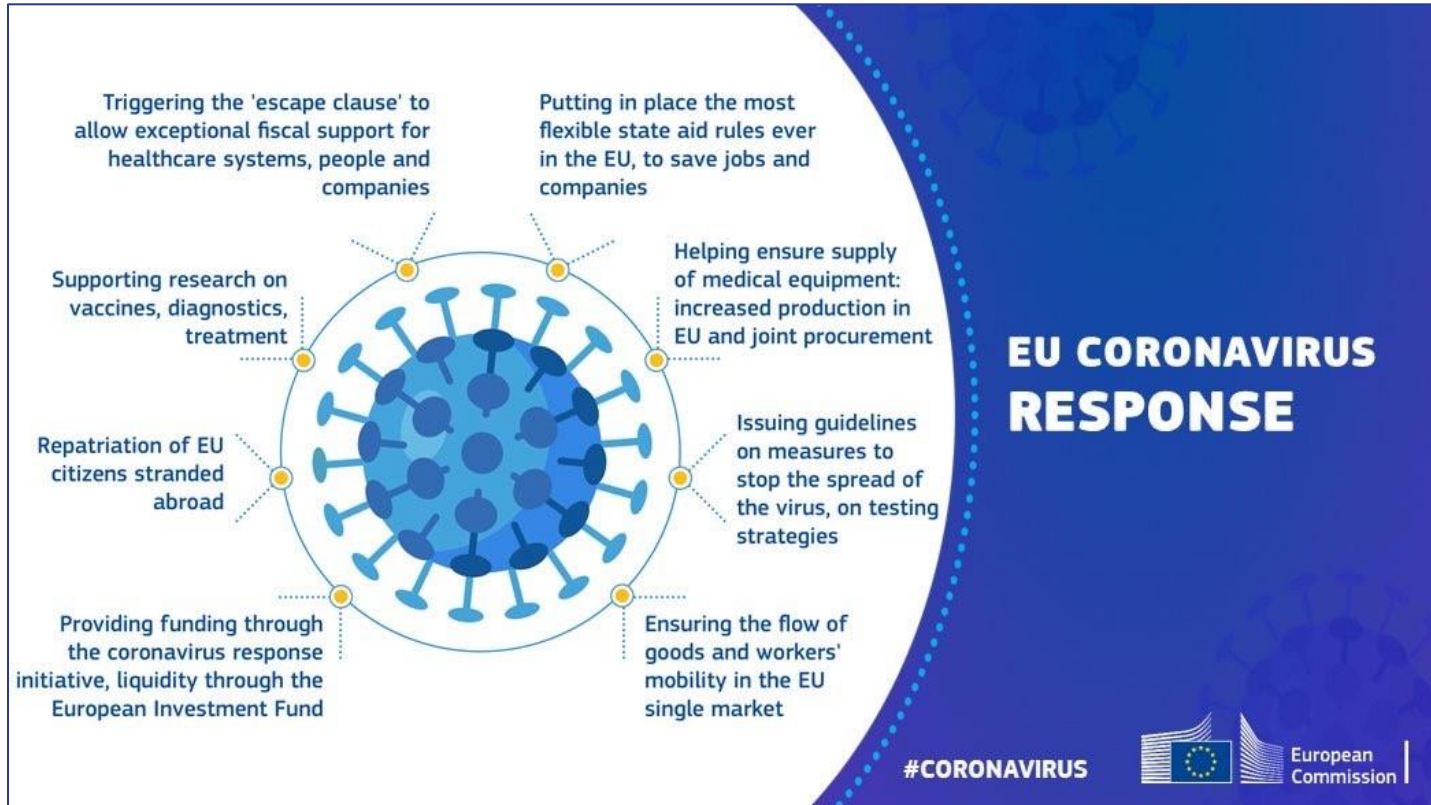


COVID-19 in the EU

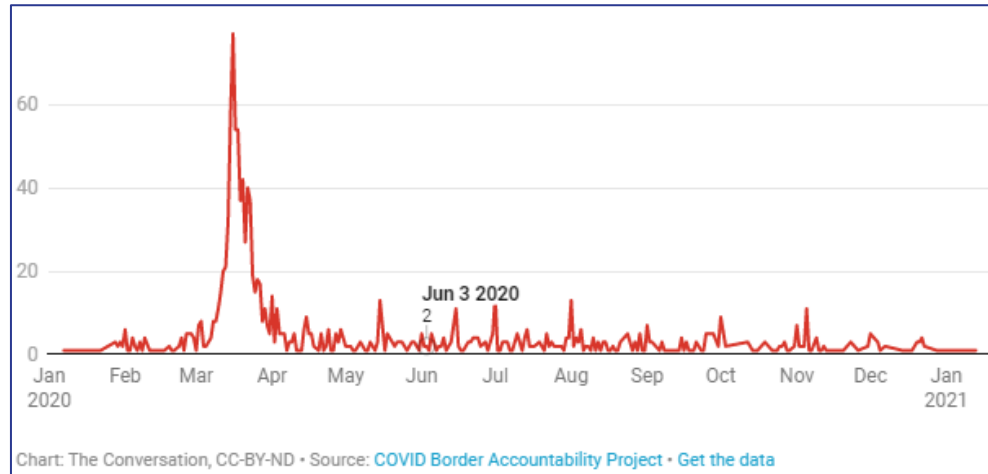
Valerija, Nira and Emma





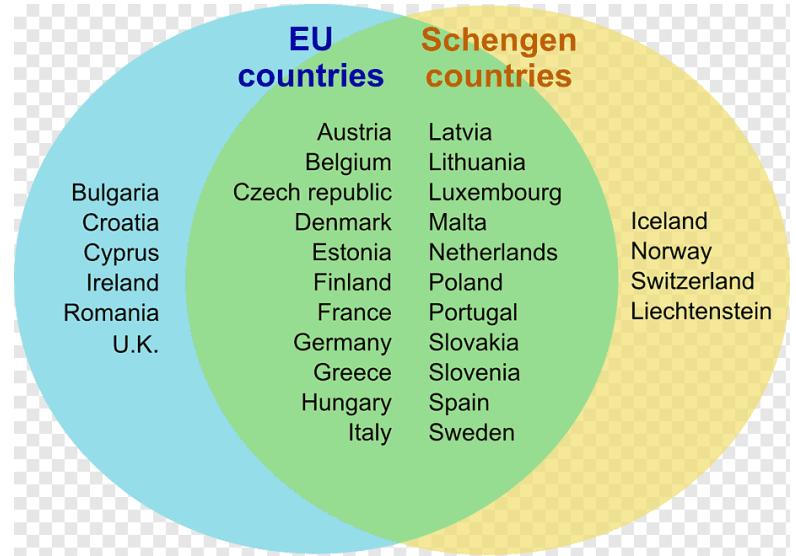
COVID-19

- ❑ WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic
- ❑ This led to border restrictions in Europe
- ❑ March 2020, 18 EU countries within Schengen Area introduced border restrictions



Schengen Agreement

- ❑ 14 June, 1985
- ❑ Free travel area without restrictions
- ❑ Able to temporarily introduce border control
- ❑ Border restrictions have had big impact
- ❑ Schengen Agreement not resilient to a crisis




EU Digital Covid Certificate

- ❑ Vaccination, test, recovery certificates
- ❑ Possibility to travel through the EU again
- ❑ Threats related to human rights



The European Strategy

The strategy has the following objectives:

- ❑ Ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of vaccines.
 - ❑ Securing swift access to vaccines for Member States and their populations while leading the global solidarity effort.
 - ❑ Ensuring equitable access to an affordable vaccine as early as possible.
- 

Commission Decision on 18.06.2020.

- (2) On 12 June 2020 the Council of Ministers for Health agreed on the need for joint action to support the development and deployment of a safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19 by securing rapid, sufficient and equitable supplies for Member States.
- (3) In order to implement such action, the Commission has offered to run a single central procurement procedure on behalf of all Member States, with a view to signing EU-level Advance Purchase Agreements (“APAs”) with vaccine manufacturers. Those APAs would include up-front EU financing to de-risk essential investments in order to increase the speed and scale of manufacturing successful vaccines (“Vaccine Instrument”). In return, the APAs would provide the right – or under specific circumstances the obligation – to Participating Member States to buy a specific number of vaccine doses within a given timeframe and at a given price.

