

Swiss Scientific COVID-19 Task Force: Response strategies in selected countries

Confidential: Internal discussion document

April 10, 2020

DISCLAIMER



What it is

This document summarises selected sources of external analysis, provided by multiple public and academic sources including national websites and press coverage.



What it is not

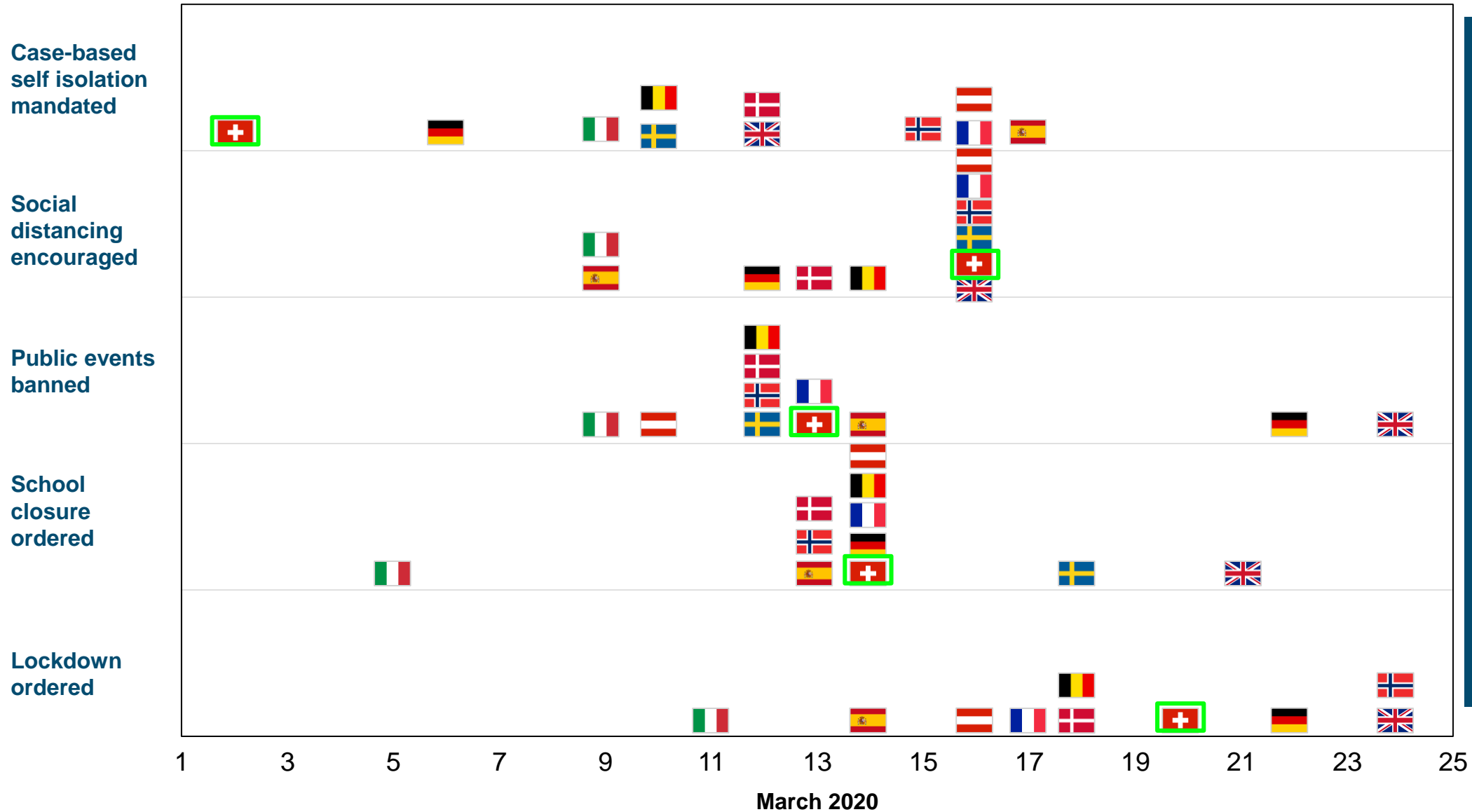
This document is not proprietary information, and does not express a political, medical or policy recommendation on how to respond to COVID-19.

