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HOW DOES THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AFFECT THE EU?

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In December 2019, the first case of coronavirus was detected in the city of Wuhan, which is located in Eastern China with a population of more than 11 million people. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19¹. The virus that started in China has become a global pandemic.

For today as European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control says here 5 362 213 cases in Europe; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (1 204 502), Spain (789 932), France (606 625), United Kingdom (480 017) and Italy (322 751)². A pandemic affects many areas of life since the most effective method of control according to the WHO (World Health Organization) before the advent of the vaccine is isolation. High infectiousness by dropping small droplets into the mouth, eyes or nose forces people to keep a distance. Due to social distancing public areas are closed, educational institutions and crowds are prohibited in many countries. Industry, education, health, tourism and other areas were affected, and many countries were unprepared for such changes.

The pandemic situation has affected all aspects of Europe. It caused a lot of damage to the economy and social spheres of life. The closure of borders affected trade in the first place. Also because of this

reason here were people who stayed at the border and couldn't get home. Governments around the world are now looking for a balance between saving lives and saving the economy. The most common estimates indicate a drop in GDP in the range of 6 to 15% this year. At the moment, we are seeing an intense destruction of the economy and the old world. There are no good forecasts for how the global economy will succeed with the pandemic. The introduction of a month of quarantine is about the loss of a quarter of quarterly GDP for developed countries. States sacrifice economic growth and stability to avoid cases of virus infection. People in quarantine are supported by social payments and benefits. During the pandemic, the growth of the economic crisis, the growth of unemployment, and claims to the effectiveness of the government increased. This threatens public discontent and protests, which is already happening in some countries. Due to quarantine, many services are not needed and some activities are prohibited. Beauty salons, catering points, and many other services are closed and most of the population remains unemployed. Social assistance from the state may not be enough because there are people without savings who will find it difficult to overcome quarantine. This will lead to a decline in the gross domestic product (GDP) and to an unstable economy. And all this affects the capacity of the market. Market capacity is the aggregate demand for a category of goods, which is expressed in the purchasing power of the population.

The market capacity has 3 types: potential, actual, available. Potential is the maximum demand for a certain type of product that is often used among consumers and is also recognizable. Actual-these are the products that are needed at a given time for consumption. Available - what resources are available, thereby supplying the consumer. In our market, it is used as the potential size of the market that absolutely always will be needed for the population. Such as food, medicine, masks, and so on. There is no fiscal support body in Europe, so each country makes its own decisions. Another problem that appears due to the pandemic is the gap of high integration of production.

The EU's economic strength is in cross-country trade, in many small businesses. As well as countries like Italy and Spain that are dependent on tourism get the biggest economic hit. According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, GDP decreased by 3.8% in the euro area and by 3.5% in the EU during the first quarter of 2020³. The European Central Bank supposes the fall in GDP by the end of the year will reach 12% in the countries of circulation of the Euro. The Euro Area comprises 19 of the 27 EU countries and accounts for 85% of the EU economy, or 12 trillion of the 14 trillion euros of total GDP⁴. The economy is sinking due to quarantine. Total GDP is the sum of consumption, investment, government spending, and net exports in a given country. In most countries, the first component - consumption-plays an overwhelming role in GDP growth.

While people are sitting at home, there is no budget circulation, people earn less and spend less, also shops and restaurants are boarded up, tourism and mass events are banned. For example, in France, consumption declined by 6%, while investment declined by 12%. As well as spending by countries to fight the pandemic, such as purchasing medical equipment, building temporary hospitals, and developing medicines and vaccines. France, Italy, and Spain will be the hardest hit by the recession among EU countries, according to the latest data. Their economies may shrink respectively by 10.6, 11.2, and 10.9% of the GDP. Germany, the Netherlands, and Poland can prepare for a minor contraction of 6.3, 6.8, and 4.6%, respectively⁵. The pandemic brought such difficulties as a reduction in China's trade with neighboring Asian countries, widespread restrictions on movement, and a collapse in demand in the tourism and retail sectors. It should be noted that there is a problem in the tourism industry and airlines that lose customers due to quarantine measures. Europe is the largest tourist destination in the world. Tourism accounts for about 10% of the EU's GDP, and this sector of the economy creates 12% of jobs in the EU. 2.4 million European companies work in the tourism sector. They employ 23 million people. Of these, about 6 million lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of April 6, 2020, tourists were restricted access to 209 destinations, or 96% of all destinations in the world, due to the spread of COVID-19⁶.

