

Disclaimer: We kindly ask to acknowledge that due to the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the questions and the dynamic pandemic situation some of the information might be incomplete or only correct for the time being. Thus, please consider the date and date of the last update with the below information. All available information was provided by a country representative from the PHIRI network during or in connection to the respective meeting.

Date: 26.04.2021 Last update: 26.04.2021

Table 1: Part 1: Overview of country responses

Country	Controlled/piloting re-opening projects available: YES/NO	Further information about finished/ongoing/planned projects for re-opening	Re-opening concepts/steps
Austria	No	<p>There are no field lab experiments with scientific supervision/support and to our knowledge none are planned.</p> <p>A piloting re-opening phase was initiated in Austria's second smallest province on 15.03. Unlike in the rest of the country the sectors in question have been re-opened with limitations. So-called "entry tests" are required for access. For gastronomy only certified PCR- or antigen-tests are valid. For the access to cultural and other events and sport facilities self-tests (completely autonomous including interpretation of results) are also valid (shorter validity of 24 hours). https://vorarlberg.orf.at/stories/3094128/</p>	<p>At the moment nation-wide re-opening steps for all sectors including the ones in question are being discussed. Opening steps might be implemented starting from Mid-May. Details are not yet available, but the concepts will likely involve "entry tests", which are already being used nation-wide for access to close-contact services like hairdressers. At the moment, only tests that are performed by trained personnel and include an official certificate are valid as entry tests (including self-sampled tests that are analysed in a lab by PCR). It is under discussion whether this requirement will be lifted and self-tests (completely autonomous including interpretation of result) – possibly with point-of-service execution mode – will be accepted as well.</p>
Belgium	No	<p>BE is focusing on field lab experiments from The Netherlands. There are about 30-40 events planned in May, but they must defend scientific purpose. All attendees have to be tested afterwards, and tests must be provided by the event organizer.</p>	
Croatia	No	<p>No planned or realized pilot studies available</p>	
Czech Republic	No	<p>CZ is aware of a project named "out of the dark" with planned concerts, where attendees are tested with rapid PCR tests. Until now, they have tested on a sample of approx. 300 people. However, these plans have not been realized yet. CZ will try to find some results, but unfortunately, they are only available without scientific support.</p>	<p>In CZ they have opened schools and children are tested with RAT twice a week.</p>
Estonia	No	<p>EE is not aware of any specific testing projects.</p>	<p>The risk of COVID-19-infection is still very high in EE. However, the Government will re-open some sectors step-by-step, e.g. schools for students up to the 4th grade with the beginning of next week. A traffic light system guides the Government in re-opening.</p>



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Finland	No	FI doesn't have any pilot projects for re-opening. Re-openings depend on the level of incidence, e.g. when a high-level region turns to a lower level of incidence sector can be opened.	
Ireland	No	There are no plans for re-opening at the moment. RAT are not common in IE and therefore not available for the public (only in special settings, e.g. hospitals).	IE is re-opening very slowly. The mentioned sectors will probably not be re-opened in the next time.
Italy	Yes	There are no specific national controlled/piloting projects planned for the re-opening for testing options for re-opening steps in the sectors culture / sports / entertainment / gastronomy. Some Regions elaborated a plan for the re-opening of productive activities (not specifically on culture / sports / entertainment / gastronomy) which included a pilot project (e.g. Veneto Region- https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/sanita/covid19-aziende-progetto-pilota). In the Marche Region a project for the re-opening of an Arena (open theatre) for a lyric season was launched, available at the following link: https://www.regione.marche.it/Regione-Utile/Cultura/Comunicati/id/30146/p/1/DALLE-MARCHE-LAPPELLO-PER-LA-RIAPERTURA-DEI-LUOGHI-DELLO-SPETTACOLO--IL-SOTTOSEGRETARIO-BORGONZONI-PROPONE-LO-SFERISTERIO-PER-UN-PROGETTO-PILOTA	
Malta	No	No piloting projects are planned in MT.	Based on the transition plan, the sport sector is being opened slowly, but without spectators. Also, the non-essential business has been opened.
Netherlands	Yes	Test pilots to access events: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/algemene-coronaregels/cijfers-en-onderzoeken-over-het-coronavirus/pilot-toegangsbewijzen Visitors gain access to events and activities by showing a negative COVID-19 test certificate. The pilots are there to determine how the use of test certificates could work and how testing can help open society. Overview of events with test evidence in April 2021 There are 6 types of activities in the pilot phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports and youth activities (recreational sports and top sports competitions, swimming pools and play and sports halls up to the age of 18) • Casinos and arcades • Zoos, adventure and amusement parks and Keukenhof • Cultural activities (monuments, museums, theaters, concerts and music venues) • Business meetings • Field labs events and field lab cafes See also: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/documenten/publicaties/2021/04/07/overzicht-pilots-april-testen-voor-toegang Field lab https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/algemene-coronaregels/cijfers-en-onderzoeken-over-het-coronavirus/fieldlabs-evenementen The purpose of the Fieldlab events is to learn about the behavior of large groups of visitors to different types of events. And find ways to get people together in the safest possible way. Fieldlab has a step-by-step plan, where in 6 phases events will go to 100% capacity, sitting/standing without measures in Jan 2022. Test events in the first phase	



