**COVID-19: update on the situation under T.I.M..E. Association Members and the Erasmus+ programme [[1]](#footnote-1)**

**19 March 2020**. T.I.M.E. Association reports on the latest developments in relation to the measures taken by the authorities and the current situation in:

* each State participating in the Erasmus+ programme (according to the information provided by each National Agency);
* each T.I.M.E. Association’s Member (partial information – See Excel file)

**1.AUSTRALIA[[2]](#footnote-2) -** <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures>

Australia’s Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has announced (March 18) a number of [new rules](https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures) to slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes:

* An indefinite level-four travel warning for the entire world, which asks that Australians ‘do not travel’ overseas.
* A ban on non-essential indoor gatherings of 100 people or more and outdoor gatherings of 500 people or more.
* [Social distancing advice](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-transmission-reduction-measures), such as not shaking hands and staying 1.5 metres for other people, remains in place.

***University of Queensland* -** from 23 March 2020 all Semester 1, 2020 courses will be delivered online and there will be no on-campus activity for students**. Link:** <https://about.uq.edu.au/coronavirus-advice-uq-community>.

**2.ARGENTINA –** For the time being, academic activities will be developed normally, while reinforcing the aforementioned personal prevention measures and complying with the isolation indicated in article 1º of Resolution Nº 270/2020 **[[3]](#footnote-3)**

**3.AUSTRIA.** The Austrian Federal Government has taken several measures and decreed restrictions for the access to public space until 22 March 2020. All **universities are closed** and **will**[**reopen earliest after Easter**](https://www.diepresse.com/5782369/streaming-statt-horsaal-unis-bleiben-bis-ostern-geschlossen). Institutes of higher education and schools are closed - distance learning.

**4.BELGIUM.** Belgium declared a **lockdown** for the entire country over the coronavirus crisis from noon on **Wednesday (18 March) until 5 April.**

**5.BRAZIL.** Staff are still aloud to go to the university. However. classes, meetings and even personal appointments with students are suspended.

**6.CANADA:** As of Wednesday March 18th at 12 noon (Eastern Standard Time), only Canadian citizens and-or permanent residents, and American citizens are permitted to board aircraft headed to Canada. Note: a Study Permit (in French: permis d’études) does not grant the same status as permanent residence. Please attentively read the communique that goes into greater detail.

**Polytechnique** is planning for distance learning to start **as of March 30th** - <https://www.polymtl.ca/covid19/en/message-polytechnique-students-march-17th-2020>

**7. CHINA –** On January 27, the Ministry of Education announced that **postponement** **of the start of 2020 spring semester** for all higher education institutions, primary and secondary schools and kindergartens. The exact date of reopening is to be decided by the central and local education authorities and is pending further notification.

Starting March 16, most **new arrivals in Beijing have had to undergo a 14-day quarantine** at a designated hotel or other assigned location. Previously new arrivals could spend their quarantine at home, but officials said the new rules would only allow that option for limited cases. Some other provinces and cities in China have announced similar measures.

**8. CROATIA.** From 19/03, the following measures have been announced: all educational institutions that were closed for two weeks until 30/03, will continue to be closed

until at least 19/04.

**9.CYPRUS:** On 15/03 the government determined that the country faces a state of emergency and implemented a series of measures. Universities are closed until at least 10/04. Link: <https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/en/press2.html>

**10.CZECH REPUBLIC.** Students of all educational levels have their **face-to-face classes suspended from 11/03 until further notice** (at least 2 weeks). Schools and universities are advised to use **online forms of teaching and learning**. Schools and universities are advised to use online forms of teaching and learning. All events with an expected participation of more than 100 people are currently banned. Until further notice, Czech Republic forced to **cancel all foreign business trips and limit the number of international events** hosted in the Czech Republic (with less than 100 participants) to the necessary minimum. **On 13/03** the government approved the declaration of a state of emergency for 30 days throughout the territory of the Czech Republic

**11.DENMARK.** **On March 11**, Denmark ’s Prime Minister has declared a **lockdown** for at least 2 weeks.

**12.GERMANY.** The Bavarian regional authorities have decided to **postpone the start of the 2020 summer semester** at the state universities of applied sciences, technical universities and colleges of art/music in Bavaria to 20/04. All other Bavarian universities will start their summer term regularly **on 20/04**. In turn, since 11/03 the universities of Berlin and since 12/03 all universities of Baden-Württemberg have decided to postpone the start of the 2020 summer semester to 20/04.

