

07.05.2020 NALAS COVID-19 Weekly Update

Background

As of February 2020, the Corona virus (COVID--19) has become a global threat and South-East Europe was no exception. As the number of infected and deceased was growing, governments were introducing various prevention and combating measures. This Weekly Update summarises the changes in the, the official measures implemented throughout NALAS Region, as well as the actions by NALAS member LGAs in the past week, aiming to facilitate information exchange within the Network and beyond, and have coordinated approach in crisis management.

Summary of the situation from 29 April until 05 MAY 2020, 11 LGAs and NALAS Secretariat

Situation and official government measures

- Relaxation of the measures, including movement and public transport; wearing a mask obligatory in most of the cases
- Gradual reopening of the economy
- Limited opening of schools announced

LGAs' actions

- Assistance to local governments to implement prevention measures
- Advocating for local governments' interests and needs during the pandemic
- Organisation and participation in COVID-19 working groups, trainings, meetings and webinars
- Communication and media activities
- Mobilising international aid for local governments

LGA	Key change in the situation/measures in the past week	Key LGAs' activities implemented during last week, related to combating COVID-19
SCTM, Serbia	Ban of movement during the weekend is shortened: from 18:00 to 5:00	<p>In the joint action of the City of Kraljevo and the SCTM, more than 20 local self-governments have received assistance in the form of a disinfectant for public areas and facilities.</p> <p>SCTM participated at the Video conference with the Secretaries of delegations of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the meeting of the CEMR COVID Working Group</p>
AoC, Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health care fully operational -Hairdressers and cosmeticians can work -Playgrounds open -Funerals and weddings allowed, with limitations 	No. In addition to the pandemic, AoC's office in Zagreb suffered from the earthquake and will be closed for renovation.
NAMRB, Bulgaria	<p>Although Bulgaria will be in a state of emergency until 13 May, anti-pandemic measures are loosening up gradually:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City and National parks can be visited again. Visitors should keep at least 2.5 meters distance between each other. Children playgrounds, sport facilities are not working. No sitting on benches, no gathering of large groups of people at one place. If communicating with other people in the parks, visitors should wear face masks or scarves. Special routes in mountains. Lifts, huts and other touristic objects are not working. 2. Schools: children will finish the school year remotely in e-environment. Only students having important exams - after 7th grade and 12th grade will return to the schools for their final exams (matriculation exams). Exams for 7th grade will be conducted on 15 June (Bulgarian language and literature) and 17 June (mathematics). Exams for 12 grades will be conducted on 1 and 3 June in larger rooms to ensure distance between 	NAMRB Managing Board had two online meetings with GERB (ruling) and BSP (opposition) political parties in the National Assembly to inform about the financial difficulties that local authorities face and to seek support for the "recovery period".

	<p>students. The usual annual exams after 4th and 10th grade are cancelled.</p> <p>3. Restaurants and cafes with gardens or outdoor terraces are allowed to resume functioning as of 6 May. Tables should be placed at 1.5 meters. Waiters are obliged to wear masks.</p> <p>4. Swimming pools, tennis courts and golf areas, outdoor museums are functioning again.</p> <p>5. Checkpoints at the entry/exit of district centres are removed. Travel in the country is not limited.</p> <p>6. Wearing face masks is obligatory only in indoor public areas (incl. public transport, shops, religious temples, etc.)</p>	
SOS, Slovenia	<p>On 30 April, the month long prohibition of movement between municipalities ended.</p> <p>During the holidays there were decisions made by government on operation of schools and kindergartens. They will operate from 18th May onwards but only for pupils from the first three classes and last class in primary schools and last classes of secondary schools due to matura examination. Use of masks is mandatory with age of 12.</p>	<p>There was no significant activity implemented during last week. Regular negotiations with Ministries on proper implementation of the measures. SOS will continue with office work as of 11 May. On the same date the public transport resumes operation.</p>
CALM, Moldova	<p>In Moldova the emergency situation will last till 15 May 2020. The epidemic situation is still serious, with reported over 100 new cases daily are reported. Total of 4476 cases, 143 deaths and 1658 recovered.</p> <p>Since 10 May are allowed gatherings outside churches keeping the social distance and wearing masks. Since 7 May wearing masks in all public indoor spaces is mandatory. Schools will not be open until September.</p> <p>Since 4 May all budgetary employees returned to work. Public transport in Chisinau since 4 May returned to the normal</p>	<p>CALM is preparing together with USAID a series of on-line trainings for Local Governments related to the use of communication tools during the pandemic</p>

