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Update on COVID-19 in North Macedonia - 55

In **North Macedonia**, from **Feb 26 to 22:00pm CEST, 2 June 2020**, there have been **2,391 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 with **141 deaths**.

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During the last 72 hours – Data as of 2 June 2020 22:00

- **Total tests performed (% positive)** : 710 (10.7%), 727 (12.2), 771 (8.0%), 1120 (3.1%) SARS-CoV-2 tests, on Tuesday, Monday, Sunday, and Saturday, respectively.
- **Targeted screening tests (number positive)** : 1147 (4) – three cases in kindergartens and one case in a patient in elderly home
- **New cases**: 76, 89, 62 and 35 new cases registered on each day, respectively
- **Recovered**: 79 COVID-19 patients
- **Fatalities**: 15 new COVID-19 deaths

Cumulative registered COVID-19 as of 2 June – **2391** (Incidence=115.1/100.000) – [see daily curve](#)

- **Cases among health workers**: **273 (11.5% of all cases)** of which 242 (88.6%) have recovered and one death case is registered.
- **Tests performed**: 31 187 SARS-CoV-2 tests. Daily testing capacity is between 300-700 tests.
- **Patients recovered**: 1595 COVID-19 patients.
- **Fatalities**: **141** COVID-19 fatalities (CFR 6.0%) are registered.
- **Gender distribution**: More women are infected with coronavirus than men (1148 and 1222 respectively). However, almost **68% of all deaths are men**.
- **Comorbidity**: 76% of death cases
- **Age distribution**: **Median age at infection: 44.4 years**; largest number of cases is in >60-year: 21.4%; >60-year: 64% of all deaths; but the highest age specific incidence of 172.3 / 100,000 is registered in the age group of 50-59 years (470 patients); 0-9-year: 101 confirmed COVID-19 cases; 10-19-year: 119 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

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NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EPI SITUATION

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (n=2315) and deaths (n=140) by 2 June 2020

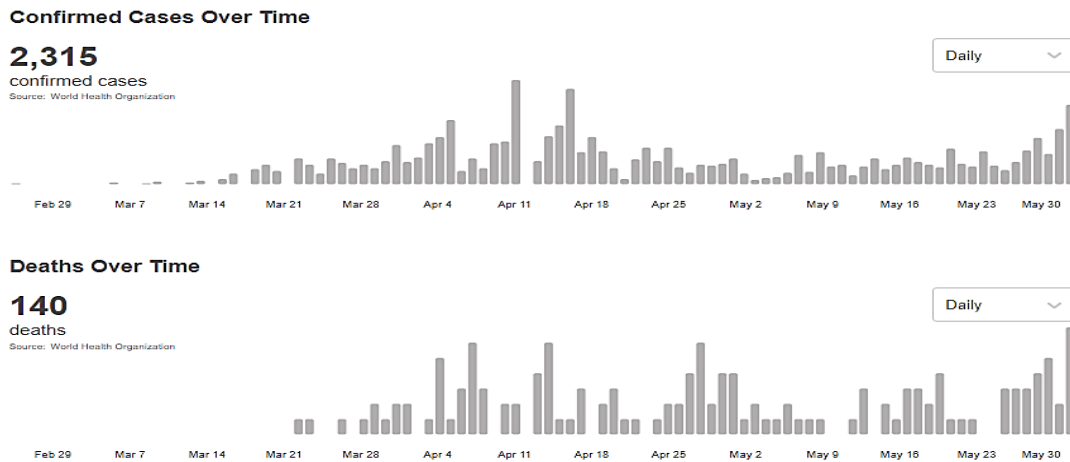
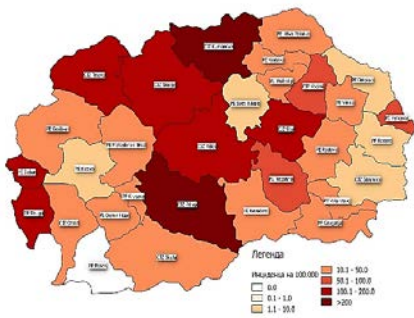
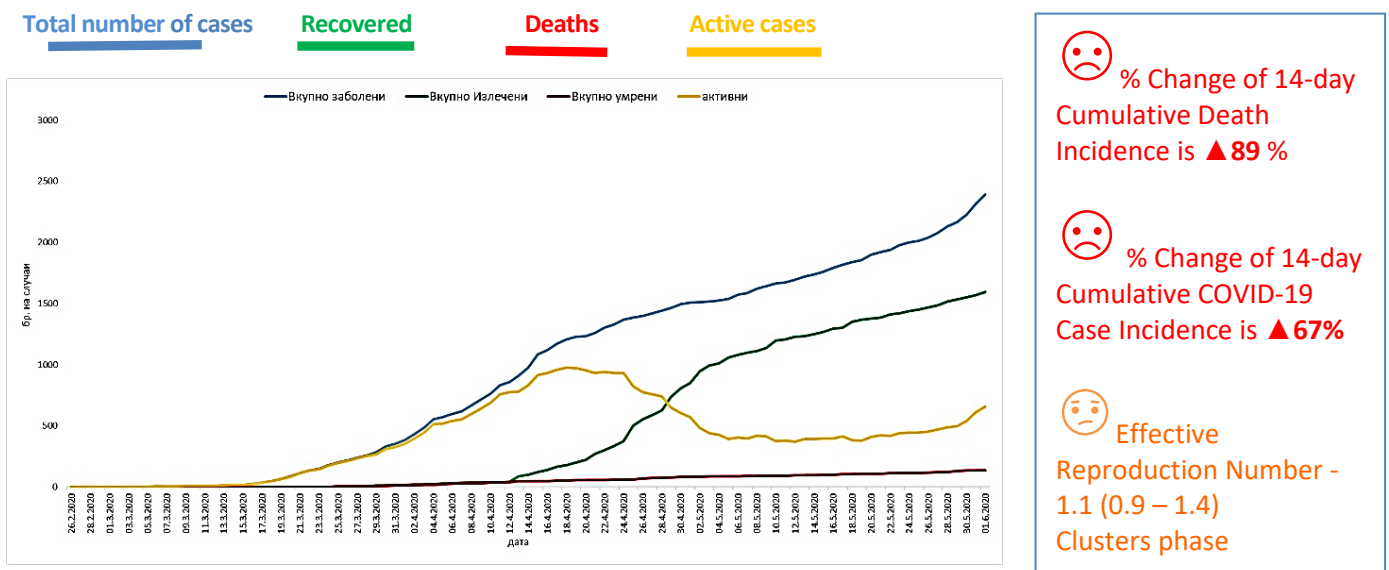


