

# PUBLIC OPINION MONITORING *at a glance*

in the time of COVID-19

20 March 2020



The defining event of 2020 is the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) across the world. Within two months we have moved from the first deaths being announced in China to the World Health Organization labelling the outbreak as a pandemic. Governments all over the EU are taking drastic measures to contain the virus as much as possible and to deal with the consequences for their health and economic systems. The EU institutions are taking unprecedented steps to help and support Member States in dealing with this crisis.

DG Communication's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit is now focussing on the impact of the crisis on public opinion within the European Union and beyond to this crisis. There are many topics to watch and monitor over the coming weeks and months, assessing governments' and businesses' decisions, changing people's behaviours and the potential longer-term implications beyond the immediate circumstances of the crisis, including public opinion with regard to the EU and its institutions.

This newsletter aims at collecting pertinent information and analysis from both EU level and the Member States. We draw on available and published surveys, social media monitoring and the analysis of our team in close collaboration with other services within DG COMM, notably the Spokespersons Unit, The Media Intelligence Unit, the Webcommunications Unit as well as Parliament's network of Liaison Offices in all Member States.

In concrete terms, this newsletter assembles information on:

- current audience insight data, surveys and polls on citizens' attitudes towards the corona crisis, their governments' and the EU's response, including, where and when available data on trust in these institutions.
- voting intention polls measuring support for governments and opposition parties
- significant political reactions by opposition parties and their representatives on measures taken by governments and/or the EU with a likely impact on the shaping of public opinion.

Apart from such relevant news from the Member States we would like to draw your attention to two important pieces of information included in this first edition:

- Renowned author and political scientist Ivan KRASTEV describes his first views on how the Covid-19 crisis might dramatically reshape the EU's response to all other crises it has faced in the last decade, featured on page 3 of this newsletter
- Global pollster IPSOS has launched a regular survey and data insight newsletter monitoring public opinion during the Covid-19-crises. Find a summary of as well as the link to this comprehensive and up-to-date data collection on page 4.

We will be producing regular editions of this newsletter over the coming period and welcome all useful comments and input to our work. If you come across any pertinent information or would like to have more information on what the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit can do for you in this time of crisis, please email [dgcomm-pom@ep.europa.eu](mailto:dgcomm-pom@ep.europa.eu) or contact directly Philipp Schulmeister, HoU ([philipp.schulmeister@ep.europa.eu](mailto:philipp.schulmeister@ep.europa.eu)).

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# EU

## Seven early lessons from the coronavirus

[https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary\\_seven\\_early\\_lessons\\_from\\_the\\_coronavirus](https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_seven_early_lessons_from_the_coronavirus)

The Covid-19 crisis will dramatically reshape the EU's response to all other crises it has faced in the last decade, writes renowned author and political scientist Ivan KRASTEV in his article for the European Council for Foreign Relations (ECFR).

(...)

The **first lesson** is that, unlike the 2008-2009 financial crisis, the coronavirus will force the return of big government. (...) People rely on the government to organise a collective defence against the pandemic, and they rely on the government to save a sinking economy. The effectiveness of governments is now measured by their capacity to change people's everyday behaviour.

The **second lesson** is that the coronavirus provides one more demonstration of the mystique of borders, and will help reassert the role of the nation state within the European Union. (...) Therefore, the coronavirus will strengthen nationalism, albeit not ethnic nationalism. To survive, the government will ask citizens to erect walls not simply between states but between individuals, as the danger of being infected comes from the people they meet most often. It is not the stranger but those closest to you who present the greatest risk.

The **third lesson** of the coronavirus relates to trust in expertise. The financial crisis and the 2015 refugee crisis generated a great deal of popular discontent with experts. This shift, which has been one of the major successes of populists politicians in the past ten years, will be reversed by the coronavirus. Most people are very open to trusting experts and heeding the science when their own lives are at stake. (...)

The **fourth lesson** is open to interpretation but very important nonetheless. Unfortunately, the coronavirus could increase the appeal of the big data authoritarianism employed by the Chinese government. (...). And we should not be surprised if, the day after the crisis, China looks like a winner and the United States looks like a loser.

The **fifth lesson** concerns crisis management. (...) And governments' success in this very much depends on their capacity to scare people into doing as instructed. "Do not panic" is the wrong message for the Covid-19 crisis. To contain the pandemic, people should panic – and they should drastically change their way of living.

The **sixth lesson** is that the Covid-19 crisis will have a strong impact on intergenerational dynamics. In the context of debates about climate change and the risk it presents, younger generations have been very critical of their elders for being selfish and not thinking about the future seriously. The coronavirus reverses these dynamics: now, the older members of society are much more vulnerable and feel threatened by millennials' visible unwillingness to change their way of living. This intergenerational conflict could intensify if the crisis lasts for a long time.

The **seventh lesson** is that, at a certain point, governments will be forced to choose between containing the spread of the pandemic at the cost of destroying the economy or tolerating a higher human cost to save the economy.

It is still very early days in speculating about the political impact of Covid-19. The crisis has justified the fears of the anti-globalists: closed airports and the self-isolated individuals appear to be the ground zero of globalisation. But, paradoxically, the new anti-globalist moment could weaken populist political actors who, even when they have a point, do not have a solution. The Covid-19 crisis will also dramatically reshape the EU's response to all other crises it has faced in the last decade. (...)

It remains to be seen how exactly the crisis will affect the future of the European project. But it is clear that, in all, the coronavirus will call into question some of the basic assumptions on which the EU is founded.

**Ipsos' latest opinion survey shows rising concern about the impact of coronavirus**

<https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2020-03/signals-understanding-coronavirus-crisis-ipsos-march.pdf>

Through its IPSOS Global Advisor platform, IPSOS started continuously tracking public opinion related to the coronavirus.

The third wave shows a significant increase in the number of people who believe the virus will have a personal financial impact, compared to wave 1 and wave 2.

**Out of the 10 countries surveyed, Italy sees the biggest jump on this measure with a 22-point increase – taking the number of those worried about the impact on their finances to two in five people (41%).** There are also double-digit increases in Canada (+20), Russia (+19), Japan (+18), the US (+16), the UK (+16) and France (+14).

When asked why the virus has reached their country, a majority said this is because it is impossible to forecast how the virus will spread, rather than due to a lack of preventative action by government authorities. Those in Germany (80%), Vietnam (71%), the UK (69%), Canada (67%) and France (63%) are most likely to perceive the virus as impossible to forecast.

These latest findings show **a general rise in the proportion who believe the virus poses a high or very high threat to their country.** France saw the biggest increase on this measure at 49%, a 29-point increase from two weeks before.

## Austria

### **Statement Sebastian Kurz**

18.03.2020, *Kurier*

Kritik übte der Kanzler am Zusammenhalt der Staaten. "In Europa sieht man, dass die Solidarität, wenn es ernst wird, nicht funktioniert - das wird auch dazu führen, dass viele Diskussionen nach der Krise stattfinden werden müssen."

*English (POMU translation):*

The Chancellor criticized the cohesion of the states. "In Europe you can see that solidarity does not work if it gets serious - this will also lead to many discussions having to take place after the crisis."

Source: <https://kurier.at/chronik/oesterreich/kurz-zu-coronavirus-krise-das-wird-noch-sehr-lange-dauern/400784609>

## Belgium

### Coronavirus: 4 Belges sur 10 s'estiment mal informés (sondage)

Le Soir.be, 11/03/2020 - Sondage Test Achat, 1000 interviews

Parmi les personnes interrogées, **38 % se disent « peu ou pas informées au sujet du virus ».**

**La communication du gouvernement « est jugée adéquate par 47 % des répondants mais trop rassurante par 32 % de ces derniers. » C'est l'inverse pour les médias : selon 63 % des sondés, leur communication au sujet du Covid-19 serait « trop alarmiste. »**

90 % des Belges interrogés « suivent strictement ou partiellement » les recommandations du service public, comme se laver régulièrement les mains, se couvrir la bouche et le nez lorsque l'on tousse ou éternue, éviter les contacts étroits avec les personnes semblant souffrir d'un problème respiratoire.

Ce sont aussi les Bruxellois qui ont le plus peur d'être contaminés, selon le sondage : 52 % contre 40 % en Wallonie et 42 % en Flandre.

A propos d'argent, 61 % des sondés assurent que « le coronavirus a eu une forme d'impact sur leur situation financière. » Cela se traduit par une perte de revenus ou un non-remboursement après l'annulation de voyages ou d'événements.

### Le coronavirus polarise le paysage politique

L'Echo, 17/03/2019

Ce mardi, le gouvernement a prêté serment devant le Roi. Initialement minoritaire et en affaires courantes, il peut, pour six mois maximum, appuyer son action destinée à contrer les effets négatifs du coronavirus sur une majorité parlementaire. Pour le reste, les affaires courantes demeurent. Dans la foulée, la Première ministre Sophie Wilmès s'est présentée devant une Chambre des représentants quasi vide. Seuls les chefs de groupes s'étaient déplacés (distanciation sociale oblige) pour écouter la déclaration par laquelle elle demande la confiance du Parlement pour faire face au coronavirus. Un débat et un vote sur cette confiance doivent intervenir jeudi.

En arrivant, Sophie Wilmès savait qu'elle a le soutien de 9 partis sur les 10 qui sont sollicités depuis dimanche pour renforcer les pouvoirs du gouvernement en affaires courantes. Du point de vue symbolique, il s'agit de construire une sorte d'union nationale cimentée par la lutte contre la pandémie.

Lundi soir, il s'est avéré que la N-VA, si elle annonce soutenir toute mesure de lutte contre le Covid-19, n'a nullement l'intention d'accorder sa confiance au gouvernement pour autant. Le sp.a était sur la même ligne, jugeant que Patrick Dewael (Open Vld), encore missionnaire royal dimanche, avait été un peu loin en annonçant un vote de confiance. **Les socialistes flamands se sont finalement alignés sur l'idée d'un vote de confiance.**

On a donc d'un côté, PS, MR, Ecolo, cdH, DéFi, sp.a, Open Vld, CD&V et Groen qui annoncent accorder leur confiance au gouvernement Wilmès. **De l'autre, on retrouve la N-VA, le Vlaams Belang et le PTB/PVDA. Les trois sont sur la même ligne. Pas de confiance, mais vote des mesures jugées bonnes de lutte contre le virus qui incomberait au Parlement.**

## Le gouvernement Wilmès pourrait-il terminer la législature ?

Le Vif, 18/03/20

La Flandre nationaliste - mais pas seulement- ne décolère pas à l'idée que le gouvernement Wilmès II soit devenu, l'air de rien, un gouvernement de plein exercice soutenu par une très large majorité francophone, mais une minorité en Flandre. **Une campagne 'pas mon gouvernement' dénonçant un 'gouvernement non démocratique' a fleuri sur les réseaux sociaux ces derniers jours, appuyée avec des tonalités diverses par l'ensemble des nationalistes, N-VA et Vlaams Belang.** Certains messages sont âpres, comme celui de la ministre flamande Zuhal Demir, affichant la photo du gouvernement Wilmès II en mode distanciation sociale et écrivant : "La seule bonne nouvelle, c'est qu'ils ne se contamineront pas les uns les autres". On a connu plus raffiné.

Plusieurs analystes politiques flamands - les politologues Carl Devos et Bart Maddens, les journalistes vedette Ivan De Vadher (VRT) et Guy Tegenbos (De Standaard) ou encore l'ex-député Groen et chroniqueur Luckas Vander Taelen - ont été eux aussi critiques à l'égard du spectacle politique des derniers jours. **Ils rappellent qu'un gouvernement aux pouvoirs extraordinaires doté de dix ministres libéraux sur treize ne correspond pas aux réalités sorties de urnes en mai 2019.** La faute, faut-il le rappeler, aux surenchères permanentes de la N-VA et aux blocages du PS.

