

COVID-19 pandemic in Europe

Step by step back to “normal”

Three months after lockdown measures, Europe slowly but surely steps back into “normal”. Many European countries, including Germany and France, are reopening facilities, borders, institutions, restaurants and hotels. Here’s a glimpse about the measures during the crisis in specific countries.

Country	Situation	Public health	Source
Data based on 12 June 2020; % = within the last 14 days thereof			
Spain 	242,280 cases (–38 %) Begin of May: Release of 7-week-lockdown Virus first confirmed to have spread: 31 January; lockdown imposed 14 March; 25 March: death toll surpassed that of mainland China – only Italy was higher; 2 April: 950 people died in a 24-hour period – the most by any country in a single day. As of 25 May, the daily death toll announced by the Spanish government has been below 100. Total deaths: 27,136; deaths/1M pop: 580	Insufficient public health system; in April with only 4,700 intensive care units; many DMD/MD infected because of lack of infection/hygiene protocol	WHO Wikipedia, ECDPC, Worldometer
Portugal 	35,910 cases (+32 %) Lockdown started 19 March; stay-at-home release: 4 May; the outbreak was reaching later than in Spain and Italy. Portugal is said to be one of the few success stories in Europe, however, the country is focussing slightly increase in infection since social distancing releases. Total deaths: 1,512; deaths/1M pop: 148	Lowest number of ICU in Europe; but well prepared; ICU increased by 35%; still enough ICU	WHO, Wikipedia, CGTN, Worldometer
Italy 	236,142 cases (–49 %) Since 21 February, Italy had reported rapid increase in cases; several clusters of cases in different regions in Northern Italy found. First lockdowns in Northern Italy. WHO said that for the first time the virus was spreading faster outside China. 25 % surge in 24 hours; Total deaths: 34,301; deaths/1M pop: 567 National lockdown 9 March; release 3 June	Health care system in Italy is a regionally based national health service. 1,822 ICU available to meet a need of 6,718 end of March. Due to lack of protection, a lot of medical personnel was infected.	Healthdata.org, WHO, Aljazeera, Wikipedia, Worldometer
France 	155,561 cases (–16 %) 24 January: first European COVID-19 case identified in Bordeaux, Lockdown 16 March, gradually released 11 May, however, many mayors opposed; health emergency extended to 24 July. Under 5 % of the total population of France, or around 2,8 million people, may have been infected; one of the hotspots: Alsace; Hospitals in Alsace were so full that the French Army had to set up a field hospital end of March. Total deaths: 29,398; deaths/1M pop: 450	France spends more on health than most of its developed-world peers: It has twice the number of intensive care beds that Italy has.	New York Times, Wikipedia, WHO
United Kingdom 	290,147 cases (–38 %) Lockdown 23 March, released 31 May. Pandemic spread in late January. Great Britain has the world’s second-highest death-rate per capita. Infection rate is higher in care homes than in the community. Total deaths: 41,662; deaths/1M pop: 614	In 2012 NHS (National Health System) provided 4,100 ICU, in 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic 1,247 units were available. During the peak on 14 April, 8,756 ICU were needed; the actual need: 1,505	Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO
Poland 	28,201 cases (+3 %) Lockdown-type control measures started on 10–12 March, loosening of restrictions on 20 April. On 20 March, the Ministry of Health tried to prevent medical personnel from commenting on the pandemic. Total deaths: 1,247; deaths/1M pop: 33	ICU needed 70; ICU available: 3,734	Worldometer, WHO, Wikipedia

