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UNIDO BRUSSELS *Focus*

TEAM EUROPE

The EU Global Response to COVID-19

A Stronger Europe in the World



JUNE 2020

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Executive Summary

This report analyses the measures taken by the European Union to tackle the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the framework of its external action priority, A Stronger Europe in the World.

We first introduce the common European response to COVID-19, which aims to promote a coordinated multilateral response, together with the United Nations, International Financial Institutions, G7 and G20. The report then provides a thorough and detailed understanding of “Team Europe”, the EU’s initiative launched to support partner countries address the effects of the pandemic. It will do so in collaboration with Member States, European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In this ambit the European Commission and the EIB have pledged, to date, EUR 18.8 billion from existing programmes.

Team Europe builds around three priorities, each with the following [funding allocation](#):

- 1) Emergency response to the immediate health crisis: EUR 531 million;
- 2) Strengthen health, water and sanitation systems: EUR 3.12 billion;
- 3) Address socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic: EUR 15.17 billion.

The EU will mobilise all forms of financing, such as the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD). The logic of distribution will follow the needs of partner countries.

The European Union and its partners hosted an [international pledging programme](#) with a target of EUR 7.5 billion, starting on 4 May 2020 and running until 27th June 2020. The aim is to gather significant funding to ensure the collaborative development and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus¹. **To date, EUR 9.8 billion have been raised.**

The geographical regional allocation of the funds by the European Commission will be the following:

- Neighbourhood: EUR 5.3 billion (39%)
- Sub-Saharan Africa: EUR 2.1 billion (15%)
- Western Balkans and Turkey: EUR 1.6 billion (11%)
- Asia and the Pacific: EUR 1.2 billion (9%)
- Latin America and Caribbean: EUR 927 million (7%)
- Other funds: 19%

In particular, additional EUR 1.4 billion will come from guarantees for Africa and Neighbourhood.

¹ "EU Global Pledge-Funds raised," [Online]. Available: https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_en.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. TEAM EUROPE: THE GLOBAL EU RESPONSE TO COVID-19.....	2
2.1. TEAM EUROPE PRIORITIES	2
2.2. TEAM EUROPE PACKAGE	3
2.3. TEAM EUROPE FOR GLOBAL PREPAREDNESS	4
2.4. TEAM EUROPE FOR GLOBAL COORDINATION AND MULTILATERALISM	4
3. FUNDS: CHANNELLING AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
3.1. THEMATIC BREAKDOWN	6
3.1.1. <i>Urgent short-term emergency response: EUR 531 million</i>	<i>6</i>
3.1.2. <i>Strengthening research and health systems: EUR 3.1 billion</i>	<i>7</i>
3.1.3. <i>Mitigating the social impact : EUR 15.2 billion.....</i>	<i>9</i>
3.2. GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN.....	10
3.2.1. <i>Western Balkans and Turkey.....</i>	<i>10</i>
3.2.2. <i>Neighbourhood</i>	<i>11</i>
3.2.3. <i>Africa</i>	<i>12</i>
4. ANNEX	13
4.1. EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)	13
4.2. DG DEVCO	15
4.3. DG NEAR	17

1. Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Commission has coordinated a [Common European response](#), aiming to take resolute action to reinforce public health sectors and mitigate the socio-economic impact in the European Union (EU). The EU, as a major provider of aid and finance, will promote a coordinated multilateral response, in partnership with the United Nations, International Financial Institutions, as well as the G7 and the G20².

On 8th April 2020, the European Union launched its “Team Europe” package to support partner countries in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences.

The objective of “Team Europe” is to combine resources from the EU, its Member States, and financial institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This response mainly focuses on addressing the immediate health crisis and possible socioeconomic consequences. To this end, the EU will secure financial support to partner countries for more than EUR 18.8 billion from [existing External Action resources](#). The bulk of the funding (EUR 10.6 billion) comes from the reorientation of existing funds and programmes to make them relevant to tackle the coronavirus specifically and includes EUR 5.2 billion in loans from the European Investment Bank that will be accelerated³.

