



PHIRI

Population Health Information
Research Infrastructure



**17TH WORLD CONGRESS
ON PUBLIC HEALTH**
2023 May 2-6 ROME ITALY

PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum (REF): A key tool for cross- country exchange in times of crisis and beyond

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www.phiri.eu



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Rapid Exchange Forum – REF@PHIRI

A structured platform for regular quick exchange of fellow countries, policy advisors, commission services and researchers in the joint efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, and increasingly addresses also topics beyond COVID-19.

The REF offers...

1. rapid responses to research and policy questions that are raised in countries
2. to promptly disseminate internationally agreed guidelines, standards and reports
3. to exchange (best) practices among countries regarding COVID-19
4. to provide expertise to policy considering the shifting landscape of evidence

→ Personal exchange of information, best practices and expertise as an indispensable pillar supporting the PHIRI network and infrastructure

REF as a one-stop shop for rapid information exchange

Services:

1. **Bi-weekly, 1-hour online meetings** in a moderated, structured format; pre-agreed current topics contributed by the participating countries
2. **Support for urgent country requests and ad-hoc questions** (ad hoc queries by countries)

In addition, REF **Special Editions** are held regularly, where experts of international organizations present relevant findings and recent international activities related to COVID-19.

Attendees are national project partners, national experts (advisors to ministers and heads of agency), researchers, representatives of expert networks (e.g., Healthy Cloud), EU services (ECDC, JRC) and stakeholders (e.g., ELIXIR, VACCELERATE, PREPARE Cluster)

REF in numbers (April 2023)

Countries participated in PHIRI WP 8 REF meetings



- Total number of countries that have participated in REF-meetings
- Average number of attendees per REF-meeting
- Number of REF-meetings
- Number of Special REF Editions
- Number of country requests and ad-hoc queries answered
- Total number of answers received by countries to REF-meeting questions, country requests and ad-hoc queries

29

23

50

7

33

~ 1300

Topics covered (examples)

Fake certificates
Risk classification
Vaccination hesitancy
Vaccination compliance
Communication strategies
Protecting vulnerable groups
Covid-19 vaccinations for children
Testing strategy COVID-19 deaths & mortality statistics Mental health
Masks Surveillance of hospitalized COVID-19 cases Mass testing
Long-term monitoring and surveillance strategies
Tourism Health screenings for refugees from Ukraine Long COVID
Preparing for autumn/winter 2022
Healthcare workforce conditions
Whole Genome Sequencing
National vaccination plans
Vaccination certificates
COVID-19 forecast
Antibody testing
BA.2 sub-variant
Omicron variant

REF on the Health Information Portal

<https://www.healthinformationportal.eu/rapid-exchange-forum>

Since **February 2021**, answers to REF questions by consenting participating countries are published and searchable by key words after each REF meeting on the Health Information Portal



European Health Information Portal

Search countries ▾ Search Europe ▾ Search trainings ▾ Serv

HOME - RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM

RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM

Gesundheit Österreich
GmbH

The screenshot displays the 'Search Topics And Questions' interface on the Health Information Portal. It features a search bar and a 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, there are two tables of search results. The first table shows results for the '31st Rapid Exchange Forum: Health screening for refugees from Ukraine', with a question about health screening protocols and COVID-19 certificates. The second table shows results for the '40th Rapid Exchange Forum: Healthcare workforce conditions', with a question about healthcare workforce conditions before and since the pandemic. The third table shows results for the '39th Rapid Exchange Forum: Comparing Summer 2020/21 to 2022', with a question about comparing the COVID-19 situation. The fourth table shows results for the '38th Rapid Exchange Forum: Protecting vulnerable groups', with a question about protecting vulnerable groups. Each result includes the topic, question, date, and document(s).

