

briefing

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paper

Monitoring the labour market, public health and social consequences of Covid-19: essential resources for researchers and policymakers



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Monitoring the labour market, public health and social consequences of Covid-19: essential resources for researchers and policymakers

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The Covid-19 outbreak has raised several important policy questions that have triggered the curiosity of researchers and need to be critically analysed. A variety of think tanks, research institutes, governmental and international bodies and European institutions provide regular updates about the public health, economic, environmental, labour market and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many scientific journals have also been working on special issues designed to provide critical understanding and a more precise perspective on the Coronavirus crisis.

This Briefing paper ⁽¹⁾ provides an overview of some of the key resources that may be useful for researchers and policymakers. The list is obviously non-exhaustive, as new sources of information are regularly becoming available. Suggestions for **additions/amendments** are warmly welcomed at publications@ose.be.

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1. Research institutes

Amsterdam Centre for European Studies

ACES provides regular updates of recent Covid-19 [publications](#) by its researchers. ACES also organised a Virtual Visions of Europe series on 'Pandemic Politics and Corona Crisis Response'. Topics included diversity and (non-) coordination in public health, socio-economic policy and crisis response and changing geopolitical orders. The videos of the roundtables are accessible [online](#).

Cambridge Core blog

This essential blog collects country specific reports analysing national responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic in its 'Health, Economics, Politics and Law' archive, serving as a forum for scholarship on health and social care policy issues.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/tag/country-responses-to-the-covid19-pandemic/>

DULBEA

The Department of Applied Economics of the *Université Libre de Bruxelles* (ULB) prepares a regular Research Review of the economic consequences of Covid-19, briefly scrutinising the latest papers and insights for policymakers and researchers. <https://dulbea.ulb.be/#/news>.

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

The Health Observatory's 'Health System Response Monitor' (HSRM) organizes up-to-date cross-country analysis on how European countries are responding to the crisis: the focus is on the responses of health systems, but the Monitor also captures wider public health initiatives. The website also includes important links to sites related to the Covid-19 crisis - including to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the Financial Times Coronavirus Tracker and the [IMF](#) policy tracker (which summarises the key economic responses of national governments worldwide). <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/mainpage.aspx>

European Trade Union Institute

The ETUI 'Covid Social Impact' watch monitors the social and employment consequences of the coronavirus in EU Member States. The web page includes a 'Covid Social Impact Timeline', a link to regular ETUI [podcasts](#) ('Voices on the world of work'), covering topics such as social protection and the rule of law, Covid19 and the climate crisis, and migrant workers and Covid19. <https://www.etui.org/Covid-Social-Impact>

IZA Institute of Labor Economics

IZA World of Labor has set up a specific website: 'Covid-19 and the labour market', regularly expanded to provide updated information, empirical findings and political advice. Several discussion papers have been published on who are the essential and frontline workers; child

health, remote work and the female wage penalty; and working parents, financial insecurity, and child-care: mental health in the time of Covid-19. <https://covid-19.iza.org>

LISER-Applica-European Social Observatory

The European Social Policy Network (ESPN) produces regular 'Flash Reports' to provide the European Commission with independent information, analysis and expertise on social policies in 35 European countries. The latest ESPN Flash Reports discuss some of the major social policy measures taken in response to Covid-19 in Finland, France, Malta, Kosovo, Albania, Ireland, Slovakia and Austria. Accessible [online](#).

2. European Union institutions and Agencies

Council of the European Union

The Council's dedicated web page provides an overview of the latest meetings, press releases and policies of the Council of the EU and the European Council in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Council has also started publishing a new newsletter: 'The pulse'.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/topics/covid-19/>

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

EU-OSHA's 'Covid-19: resources for the workplace' presents a collection of guidance documents (e.g. 'Guidance for the workplace'), awareness-raising material and further links on the topic.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/covid-19-resources-workplace>

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

ECDC publishes up-to-date news and interactive data on the Coronavirus, as well as risk assessments, guidance and advice on public health responses to European Member States and the European Commission. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en>

European Commission

The Commission 'Coronavirus response' web page provides updates about its coordination, within its strictly limited competencies in the area of public health, of a common European response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en

European Committee of the Regions

COR has created a Covid-19 Exchange Platform to assist, inform, engage and represent regions across Europe. It provides concrete feedback and evidence on the health, emergency response, social and economic aspects of the pandemic and their impact on people and their local communities. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/COVID19-exchangeplatform.aspx>

European Economic and Social Committee

EESC holds online webinars to discuss latest developments concerning the European response to the Coronavirus crisis. It also publishes opinion papers supporting European Commission policy proposals, most recently on how the pandemic is wreaking havoc on Europe's tourism sector.