It does not cover the full range of issues to consider in deciding how to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This document is **intended for internal use only**

Identified interventions and case studies are based on public sources and are **not confirmed by official sources**

Strict public health interventions have been adopted across Europe





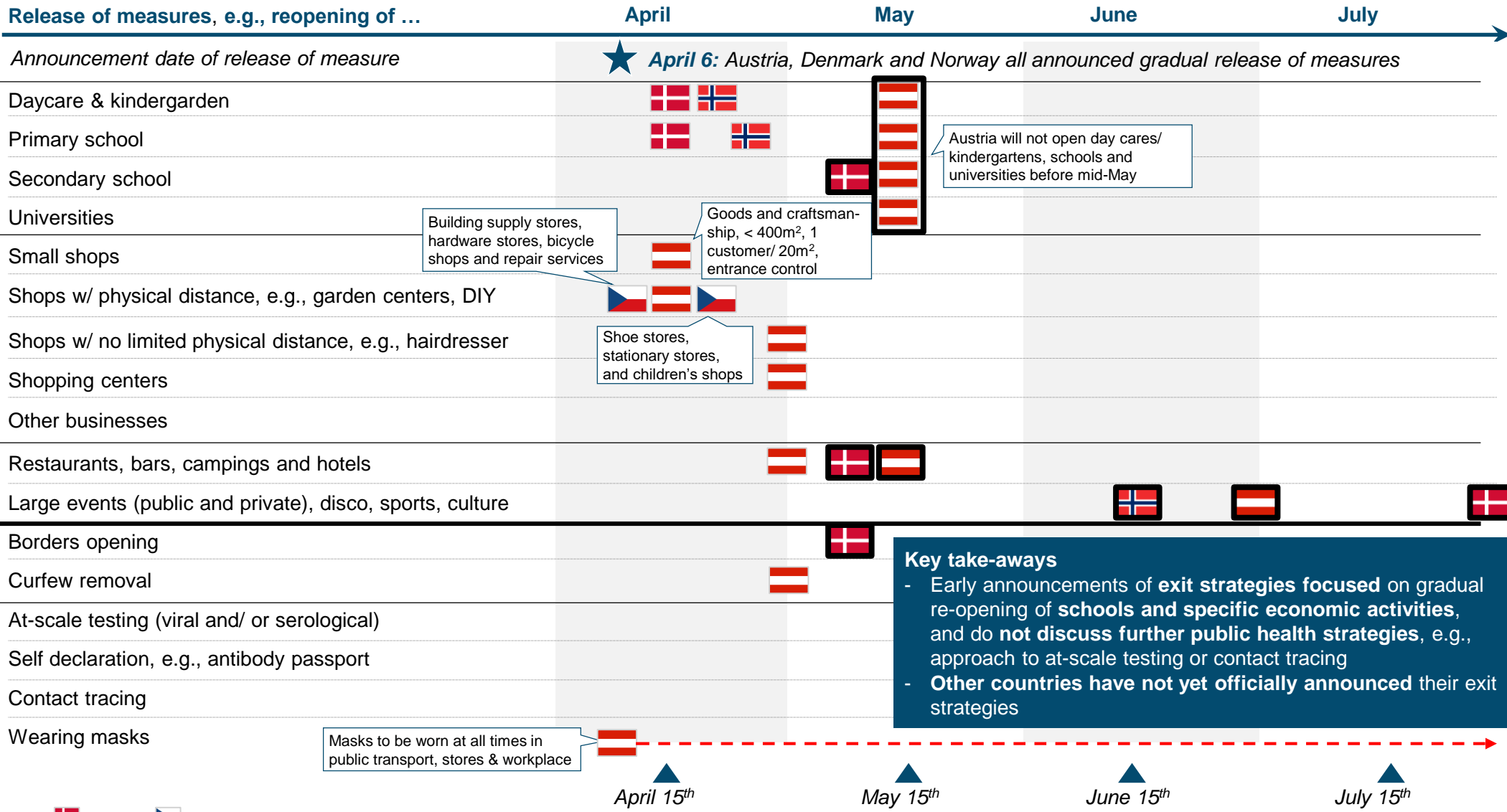
Key insights

- Due to the severity of the pandemic, Italy has been at the forefront of implementing strict measures
- While Switzerland was first mover for mandatory, case-based isolation, it adopted stronger measures only later, e.g., federal lockdown

Only a few countries have announced exit strategies to date: these strategies are sometimes tentative and often adaptive

2 different types of dates

-  Date when respective measure will be released
-  No concrete date for release of measure, only "not earlier than"



NOTE: Analysis focuses on countries in close proximity to Switzerland and other European countries. It excludes non-European countries, e.g., Singapore, China, South Korea.
 Source: Austrian ministry of Social Affairs, accessed from: <https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Coronavirus---Aktuelle-Maßnahmen.html>; Press search; New York Times; Reuters; Bloomberg; Regierung; politi.dk

European leaders take different stances on releasing measures



Angela Merkel
German Chancellor

"We would be a **bad government if we were to name a date** [on possible relaxation of measures] now"

- April 6



Édouard Philippe
French Prime Minister

[When asked about the conditions for de-confinement, the Prime Minister replied that any question on the subject] "is

exceedingly premature"

- April 7



Mette Frederiksen
Danish Prime Minister

"This will probably be a bit like walking the tightrope. If we stand still along the way we could fall and if we go too fast it can go wrong.

Therefore, **we must take one cautious step at a time.**"