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, per city, as of 2 June 2020



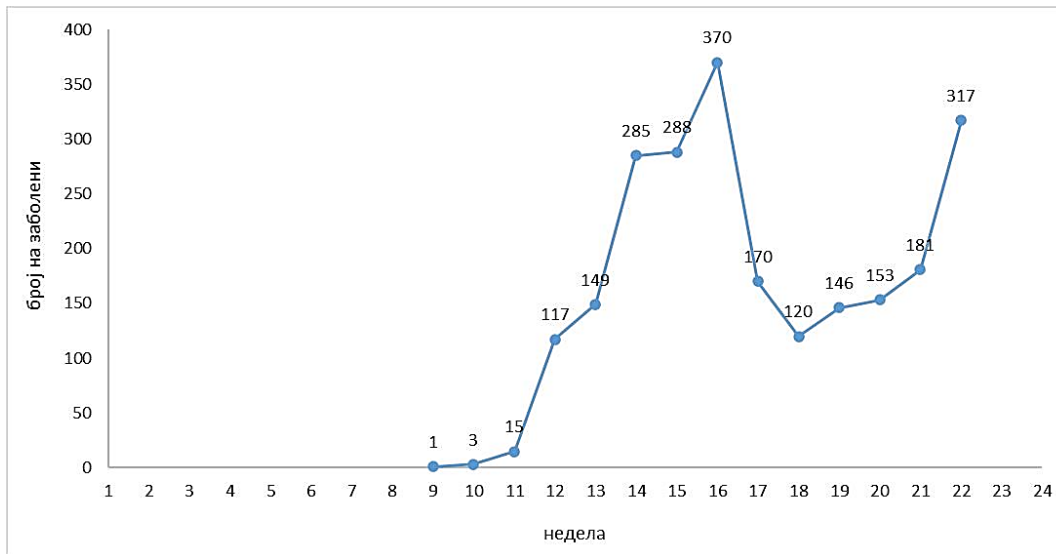
Geographic spread and deaths:
 COVID-19 cases are registered in 31 cities. The most affected city is Skopje with 928 cases.
 The highest cumulative incidence per 100,000 inhabitants is registered in Kumanovo with 328.7 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, Prilep (222.4 / 100,000), Veles (199.2 / 100,000), Shtip (197.4 / 100,000), Debar (183.8 / 100,000), Skopje (150.2 / 100,000), Struga (123.8 / 100,000) and Tetovo (115.6 / 100,000) while an incident with over 50 patients per 100,000 inhabitants was registered in Kocani, Pehchevo and Negotino. 82% of all deaths are registered in Skopje, Kumanovo, Tetovo, Struga, and Prilep.

