



UNIC



LIÈGE
université



CEDEM

Centre d'Etudes
de l'Ethnicité et des Migrations



MiTSoPro

MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM
& SOCIAL PROTECTION



European
Research
Council

Protecting the diaspora?

COVID-19 and the emergency policy measures of European countries for their citizens abroad

Dr Daniela Vintila (Daniela.Vintila@uliege.be)

UNIC Lecture Series
Migration and Corona
24th of June 2020

➤ *The European diaspora: an overview*

- ❖ size & demographic concentration of EU Member States' diaspora

➤ *Policy measures for the European diaspora in times of pandemic*

- ❖ The EU response:
 - Repatriations & Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- ❖ The responsiveness of national governments
 - Case studies: Romania & Cyprus



ERC-funded project Migration and Transnational Social Protection in (Post) Crisis Europe (MiTSoPro)

<http://labos.ulg.ac.be/socialprotection/>



MiTSoPro
MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM
& SOCIAL PROTECTION



Open Access



Migration and Social Protection in Europe and Beyond (Volume 1)

Comparing Access to Welfare Entitlements

Editors: Lafleur, Jean-Michel, Vintila, Daniela (Eds.)

Open Access

Migration and Social Protection in Europe and Beyond (Volume 2)

Comparing Consular Services and Diaspora Policies

Editors: Lafleur, Jean-Michel, Vintila, Daniela (Eds.)

Open Access

Migration and Social Protection in Europe and Beyond (Volume 3)

A Focus on Non-EU Sending States

Editors: Lafleur, Jean-Michel, Vintila, Daniela (Eds.)

New project “Protecting the diaspora? COVID-19 and the emergency policy measures of European countries for their citizens residing abroad”

Research team: Jean-Michel Lafleur, Daniela Vintila, Angeliki Konstantinidou, Félicien de Heusch, Jérémy Mandin, Carole Wenger, Inci Yener-Roderburg, Mikolaj Stanek

Data collection for Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain (& EU): ongoing

- **Size of the diaspora:** emigration is not an equally salient phenomenon across EU MS, due to different historical, political, and economic contexts in which emigration from the EU has taken place

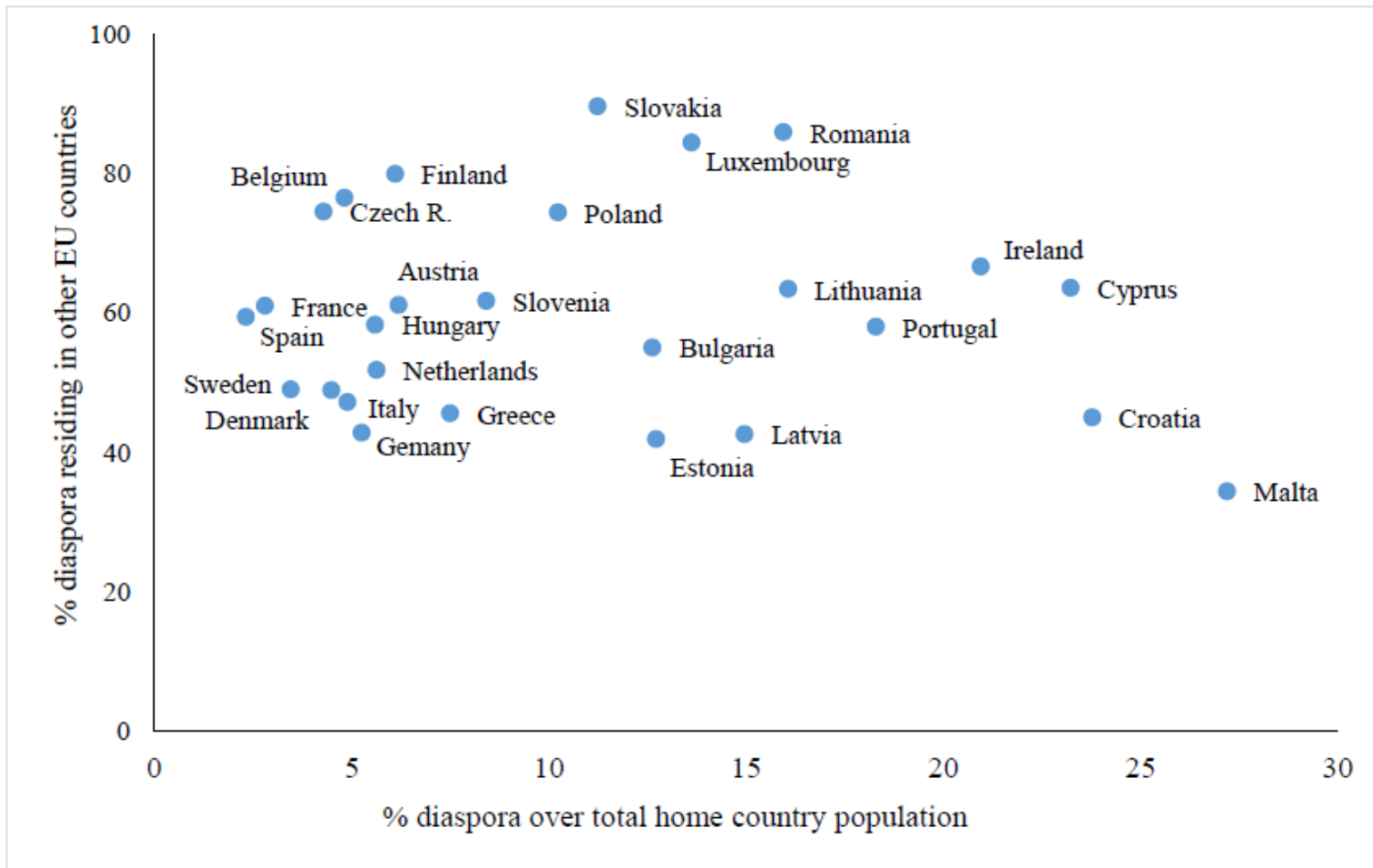
EU Member States by share of diaspora over total population

- ≥10% of the population
- ≥5% - <10% of the population
- <5% of the population



Vintila, D. & Lafleur, J-M. (2020, forthcoming). “Migration and access to welfare benefits in the EU: the interplay between residence and nationality”. In Lafleur, J-M. & Vintila, D. (Eds.) *Migration and social protection in Europe and beyond (Volume 1): comparing access to welfare entitlements*. Cham: Springer.

➤ **Geographic concentration of the diaspora**



Lafleur, J-M. & Vintila, D. (2020, forthcoming). “Do EU Member States care about their diaspora’s access to social protection? A comparison of consular and diaspora policies across EU27”. In Lafleur, J-M. & Vintila, D. (Eds.) *Migration and social protection in Europe and beyond (Volume 2): comparing consular services and diaspora policies*. Cham: Springer.

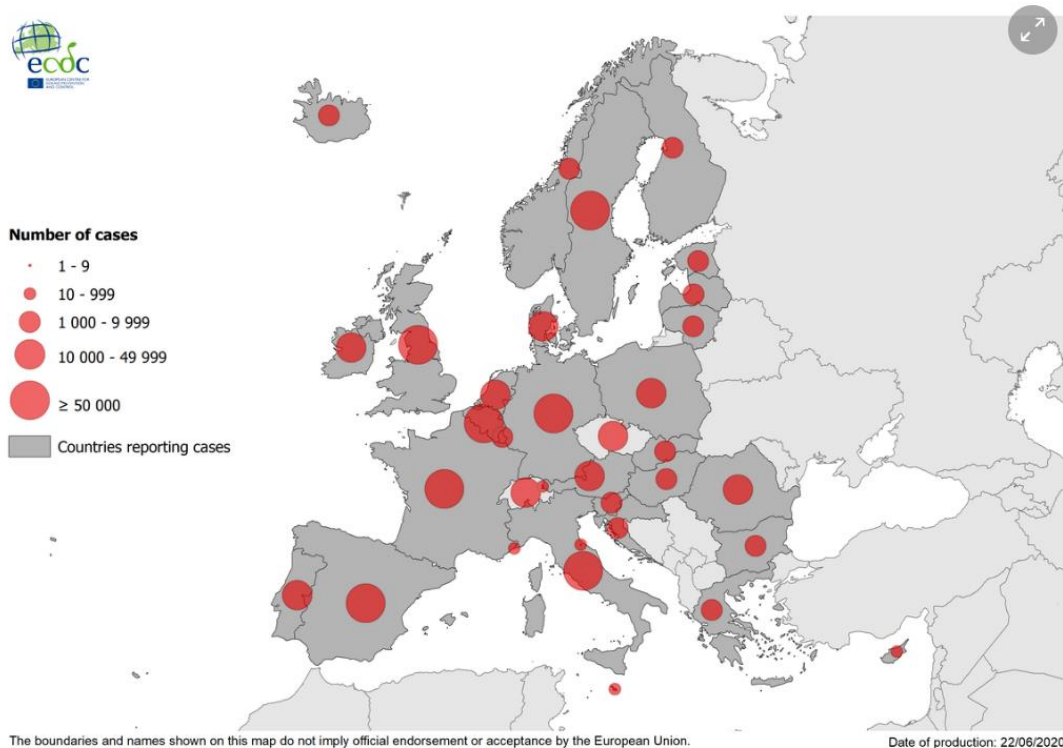
➤ Main countries of destination

- Diaspora concentrated in a handful of destination countries
- More than a half of the Irish, Finnish and Slovak diaspora is concentrated in a single country; more than a half of the Austrian, Croatian, Cypriot, Estonian, Greek, Maltese, Polish diaspora concentrates in two destination countries