Serbia 	12,102 cases (-13%) Stay-at-home order started 17 March and ended 7 May. Total deaths: 253; deaths/1M pop: 29	Stable situation: 78 ICU available, needed 0,5; peak on 30 April: 61 ICU needed	Worldometer, WHO, Wikipedia
Austria 	16,964 cases (-22%) Virus first confirmed to have spread: 25 February in Innsbruck. Two citizen have probably been infected during their visit in Northern Italy. Ischgl resort has been identified as a hotspot for COVID-19 after it was reportedly linked to hundreds of cases. Lockdown: 10 to 13 March, partial releases 30 April and 15 May Total deaths: 677; deaths/1M pop: 75	Stable healthcare situation: 469 ICU available; 10 needed: Peak of need: 8 April: 192	News-Sky, Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO
Germany 	185,674 cases (-29%) On 27 January, the first case in Germany was confirmed near Munich. The majority of cases in January and early February originated from the same automobile-parts manufacturer as the first case. Lockdown beginning: 22 March, releasing steps as of 6 May. According to Johns Hopkins University, Germany is among the 10 countries most affected by the virus worldwide, but has the lowest fatality rate. Total deaths: 8,867; deaths/1M pop: 106	Very stabile healthcare system: 5,383 ICU available; 211 needed; peak: 18 April: 1,982 ICU needed.	Businessinsider Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO,
Switzerland 	30,961 cases (-26%) Start of lockdown: 28 February; lockdown releases 27 April, 8 June The virus was confirmed to have spread to Switzerland on 25 February when the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed following a COVID-19 outbreak in Italy. In March, Switzerland was among the countries with the highest number of coronavirus disease cases per capita in the world Total deaths: 1,938; deaths/1M pop: 224	Low ICU rate: 215; needed 19; peak on 5 April: 524 needed	Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO
Greece 	3,088 cases (+34%) Lockdown begin of March; stay-at-home order ended 4 May. The measures put in place are among the most proactive and strictest in Europe and have been credited internationally for having slowed the spread of the disease and having kept the number of deaths among the lowest in Europe. Total deaths: 183; deaths/1M pop: 18	Sufficient ICU availability: 225; needed 5; peak on 1 April: 39 needed	Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO
Croatia 	2,249 cases (-83%) Lockdown start: 9 March, 3-step-release starting 27 April. According to Oxford University, as of 24 March, Croatia is the country with the world's strictest restrictions and measures for infection reduction in relation to the number of infected. On 22 March, Zagreb was hit by the strongest earthquake in 140 years, causing problems in enforcement of social distancing measures set out by the Government. Total deaths: 107; deaths/1M pop: 26	Stable healthcare system: 238 ICU available, 0 needed; peak on 23 April: 26 ICU needed	Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO
Netherlands 	48,251 cases (-7%) No stay-at-home order; "intelligent" measures as of 10 March in various steps; end: as of 6 May The virus was confirmed to have spread on 27 February, when its first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Tilburg. It involved a 56-year-old Dutchman who had arrived in the Netherlands from Italy. Total deaths: 6,059; deaths/1M pop: 354	Partly insufficient ICU availability: 603; 90 needed; peak on 8 April: 1,407 needed	Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO
Sweden 	48,288 cases (+76%) Unlike most European countries, Sweden has not imposed a lockdown and kept large parts of its society open. Public Health Agency issued recommendations. The virus was confirmed to have reached Sweden on 31 January, when a woman returning from Wuhan tested positive. The pandemic has put the healthcare system under severe strain, with tens of thousands of operations having been postponed. Total deaths: 4,874; deaths/1M pop: 483	Pandemic has put the Swedish healthcare system under severe strain. However, it was reported that hospitals could possibly double the number of ICU. ICU available: 692; needed 739, peak on 20 April: 835 needed	Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO
Turkey 	174,023 cases (-20%) No stay-at-home order; no business closings. Some lockdown measurements as of 16 March. Turkey surpassed China in confirmed total cases on 20 April 2020. The rapid increase of the confirmed cases in Turkey did not overburden the public healthcare system, and the preliminary case-fatality rate remained lower compared to many European countries. Total deaths: 4,792; deaths/1M pop: 57	Relatively high number of available ICU: 10,666, 197 needed; peak on 18 April: 1,265 needed.	Wikipedia, Worldometer, WHO