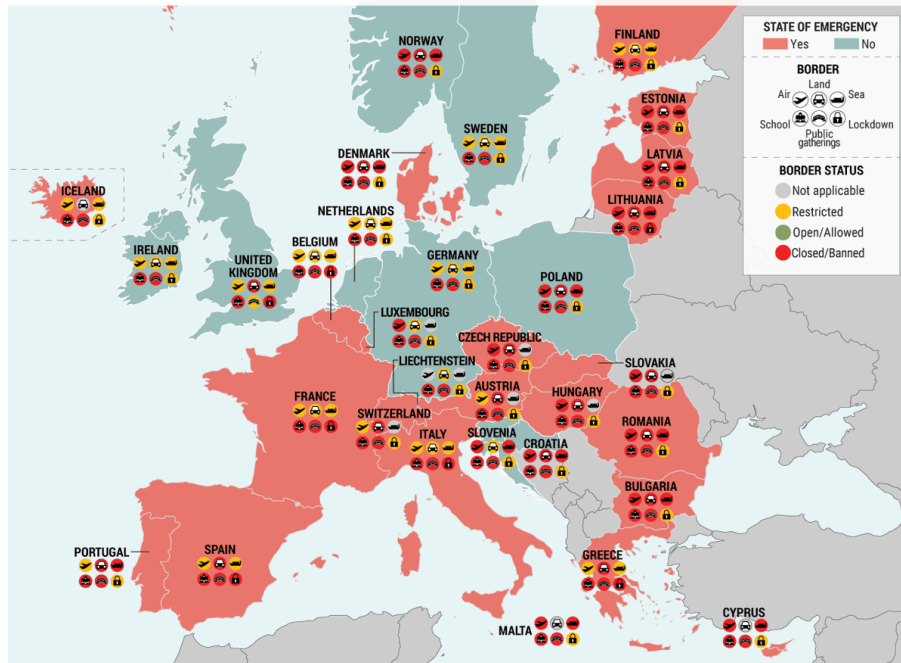
Ensuring vaccines for Member States

- ❑ €2.7 billion for vaccine producers to cover costs
- ❑ In return, a specified number of vaccine doses in a given timeframe



Vaccines and other COVID-19 restrictions

COVID-19 European Border Restrictions, as of March 26, 2020



Source: Frontex: European Border and Coast Guard Agency

Graphic redesign by Geopolitical Futures

- The Council of the EU: recommendation of COVID-19 measures with the aim of coordination of Member States

Next Generation EU

- ❑ The European economy and society have faced several crises and new challenges such as a large inflow of asylum-seekers in 2015 due to the war in Syria and Iraq, climate change Brexit and the COVID-19 crisis.
- ❑ In that exceptional context, the European Council reached an agreement in July 2020 named the Next Generation EU.



Next Generation EU

- ❑ The German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the French President Emmanuel Macron proposed the creation of a temporary EU recovery instrument endowed with €500 billion.
- ❑ This decisive statement led the Commission to put forward its own proposal on for a debt-financed €750 billion recovery fund, split into €500 billion in grants and €250 billion in loans made by the EU.