Lafleur, J-M. & Vintila, D. (2020, forthcoming). “Do EU Member States care about their diaspora’s access to social protection? A comparison of consular and diaspora policies across EU27”. In Lafleur, J-M. & Vintila, D. (Eds.) *Migration and social protection in Europe and beyond (Volume 2): comparing consular services and diaspora policies*. Cham: Springer.

<p><u>AUSTRIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (42%) • USA (13%) • Switzerland (10%) • UK (4%) • Canada (4%) 	<p><u>BELGIUM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France (30%) • Italy (10%) • Netherlands (10%) • USA (9%) • Spain (8%) 	<p><u>BULGARIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey (32%) • Spain (14%) • Greece (9%) • Germany (8%) • USA (7%) 	<p><u>CROATIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serbia (33%) • Germany (26%) • Italy (7%) • Australia (6%) • Slovenia (6%)
<p><u>CYPRUS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK (48%) • USA (19%) • Greece (13%) • Australia (11%) • Turkey (3%) 	<p><u>CZECH REPUBLIC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (29%) • Slovakia (22%) • UK (9%) • USA (7%) • Austria (6%) 	<p><u>DENMARK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden (21%) • USA (15%) • Norway (11%) • UK (10%) • Germany (9%) 	<p><u>ESTONIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia (39%) • Finland (15%) • USA (7%) • Germany (6%) • Sweden (6%)
<p><u>FINLAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden (61%) • USA (7%) • Germany (5%) • UK (4%) • Canada (4%) 	<p><u>FRANCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA (13%) • Spain (13%) • Belgium (11%) • UK (8%) • Italy (8%) 	<p><u>GERMANY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA (30%) • UK (7%) • Switzerland (7%) • France (6%) • Italy (5%) 	<p><u>GREECE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (31%) • USA (21%) • Australia (14%) • Canada (9%) • UK (5%)
<p><u>HUNGARY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (25%) • USA (17%) • UK (10%) • Canada (8%) • Austria (6%) 	<p><u>IRELAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK (61%) • USA (18%) • Australia (9%) • Canada (4%) • Spain (2%) 	<p><u>ITALY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA (18%) • Germany (17%) • France (14%) • Canada (10%) • Switzerland (8%) 	<p><u>LATVIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia (32%) • UK (20%) • USA (9%) • Ireland (6%) • Germany (6%)
<p><u>LITHUANIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK (23%) • Russia (16%) • Poland (13%) • USA (9%) • Germany (7%) 	<p><u>LUXEMBOURG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (30%) • France (17%) • Belgium (16%) • USA (10%) • Italy (8%) 	<p><u>MALTA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia (43%) • UK (30%) • USA (14%) • Canada (8%) • Italy (2%) 	<p><u>THE NETHERLANDS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (18%) • Belgium (14%) • Canada (13%) • USA (12%) • Australia (10%)
<p><u>POLAND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (38%) • UK (17%) • USA (14%) • Canada (5%) • Ireland (3%) 	<p><u>PORTUGAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France (36%) • USA (12%) • Switzerland (9%) • Canada (8%) • Brazil (8%) 	<p><u>ROMANIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy (26%) • Spain (23%) • Germany (17%) • Hungary (6%) • USA (6%) 	<p><u>SLOVAKIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech R. (55%) • UK (11%) • Germany (6%) • Hungary (6%) • Austria (5%)
<p><u>SLOVENIA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany (22%) • Italy (17%) • Croatia (13%) • Austria (10%) • USA (9%) 	<p><u>SPAIN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France (31%) • USA (13%) • Germany (9%) • Argentina (9%) • UK (8%) 	<p><u>SWEDEN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA (18%) • Norway (16%) • Finland (11%) • UK (10%) • Denmark (7%) 	

Geographic distribution of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK, as of 22 June 2020



Geographic distribution of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>

EU MS agreed on coordinated action at external borders based on Commission's recommendation to restrict non-essential travel. EU citizens returning home (+ other categories) exempted from travel restrictions

2 key dimensions:

EU's response

- Assistance for repatriation
- Repatriations under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

&

National governments

- Case studies



https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/76203/good-stories-consular-support-eu-citizens-stranded-abroad_en

- At the beginning of the outbreak, around 600,000 EU citizens declared themselves stranded outside the EU, most of them in the Asia-Pacific region and the Americas
- More than half a million citizens repatriated; efforts of MS, the EU in terms of consular cooperation, EU funded repatriation flights and coordination
- In March, the European Council tasked the High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell to coordinate the repatriation operations of the EU citizens and a dedicated Consular Task Force was set up by the European External Action Service. This Task Force works in close cooperation with the Member States and the European Commission

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_20_686

Press release | 27 March 2020 | Brussels

Coronavirus: Commission boosts budget for repatriation flights and rescEU stockpile

Commissioner Johannes **Hahn**, in charge of the EU budget, said:

“Today’s measure is yet another illustration of how the EU budget can add value when and where needed the most. It is also an illustration of European solidarity and cooperation at its best.”

Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez **Lenarčič**, said: *“The safe return of our citizens is a priority. We are doing all we can to ensure they are reunited with their families as soon as possible during these difficult times. I would like to thank Member States for their efforts during this process. Our Emergency Response Coordination Centre continues working 24/7 with Member States in order to meet their requests.”*

EEAS homepage > EEAS > Video conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers: Remarks by the High Representative Josep Borrell at the press conference

Video conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers: Remarks by the High Representative Josep Borrell at the press conference

Brussels, 23/03/2020 - 19:02, UNIQUE ID: 200323_10

We have been discussing four important issues. The first is the repatriation efforts for EU travellers who are stranded abroad. We are not talking about permanent residents. We have to avoid confusion and to make people believe that everybody, all European Union nationals living abroad have to go back to Europe. No. We are just talking about people who are travelling and have been prevented from going back home by the means and the ways they were considering when they started their traveling. They are stranded because there has been a strong disruption on the travel they have been were planning, and we have to help them to go back home by other means. There are many of them, and our priority is to bring these people home. It requires coordination among Members States, the European external action service, the EU delegations and Member States embassies locally.

