



# Tracking Health Systems Response to COVID-19

Marina Karanikolos, PhD MPH

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum

15<sup>th</sup> February 2021



European  
**Observatory**  
on Health Systems and Policies



a partnership hosted by WHO



# European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

- OBS supports and promotes evidence-based health policy-making through comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe.
- OBS engages directly with policy-makers and experts, and works in partnership with research centres, governments and international organizations to analyse health systems and policy trends.
- Partnership hosted by the WHO/Europe





# COVID-19 Health Systems Response Monitor (HSRM)

[www.covid19healthsystem.org](http://www.covid19healthsystem.org)

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with logos for the World Health Organization, the European Commission, and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. The main heading is "COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor" with language options for English and Russian. Below the header, there is a brief description of the HSRM's purpose and a link to policy recommendations. The main content area features a "CROSS-COUNTRY ANALYSIS: TRENDS AND KEY LESSONS" section with a line graph and a list of key questions. Below this are three interactive panels: "COUNTRIES" with a dropdown menu, "COMPARE COUNTRY RESPONSES" with a "Compare" button, and "IMPORTANT REFERENCES" with a "Read" button.

- HSRM platform is a publicly available online resource that collects and organises information on how health systems are responding to COVID-19
- It is structured and updated to help policy makers review what is happening country by country and issue by issue
- Country-specific responses across Europe + USA and Canada reported by country experts from OBS Health Systems and Policies Monitor Network
- Information is collected systematically and regularly (starting April 2020) based on the standard template



# Country information collection and template

## POLICY RESPONSES

All

1. Preventing Transmission

1.1 Health communication

1.2 Physical distancing

1.3 Isolation and quarantine

1.4 Monitoring and surveillance

1.5 Testing

2. Ensuring sufficient physical infrastructure and workforce capacity

2.1 Physical infrastructure

2.2 Workforce

3. Providing health services effectively

3.1 Planning services

3.2 Managing cases

3.3 Managing essential services

4. Paying for services

4.1 Health financing

4.2 Entitlement and coverage

5. Governance

6. Measures in other sectors

Regular revisions of the standard template to reflect the pandemic response development, e.g.:

- Transiting in and out of lockdowns;
- Vaccination planning, distribution and access;
- Expansion of testing strategy, genetic sequencing;
- Counteracting dis- and mis- information, vaccine hesitancy;
- Financing health services in 2021;
- Role of GPs and primary care;
- Supporting health workforce;
- Maintaining access to essential services.



# Cross-country comparison tool

## COMPARE COUNTRIES

Select different countries and compare their responses to the COVID-19 crisis.


### 1. SELECT COUNTRIES

<b>A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Albania</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Andorra *</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Armenia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Austria</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Azerbaijan</li></ul>	<b>F</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Finland</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> France</li></ul>	<b>L</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Latvia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lithuania</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Luxembourg</li></ul>	<b>S</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> San Marino</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Serbia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Slovakia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Slovenia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Spain</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sweden</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland</li></ul>
<b>B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Belarus</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Belgium</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia and Herzegovina</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bulgaria</li></ul>	<b>G</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Georgia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Germany</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Greece</li></ul>	<b>M</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Malta</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Monaco</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Montenegro</li></ul>	<b>T</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Tajikistan *</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Turkey</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Turkmenistan *</li></ul>
<b>C</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Canada</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Croatia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cyprus</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Czech Republic</li></ul>	<b>H</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hungary</li></ul>	<b>N</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Netherlands</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> North Macedonia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Norway</li></ul>	<b>U</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> USA</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Uzbekistan</li></ul>
<b>D</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Denmark</li></ul>	<b>I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Iceland</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ireland</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Israel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Italy</li></ul>	<b>P</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poland</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Portugal</li></ul>	
<b>E</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Estonia</li></ul>	<b>K</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Kazakhstan</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Kyrgyzstan</li></ul>	<b>R</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Moldova</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Romania</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Russian Federation</li></ul>	