Topic	Question	Date	Document(s)
31st Rapid Exchange Forum: Health screening for refugees from Ukraine	Health screening for refugees from Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is there any health screening protocol that is being put in place for arriving refugees from Ukraine in your country at the moment (concerning COVID-19 screenings)?COVID-19 certificates from Ukraine certificates in the Commission Implementing Regulation on mandatory stipulations for entry of refugees when it comes to COVID-19 vaccination offer for arriving refugeesAre (and if so how are) additional vaccination offers for arriving refugees from Ukraine in your country?	14-Mar-	[Document icon]
40th Rapid Exchange Forum: Healthcare workforce conditions	Healthcare workforce conditions before and since the pandemic In your country, what were <ul style="list-style-type: none">the average hours worked per week by doctors/nurses before the pandemic vs. now?the average monthly salary of doctors/nurses before the pandemic vs. now? If possible, please provide separate answers for both: <ul style="list-style-type: none">doctors/nurses in hospitals anddoctors/nurses in the outpatient sector	01-Aug-2022	[Document icon] 40_REF_minutes_questions_update_20220808.pdf
39th Rapid Exchange Forum: Comparing Summer 2020/21 to 2022	Comparing the European COVID-19 situation at the beginning of Summer 2020 and 2021 with Summer 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the current overall COVID-19 situation in your country similar to that at the beginning of the two previous Summer seasons (2020 and 2021), or are there clear differences?Have the expectations expressed in last summer seasons regarding the European pandemic status in the Summer of 2022 come true, or has the situation developed differently from what was expected?What do you expect for the 2022 Autumn season?	18-Jul-2022	[Document icon] 39_REF_minutes_questions_update_20220727.pdf
38th Rapid Exchange Forum: Protecting vulnerable groups	Protecting vulnerable groups	04-Jul-	[Document icon] 38_REF_minutes_questions_update_20220711.pdf

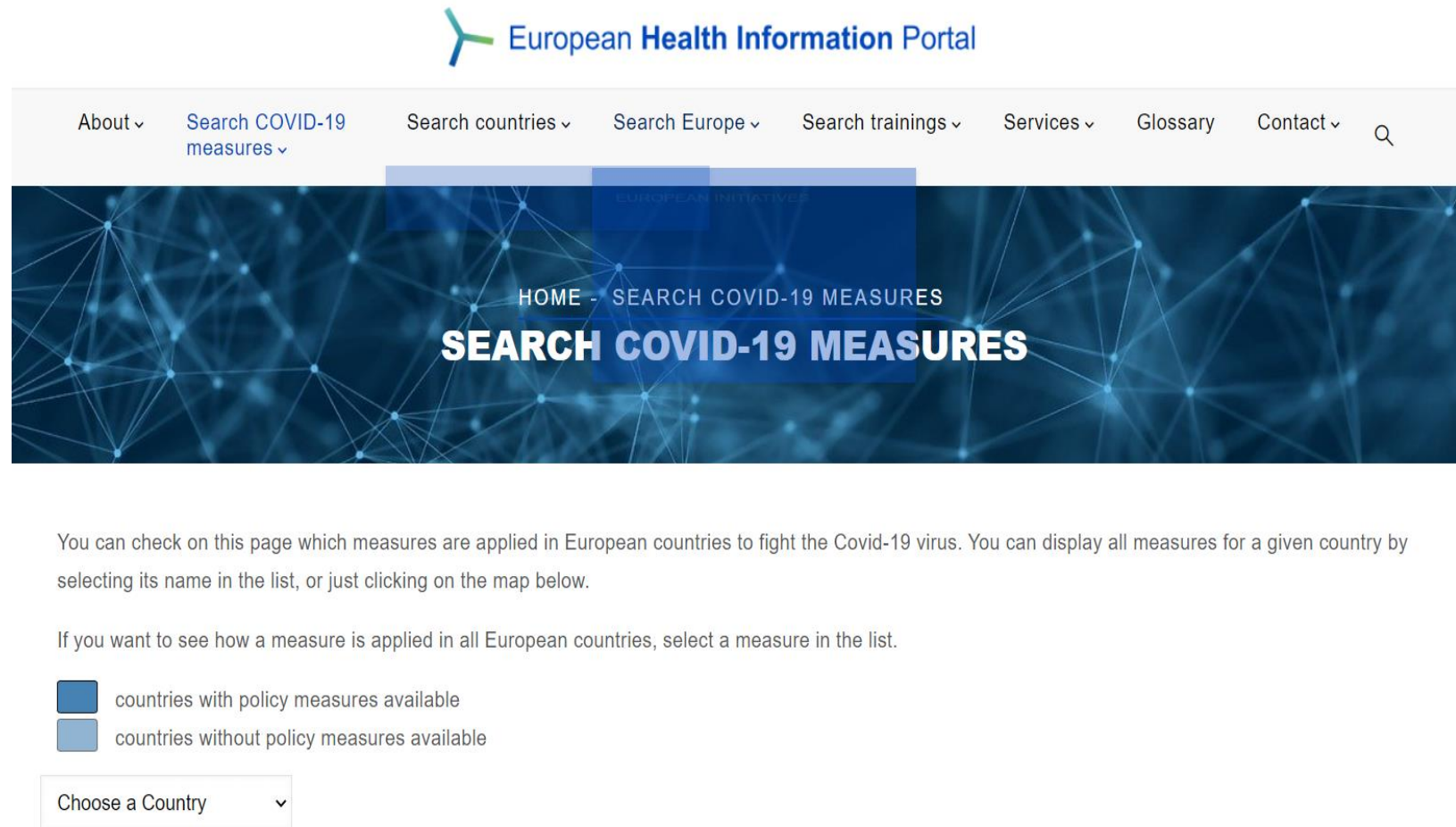


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COVID-19 Measures Page on HIP