Union Civil Protection Mechanism

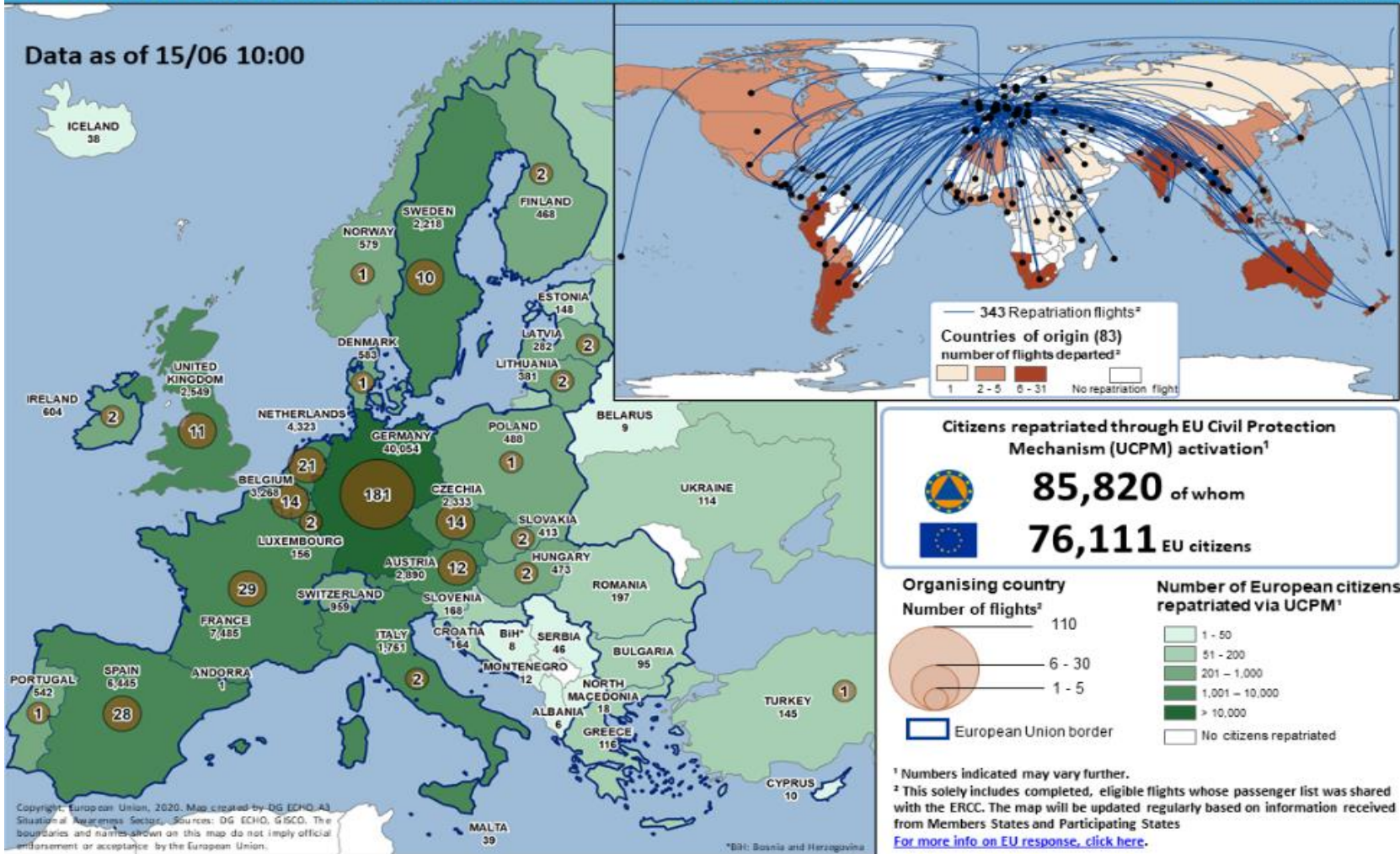
- Since 2001; activated on 28/01/2020, following a request from France to help EU nationals in Wuhan, China
- EU contributes to the transportation costs for repatriation of EU nationals stranded abroad in third countries
- Request for assistance is possible when the scale of the crisis exceeds individual MS's response capability and repatriation via commercial flights is no longer possible.

Press release | 28 January 2020 | Brussels

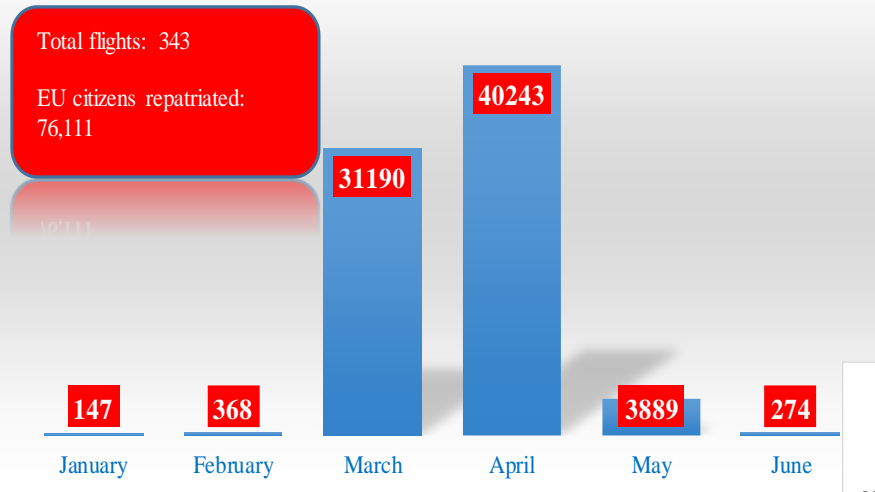
Coronavirus: EU Civil Protection Mechanism activated for the repatriation of EU citizens

Janez **Lenarčič**, Commissioner for Crisis Management, said: *"The EU does not forget its citizens in need, wherever they are in the world. Two aircraft will be mobilised through our EU Civil Protection Mechanism to repatriate EU citizens from the Wuhan area to Europe. Our EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre is working 24/7 and is in constant contact with Member States, the EU Delegations in the region and the Chinese embassy in Brussels. Further EU support can be mobilised if requested."*

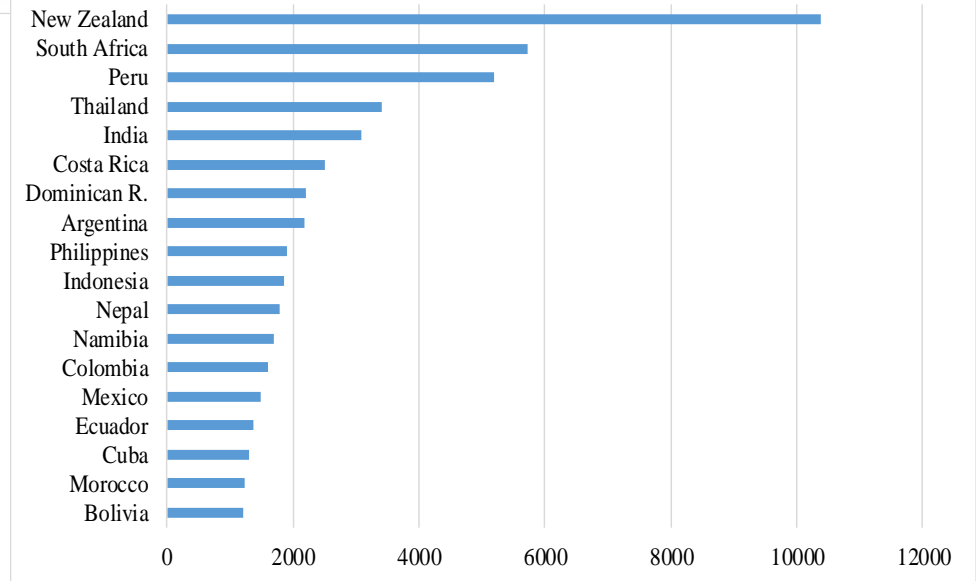
DG ECHO A3 Situational Awareness Team
 COVID-19: EU-Coordinated Repatriation of EU Citizens | 15/06/2020



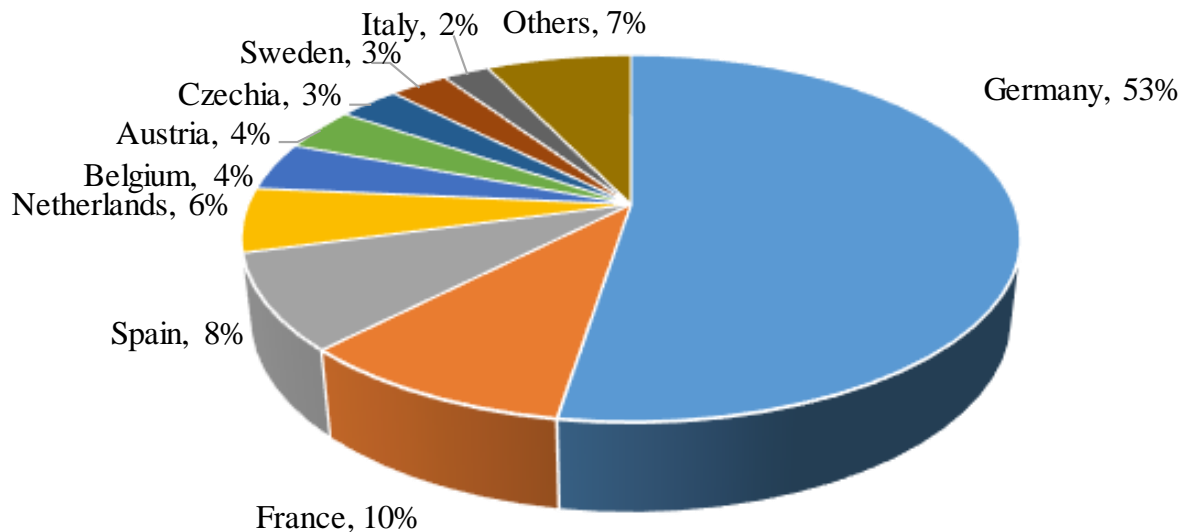
Timeline of repatriations of EU citizens under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (until 15/06/2020)