The UNWTO identifies four main types of restrictions: complete or partial border closures for tourists; access to a specific destination; complete or partial suspension of flights; various measures, including quarantine or self-isolation, medical certificates. Belgium's Brussels Airlines has reduced

the number of flights from Brussels to Italy by 30 percent. Similar measures were taken by Fraport, which operates Frankfurt airport, which is suffering serious losses due to a reduction in both passenger and cargo air traffic between Germany and China. Transportation plays a big role in trade and SCM area. Import and export are directly dependent on transportation options. Shipping takes up 95 percent of the transportation resources. During the pandemic, many desks, especially in China, were closed, which led to a recession on both sides. Closing borders also makes land transportation difficult and airlines suffer huge losses.

In late February 2020, Gloria Guevara, president of the The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), in collaboration with Oxford Economics, said that the damage to the tourism industry from the coronavirus epidemic could amount to \$22 billion⁷. Business travel is also impossible, which led to large losses, 46.6 billion dollars per month, in world business⁸. Because of the pandemic, more work must be done to cross at least one border. A lot of paper work, non-digitized data, health checks, product checks, strict quarantine measures and different measures for each country are difficulties in transportation. It is especially difficult with perishables goods because special conditions are needed and transportation costs more and time plays against. Numerous delays at borders bring loss. Also, in a pandemic, people involved in transportation, drivers and pilots are most often placed in mandatory quarantine, which reduces labor. Germany even felt problems at the end of 2019. In 2020, the situation was aggravated by the coronavirus epidemic, and the catalyst was Russia's withdrawal from the oil deal with OPEC countries. Oil prices fell 30% on March 9, the biggest drop since 1991. Following oil prices, stock markets collapsed.

The pandemic and its consequences will have a long-term impact on education. This is an educational crisis related to school closures. The closure of educational institutions due to the pandemic leads to a suspension or slowdown of educational processes. By middle of the April 2020, 94 per cent of learners worldwide were affected by the pandemic, representing 1.58 billion children and youth, from pre-primary to higher education, in 200 countries⁹. The economic crisis caused by the pandemic also affected the education system. Governments are cutting spending on the education system, and private schools are closing. School closures - a critical element of social distancing tools designed to slow down the spread of infection and prevent an accelerated increase in the number of cases in order to avoid strain on the health system.

Today, most educational institutions in the world are closed to slow the spread of the coronavirus. These changes affected more than 1.5 billion people – both preschool children and those who were preparing to defend their doctorate. Teachers from all over the world have digitized learning processes. Millions of students began to receive education remotely. Technologically advanced educational systems, which before the pandemic provided high-quality education and put the student and their individual interests at the forefront, were able to prepare for such a regime more effectively. At the same time, digital solutions in the field of education were not used so actively before.

The pandemic raised the issue of "digital inequality", recalling that 40% of the world's population still does not have access to the Internet. The Internet and online education have become an integral part of life for half the world. The transition to distance education entails losses in learning outcomes. It is especially difficult for students who are lagging behind in their studies or experiencing socio-economic difficulties, who may not be able to cope with their studies in an online learning environment. High school has a long closing period it may increase the risk that young people, especially those from relatively low-income families.

Closing schools also increases the burden on parents, who have to stay at home or look for new opportunities if the children stay at home. In countries where the outbreak is local, some governments have adopted the decision to close schools directly in the locality or in the entire region, or schools made a decision to close it yourself as a preventive measure or for disinfection before returning children to classes. Portugal, Spain, India - examples of countries closing schools at the regional level in an effort to contain or slow down the spread of infection. But anyway, online education can't replace traditional training, which provides opportunities to gain critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills. Many European countries have switched to distance learning. But Sweden did

not close their primary schools, in Belgium and Norway a few school facilities remained partially open for children whose parents are working in essential sectors¹⁰.

