



May 7th, 2020

As a follow-up to the previously published communiqués, T.I.M.E. Association reports on the latest developments in relation to the measures taken by the authorities and the current situation in most of the states participating in the Erasmus + programme and T.I.M.E. Association represented countries (according to the information provided by each National Agency and/or information published on official websites to which a link is provided).

The European Commission also provides the following link to the various sources of updated information on COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/eu-eea-and-uk_en

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

ARGENTINA - On April 3, the Secretariat of University Policies (SPU) signed Resolution No. 12 which recommends to National and Private Universities and Universities, "the readjustment of their 2020 academic calendar, taking into account the specificity of university education, guaranteeing courses in the regular modalities that normally take place in an academic year and maintaining the quality of the university system. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-trabaja-para-que-lasuniversidades-no-pierdan-el-cuatrimestre>

AUSTRALIA -

COVID-19 International Student Information :
<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/English/student-support>

Further negotiations are scheduled for May:
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/australian-states-going-their-own-wayuniversity-admissions>

AUSTRIA. Teaching at universities will only take place in the digital mode until the end of the academic year. However, exams and research activities must be carried out.

More information: <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/bundeskanzleramt/nachrichten-der-bundesregierung/2020/bundeskanzler-kurz-stufenplan-fuer-schrittweise-oeffnung-von-geschaeften-nach-ostern-aber-massnahmen-weiter-befolgen.html>

BRAZIL - At the regional level, the governments of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro suspended classes, cancelled mass events and reduced the supply of public transport. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-51881075>

Without face-to-face classrooms, university students from Sao Paulo have asked for the reduction and, even suspension, of monthly academic fees. The National Student Union decided to mobilize a campaign to demand that the price charged for face-to-face courses be equated to the distance education system.

CANADA - Information and resources <https://www.univcan.ca/coronavirus-covid-19-and-canadian-universities-information-andresources/>

BELGIUM. On 24/04, the Belgian National Security Council took a number of measures part of the COVID-19 exit strategy, divided into a series of phases throughout the month of May and June, provided the situation does not worsen: <https://www.belgium.be/en/news/2020/coronavirus>

Universities will remain closed until further notice. More information: <https://www.belgium.be/en/news/>; <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/news/>

BULGARIA. Since 13/03, the Bulgarian authorities declared a state of emergency measures. On 03/04, the state of emergency was extended until 13/05. More information: <https://www.government.bg/bg/prestsentar/novini>

CHINA

Some universities in [Shanghai saw the first batch of students return on 27 April](#).

CROATIA. From 16/03 all educational institutions are closed. On 23/04, the government of Croatia announced a series of measures to regulate the gradual de-escalation of restrictions in three moments, 27/04, 04/05 and 11/05: <https://vlada.gov.hr/news/covid-19-restrictions-tberelaxed-in-three-turns-as-of-april-27/29302>

For more information on the measures taken by the Croatian government: <https://vlada.gov.hr/news/14956>

CYPRUS. All educational institutions remain closed. More information: <http://www.moec.gov.cy/en/index.html>. <https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/en/press2.html>

CZECH REPUBLIC. Universities in the Czech Republic have reopened for all students since April 27.

DENMARK. Upper secondary general education and training institutions and higher education institutions remain closed with some exceptions.

For more information on the measures: <https://politi.dk/en/coronavirus-in-denmark/controlled-reopening-of-the-danish-society>

ESTONIA. Since 16/03, all educational institutions (except kindergartens) have remained closed and the usual study activities have been changed to the distance and home learning. Distance education will continue until 15/05. More information : <https://www.kriis.ee/en/education-and-distance-learning> ;

FINLAND. The National Erasmus+ Agency in Finland provides information through the following web link: <https://www.oph.fi/en/news>

From Wednesday 18/03, and until at least 13/05, the schools will be closed, educational institutions, universities and universities of applied sciences, and classroom teaching is suspended.

FRANCE. Since 16/03 higher education institutions are closed. As for students in higher education, Emmanuel Macron announced class will not physically resumes in schools and universities before the end of the school year: *“For students in higher education, classes will not physically resume before summer. The government will give further details as for the right organization for each that would be especially necessary for exams and competitive exams”*.

More info:

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/infocoronavirus> (FR)

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/news> (EN)

GERMANY - Below is information on current planning for the next semester summer and winter semesters in the higher education sector in Germany:

1. Due to the spread of COVID-19, the Länder of Germany have agreed on a common approach to organising the 2020 summer semester. The 2020 summer semester will be unusual, but it shouldn't be a “missed semester”. The goal, therefore, is to create the conditions framework necessary for universities to carry out teaching and research in the best possible way.
2. Should it become necessary, due to developments in the situation, the following key points will be followed:
 - The dates of the 2020 summer semester will not be postponed.
 - The class schedules for the summer semester 2020 can be arranged from flexible way.
 - Dates for the application and admission process for undergraduate courses will be adjusted for the winter semester 2020/2021.
 - Classes at universities for the winter 2020/2021 will begin on 01/11/2020

The press release with all these measures is available in German : <https://www.kmk.org/aktuelles/artikelansicht/kmk-sommersemester-2020-findetstatt.html>

Germany's coalition government will provide emergency loans for students whose source of income is threatened by the coronavirus pandemic but who are not entitled to federal grants.