Figure 3. North Macedonia – COVID-19 statistics as of 2 June (n=2391)



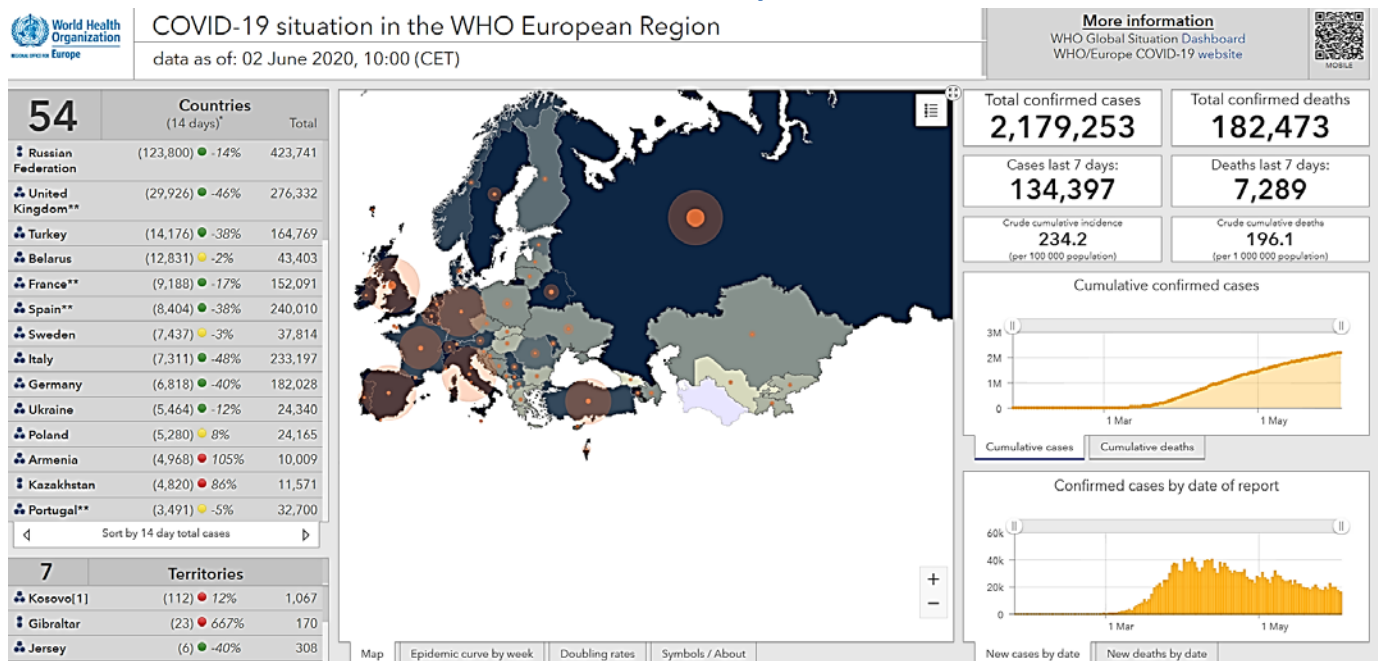
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Figure 4. Distribution of number of COVID-19 patients in North Macedonia by laboratory confirmation week as of 2 June 2020



New cases are registered continually since Week 11 in 2020. The peak was reached in Week 16 (n=370). Second peak forming at week 22

EUROPE COVID-19 SITUATION as of 2 June 2020 in last 7 days; www.covid19.who.int



Over the past 7 days:

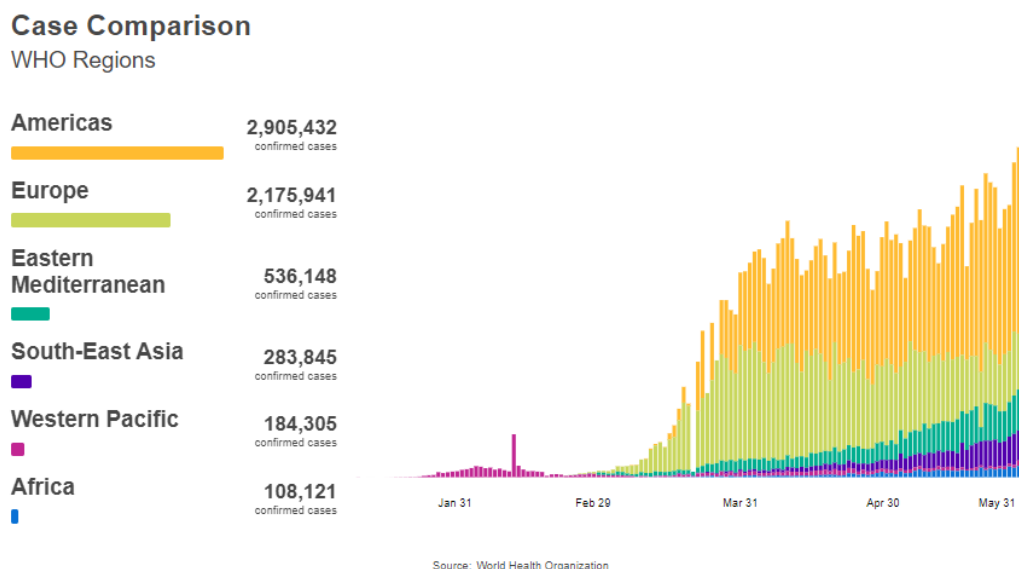
- Globally, COVID-19 continues to spread - taking only 9 days to increase from 5 to 6 million cases. **All WHO Regions (exception of EURO) are seeing increasing case trends.**
- the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom still **consistently reporting >1,000 cases daily**, with Russia close to 135,000 cases in the past 7 days.
- Cumulative cases across the Region **increased 6% to 2,179,253 cases** (from 2,044,856 cases on 26 May) and cumulative deaths increased by **4% to 182,473 deaths** (from 175,184 deaths on 26 May).

