



28 May 2020



European Commission proposal to create a new recovery instrument, **Next Generation EU**.

Next Generation EU of €750 billion as well as targeted reinforcements to the long-term EU budget for 2021-2027 will bring the total financial firepower of the EU budget to €1.85 trillion

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_940

EU temporary instrument to help workers keep their jobs during the crisis definitively adopted.

SURE enables Member States to request EU financial support to help finance measures to mitigate **unemployment risks**.

SURE will become available after all Member States have provided their guarantees. The instrument will then be operational until 31 December 2022.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/19/covid-19-council-reaches-political-agreement-on-temporary-support-to-mitigate-unemployment-risks-in-an-emergency-sure/>

EC mobilises another €122 million from its **research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020**, for urgently needed research into the coronavirus.

The new call for expressions of interest is the latest addition to a range of EU-funded research and innovation actions to fight the coronavirus.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research-and-innovation_en

European Commission country-specific recommendations (CSRs) providing economic policy guidance to all EU Member States in the context of the coronavirus pandemic (**European Semester package**)

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_901

European Investment Bank (EIB) Board approved €25 billion Pan-European Guarantee Fund to respond to COVID-19 crisis

<https://www.eib.org/en/about/initiatives/covid-19-response/index.htm>

The **European Investment Bank** approved €3.4 billion of new financing to support companies most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and priority public health projects, alongside energy, transport, water and education projects across Europe and around the world

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-113-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-covid-19-health-and-business-resilience-energy-transport-and-education-investment#>

The European Parliament approved €3 billion in **loans** to support ten **neighbouring countries** deal with the fallout of COVID-19. The European Commission expects the first tranche to be disbursed in the autumn of 2020, and the second and final tranche in early 2021.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200511IPR78816/partner-countries-get-EU3bn-in-loans-to-prop-up-economies-affected-by-pandemic>

European Foundation for the Improvement of **Living and Working Conditions** (Eurofound) **COVID-19 EU PolicyWatch database**: measures, introduced by policymakers (governments, support institutions, social partners and other social actors) to mitigate the social and economic effects on businesses, workers and citizens

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/data/covid-19-eu-policywatch>

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (**ECDC**) launches new weekly **COVID-19 surveillance report**

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/surveillance/weekly-surveillance-report>

Transport measures - Council adopts temporary flexibility for licences in road, rail and waterborne transport and port services

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/20/covid-19-transport-measures-council-adopts-temporary-flexibility-for-licences-and-port-services/>



EFCA co-signs the European Business Services Alliance statement on good contracting practices. Unfair cancellations of services, unilaterally extended payment terms and imposed lower fee rates hamper the continuity of many companies that are essential for a gradual and safe economic recovery in Europe. Quality-based tendering is as essential as ever in this period.

<https://www.efca.be/news/efca-co-signs-european-business-services-alliance-statement-good-contracting-practices>

Third **EFCA** survey on the effects on the engineering consultancy industry of the Covid-19 pandemic and exit strategies is launched.

The results of the survey will be published early June.



FIDIC's Covid-19 webinar series: <https://fidic.org/node/29213>

Infrastructure Intelligence (UK) 'Coming out of Covid' webinar series
http://www.infrastructure-intelligence.com/article/may-2020/bookings-now-open-coming-out-covid-webinar-series?utm_medium=email&utm_source=transactional&utm_campaign=weekly-email

Downtown Index: evaluating how the construction industry is impacted by COVID-19 by tracking 150,000 machines across construction sites in 22 countries
<https://www.downtimeindex.com/>

Orgalim report, highlighting the impacts of COVID-19 on Europe's technology industries
<https://www.orgalim.eu/news/europes-technology-industries-hit-hard-coronavirus-most-vulnerable-time>

Guidance to local and central government agencies on **getting construction projects up and running quickly** following the COVID-19 disruption (New Zealand – Construction Sector Accord)
<https://www.constructionaccord.nz/assets/Construction-Accord/files/accord-rapid-mobilisation-models.pdf>

Donor Tracker Insights: How are donor countries responding to COVID-19? Early analyses and trends to watch
<https://donortracker.org/insights/how-are-donor-countries-responding-covid-19-early-analyses-and-trends-watch>

IEA (International Energy Agency) World Energy Investment 2020 report
<https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-investment-2020>

EU jobs at highest risk of Covid-19 social distancing
https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/6201_en.pdf