

A GLOBAL EU RESPONSE TO COVID-19

ALDA aggregates and strengthens participation even during the lockdown and self-isolation imposed by the virus which have been so challenging for all us. Resilient communities will be the basis for a future relaunch of our common mission, and their role is currently more crucial than ever for all of us. And we are here to think and act about it.

For information, here are summarized some of the actions of the EU as a global response for our partners in the Balkans and South and East Neighbourhood.

THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

We wish to share with our network the important information we are receiving from the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions.

The Covid-19 outbreak has evolved into a global pandemic, and its consequences will be profound. To face this historic crisis with a coordinated global strong response, **the EU has already taken a series of concrete and quick actions to support its partners.**

In particular, the EU supports international cooperation and multilateral solutions, reinforcing both governmental and non-governmental actions in addressing short-term emergency needs as well as the long-term structural impact.

1. TEAM EUROPE APPROACH

Priorities:

- a. Emergency response to the health crisis
- b. Strengthening the health, water and sanitation systems
- c. Addressing social and economic consequences.

1.A. SHORT-TERM EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- 1) Addressing chronic global shortages of personal protective equipment (gloves and masks)
- 2) Service provision to conflict-affected and displaced population, refugees and migrants especially those living in camps.
- 3) Meeting the basic needs of most vulnerable people (e.g. food delivery, essential health services)

alda@aldaintranet.org - www.alda-europe.eu

HEADQUARTERS IN STRASBOURG
c/o Council of Europe, office 1027
Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg, (FR)
Tel +33 (0) 390214593
Fax +33 (0) 388412751
aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN BRUSSELS
Rue de la Science, 14b
1000 Brussels (BE)
Tel: +32 2 880 37 28
aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN VICENZA
Viale Milano 66
36100 Vicenza, (IT)
Tel +39 0444540 146
Fax +39 0444 231043
aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN SKOPJE
Bld. Partizanski Odredi 15A 2/2
1000 Skopje, (MK)
Tel +389 (0) 2 6091 060

OFFICE IN SUBOTICA
c/o LDA Subotica
Trg cara Jovana Nenada 15
24000 Subotica, (SRB)
Tel/Fax +381 24 554587

EXAMPLE OF EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO PARTNER COUNTRIES

In the **Western Balkans**, the EU has already mobilised considerable funds for immediate support to the **health sector** amounting to **EUR 38 million** (EUR 4 million for Albania, EUR 7 million for Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUR 5 million for Kosovo³, EUR 3 million for Montenegro, EUR 4 million for North Macedonia; and EUR 15 million for Serbia). The EU support includes lifesaving medical equipment, also for intensive care, hospital beds, fully equipped ambulance cars, hundreds of respirators, digital mobile x-rays, tens of thousands of testing kits and huge amount of personal protecting equipment

Under the Facility for Refugees in **Turkey**, small-scale health infrastructure and equipment is being procured, worth **EUR 90 million**.

In the **Eastern Partnership** countries, the EU is mobilising an emergency support package worth more than **EUR 30 million** for immediate needs in the health sector. In **Armenia** over 3,000 vulnerable households, with elderly people and people with disabilities and large families in Shirak, Tavush and Lori regions will receive humanitarian aid packages thanks to the support of the European Union. In **Ukraine**, the EU has delivered equipment for the Emergency Medical Care Centre of Donetsk Oblast with 100 sets of personal protective equipment as well as more than 70 litres of highly concentrated antiseptic liquid.

1.B. SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH, HEALTH AND WATER SYSTEMS

- 1) Supporting resource-constrained countries boosting their containment and treatment efforts; strengthening health and social protection systems to ensure sustainable capacities for risk reduction, surveillance and management of the response.
- 2) Ensuring access to basic hand washing facilities and soap, as well as good WASH practices in communities, homes, schools, marketplaces and especially health facilities, to help prevent transmission.
- 3) Accelerating research efforts to develop effective treatments, vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, and ensure universal availability at an affordable price.
- 4) Ensuring availability of protective equipment to health workers, also by restoring global supply chains.

EXAMPLES OF EU SUPPORT IN ITS PARTNERS' HEALTH SECTOR

The Commission signed the new EU Initiative for Health Security with the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) amounting to EUR 9 million. It already started, covers all 23 **Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries** and focuses on preparedness and medical capacity to address the outbreak and the numerous repercussions.

alda@aldaintranet.org - www.alda-europe.eu

HEADQUARTERS IN STRASBOURG
c/o Council of Europe, office 1027
Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg, (FR)
Tel +33 (0) 390214593
Fax +33 (0) 388412751
aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN BRUSSELS
Rue de la Science, 14b
1000 Brussels (BE)
Tel: +32 2 880 37 28
aldabrusseles@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN VICENZA
Viale Milano 66
36100 Vicenza, (IT)
Tel +39 0444540 146
Fax +39 0444 231043
aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN SKOPJE
Bld. Partizanski Odredi 15A 2/2
1000 Skopje, (MK)
Tel +389 (0) 2 6091 060