En attendant, nécessité fait loi. **Le ministre-président flamand Jan Jambon (N-VA) soutient les mesures décidées au sein du Conseil national de sécurité pour lutter contre l'épidémie.** Celles-ci sont similaires dans toutes les entités fédérées. L'heure n'est pas aux querelles politiques, mais à la nécessité de sauver des vies. **Cette pseudo-unité nationale contre la maladie volera toutefois en éclats dès que la courbe d'évolution baissera sensiblement. La N-VA pourrait payer le prix de sa stratégie politique, mais cultivera une soif évidente de vengeance, dans six mois.**

Des "liens de confiance"

**La crainte de la N-VA n'est autre que de voir la majorité actuelle poursuivre sa route au-delà des six mois** pour laquelle elle a été mise en place. A la Chambre, la Première ministre Sophie Wilmès a précisé qu'**un nouveau vote de confiance interviendrait à l'issue des six mois.** Si la crise du coronavirus est révolue, on risque de renouer avec les états d'âme d'un CD&V qui refuse de lâcher la N-VA pour mener de politiques autres que strictement sanitaires. Mais certaines expressions francophones inquiètent les nationalistes. **Comme ces propos de Georges-Louis Bouchez, président du MR, il y a deux jours : "Dans 6 mois, il y aura deux paramètres nouveaux : des partis auront travaillé ensemble et peut-être pris confiance, et il faudra recommencer à pouvoir négocier un accord général."** L'attitude de la N-VA a, il est vrai, exaspéré les partis soutenant la "grande union" de Sophie Wilmès. La "vivaldisation" des affaires courantes, terme utilisé par le politologue Carl Devos, aurait alors trouvé sa concrétisation.

[...]

## Bulgaria

**"Increased demand for information, moderate anxiety and a positive assessment of coronavirus measures"**

*Alpha Research, [29.02-08.03.2020] [in BG] [POMU translation]*

Understandably, the spread of the coronavirus strongly focuses people's attention: 75% of adult Bulgarians monitor information daily about what is happening in Bulgaria, 19% from time to time, and only 6% are uninterested.

With the confirmed presence of the virus in the country, the majority (55%) are concerned, but following the recommendations of the official authorities, 34% are not particularly worried and very worried feel 11%.

However, the attitude of the youngest and oldest is curious. The former have the highest levels of anxiety, but not necessarily accompanied by strict adherence to the recommendations, and potentially the most risky, according to experts, age groups are the least anxious. This seemingly paradoxical picture reflects people's lifestyles: the anxiety of young people is fueled by the fact that they are among the most actively communicating and traveling Bulgarians and vice versa: the lower mobility of the majority of the oldest residents gives them partial peace of mind .

Source: <https://alpharesearch.bg/post/964-zasileno-tursene-na-informacia-umereno-pritesnenie-i-polojitelna-ocenka-za-merkite-sreshtu-koronavirusa.html>

# Denmark

## Chancellor announces coronavirus wage rescue plan; Advance Media Information; Future News Item; HM Treasury

Kantar Media - Forward Planner, 20 March 2020

**Chancellor Rishi Sunak announces an employment and wage subsidy package to protect jobs in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.** Yesterday the Chancellor spoke to representatives of business groups and unions including the Federation of Small Businesses and the Trades Union Congress and agreed more was needed to be done to protect workers' jobs. One proposal is for the UK to follow countries such as **Denmark** that is to cover 75% of salaries at private companies for three months, if they promise not to let staff go. Follows a range of financial measures announced earlier this week including £330bn in loans, £20bn in other aid, a business rates holiday, and grants for retailers and pubs \* Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell is releasing a plan today from Labour to keep people in work in response to coronavirus

## Denmark : Government preparing for a lengthy fight against coronavirus

Esmek Danish News, 16 March 2020

**The Danish government's coronavirus emergency law that was passed last week will remain valid until 1 March 2021.** The government is preparing for a scenario where the fight against coronavirus will be required for a lengthy period. The government expects that the virus will flare up in the coming autumn and extend until 2021. This was announced by Danish Health Minister Magnus Heunicke.

## Latest voting intention polls by Voxmeter

<https://voxmeter.dk/wp-content/uploads/opiniontable/pdf/Voxmetermåling-15-03-2020.pdf>

Update 16 March 2020

Voxmeter	Seneste måling 16.03.2020	Forrige måling 08.03.2020	1 måned siden 17.02.2019	Valget 05.06.2019	Valget Mandater	Mandater (estimeret)	Statistik usikkerhed
A – Socialdemokratiet	27,2 (+1,3)	27,5 (+1,6)	27,8 (+1,9)	25,9	48	51	+/- 2,7
B – Det Radikale Venstre	9,4 (+0,8)	8,7 (+0,1)	8,0 (-0,6)	8,6	16	18	+/- 1,8
C – Det Konservative Folkeparti	7,0 (+0,4)	7,7 (+1,1)	7,6 (+1,0)	6,6	12	13	+/- 1,5
D – Nye Borgerlige	1,9 (-0,5)	2,6 (+0,2)	1,6 (-0,8)	2,4	4	0	+/- 0,8
F – Socialistisk Folkeparti	8,3 (+0,6)	7,8 (+0,1)	7,5 (-0,2)	7,7	14	16	+/- 1,7
I – Liberal Alliance	2,3 (+0,0)	2,1 (-0,2)	1,6 (-0,7)	2,3	4	4	+/- 0,9
O – Dansk Folkeparti	7,2 (-1,5)	7,6 (-1,1)	8,3 (-0,4)	8,7	16	13	+/- 1,6
V – Venstre	24,0 (+0,6)	23,3 (-0,1)	24,4 (+1,0)	23,4	43	45	+/- 2,6
Ø – Enhedslisten	8,1 (+1,2)	7,7 (+0,8)	7,7 (+0,8)	6,9	13	15	+/- 1,7
Å – Alternativet	0,9 (-2,1)	1,6 (-1,4)	1,6 (-1,4)	3,0	5	0	+/- 0,6
E – Borgerlisten	0,4 (-0,4)	1,1 (+0,3)	0,5 (-0,3)	0,8	0	0	+/- 0,4
P – Stram Kurs	1,9 (+0,1)	1,4 (-0,4)	1,9 (+0,1)	1,8	0	0	+/- 0,8
Øvrige	1,4 (+1,4)	0,9 (+0,9)	1,5 (+1,5)	0,0	0	0	+/- 0,7
Rød blok (A, B, F, Ø, Å)	53,9 (+1,8)	53,3 (+1,2)	52,6 (+0,5)	52,1	96	100	+/- 3,0
Blå blok (C, D, I, O, V, E, P)	44,7 (-3,0)	45,8 (-1,9)	45,9 (-1,8)	47,7	79	75	+/- 3,0

Voxmeters politiske meningsmåling, offentligjort den 16. marts 2020, baserer sig på telefoninterview med 1.041 repræsentativt udvalgte personer 18 år+ og er gennemført i perioden fra d. 9. marts 2020 til d. 15. marts 2020.

Voxmeter afdækker i tabellen kun de personer, der ved, hvad de vil stemme, hvis der var folketingsvalg i morgen.

Ca 24,5% af de adspurgte var på det pågældende tidspunkt "i tvivl om partivalg", "vil ikke stemme", "vil stemme blankt" eller "er ikke stemmeberettiget".

Tallene i parentes angiver forskellen i procentpoint fra folketingsvalget d. 5. juni 2019. Den maksimale usikkerhed på de enkelte partier i denne måling er på +/-2,7 % point.

Kildeangivelse ved offentliggørelse: "Voxmeter for Ritzaus Bureau"

## France

### Coronavirus - Sondage : le confinement aurait dû être décidé plus tôt pour les Français

LA PROVENCE, JEUDI 19/03/2020

SOURCE : SONDAGE ODOXA par internet les 18 et 19 mars 2020.

<http://www.odoxa.fr/sondage/francais-confinement-bonne-chose-aurait-meme-etre-decide-plus-tot/>

Selon un sondage Odoxa-Dentsu Consulting réalisé pour France Info et le Figaro, le confinement est une bonne chose et aurait même dû être décidé plus tôt pour une grande majorité de Français.

Emmanuel Macron a convaincu deux-tiers des Français (65%) et une majorité de sympathisants LR, PS et Insoumis ont même été convaincus par son allocution de lundi dernier. Dans le détail, les Français plébiscitent **ses décisions et sa posture lors de ce discours** : il a pris les bonnes mesures, il a été clair (65%) et à la hauteur de la situation (82%). Mais, dans le même temps, il n'a pas du tout rassuré les Français sur l'épidémie et sa propagation (63%).

Par ailleurs, pour les Français, le confinement est une bonne mesure (96%) mais elle aurait dû être décidée plus tôt (85%). Les trois-quarts d'entre eux (72%) ont vu leur activité professionnelle bouleversée, dont près d'un sur deux (45%) qui ne peut plus du tout travailler.

Enfin, **la polémique suscitée par les propos de l'ex-ministre de la Santé Agnès Buzyn** choquent l'opinion et entament la confiance de 62% des Français dans le gouvernement.

\**Enquête réalisée auprès d'un échantillon de Français interrogés par internet les 18 et 19 mars 2020. Échantillon de 1 005 Français représentatif de la population française âgée de 18 ans et plus.*

### Etude spéciale COVID-19 | YouGov x Le HuffPost

SOURCE : SONDAGE YouGov FR, en exclusivité pour le HuffPost. du 17 au 18 mars 2020

<https://fr.yougov.com/results/>

### Comment les Français ont-ils perçu le discours du Président ?

Emmanuel Macron a pris la parole à la télévision lundi 16 mars au sujet de l'épidémie de COVID-19. Alors que près de 7 Français sur 10 jugent que son discours a été clair (69%), 26% affirment au contraire que celui-ci a manqué de clarté.

Lors de son allocution, Emmanuel Macron a prononcé les mots « la France est en guerre » mais n'a pas explicitement parlé de « confinement ». Près d'1 Français sur 3 trouve que le message n'est pas assez clair (32%).

### Les nouvelles mesures sont-elles bien acceptées au sein de la population ?

A l'occasion de son discours, le Président a notamment annoncé le durcissement des mesures pour lutter contre la propagation de l'épidémie de Covid-19 (fermetures de différents commerces, sanctions si déplacements hors raisons spécifiques...). 93% des Français considèrent que ces mesures sont nécessaires, mais 38% jugent qu'elles ne sont toujours pas suffisantes.

Pour 62% de la population, les Français vont faire plus attention suite au discours d'Emmanuel Macron, contre 19% qui pensent que les Français ne vont pas spécialement s'adapter à la situation d'urgence.

Emmanuel Macron a également annoncé une aide financière de l'état pour soutenir les entreprises en difficulté pendant cette période de crise sanitaire. La grande majorité des Français trouve que cette aide est une bonne chose (91%).

### **Comment les Français jugent-il l'action du gouvernement ?**

Les Français sont très partagés sur la question de la réactivité du gouvernement pour faire face à l'épidémie : 46% considèrent qu'il a été réactif et 50% considèrent au contraire qu'il ne l'a pas été.

La décision de maintenir le premier tour des élections Municipales dimanche 15 mars fait également débat. Plus de 8 Français sur 10 déclarent que ces élections auraient dû être reportées en raison de l'épidémie de Covid-19 (81%). **Selon 74% de la population, les résultats de ce premier tour sont biaisés puisque l'épidémie a provoqué un fort taux d'abstention.**

Alors que le report du second tour des Municipales prévu dimanche 22 mars est officiel depuis lundi 16 mars, 85% des Français affirment que c'est une bonne chose.

### **L'état d'esprit des Français**

83% des Français se disent rassurés à l'idée d'un confinement total et obligatoire de la population, et 75% confient se sentir rassurés à l'idée d'une présence militaire pour encadrer la population.

En parallèle, 9% des Français affirment avoir quitté leur domicile principal ou avoir l'intention de le quitter pour un autre endroit à cause de l'épidémie de COVID-19 (18% des 18-34 ans), et 13% ne peuvent pas partir de leur domicile mais aimeraient le pouvoir. Pour autant, la grande majorité de la population affirme ne pas vouloir quitter son domicile principal (78%).

**Méthodologie:** Etude Omnibus réalisée en exclusivité pour Le HuffPost du 17 au 18 mars 2020 auprès de 1 004 personnes représentatives de la population nationale âgée de 18 ans et plus, selon la méthode des quotas

## **Le regard des Français sur l'intervention d'Emmanuel Macron et les mesures de confinement** 18.03.20

*Enquête réalisée en ligne le 16 mars, après l'allocution télévisée d'Emmanuel Macron, auprès d'un échantillon de 1228 personnes, représentatif de la population française âgée de 18 ans et plus*

SOURCE :SONDAGE HARRIS INTERACTIVE DU 18/03/2020[https://harris-interactive.fr/opinion\\_polls/le-regard-des-francais-sur-l-intervention-d-emmanuel-macron-et-les-mesures-de-confinement/](https://harris-interactive.fr/opinion_polls/le-regard-des-francais-sur-l-intervention-d-emmanuel-macron-et-les-mesures-de-confinement/)

L'allocution télévisée du Président de la République lundi soir a été suivie en direct par 35 millions de téléspectateurs, un record absolu pour une intervention télévisée. (...). Suite à cette allocution inédite à tous les niveaux, Harris Interactive a interrogé les Français pour RTL, afin de mieux comprendre comment ils avaient perçu cette intervention présidentielle (...)

