with the local health authorities, the government and the Ministry of Health.



Concrete details are as yet unknown. We do know one thing [for sure](#) though, which is that the maximum number of festival goers will be reduced and that only 90% of the original space will be accessible as festival ground. Tickets went on sale on 1 June, and there are no restrictions for visitors from other European countries.

Nightlife and culture



Concerns about incidents UK

The INA (International Nightlife Association) has warned authorities about an increase in the number of illegal parties owing to the lack of night-life venues. This month saw several such 'quarantine raves' in the United Kingdom, with thousands of people gathering who hardly observed any health and safety precautions, if at all.

In **Manchester**, one person was killed and fights broke out. The Mayor of Greater Manchester has announced that the police will take firmer action to prevent a summer full of illegal raves. There have also been reports of illegal parties in Amsterdam.

Belgium

Crowds have also been a problem in **Brussels**. After bars closed at 1 am, in line with the lockdown regulations, hundreds of bar customers gathered for an improvised carnival celebration at a site in **Anderlecht**.

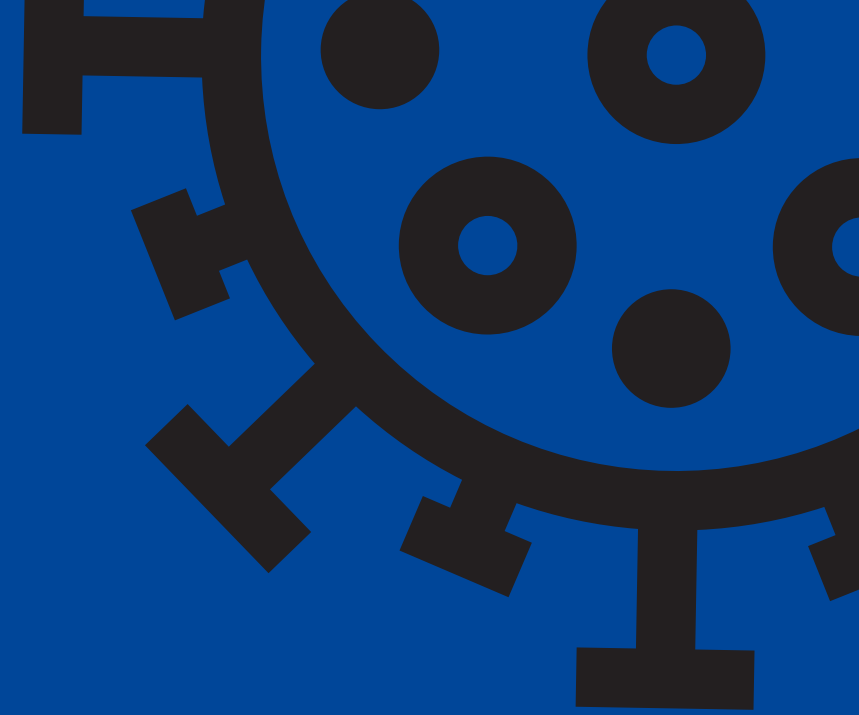
The police decided against dispersing the party-goers forcibly and ended the festivities without anyone being fined. After the weekend, the Brussels-Ixelles police district announced they would be deploying twice as many officers to enforce crowd gathering regulations more strictly.

The hospitality union thinks it's time to consider reopening Belgian night-life. More checks would only lead to more illegal parties. The hospitality union is also calling for later closing times.

Ireland

The draft version of the new government programme for Ireland contains important promises to the cultural sector. On 14 June, the Irish government announced a 25 million euros recovery package for the arts and culture sector.

The package includes scholarship programmes for young artists, support programmes for festivals, amateur theatre and musicals. Night mayors have also been appointed in the cities of **Dublin** and **Cork**. There will be a vote on 26 June, following which the final government programme will be adopted.



EU

European funding



Preparations for the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) – the European budget – for 2021-2027 are currently in full swing. In addition to the proposal for the MFF and the associated Green Deal, the European Commission has launched two programmes in response to the coronavirus crisis: the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative I and II, and the Recovery Fund.

Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus

The Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, worth €37 billion, has been set up to support the hardest-hit areas of the economy. All coronavirus-related expenditure is eligible for funding. Of the total funding, €8 billion will come from unallocated cohesion policy funding and €29 billion from

co-financing from the EU budget. The Commission is also making it easier to reallocate budgets within grant programmes to other priorities. As part of the Initiative, Member States are required to contribute at least the same amount for each euro paid out by the Commission.

Recovery Fund: Next Generation EU

Naast het nieuwe MFK voorstel In addition to the new MFF proposal, the Commission also announced a €750 billion recovery fund called Next Generation EU. The fund can be granted or lent to Member States and is intended to help alleviate the impact of the coronavirus crisis. These additional resources will be allocated through existing EU programmes. Investments made using the recovery

fund must be geared towards creating a green and digital future for the EU. The previous Monitor discussed the nature of the fund in more detail.

Next Generation EU funding is allocated to Member States, after which it can be used by cities. In some cases, cities may also apply for funding directly (as with the [Horizon Europe programme](#)). Key programmes and funds for cities within Next Generation EU include: [REACT-EU](#), Just Transition Fund, Invest.EU, EU4Health and Horizon Europe.

The European heads of government discussed the proposal on Friday 19 June. This meeting, held by video-conference, was a first exchange of views.

The Commission plans to make €250 billion of the recovery fund available as loans and €500 billion as subsidies.