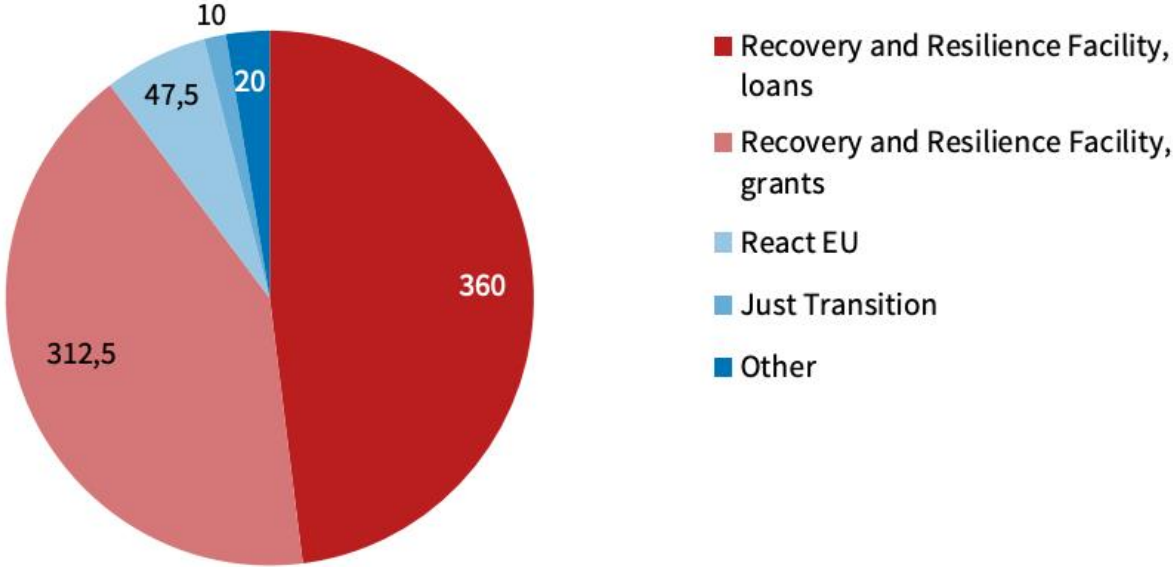
Next Generation EU

- ❑ It is evident that introducing the recovery fund is primarily a political move.
- ❑ Some see it as a signal for solidarity among EU countries in times of a severe crisis, an investment in the EU's cohesion and mutual trust.
- ❑ The important point is that Germany had decided to support the initiative and agreed to a joint Franco-German proposal for the fund.



Next Generation EU

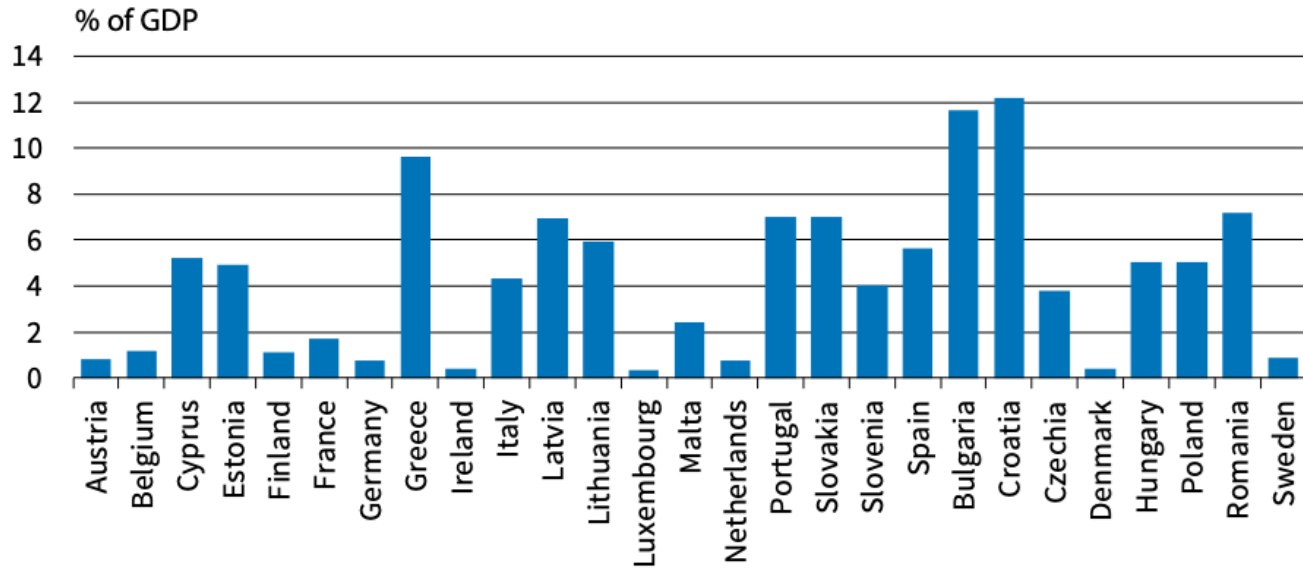
Composition of Spending in the Fund NGEU (EUR bn)



Next Generation EU

Figure 2

NGEU Spending (Grants) Allocation in % of GDP



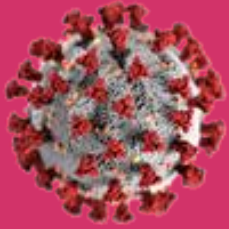
Next Generation EU

1. Promoting the Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion
 2. Strengthening economic and social resilience
 3. Mitigating the social and economic impact of the crisis
 4. Supporting the green and digital transitions
- ❑ The EU has reacted to the coronavirus crisis by creating the NGEU fund to support the economic recovery in the EU. It contributes to fiscal stabilization during the crisis and expands a room for fiscal policy of economically vulnerable member states.



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Thank you for your
attention and stay safe!

