

Game Setting & Teams

Philosophy, Economics and Politics: Current Debates 2021
Jaromír Baxa, Vilém Semerák (IES FSV UK)

Game Setting

Since 2020, the EU member states have to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact differs across countries and seems to be affected by the policy responses.

The responses were mainly national: lockdowns, border closures and other measures aimed to mitigate the pandemic were imposed at the national level, with little coordination across the EU.

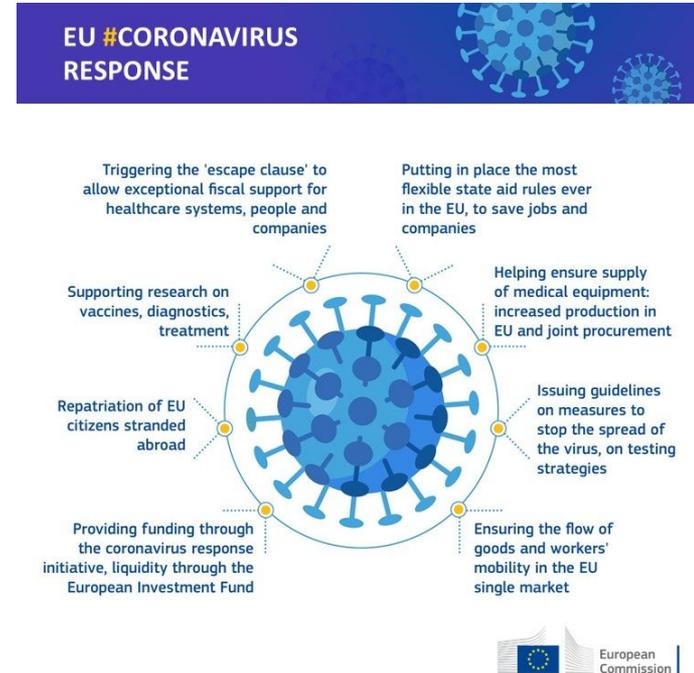
Division of competences in health policy is set out in Article 168 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (TFEU): Whilst the Member States are responsible for the functioning of their health systems, there are specific areas where the EU can legislate, and others where the Commission can support Member States' efforts. The EU is supposed to encourage cooperation between the member states.

Game setting

The COVID-19 pandemics revealed the limitations of the EU integration:

- Limited cooperation of member states
- Diverse success in the containment of pandemics and in the progress of vaccination which should deliver collective immunity
- Limited capacity of the EC to deliver common approach

Still, the EU Coronavirus response facilitated state aid and exceptional fiscal support for healthcare and helped to ensure supply of medical equipment + large stimulus package negotiated.



Goal of the Game

The European Commission already started to prepare for the future pandemics:

[Next Generation EU Communication](#) from the Commission to the EP, EC, Council... set the main policy aims.

[Report](#) Improving pandemic preparedness and management: Ch. 7 summarizes the EU policy response since the beginning of the pandemic.

[EU4Health](#) Programme (€9.4 billion allocated); with a proposal for regulation already drafted:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52020PC0405>

[Draft Council recommendation](#) on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement.

Goal of the Game

Is the EU4Health Policy proposal sufficient?

Shall there be common EU health policy, and shall there be a solidarity with vaccination distribution in the EU?

How to avoid border closures? Or shall we live with them?

Vaccination passports. Do we need them? Can we give passports to those who were vaccinated with doses that were not approved by the EMA?

Conditionality of EU funding upon compliance with EU-wide rules?

Teams

European Commission. Drafted several proposals, might seek for more powers. Willing to reach a united position among the EU member states.

Lea Sophie Anton, Jan Nykl, Mitsubaka Miura, Claudia Perucha Martínez-Atienza, Yixiang Huang

Germany. Concerned about proper functioning of the Single Market. Likely could negotiate better terms with vaccine producers on its own. Manages pandemic comparably well.

Eira Cornelia Harvik-Wright, Tomáš Kovářik, Ola Dragi Rakchevich, Ismayil Ismailov

France. Wants strong Europe. Somewhat upset on CEE countries - knowing they wouldn't be able to secure doses at favourable conditions.

Nikola Tasic, Anirudh Bharadwaj Muralidhara, Michael Segeća, Emina Balota

Czech Republic and Hungary. V4 countries do not manage the pandemic well, in particular the Czech Republic is doing badly. Harmed by border closures. Open to vaccines from Russia and China.

Sebastian Kiehl, Bixente Vanoosthuyse, Anja Spaić, Marina Ramos Luque

Greece and Spain. Both countries depend on tourism, support the idea of vaccination passports.

Nadiia Rakiv, Smriti Gupta, Miranda Borges Riera, Sajaia Tamuna

Good Luck!