- Information per country or per measure
- Provided by countries
- Complementary to ECDC and JRC measures website (active till 30/9/22)

<https://www.healthinformationportal.eu/search-countries/search-covid-19-measures>



European Health Information Portal

About ▾ Search COVID-19 measures ▾ Search countries ▾ Search Europe ▾ Search trainings ▾ Services ▾ Glossary Contact ▾

HOME - SEARCH COVID-19 MEASURES
SEARCH COVID-19 MEASURES

You can check on this page which measures are applied in European countries to fight the Covid-19 virus. You can display all measures for a given country by selecting its name in the list, or just clicking on the map below.

If you want to see how a measure is applied in all European countries, select a measure in the list.

■ countries with policy measures available
■ countries without policy measures available

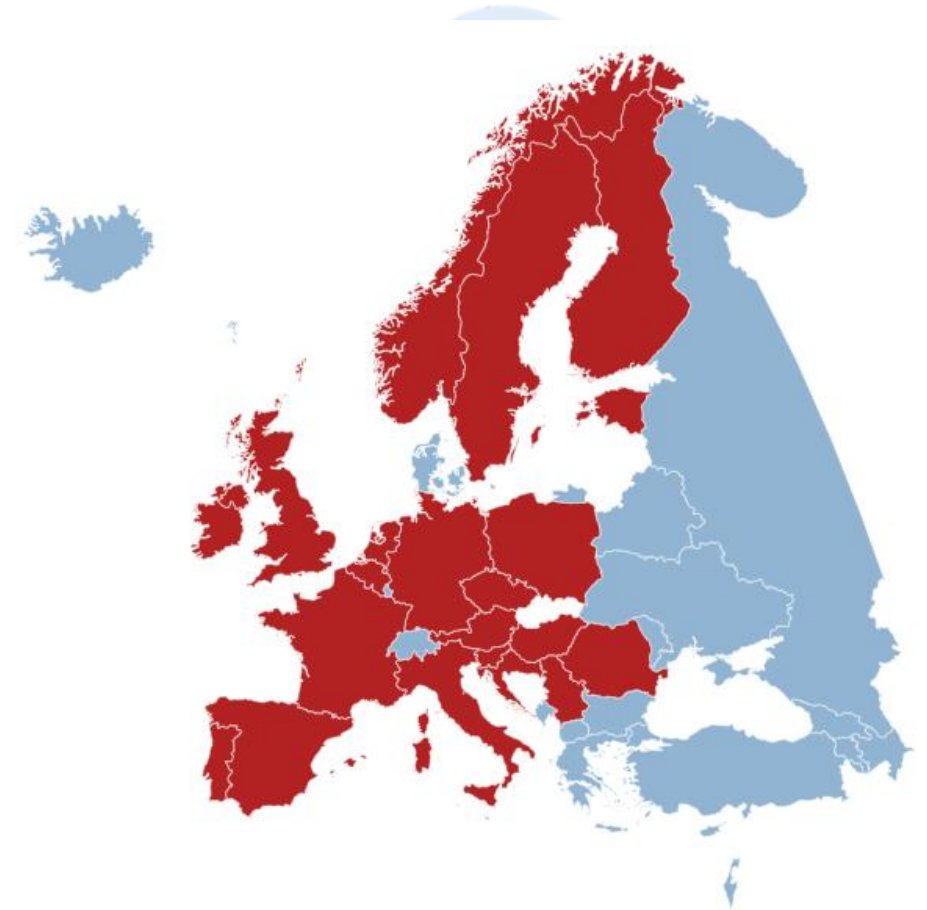
Choose a Country ▾

REF as an information provider

Regular collection and mapping exercise of

- Experts (by thematic fields)
- Policy and impact measures and
- Guidelines, initiatives, projects and information sources related to the COVID-19 pandemic in EU Member States by web search and interviews

→ Disseminated via REF-meetings, phiri.eu, webinars, conferences and the HIP



Next Session

- Monday 8 May 10.00-11.00 am
- Topic: **HEALTH CRISIS PROCEDURES AND EXERCISES**
- You are warmly invited to attend
- No registration necessary, just note that you need to indicate your country
- Send an e-mail to Phiri.Austria@goeg.at to obtain the link
- Next REF 22 May 10.00-11.00 devoted to **MENTAL HEALTH** as part of the European Health week



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