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news?page=1>

European Environment Agency

The EEA features regular articles debating the impact of the pandemic on the climate; the relation between air quality and Covid-19; how it would be possible to build a more sustainable and resilient world in the wake of the crisis. The website also publishes up-to-date relevant news concerning the environmental impact of the pandemic. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/>

European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions

Eurofound has launched Covid-19 EU PolicyWatch, a new database collating and mapping the policy responses introduced in Member States, the UK and Norway. It publishes regular blogposts and initial findings regarding 'Living, working and Covid-19'.

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/news/news-articles>

European Institute for gender equality

EIGE's web page aims to raise awareness about some of the gendered impacts that Covid-19 is having on our society. The information draws on EIGE's existing research and gender statistics to highlight the different realities that women and men could be facing as a result of this pandemic. Specific topics covered include frontline workers; gender impacts on health; gender-based violence; unpaid care and housework.

<https://eige.europa.eu/topics/health/covid-19-and-gender-equality>

European Parliament

The 'EU response to coronavirus' web page reports everyday news on the EU coordinated response to the emergency, and the European Parliament's actions to mitigate the crisis and assess the socio-political impact of the Covid-19 outbreak. It regularly publishes informative videos and press releases.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/eu-response-to-coronavirus>

3. Other international bodies

International Labour Organisation

The ILO's 'Covid-19 and the world of work' website provides regularly updated (regional and country) assessments of the global impact of Covid-19 on economies and labour markets, together with policy recommendations. Topics include the impact on migrant workers; employment in the tourism sector; gender equality and the role of social protection in economic recovery. A key resource is the ILO's '[Policy framework](#) for tackling the economic and social impact of the Covid-19 crisis'.

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/lang--en/index.htm>

International Monetary Fund

The IMF provides up-to-date information and news, as well as describing key economic responses taken by governments. Moreover, it has a dedicated webpage containing a special series of notes written by IMF experts to help members address the economic effects of Covid-19. They focus on fiscal issues; legal topics; monetary and financial policies; statistical issues; etc.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19>

OECD

The OECD collects data, writes analyses, policy responses and recommendations on a range of topics related to the impacts and consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on our lives and our societies, including healthcare; education, employment and the labour market; inequalities and social challenges; governance and the environment. It also publishes the latest highlights, videos and podcasts. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/>

World Bank

In a dedicated section 'World Bank Group and Covid-19', the World Bank publishes news, press releases, stories, and reports exploring the impact of Covid-19 on the following areas: urban development; competitiveness; finance and trade; social protection; water sanitation and hygiene; etc. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are/news/coronavirus-covid19>

4. Other online resources

European Social Insurance Platform

In its dedicated section 'Social Security & Covid-19', ESIP gathers information on the measures implemented by its members to alleviate the social and economic impact of the pandemic. ESIP also ran a survey among its members to identify the social protection strategies taken to cope with this emergency. The page is regularly updated with new information regarding national measures taken. <https://esip.eu/covid-19-pandemic>

European Trade Union Confederation

The 'Covid-19 Watch ETUC Briefing notes' provide critical information on the impacts of Covid-19 on labour markets, workers and citizens across Europe. Topics covered by the briefing notes include sick pay and social protection-related interventions; national measures to protect non-standard workers; occupational safety and health; and seasonal workers.