### 2. SELECT TOPICS

Preventing transmission	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health communication
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical distancing
Ensuring sufficient physical infrastructure and workforce capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Isolation and quarantine
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring and surveillance
Providing health services effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	Testing
Paying for services		
Governance		
Measures in other sectors		

### 3. GENERATE PDF (PLEASE ALLOW UP TO A MINUTE FOR THE DOWNLOAD TO COMPLETE)

 Download PDF



# Cross-country analysis

## LATEST POSTS

Browse the most recent cross-country analyses or filter content by clicking the policy responses.

### [COVID-19 and health systems resilience: lessons going forwards](#)

February 12, 2021

From the early days of the pandemic policy analysts have been trying to understand what constitutes a resilient health systems response.

### [Lessons from the first wave: the COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor \(HSRM\)](#)

February 1, 2021

COVID-19 has posed huge challenges for Europe's health systems but also for European solidarity.

### [National, European, and global solidarity: COVID-19, public health, and vaccines](#)

January 27, 2021

Developing, procuring, and distributing vaccines for COVID-19 could have very good or bad outcomes for solidarity, public health, and science. The European Union (EU), whose public health role advanced greatly in 2020, has a Vaccines Strategy that goes far beyond earlier EU procurement strategies.

### [Who's in charge and why? Centralization within and between governments](#)

January 21, 2021

Successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic requires coordination within and across governments.

### [In and out of lockdowns, and what is a lockdown anyway? Policy issues in transitions](#)

December 17, 2020

In the absence of effective treatments or a vaccine, governments depend on public policy to respond to COVID-19. This article reviews key issues surrounding transitions – the “closing” and “reopening” of economies during the pandemic.

### [How do countries respond to localized outbreaks in different workplace settings?](#)

December 17, 2020

Before an effective COVID-19 vaccine becomes widely available, countries must find a way to safeguard their economies and the welfare of their populations, while continuously mitigating the impact of COVID-19 through the implementation of public health and social measures.

### [How are countries readjusting international travel in the context of COVID-19, and what criteria is being used to inform decision-making?](#)

December 11, 2020

As the pandemic has evolved, each country in the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region has applied entry requirements for some international travellers.

### [Adjusting hospital inpatient payment systems for COVID-19](#)

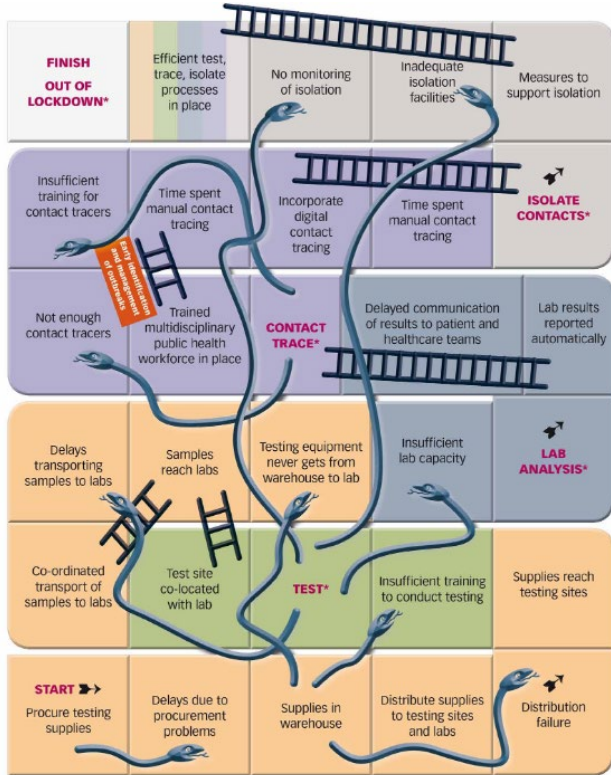
December 8, 2020

All countries in Europe will have to find solutions to protect hospitals from revenue shortfalls and to

- HSRM’s “policy snapshots” contain analysis that builds on country comparisons to generate policy relevant insights
- Policy snapshots are developed in response to policy makers’ questions from countries, WHO and the EC, and topical issues
- The cross-country analysis tool responds to decision-makers and new snapshots are developed as policy and practice in countries evolves.