Main countries of origin for repatriations of EU citizens (until 15/06/2020)



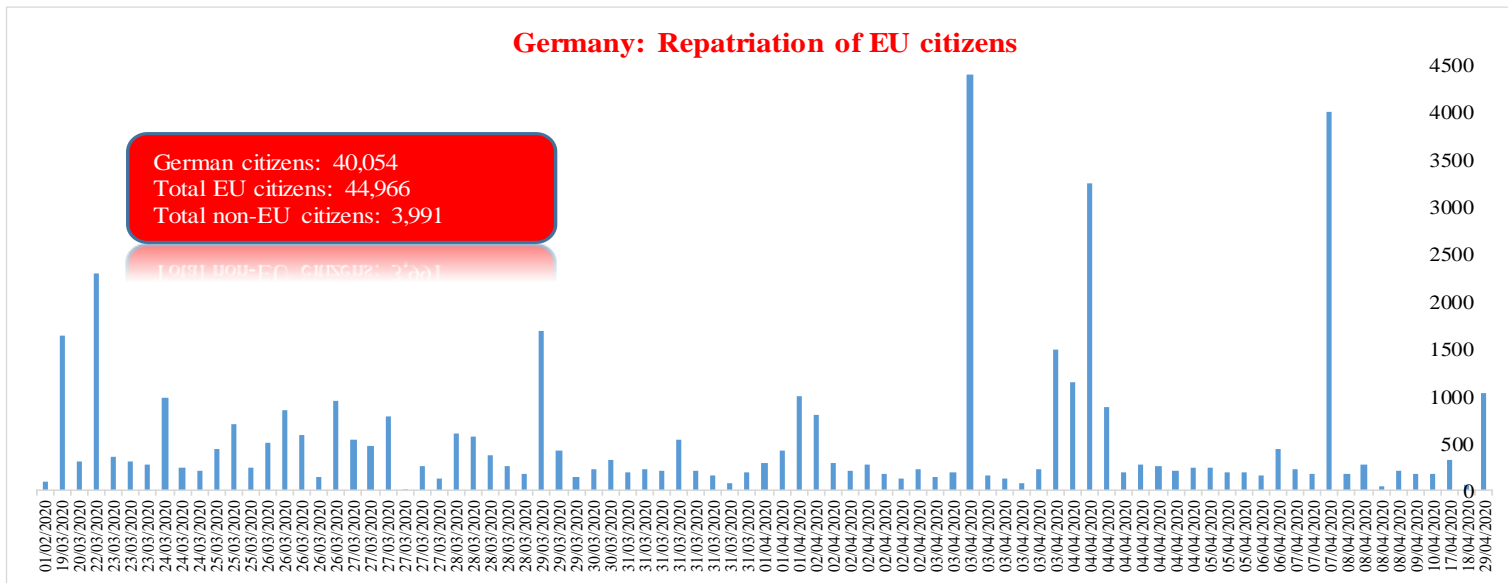
EU citizens repatriated under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (until 15/06/2020), by nationality



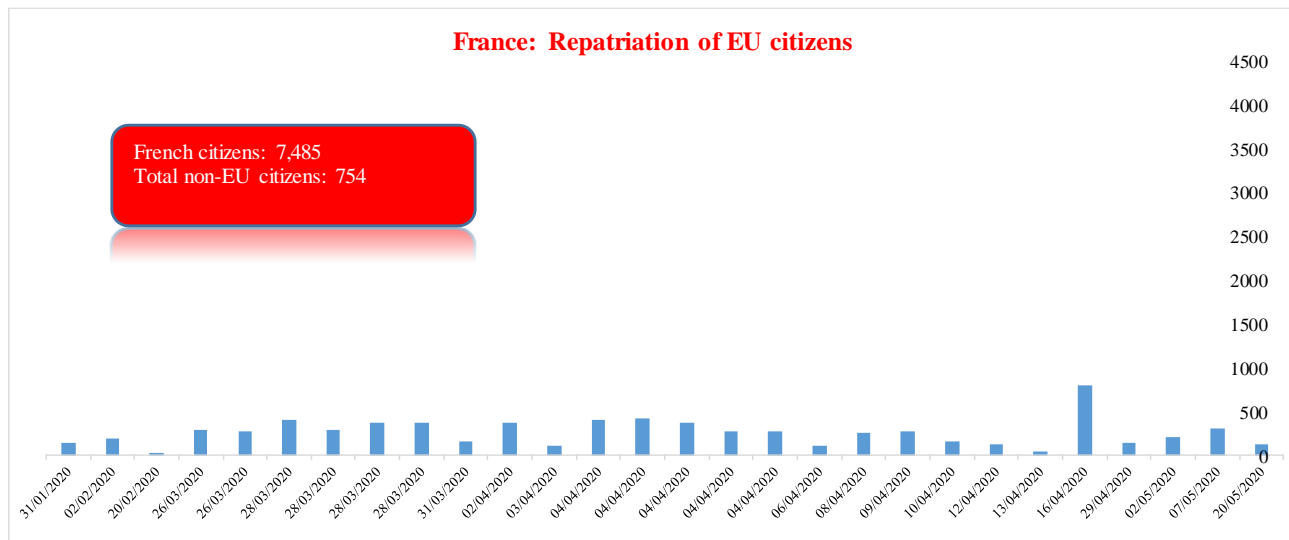
EU citizens repatriated until 15/06/2020: 76,111

Non-EU citizens repatriated until 15/06/2020: 9,709


Germany: Repatriation of EU citizens





France: Repatriation of EU citizens





European solidarity in bringing people home

Austria

 Austria repatriated citizens of 25 EU Member States on flights organized by Austria from Argentina, Australia, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, UK, US, Vietnam.

Belgium

 Belgium repatriated citizens of 20 EU countries.


Czechia

 Czechia repatriated hundreds of citizens of 22 EU countries.


Denmark

 Denmark has brought back citizens of other EU countries on a flight from Mali, also carrying humanitarian aid on the outbound flight.


Finland

 Finland has brought home citizens of 10 EU countries.


France


 France repatriated citizens of 26 EU countries. A flight from Wuhan, China, in early February carried 64 French citizens and 135 other EU citizens.


Germany

 Germany has repatriated thousands of citizens from all other EU countries.

Hungary

 Hungary has brought home citizens from 4 EU countries.

Ireland

 Ireland brought back home citizens from 17 EU countries.


Italy

 Italy repatriated citizens of 6 Member States from Tokyo, Japan.

Latvia

 Latvia has brought home citizens of 4 EU countries.

Lithuania

 Lithuania has brought home citizens of 8 EU countries.


Luxembourg

 Luxembourg repatriated citizens of 14 EU countries. A flight from Cabo Verde on 25 March carried just 20 Luxembourgish citizens and 131 other EU citizens.

Portugal

 Portugal has brought home hundreds of citizens of 17 EU countries.

Spain

 Spain has brought home more than 600 European citizens of 19 EU countries.

Sweden

 Sweden has brought home citizens of 15 EU countries.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/coronavirus-european-solidarity-action_en

European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 17 abr.
On 4 April, more than 250 Europeans stranded in Uganda flew to Cologne on a repatriation flight organised by @GermanyDiplo. Thanks to @UgandaMFA, @EUinCuba and EU Member States for their support! #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/19d8NG



European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 16 abr.
10 repatriation flights took off from EU Cuba with almost 1,900 passengers on their way home! They are EU and non-EU citizens, and they're back thanks to the work of the EU Delegation to Cuba & Member States' embassies in the country #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/10K489



European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 3 abr.
Tourists were spread all over the 7,000 islands of the Philippine archipelago and they needed to reach the international airports.