	schedule.	
UoM, Montenegro	<p>New measures from 4 May:</p> <p>Work of shops (textiles, footwear, technical consumer goods, construction material, craft workshops, services, hair and beauty salons, gyms and fitness centres, bookstores, dental offices, driving schools, rent-a-car services, museums and galleries, etc.); Taxi transport; Local public urban transport in local self-government units where the Public Health Institute has not registered cases of novel coronavirus; and Departure of citizens to houses/cottages and family farms in other local self-government units.</p> <p>The new measures, stipulate that the employer is obliged to provide the employees with a protective mask and disinfectant while working in the facilities, premises and vehicles. It has also been suggested that it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure consistent adherence to the measures by customer, service users and visitors.</p> <p>-Limitations of movement: ban on leaving the housing facility for citizens, from every day, from 11pm to 5am the following day.</p> <p>-Borders situation: prohibition of entry to foreigners, except to foreigners with permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro and foreigners who operate motor vehicles used for traffic of goods. Extended until 1 June</p> <p>-Travel limitations: suspension of international passenger traffic. Extended until 1 June, Ban on intercity passenger transport until 18 May</p> <p>-Gathering limitations: ban on presence and loitering of more than two persons in an open public place. Ban on presence and loitering of persons on beaches, landscaped and unregulated</p>	/

bathing areas and picnic areas. Individual recreational activities are allowed. Prohibition of gathering in the facilities of accommodation for persons who are not members of the common family household. Until 18 May

As for the sports activities, from 6 May are allowed activities that can be performed by one athlete or couple where a distance of at least 2m can always be maintained between participants. At this stage there is no contact between athletes and / or other staff, i.e. fitness training, physical exercise, etc. are allowed. A maximum of 8 to 10 people can be trained at a time, and the number of people in the training space must not exceed 12.

The second phase, which is due to start on 18 May, includes, in addition to the first phase, indoor and outdoor activities that can be performed in groups

In the third phase, which is due to start on 1 June, competitions, tournaments and matches are allowed, but without the presence of the audience.

MMU, Turkey

Normalisation plan announced:

*Mask sales will be allowed by determining the upper price.

*Shopping malls, barbershop, hairdressers and beauty salons will start serving on 11 May 2020.

*Military discharge procedures will start on 31 May 2020.

*High school and university entrance exams will be held at the end of June 2020.

***15-day** entry and exit ban to 7 cities (out of 31 cities) lifted

- Limitations of movement:

***Curfew** for people under age 20, over age 65 and those with chronic illnesses will be eased:

-Those over age 65 will be allowed to go out for 4 hours in one of the curfew days.

-Children under age 14 will be allowed to go out on 13 May 2020

- Webinar series on “pandemics transforming cities” (4 webinars in total, on each Tuesday between 21.04.2020 - 12.05.2020)

- Webinar on “communication and behaviour profiles” (29.05.2020)

- Webinar on “culture and art during and after the pandemic” (06.05.2020)

	<p>between 11.00-15.00 h with a walking distance. -People between age 15-20 will be allowed to go out on 15 May 2020 between 11.00-15.00 h with a walking distance. *247 neighbourhoods and villages across the country under quarantine</p>	
<p>AAM, Albania</p>	<p>The past week marked a decreasing number of the identified COVID cases in Albania, although it might be attributed to the relatively small number of testing. Even though, it is beyond doubt that the pandemic situation is improving, and the government has relieved some restrictions for citizens and businesses. Thus, retail shops are open, citizens can use their vehicles for going and returning from work, high school senior students will start consultations at school on May 18, whereas other schools will not open till September. Several municipalities are now identified as “green areas” meaning that there no identified cases. Citizens oblige to more relaxed measures within their municipalities. Interurban movement of citizens is not yet allowed.</p>	<p>AAM has been present in the media with an article on the financial implications of COVID 19 for the municipalities, presenting a set of recommendations for municipalities in addressing the difficulties. https://www.monitor.al/covid-19-pasojat-financiare-dhe-fazat-e-rimekembjes-ne-geverisjen-vendore/</p>
<p>ZELS, North Macedonia</p>	<p>Measures and decisions form the 48th session of the Government of the RNM - The Government reviewed and adopted the information with a package of measures in the field of education related to the implementation of the educational process in conditions of COVID-19 crisis, at the proposal of the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) – (The first measure refers to the teaching in primary and secondary schools, which is determined to be organized through distance learning, i.e. learning from home, by applying electronic communication means, until June 10, 2020; The second measure proposes to postpone the enrolment of students in the first grade in primary education and stipulates that the enrolment of children</p>	<p>/</p>

in the first grade in primary school for the academic year 2020/2021 will be realized in June, and the school will publish the enrolled students on the school bulletin board, no later than July 15, 2020;

- The Ministry of Education and Science will submit to the Government a proposal to amend the decree on the implementation of the possibility for enrolment in higher education institutions without taking the graduation exam for students from the final years in the academic year 2019/2020;