Au cours des dernières heures, l'inquiétude exprimée par les Français sur la situation sanitaire s'est très nettement accrue: **les trois quarts** (73%) se déclarent désormais **inquiets** pour leur santé et celle de leurs proches, soit 21 points de plus qu'à l'issue de l'intervention de jeudi soir. L'inquiétude s'est particulièrement avivée chez les personnes âgées de 65 ans et plus (82%, soit +25 points);

Dans ce contexte pesant, le **Président** de la République a été jugé davantage **convaincant** (76%) qu'en fin de semaine dernière (66%). (...). Notons que cette hausse de confiance s'exprime directement à l'égard du chef de l'Etat, davantage qu'à l'égard du gouvernement : 46% des Français estiment aujourd'hui que le gouvernement a été à la hauteur des événements, soit autant qu'à l'issue de l'intervention de jeudi soir (47%), alors que le Premier ministre Edouard Philippe est également intervenu entre-temps ;

Rétrospectivement, les Français expriment une certaine **incompréhension face au maintien du premier tour des élections municipales**, marqué par une abstention record dimanche 15 mars : 77% des Français estiment aujourd'hui qu'il aurait fallu reporter le scrutin ; 66% vont jusqu'à dire qu'ils ne comprennent pas les raisons qui ont poussé l'exécutif à le maintenir.

Un consensus se dégage logiquement sur le report du second tour, qui faisait partie des annonces d'Emmanuel Macron ce lundi soir : **89% des Français s'accordent pour juger que le scrutin doit être reporté** à une date ultérieure au dimanche 22 mars. Cette opinion traverse toutes les catégories de population, au-delà des clivages politiques.

Les Français ne semblent pas totalement convaincus par l'efficacité des mesures de confinement annoncées par Emmanuel Macron. A un niveau individuel, 37% des Français ont le sentiment qu'il leur sera personnellement difficile de respecter les règles édictées par le gouvernement. Collectivement, 57% des Français estiment d'ailleurs que ces règles ne seront pas bien appliquées par l'ensemble des Français – ce qui serait pourtant nécessaire pour garantir leur efficacité. Le pessimisme est particulièrement marqué parmi les personnes les plus âgées.

Néanmoins, 63% des Français expriment leur confiance à l'égard du gouvernement pour gérer l'épidémie de coronavirus. Cette confiance est bien sûr unanime parmi les sympathisants LREM (97%), mais elle est également majoritaire auprès des Français d'autres sensibilités politiques (PS : 77% ; LR : 68%). Y compris parmi les sympathisants de La France Insoumise (54%) et du Rassemblement National (48%), des catégories habituellement très critiques envers l'exécutif, une personne sur deux affirme faire confiance au gouvernement dans ce contexte.

## Coronavirus : l'inquiétude en très forte progression

SOURCE : Sondage ELABE du 18/03/2020 <https://elabe.fr/coronavirus-1803/>

**Interrogés au lendemain de l'allocution télévisée du Président de la République et de celle du ministre de l'Intérieur, 81% des Français sont inquiets. Ce taux est en hausse de 20 points en 4 jours, et de 33 points en 6 jours.** Ce changement d'état d'esprit récent se traduit également par la hausse de 13 points (à 30%) en 4 jours du pourcentage d'individus « très inquiets », et de 20 points en 6 jours.

Si la hausse de l'inquiétude est générale quelle que soit la catégorie de population, les Français **les plus jeunes restent les moins inquiets face à l'épidémie de coronavirus** : 68% (+29 en 4 jours) des 18-24 ans se disent inquiets. L'inquiétude auprès des autres tranches d'âge est proche ou dépasse 80%. L'inquiétude est en revanche homogène que l'on soit ouvrier, employé, cadre ou appartenant aux professions intermédiaires.

Politiquement, si l'inquiétude est globalement élevée chez tous les électorats (entre 78% et 85%), elle l'est particulièrement auprès des électeurs de Marine Le Pen : 40% sont « très inquiets », soit 10 points de plus que la moyenne.

Preuve d'une certaine prise de conscience ces dernières heures des dangers et de la facilité de propagation du virus, c'est **sur la visite aux amis/famille que l'inquiétude progresse le plus en 4 jours : +35 points** (68%). Elle est également en forte hausse concernant le fait de

**se rendre au travail** (+27, à 64%), de **faire ses courses** (+26, à 61%), et de **partir en week-end ou vacances** (+26, à 72%). A un niveau déjà élevé il y a 4 jours, l'inquiétude concernant les **transports en commun** (81%, +19) et la **visite aux personnes âgées** (77%, +16) progressent également de 15 à 20 points. (...)

## **Si les mesures annoncées par Emmanuel Macron font consensus...**

L'ensemble des mesures annoncées par Emmanuel Macron lors de son allocution télévisée lundi soir sont accueillies favorablement par la quasi-totalité des Français :

**–Les mesures « régaliennes » et d'ordre public liées aux enjeux sanitaires** telles que la fermeture des frontières de l'espace Schengen (94% dont 69% « très favorable »), la mobilisation de l'armée dans le Grand Est pour désengorger les hôpitaux (96%, dont 69% « très favorable »), la mise en place d'un confinement d'au moins 15 jours (93% dont 62%) et le contrôle de ce confinement par 100 000 policiers et gendarmes pouvant sanctionner d'une amende de 38 à 135 euros (84% dont 51% « très favorable »)

**–Les mesures de soutien économique** telles que l'aide aux entreprises sous forme de reports de charges fiscales et sociales, d'échéance bancaires, la garantie des prêts bancaires et la suspension des loyers et factures pour les entreprises (97% dont 66% « très favorable ») et la création d'un fond de solidarité pour les entrepreneurs, artisans et commerçants (97%, dont 66% « très favorable »)

**–Les mesures politiques** telles que la suspension de toutes les réformes en cours y compris la réforme des retraites (93% dont 64% « très favorable ») et le report du second tour des élections municipales (95% dont 74% « très favorable »).

## **... la gestion de crise et l'étendue des précautions divisent l'opinion publique**

Si les mesures annoncées font et notamment le report du second tour font consensus, **les critiques « a posteriori » sur le maintien du 1er tour sont très fortes** : 76% des Français estiment qu'Emmanuel Macron a eu tort de le maintenir (alors que 58% lui donnait raison vendredi dernier). Si cette critique est quasi-unanime chez les électeurs de Jean-Luc Mélenchon (79%), de Benoît Hamon (89%) et de Marine Le Pen (81%), elle est moins nette mais reste majoritaire chez les électeurs d'Emmanuel Macron (60%) et de François Fillon (65%).

**Le sentiment que l'exécutif et les autorités sanitaires apportent des réponses suffisantes pour limiter la propagation du virus divise les Français** : 52% (-1) jugent que les mesures de ces derniers jours et semaines sont suffisantes, mais 43% les jugent insuffisantes. Ce chiffre est en hausse de 7 points en 4 jours. 5% (-6) estiment que les mesures sont exagérées.

**La gestion de la crise emporte un soutien majoritaire mais fait apparaître de forts clivages politiques** : 57% estiment que le dossier est bien géré par Emmanuel Macron, Edouard Philippe et le gouvernement, mais 42% jugent qu'il est mal géré. Ce sujet fait l'objet d'un clivage politique : si les électeurs d'Emmanuel Macron le soutiennent (80%), les électeurs de Marine Le Pen sont majoritairement critiques (64%). Il faut noter que, par rapport au 4 mars, la part des personnes interrogées jugeant que la gestion du dossier est bonne est plus élevée de 16 points.

**Malgré les annonces et mesures prises ces derniers jours, plus d'un Français sur deux continuent de penser que la France n'est pas prête à faire face à la propagation du virus**

**Par rapport au 4 mars et après l'ensemble des mesures annoncées ces derniers jours, le sentiment que la France est prête à affronter l'épidémie du coronavirus est stable et reste minoritaire : 43% jugent que la France est prête (stable), alors que 57% estiment qu'elle ne l'est pas (stable).**

D'un point de vue politique, les opinions sont très stables par rapport au 4 mars : les électeurs de Marine Le Pen sont majoritairement sceptiques (73%), ceux de Jean-Luc Mélenchon le sont aussi mais dans une moindre proportion (58%), alors que ceux de François Fillon sont

très partagés (51% « prête », 48% « pas prête »), et ceux d'Emmanuel Macron prudemment optimistes (59% « prête »).

A noter qu'auprès des personnes ayant vu ou entendu parler de l'intervention d'Emmanuel Macron et auprès de ceux ayant vu ou entendu parler de celle de Christophe Castaner, les résultats sont similaires à la moyenne.

## Une majorité de Français fait confiance au gouvernement pour faire face au coronavirus

*Selon un sondage OpinionWay-Square Management pour « Les Echos » et Radio Classique réalisé juste avant l'allocution d'Emmanuel Macron jeudi, près de neuf Français sur dix s'attendent à un impact fort de la crise du coronavirus sur l'économie du pays.*

SOURCE : SONDEAGE OPINION WAY du 16/03/2020 <https://www.opinion-way.com/fr/component/edocman/opinionway-et-square-management-pour-les-echos-et-radio-classique-ecoscope-mars-2020/viewdocument.html?Itemid=0>

Publié le 16 mars 2020 à 14h17 Mis à jour le 16 mars 2020 à 18h43

Comme lors des attentats de 2015 ou de la guerre en Irak, la grave crise actuelle liée à la pandémie de coronavirus fait renaître un réflexe de solidarité nationale. Selon un sondage OpinionWay-Square Management pour « Les Echos » et Radio Classique » réalisé quelques heures avant qu' Emmanuel Macron prenne la parole, jeudi soir, et annonce une série de mesures pour tenter d'endiguer la propagation du Covid-19, les Français étaient déjà majoritaires (54 %) à faire confiance au gouvernement pour contenir l'épidémie. Et 50 % à penser qu'il peut aider les entreprises à faire face aux conséquences économiques.

« *Nous voyons un embryon d'union nationale* », analyse Frédéric Micheau, directeur des études d'opinion d'OpinionWay, qui rappelle que près de 25 millions de téléspectateurs ont écouté l'allocution du président de la République dans la soirée de jeudi. « *Ce sont des bons chiffres étant donné la défiance dont pâtissent les dirigeants politiques* », alors qu'à peine un tiers des Français font confiance à l'exécutif actuellement.

Les électeurs de La République En marche (LREM) (76 %) et de droite (60 %) font largement confiance, tandis que ceux de La France Insoumise (47 %) et du RN (38 %) sont davantage méfiants, mais l'idée qu'il faut mettre entre parenthèses les divisions idéologiques émerge, assure Frédéric Micheau. « *Nous sommes là dans une réponse technique, matérielle, logistique à une crise, nous sortons un peu de la politique.* »

## Embellie économique terminée

Pour autant, avant l'allocution du chef de l'Etat, le changement de comportement face à la gravité de la situation était très variable. Si 70 % des personnes travaillant en Ile-de-France ont déclaré que leur entreprise avait pris au moins une mesure pour lutter contre l'épidémie (accès au gel hydroalcoolique, restriction des voyages, télétravail ), elles n'étaient que 47 % en province.

Près de neuf Français sur dix (87 %) disent craindre que l'épidémie ait des conséquences importantes sur l'économie du pays. Pour Frédéric Micheau, l'idée est déjà ancrée « *qu'on a basculé dans une crise économique* » et que l'embellie connue ces derniers temps est terminée. Et 57 % des actifs (hors fonctionnaires) déclarent s'attendre à un impact important sur leur entreprise.

## « Pensée magique »

Quant aux comportements individuels, il y a quelques jours, ils n'avaient que peu évolué. 78 % des personnes interrogées n'avaient pas acheté de gel hydroalcoolique, et 92 % pas de masque pour se prémunir (encore faut-il que les produits soient disponibles). « *Une partie de la population est dans une forme de déni* », explique le directeur des études d'opinion d'OpinionWay. Le phénomène est classique, « *face à une information très menaçante, l'un des réflexes est de ne pas y croire* », décrypte-t-il.