On 22nd April 2020, the Commission adopted a proposal for a EUR 3 billion [macro-financial assistance \(MFA\) package](#) to 10 Enlargement and Neighbourhood partners to help them limit the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. The Commission's proposal is currently subject to adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU⁴. The European Union and its partners hosted an [international pledging programme](#) with a target of EUR 7.5 billion, starting on 4 May 2020 and running until 27th June 2020. The aim is to gather significant funding to ensure the collaborative development and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus⁵. To date, EUR 9.8 billion have been raised.

² "Overview of the European Commission's Response," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en.

³ "Q&A: Global EU Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_606.

⁴ "Commission proposes €3 billion macro-financial assistance package to support ten neighbouring countries," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_716.

⁵ "EU Global Pledge-Funds raised," [Online]. Available: https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_en.

2. Team Europe: The Global EU Response to COVID-19⁶

- Team Europe is the European Commission's action to support partner countries fight the coronavirus, together with the commitment of EU Member States, as well as and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
- The overall figure of the Team Europe package reaches more than EUR 20 billion. The European Commission and the European Investment Bank have already pledged financial support amounting to more than EUR 18.8 billion from existing programmes.
- This approach, led by the European Commission, aims to provide a single framework of action for all the European external response.
- Team Europe Priorities:
 - Emergency response to the immediate health crisis;
 - Strengthen health, water and sanitation systems;
 - Address socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic.
- Team Europe Package is a coherent financial package for each partner country that needs support.

2.1. Team Europe priorities

To address challenges rooted from COVID-19, emergency responses will focus on the following three aspects.

i. **Emergency Response to immediate health crisis:**

- Tackle chronic global shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), notably masks and gloves;
- Continue service provision to conflict-affected and forcibly displaced populations, refugees and migrants, especially those living in camps and camp-like settings, densely populated areas or locations that are out of reach, and adapting them to the pandemic context;

⁶ "Global EU COVID-19 Response-Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint_communication_global_eu_covid-19_response_en.pdf.

- Continue meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable, including the delivery of essential food, nutrition assistance to food insecure and malnourished groups, as well as essential health services and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

ii. Strengthen health, water and sanitation systems:

- Support resource-constrained countries to boost their containment and treatment efforts, then strengthening health and social protection systems;
- Ensure access to basic hand-washing facilities and soap, and good wash practices in communities, homes, schools, marketplaces and especially health facilities, to help prevent transmission;
- Accelerate research efforts to develop effective treatments, vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, and ensure universal availability at an affordable price;
- Ensure availability of PPEs to health workers, also by restoring global supply chains.

iii. Address the immediate social and economic consequences:

- Address the severe economic fallout from the pandemic across the world, and preventing a recession cycle in many partner countries;
- Address the additional financial and liquidity challenges brought by this crisis, like situations of high debt and limited policy space;
- Support economic and social stabilisation and social protection measures such as temporary deferment or waivers of tax and social security payments, etc.
- Support measures to boost network capacity both in the short and long run, to facilitate distant working, learning and socialising as well as access to accurate information;
- Ensure that companies regain ability to finance longer-term investments, so that economies can recover in a green and inclusive mode, and the respect for human rights, including labour rights, and democracy, with attention to education and the situation of women, girls and the most vulnerable.

2.2. Team Europe package

The Team Europe Package is the main instrument being used by the European Union in its global response to the pandemic.

It combines resources from the EU, its Member States and financial institutions, like the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), to support partner countries and address their short-term needs, as well as the longer-term structural impacts on societies and the economy.

The first Team Europe packages are being implemented in the immediate neighbourhood: in the Western Balkans, in the East and to the South.

2.3. Team Europe for Global Preparedness

The EU will support the **Global Preparedness Monitoring Board**, which has identified EUR 7.5 billion as a global fundraising goal. The EU aims to close the current funding gap identified by Global Preparedness Monitoring Board. The aim will be to:

- develop rapid coronavirus diagnostics, treatments and vaccines
- ensure sufficient supplies of protective equipment for health workers;
- support the WHO to coordinate and prioritise efforts to the most vulnerable countries.