- April 7



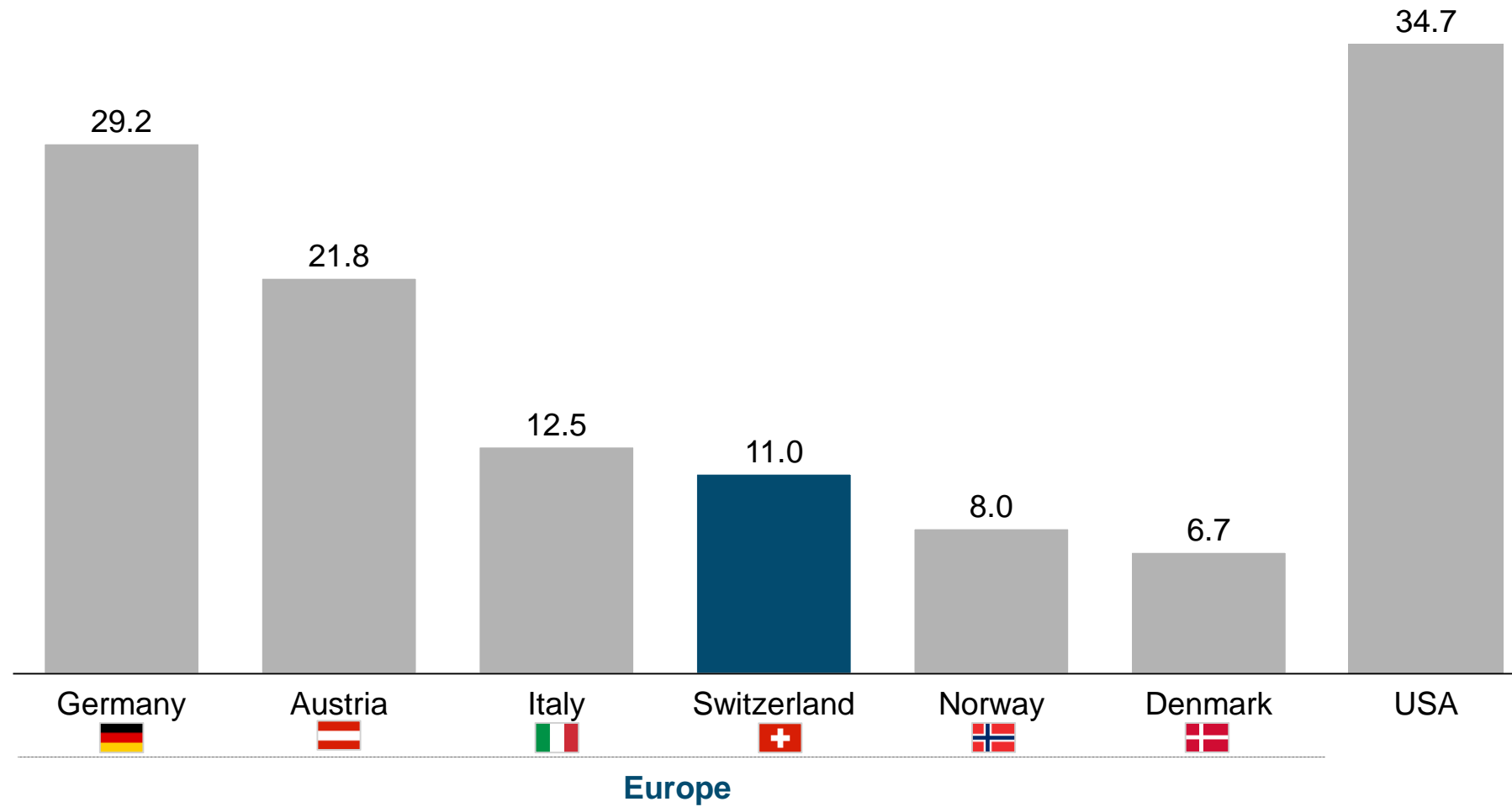
Sebastian Kurz
Austrian Chancellor

"We **reacted faster and more restrictively** than in other countries and could therefore avoid the worst. But this fast and restrictive reaction now also gives us the **possibility to come out of this crisis more quickly"**

- April 6

Switzerland has significantly fewer ICU and IMCU beds per 100'000 population than Germany and Austria







Number of intensive care (ICU) and intermediate care (IMCU) beds per 100'000 population



Key considerations

- Swiss healthcare system is respectively twice and thrice less resilient than those of Austria and Germany