Cette forme de déni se retrouve toutefois moins chez les jeunes (et chez les Franciliens), apparemment plus inquiets que leurs aînés, et donc plus nombreux à changer leurs habitudes. Ainsi, 41 % des 18-24 ans avaient fait au moins un achat exceptionnel, contre 27 % des 50 ans et plus. Et 35 % des 25-34 ans s'apprêtaient à moins se rendre dans les commerces, contre 22 % des 50-64 ans.

SOURCE OPINION WAY du 16/03/2020 <https://www.opinion-way.com/fr/component/edocman/opinionway-et-square-management-pour-les-echos-et-radio-classique-ecoscope-mars-2020/viewdocument.html?Itemid=0>

*Sondage effectué du 11 au 12 mars auprès d'un échantillon de 1.013 personnes selon la méthode des quotas.*

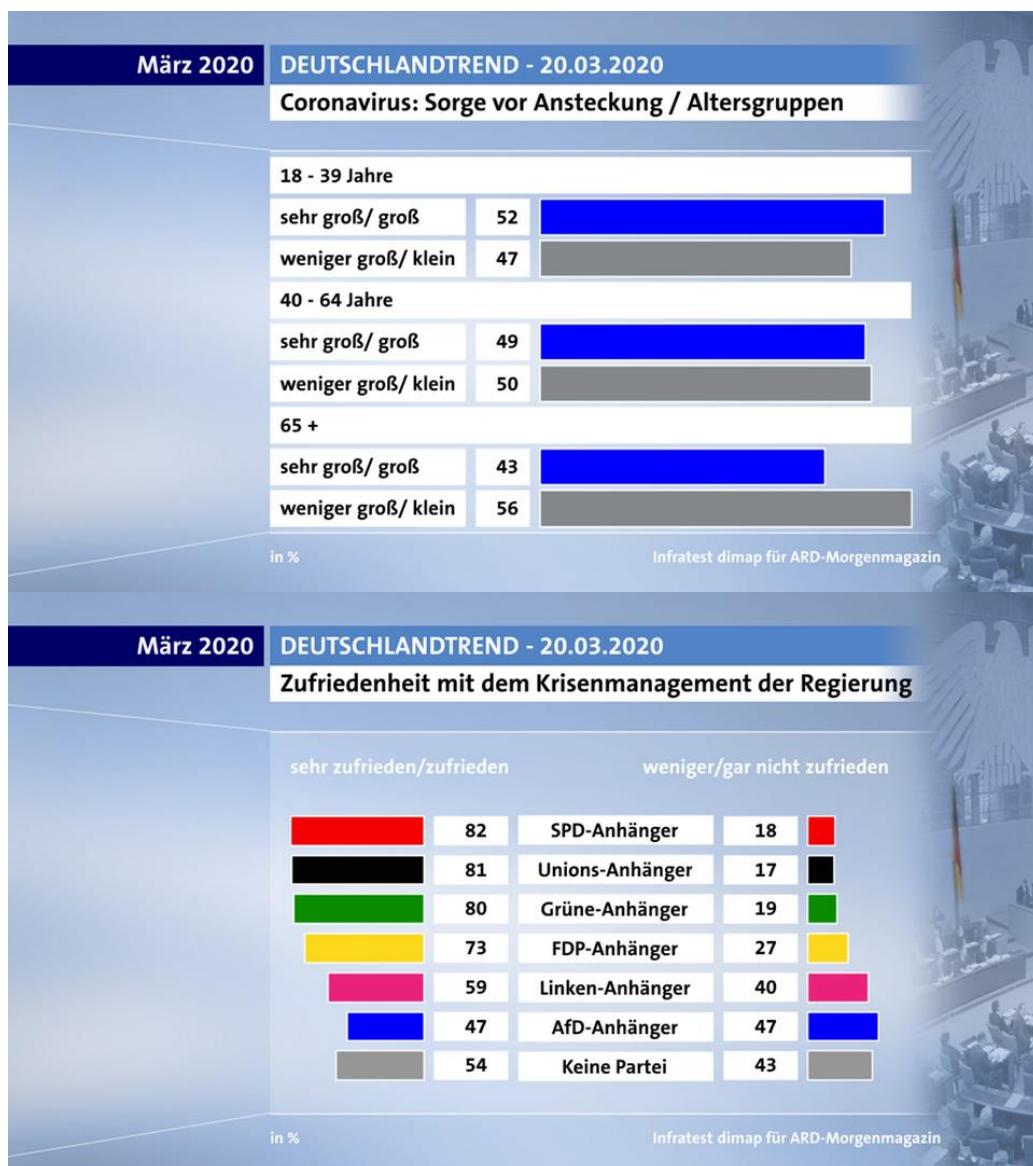
# Germany

## Tagesschau, Deutschlandtrend

[20.03.2020]

Knapp die Hälfte der Wahlberechtigten ist besorgt, dass sie oder ein Familienangehöriger sich mit dem Coronavirus infizieren. Wie aus dem DeutschlandTrend für das ARD-morgenmagazin hervorgeht, machen sich 29 Prozent große und 19 Prozent sehr große Sorgen. Das sind fast doppelt so viele wie am 5. März. Damals gaben lediglich 23 Prozent der Befragten an, dass sie sich Sorgen um eine Infektion machen.

31 Prozent der Bürger sorgen sich der aktuellen Umfrage zufolge wenig, 20 Prozent sind sorglos. Bei den über 65-Jährigen haben sogar 43 Prozent der Befragten Angst vor einer Ansteckung. Insgesamt ist die Sorge bei den über 40-Jährigen jedoch geringer als bei den Jüngeren.



Source: <https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/deutschlandtrend-2143.html>

## Greece

**AlcoPolls telephone survey**, conducted during 2-7/3/2020, 1000 respondents.

Main findings :

1. Greeks are quite optimistic about the way things will evolve in their country in the next 6 month: 45% are optimistic and 43% are pessimistic. These results stem from the facts that respondents view their family's situation as better or the same compared to last year (30% and 46% respectively), and that they are quite satisfied with the current government's actions (on a scale from 1 to 10, 66% give it >5 and 35% give >7. Average score is 5.2).
2. The main issue according to Greeks is migration/the refugee crisis (52%). A majority of respondents are against the establishment of closed centres for refugees and 60% would not want to have them in their area. On the other hand, ¾ of respondents are satisfied with the measures taken by the government on the Greek-Turkish borders.
3. The PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis gathers 50% of positive votes, and is seen as the best PM by 46% of respondents, compared to 22% for Tsipras.
4. The governing party Nea Dimokratia is stable in voting intention polls, with slight increases observed for Elliniki Lisi (Greek Solution) and KKE (Communist Party). Syriza seems to be losing ground.
5. 79% of respondents feel well informed about COVID-19.

Source: <http://alcopolls.gr/portfolio/πανελλήνια-open-μαρτιού-2020>  
POMU translation

### Opinion Poll survey, March 2020.

Main findings:

1. Asked if Mitsotakis and the government had rightly closed the border against Erdogan's pressure, 78% of respondents agreed and an additional 12% answered 'rather yes'. Only 9% of respondents disagree. This move by the government has been almost completely approved by New Democrats, who say "yes" and "probably yes" at 98.5%. However, this view overwhelms the electoral base of all parties: 77.3% of SYRIZA voters, 96.5% of KIN.AL voters, 88.9% of KKE voters, 68% of MERA25 and 100% of the Greek Solution agree with the closure of Greece's borders.
2. The toughening of measures regarding migration is accepted by 81% of respondents. This line of measures is also accepted by 2/3 of SYRIZA voters, 9/10 KIN.AL and MERA25 voters and 7/10 KKE voters. The government's policy is almost universally accepted by Greek solution voters (90%).
3. A vast majority of respondents consider the European officials' visit to Evros last Tuesday a success. 64% of respondents (yes and more likely) answered this question, while 31% disagreed (no and probably not). SYRIZA voters are divided (51% agreed it was a success),

KIN.AL voters. mostly agree (71.9%), while KKE (38.9%) and MEPA25 (24%) are the least convinced. The Greek Solution voters are completely divided.

4. A majority of respondents remains optimistic following these new measures. 47% ("yes" and "probably yes") say they are optimistic compared to just 14% last January (regarding the way the government is handling situations). 51% of those surveyed on whether they are more optimistic now answer negatively ('no' and 'probably not').
5. The poll also highlights SYRIZA's big problem with the refugee crisis. Only 29% say they are satisfied with the party's handling of the latest developments, barely reaching last July's electoral rate. 62% of the respondents answered they are not satisfied. Within SYRIZA's electoral base, only 56.8% of its voters approve of Tsipra's leadership, while 34.6% disapprove.
6. The management of the refugee crisis also influences voting intention trends, with the gap between Nea Dimokratia and SYRIZA reaching 18 pp.

Source: <https://www.protothema.gr/politics/article/982506/dimoskopi-gia-metanasteutiko-thema-oi-polites-epidokimazoun-ti-stasi-mitsotaki-90-leei-nai-sto-kleisimo-ton-sunoron/>

POMU translation

## Hungary

### Coronavirus: DK Proposes Measures for Handling Economic Fallout

The opposition Democratic Coalition (DK) has prepared a package of proposals for measures to help companies and individuals financially affected by the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Jobbik MP Dániel Z Kárpát called for a job protection fund using contributions by mostly international companies so that private companies could continue paying wages to their employees. Jobbik also wants to see guarantees that state employees suffer no delays in wage payments, he added

Z Kárpát called on the government to negotiate with banks a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions, and urged steps to assist people falling into arrears with their rent and utilities, arguing that many people may not generate income in the next few months.

Source: <https://hungarytoday.hu/coronavirus-dk-proposes-measures-for-handling-economic-fallout/>

## Italy

### POLL

<http://www.sondaggipoliticoelettorali.it/ListaSondaggi.aspx?st=SONDAGGI>

Title : Osservatorio EMG  
Institute: Emg Acqua  
Fieldwork: 18/03  
Sample: 1812 respondents  
Method: Panel

*QUESTION: trust in the leaders*

	19/03	12/03
<b>Conte</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Meloni</b>	34	35
<b>Salvini</b>	34	33
<b>Zingaretti</b>	23	22
<b>Di Maio</b>	19	18
<b>Santori</b>	18	17
<b>Berlusconi</b>	18	17
<b>Renzi</b>	15	14
<b>Calenda</b>	14	14
<b>Toti</b>	13	13
<b>Crimi</b>	12	11

*QUESTION: How do you feel about the Corona Virus emergency?*

More concerned: 66%  
Less concerned: 2 5%  
I prefer not to answer: 9%

*QUESTION: After this emergency, Italians will:*

Stand more together: 42%  
Stay as before: 40%  
Stand less together: 9%  
I prefer not to answer: 9%

### POLL

<http://www.sondaggipoliticoelettorali.it/ListaSondaggi.aspx?st=SONDAGGI>

Title : Atlante Politico  
Institute: Demos&Pi e Demetra  
Fieldwork: 17/03  
Sample: 1028 respondents  
Method: CATI-CAMI-CAWI.

*QUESTION: On a 1 to 10 scale, which vote would you give to the current government?*

71% say more than 6

*QUESTION ....and to the different leaders?*

	<b>% of those who answer 6 or more</b>	<b>% of those who do not know them or do not answer</b>
<b>Giuseppe Conte</b>	71	5
<b>Giorgia Meloni</b>	52	6
<b>Luca Zaia</b>	48	18
<b>Matteo Salvini</b>	46	4
<b>Luigi Di Maio</b>	42	5
<b>Attilio Fontana</b>	42	23
<b>Roberto Speranza</b>	40	27
<b>Nicola Zingaretti</b>	40	8
<b>Emma Bonino</b>	39	12
<b>Dario Franceschini</b>	36	20
<b>Silvio Berlusconi</b>	34	6
<b>Carlo Calenda</b>	30	27
<b>Matteo Renzi</b>	25	6
<b>Vito Crimi</b>	19	38
<b>Beppe Grillo</b>	18	11

*QUESTION: Concern about the virus*

<b>Are you worried about the spreading of the virus in Italy?</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Very</b>	65
<b>Quite</b>	30
<b>A little</b>	3
<b>Not at all</b>	1
<b>Don't know / no answer</b>	1
<b>Totale</b>	100

*QUESTION: The different actors in the crisis*

<b>On a 1to 10 scale, which vote would you give to...</b>	<b>% of those who answer 6 or more</b>
<b>The health system</b>	94
<b>Yourself and your daily behaviour</b>	92
<b>The civil protection</b>	88
<b>The Italian government</b>	82
<b>The regions</b>	77
<b>The Italian citizens</b>	69
<b>The journalists</b>	64
<b>The center-right opposition</b>	51
<b>The EU</b>	35

## POLL

<http://www.sondaggipoliticoelettorali.it/ListaSondaggi.aspx?st=SONDAGGI>

Title : Special Covid-19  
Institute: Euromedia Research  
Fieldwork: 13/03  
Sample: 800  
Method: CATI- CAWI.