On the other hand, the regional authorities of Berlin have asked all students and staff in the risk area defined by the Robert Koch Institute (<https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete.html>) to stay for two weeks in self-quarantine and not to go to the campuses.

People have been asked to restrict their social life, the borders have been closed for the most part and will only be open for exceptional needs and for people going to work.

As of March, 22nd the German government decided upon the following measures:

· Schools and kindergartens are closed

· The university lecture period has been pushed back to 20 April

· The general public are advised to stay at home for all but essential activities

· Public gatherings of more than two people will be banned throughout Germany for an initial period of two weeks - with the exception of relatives living in the same households.

· Everyone who can work from home is doing so

· University buildings are closed and there are no personal office hours

· All non-vital services and stores are closed including parks, sports facilities, libraries etc.; vital services and stores (such as grocery stores) are open

**13.ESTONIA.** The Estonian government declared the emergency situation in the country on 12/03 in the evening. **The emergency situation will continue until 01/05**, unless the government decides otherwise. The emergency situation concerns the following

* All public meetings are forbidden.
* Schools and universities are closed, learning conducted digitally
* As of 16/03, regular study activities in educational institutions must be suspended and activities must be changed to distance and home learning format.
* In universities and research institutions, research and development activities will continue
* Study activity in schools for students with special needs is will be addressed separately.
* Extracurricular activities are suspended from 16/03.

The provisions for education will continue until there is a change in the situation. Estonians abroad have been invited to return home asap, entry to the country open to residents and trade only.

**14.FINLAND.** On 16/03 the Finnish government decided on additional measures to address the outbreak of coronavirus in Finland. **The measures will be in force until 13/04.** The government has announced, in cooperation with the President of the Republic, the state of emergency in the country as a result of the outbreak of coronavirus. Link: <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/article/-/asset_publisher/10616/hallitus-totesi-suomen-olevan-poikkeusoloissa-koronavirustilanteen-vuoksi>

**15.FRANCE.** A **15-day lockdown** requiring people in France to remain at home came into effect at midday **Tuesday 17/03**, prohibiting all but essential outings in a bid to curb the coronavirus spread. All schools and higher education institutions **are obviously closed until further notice**.

**16.GREECE maintains the suspension of all study trips abroad**. In addition to this measure, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education announced on 10/03 that all schools at any level of formal education, universities, public institutes of vocational training and all organisations providing non-formal education and training **are closed until 24/03**, **until further notice**. The competent authorities are also taking other exceptional measures in various sectors, such as sport, health, justice, etc. **Since 23/03,** the Greek government has decreed home confinement for 15 days (until 06/04) = **lockdown.**

**17.HUNGARY.** **Since 12/03 a state of emergency has been declared** and a legal mandate has been issued for several measures for an indefinite period. These measures include a complete travel ban for people from China, South Korea, Iran and Italy (border control has been re-established at the border between Slovenia and Austria), **higher education institutions have been closed since 12/03** (only online teaching programmes are offered), all school trips, camps and transnational mobility programmes have been stopped (although schools remain open for the time being) and indoor events with more than 100 participants and outdoor events with more than 500 participants are cancelled.