2.4. Team Europe for global coordination and multilateralism

The EU will promote a coordinated multilateral response, in partnership with the United Nations, International Financial Institutions, as well as the G7 and the G20. The EU and its Member States will also continue working with the African Union (AU) on the renewed Strategy with Africa, towards the AU-EU summit in the autumn 2020. As per the agreement of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the EU will contribute actively to the development of a G20 roadmap with the following elements:

- A G20 Action Plan in response to coronavirus, which should include macroeconomic measures, financial measures, and measures for international financial institutions, and, a coordinated exit and recovery strategy, to reduce risks to trade supply chains;
- Working with relevant international financial institutions, in particular the IMF and the World Bank, to deliver the appropriate international financial assistance to emerging markets and developing countries, including liquidity and debt-relief measures to help the poorest countries immediately reduce their debt repayment obligations;
- Working with the Financial Stability Board (FSB) in its capacity to coordinate financial sector regulatory and supervisory measures taken by countries in response to the pandemic. As agreed by G20 Trade Ministers, the EU will take immediate necessary measures to facilitate trade of essential goods and will continue to work with international partners to keep markets open. In this spirit, the EU continues all its efforts to modernise and strengthen the World Trade Organization (WTO) and trade facilitation.

The EU will avoid that the collective coronavirus response and investment decisions exacerbate existing crises such as biodiversity loss and climate emergencies.

3. Funds: Channelling and Objectives

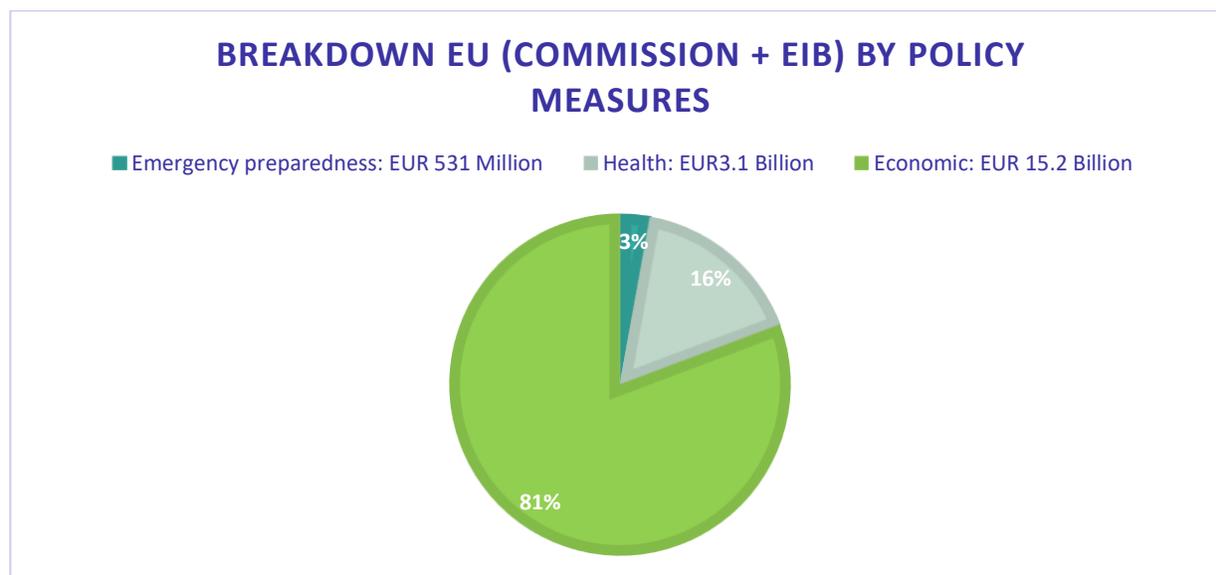
- The EU is mobilising all forms of financing (total amount of EUR 18.8 billion), to support partner countries to fight against COVID-19 in 3 different domains:
 - EUR 531 million for urgent short-term emergency response to meet immediate healthcare needs and support water, sanitation and hygiene;
 - EUR 3.12 billion for strengthening research and health systems to accelerate investment in research, as well as, labs/testing, and to improve healthcare systems of countries worldwide;
 - EUR 15.17 billion for mitigating the social impact to support SMEs by solving their liquidity problems, and to support vulnerable communities.
- Geographically, the European Commission, together with other EU institutions, is mobilising financial support to partner regions. Greater emphasis has been put on Neighbourhood partners and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Regarding financial support, the EU will mobilise all forms of financing, such as the European Fund for Sustainable Development guarantee, and loans from partner financial institutions for blending projects.