- Critical to consider in case of potential rebounds in number of infected individuals

Austria 'exiting early' is partly justified based on their lower number of cases per million people

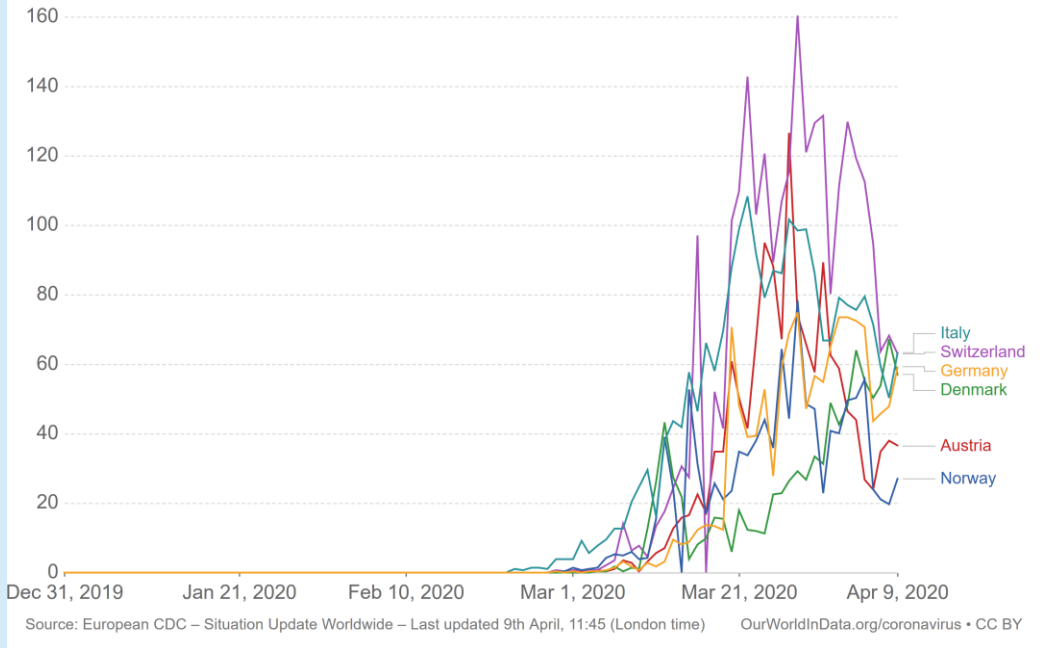
Country	Population, million	N. of tests performed per million	Daily confirmed cases	Total confirmed cases	Total cases per million
Switzerland 	8.6	21'625	552	21'574	2'492
Italy 	60.3	14'999	3'599	132'547	2'192
Austria 	8.9	16'653	314	12'297	1'365
Germany 	83.1	15'730	3'834	99'225	1'184
Norway 	5.4	22'720	115	5'755	1'062
Denmark 	5.8	11'176	312	4'861	808