During this difficult period, the World Bank supports governments in providing technology for distance learning. The World Bank is actively working with ministries of education in dozens of countries in support of their efforts to utilize educational technologies of all sorts to provide remote learning opportunities for students while schools are closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic¹¹.

In order to effectively switch to distance learning, it is necessary to have access to the Internet. The digital infrastructure of the EU is very developed, so the transition to an online training format was not so difficult.

The coronavirus has also affected political situations in each country. The European Union (EU) has come under heavy criticism for its failure to cope with the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and for abandoning the core principles on which it was founded, namely common interests, morality, mutual benefit and solidarity. Selfish actions by some countries undermined the above principles when they decided to ban the export of medical protective equipment.

Such an outburst did not escape the attention of the former President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, who said that the lack of solidarity between the member states of the European Union would lead to fatal consequences. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has warned of the collapse of the European Union as a "political project" if each country in the bloc continues to rely only on its own forces in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. In his opinion, countries must avoid making catastrophic decisions and if the European Union does not prove that it is able to accept this unprecedented challenge, then the European community will no longer see a need for it. As for Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, he poured all his indignation on the European Union when he refused to lend a helping hand to the Serbs, thereby abandoning the main principle of the European Union - solidarity. According to the Serbian leader, all European principles are just "fables". Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron sounded the alarm, warning EU colleagues that the coronavirus and related restrictive measures threaten the EU's existence.

The unexpected epidemiological danger clearly revealed the emerging anti-liberal trend in the world and in the West. The pandemic was the reason for the closure of borders, interference with privacy, restriction of freedoms, and the suspension of economic activity. The crisis has become a serious test of the viability not only for domestic political systems, but also for international institutions. It turned out that in the face of a global threat, liberal ideals and the achievements of globalization can be easily set aside for the sake of security. In the current conditions, it is important to see how the pandemic will affect the further political development of Western countries and the world as a whole. The COVID-19 pandemic as a new global threat also has a political dimension.

On the whole, it contributes to the strengthening of the illiberal tendency present in the West and in the world. It strengthens the isolation of countries, provides an additional reason for economic protectionism due to the need to localize vital industries. The spread of the infection has led to extraordinary restrictions on civil rights and freedoms, unprecedented bans on the movement of citizens, and increased interference in economic activity and privacy. Meetings of the EU summits in February and March 2020, dedicated to the next EU budget for 2021–2027¹², respectively and financial and economic measures to combat virus did not lead to tangible results. Despite the desperate state of affairs in Italy and Spain and calls from Rome, Madrid and other national capitals for financial assistance from the EU, the idea of "corona bond" (pan-European bonds of social stability) is blocked by Germany and the Netherlands. Italy has become one of the largest hotbeds of the virus in Europe. Rome's decision to quarantine the entire country and isolate the population - 60 million people - prompted an immediate response from neighboring states. Austria, Slovenia, Hungary and Switzerland are tightening controls at Italian borders, checking the health of travelers, and demanding medical certificates.

Flights and transport are limited. On March 16, Germany closed its borders with Austria, Denmark, France and Switzerland. The virus effectively eliminates the European free movement zone. Cases of

coronavirus have already been recorded in all countries of the community. The crisis once again points to the fragility of European unity and the inability of the EU to act as a united front. The spread of the virus is forcing countries to resort to a "every man for himself" strategy. The situation is only aggravated by the new migration crisis, which is simultaneously unfolding on the external borders of the European Union. The Eurozone during the pandemic is experiencing a confluence of two serious problems health care and immigration. A similar opinion was expressed by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. "Bans on movement of people are not the most effective remedy for coronavirus. EU countries should take proportional measures," she said¹³.