Increase in the number of new cases greater than 10% in the past two weeks: **Armenia (105%), Monaco (100% - low incidence), Kazakhstan (86%), Albania (80%), North Macedonia (67%), Azerbaijan (62%), Tajikistan (52%), Kyrgyzstan (51%), Uzbekistan (49%), Iceland (33% - very low incidence), Republic of Moldova (18%), Israel (17%).**

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- The situation in countries with the highest cumulative case count, mostly in Western Europe, seems to be stabilizing (e.g., Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom) with a consistent decline in the 14-day cumulative incidence.
- Countries reaching a plateau or an initial decrease included Poland, Belarus, Sweden, Portugal, Russian Federation, and Ukraine.

Figure 5: Comparison Epi curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 2 June 2020 for all WHO Regions



Situation in numbers (by WHO Region)

Total (new cases in last 24 hours)

	6 194 533 cases (113 198)	376 320 deaths (4 242)
Globally		
Africa	108 121 cases (3 879)	2 700 deaths (62)
Americas	2 905 432 cases (64 718)	163 248 deaths (1 820)
Eastern Mediterranean	536 148 cases (16 011)	12 899 deaths (272)
Europe	2 175 941 cases (16 150)	182 416 deaths (1 824)
South-East Asia	283 845 cases (11 333)	8 000 deaths (257)
Western Pacific	184 305 cases (1 107)	7 044 deaths (7)

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 HEALTH RESPONSE – in past 72 hours

Test, Trace and Isolate

- About 70% of all new cases came from already known clusters, especially from the Skopje municipalities of Chair and Saraj. Numbers increased in the two municipalities after the holiday Ramadan on May 24, which is celebrated with mass family gatherings.
- Six textile factories in Shtip are closed, 55 self-isolation orders are issued and nearly 600 workers are to be tested- 100 tests are completed so far. The large number of contacts of the infected are in 10 families.
- Mass testing for COVID-19 has started in five textile factories in Shtip, which have been shut down. Three teams of epidemiologists are carrying out the mass testing, a process which will cover 500 workers and is to be completed by June 6.

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- Five coronavirus cases were discovered in retirement homes in Skopje. So far Macedonia has been spared major outbreaks in these facilities which have claimed many lives in other countries. The cases were identified in privately owned homes managed by the same company in the north and the east of Skopje. In one case two female residents tested positive, and in the other – three employees.
- Representatives of the Football Federation of North Macedonia and members of the Commission for Infectious Diseases have decided to test all athletes and all persons involved in the training sessions ahead of the season restart. The Public Health Institute will do the required testing. Individual sports such as tennis has restarted.