- The Government obligated the Ministry of Education and Science to submit a draft decree for extension of the deadlines for the validity of the study programs, the validity of which ceased in the academic year 2019/2020;

- At this session, the Government adopted an amendment to the Decree on the application of the Law on Catering during the state of emergency, the provisions of which regulate the time of extension of the validity of the Decision on the categorization of catering facilities that expire during the state of emergency;

- The Government reviewed and adopted the Decree with the legal force for the application of the Law on Administrative Servants during a state of emergency;

- The Government reviewed and adopted the Decree with the legal force for supplementing the Decree with the legal force for the application of the Law on Budgets during the state of emergency;

- The Government reviewed and adopted the Decree with the legal force for supplementing the Decree with the legal force for the application of the Law on catering activity during the state of emergency;

- The Government reviewed and adopted the Decree with legal force to supplement the Decree with the legal force for public prosecutors, investigators and other employees of the Public Prosecutor's Office to prosecute crimes related to and arising from the content of unauthorized interception of communications and

to finance the Public Prosecutor's Office for the prosecution of related crimes and arising from the content of unauthorized interception of communications;

- The Government reviewed and adopted the Program to amend the Rural Development Financial Support Program for 2020;
- The Government reviewed and adopted the Decree with legal force to amend the Decree with the legal force for financial support of employers affected by the health and economic crisis caused by Coronavirus KOVID-19, for the payment of salaries for the months of April and May 2020;
- The Government reviewed and adopted the Decree with the legal force for supplementing the Decree with the legal force for the application of the Law on Labor Relations during the state of emergency;

Measures and decisions form the 49th session of the Government of the RNM

- The Government reviewed and adopted the Information on the need, as well as the decisions on the admissibility of declaring part of Sharr Mountain a protected area in category II - National Park and declaring part of Osogovo Mountains protected area in category V - protected area;
- The Government adopted the amendment to the Decree with the legal force to subsidize the payment of compulsory social security contributions during the state of emergency;
- At the request of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Government decided to propose to the Constitutional Court to abolish the temporary measure as soon as possible, and to dismiss as completely unfounded the submitted initiative for initiating a procedure for assessing the constitutionality and legality of the Decree with the legal force for public prosecutors, investigators and other employees of the Public Prosecutor's Office to prosecute crimes related to and

arising from the content of unauthorized interception of communications and to finance the Public Prosecutor's Office to prosecute crimes related and arising from the contents of unauthorized interception of communications ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 90/2020);

- The Government formed an opinion on the initiative submitted to the Constitutional Court to assess the constitutionality of the Decree on issues related to the election process, which states that the provisions of the Decree with legal force on issues related to the election process are fully in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, and therefore recommended to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia to completely reject the submitted initiative as unfounded;

- The Government adopted amendments to the Decree on the Application of the Law on Primary Education during the state of emergency, the Decree on the Application of the Law on Secondary Education during the state of emergency and the Decree on the Application of the Law on Higher Education during the state of emergency;

- The Government amended the Decree on the wearing of personal protective equipment to prevent the spread of the disease, eradicate the infectious disease caused by coronavirus COVID-19 and protect the population during a state of emergency, which determines the institutions and specifies the provisions on the competence to pronounce and for committing fines for not wearing protective equipment for natural and legal persons;

- The Government adopted a decision on the method of payment of funds to the donation account of the Fund for Assistance and Support for dealing with the crisis caused by the coronavirus KOVID-19, which stipulates that legal entities or individuals (donors) the payment of funds will be able to perform it on the donation account of the Fund for assistance and support for dealing with the crisis caused by the coronavirus KOVID - 19, which

	<p>is published on the website of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (https://koronavirus.gov.mk/k/merki / ekonomski-merki / merka-16).</p> <p>- The Government accepted the resignation of Daniel Donchev from the position of Director of the Health Insurance Fund of the Republic of North Macedonia, due to private and family reasons;</p>	
<p>ACOR, Romania</p>	<p>-The emergency situation will end next week, on May 15. From May 15 will start the alert situation and the situation will relax a little bit.</p> <p>-Among the relaxation measures are mentioned: the opening of the hotels, personal care salons will be available again, hairdressing salons, dental offices, museums will reopen. It will be possible to leave the localities for medical problems, in work interest, but also for individual sports activity. Restricted measures will not be relaxed in the quarantined localities.</p> <p>- Everyone will wear a face mask in enclosed public spaces and in public transportation. The restriction remains that meetings with more than 3 people are prohibited. It will be possible to leave the house without completing the declaration of own responsibility.</p>	<p>In combating COVID-19, ACoR obtained a humanitarian aid from the Chinese friend association (the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA)) consisting in surgical medical masks. This week 18.000 surgical medical masks arrived that will be sent to the communes of Romania in greatest need.</p> <p>ACoR has a memorandum of understanding with the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA), since 2015 and since then cooperate closely.</p>

1) New Government measures

The new measures, published on 30 April, are introduced to take effect as of 4 May, in three phases, based on the understanding that full adherence to the recommendations will be observed by the population, institutions and private sector, such as respecting social distance, disinfecting practices and the use of masks and other protective equipment when needed. They are also subject to continuous monitoring and can be withdrawn if not respected. Finally, they are also subject to epidemiological developments. All planned steps of return to normality are conditioned by the improvement of the epidemiological situation determined by the Ministry of Health. Activities will open gradually.