And if we turn to the EU's foreign policy, we should mention the term "coronavirus diplomacy". An analysis of the behavior of European diplomacy allows us to draw the following conclusion: the COVID-19 factor has not yet significantly influenced either the content and main lines of the EU's foreign policy, or the mechanisms for its implementation. But it is obvious that the plans to build up the "hard power" of the EU are temporarily pushed aside and the forced revision of financial priorities, and the compulsive need to intensify the traditional European reliance on "soft power".

The pandemic has further actualized the need for humanitarian cooperation with other countries. This fact, in its own way, reflects the new reality on a global scale - the military power of states fades into the background, it is somewhat losing its former weight in world politics, retaining its significance in situations of direct hostilities and as a deterrent to a potential adversary. The need for medical assistance to fight the coronavirus literally sweeps away barriers to European diplomacy in the most sensitive regions for it. The scale of the epidemic that gripped this country justifies the readiness of the Iranian authorities to receive help from European states, despite the recent sharp differences with Brussels on a number of problems. And given the current severity of the humanitarian catastrophe, aid to Iran looks like an act of humanism, removing it from political criticism.

Medicines and medical equipment were delivered to Tehran on March 31, 2020, marking the start of the INSTEX mechanism, created a year ago by Western European countries¹⁴, to finance trade transactions between companies in the EU countries and their Iranian partners bypassing US sanctions. In addition to their direct purpose - providing medical assistance to victims - the supplies are intended to demonstrate the invariability of the EU's position on the acute problem of the "nuclear deal" with Iran after the US withdrawn from it. The most important task of the foreign policy service at the moment is to help suppress the centers of the spread of coronavirus in the EU neighboring countries. The greatest danger, according to available estimates, may come from the camps of Syrian refugees and other migrants located in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan.

For the improvement of sanitary conditions and the provision of medical assistance to refugees, the EU Foreign Service has allocated 2.24 billion euros. To neutralize other hotbeds of the potential threat of the spread of coronavirus in the direction of Europe, the EU is launching a program to provide financial assistance to partner countries in North Africa, the Sahel, as well as in the Eastern Partnership countries in the amount of 15.6 billion euros. The allocated funds should be spent on the development of the health sector and improvement of the sanitary and epidemiological situation.

The quarantine regime also affected social spheres of life. Being isolated at home has become a difficult psychological test for many. The coronavirus pandemic has exposed not only systemic health problems around the world, but also gender inequality. It is hard to consider that the new coronavirus pandemic to be a gender issue - but it is, even if gender inequality is not immediately noticeable. For example, for many, self - isolation means that they will be locked in the same space as the abuser - crisis centers fear that the situation will worsen. The abuser may be more likely to resort to violence in a stressful situation, such as when the family lacks finances or when he often uses alcohol - all this is easy to imagine in many families during a financial crisis.

In addition, abusers can use self-isolation as a control tool, preventing the affected party from seeking help. Therefore, in the face of a pandemic, many crisis centers are strengthening online services and continuing to consult remotely. The outbreak and quarantine have affected women around the world. Even before the coronavirus pandemic, the world health organization reported that one in three women in the world had experienced sexual or physical violence, including by a partner, in their

entire life. Eighteen percent of women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual or physical violence from a partner in the past twelve months¹⁵.

During the quarantine in France, the number of calls to the violence hotline increased by 30 percent since the introduction of social isolation measures. Because of the self-isolation regime, many victims of violence were locked in four walls with their tormentors. The deterioration of the economic situation and the fear of an unknown virus increases the level of emotional tension and the number of domestic conflicts. violence by a partner is one of the most common and widespread forms of violence against women.

In Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom government authorities, women's rights activists and civil society partners have indicated increasing reports of domestic violence during the crisis¹⁶. As a result of quarantine, when the consultation works differently, requests for help are reduced. A domestic violence helpline in Italy and also in France announced it received 55 per cent fewer calls in the first two weeks in March because many women found it difficult to ask for help during the lockdown. During COVID-19 and moving restrictions, the use of online platforms has increased in the last few weeks. This has been used by some as an opportunity to groom young people into exploitative situations¹⁷.