The logic of distribution follows the needs of the partner countries, but will also consider the added value, efficiency and complementarity of EU resources. The EU's contribution to the emergency humanitarian response will be allocated on the basis of needs on the ground and will prioritise the most vulnerable groups. In addition, no reallocations from one country to another are foreseen at this stage. The EU is currently working with partner countries and financial institutions to see which projects should be reinforced, sped up or supported⁷.

⁷ "Q&A: Global EU Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_606.

3.1. Thematic Breakdown



Source: European Commission⁸

3.1.1. Urgent short-term emergency response: EUR 531 million

This funding package includes:

1. Contribution to the WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and UN's the Global Humanitarian Response Plan launched by the UN.
2. Immediate humanitarian support in affected countries, especially in the sectors of health, water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)).
3. Other funding areas entail increasing production of PPEs, providing guarantee and liquidity to local banks via International Financial Institutions and European Development Finance Institutions, combatting export restrictions and ensuring global supply chains remain intact, etc.
4. Financial support to partner countries for an appropriate treatment and disposal of medical waste, and associate the Western Balkans to EU initiatives such as the Joint Procurement Agreement for medical equipment.

⁸ "EU Institutions external response to COVID (up to 27 April 2020)," [Online]. Available: <https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/eu-institutions-response-to-covid.pdf>.

There are two main funding areas:	
Emergency healthcare needs and protective equipment	Supporting water, sanitation and hygiene
<p>More than EUR 100 million are being provided for immediate health needs, mostly through the WHO and UN agencies.</p> <p>This includes the countries that are most in need, namely in Africa, Latin America and Asia. This also includes EUR 38 million for the Western Balkans and EUR 30 million for the Eastern Partnership.</p> <p>For instance, EUR 20 million in life-saving emergency support to Iran for protective equipment for health workers, critical medicines, testing kits, laboratory and medical equipment.</p>	<p>The funds will support the immediate crisis response, coronavirus outpatients as well as budget support to the government to secure core government services and support to the agribusiness sector.</p> <p>In Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, hygiene promotion activities are being scaled up to reduce the risk of infection. EU funds help provide safe water and soap for around 240,000 Rohingya refugees, over half of whom are children.</p> <p>Another example is that, EUR 216.2 million will help tackle the coronavirus crisis in Afghanistan.</p>

3.1.2. Strengthening research and health systems: EUR 3.1 billion

In this aspect, the EU will support global health initiatives – like Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and the Global Financial Facility – to be used to respond to the coronavirus.

Additionally, at the global level, the EU will step up the preparation with Member States and third countries of the *Global Health Partnership*. It will also continue to work on reorienting the work of existing multilateral platforms such as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI) on vaccine development and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) on preparedness.

In the long term, financial support for further research on diagnostics, treatment and prevention will be mobilised actively. Also, the EU will support experts training, epidemiological surveillance and strengthening regional health organisations in Africa, Latin American and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific.

Making good use of the digital platform, the EU will promote the exchange of data between researchers, meanwhile facilitate access to results and evidences via Open Access and Open Science.