Daily cases / million pop.

- 64
- 60
- 35
- 46
- 21
- 54

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.



Contents of appendix

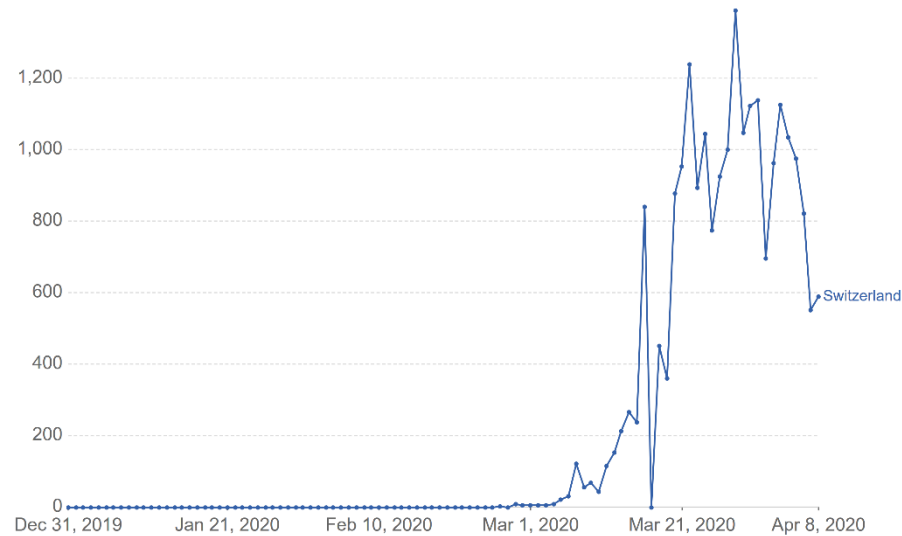
- **Task force internal perspective on situation in Austria, Denmark, Norway, Germany and Italy**

Switzerland – current situation

Switzerland			
new daily confirmed cases (7 April)	552	new daily cases per mio. people (7 April)	63.78
Total confirmed cases	21,574	Total confirmed cases per mio. people	2,492.77
R_E	n.a		

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 8th April, 11:30 (London time) [OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus](https://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus) • CC BY
 Note: The large number of cases globally and in China on Feb 13 is the result of a change in reporting methodology.

