

CORONASYS INNOVATION SHEET 19

EUROPEAN CORONA- MAP

Background

Covid-19 case numbers are growing all over Europe¹ and some countries are close to reaching their capacity limits in the health sector²³⁴. At the same time, rules and regulations concerning the pandemic are inconsistent in Europe⁵. The European Parliament now approved of a European Corona- traffic light to guide states on decisions concerning travelling restrictions in the EU.

Features

Depending on the infection numbers, regions in Europe shall be marked either green, orange, or red. States should not impose travel restrictions on "green" areas with few corona cases. Travel restrictions might be imposed on orange or red areas. The traffic light- map will be produced by the European health agency ECDC and updated weekly⁶. In addition to the EU countries, it will also include Iceland and Norway. Criteria for the corona map will be the 14-day incidence – i.e. the number of corona infections per 100,000 inhabitants within the past two weeks – the rate of positive tests and the rate of tests carried out⁷.

Potentials

The traffic light approach might help to guide informed decision-making regarding travelling restrictions. It might also contribute to transparent information of the public.

Points to consider

The concept does not provide for common rules for travellers from orange or red-marked regions. Nor did the EU countries agree on Europe-wide standards for quarantine and testing rules. Furthermore, the traffic light is not binding but only offers suggestions that Countries might or might not adopt⁸.

Conclusion

The traffic light falls short of the expectations since it does not provide binding rules. In a European Union divided not only regarding Covid-19 this might not be enough to ensure adherence to the recommended measures.

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Focus area: Policy

Developers: EU Parliament

Beneficiaries: General public, policy makers

¹ WHO. “WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard,” October 16, 2020. <https://covid19.who.int>.

² France 24. “All Eyes on Macron as Hospitals Chief Warns of ICU Saturation Due to Covid-19 Surge.” France24.com, October 14, 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20201014-all-eyes-on-macron-as-hospitals-chief-warns-of-icu-saturation-due-to-covid-19-surge>.

³ Benito, Emilio de. “Spanish Health Ministry Reports Nearly 12,000 New Coronavirus Infections, Adds 209 Victims to the Death Toll.” EL PAÍS, October 15, 2020. <https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-10-15/spanish-health-ministry-reports-nearly-12000-new-coronavirus-infections-adds-209-victims-to-the-death-toll.html>.

⁴ Pidd, Helen, and Josh Halliday. “Covid ICU Cases in Northern England Could Pass April Peak in 22 Days, MPs Told.” The Guardian, October 8, 2020, sec. World news. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/08/whitty-covid-icu-cases-in-northern-england-could-pass-peak-in-22-days>.

⁵ BBC News. “Europe Lockdown: New Coronavirus Rules Country-by-Country - BBC News.” bbc.com, October 15, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-53640249>.

⁶ ECDC. “Maps in Support of the Council Recommendation on a Coordinated Approach to the Restriction of Free Movement in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the EU/EEA and the UK.” European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Accessed October 16, 2020. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/situation-updates/weekly-maps-coordinated-restriction-free-movement>.

⁷ Deutsches Ärzteblatt “Corona: EU-Staaten einigen sich auf Ampel-Karte für Reisen.” Deutsches Ärzteblatt, October 9, 2020. <https://www.aerzteblatt.de/nachrichten/117290/Corona-EU-Staaten-einigen-sich-auf-Ampel-Karte-fuer-Reisen>.

⁸ Deutsches Ärzteblatt. “EU-Staaten Einigen Sich Auf Ampelkarte Für Reiseeinschränkungen.” aerzteblatt.de, October 13, 2020. <https://www.aerzteblatt.de/nachrichten/117357/EU-Staaten-einigen-sich-auf-Ampelkarte-fuer-Reiseeinschraenkungen?rt=0fd21eeab5917fde312525e48868ef06>.

Background on Innovation Sheet Series

As part of a real-time evaluation of the SARS CoV 2 pandemic (with focus on epidemiological, medical, economical, societal, technical, and cultural developments in Germany and Armenia) the CoronaSys research team, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Martin Voss, is conducting a continuous monitoring of developments and medical, technical, and social innovations concerning Covid-19.

Multiple national and international media outlets, research platforms, and scientific and organizational guidelines, briefs, and updates are screened to feed into this outlet. The rationale behind this is to support the projects' network partners in Armenia and Germany with short summaries of key developments and promising innovations that are shaping the global, German, and Armenian outbreak response and recovery.

The aim of these short briefs is to give condensed and structured information on selected innovations emerging out of the conducted horizon scanning. This could be mainstream big-ticket items or fringe subjects that are easily overlooked in the global flood of information. Some innovations will be followed through their evolution in time while others may only appear once. While subjectively selected, the briefs are descriptive in nature and leave analysis and critical interpretation to the reader. Network partners in both countries are invited to provide feedback on their interest areas and suggest particularly relevant topics for the CoronaSys Workshop series.

The CoronaSys Innovation Sheet Series is published by the [Academy of the Disaster Research Unit](#), which is, as a non-profit limited liability company, a spin-off of the [Disaster Research Unit](#) at the Free University of Berlin. The series is part of the research project "[CoronaSys](#): Addressing the corona pandemic in Armenia through systemic risk management", sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or if you wish to be taken on (or off) the project mailing list for CoronaSys updates, innovation sheets, and workshop invitations, please send a message to Janina Schäfer (schaefer@a-kfs.de). For general project inquiries, you may contact the team lead Sara Merkes (merkes@a-kfs.de) or the project lead Martin Voss (voss@a-kfs.de).

Previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets

- 1 "New" Antiviral Face Masks
- 2 " Dyphox" Surface Coating
- 3 MOVES SLC Portable ICU
- 4 Portable TRI- KLEEN 500UV
- 5 Convalescent Plasma Therapy
- 6 ASIC- App
- 7 BinaxNOW Antigen Test
- 8 Corona Traffic Light
- 9 Aproof at Home Antibody Test
- 10 IVAT Hygiene Tower
- 11 LY-CoV555 Antibody Treatment
- 12 4C Mortality Score
- 13 Regional Corona Prediction Model
- 14 Computer-designed Mini- Proteins
- 15 Covid-19 Simulator
- 16 Trimodulin
- 17 BNT162b2-vaccine
- 18 SARS-COV-2 Rapidplex

All previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets are available online:

<http://coronasys.a-kfs.de/category/innovation-stream/>

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