Public Health Measures

- MOH is monitoring the figures in the coming period and will propose in the coming days potential localized quarantines. Health Minister stated that the **restriction measures can return to some areas** if the epidemiologic state demands such actions. This was concluded after the Infectious Diseases Committee meeting and they will carefully monitor the situation in the upcoming days. According to Minister Filipce the fact that citizens do not respect the recommended measures of wearing masks and keeping distance is concerning, as well as disobeying isolation and quarantine orders, group gatherings, providing false information and addresses and so on. He announced harsher controls and requested higher involvement and sanctions by MoI.
- The free public transport for the retired people is canceled. The maximum occupancy of the public transport must be up to 50% of the capacity of the vehicles. With the new changes, companies providing public transport services on the territory of Macedonia must limit the number of passengers in the vehicles to 50 % of the total capacity. Besides this, all passengers and drivers are obliged to wear protective equipment over their faces, like masks, scarves etc., and all vehicles must be disinfected more often.
- All public administration employees are back to work starting with Tuesday 2 June 2020. This regulation excludes employees in education institutions like schools and kindergartens. **All chronically ill people, as well as those with disabilities, pregnant women, single parents, those with children under 10 or children with disabilities remain relieved from work** due to the coronavirus pandemic but are encouraged to work from home, if possible.
- Director of the State Market Inspectorate informed that inspectors encountered significant problems when trying to control the **work of restaurants and cafés under the new conditions and protocols**, after they were reopened last Thursday. These businesses were closed for 66 days due to the governmental measures against spreading of the COVID-19.
- 614 people are issued isolation orders and 192 signed self-isolation statements. 1843 people were caught without mandatory protective equipment.
- The Government adopted yesterday a **Protocol on preventive measures for all jobs**, aimed at hindering the COVID-19 transmission. These preventive measures are binding for all persons in the workplace – employers, managers, employees, contractors, clients and guests. The protocol incorporates measures relating to personal hygiene and protective equipment, recommendations for respiratory hygiene and physical distancing in the premises, as well as reducing work-related travel along with specific organization when they are a necessity. The protocol also includes recommendations and measures for regular cleaning and disinfection of the work environment, continual communication, training and education on risks, as well as management of staff who show COVID-19 like symptoms.

State of Emergency Extended for Another 14 Days. The President declared on Saturday the extension of the state of emergency by another 14 days to June 13 due to the recent increase in coronavirus cases in the country.

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Borders and Travel:

- Health Minister informed on Monday that it's still too early to reopen borders, adding that authorities are monitoring the situation and will base all future decisions on available data.
- The Montenegrin authorities decided to exclude North Macedonia from a list of countries whose citizens are allowed to enter Montenegro without the mandatory 14-day quarantine due to the high number of newly infected in North Macedonia.
- In brief, borders condition at present:
 - As of 16 March, only citizens of North Macedonia are allowed entry into country. The following categories of foreign citizens are exempt from this restriction: foreign citizens with permanent, long-term stay on the territory of the country and their family members; freight vehicle personnel; diplomatic corps representatives; and others with special permission from the Ministry of Interior. Travelers on official travel transiting through North Macedonia should leave the territory within three hours.
 - As of 27 May, protocol was adopted for foreign diplomats accredited in the country and members of their families: If they submit a medical certificate for negative PCR test made in the last 72 hours while entering the Republic of North Macedonia, they will be able to perform their work smoothly and immediately, without referring to domestic self-isolation.
 - As of 27 May, the mandatory 14-days state quarantine for the citizens of North Macedonia returning from abroad with humanitarian flights or convoys, is replaced by domestic isolation if the persons entering the country submit a negative PCR test for coronavirus, made in the last 72 hours before entrance.
 - All persons who are conducted in state quarantine facilities, at their own expense, can take a PCR test in the facility where they are accommodated and if they have a negative result to be referred to home self-isolation.
 - Border crossings of neighboring countries are closed with exception of Serbia and Albania.

Border-crossing Conditions

COVID-19 border crossing restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of coronavirus:

North Macedonia: As of 16 March, [ALL border crossings have been closed for foreign citizens](#) except for freight vehicles, diplomatic corps representatives and others with special permission from the Ministry of Interior. The exception is also for foreign citizens with permanent, long-term stay on the territory of the country and their family members. Only citizens and legal residents of North Macedonia are allowed entry into the country. For Macedonian citizens, all border crossings for exit from the country are closed.

Albania: As per government's decision all BCPs to North Macedonia are fully closed for all vehicles and passengers. Albania's land border will be open only for the transportation of goods and return of Albanian citizens. [Officials announced that they will reopen Albania's land borders with Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro to enter the country for tourism purposes beginning on 1 June. Confirm viability of entry into Albania before departure. Follow all official directives.](#)

Serbia: [Government adopted the proposal of the Crisis Headquarters to open border crossings and free entry into Serbia starting from May 22, without the necessary negative coronavirus test or special permit to enter Serbia for both domestic and foreign nationals. All persons entering the territory of Serbia will be issued health warnings stating that they are entering the territory where the corona virus is still circulating, as well as the guidelines to prevent infection. Thus the border crossings with North Macedonia are open from Serbian side.](#)

Bulgaria: Government closed the country's borders with North Macedonia for all vehicles and passengers with the exception of the transfer of goods and entry into Bulgaria for those who hold Bulgarian or reside in the country. Citizens from these EU Member States and Schengen countries and their family members are allowed to transit through the territory of Bulgaria in order to return to their country of residence.