Phase I**Begins on May 4, 2020 (Current Phase)**

3 hours a day movement of citizens (according to the penultimate number of the Personal Number - divided into two parts: 90 minutes AM, 90 minutes PM)

Construction and real estate

Sale of motor vehicles (partially)

Retail (partially)

Repair of other personal and household items

Consultancy offices (essential staff only)

Phase II**Begins on May 18, 2020**

Movement of citizens as per the epidemiological situation Retail (fully)

Dentists and Physiotherapists

Hairdressers and Hair Salons

Green market

Culinary services (takeaway)

Railway transport

Urban and interurban transport (with special permits)

Call centres (essential staff only)

-More than 90% of the AKM's Recommendations are taken into consideration for the **new measures** that the Government of Kosovo* has undertaken to move to a new normalcy, given the situation caused by Covid-19.

-The Mayors and the AKM have been consulted on these measures where a joint meeting was organised between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Local Government Administration and, the AKM and the Mayors.

-AKM has organised a meeting with the Working Group of Municipal Officials for Waste Management through the online platform. It was once again emphasised that the Municipalities are even more engaged in the best management of the waste collection field. As a result of the situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the representatives of the municipalities announced additional commitments in the most comprehensive disinfection in the territory of the Municipalities. Municipalities have also taken additional steps to eliminate illegal landfills in order to prevent any risk that these landfills may pose in this situation.

- The AKM Executive Director visited the Municipality of Suhareka where he was received by the Mayor Mr. Bali Muharremaj. Mayor Muharremaj informed the Director of AKM about the situation in the Municipality of Suhareka about Covid-19 and generally about the work and commitment of the Municipal Emergency Headquarters about the Municipal Action Plan for the Prevention of Covid-19. On the other hand, Director Ibrahimji informed Mayor Muharremaj about the activities of the AKM in supporting municipalities in terms of coordination with the central level and for the beginning of the implementation of the Emergency Fiscal Package for Municipalities. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Muharremaj thanked Mr. Ibrahimji for the activities of the AKM and as a sign of gratitude handed an acknowledgement for support and coordination of commitments during this time of Covid-19 pandemic.

- With the proposal and request of the AKM, the Ministry of Finance and Transfers (MFT) has issued a decision to suspend the application of the calculation of interest for non-payment of Property Tax.

The response of the Property Tax Department (PTD) within the MFT it is stated:

"I would like to inform you that after receiving your request, immediately as a PTD,

	<p>Opening of museums and galleries</p> <p><u>Reassessment during phase 2</u></p> <p>Parks</p> <p>Religious ceremonies</p> <p>Other markets</p> <p>Gyms Day-care Centres</p> <p>Shopping Centres.</p> <p>Phase III</p> <p><u>Begins on June 1, 2020</u></p> <p>Movement of citizens as per the epidemiological situation</p> <p>Urban and interurban transport</p> <p>Taxi services</p> <p>Gastronomy, in general</p> <p>Exams in Higher Education</p> <p>Matura and Achievement Test</p> <p>Opening of Cinemas and Theatres</p> <p>Selective Opening of Sports Activities</p> <p><u>Reassessment during Phase 3</u></p> <p>Borders</p> <p>Airports</p> <p>Wedding and other parties</p> <p>Spa facilities</p> <p>Trading fairs</p> <p>Swimming pools</p> <p>Night clubs</p>	<p><i>together with the Cabinet of the Minister and the Legal Department, we proposed to the Minister to issue a decision to suspend the application of interest calculation (interest rate) and fine for non-payment of property tax, according to Article 36, paragraph 6, of Law No. 06 / L-005 on Real Estate Tax, until 31 December 2020.</i></p>
<p>NALAS Secretariat</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>- Resuming with the traditional NALAS Digest, with a section on COVID-19, every two weeks.</p> <p>-Weekly Covid-19 Update for NALAS members.</p> <p>-12 May, 14:00-15:30: Webinar on the Challenges and Solutions in provision of Water and Sanitation Services during COVID-19 pandemic, in Serbian/Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin language. Speakers: Mayor (BH), PUC Director (MK), LGA (SER), APUC (MN)</p>



-As part of NALAS e-Academy, an ongoing e-learning course in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

** "This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence."*