		<p>The Fieldlab events started in February 2021 with a phase of small events. There were then, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a business seminar with 500 visitors; • a theater performance with 500 visitors; • football matches (1,500 visitors); and • concerts (1,500 visitors). <p>More information on Fieldlab events can be found at the attachments of this document: : Additional information from The Netherlands on Fieldlab events:</p>	
Poland	No	<p>PL takes an active part in deployment of the EU Digital Green Certificates framework which will provide for free travel to vaccinated, tested positive and tested negative persons. This framework will also allow for introduction of additional use cases, if there would be a separate legal base established on a national level.</p> <p>PL as of now is analyzing the possibilities and relevance of introduction of additional use cases for the vaccinated/tested citizens. No pilots have been done so far.</p>	
Portugal	No		<p>PT has started with re-opening process after Easter, when students up to 15 years of age got back to school with testing beforehand. The presence of people in sport events is very restricted.</p>
Slovenia	No	<p>There are no controlled/piloting projects in Slovenia with the aim of testing options of re-opening steps in the sectors culture/sports/entertainment/gastronomy.</p>	
Spain	Yes	<p>On March 27th, 2021, a 5,000 people pilot concert was held at Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, with the objective of establishing a new protocol for organizing events in the actual scenario.</p> <p>The event took place without physical distancing requirements, but to access the concert, a negative antigen test result was required. Tests were carried out the same day of the concert by specialized medical teams resulting in six people tested positive that could not enter to the concert.</p> <p>Attendants should be from 18 to 65 years old and had to wear FFP2 masks, provided by the organization. Additionally, their body temperature was checked at the entrance, hydro-alcohol was available throughout the premises and access to the premises, bar service and toilets was divided by sectors in groups of 1,800 people (https://festivalsperlaculturasegura.com/en/).</p> <p>In addition, attendants could also take part, on a voluntary basis, in an observational study aimed to assess COVID-19 infection rate over 14 days after the event. When accepting to participate in the observational study, participants allowed the researchers to cross their data with public health information system to assess if they are COVID diagnosed after the concert. Testing and notifying the result to the participants was done by the regional healthcare services as usual, but those resulting positive were contacted by the researchers to further determine when they became infected and to control their contacts.</p> <p>Results, presented on April 27, showed that six out of the 4,592 attendants, who agreed on taking part of the study, were COVID positive within the 14 days after the concert. This meant a cumulative incidence of 131 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, which was lower of the cumulative incidence in Barcelona in the same age group and during the same period of time (259 cases per 100,000 inhabitants). It has to be pointed out that four out of the six contagions were suspected to have occurred out of the concert. Researchers concluded that the concert did not have an impact on COVID transmission among the concert attendants and this pilot has shown that live concert with 5,000 attendants screened the same day, wearing masks and in a well-ventilated place could be a safe activity (https://www.flisida.org/es/blog/resultados-estudio-concierto-palau-sant-jordi).</p>	



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		<p>There was a precedent with a concert of smaller size (1,000 people) held last December. This study, designed as an RCT, provided “evidence on the safety of indoor mass gathering events conducted during a COVID-19 outbreak under a comprehensive preventive intervention based on same-day screening with Ag-RDT, compulsory facial mask-wearing, and adequate ventilation” https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-244584/v1</p> <p>These initiatives have been promoted by concerts organisers –Primavera Sound, Sonar among others) and supported by a research institution linked to a hospital (https://www.flcida.org/ca/blog/festivals-cultura-segura-presenta-un-concert-pilot-5000-persones).</p>	
United Kingdom	Yes	<p>In the UK negative COVID antigen tests are being used in some pilot studies, e.g. football matches, where attendees have to present a negative COVID-19-test result.</p> <p>Guidance note in UK attached: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/elite-sport-return-to-competition-safe-return-of-spectators</p>	



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Table 2: Part 2: Studies about testing children in schools

Country	Are children tested regularly in school (YES/NO)?	Are there any studies about children's perceptions and mental health regarding testing children in schools?
Austria	Yes	In AT there are school pilots with PCR salivary tests, but usually there are RAT used in schools three times a week (MO, WE, FR) with anterior nasal swabs (self-tests under supervision).
Belgium	No	Every child above 6 years is being treated the same way as adults (same type of swabs, same procedure). Below 6 years of age it depends on parents whether they let their children get tested.
Croatia	No	Children are only tested when they are symptomatic or counting as contact of a positive tested person.
Czech Republic	Yes	In schools swab tests are used for self-testing.
Finland	No	In Finland children are not tested in schools. If there are any symptoms, children are tested the same way than adults. There is no information about mental effects available.
Ireland	No	In IE children are tested in the same way as adults using PCR tests, i.e. if they are symptomatic/close contacts. At the moment, they are not tested regularly in schools. However, pilot projects to introduce rapid antigen testing in the education sector are planned.
Malta	No	Children are tested regularly in MT with PCR tests and nasal swabs equal to adults, even at airports. There is no assessment on mental health effects in children. However, children are not tested regularly in school, only if they are suspected to be infected and they would have to go to a testing hub (not at school). Salivary tests are allowed only in the private sector in MT, as the sensitivity is lower. It seems that the gap between salivary tests and PCR tests increases the less symptomatic the person is.
Netherlands	No	Children can be tested when symptoms appear.
Norway	No	Testing at schools and kindergartens: https://www.fhi.no/nyheter/2020/testing-i-forbindelse-med-gjenapning-av-barnehager-og-skoler/ (in Norwegian) Children, pupils and employees in reopened kindergartens, schools and after-school programs are added to the list of groups that are prioritized for testing.
Spain	No	Children are not tested regularly in school. They are tested in health care centers if they are suspected to be infected, same as adults.



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Figure 1: Children tested regularly in school - YES/NO

12 REF, Ad hoc question:
Are children tested
regularly in school?
(26.04.2021)

- Yes
- No



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