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Greece: Government closed the country's borders with North Macedonia for all vehicles and passengers with the exception of the transfer of goods and entry into Greece for those who hold Greek citizenship or reside in the country. Also all air traffic with North Macedonia is closed. [Travellers from multiple countries including North Macedonia will be granted entry from 15 June. Travelers from hard hit corona countries will be denied entry until at least 1 July. Confirm viability of entry.](#)

Kosovo: Government closed the country's borders with North Macedonia for all vehicles and passengers with the exception of the transfer of goods. Only open border crossing point in Kosovo, BCP Blace will be open only for return of Kosovo citizens and transport of goods.

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- ILO: 1 of 6 Young People Lost Jobs Because of COVID-19 Crisis:** A research conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) reveals that one out of six young people lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 crisis, while the working hours of these that remained at their job positions were reduced by 23 %.

ILO Press released mentioned the following: *“At 13.6 %, the unemployment rate of young people in 2019 was greater than that of any other group. Even before the crisis, more than 267 million young people were not in employment, education or training (NEET), including almost 68 million unemployed young people. Testing and tracing for COVID-19 can help to reduce working hour losses by as much as 50 %. An estimated 4.8 per cent of working hours were lost during the first quarter of 2020 (equivalent to approximately 135 million fulltime jobs, assuming a 48-hour working week and using the updated baseline), relative to the fourth quarter of 2019. Widespread testing and tracing enable countries to better utilize information and rely less on severely restrictive measures (public health policy channel) and, at the same time, helps to generate and maintain the public confidence necessary for economic activity (economic confidence channel). Testing and tracing can also help to minimize disruptions in operations at workplaces (workplace operations channel)”.*
- The Organisation of Employers (ORM) conducted a **research among companies** in order to determine their current condition and how they deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. “Of all companies that responded, only 4 % said they face no significant problems because of the healthcare crisis. A quarter of respondents said losses and damages to their businesses range between 0 % and 20 % of the total production and incomes, while the rest of the companies face damages between 20 % and 50 %. Also, 8 % of business owners said they were forced to shut down their businesses”.
- The Government of North Macedonia will provide **financial aid for all broadcasters** with money from the COVID19 Crisis Relief Fund in order to help them cover their expenses i.e. fees for the year 2020 towards the operator of the digital terrestrial multiplex, an information shared by the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MISA). The total sum planned for this purpose is 31.732.390,00 MKD or 515.974,00 EUR. The funds will be paid on basis of reports about the dues that will be submitted by the operator of the digital terrestrial multiplex. All national, regional and local televisions will be assisted, more specifically concerning digitization, an aspect seen as especially important and often necessary for uninterrupted functioning during this situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- The government of North Macedonia will provide **financial support for independent film workers**. Film workers will receive a monthly payment of 14,500 MKD (approx. 250 EUR) going back to the months of March and April 2020. So far, support was given for 27 film projects that are completed or in the process of completion to be used to cover contractual costs towards freelancers and others. The Film Agency and the Macedonian Film Professionals’ Association have formed a joint commission to find a way to give direct compensation for film workers. The North Macedonia Film Agency is also actively preparing basic safety guidelines for filming.
- The **State Budget revenues** for May 2020 stand at 12.7 billion denars and are by 24 % lower than in May 2019.

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The **budget expenditures** have increased by 7.9 % compared with May 2019, with capital expenditures registering a mild increase of 1.6 %.