According to Europol, online activity by those seeking child abuse material is increasing (Pandemic Profiteering-How criminal exploit the Covid-19 crisis, March 2020, Europol). Millions of women and girls are using videoconferences frequently, sometimes daily, to work and study. According to diverse media outlets, social media posts and women rights experts, different forms of on-line violence are on the rise including stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, and sex trolling. Examples include unsolicited pornographic videos while they are dialing into a social event via a virtual chat room¹⁸. The UK government has published on its website a special brochure "Coronavirus (COVID-2019) and support for victims of domestic violence": they advise you to contact the hotline, and if this is not possible, then through a special application. It is important that the individual points in the booklet notes, which may apply to LGBT people and those who do not speak the English language perfectly. The hotline also works around the clock in France, where special shelters are provided for people who have experienced domestic violence.

In a situation of forced isolation, our emotional state is very vulnerable. Many familiar things become inaccessible - you can no longer meet with friends and colleagues or even contact someone other than those with whom you live, change the environment, or do the usual interesting things outside the home. There is also no way to deal with stress in the usual ways - for example, go to the gym and vent all the negative energy on the treadmill. The economic situation also affects: due to changed plans and the inability to work, financial conditions for people of different professions. In February, the scientific journal *The Lancet* published a study on how isolation affects people's psychological state. The authors analyzed more than two dozen articles about the effects of quarantine on mental health, written during or after the world's famous epidemics (in particular, the Ebola outbreak in 2014, and SARS in 2003).

Most articles say that isolation can lead to various psychological consequences, from increased levels of anxiety, insomnia, and emotional instability to post-traumatic stress disorder¹⁹. The situation with the new coronavirus pandemic can also lead to stigmatization of those who have encountered the infection. Isolation due to the new coronavirus has affected a wide variety of people. But there are those who are most vulnerable in this situation: the pandemic may increase their isolation. First of all, of course, we are talking about the elderly, especially those who need help with household chores, with food and medicine. It may be harder for people with disabilities and special health conditions - of course, these conditions are not associated with the new coronavirus, but large-scale restrictions may prevent them from receiving help. Homeless people are a separate risk group in a pandemic situation. While experts urge everyone to stay at home if possible, many simply don't have the option. In addition, homeless people are often at risk from a medical point of view - because of respiratory diseases, as well as because they often do not have access to soap and clean water.

Not everyone has the opportunity to seek medical help. Various countries are introducing support measures for the homeless during the epidemic - for example, turning empty hotels into shelters. Health care workers face a huge risk of infection and are unable to distance themselves from colleagues and patients in a safer distance. As the epidemic develops, new problems arise. For example, doctors may be quarantined due to a collision with a new coronavirus-which subsequently leads to a shortage of medical personnel. Many medical institutions cannot afford to send employees to isolation.

Over the past couple of months, we have all tested the almost complete digitalization of the consumer experience, and this experiment has been successful. Many people have already realized that there is simply no need to go shopping, so classic retail is definitely waiting for changes: even more investment in mobile apps and online stores. Big changes are expected in medicine and everything related to health infrastructure: people will pay more attention to their health, demand and investment in medical services and developments will grow.

A special situation with education: on the one hand, teaching online is an objective trend, but the education and development of young people still requires personal contact, personal influence, mentoring, which cannot always be replaced by a digital format. The world is changing a lot both from the point of view of Economics, politics and also from the point of view of society. Any large-scale event leads to a change in human behavior. For example, after the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, new requirements for transport security arose. After the Second world war, we faced a large-scale emancipation of women. The trend of the pandemic is contactless everything. An increase in the number of remote workers will reduce the consumption of office paper. Perhaps, after the pandemic, the world will become much less liberal for a while, and nationalism will increase. Now governments are investing huge amounts of money to support their businesses and their economy, and they certainly won't want that money to flow abroad. It is possible to partially close borders and introduce new restrictions on imported goods and services.

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