**Since Monday 16/03**, students are not allowed to attend educational institutions. It was announced by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán

**18.IRELAND.** has declared a lock down until further notice. As of 23/03, through a new decree of 22/03, all productive activities not essential to the functioning of the country will be closed for the time being until 03/04. Link: http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/coronavirus-firmato-ildpcm-22-marzo-2020/14363

**19.ICELAND.** **From 16/03 and for four weeks**, just until after Easter, the upper secondary schools and **universities will be closed** and switched to distance learning. There is also a ban on public meetings for groups of more than 100 people. Primary schools and kindergartens will remain open, but with special precautionary measures.

**20.ITALY.** **on lockdown** from March 13th until further notice.

**21. JAPAN – to be completed**

**22. LATVIA.** The state of emergency is declared on the whole national territory of the Republic of Latvia from **13/03 to 14/04** in order to restrict the spread of COVID-19 during the emergency situation. During the state of emergency:

* **Face-to-face learning is cancelled** **in all educational institutions**, providing **remote learning from 13/03**
* Learning will be interrupted in all cultural, sports, vocational and educational programmes (training, competitions and rehearsals).
* State and local government institutions shall evaluate and ensure, as far as possible, the possibility of working remotely in face-to-face care services.
* All public events, meetings and demonstrations involving more than 200 people will be cancelled and banned from 13/03.
* Business trips and missions to COVID-19 affected countries and territories, which require special precautions after return, will be cancelled, postponed and not planned for now.
* Individuals are requested to refrain from overseas travel.

**23. LETONIA.** The state of emergency is declared on the whole national territory of the Republic of Latvia from 13/03 to 14/04

**24.LIECHTENSTEIN.** **From 16/03 to the Easter holidays all public and private educational institutions are closed** as an urgent measure to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

**25.LITHUANIA.** The Government of Lithuania has announced that all educational institutions (kindergartens, schools, universities and vocational training institutes) are closed **from 16/03 to 27/03 (only online teaching programs are offered**). On the other hand, in the capital Vilnius, all **educational institutions** are closed from **13/03 to 17/04** (by the mandate of the Mayor), while indoor events for more than 100 people and outdoor events and activities cannot take place from 13/03. On the other hand, people coming from affected areas that have been declared by the national authorities must remain in quarantine. **From midnight on 16/03 it is not allowed to travel from/to Lithuania for at least two weeks** (exceptions are provided). In addition, all public entities and most businesses are closed, only food shops and pharmacies continue to operate. There are no restrictions on travel within the country.

**26.LUXEMBOURG** has decided to extend the period of suspension of activities in the school and education sector until 19/04 inclusive. This decision affects all public schools and

private, vocational training institutions and day care centres. The resumption of activities,

initially scheduled for 30/03, is postponed until 20/04, i.e.

**27.MALTA.** Since 13/03 all schools, kindergartens and higher education institutions are closed. All travel between Malta and the following five countries has been stopped: Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France and Spain. Those coming from these countries, as well as from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Iran and South Korea must remain in quarantine.

**28.NORWAY.** **From 13/03 to 26/03** all pre-schools, primary and secondary schools as well as higher education institutions are closed. In addition, any person travelling to Norway from other countries must remain in quarantine for two weeks, regardless of nationality or whether they have symptoms. HEI and other educational institutions are closed (virtual teaching). Norwegian students and others abroad encouraged to get home. Borders closed for anyone without residence permit.

**29.NETHERLANDS.** The Dutch government suggested to minimize going to conferences and attending meetings with more than 100 people. Employees are suggested to work from home and have virtual Institutions of higher education are requested to arrange online education instead of crowded classes, as meetings of more than 100 people are prohibited. From 15/03, institutions in all educational sectors (including childcare) **are closed until at least 06/04**.

**30.POLAND.** – **on lockdown until further notice.**

**31.PORTUGAL.** The Portuguese government took the binding decision t**o suspend the teaching activities of schools and universities throughout the country** **until 09/04** and to ban all school trips, internships, exchanges and study stays for students, while school boards and universities activate the organisation of **online teaching** for the period of general suspension.