Three main policy areas:

Investing in research	Labs and testing	Healthcare systems
<p>With up to EUR 140 million, the European Commission will support research on diagnostics, treatment and prevention, including EUR 90 million through the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a partnership between the EU and the pharmaceutical industry, and through the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), a partnership between the EU, 14 European countries and 16 Africa countries.</p> <p>In addition to two big research consortia in sub-Saharan Africa, ALERRT and PANDORA-ID-NET, have already redirected their research towards coronavirus working jointly with the Africa Centre of Diseases Control (ACDC).</p> <p>Other collaborative research projects which focus on coronavirus response include the recently launched project CORESMA with Côte d'Ivoire.</p>	<p>The EU will accelerate investment in coronavirus testing labs in Africa through the European Health Guarantee Platform for Africa with EUR 80 million, working with the European Investment Bank, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.</p> <p>EUR 5 million will be mobilised to the Pasteur Institute in Senegal to help train experts and increase testing and epidemiological surveillance. This includes the use of the EU-funded mobile lab that was deployed during the Ebola crisis.</p> <p>The EU is also leading efforts by mobilising scientific excellence worldwide through multilateral platforms such as the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness.</p> <p>EUR 8 million for protective equipment, testing and lab material, staff, treatment and vaccines for the Caribbean Public Health Agency.</p>	<p>Promoting access to healthcare has been a vital component of the EU's work for many years.</p> <p>The EU has contributed EUR 102 million to the WHO-led Universal Health Coverage Partnership that covers 115 countries around the globe.</p> <p>Another EUR 41.5 million to scale up global health emergency preparedness and country capacities to prevent, detect and respond to health risks and threats.</p> <p>The New Health Security Initiative of EUR 9 million, implemented in cooperation with the European Centre for Disease Control, focuses on preparedness and medical capacity to address the outbreak of the virus in all 23 Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries.</p>

3.1.3. Mitigating the social impact : EUR 15.2 billion

The EU will provide direct budget support and concessional financing to partner countries. To mitigate socioeconomic impacts in many of its partner countries, the EU will temporarily support national governments via technical assistance, direct budget support and concessional financing to adopt fiscal, monetary, social and public health policy reforms.

Particularly, the EU will support temporarily financial intermediaries (e.g. public banks and supervisory/regulatory bodies), and public sector through loans for healthcare equipment from the European Investment Bank (EIB). The financial support to the private sector, especially SMEs, will mainly be mobilised via guarantees from the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD). Meanwhile, it will continue to take all necessary measures (both immediately and in the long term) to ensure that global supply chains and transport corridors remain intact.

Other measures entail the promotion of all forms of debt relief by the IMF in affected countries and supporting the continuity of all levels of education. For example, the EU is mobilising the Macro-financial Assistance (MFA) Instrument for the Western Balkans and Neighbourhood countries faced with a balance of payment crisis, in tandem with International Monetary Fund (IMF) support.