- The Government adopted the Decree with legal force for taking a **loan from the EU in the amount of 160 million euros** through the instrument Macro-financial support for dealing with the consequences by COVID-19 during the state of emergency.
- The World Bank's projections are that the **poverty rate in North Macedonia** will rise from about 17% in 2019 to 20-23% in 2020 and between 55,000 to over 130,000 citizens would fall into poverty, depending on whether the crisis will last one or two quarters.
- 2,759 young people were paid 8.9 million denars for **the measure for the youth guarantee** for April 2020. This measure focuses on young people up to the age of 23 which work or were recently employed in productional facilities around the country and provides them with additional income of 3,000 denars per month to the salary they are paid. In the past 5 months, 3,061 citizens applied for and used this measure, and the majority of them (810) are employed in productional facilities of companies producing and supplying electronic equipment.
- **The Public Revenue Office (PRO)** will not issue resolutions for forced payment of taxes from business subjects for the months May and June 2020. This is an addition to a previous regulation which enforced the same resolution for March and April. This regulation is adopted in order to aid businesses to deal better with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government also adopted the changes to the regulations for stating of liquidation processes for companies during the time of state of emergency in the country, prolonging the previous regulation that prevented the opening of liquidation procedures till 30 June 2020.
- The Municipalities of Gazi Baba and Gjorce Petrov decided to **temporary suspend the fees for kindergarten day-care** calculated from March 2020 till the end of the state of emergency, for as long as it will last. This means that parents of children which attend kindergartens are not obliged to pay the fees for day-care. From the local self-government of these two municipalities they state that with this measure they want to help the citizens bear the negative economic consequences from the COVID-19 crisis.
- **The industrial production** volume index in April 2020, in comparison with April 2019, was 66.5. The industrial production in the section Mining and quarrying in April 2020, in comparison with April 2019, decreased by 17 %, in the section Manufacturing it decreased by 40.5 %, while in the section Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply it decreased by 1.1 %. The decrease in the section Manufacturing is mostly due to decreased production in the divisions, Manufacture of food products, Manufacture of beverages, Manufacture of tobacco products, Manufacture of textiles, Manufacture of wearing apparel, Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, Manufacture of basic metals, Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment, Manufacture of electrical equipment, Manufacture of machinery and equipment and Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers. The industrial production by Main Industrial Groupings in April 2020, in comparison with April 2019, was lower in Energy by 8.4 %, Intermediate goods, except energy by 22 %, Capital goods by 70.8 %, Durable consumer goods by 48.3 % and Non-durable consumer goods by 28.5 %. The industrial production index in the period January - April 2020, in comparison with January - April 2019, was 88.8.
- **The index of the number of employees in industry** in April 2020, in comparison with April 2019, was 94.9. The number of employees in industry in the section Mining and quarrying in April 2020, in comparison with April 2019, decreased by 1.3 %, in the section Manufacturing it decreased by 5.5 % and in the section Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply it decreased by 0.6 %. The number of employees in industry by Main Industrial Groupings in April 2020, in comparison with April 2019, was lower in Energy by 0.7 %, Intermediate goods, except energy by 6 %, Capital goods by 1 %, Durable consumer goods by 9.2 % and Non-durable consumer goods by 6.8 %. The index of the number of employees in industry in the period January - April 2020, in comparison

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with January - April 2019, was 96.0.

- **Job vacancies.** According to the data of the State Statistical Office, in the first quarter of 2020, the job vacancy rate was 1.81 %. The job vacancy rate was highest in section N – Administrative and support service activities, 4.1 %, while the lowest rate was registered in section P - Education, 0.47 %. Business entities with 10-49 employees had the highest job vacancy rate of 2.22 %. The Southeast Region had the highest job vacancy rate at 2.8 %. The highest number of job vacancies, 2,878, was recorded in the fifth group of occupations - Service and sales workers.
- **Foreign direct investment (FDI)** into North Macedonia totaled 137.3 million euro (\$152.9 million) in the first quarter of 2020, compared to a negative net inflow of 21.6 million euro in the like period of 2019, central bank data showed on Friday. In March alone, FDI into Macedonia amounted to 108.17 million euro, as compared to an FDI inflow of 140,000 euro in March 2019, according to central bank data. The increase in FDI in the first quarter of 2020 is due to an increase in the net inflows of all components, including the reinvestment of earnings by 86.3 million euro, the intercompany lending by 30.5 million euro, and the net-inflows based on equity by 20.5 million euro, the central bank said. In 2019, FDI into Macedonia totaled 326.26 million euro.
- **Gasoline prices are reduced by half a denar.** In the next 7 days EUROSHUPER 95 will be sold at a price of 57 denars per liter, EUROSUPER 98 at a price of 59 denars per liter and the new price of diesel will be 49 denar per liter.
- **Skopje Municipality Opens Public Call for Subsidies for Bicycles, Electric Scooters:** City of Skopje opened application for subsidies for procurement of bicycles and electric scooters. The City of Skopje opened the public call on 1 June 2020, and will provide subsidies for newly procured bicycles and electric scooters, covering up to 50 % of the cost but not more than 3,000 denars for bicycles and not more than 7,000 denars for electric scooters. The total budget for this project is 10 million denars, and is provided to applicants by the principle first come first serve.
- **Wizz Air to Establish Airline Skopje-Salzburg:** The airline will operate twice a week and will be put into function on **3 July 2020**.

SUPPORT TO NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EMERGENCY

- **Canada** to donate CAD 250,000 to North Macedonia as assistance in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On occasion the Day of Milk (1 June) dairy factory “**BiMilk**” handed over a donation of milk products to the Institute for Rehabilitation of Children and Young People in Skopje.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WHO NORTH MACEDONIA ACTION IN COVID-19 TIMES

- Weekly Laboratory Workshop was held on 1 June on the topic “Sequencing”, presented by Vitor Borges, National Institute of Health, Lisbon, Portugal.

WHAT IS [NEW]?

DG's Statement – WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 – 01 June can be accessed in full [Here](#). Dr. Tedros' key messages focused on:

- Ensuring coordination and development of new ways to deliver care while limiting visits to health facilities is key to keeping people safe and ensuring health systems are not overburdened.
- WHO conducted a rapid assessment of service delivery for NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic with 155 countries submitting data.