Austria – current situation

Austria			
new daily confirmed cases (7 April)	314	new daily infections per mio. people (7 April)	38.86
Total confirmed cases	12,297	Total confirmed cases per mio. people	1,365.36
R_E	n.a		

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

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Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 8th April, 11:30 (London time) [OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus](https://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus) • CC BY
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Austria – measures taken

Austria	
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Closed, including restaurants, bars & coffeehouses, retail stores– Grocery stores, pharmacies, posts & banks (1m Distance to others, masks) remain open
Other private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Home office encouraged– 1 meter of distance between employees or other measures to avoid infection mandatory
Schools, Kindergartens & Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Closed, Limited day-care if parents work in critical social functions (transport, healthcare)
Cultural & sports venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Closed, including ski resorts– No more than 5 people in public allowed
Public areas cannot be entered	Exception: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– work– buying basic supplies (food, medicine, etc.)– support for needy people– exercise outside (only alone or with people from the same household)

Similarly restrictive as Switzerland

Austria – exit strategy

Austria	
April 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Small businesses incl. craftsmen with surface < 400m², 1 client per 20m², entrance control– Building- & gardening markets– Masks must be worn at all times in public transport, stores & workplace (unless hygiene requirements are fulfilled)
May 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– All other businesses, shopping centers & hairdressers– Removal of curfew
Mid May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Schools & Kindergartens– Restaurants & hotels (step by step)
July (earliest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Events
Infected at time of announcement (April 6 th): 12'327	

- Plans for May are re-evaluated at end of April
- Reversal possible if numbers should rise again (no benchmark announced)

Norway – current situation

Norway			
new daily confirmed cases (7 April)	115	new daily infections per mio. people (7 April)	21.21
Total confirmed cases	5,755	Total confirmed cases per mio. people	1,061.56
R_E	0.7 (0.45-1.00)*		

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 8th April, 11:30 (London time) [OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus](https://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus) • CC BY
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Norway – measures taken

Norway (March 12th)	
Bars, pubs & clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– If they don't serve food, closed– Restaurants can remain open if they ensure a minimum distance of 1 meter between customers– Buffets are banned
Other businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Hair dressers, massage, tattooing & skin care parlors, etc. closed– Most other shops & businesses (private & public sector) open, home office encouraged
Day-care, schools & universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Closed, limited day-care if parents work in critical social functions (transport, healthcare)
Cultural & sports venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Concert venues, museums, etc. closed– Fitness centres, swimming pools, ski resorts, etc. closed– No more than 5 people in public– Travel to vacation houses within Norway banned
Less restrictive than Switzerland	

Norway – exit strategy

Norway	
April 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Day-care facilities & kindergartens reopen– Travel to vacation houses allowed
April 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Primary schools (1st-4th grade) reopen
June 15th (earliest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Major sports & cultural events resume
Infected at time of announcement (April 7 th): 5'863 Transmission rate: 0.7 Work from home to continue	

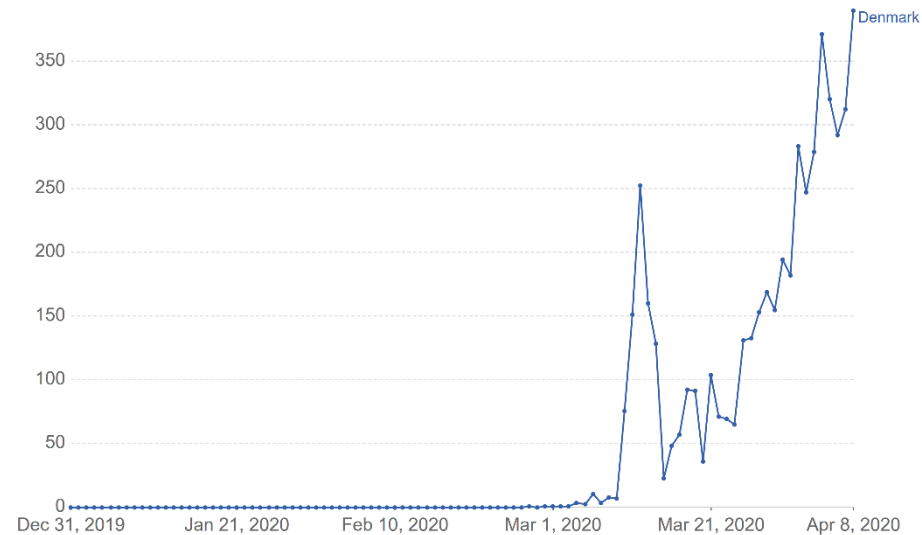
- No criteria for reversal announced (as of April 7th, 8pm)