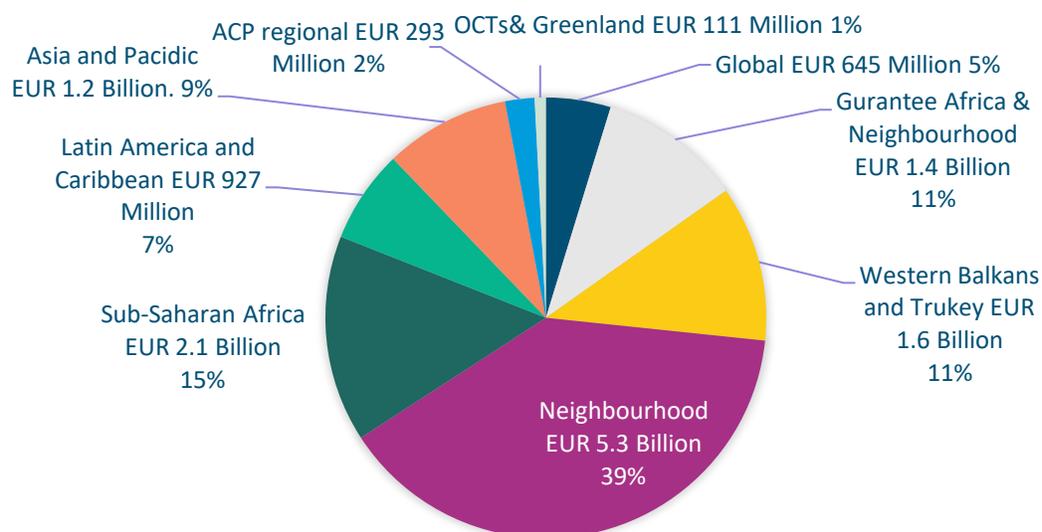
Support to small businesses	Support to vulnerable communities
<p>The EFSD guarantee will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer small businesses working capital and liquidity support; • Provide technical assistance, trade finance and local currency financing, to enable them to pay their staff, suppliers, and other day-to-day expenses, or adjust their business plans to withstand the pandemic's impact. <p>Take Ukraine as an example, small and medium enterprises working in the production of food, clothing or household goods can access grants of up to EUR 6,500 through EU support.</p>	<p>The pandemic heightens the risk of violence against women and girls.</p> <p>The EU and the UN are prioritising activities of the <u>Spotlight Initiative</u> in 24 countries worldwide.</p> <p>More than EUR 14 million will be targeted to counter increased domestic violence, boost prevention and support survivors and organisations.</p> <p>In Lebanon, the EU is providing cash support to incomes of refugees and the poorest Lebanese so they can buy essential items, including healthcare, during the lockdown which is exacerbating the country's deep economic crisis.</p>

Source: European Commission⁹

⁹ "EU global response to coronavirus: supporting our partner countries," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_607.

3.2. Geographical breakdown

The total amount of financial support to partner countries by the European Commission is EUR 13.6 billion. The detailed allocation is shown in the following graph.



Geographical Breakdown of EU Funding

Source: European Commission

3.2.1. Western Balkans and Turkey¹⁰

The EU is mobilising a package of over EUR 1.6 billion in reallocated bilateral financial assistance to support the socioeconomic recovery. This package is partly implemented through UN agencies, and it will help to address the impact of the outbreak in particular for the most affected businesses, including companies working in tourism and transportation sectors.

Financial support to each partner country includes both immediate support and support for further recovery.

¹⁰ "EU response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Western Balkans," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/coronavirus_support_wb.pdf.

Take Albania as an example, the EU provided EUR 4 million to procure immediate lifesaving medical equipment, including 5 fully equipped ambulances, respirators, digital mobile x-rays and state of the art equipment for intensive care. More than 400 Roma families have received aid packages.

3.2.2. Neighbourhood

An overall package of EUR 5.3 billion has been mobilised to support neighbourhood partner countries. Another guarantee package of EUR 1.4 billion for both Neighbourhood countries and Africa has also been mobilised.

Eastern Partnership¹¹

The European Commission is mobilising an emergency support package of more than EUR 80 million for immediate needs for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

In the overall package, around EUR 30 million is mobilised to support the health sector, such as delivering protective equipment to medical personnel with WHO, and providing necessary training medical and laboratory staff. Another package of EUR 11.3 million is to support the most vulnerable groups in society, through Rapid Response Mechanism and Eastern Partnership Solidarity Programme. Additionally, the Commission is supporting the socioeconomic recovery of the region.

Southern Neighbourhood¹²

In the EU's Southern Neighbourhood, grant financing of over EUR 1.5 billion is being accelerated and reoriented to create fiscal space for EU partners to respond to the pandemic in Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

To address the economic impact of coronavirus, the EU is adapting regional economic programmes dealing with investment and innovation for the region amounting to EUR 26 million. Substantial use will also be made of the Neighbourhood Investment Platform. An amount of EUR 100 million will be used for topping up existing facilities and accelerating new programmes with European Financial Institutions, to support mostly SMEs and financial intermediaries, by providing immediate liquidity, more local currency funding and trade finance.

¹¹ "The EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Eastern Partnership," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/coronavirus_support_eap.pdf.