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- The results show that more than half of the countries surveyed have partially or completely disrupted services for treatment of hypertension; half for treatment of diabetes and related complications; and 42% for cancer treatment, and 31% for cardiovascular emergencies.
- The COVID-19 response must be inclusive of the health-care needs of people living with noncommunicable diseases.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increased use of antibiotics, which ultimately will lead to higher bacterial resistance rates that will impact the burden of disease and deaths during the pandemic and beyond.

Research and Development

- The **Global Vaccine Summit 2020** (Gavi Replenishment), will be held virtually on Thursday 4 June 2020, 14:00 – 17:30 GENEVA. The UK, under the leadership of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, is the host of this replenishment. WHO will be represented by Dr Tedros in the event. The event can be followed through the live mainstreaming of the event and for which the link will be shared with you in advance of the Summit start. In view of the COVID-19 Pandemic and recent launch of the ACT, the importance of accelerating equitable access to a future COVID-19 vaccine will part of the discussion. Gavi plans to follow with additional funding asks following this replenishment, specifically for the ACT related work on vaccines. More details available [Here](#).

Laboratories

- **Distribution of primers and probes:** WHO Regional office for Europe is preparing for 5th round of distribution of assays for COVID-19 diagnostics for distribution (primers, probes, positive control). These assays are based on Charite protocol and commercially manufactured by TIB-Molbiol. They target E gene and RdRP gene and each assay is for 96 tests performance. North Macedonia is beneficiary.

Clinical Management

- The latest **FAQ related to the International Guidelines for Certification and Classification (coding) of COVID-19 as cause of death** has been published, **see attached**. The questions fall into four categories:
 - What is a COVID-19 death? How is death due to COVID-19 defined?
 - Guidelines for reporting
 - Underlying conditions and risk factors
 - Accidents and injuries

The Complete WHO Coding Guidelines for Mortality reporting, including guidance for the completion of certified deaths can be found [here](#). For more detailed information on Emergency use ICD codes for COVID-19 disease outbreak please click [here](#)

- The latest **Status report from the National Medical Associations** is now available [Here](#). This report provides an overview of the national responses to the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe and the medical profession's involvement in the fight against the COVID-19.
- A **Case Report Form for suspected cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS) in children and adolescents temporally related to COVID-19** was recently published (available [Here](#)).

Public Health Measures

- The updated version of the general guidance entitled **Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19** was published. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to host governments, health authorities and national or international organizers of mass gatherings on containing risks of COVID-19 transmission associated with mass gathering events. This updated version reflects the evolution of the pandemic and the most recent WHO recommendations on COVID-19. The document is available here: [Here](#)

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Vulnerable Populations

- **FIFA, WHO, and the European Commission have joined forces to launch the #SafeHome** campaign to support women and children at risk of domestic violence. The campaign is a joint response from the three institutions to the recent spikes in reports of domestic violence as stay-at-home measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have put women and children experiencing abuse at greater risk. Read more [Here](#). The five-part video awareness campaign features 15 past and present footballers who have stressed their support to addressing this critical issue.

Points of Entry

- The **ICAO recovery task force** has adopted a report and a take-off document for restarting international air transport system during a council meeting taking place on 1 Jun. The take-off document contains airport, aircraft, crew and cargo modules with guidance for risk mitigation measures. Please find the published guidelines [Here](#) and the report [Here](#).

Health Systems

- Updated interim guidance on **Maintaining essential health services: operational guidance for the COVID-19 context** was recently published (available [Here](#)). This document expands on the content of pillar 9 of the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan, supersedes the earlier Operational guidance for maintaining essential health services during an outbreak, and complements the recently-released Community-based health care, including outreach and campaigns, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended for decision-makers and managers at the national and subnational levels.
- A WHO news story on how **COVID-19 significantly impacts health services for noncommunicable diseases** was recently published [Here](#). Prevention and treatment services for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) have been severely disrupted since the COVID-19 pandemic began, according to a WHO survey released today. The survey, which was completed by 155 countries during a 3-week period in May, confirmed that the impact is global, but that low-income countries are most affected.
 - **Rapid assessment of service delivery for NCDs during the COVID-19 pandemic** is available [Here](#)

Journal Articles

- A Lancet article on **Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis** was recently published and is available [Here](#). Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) causes COVID-19 and is spread person-to-person through close contact. The study aimed to investigate the effects of physical distance, face masks, and eye protection on virus transmission in health-care and non-health-care (eg, community) settings.

Other WHO news

- **Solidarity call to action:** As a complement to the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, WHO called on key stakeholders and the global community to commit to undertaking the following actions which are urgently needed to advance the pooling of knowledge, intellectual property and data that will benefit all of humanity. Read more about the solidarity call to action [Here](#) and [Here](#).