@EUinthePH has worked hand in hand with Member States to get around 2,000 tourists back home. #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/1y09XF



European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas
@UEGuatemala and Member States joined forces to repatriate 1,400 EU citizens from more than 20 countries that were stranded in Guatemala. Thank you @SpainMFA, @GermanyDiplo and @francediplo for organizing the 5 flights #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/!TT74nm Traducir Tweet

Hilo



3:03 p. m. · 7 abr. 2020 · Twitter Web App

European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 13 abr.
A "welcome back" to the over 1,500 European travellers who have so far returned home from Vietnam. The work done by @EUDelegationVN and EU Member States resulted in five successful repatriation flights! #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/UG37R5



3 · 10 · 43

How are we helping?



Consular toolkit:

Package of practical information for EU citizens in third countries on options for return and advice on how to handle travel restrictions around the world.



Practical arrangements:

EU Delegations coordinate with EU Member states in the repatriation of citizens, including assistance on preparing the list of citizens on commercial flights and on flights organised by EU governments (some of those under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism). They may also assist the registration process and coordinate the boarding.



Airspace:

EU Delegations are in touch with local authorities to keep normal air operations (commercial and charter flights) open as long as possible.



Transit:

with major transit hubs closing down, the EU is in contact with governments at local and national level to get extensions or exceptions.



Visas:

A growing number of Europeans risk overstaying their visa while waiting for a return option. The EU is helping seek waivers or simplified extension procedures.



Facilitation:

EU Delegations provide overall support to facilitate effective departure of tourists (liaison with host authorities, hotels, air transport companies ...).

EEAS Factsheet on consular support and repatriation (April 2020)

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/76341/coronavirus-news-eu-action-team-europe-support-disinformation-repatriation-and-solidarity_en

European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 17 abr.
 On 4 April, more than 250 Europeans stranded in Uganda flew to Cologne on a repatriation flight organised by @GermanyDiplo. Thanks to @UgandaMFA, @EUinUG and EU Member States for their support! #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/1rx98NG



3 16

European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 3 abr.
 Tourists were spread all over the 7,000 islands of the Philippine archipelago and they needed to reach the international airports.

@EUinthePH has worked hand in hand with Member States to get around 2,000 tourists back home. #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/Vq89XF



1 14 25

European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 13 abr.
 A "welcome back" to the over 1,500 European travellers who have so far returned home from Vietnam. The work done by @EUDelegationVN and EU Member States resulted in five successful repatriation flights #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/tuG371R



3 10 43

European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas · 16 abr.
 10 repatriation flights took off from Cuba with almost 1,900 passengers on their way home! They are EU and non-EU citizens, and they're back thanks to the work of the EU Delegation to Cuba & Member States' embassies in the country. #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/5qV48b

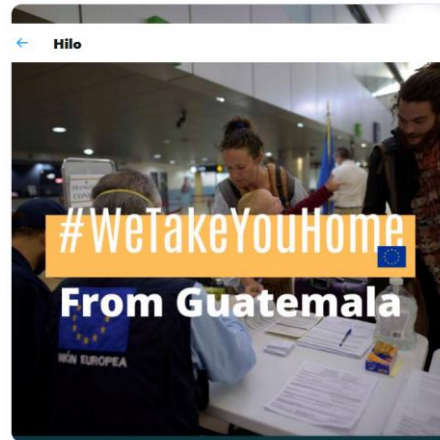


2 11 30

European External Action Service - EEAS @eu_eeas

.@UEGuatemala and Member States joined forces to repatriate 1,400 EU citizens from more than 20 countries that were stranded in Guatemala. Thank you @SpainMFA, @GermanyDiplo and @francediplo for organizing the 5 flights #WeTakeYouHome europa.eu/!TT74nm

Traducir Tweet



3:03 p. m. · 7 abr. 2020 · Twitter Web App



Josep Borrell Fontelles @JosepBorrellF · 15 may.

Mission accomplished!

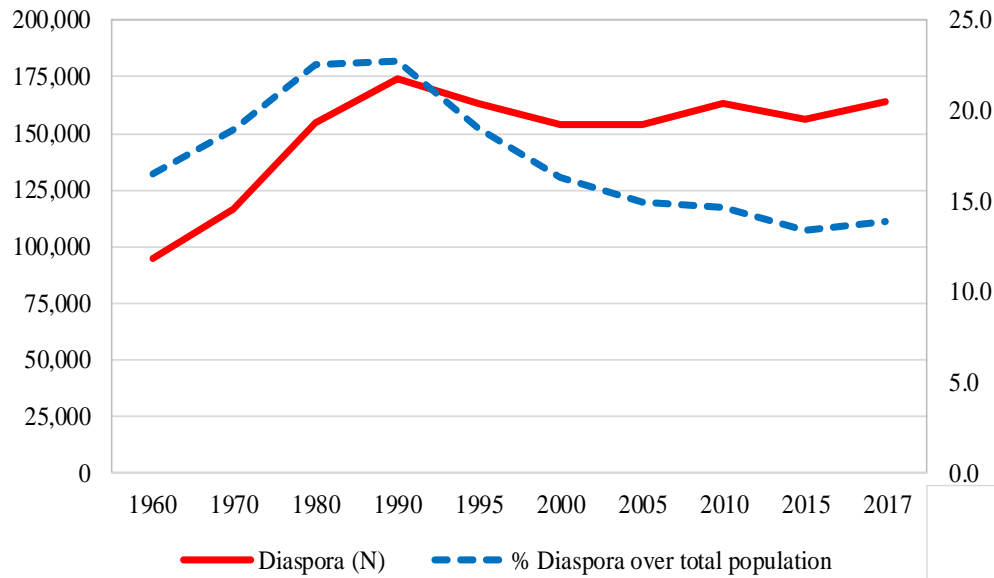
The @eu_eeas led Task Force has successfully concluded its work in repatriating EU citizens stranded abroad due to #coronavirus travel restrictions.