GREECE the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs announced that all schools at any level of formal education, universities, public Vocational Training Institutes and all organisations providing education and non-formal training will remain close until 10/05.

HUNGARY -

https://www.bme.hu/news/20200411/New_information_on_the_coronavirus?language=en

ICELAND. High schools and universities have been closed since 16/03, carrying out the teaching in the distance mode: <https://www.government.is/news/article/?newsid=c65cf658-6eb6-11ea-9462-005056bc4d74>

The government of Iceland has announced that restrictions will begin to be lifted gradually from 04/05. From this date of 04/05, schools and institutions will operate normally, while high schools and universities, with a limitation of 50 people and measures of social distancing from two meters: <https://www.government.is/news/article/2020/04/14/Restrictions-to-be-graduallylifted-starting-4-May-/>

More information: <https://www.government.is/news/>

IRELAND. The Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh, announced on 10/04, among others measures, that the schools will remain closed until further notice: <https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2020-press-releases/PR20-04-10.html>

The closure of the rest of the educational institutions is planned at least until 05/05, as the restrictive measures adopted so far to face the outbreak of COVID-19: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/cf9b0d-new-public-healthmeasures-effective-now-to-prevent-further-spread-o/>

More info :

<https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/>

ITALY. Educational services for schools at all levels continue to be suspended, as well as for higher education institutions More info :

<http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/conferenza-stampa-del-presidente-conte/14450>

JAPAN

Japan Association of National Universities- JANU Communication to students concerning travel. <https://www.janu.jp/eng/globalization/files/20200311-wnew-message.pdf>

THE NETHERLANDS. The Dutch Prime Minister announced that universities and secondary schools will stay closed for at least the coming month. primary schools will start to slowly open up again after the May holidays (around 3rd of May).

More info: <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2020/04/21/measures-to-stop-the-spread-ofcoronavirus-extended>

NORWAY - Since 27/04, some students who are at the end of their studies and who depend on the use of facilities and equipment at their institution are also allowed to return. More info : [https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/norway-to-lift-covid-19-restrictions-gradually-andcautiously/id2697060/;](https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/norway-to-lift-covid-19-restrictions-gradually-andcautiously/id2697060/)

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/prime-ministers-remarks-atpress-conference-on-changes-to-the-coronavirus-measures2/id2697078/>

POLAND. The government has decided to extend the closure of all educational institutions (including universities) until 24/05: <https://www.gov.pl/web/coronavirus/temporary-limitations>. Classes continue over digital learning platforms. More info: <https://www.gov.pl/web/coronavirus>

PORTUGAL. The Prime Minister announced today that for students up until the 9th year, the entire third period will continue with distance learning, with assessment, but without tests or exams.

UNITED KINGDOM.

4 May

Universities' hopes of a long-term government bailout in England have been dashed, though £2.6bn in tuition fees will be paid early and ministers pledged to allow full fees to be charged even if students were unable to return to lectures.

4 May

The Welsh Government has published a policy statement outlining support for universities and students dealing with the impact of coronavirus.

29 April

The British Academy is drawing together the country's most distinguished researchers to support the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic by sharing different perspectives, knowledge and insight.

ROMANIA. The emergency situation is extended until 15/05 with many restrictions imposed (including driving restrictions). De-escalation measures are announced for circulation after 15/05, but meetings between more than 3 people will remain prohibited for a longer period of time. Students in their final years before the national exams (8th and 12th grades) will attend the school for 2-3 weeks in early June, before the national exams, which will take place under special security conditions at the beginning of the summer.

RUSSIA- In March 2020, 60 percent of Russian universities provided distant learning without major interruptions. Another quarter of higher education institutions offered studying from home, but experienced occasional problems. The country's education ministry recommended all universities to switch to distance learning as a preventive measure against the spread coronavirus (COVID-19). Mail.ru Group offered technical assistance with switching to online learning to universities. Link: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1106140/russia-university-distance-learning-due-to-covid-19/>

SLOVENIA - The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport has provided several possible scenarios: from the most optimistic, which would mean a return to schools after 01/05; a scenario less optimistic, which would mean a return to school after 01/06; even the worst scenario dated 01/07, which would mean that the end of the school year would be made from home. More information: www.gov.si/en/news/ and www.gov.si/en/topics/coronavirus-disease-covid19/government-measures/

SPAIN- Spanish universities have started to plan a return to normal activity as early as the start of June.