# Examples from HSRM policy snapshots



Testing-tracing-isolating

Resuming hospital services

Figure 1: Hospital payment approaches in response to COVID-19

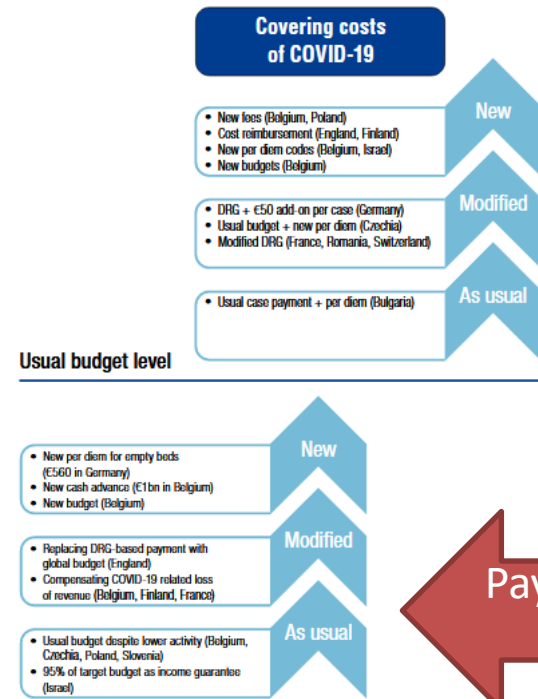
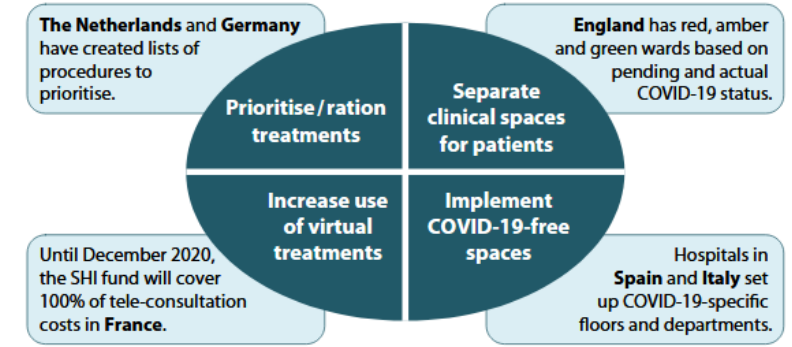


Figure 1: Common approaches to resuming routing hospital activities with country examples



Scaling workforce capacity

Table 1: Country strategies for maintaining or scaling up health workforce capacity

	Among existing health workforce*	Medical/nursing students	Retired HP	Inactive HP	Foreign-trained HP	Volunteers	Other measures +
Albania	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Armenia	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓ (abroad)
Austria	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓ (military)
Azerbaijan	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-
Belgium	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-
Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓ (military)
Croatia	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓ (private)
Czech Republic	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Denmark	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓ (military)
Estonia	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓ (military)
Finland	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

Paying healthcare providers



# Other activities

- Eurohealth (November 2020)
- Webinars (Tuesdays 12 noon CET)
- Rapid responses

## Watch this space!

- Health Policy Special Issue on COVID-19 response
- Strengthening Health Systems Resilience for COVID-19 (policy brief)
- SoHEU country profiles with OECD







**Thank you!**

NEXT WEBINAR:

16<sup>th</sup> Feb 12:00-13:00 CET

**Covid-19 vaccination rollout: Reflecting on the Israeli experience**

<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/Webinars.aspx>

healthobservatory.eu

covid19healthsystem.org

@OBShealth