¹² "EU Neighbourhood Policy area-Southern Neighbourhood," [Online]. Available: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/southern-neighbourhood_en.

Particularly, to strengthen the health sector, the EU signed a contract with the European Centre for Disease Control to provide tailor-made support to enhance the preparedness and response capacities of partner countries in the current emergency situation, at regional level. At country level, the EU response is being adapted to a variety of situations. In Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, ongoing EU projects are being reallocated to support national health systems.

For refugees and migrants, EU funding will be mobilised to improve access to healthcare and alleviate the effects of close proximity living conditions is channelled by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, and PEGASE instrument (in Palestine) to Libya, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

More than EUR 1.5 billion for will be mobilised to support the socioeconomic recovery of the region. The EU with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is strengthening a number of regional facilities to support SMEs in the current context, deliver trade facilitation and provide more financing in local currency. Meanwhile, the EU is reorienting its cooperation programmes to provide direct support to the budgets of partner countries to help them face the social and fiscal costs of the crisis.

3.2.3. Africa

Africa is a priority for the EU, which is proposing to re-allocate, accelerate and prioritise EUR 3.8 billion (by the European Commission) from existing programmes to respond to the needs in the continent. In detail, excluding guarantee and funds by EIB, a total amount of EUR 2.1 billion is mobilised to support Sub-Saharan region, meanwhile EUR 1.8 billion is to support Northern Africa. To further support Sub-Saharan Africa, EIB is mobilising another funding agenda of EUR 1.5 billion.

The EU's package includes direct bilateral support to countries, as well as funding to international organisations such as the WHO and other UN agencies. Support will focus on strengthening preparedness and response capacities of countries with the weakest healthcare systems. The EU is also funding research, which is helping to detect and prevent the transmission of the coronavirus in Africa.

The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) is in particular determined to address basic health needs of vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants. Under the EUTF, the EU is working closely with all its partners on the ground to ensure equal access to the healthcare system and strive for disease prevention and health promotion especially among the most vulnerable such as populations on the move.

4. Annex

4.1. European External Action Service (EEAS)

As the **EU's diplomatic service**, the EEAS carries out the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy, under the direction of EU High Representative/Vice President. Since 1st December this role has been assumed by the Spanish Josep Borrell Fontelles. The EEAS is responsible for the management of EU Delegations and Offices around the world, trying to bring coherence and coordination to the EU's international role.

Speaking more broadly, the [EEAS actions](#) range from security, defence and crisis response, multilateral relations, human rights and democracy, climate, environment and energy, refugee protection and migration, humanitarian and emergency response, development cooperation, EU enlargement and neighbourhood, countering disinformation, economic relations, connectivity and innovation and, finally, culture.

Multilateral relations

The EU profoundly commits to multilateralism, with the UN at its core and within the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Besides being its largest financial contributor, the EU supports the reform of the UN system, including the UN Security Council as well as the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly. The EU also seeks close cooperation with regional organisations such as the African Union.

Human rights & democracy

The EU internal and external policies are committed to a strong promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and rule of law, without which sustainable peace and stability, long term development and prosperity cannot exist.

Climate, Environment and Energy

The EU had been actively advocating for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The EU Climate Diplomacy Action Plan focuses on:

- (1) maintaining climate change advocacy as a strategic priority;
- (2) supporting implementation of the Paris Agreement and other climate plans;
- (3) increasing efforts to address the nexus of climate change, natural resources, including water, prosperity, stability and migration.

The EU pursues these objectives through bilateral and multilateral negotiations on liberalising trade in green goods and services.

Refugee Protection & Migration

To address the root causes of migration, the EU has established new partnerships with countries of origin and of transit in Africa, but also with partner countries in the Western Balkans and the EU's wider neighbourhood, and it has stepped up cooperation with the UN agencies to an unprecedented level.

Humanitarian & emergency response

The EU works in all major crisis areas. Humanitarian aid is channelled through over 200 partner organisations and agencies, such as (1) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs); International Organisations; (3) Red Cross societies and (4) UN Agencies.