Denmark – current situation

Denmark			
new daily confirmed cases (7 April)	312	new daily infections per mio. people (7 April)	53.86
Total confirmed cases	4,681	Total confirmed cases per mio. people	808.15
R_E	n.a		

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

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Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 8th April, 11:30 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY
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Denmark – measures taken

Denmark	
Restaurants, cafés & bars	– Closed , take-away allowed if free floor area of at least 4m ² per guest
Other businesses	– With close contact, i.e. hairdressers, massage therapists, etc. closed – Shopping centres, department stores, shopping arcades, etc. closed – All other businesses (including retail stores, grocery stores, pharmacies) need to ensure enough space between customers (4m ² per customer) – Other private sector: firms urged to implement home office wherever possible
Day-care, schools & universities	– Closed , limited day-care if parents cannot stay home
Cultural & sports venues	– All indoor sports & recreational facilities closed (incl. Fitness centers, cinemas, etc.) – Ban of more than 10 people in public
Public sector	– Employees ordered to stay home for 2 weeks if working in non-essential functions
Slightly less restrictive than Switzerland	

Denmark – exit strategy

Denmark	
April 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Day-care facilities, kindergartens and primary schools reopen– Talks with businesses about reopening
At least until May 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Restaurants, bars & cafes remain closed– Gatherings still restricted to 10 people– Secondary schools remain closed
Until August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Large events banned
Infected at time of announcement (April 6 th): approx. 4'900	

- Any signs of an uptick in number of cases followed by immediate resumption of restrictions (no benchmark announced)

Germany – current situation

Germany			
new daily confirmed cases (7 April)	3,834	new daily infections per mio. people (7 April)	45.76
Total confirmed cases	99,225	Total confirmed cases per mio. people	1184.29
R_E	1.3 (1.0-1.6)*		

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 8th April, 11:30 (London time) [OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus](https://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus) • CC BY
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Germany – measures taken

Germany	
Restaurants, Bars, cafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Closed, including restaurants (take-away still possible), bars, retail stores & businesses with close contact to customers (i.e. hair dressers, cosmetic studios, etc.)– Grocery stores, building & gardening markets, pharmacies, posts, banks etc. remain open
Other private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Distance, hygienic measures must be taken, contacts between persons minimized– Craftsmen and service providers are open, but need to observe hygienic measures
Schools, day-care & universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Closed, limited day-care if parents work in important (i.e. healthcare) professions
Cultural & sports venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Theatres, cinemas, museums, etc. closed– Gyms, swimming pools, playgrounds, etc. closed
Public areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– No more than 2 people, unless they are from the same household– Minimum distance of 1.5 meters– Work, sports, groceries, medical appointment, necessary meetings, helping others are acceptable reasons to leave the house
Similarly restrictive as Switzerland	

Germany – exit strategy suggestions

Health measures

- Comprehensive information and training on hygiene measures
- Broad information and guidelines on the use of protective equipment
- Coordinated, large-scale testing both for the active virus and immunity in population. Isolation of infected people
- Massive increase in production of protective clothes & masks
- While protective masks are limited, prioritize healthcare personnel and patients. Masks mandatory for people who are in contact with people at risk. Once enough masks can be produced, wearing masks in public should be expanded to the whole population. Wearing of self-made masks during the phase where mask are not available for the whole population
- Securing production capacity for vaccines/drugs
- Establishment of uniform therapy guidelines
- Coordination of breathing machine capacities across regions and establishment of hubs
- Establishment/expansion of an IT-based structure for coordination and strategic planning

Societal & economic measures

- Expanding funding to help people at risk
- Expanding funding for dealing with the psychological/social consequences of the restrictive measures