OFFICE IN SUBOTICA
c/o LDA Subotica
Trg cara Jovana Nenada 15
24000 Subotica, (SRB)
Tel/Fax +381 24 554587

1.C. ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

- 1) **Addressing the severe economic fallout from the pandemic across the world, and preventing a recession cycle in many partner countries.** Many countries will encounter a drop in economic activity, a sharp increase in unemployment and poverty. This may lead to pressure on public finances, increased social tensions and, in some settings, violence.
- 2) **Addressing the additional financial and liquidity challenges** brought by this crisis. A number of developing and emerging economies face the crisis in situations of high debt and limited policy space. Countries relying on tourism or remittances, as well as those at the beginning of supply chains or dependent on primary commodity exports, will be among the hardest hit.
- 3) **Supporting economic and social stabilisation and social protection measures** such as temporary deferment or waivers of tax and social security payments, supportive financing conditions for economic actors, and direct financial support to help workers (including wage subsidies) and affected households, with particular attention to young people - necessitating increased social expenditure. Economic actors may need affordably priced credit and will need to reschedule repayments of loans.
- 4) **Supporting measures to boost network capacity**, including short-term measures, in order to **facilitate distant working, learning and socialising as well as** access to accurate information.
- 5) **Ensuring that companies regain ability to finance longer-term investments**, so that economies can recover in a green and inclusive mode.
- 6) **Ensuring the respect for human rights**, including labour rights, and democracy, with particular attention to education and the situation of women, girls and the most vulnerable.

In the **Western Balkans**, the EU has mobilised considerable support for the social and economic recovery amounting to **EUR 374.5 million** since the beginning of the crisis (EUR 46.5 million for Albania, EUR 73.5 million for Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUR 63 million for Kosovo, EUR 50 million for Montenegro, EUR 63 million for North Macedonia and EUR 78.5 million for Serbia). It will help to address the socio-economic impact of the outbreak in particular for the most affected businesses, including companies working in tourism and transportation sectors.

Common priority lines of action	EU contribution to Team Europe package (EUR million)
Supporting the urgent, short-term emergency response to humanitarian needs	502

alda@aldaintranet.org - www.alda-europe.eu

HEADQUARTERS IN STRASBOURG
c/o Council of Europe, office 1027
Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg, (FR)
Tel +33 (0) 390214593
Fax +33 (0) 388412751
aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN BRUSSELS
Rue de la Science, 14b
1000 Brussels (BE)
Tel: +32 2 880 37 28
aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN VICENZA
Viale Milano 66
36100 Vicenza, (IT)
Tel +39 0444540 146
Fax +39 0444 231043
aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN SKOPJE
Bld. Partizanski Odredi 15A 2/2
1000 Skopje, (MK)
Tel +389 (0) 2 6091 060

OFFICE IN SUBOTICA
c/o LDA Subotica
Trg cara Jovana Nenada 15
24000 Subotica, (SRB)
Tel/Fax +381 24 554587

Strengthening health systems	2,858
Economic and social consequences	12,281
TOTAL	15,641

2. TEAM EUROPE FOR GLOBAL PREPAREDNESS

Finding a way out of the current crisis relies as a matter of priority on the rapid deployment of effective diagnostics, vaccine and treatments. The EU will:

- a. Develop rapid coronavirus diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, quickly and at scale;
- b. Ensure sufficient supplies of protective equipment for health workers;
- c. Support the WHO to coordinate and prioritise efforts to the most vulnerable countries. Alongside the funding.

3. TEAM EUROPE FOR GLOBAL COORDINATION AN MULTILATERALISM

The EU will promote and lead a coordinated response on the multilateral front, notably in a joint coordination effort with the United Nations, the international financial institutions as well as the G7 and G20.

Finally, the EU shall promote **global cooperation in research and innovation**, working towards Open Science and Open Access of data and research results, as well as strengthening the existing multilateral platforms relevant for addressing pandemics.

alda@aldaintranet.org - www.alda-europe.eu

HEADQUARTERS IN STRASBOURG
c/o Council of Europe, office 1027
Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg, (FR)
Tel +33 (0) 390214593
Fax +33 (0) 388412751
aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN BRUSSELS
Rue de la Science, 14b
1000 Brussels (BE)
Tel: +32 2 880 37 28
aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN VICENZA
Viale Milano 66
36100 Vicenza, (IT)
Tel +39 0444540 146
Fax +39 0444 231043
aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN SKOPJE
Bld. Partizanski Odredi 15A 2/2
1000 Skopje, (MK)
Tel +389 (0) 2 6091 060

OFFICE IN SUBOTICA
c/o LDA Subotica
Trg cara Jovana Nenada 15
24000 Subotica, (SRB)
Tel/Fax +381 24 554587