SWEDEN. In the Prime Minister's speech to the nation on 22/03, it is reported that the public meetings of more than 500 people have been banned and secondary education. The online mode is now available for university and college students. More info: <https://www.government.se/>

SWITZERLAND - The University of Lausanne is launching a new blog to follow, inform and document the current crisis. The blog "VIRAL" has set itself the primary mission of taking a reflexive look at the COVID-19 pandemic in order to generate knowledge and shed light on the multiple realities affected.

TURKEY.

All institutions of Higher Education also continues to be closed since 16/03.

On 29/04 the Minister of National Education, Ziya Selçuk, announced that education at distance will continue until 31/05 within the framework of the Scientific Committee's recommendations:

<http://www.meb.gov.tr/uzaktan-egitim-31-mayisa-kadar-devam-edecek/haber/20803/tr>

On this website of the Turkish government you can read more information about the situation of the COVID-19 in the country: <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/>

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IMPACT MONITORING BY ORGANISATIONS

UNESCO:

- Portal on COVID-19 Educational Disruption and Response to provide immediate support to countries as they work to minimize the educational disruption and facilitate the continuity of learning, especially for the most vulnerable.

Link: <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>

International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-Buenos Aires) is making available since April 14, 2020 a systematization of responses of Latin American education systems to the COVID-19 crisis.

Link: (in Spanish) - https://www.siteal.iiep.unesco.org/respuestas_educativas_covid_19

World Bank traces in real time the closure of schools by country and proposes key resources to address the health crisis.

Link: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2020/03/24/world-bank-education-and-covid-19>

Council of Europe - special webpage on COVID-19 by the Education Department.

- Good practices from Member States;
- Council of Europe education standards;
- New and existing education resources.

Link: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/covid-19>:

Agence universitaire de la francophonie (AUF) (in french)

- AUF is producing a [weekly update monitoring publications](https://www.auf.org/a-propos/plan-auf-covid19/) related to the pandemic from higher education and partners of the AUF and related specifically to the health sector. Link (in French): <https://www.auf.org/a-propos/plan-auf-covid19/>
- AUF monitors the actions of its members and partners in response to COVID-19. Link: <https://www.auf.org/nouvelles/actualites/covid-19-etablisements-denseignement-superieur-membres-de-lauf-partenaires-se-mobilisent/>

Erasmus Student Network develops various initiatives to assess the impact of COVID-19 on student exchange in Europe and to support students and higher education institutions. Link: <https://esn.org/covidimpact-report>

German Academic Exchange Service shares up-to-date information of interest to German DAAD scholarship holders and applicants, international scholarship holders and applicants, ERASMUS grant holders, universities, general information and the situation of students at German universities in the context of the effects of COVID-19. Link: <https://www.daad.de/en/coronavirus/>

WEBINARS

The **European Association for International Education** will host the webinar entitled "COVID-19: Emerging lessons in crisis response and management" on May 7th at 16h30. This webinar will provide international education professionals with an array of insights and examples of good practice in relation to managing the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Link: <https://urlz.fr/cByG>

The **Institute of International Education** is organising a series of webinars linked to the Covid-19 crisis.

- May 26 12:00pm EDT – 1:00pm EDT: Maintaining International Partnerships During Crises. Register for the webinar. Link : <https://urlz.fr/cByJ>
- June 4 11:00am EST – 12:00pm EST: How Are Campuses Continuing to Recruit International Students? Register for webinar. Link : <https://urlz.fr/cByL>

NAFSA: Association of International Educators has recorded the webinar "COVID-19 Crisis: How International & Immigrant Populations in Higher Education are Impacted, What Campus Leaders Need to Know". Link: <https://urlz.fr/cByR>

The **Research Consortium for the Sustainable Promotion of International Education (RECSIE)** is conducting a series of webinars dedicated to the impact of the new coronavirus on international education. The main language will be Japanese, but questions will be accepted in English. To register please visit the RECSIE website. Link : <http://recsie.or.jp/news/>

- Series No.5 (May 27th, 10h30 to noon (GMT+9), "[Covid-19 and Paradigm Shift of International Education](#)". Speakers: Deane Neibauer (University of Hawaii), Ka Ho Mok (Lingnan University) and Kazuo Kuroda (Waseda University).

- Series No. 6 (around June 10th), "How are international partnerships affected by Covid-19?". Speakers: Cheryl Matherly (Vice President/Vice Provost, International Affairs, Lehigh University, Past President of AIEA) and Mirko Varano (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden)
- Series No. 7 (around June 24th), "Possible remedies - student mobility in Asia and the Pacific during Covid-19 pandemic". Speakers: Randall Martin (BCCIE), Chris Ziguras (RMIT) TBC and TBD (UMAP)

Paris, 7th May 2020
Gwenaëlle Guillerme.