#WeTakeYouHome
 #EUSolidarity

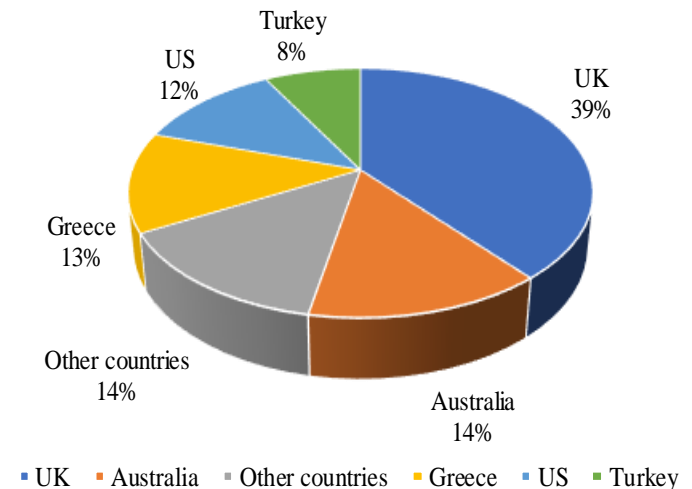


22 128 262

**The evolution of the Cypriot diaspora:
total Cypriots abroad and share diaspora over total population**



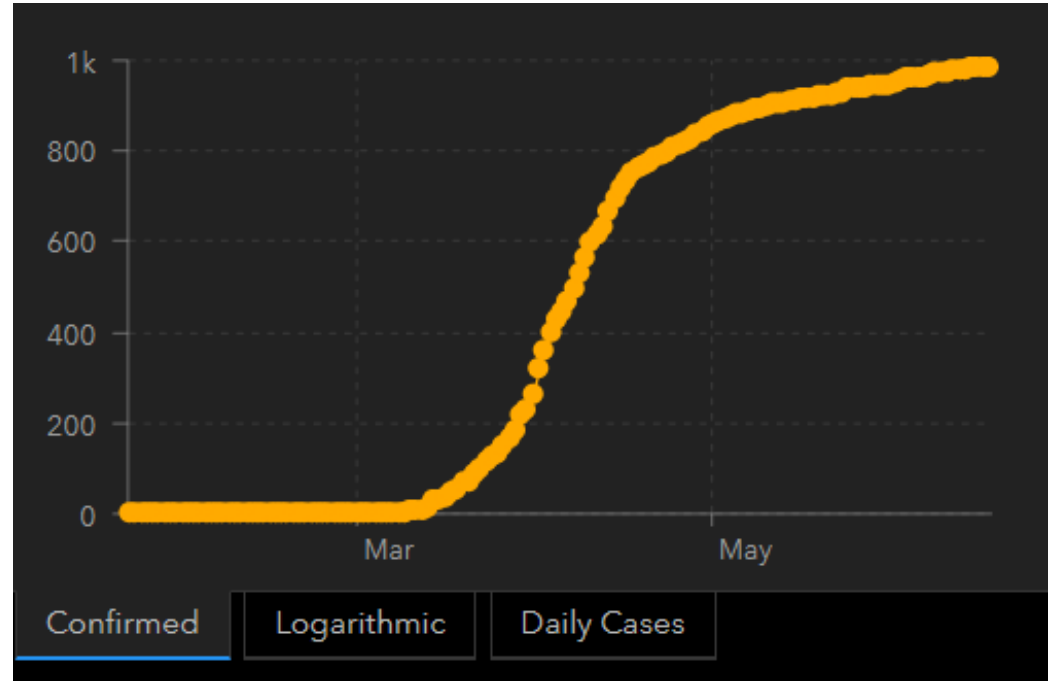
**Top destination countries
(% Cypriots in destination country over total diaspora)**



Konstantinidou, A. & Vintila, D. (forthcoming). Policy measures for the diaspora during the COVID-19 crisis: the case of Cyprus

General background:

- Less than 1000 confirmed cases
- Less than 20 deaths
- Travel restrictions implemented since February 2020, strict travel regulations imposed shortly after
- Total ban of commercial flights on 21/03/2020
- Early lockdown measures announced on 23/03/2020, when the country reported 116 cases



<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>



Basic help via information provision

End of February: MFA posted a contact list of Cypriot diplomatic missions abroad & the MFA's emergency contacts

One month later: online platform [connect2cy](https://connect2cy.gov.cy) aiming to manage non-residents' requests, allow communication with the homeland, and provide useful information about repatriation

Active intervention: repatriation



7.500 individuals repatriated until 25/05 (Press and Information Office); charter flights for repatriation announced in mid-March, initially targeting Cypriots who were abroad for medical reasons, business, short-term stays or official reasons (later extended)

First flights from the UK: 3 flights repatriated 439 individuals on the first day of the flight ban (21/03/2020); more flights after this date (ex: 96 repatriated on 09/04, 116 on 14/04; 96 on 15/04)

MoH: repatriation organised according to the country's capacity to receive those from abroad (2,000 individuals every 15 days); restrictive: only those with a negative COVID-19 test at the latest 4 days before the flight were repatriated & quarantine

Repatriation from Greece: directly or as transit (flight from Doha via Athens, flights from Hannover & Frankfurt via Thessaloniki)

No info available on repatriations from US/Australia; until mid-June, only 10 Cypriots repatriated via the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Additional support for all Cypriots abroad

Keeping Cypriots abroad in contact with homeland authorities:

- the Presidential Commissioner chairing the Service for Overseas and Repatriated Cypriots discussed with diaspora representatives (Diaspora Leaders, Youth Diaspora Leaders) & diplomatic officials about their situation

Examples of concrete help:

- MoH & MFA helped Cypriots abroad to procure medicine from Cyprus;
- via diplomatic missions, MFA set up a network of health professionals in host countries to secure care service when needed;
- MFA & the Consortium of Rectors of Cypriot Universities announced the initiative to provide psychological support via special phone line to all Cypriots students, including those abroad;
- Ministry of Finance: provision of financial aid (750 Euros) for Cypriot students abroad who are not able to return to Cyprus



Targeted support (specific countries only)

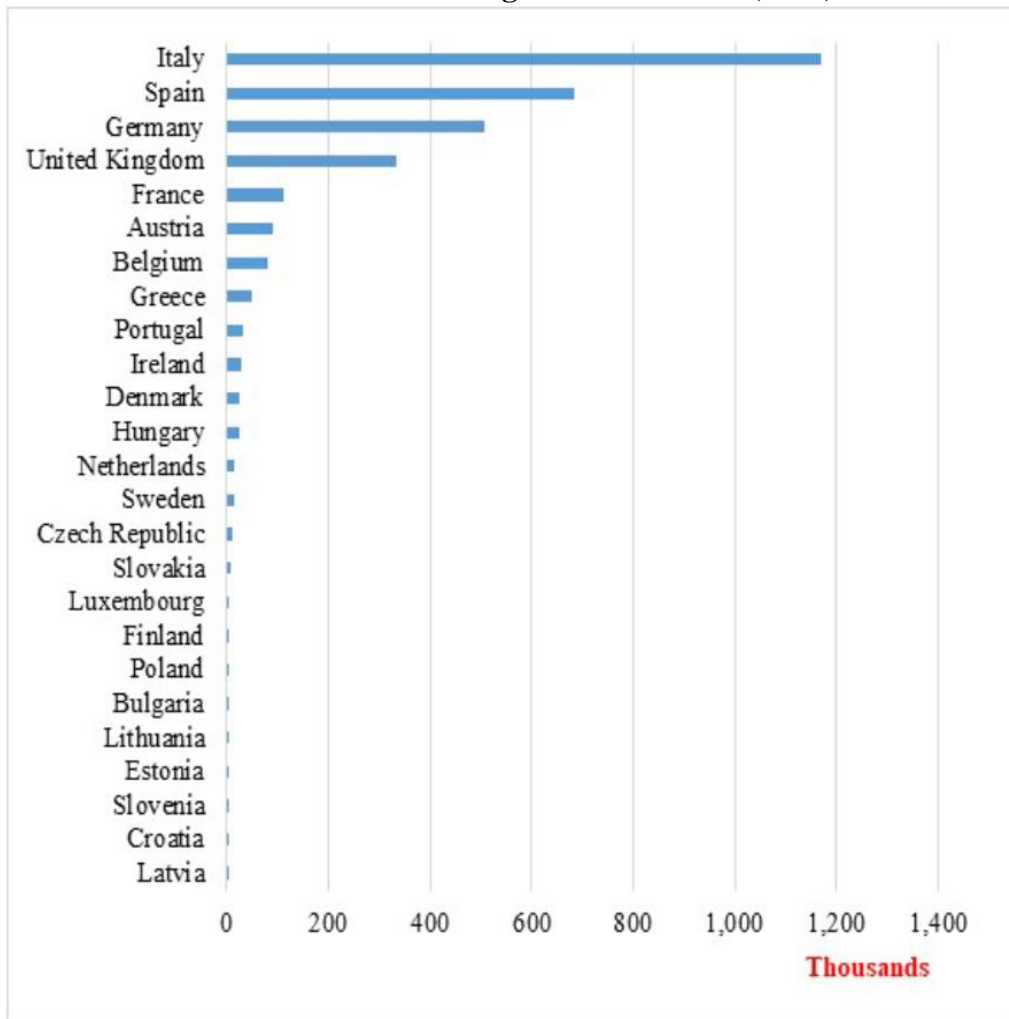
Cypriots in the UK:

- MFA & the National Federation of Cypriots in the UK sent free boxes with Cypriot food to students (almost 4,500 boxes were prepared by May 2020) & provide medical assistance, accommodation and legal advice to Cypriots.

Cypriots in Greece:

- Direct contact information of doctors
- Ministries of Transportations & Education arranged for flights aiming to assist Cypriot students to safely return to Greece and resume their studies in Greek universities.

Romanian citizens residing in other EU MS (2017)



- By 2019, more than 3,5 million Romanians were living in other EU Member States

Burlacu, I., Soare, S. & Vintila, D. (2020, forthcoming) "Migrants' access to social protection in Romania". In Lafleur, J-M. & Vintila, D. (Eds.) *Migration and social protection in Europe and beyond (Volume 1): comparing access to welfare entitlements*. Cham: Springer.