The **Netherlands, Sweden, Austria** and **Denmark** argue, however, that the package should consist of loans only. There are also disagreements regarding the allocation key to be used for the recovery fund; the Commission proposes to distribute funds according to the pre-crisis economic situation, while some Member States, including the Netherlands, think that the economic impact of COVID-19 should be taken into account.

Many government leaders want to see an agreement before the end of July. The next summit will take place in mid-July.

European Recovery and Resilience Facility

This programme provides financial support for investments and reforms, particularly those related to the green and digital transition and to

the resilience of national economies. Member States have to apply for funding.

REACT-EU

Between now and 2022 an additional €55 billion will be added to the current cohesion policy programmes. Funding will be distributed based on the socio-economic impact of the crisis, taking into account rising levels of (youth) unemployment and relative prosperity in Member States.

Just Transition Fund

The Commission has made a proposal to increase this fund to €40 billion in order to help Member States accelerate the transition to climate neutrality. It is currently unclear as to whether cities such as **Amsterdam** will be able to access this funding.

INVEST.EU

The Invest.EU programme offers an EU budget guarantee to support investment and access to financing in the EU up to an expected total of €650 billion. Additional funds have been added to Invest.EU in the context of Next Generation EU. The fund will support four policy areas: Sustainable infrastructure; Research, innovation and digitisation; Small and medium-sized enterprises; and Social investment and skills.

Horizon Europe

An additional €13.5 billion will be added to the EU's research and development programme budget, bringing it up to €94.4 billion. This budget is typically channelled into specific funds that may also be of interest to cities for innovative projects in a wide range of policy areas.

If you wish to know more, contact the European Subsidies Team at internationaloffice@amsterdam.nl.

Europe launches new EU4Health plan

The following aspects of the plan are particularly noteworthy:

- A proposal for a permanent European stockpile of medical supplies, such as disinfectants, medical equipment, testing supplies, protective clothing and medication
- Standby healthcare professionals, including flying doctors who can be called up in times of crisis
- A prominent role for the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Production of vaccines and medicines in Europe
- Greater focus on the fight against cancer, resistance to antibiotics and improved vaccination programmes
- Reducing disparities between Member States in cancer screening and treatment

The programme is to be funded from the regular EU budget and the European recovery fund presented by the European Commission earlier in May. At the end of 2020, European Commissioner Kyriakides will present a European pharmaceutical strategy.

Vaccines

On 17 June, the European Commission announced its intention to accelerate the development, production and application of coronavirus vaccines. The aim of the strategy:

- To ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of vaccines
- To secure swift access to vaccines for Member States and their populations, while at the same time leading the global solidarity effort
- To ensure equitable access to an affordable vaccine as early as possible

Prevention and obesity

A recent [study](#) by Public Health England revealed that 8% of critically ill patients in ICUs were morbidly obese, yet only 3% of the English population suffers from morbid obesity.

Another [study](#), from the U.S., found that obesity was a more important factor for hospitalisation than blood pressure, diabetes, cancer and even COPD. Although the European Commission agrees that obesity must be addressed, it is still unclear as to how much money from the action plan will be allocated to the prevention of obesity.

There have been more than 1.5 million confirmed cases of coronavirus in the EU and approximately 170,000 deaths. There has been much discussion

recently about the extent to which efforts to combat the coronavirus crisis should have been coordinated by the EU. At the end of May, the European Commission published a new policy proposal, EU4Health, that will run until 2027. The proposal has yet to be approved by the Member States and the European Parliament. The Commission wants to pump €9.4 billion into the new programme, which is a major increase compared to 2018, when the amount proposed was only €413 million.

The EU has relatively little power when it comes to health. Countries are free to decide their own health policy and there is little European legislation in this area. Commissioner Kyriakides has therefore described the package as a real game changer, because it gives the European Union a greater role in directing health policy. Not only does she want the EU to be better prepared for the next pandemic, but she also wants the EU as a whole to be healthier in the long term. ■



Eurocommissar Stella Kyriakides

Overview of relevant resources

If you would like to know more about an example in this monitor, have a question, please let us know: internationaloffice@amsterdam.nl

- **New** in this overview: The **OECD** has launched a website containing [policy analyses and figures](#) relating to COVID-19, focusing in particular on the economy, health, and social affairs
- The **National Association of City Transportation Officials** has relevant information for and by [transport professionals](#).
- **C40** also provides information on various themes and there are board and expert level discussions. In addition, C40 has a specialised [Knowledge Hub](#).
- The World Economic Forum, the Resilient Cities Network, Friends of Europe and UCLG also regularly facilitate webinars.
- The **Global Parliament of Mayors** has an [overview of best practices](#) and a forum for questions from directors.
- The **City Innovators Forum** has designed a comprehensive [toolbox](#) for urban policy during the time of the coronavirus.
- The **European Commission's** Joint Research Centre has an '[overview of overviews](#)'
- **Politics of COVID-19** weekly gives the most [relevant highlights and webinars](#) on COVID-19
- The **European Committee of Regions** has an [interactive map](#) on measures in different European regions
- **CEMR** (Council of European Municipalities and Regions) has recommendations for [waste collection](#) during the coronavirus crisis.
- This **handbook** examines [research methods and forecasting](#) relating to the coronavirus.
- **Eurocities** has a [website](#) containing urban best practices and organises webinars on a variety of topics.
- **UNESCO** has compiled a [list](#) of useful tools and tips to facilitate distance learning.
- **Smart Cities World** mainly looks at [AI, ICT and the future](#) in relation to the coronavirus.