QUESTION: In the context of the COVID-19 do you approve or not the action of the EU?

No	63.2%
Yes	20.1%
Don't know / no answer	16.7%

## POLL

<http://www.sondaggipoliticoelettorali.it/ListaSondaggi.aspx?st=SONDAGGI>

Title : CORONAVIRUS  
Institute: IPSOS  
Fieldwork: 12/03/2020  
Sample: 1.000 respondents  
Method: Cati, Cami, Cawi

QUESTION: For you COVID- 19 is an important threat for...

	<b>you</b>	<b>Your family</b>	<b>Your community, your city</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>the world</b>
<b>today</b>	48%	53%	62%	86%	82%
<b>One week ago</b>	22%	24%	27%	45%	50%
<b>Two weeks ago</b>	23%	26%	28%	46%	53%
<b>One month ago</b>	12%	11%	12%	24%	54%

QUESTION: How effective are the measures that the Italian government adopted to stop the spreading of the virus?

	<b>Today</b>	<b>One week ago</b>	<b>Two weeks ago</b>
<b>Very effective</b>	14%	11%	12%
<b>Quite effective</b>	48%	45%	39%
<b>A little affective</b>	25%	29%	31%
<b>Not effective at all</b>	7%	9%	10%
<b>Don't know / no opinion</b>	6%	6%	8%
<b>TOTALE</b>	100%	100%	100%

<b>Citizens who vote for....</b>	<b>Lega</b>	<b>PD</b>	<b>M5S</b>	<b>FDI-FI</b>	<b>other</b>	<b>Undecided/no vote</b>
<b>Very effective</b>	14%	11%	20%	27%	11%	18%
<b>Quite effective</b>	48%	40%	63%	48%	42%	54%
<b>A little affective</b>	25%	35%	12%	19%	36%	16%

<b>Not effective at all</b>	7%	11%	1%	3%	9%	5%
<b>Don't know / no opinion</b>	6%	3%	4%	3%	2%	7%
<b>TOTALE</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*QUESTION: do you think that today in Italy all political leaders are sharing common efforts to cope collectively with the emergency?*

	<b>Lega</b>	<b>PD</b>	<b>M5S</b>	<b>FI</b>	<b>others</b>	<b>Undecided/no vote</b>
<b>yes</b>	51%	54%	52%	58%	59%	48%
<b>no</b>	29%	29%	36%	23%	28%	40%
<b>(non sa, non indica)</b>	20%	17%	12%	19%	13%	12%
<b>TOTALE</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## POLL

<http://www.sondaggipoliticoelettorali.it/ListaSondaggi.aspx?st=SONDAGGI>

Title : Monitor italia  
 Institute: tecnè srl  
 Fieldwork: 13/03/2020  
 Sample: 1.000 respondents  
 Method: Cati, Cami, Cawi

*QUESTION: Trust in the Italian Government (M5S+PD):*

	<b>7/02</b>	<b>14/02</b>	<b>21/02</b>	<b>28/02</b>	<b>06/03</b>	<b>13/03</b>
<b>Trust</b>	25,9%	26,4%	27,1%	28,3%	28,8%	29,2%
<b>Do not trust</b>	68,8%	68%	67,2%	65,7%	64,1%	62,9%
<b>No opinion</b>	5,3%	5,6%	5,7%	6%	7,1%	7,9%

*QUESTION: COVID19 emergency: Measures taken by the government are...*

Adequate: 74%  
 Too weak: 13%  
 Excessive : 5%  
 Don't know: 8%

*QUESTION: COVID19 emergency: Is the EU helping Italy?*

No: 88%  
 Yes: 4%  
 Don't Know: 8%

## POLL

<http://www.sondaggipoliticoelettorali.it/ListaSondaggi.aspx?st=SONDAGGI>

Title: Sondaggio su elezioni politiche e coronavirus  
 Institute: Termometro Politico  
 Fieldwork: 12-13 /03/2020  
 Sample: 2200 respondents  
 Method: CAWI

*QUESTION: In economic terms what is your concern for the period following the emergency?*

- The global impoverishment of Italy: 52,2%
- I will be unemployed : 4%
- My personal revenue will decrease drastically : 10%
- My savings will disappear: 5,9%
- It will be the occasion to reinvent my work and grasp new earning opportunities : 11,7%
- Nothing will change: 12,5%
- Don't Know: 3,7%

*QUESTION: After this emergency, would you be in favour of creating a new national united government?*

- Yes, it is the moment to stop all polemics and to collaborate altogether: 11%
- Yes, but we should first go to vote: 15,8%
- No, we have other things to think about than focusing on political discussions: 27,7%
- No, we should not support the current majority which should resign after the crisis: 26,8%
- No, this would only benefit the centre-right and would make the current government fail: 17,3%
- Don't Know: 1,4%

## POLL

<http://www.sondaggipoliticoelettorali.it/ListaSondaggi.aspx?st=SONDAGGI>

Title : Demopolis: cresce la preoccupazione degli italiani per il Coronavirus  
 Institute: Demopolis - Istituto di Ricerche  
 Fieldwork: 11/03/2020  
 Sample: 1.500 respondents  
 Method: Cati, Cami, Cawi

*QUESTION: Number of citizens who are worried about the spreading of COVID 19 in Italy:*

30/01	15/02	29/02	11/03
20%	43%	70%	86%

*QUESTION: Overall, how do you judge the last measures adopted by Conte's government to tackle the emergency?*

- Positively: 70%
- Negatively: 19%
- No opinion: 11%

QUESTION: Which measures should be adopted urgently? (Multiple answers)

- Reinforce the health system (staff, equipment, intensive health machineries and cure of Covid-19): 81%
- Support the production system: 52%
- Do not know: 4%

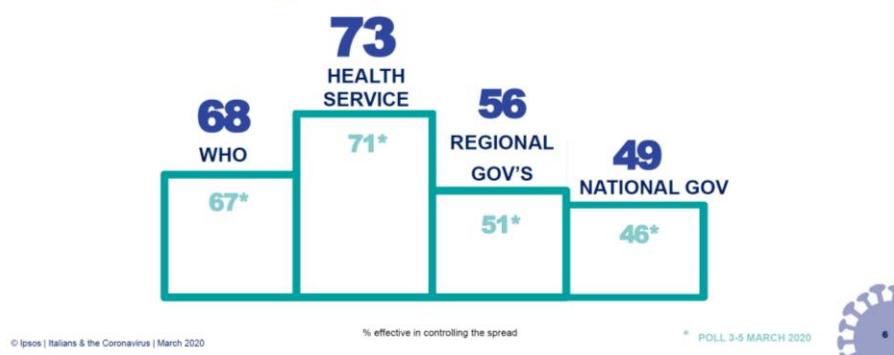
## IPSOS global reports : L'Italia al tempo del coronavirus

<https://www.ipsos.com/it-it/litalia-al-tempo-del-coronavirus-3deg-aggiornamento>

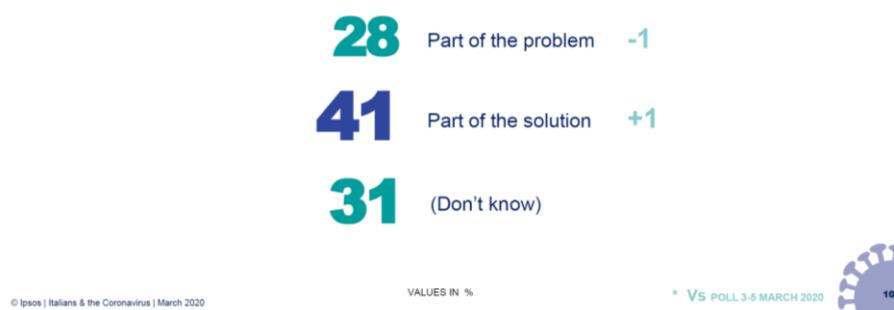
### THE VIRUS: by the end of the first week in March, the perception of threat is back to growth



### Perception of the effectiveness of national and local institutions is also getting better



### Again, the prevailing sense is that Italy will have an active part to play in the solution of the crisis





## ARTICLES:

### **Coronavirus strengthened PM Conte's popularity and made the EU appeal plummet instead / Il Coronavirus ha rafforzato la popolarità del premier Conte e fatto invece precipitare l'appeal dell'Unione europea**

*Italia Oggi - 17 Mar 2020*

The Coronavirus emergency seems to have changed the perception that Italians have of their Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and the EU. According to data from a Swg research, citizens' concern has grown (67%), just as Italians' trust towards Conte has increased. On the other hand, trust towards the European institutions is decreasing - and this could be exploited by anti-European forces at the end of the crisis. (Renato Mannheimer)

### **Europe's populists will try to exploit coronavirus. We can stop them**

*Catherine Fieschi*

*17 March 2020*

*The Guardian*

### **Italy's Salvini and others on the far right could weaponise people's despair. Democratic governments must fight them with transparency**

If the coronavirus pandemic is fuelling any political hope, it is that this crisis is a robust nail in the coffin of populist politics. Surely, some argue, in the face of an entirely indiscriminate, unforeseen and formidable plague, for which no one can be blamed (unlike, say, greedy bankers and unscrupulous lenders in the global financial crisis, or the terrorists of 9/11) **people will turn to the truth, to science and to expert-led government.**

**And, true, populist leaders seem to have lost their voice, for now: the attempts to blame migrants, porous borders and the forces of globalisation for the coronavirus have received short shrift. Fear and deference have, momentarily at least, rendered citizens less inclined to question mainstream governments and turn to populism's snake oil vendors. Better still: it looks as though governments led by populists or populists-lite, such as Donald Trump and Boris Johnson, are set for a rough ride, too, unless they change their ways.**

No one expected many Chinese citizens to question their government's robust coronavirus response, but Italian attitudes, so far, add to the sense of populism's – probably greatly exaggerated – demise. If Italy can be counted on to listen to the orders of a government that only a few weeks ago was viewed as accidental and temporary, perhaps the tide has turned on the populist Lega party leader Matteo Salvini.

And, if it has turned on Salvini, why should it not have turned on all populists? True, there is something quite remarkable about Italy's forbearance in the face of this shock. But a couple of caveats. First, whereas these certainly are extraordinary times, **Italy has always been resilient to shocks**. Terrorism, migration, corruption, the financial crisis and regular, devastating earthquakes have not brought it to its knees. Indeed, the earthquakes have a lot to do with the manner in which health, police, army and emergency services are reacting now, and why Italy does a fine line in civil contingency, and its citizens an even finer line in social solidarity.

Powerful cities; strong regions; an excellent – if decentralised – healthcare system; hi-tech industry; a web of resilient firms and civil society organisations; its own, local food production, creativity and expertise in spades (including in the highest echelons of its civil service), all despite significant regional variations, account for its **capacity to respond to crises. These qualities** are in evidence today – as always. But they **have not been enough in the past to ward off populism, a force that**

**can be reignited at a stroke in tumultuous times.** Think already of the reaction, including on the Italian far right, to remarks made by Christine Lagarde, the president of the European Central Bank, that suggested that Italy would have to cope alone.

Another caveat: it is early days – for every nation. **I, too, want to believe that there will be a significant turn against populist politics, but I have worries.** The first is that **much depends on whether the draconian measures taken in Italy, France and Spain, and elsewhere in Europe, are seen to make a big difference.** Even if the various closures and lockdowns are effective at containing the spread of the virus, it will be very difficult to assert counterfactuals: “it could have been so much worse” never quite cuts it, because it sounds too politically convenient.

My second worry is what **if this is only wave one of a number of coronavirus epidemics?** If the virus mutates, if it is seasonal, if the different timelines of different countries create different waves of contagion and crisis, then governments will have to admit that different measures might have been needed and that we are all still learning. Such incrementalism and humility will be a **difficult political message to manage.** And **over time will governments actually find themselves confronting populations that are grief stricken and economically poorer (that is inevitable) but also frustrated and angry – ready to acquiesce to, or even demand, more authoritarianism?**

**Salvini’s Lega may be haemorrhaging support, but that support is flowing mainly to the party to the (far) right of them, the Brothers of Italy.** The point is that crises such as this don’t necessarily show populist politics up for the fraud it is. They can also have reverse results. **Genuine scientific disagreements can be weaponised as conspiracy theories; legitimate hesitation dressed up as incompetence; and failures used to justify increasingly authoritarian measures and positions.** Could the severity of the Covid-19 crisis serve as justification for the postponement or annulment of a major national election? Unlikely still, but not unthinkable.