Total confirmed cases

(by place of confirmation)

22760 

Total recovered

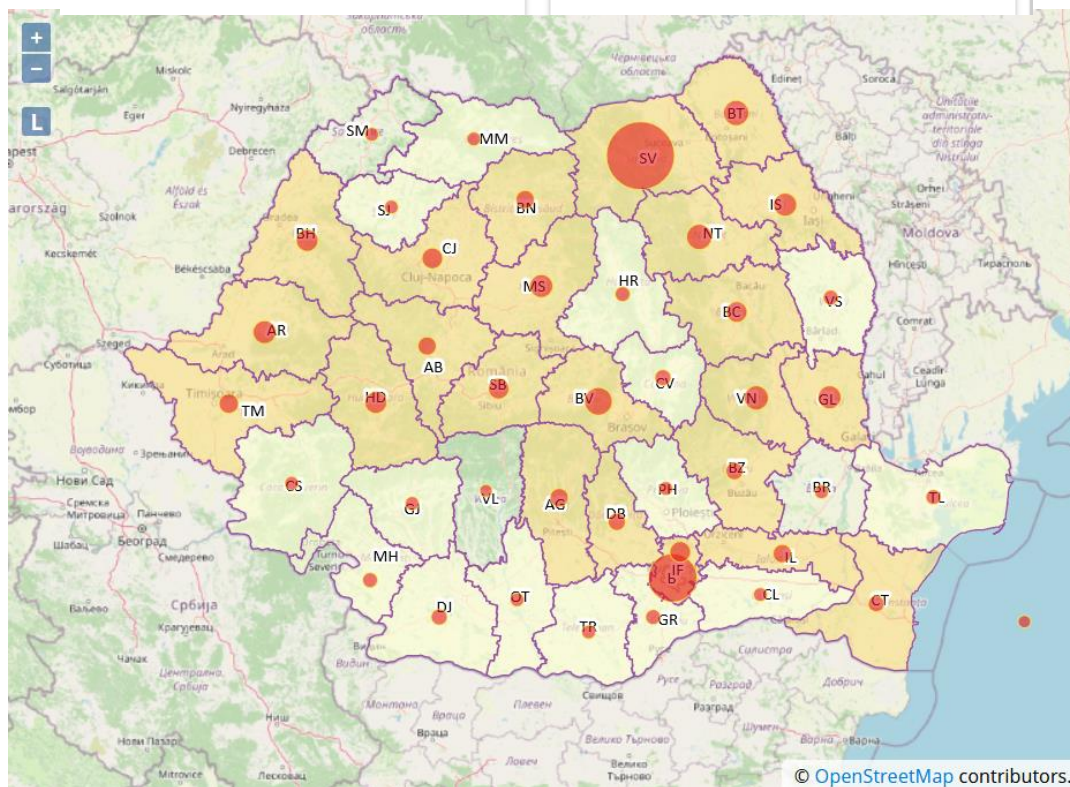
(by place of hospital release)

16117

Total deceased

1451

Total confirmed cases per county	
3829 SUCEAVA	link
2518 BUCUREȘTI	link
1085 BRAȘOV	link
931 NEAMȚ	link
921 BOTOȘANI	link
851 VRANCEA	link
754 IAȘI	link
716 GALAȚI	link
705 ARAD	link
702 MUREȘ	link
660 BIHOR	link



<https://covid19.geo-spatial.org/>

General measures for all Romanians abroad

Information:

- end of February: special section on MFA's website on COVID-19 info for Romanians abroad & special phone lines on diplomatic missions' websites
- since mid-March: supplementary MFA phone line for Romanians abroad facing difficult situations, to identify solutions for repatriation
- April: MFA & Department for Romanians Abroad: Diaspora Hub Platform for info & guidance

Restrictions for returnees:

- 26/02: Ordinance Ministry of Health: institutionalised quarantine & testing for those returning from countries/regions with extended infection transmission rate (Red list) & self-isolation at domicile for other returnees
- Since 09/03: travel restrictions

Measures for specific groups

Information for seasonal workers:

- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection: guide for Romanian workers who intend to go abroad

Information for students:

- Erasmus students & MFA special phone line for Romanians abroad

Measures for Romanian drivers (goods transportation):

- MFA: diplomatic communication to facilitate the return of Romanian drivers stuck abroad due to blockages in crossing borders

Examples of specific measures: Italy

- 22/02: task force at the Embassy in Rome, collaborating with Italian authorities
- 11/03: Embassy in Rome starts the identification and localisation of Romanian citizens who are on Italian soil, in transit in Italy, on the way to returning to Romania or on holidays in Italy who cannot return to Romania by their own means and do not have any real alternative to remain on the Italian soil
- Since 13/03: repatriations

Examples of specific measures: Spain

- Since 19/03: repatriation
- 26/03/2020: MFA recommendation for Romanian workers in Spain on steps to follow in case of issues with the work contracts & information on how to claim unemployment benefits from ES

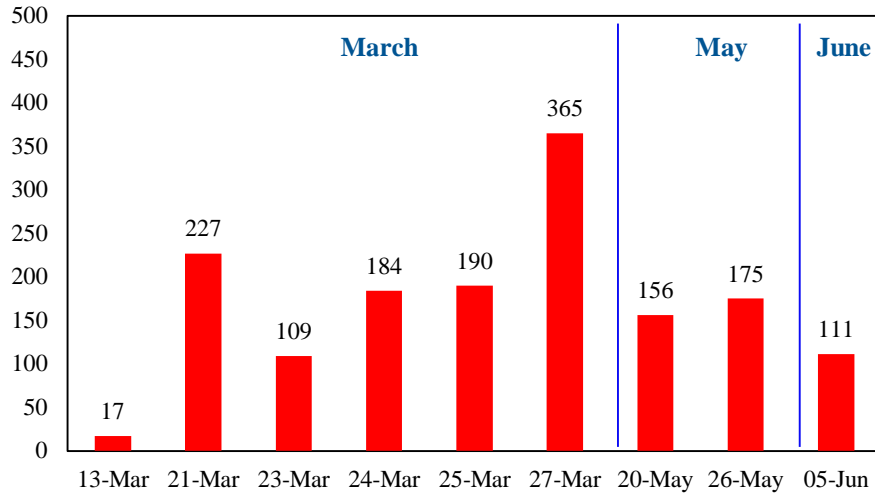
Examples of specific measures: Germany

- Since 17/03: MFA recommendation for Romanian workers in case of problems with work contracts
- 21/05: MFA intervention to help Romanian farm workers (Bonn)
- 02/06: MFA diplomatic discussions on the situation of Romanian seasonal workers & residents; 18/06: MFA's reaction to the situation in North-Rhine Westphalia
- June: repatriations

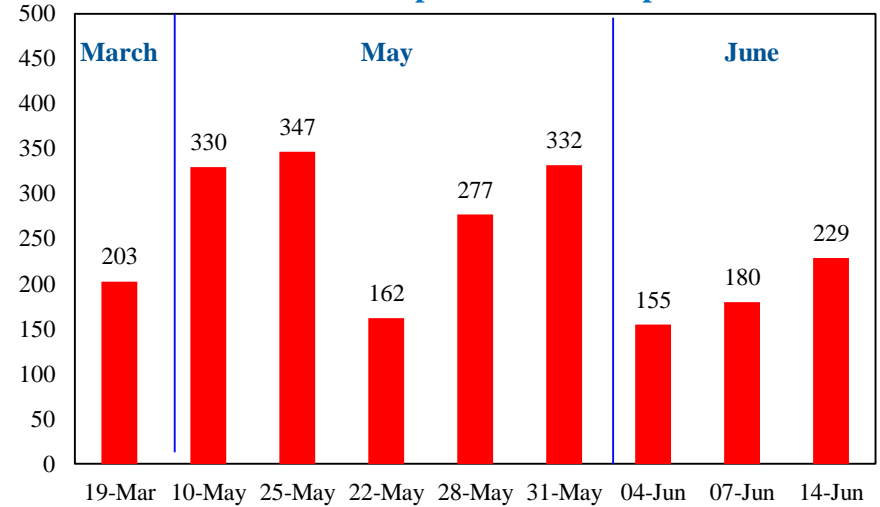
Examples of specific measures: UK

- 28/03: MFA recommendation for Romanian workers in case of problems with work contracts, including list of social benefits they are entitled to in the UK
- 23/05: repatriation; 02/06: MFA diplomatic discussions on the situation of Romanian workers in the UK