Economic/Societal sectors opening first:

- Low infection risks (i.e. highly automated factories)
- Few vulnerable people (i.e. day-care & schools)
- High value-adding industries (i.e. parts of manufacturing)

Economic/Societal sectors opening later

- With good home office & digital technology possibilities
- High infection potential like clubs/bars/restaurants/large events

Regions opening first:

- Low infection rates
- Low transmission potential
- High immunity (later)
- Free capacities in health provision

Measures can vary by region, demographic groups, areas of social life and economic sector. Measures that imply high social & psychological strains should be removed first. Complementarities between sectors should be taken into account (i.e. day-care/school vs. employment of parents) Measures for the gradual opening of the economy/society should take into account:

- Risk of COVID-19 infection
- Risk of a severe development of COVID-19 infection
- Relevance of the sector for the economy and social life
- Possibilities to establish and adhere to safety measures

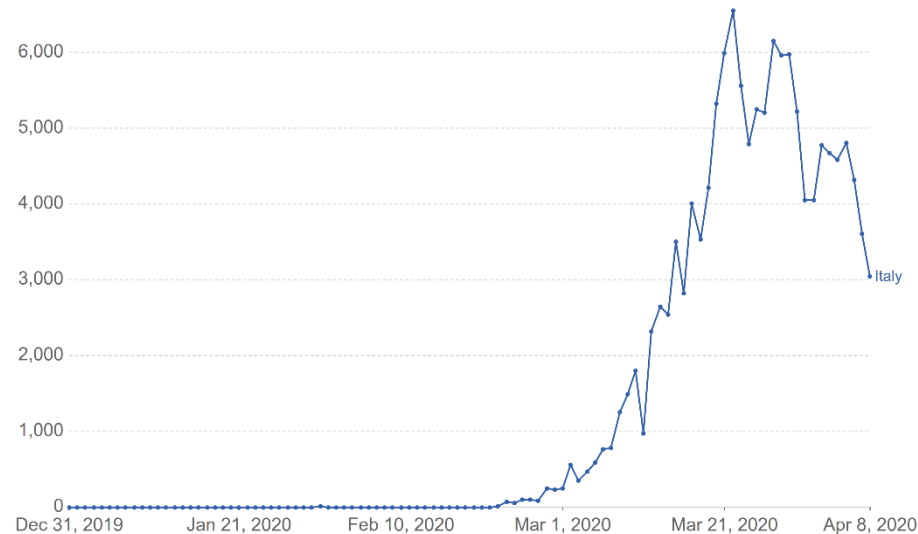
Fuest et al. 2020. Die Bekämpfung der Coronavirus-Pandemie tragfähig gestalten – Empfehlungen für eine flexible, risikoadaptierte Strategie. Monographie. Ifo Institut.

Italy – current situation

Italy			
new daily confirmed cases (7 April)	3,599	new daily infections per mio. people (7 April)	59.52
Total confirmed cases	132,547	Total confirmed cases per mio. people	2,192.24
R_E	n.a		

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

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Italy – measures taken

Italy	
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– All commercial & retail businesses, except those providing essential services (grocery stores, pharmacies, banks & post), closed (starting March 11th)– All non-essential production, industries & businesses stopped (starting March 22nd)
Schools, day-care & universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Closed (starting March 4th)
Cultural & sports venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Theatres, cinemas, museums, etc. closed (starting March 9th)– Gyms, swimming pools, playgrounds, sporting events etc. closed (starting March 9th/20th)
Public areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Gatherings of all kind banned (starting March 11th)– Any travel must be justified & permitted (work or family reason) (starting March 11th)– Open-air sports & running banned unless in close proximity to home & alone (starting March 20th)
More restrictive than Switzerland	

Originally (February 22nd) parts of Northern Italy were quarantined to a certain degree (Lombardy & Veneto, yellow zones), with some of the above-mentioned measures already implemented earlier in those regions than the rest of Italy