The assumption we tend to make is that if this shock encourages people to turn away from populism, it will mark a return to governments of the late 20th century. But this is to fundamentally misunderstand the path that we have all been on for the past few decades.

And this is the third, and most important, worry: we continue to think we can “go back” but those waters have closed behind us. **We need to move into something new** that associates expertise, knowledge and information. **A combination of digital technology and populist politics has led us to an era of what I call populocracy. And while we need urgently to reassert truth, science and reason, how we source this expertise and ensure legitimacy for it will be a fundamental challenge.**

**What will eventually rid us of populism in our time of cholera is the capacity of pluralists and true democrats to win back trust in objective facts and expertise in ways that make sense to the public.** This will be in part measured by the success of the measures taken against the pandemic, of course. But, in a crisis that promises to initially overwhelm our systems, and record nothing but loss of life and defeat, success will also be about demonstrating that whatever was done, was done with people’s needs in mind, especially those of the least well off and the most vulnerable.

**Governments must also demonstrate that they can use digital technology and its promise of shared information and expertise for the greater good and with the greatest flexibility. This is the time to become truly open and resist hunkering down on communications.**

**Unless governments realise the need to be transparent about decision-making, unless they open up to consensus-building and consent, the crisis we are in will overtake them.** Populist accusations of incompetence, opacity and manipulation will ring true for some again. They are bound to, because many will suffer great losses.

**In this respect, the coronavirus crisis is a test of progressive politics — a test of solidarity, but also a test of transparency. It is an opportunity to show that a new diffused technocracy can be to the benefit of the greater good. It is an opportunity to show that to grow trust in government you trust the citizen. This is what will rescue us from the coronavirus, and the virus of populism.**

### **Italy and covid-19: The race against time**

*21 March 2020*

*The Economist*

....The emergency budget marked the second time **Mr Conte had trumped his critics, notably in the hard-right Northern League, by providing more than they had demanded** (the first time was when he applied stiffer containment measures across the entire country). As before, he waited to show it was he, not they, who was in control. His canny tactics are paying off: the most recent **poll found 62% of voters endorsed his government's handling of the epidemic.**

**One exception is the League's leader, Matteo Salvini. He has kept up a barrage of criticism, despite evidence that Italians want their politicians to mute their differences until the crisis is over. ...**

**It is less obvious that in the longer term the epidemic will undermine the nationalist populism of which Mr Salvini is Italy's (and arguably Europe's) most prominent champion.** True, it has swept away the disdain for experts that is a core populist trait. **Never have Italians been keener to listen to their virologists and epidemiologists or more respectful of their health workers. But contempt for science is more characteristic of the M5s, and the crisis may yet lend credibility to the League's causes, including its antipathy to globalisation and its Euroscepticism.** Already shocked by their neighbours' refusal to allow the export of protective equipment, Italians were appalled when on March 12th the European Central Bank governor, Christine Lagarde, appeared to rule out steps to protect Italy from the effects of additional borrowing, though she later changed tack, and the bank introduced a large new bond-buying scheme on March 18th.

**"When Europe has been in need, Italy has always given," Mr Salvini railed in one of his many tweets. "Now that we are asking for help, all the [other] countries are starting to close their frontiers." It is an oversimplification, but one that will strike a chord with many Italians.**

### **Most Italians approve of state's lockdown measures - paper**

*18 March 2020*

*BBC Monitoring European*

Report by Nando Pagnoncelli: "62 per cent of the Italians Approve of the Strategy the Government Adopted"

**Even one out of two centre-right voters is in favour: As the crisis developed, [Prime Minister Giuseppe] Conte's favourability rate went up to 52 per cent. The virus risk perception doubled even among young people.**

The measures the government adopted to contain the spread of Covid-19 are turning Italian lives upside down. They are modifying their behaviour, attitudes, and opinions. It is enough to look at

data concerning the awareness of the risk of becoming infected. It has more than doubled in one week, going from 22 to 48 per cent. And more than one in two deems the virus to be an elevated threat for their family, 62 per cent for the local community and town, 86 per cent for the entire country, and 82 per cent for the entire world.

**The perception of the threat at a personal level is very much across the board. It is the same in different geographical areas** (with spikes in the centre and southern regions), different generations (despite the controversies about the youth who supposedly do not care and have not given up partying), and different education levels (while it is usually the less educated people who are more sensitive to social alarm). **Almost two out of three Italians (62 per cent) think that the measures adopted by the government are very or fairly effective** while 32 per cent hold the opposite view, deeming those measures to be of little or no effect.

The difference between the hopeful and the sceptical has greatly increased to the advantage of the former, going from 10 per cent two weeks ago to 18 per cent last week and 30 per cent today. **And the perceived effectiveness prevails across the political spectrum, with higher peaks among the Democratic Party [PD] voters (83 per cent) and the Five Star Movement [M5S] (75 per cent) and more modest figures among Brothers of Italy (FdI) and Go Italy (FI) and among League voters (51 per cent).**

**Of those polled 53 per cent think that communications between the government and local institutions about the Covid-19 emergency management were clear and timely; the same percentage of people think that communications by institutions to the populations about the reasons and the consequences of the decree-mandated measures were clear and timely.** And furthermore 52 per cent are convinced that the citizens of their own residential area understand that whether or not the virus spread can be slowed down will depend on their personal behaviour, regardless of authorities' checks. In the northern regions, which have been more heavily affected by the epidemic, the opinions on the timeliness and clarity of communications from institutions are slightly less positive, although they are still so, for the most part.

This past week, Prime Minister Conte received the opposition leaders for talks about the controversies between the governing majority and the opposition, as well as how the controversies between the government and the regional administrations have abated. **The less confrontational climate was perceived by the majority of Italians: 51 per cent think that there is a common effort by all leaders to confront the emergency in a concerted manner, whereas 29 per cent have the opposite view and half of those (14 per cent) think that all the leaders have been prioritizing their partisan interests; 12 per cent thinks that [League secretary Matteo] Salvini is the leader who did so more distinctly than others, 7 per cent Giorgia Meloni [FdI leader] and 5 per cent [Matteo] Renzi [Italy Alive founder, leader].**

**In this climate of greater harmony the Prime Minister's favourability rate recorded an increase going from 48 per cent two weeks ago to 52 per cent. Even 26 per cent of League voters and 28 per cent of the FI and FdI voters expressed a favourable opinion of Conte,** who seems to have benefited from a change in his communications strategy. This has been perceived to be more institutional.

As often is the case, our country performs at its best during difficult times. Let us think of the spirit of sacrifice of doctors and medical and social workers as well as the gestures, large and small, of selflessness that are constantly on the rise. These are pushing some unbecoming episodes -- which we could have done without -- into the background. Ex malo bonum [preceding three words in Latin meaning From one bad thing a good one comes], as Saint Augustine said.

**Idea to use ESM for coronavirus 'foolish', Salvini.**

16 March 2020  
ANSA - English Media Service

'EU does not make sense if we have no other tools' -League head

(ANSA) - Rome, March 16 - **League party leader Matteo Salvini on Monday called the idea of using the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) to respond to the coronavirus emergency "foolish".**

He noted that Financial Times had reported that the possibility had been discussed during the preparatory meeting for the Eurogroup video conference on Monday.

**"The right way to respond to the COVID emergency," he said, "is an unconditional intervention by the Central Bank, as announced by the European Central Bank (ECB) and already put into practice by the Fed."**

"ESM resources, in addition to being limited compared with those of a central bank, which has unlimited ability to issue currency, are also subject to very rigorous conditions: the so-called 'memorandum', which dictates economic policy lines to national governments.

**"Whoever asks to use the ESM is de facto suggesting that their country be subjected to the troika, through exploiting the healthcare emergency," Salvini said.**

"If being in an economic and monetary union deprives us of the possibility that other countries have of making recourse in exceptional circumstances to their own central bank, then it is clear that the entire **European project must be reconsidered because it is currently senseless.**"

### **Italian media: From discord to solidarity as Covid-19 lockdown takes hold**

13 March 2020  
*BBC Monitoring European*

The initial hysteria which greeted news of a planned lockdown in the areas worst affected by the coronavirus outbreak in Italy has given way to a shared sense of national unity as containment measures spread nationwide.

This has been reflected in press and media coverage, as **finger-pointing turned to a sense of unity with the realisation that Italy is "being tested before the eyes of the world".**

#### **Initial panic**

....Right-wing publications, meanwhile, remained steadfast in their criticism of the government, with Il Giornale mocking Democratic Party leader Nicola Zingaretti for talking down the threat of coronavirus in early February - only to test positive weeks later.

The same newspaper gave ample coverage to far right leader Matteo Salvini's reaction to the decision to close non-essential businesses: "It's not enough... When you're in a war you should take wartime measures, not half-measures. By the end of this week we'll have 1000 dead."

Giorgia Meloni, leader of the right-wing Brothers of Italy party, was quoted saying her party is willing to cooperate with the government as long as it behaves "more seriously and is less obsessed by the media".

#### **Heroes**

**But a new narrative has emerged in the last week. Opposition parties are now steering clear of criticising the government for the sake of promoting a sense of unity:** "Politicians are putting

aside their own agendas, at least temporarily: the Italian people simply wouldn't forgive them if they didn't," says Il Sole 24 Ore.

...Across the spectrum, doctors are being praised as heroes for their sacrifice; influencers have set up crowdfunding campaigns to raise money for intensive care units, with one initiative raising almost 4m euros in four days. Il Giornale says that everybody within the medical profession "has acquired great dignity, admiration and respect from the public".

### **Common enemy**

"**The time for patriotism has come,**" says prominent journalist Gianni Riotta in an op-ed for centre-left La Stampa. ....

"**We're fighting a common enemy:** from the Alps down to Lampedusa, we suffer for Bergamo and Cremona... Never have so many Italian flags invaded the internet - maybe only during the World Cup," says Il Quotidiano del Sud. Beppe Severgnini in Corriere della Sera writes: "**We are being tested before the eyes of the world".... They are looking at us in an unusual way, with admiration and caution... Few think we can do this. I am convinced we will surprise them.**"

## **Latvia**

### **Government supports postponing emergency Riga elections until June 6**

*RIGA, March 17 (LETA)*

The Cabinet of Ministers today approved the proposal of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development to postpone Riga City Council elections on June 6 this year in connection with the coronavirus outbreak. Given the state of emergency and the ban on public events, in the interest of public health and to reduce the risk of the further spread of Covid-19, the ministry has proposed to postpone the Riga City Council emergency elections from April to June this year.