As of 16/03, restrictions have been imposed throughout the country, while in the affected areas people **have been advised to stay at home** and are allowed to leave only for duly justified reasons of work, need and health. In addition, there are restrictions on the number of persons in shops and commercial activities providing non-essential services; it is recommended that professional and production activities, as far as possible, ensure and provide their services online.

**32.ROMANIA:** On March 11th, Romanian authorities have decided to close all the schools and universities until 31st of March; Romanian President's Decree from March 16th established the **state of emergency for a period of 30 days**; Romanian government has banned all learning mobility (incoming and outgoing) starting 11th March 2020. Schools are closed **until 20th April**, all face-to-face classes are suspended, online courses are being held.

**33. RUSSIA –** The situation is different in Moscow and other regions of Russia. Most of the cases occur in Moscow. So, no special actions are implemented yet at national level. In Moscow and some other regions universities have moved to a distance learning, however teachers and staff are working in a regular way. However, all employees are recommended to stay at home and work remotely. There is an average probability of a city quarantine.

**34.SLOVAKIA** cancels, until further notice, excursions and study visits of pupils and students abroad, bans outgoing student mobility and schools at all levels remain closed. A state of emergency has been declared in the country since 12/03.

Complete list of measures introduced by state authorities is being published and updated on official governmental website : <https://www.koron>a.gov.sk/measure s-to-prevent-the-spread-of-covid-19- in-the-slovak-republic/

**35.SLOVENIA.** **Since 16/03** all educational institutions (pre-school, primary, secondary, higher education) are closed **for 14 days.**

**36.SWEDEN:**  On 17 March, the Swedish government recommended universities and other higher education institutions to switch **to distance education from 18 March** to reduce the spread of infection of the coronavirus, based on principles of social distancing and out of solidarity with the elderly population and other risk groups. **In the Prime Minister's speech to the nation on 22/03**, it is reported that public meetings of more than 500 people have been banned and secondary education. The online mode is now available for university and college students.

**37.SERBIA.** As of 13/03, all educational institutions are still open. On the other hand, all indoor events with more than 100 participants and outdoor meetings with more than 500 participants are prohibited. There are restrictions on entry into Serbia from several countries (among the most affected by this disease).

**38.SPAIN** has declared a **lockdown** (March 15th) at least for 2 weeks.

**39. SWITZERLAND**: Classroom teaching is banned. The ban will apply until 19 April 2020

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**40.TURKEY,** as a precautionary measure, **cancels trips abroad by students, teachers and staff in the framework of international educational projects, and postpones meetings of these projects in Turkey to a later date**. Furthermore, on 13/03, the Turkish government announced a package of measures concerning the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus in Turkey:

* Primary, secondary and high schools will be closed for two weeks starting from 16/03. However, during the second week of closure (23-27 March), students will continue their education through online teaching and learning tools provided by the Ministry of National Education.
* All higher education institutions will be closed for three weeks from 16/03.

**41.UNITED KINGDOM – to be completed !**

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List of countries that have implemented mass quarantines (**lockdown**) to slow the coronavirus spread

1. Belgium,
2. China,
3. Denmark
4. El Salvador,
5. France
6. Greece
7. Italy,
8. Ireland,
9. New Zealand,
10. Poland,
11. Spain

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**Coronavirus response: Transport measures –**

<https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response_en>

Source:

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures>

1. Source: <http://www.sepie.es/coronavirus.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/news/latest-news/2020/01/updates-on-coronavirus-.php>

<https://www.dese.gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Teaching and non-teaching staff, scholars, students, temporary academic staff or visitors, third parties providing permanent or temporary non-academic services who have been or remained in Federal Republic of Germany, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Spain, French Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italian Republic, Japan or those indicated by the Argentinian Ministry of Health in the future must refrain from entering the jurisdiction of the University of Buenos Aires for FIFTEEN (15) DAYS after their arrival in the Argentine Republic, even if they have no symptoms of CODVID-19 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)