

EUSDR Newsletter – JOINT EFFORTS FIGHTING COVID-19

Dear EUSDR Stakeholders,
Dear colleagues,

Europe is tested by the coronavirus outbreak in ways that would have been unthinkable only a few months ago. This crisis urges the European efforts to be directed to **saving lives and protecting livelihoods. The depth of this crisis requires unprecedented measures in scale, speed and solidarity. Few important measures are listed below.**

Kind regards & stay safe
Your DSP Team

€100 bn - Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE)

To keep people in jobs and businesses running, this new instrument will offer temporary support to help protect jobs and workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic. It will provide financial assistance of up to €100 billion in total.

The SURE instrument is just one element of the Commission's comprehensive strategy to protect citizens and mitigate the pandemic's severely negative socio-economic consequences.

Financial assistance under the SURE instrument will take the form of a loan from the EU to the Member States that request support.

More details: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_572

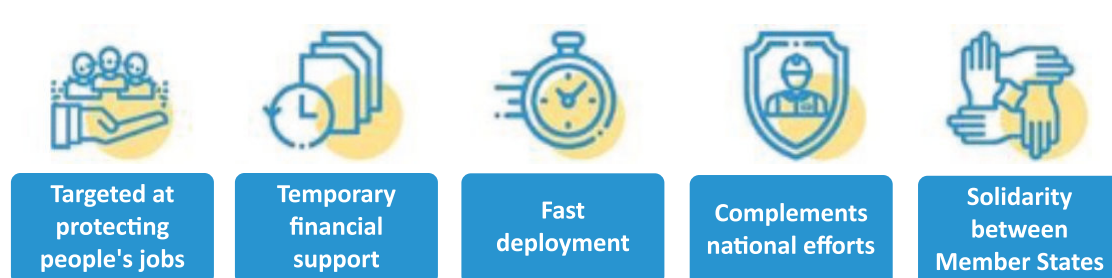


Photo: European Commission

State aid for each SMEs to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak

The COVID-19 pandemic urged countries to take immediate measures like social distancing, travel restrictions, quarantines and lock downs to shorten and limit the shock over societies and protect as many people as possible.

These measures have an immediate impact on both demand and supply and hit undertakings and employees, especially in the health, tourism, culture, retail and transport sectors.



Since these measures will have a disruptive impact on the economy of the Union as a whole, the European Commission provides temporary aid to help undertakings of all kinds facing a severe lack of liquidity. SMEs are at particular risk and are therefore provided immediate grants. The aid does not exceed €800,000 per undertaking in the form of direct grants, repayable advances, tax or payments advantages.

More details: https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/covid_19.html

The Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative



Photo: European Commission

€37 billion of cohesion policy money will strengthen healthcare systems, support SMEs, short-term employment schemes, and community-based services.

About €8 billion will come from unspent pre-financing in 2019 under the structural and cohesion funds. The new measure allows member states to spend unused money to mitigate the impact of the pandemic instead of returning it to the EU budget. Another €29 billion will be disbursed early from allocations which would have been due later this year.

More details: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/03/30-03-2020-coronavirus-response-investment-initiative-adopted

Artificial Intelligence vs COVID-19

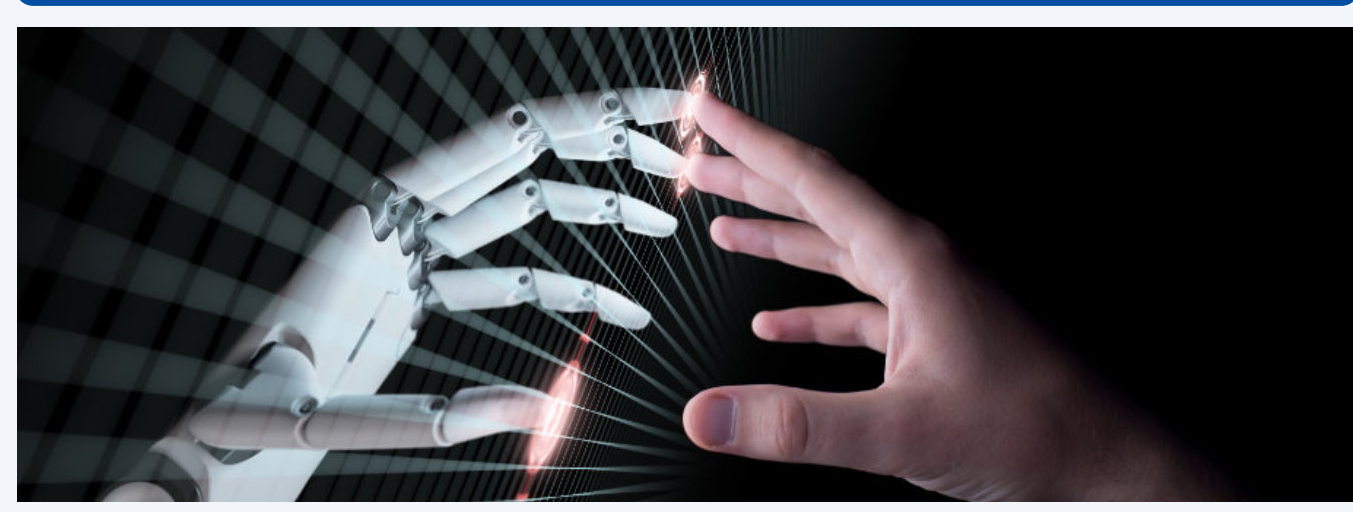


Photo: Shutterstock

The European Commission launches an initiative to collect ideas about deployable Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics solutions as well as information on other initiatives that could help face the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Sharing solutions, initiatives and ideas aim to create a unique repository that is easily accessible to all citizens, stakeholders and policymakers and become part of the common European response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

More details: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/join-ai-robotics-vs-covid-19-initiative-european-ai-alliance>

CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE – extraordinary call



An extraordinary call for proposals, amounting to €600,000 was launched for Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

All interested companies and persons should know that CEI decided on three eligible areas of intervention: healthcare and telemedicine (MED), education and e-learning/distance learning (EDU) as well as support to Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

Only applications received by April 9th will be considered!

More details: <https://www.cei.int/news/8809/covid-19-extraordinary-call-for-proposals-launched-600000-eur-for-projects-in-field-of-healthcare>

EU provides €93 million to Serbia to fight SARS-CoV-2



Photo: Shutterstock

The 93 million EUR package for Serbia to fight COVID-19 presented on Wednesday 25 March by Commissioner Várhelyi includes financial assistance for up to 15 million euros for immediate needs for the health system and 78 million euros for economic recovery, particularly for SMEs.

More details: <http://europa.rs/first-emergency-supplies-cargo-funded-by-the-eu-lands-in-nikola-tesla/?lang=en>

#staysafe & #stay updated

Only **powerful and flexible actions** can make things happen quickly! Keep your eye on the European response: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en#euactions



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