*Source: <https://www.letatv.lv/eng/home/important/7E770458-BF85-4F67-8667-84F25CDF6EE8/>*

## Netherlands

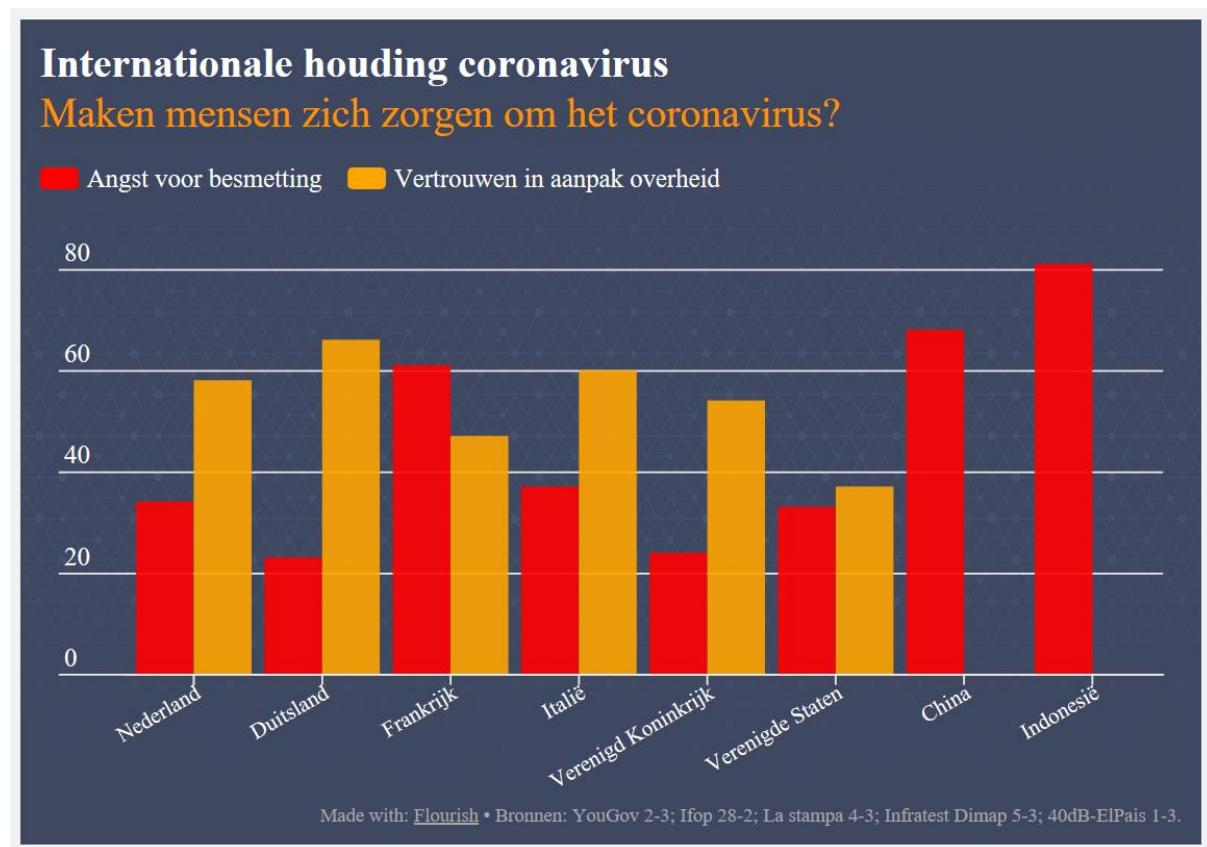
### I&O-ZETELPEILIG: MAART 2020

I&O Research

Many voters feel that the government is taking measures too late or too little in the event of major problems. A few already mention the corona crisis here, such as an FvD voter: Just proven again in the outbreak of the corona epidemic ... they are behind the facts and are taking all measures too late." •

### De angst voor coronavirus verschilt per land

EenVandaag, 12-03-2020



### Peiling: meerderheid steunt corona-aanpak kabinet

ANP in Transport Online.nl, 15/03/2020

**Seven out of ten Dutch people think that the government has taken the right measures** to curb the corona outbreak, although half of them think that **this happened too late**. 23 percent think that too few measures have been taken, 7 percent think it is too much, according to a poll by Maurice de Hond.

VVD members and D66 members in particular support the government's position. PVV, Forum for Democracy and 50PLUS are critical - relatively many of their supporters (between 37 and 49

percent) believe that more should be done. There are relatively many people at the CDA and Party for the Animals who believe that the measures taken are too much (12 and 13 percent).

Half of the respondents think it is a bad idea to keep the schools open, while a third think it is fine. Parents of students in secondary education are more negative about keeping the schools open than parents with children in primary school.

Many people say they follow the general advice against the spread of the coronavirus: 84 percent wash their hands better than before, 77 percent give no more hands, 72 percent cough and sneeze in the elbow.

Around a quarter of the respondents said they had bought extra items for personal hygiene (soap, toilet paper) and bought extra food and remedies for flu and colds.

### **Coronacrisis: steeds meer Nederlanders maken zich zorgen**

*RTLNieuws.nl, Peiling van DVJ Insights 14/03/2020*

**61 percent are concerned** about the virus

Hygiene is of great importance: of all people who take measures, 80 percent wash their hands more often and better and 73 percent no longer shake hands.

**52 percent think that the Dutch government has taken sufficient measures** to prevent the virus from spreading, 35 percent disagree.

## Poland

### Europe and the virus: The battle of narratives

[https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary\\_europe\\_and\\_the\\_virus\\_the\\_battle\\_of\\_narratives](https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_europe_and_the_virus_the_battle_of_narratives)

(...) At a press conference on 13 March, Poland's prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, promised to "close the door to the pandemic". The country then moved not only to shut its schools, kindergartens, universities, cinemas, and other institutions – it also decided to suspend international flights and train connections, and to **reintroduce controls on cross-border vehicle traffic**. Morawiecki presented **Poland as being in the vanguard of reacting firmly to the crisis** – which he was, judging by the border controls introduced since in many other European countries, from Spain and Portugal to Germany and the Netherlands.

However, Poland went further. Foreign citizens currently cannot enter Poland. Morawiecki made clear he **blamed the outside world for the spread of the virus**. Most cases of Covid-19 in Poland have been, in his words, "imported, in the strict sense of the word", either by foreigners or by Poles returning from abroad. The message is that the **Polish nation is clean and pure** – and it would not experience the current crisis if it were less involved in freedom of movement. (...)

### Poland's corona candidate

**The number of virus cases is rising, but Andrzej Duda is determined to hold the election as planned.**

*Politico, 19/03/2020*

Duda has been on a tear around the country in recent days (...) The president's office says this is all part of the job of a head of state in a country in crisis thanks to the coronavirus epidemic, but Duda's **rivals accuse him of conducting an unfair political campaign** ahead of presidential elections scheduled for May 10.

(...). Poland's tough coronavirus restrictions, which ban public gatherings of more than 50 people, make it almost impossible to conduct normal politics. But for now, **Duda has no plans to stop**.

"The elections will take place on May 10," Błażej Spychalski, the head of the president's Cabinet, told Polish radio on Wednesday.

(...)

If Duda can push his vote total above 50 percent, **he could win in the first round** instead of having to fight it out with the runner-up in a second round on May 24 — and his supporters are urging him to hang on.

(...) Borys Budka, the leader of the Civic Coalition, (...) called on Morawiecki to declare a national emergency so that the election can be delayed. Under Polish law, **an election would be shifted to no earlier than 90 days after such an emergency expires**; however, the government hasn't yet made any such declaration. Morawiecki **cautioned** Wednesday that putting off the vote until the fall could mean that the election would happen during a second wave of the coronavirus.

Other presidential candidates also want a delay, and there's an online **petition** calling for a change in dates.

(...) But Elżbieta Witek, the PiS speaker of parliament who is responsible for setting the date of the vote, **said** Wednesday, "There are no plans to move the presidential election to a different date; the date of May 10 is not endangered. **The state is doing everything possible to ensure that the elections takes place on time and in safety.**"

## Polls show strong public support for Polish government's tough coronavirus measures

Mar 15, 2020, [HTTPS://NOTESFROMPOLAND.COM/](https://NOTESFROMPOLAND.COM/)

Opinion polls indicate that the **public is supportive of the government's approach** to the coronavirus pandemic (...)

On 6 March, after Poland's first coronavirus infection had been confirmed and after parliament had passed a special law granting emergency powers to deal with the epidemic, around half of Poles (52.5%) said that the **government was dealing well** with the situation, according to an IBRiS poll for *Rzeczpospolita*. Only 22.6% assessed its actions negatively.

By the start of this week, those **approval ratings had increased even further**, with 67% positively assessing the government's actions in an Ipsos poll for OKO.press taken on 9-10 March. Only 26% expressed a negative view(...)

On 11 March, all schools, museums, galleries and many other institutions were closed. A big majority (84%) of respondents in an IBRiS poll for *Wirtualna Polska* said that the **decision to suspend schools and preschools was a good one**. The move had the approval of over 80% of supporters of each major political party, and overall only 2% said that the decision was a bad one.

On Friday, even tougher new measures were put in place: international air and rail links were suspended, most foreigners barred from entering the country, returning Poles required to go into a 14-day quarantine, public gatherings of over 50 people banned, and restaurants and cafes closed.

The government declared that it is "**time to quarantine our entire society**" and encouraged people to stay at home as much as possible.

(...)

The daily announcement of new infections and of various measures to tackle the crisis has been delivered by the health minister, Łukasz Szumowski, who is himself a medical doctor. Szumowski had previously not been a prominent figure in the government, but his calm, reassuring manner during the coronavirus outbreak has won **praise even from critics of the ruling party**.

It has also seen him suddenly become **one of Poland's most trusted politicians**, according to a regular ranking created by IBRiS for *Onet*. Szumowski had previously not even been included in the poll, but now he entered it in second place, with 41.3% of respondents saying they trust him.

That puts him behind President Andrzej Duda (45.4%) and ahead of Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki (41.1%). Moreover, whereas Duda and Morawiecki also have strong **distrust ratings** (of 37.9% and 42.1% respectively), reflecting Poland's deep political divides, Szumowski (distrusted by only 16.9%) does not.

One area in which the government could potentially face criticism is on the question of **whether to postpone presidential elections scheduled for May**. All the candidates have stopped holding public campaign events and moved towards online channels due to the coronavirus crisis.

Many have argued that the current restrictions, as well as the general atmosphere created by a national emergency, are not conducive to conducting fair elections. (...)

Another poll by IBRiS for *Rzeczpospolita*, conducted just before the decision to close schools, found that a **majority (51.7%) agreed that the elections should be postponed** if the number of "coronavirus cases increases significantly". Only 28.1% said that it should not.

## SURVEYS:

- Almost half of Poles (45,7%) believe that the 2019-nCoV coronavirus spreading around the world may be a threat to Poland**

Source: SW Research, <https://www.rp.pl/Koronawirus-2019-nCoV/200219859-Sondaz-457-proc-Polakow-uwaza-wirus-2019-nCoV-za-zagrozenie-dla-kraju.html>

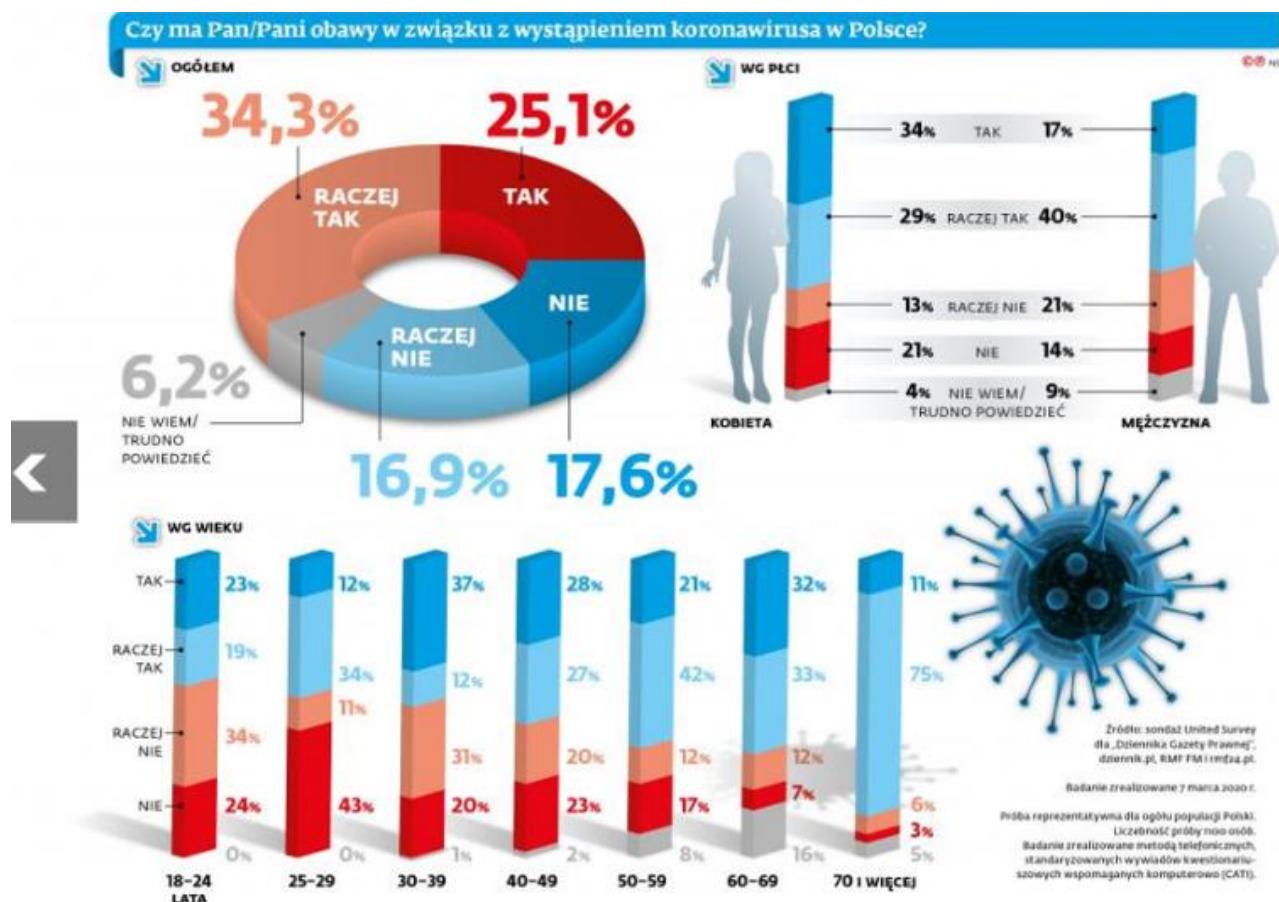
- 53% believes that the country will not be able to fight the epidemic**