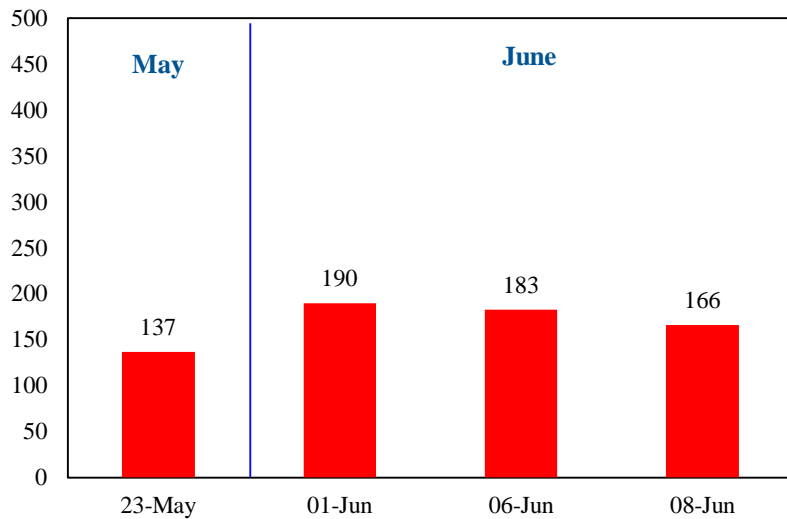
Citizens repatriated from Italy



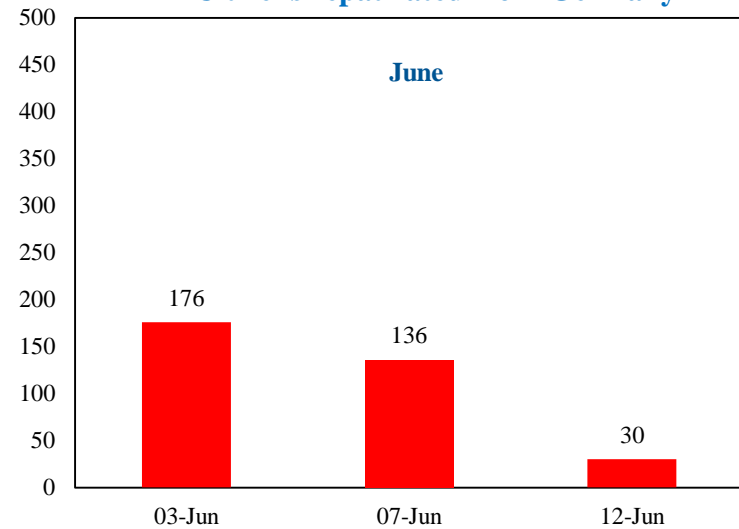
Citizens repatriated from Spain



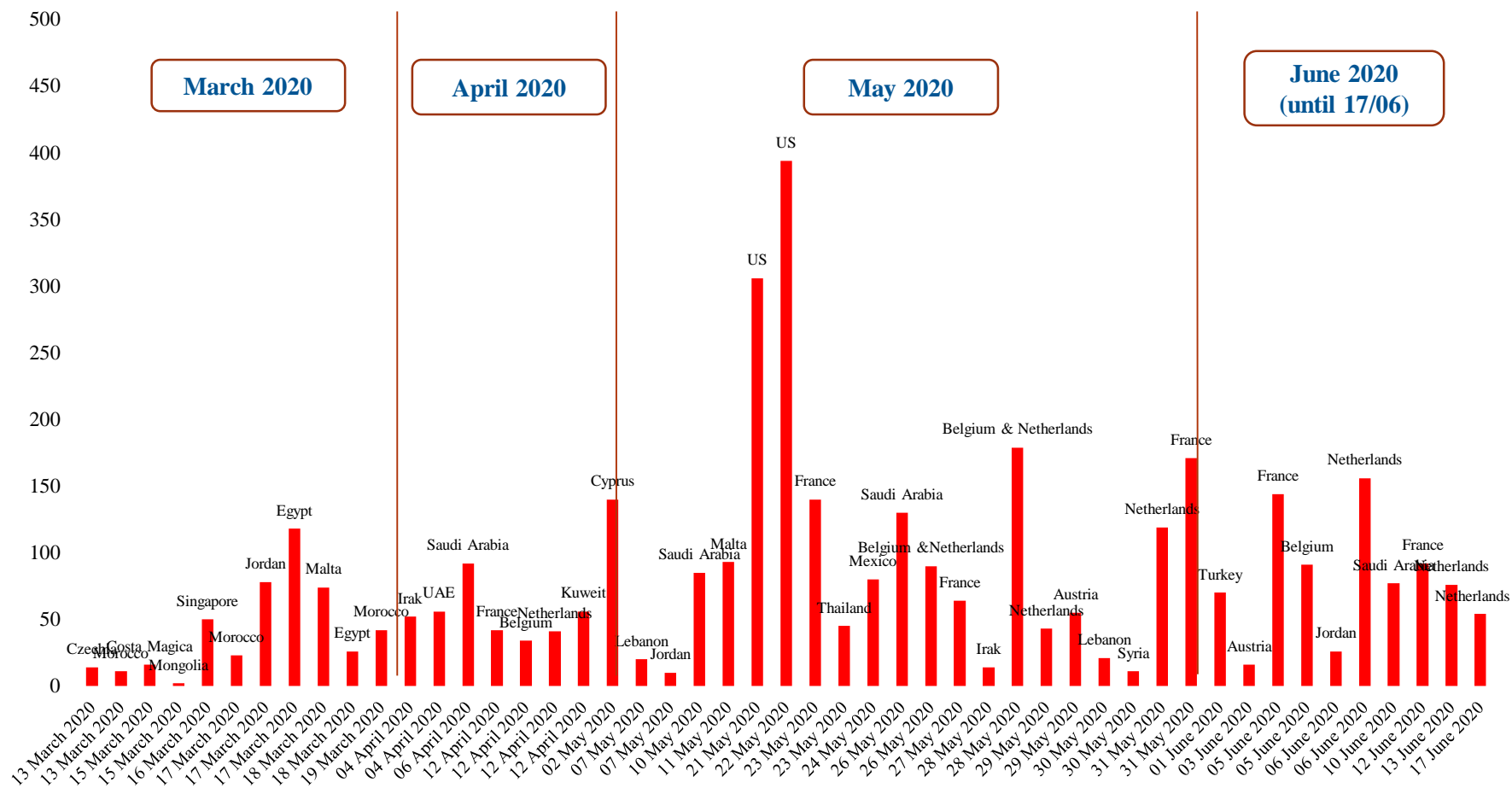
Citizens repatriated from the UK



Citizens repatriated from Germany



Facilitated return from other countries



Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania, Video-conference, 19 March 2020 (<https://www.presidency.ro/>)

I also want to say a word about Romanians abroad, about Romanians in the diaspora. The Easter holidays are approaching. We must tell them with sadness, but also with sincerity, not to come home for holidays. It is practically impossible to travel in Europe. It's very, very complicated. And when they still return in Romania, according to the current rules established by experts, they must go directly into isolation or quarantine, depending on the case. So what's the point of coming in quarantine or solitary confinement for at least two weeks? So, broadcast on all channels: Romanians abroad are dear to us. We want to see them, we would like to be together, but this year, for these holidays, it is not possible. It's sad, but we have to be honest not to create expectations that can't come true.

**Ovidiu Burdusa, State Secretary, Department for Romanians Abroad (17/03/2020,
<http://dprp.gov.ro/web/mesajul-secretarului-de-stat-ovidiu-burdusa-ca-urmare-a-criticilor-publice-la-adresa-romanilor-care-se-intorc-acasa-din-strainatate/>)**

I've noticed with sadness an increase in the public space of messages in which Romanians attack each other for the simple reason that some live here in Romania, while others, who have decided to settle abroad, now wish to return home. Instead of being divided, we must understand that, in order to overcome this crisis, it is much more important to be united, supportive and responsible both to ourselves and to those around us! Romanians in Romania and those returning from abroad want the same things: to feel safe and be close to their loved ones. It is often said that Romanians who left did not leave due to good conditions. Even now, when they return, they are not returning due to good conditions. It is human that in such moments we all want to be at home, and HOME is Romania. It does not honour us to attack those who return during this period. Compassion, understanding and a helping hand are more important now than the kind of work contract they had in Italy, Spain or Germany, under which conditions they lived or where they paid taxes. At the same time, I urge all Romanians returning from countries with high infection rate to do everything possible not to endanger those around them and those in the country.

Thank you for your attention

Find out more on our website: <http://labos.ulg.ac.be/socialprotection/>

Follow us on Twitter: [@mitsopro_EU](https://twitter.com/mitsopro_EU)

&

Facebook: [Mitsopro_EU](https://www.facebook.com/Mitsopro_EU)