<https://www.etuc.org/en/publication/covid-19-watch-etuc-briefing-notes>

Imperial College London

The Imperial College website has been publishing online reports, planning tools, scientific resources and video updates in a Covid-19 section on a number of topics: strategies for mitigation and suppression; perceptions and behavioural responses of the general public during the pandemic; non-equity in response to the pandemic.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/mrc-global-infectious-disease-analysis/covid-19/>

John Hopkins University

The John Hopkins website provides valuable information, maps and trends to help enhance understanding of the virus, inform the public, brief policymakers in order to guide their responses and improve care. This essential tool for following global cases and trends is updated daily.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data>

Journal of European Social Policy Blog

This JESP Blog focuses mainly on providing a forum for discussion of the Covid-19 crisis from a variety of social policy perspectives. The inaugural blog post (on the Covid-19 crisis and the EU) featured a dialogue between leading academics, while other posts deal with topics such as the basic income debate, the looming pension crisis, in-work poverty and social security innovation. JESP [Blog](#)

Policy Network

This London-based progressive think tank has begun a new series, called 'Aftershock: Society and politics after the pandemic', to explore how the pandemic may fundamentally reorder our

economies and societies. Published essays cover topics such as Covid-19 and immigration; Civil liberties in the age of coronavirus; and the pandemic and work-life balance.

<https://policynetwork.org/features/aftershock-society-and-politics-after-the-pandemic/>

Social Europe

This website features regular opinion pieces related to Covid-19, including contributions discussing occupational health and safety, the easing of state-aid rules; the role of trade unions in a safe exit; the political (mis)uses of the pandemic; and occupational safety and health in the care economy.

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/>

Think Tank reports on Covid-19 and the recovery fund

The Council of the EU Library publishes on its blog a regularly updated list of recent publications by think tanks including the Centre for European Policy Studies, Bruegel, Clingendael Institute, the European Parliament Think Tank, European Policy Centre, Egmont, the World economic Forum and Notre Europe. Available [online](#)

VoxEu CEPR Policy Portal

VoxEu.org promotes research-based policy analysis and commentary by leading economists. The website has a Covid-19 column, which includes topics such as the impact on political economy; populism; income and gender inequality; the environmental impact; and precarity of work (gig economy). <https://voxeu.org/pages/covid-19-page>

5. Special issues of scientific journals

Many scientific journals have been working on Special issues designed to provide a critical understanding and a more precise perspective on the Coronavirus crisis. Editors wish to encourage the new stream of research, and have fast-tracked the review and publication of articles that deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and are in line with the journals' remit.

Journal of European Public Policy

For a special edition 'Policy Responses to Covid-19', JEPP is calling for proposals for papers analysing policy responses to the crisis. The special issue will focus on the nature and effectiveness of national and international policies, governance and crisis management perspectives.

<http://www.jepp-online.com/2020/03/31/global-crisis-policy-responses-to-covid-19/>

Journal of the Association for Consumer Research

JACR plans to publish a special Flash Covid-19 Research Issue to disseminate consumer insights based on empirical findings, inform policies and stimulate ongoing research. The journal is interested in behavioural research on responses to the pandemics.

<https://www.ama.org/listings/2020/04/02/covid-19-research-issue/>

Resources, Conservation & Recycling

RCR is calling for contributions to a virtual special issue on 'Resources and Waste Management in Covid-19 and Pandemics'.

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/resources-conservation-and-recycling/call-for-papers/covid-19-and-pandemics-resconrec>

Social Sciences

The journal is publishing two special issues: the first entitled 'Family, Work and Welfare: a [gender lens](#) on Covid-19', the second 'The political economy of the response to Covid-19: The EU and the rest of the world'. The aim is to shed light on the major challenges faced by different national and transnational governments and the role of neoliberal organization of public health, etc.

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci/special_issues/political_economy_covid_19

Social Sciences & Humanities Open

The editors are issuing a call for papers asking for reflective contributions on the impact of the Coronavirus on the relationship between politicians and scientists during a public health crisis, public trust in politicians; public health collaborations between states; the environmental impact of the pandemic; global responses; the economic and business impact.

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/social-sciences-and-humanities-open/call-for-papers/coronavirus-society-call-for-papers>

The Journal of Environmental Economics and Management

JEEM encourages new studies by publishing high quality research at the nexus of the Covid-19 outbreak and environmental and resource economics.

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-environmental-economics-and-management/call-for-papers/special-issue-jeem-covid-19-fast-track>