Source: IBRIS, <https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/kraj/koronawirus-w-polsce-czy-nasz-kraj-poradzi-sobie-z-wirusem-sondaz/ghv4zmk>

- 60 percent Poles (25,1% yes & 34,3% rather yes) are afraid of an epidemic**

source: United Surveys, <https://serwisy.gazetaprawna.pl/zdrowie/galerie/1458492,duze-zdjecie,2,koronawirus-obawy-polakow-sondaz-zagrozenie-epidemia.html>

Below, age and gender distribution:



- 57 percent Poles assess the government's actions regarding the coronavirus well**

Source: IBSP, <https://www.dziennik.pl/tagi/sondaz>

- 71 percent Poles positively assess the government's actions in relation to the coronavirus pandemic**

Source: Social Changes, <https://www.polskieradio24.pl/5/1222/Artykul/2476637,Ponad-70-proc-badanych-odpowiedzialo-pozytywnie-Tak-Polacy-oceniaja-dzialania-rzadu-ws-koronawirusa>

## **Portugal**

### **Press review:**

- <https://www.dn.pt/poder/costa-e-o-estado-de-emergencia-o-pais-nao-vai-parar-11948555.html>  
(19-03-2020)

Costa and the state of emergency: "The country won't stop"

Democracy will not be suspended. We will continue to be an open society of free citizens who are responsible for themselves and for others".

- [https://www.cmjornal.pt/sociedade/detalhe/pessoas-com-mais-de-65-anos-vao-ter-horario-para-ir-as-compras-conheca-as-regras-durante-o-estado-de-emergencia?ref=HP\\_PrimeirosDestques](https://www.cmjornal.pt/sociedade/detalhe/pessoas-com-mais-de-65-anos-vao-ter-horario-para-ir-as-compras-conheca-as-regras-durante-o-estado-de-emergencia?ref=HP_PrimeirosDestques)  
(19-03-2020)

The government says democracy cannot be suspended. In other words, the measures taken must respect constitutional and legal limits.

Travel is restricted to the performance of tasks and functions essential to survival, travel for health reasons, the functioning of society in general, and the exercise of professional functions from home whenever necessary.

## Romania

**Romania's Parliament endorses the state of emergency but asks for ex-post report**

March 19 2020 <https://www.romania-insider.com/daily-news/politics>

Romania's Parliament on Thursday, March 19, unanimously approved the request of president Klaus Iohannis for approving the state of emergency in the country amid the new coronavirus pandemic, News.ro reported.

# Spain

## Political situation:

<https://www.elmundo.es/espagna/2020/03/18/5e707be9fc6c8352738b4633.html>

(18-03-2019)

Up to now, there is **political unity towards the government. All the parties supported the government measures.** The soft critics to take into account regarding the Covid-19 situation are these:

- **Right and far right timid criticism:** they are supporting the measures being taken while they blame the government because they consider that they are late.
- Few critics about the centralisation of the competences by **Nationalist** regional governments in Basque Country and Catalonia: the main measure taken by the government was the state of alarm which temporary centralizes all the competences in the national government. Nationalist parties 'PNV' and 'Junts X Cat' complained about the loss of some their competence because of this emergency.

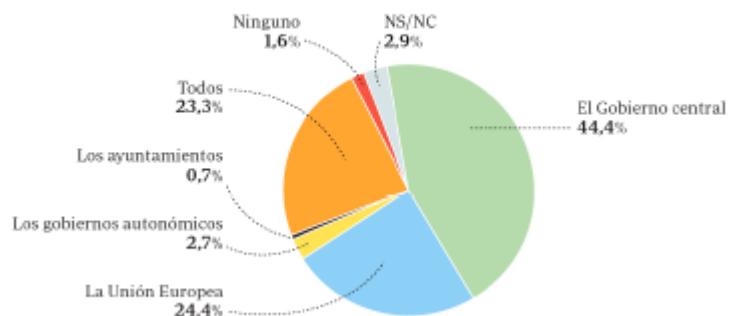
## Surveys:

ABC, 13/03/2020

GAD3, fieldwork 11-12/03/2020

Q: Who should be responsible for taking actions aiming at containing the virus? (UE - 24,4%)

*¿Quién cree que debería ser el principal responsable en tomar las medidas adecuadas para contener el virus?*

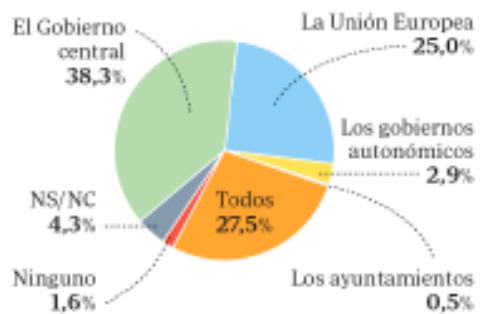


ABC, 17/03/2020

GAD3, fieldwork 12-16/03/2020

Q: Who should be responsible for taking actions aiming at containing the virus? (UE - 25%)

*¿Quién cree que debe ser el principal responsable en tomar las medidas adecuadas para contener el virus?*



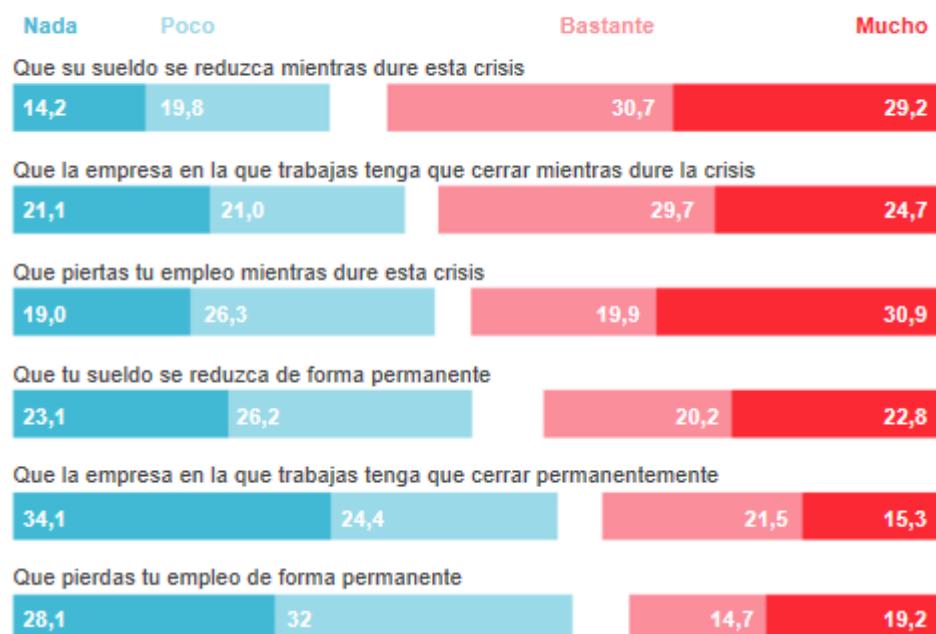
**Half of Spaniards fear losing their jobs due to the coronavirus crisis**

19/03/2020, <https://elpais.com/espagna/2020-03-19/la-mitad-de-los-espanoles-teme-perder-el-empleo-por-la-crisis.html>

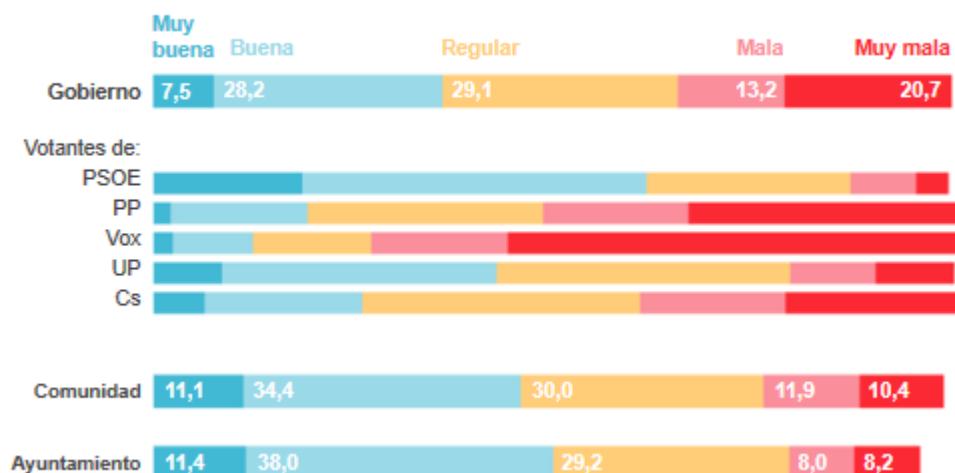
Half of Spaniards fear losing their jobs due to the coronavirus crisis

**Consecuencias de la crisis sanitaria sobre el empleo**

¿Cómo de probable cree que es...?



### Valoración de la actuación frente al coronavirus



## Sweden

### What does the coronavirus mean for the Swedish economy?

news@thelocal.se, 17 March 2020

On Thursday the Swedish government will propose a **budget emergency package to the Swedish parliament of up to 300 billion kronor (\$31 billion)**. The main proposal is a **new system for shortening work hours, while the employee will still retain 90 percent of their original pay**. The state will foot a large portion of the costs, meaning that employers can cut their payroll expense in half. This new system will come into force in April but will be retroactively applied from March 16th. Both the employer and the employee need to be in agreement in order for the subsidy to be available. **The package also means the state will take on all the costs related to employee sick leave in April and May. Usually, sick leave costs are divided between the state and the employer.** And employers will be able to defer social security contributions, preliminary tax on salaries and value-added tax reported monthly or quarterly for 3-12 months. This will be retroactively available from January 1st, which means that they are able to get already-paid taxes back from the Swedish tax agency from the beginning of the year. **This is to help businesses maintain liquidity, so that they can keep paying out salaries.** (...) **Municipalities and regions will be compensated for extraordinary costs** related to the pandemic. These might include extra expenditures such as materials, staff costs, lab analysis and disease tracking (in Sweden it's the regions who have responsibility for healthcare). And affected government agencies will get extra funding to cover expenditures connected to the pandemic:

- 41 million – The Public Health Agency of Sweden (Folkhälsomyndigheten)
- 20 million – The National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen)
- 5 million – The Swedish Medical Products Agency (Läkemedelsverket)

**Sweden's National Board of Health and Welfare will also get a triple increase** in possible lending expenditure, from 100 to 300 million kronor, in order to buy protective equipment and coronavirus test kits. **Sweden's Central Bank, the Riksbank, decided on March 13th to make loans of up to a total of 500 billion**, available to businesses through the banks. Loans are given at the current base rate, reporäntan, at 0 percent. (...)

### Sweden: 30% of respondents to take measures against coronavirus effects

15 March 2020, Esmerk Swedish News

A **survey** conducted by the West Sweden Chamber of Commerce (Västsvenska handelskammaren) shows that **three out of 10 companies opt to temporarily lay off staff and introduce shorter working hours in addition to layoffs**. 85% state that they have minimised all work trips, while 56% have offered staff to work remotely from home.

Furthermore, the **survey** shows that 76% of respondents do not participate in any events, whereas 95% of companies have taken some form of measure against the effects of the coronavirus. Chamber CEO Johan Trouvé states that 15% of respondents are either considering layoff measures or having already launched them, and that thousands of jobs in Western Sweden are threatened. He further says that the tourism industry is facing between 80% to 100% cancellations, which in turn has a negative impact on the transport and restaurant sectors. He now calls for action from the Swedish government, which includes measures to cover for financial losses, sick leave payments and a deadline for the enforced ban against more than 500 persons for public gatherings.