Development Cooperation

The European Consensus on Development is a framework for the EU to align to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

The EU's development cooperation objectives are as follows:

- Play a key role in the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- Promote democracy, the rule of law, and the respect of human rights in developing countries
- Ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental progress in developing countries
- Make development aid from different European countries more effective by deepening the cooperation between national governments

Economic Relations, Connectivity and Innovation

The EU has exclusive competence over its Member States on International Trade matters, Intellectual Property aspects and Foreign Direct Investment.

In the ambit of connectivity and innovation the EU is carrying on projects on science cooperation and diplomacy. Science Diplomacy builds on Horizon 2020 and it is seen as an “instrument of soft power” and a mechanism for improving relations with key countries and regions. It specifically aims at developing a common Knowledge and Innovation Space in the EU Neighbourhood, and developing Science and Technology agreements with strategic partners (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Korea, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, USA...) as well as promoting Policy dialogue and platforms for regional cooperation (Africa, ASEAN, Central Asia, Gulf, LAC, Pacific) on STI, which is believed to be key for sustainable development.

4.2. DG DEVCO

DG DEVCO (also known as EuropeAid) is the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development under the leadership of Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships. Its role is to work together with partner countries across the world to achieve sustainable development, and design the EU's international partnership and development policy, with the ultimate goal to reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development, and promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the world.

To ensure coherence and effectiveness of its work, DEVCO cooperates and coordinates with other Commission services responsible for thematic policies and/or external action, and EU member countries and EU delegations in the field.

DG DEVCO focuses on [four priorities](#):

- **EU-Africa partnership to work together on five key global trends**

- A Partnership for the Green Transition and Energy Access
- A Partnership for Digital Transformation
- A Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Jobs
- A Partnership for Peace, Security and Governance
- A Partnership on Migration and Mobility

- **Green Deal**

The European Green Deal aims to help partner countries address climate change, and to protect environment and ecosystem worldwide. The EU will work with Africa to bring climate and environment issues to the centre of its relations, engage with G20 countries, set up a Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, establish partnerships with the Eastern Partnership and Southern Neighbourhood in environment, energy and climate, and build Green Alliances with partner countries and regions in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

- **Digital partnerships**

Digital partnerships aim to equip the world when digitalisation creates opportunities for sustainable development and inclusive growth. Regarding financial perspective, the [European Fund for Sustainable Development](#) (EFSD) Guarantee allows to lower investment risk financing and create the conditions to contribute to the deployment of digital infrastructure and to scale-up of digital services through the [Digital for Development](#) investment window.

The [AfricaConnect](#) project is another important aspect. It aims to establish a high-capacity Internet network for research and education in Southern and Eastern Africa to provide the region with a gateway to global research collaboration.

The AfricaConnect project has a total budget of EUR 14.75 million, with 80% of the funding provided by the European Development Fund, following an agreement between the ACP secretariat and the European Commission, and the remaining funding has been contributed by the Southern and Eastern African NREs wishing to participate in the project.

- **Migration and mobility**

In line with the [European Agenda for Migration](#) and the subsequent Partnership Framework, the approach to migration and mobility is based on genuine partnership, mutual interest, and dialogues with partner countries to tailor assistance to their specific needs.

Financial tools include EU trust funds, such as the EU Trust Fund for Africa and the EU Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis. They are to complement the EU's regular development assistance and help us better implement our approach to migration.

For forced displacement, the Commission communication 'Lives in dignity' (2016) states its commitment to include this aspect in its development programming and enhance the shared responsibility of this issue at global level. And there are already ongoing programmes by the Commission around the world: Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, Bangladesh (Rohingya crisis), and Venezuela.

4.3. DG NEAR

The mission of the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations is to “take forward the EU’s neighbourhood and enlargement policies, as well as coordinating relations with EEA-EFTA countries. It is currently under the leadership of Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi.

European Neighbourhood Policy

DG NEAR supports democratic consolidation in neighbouring countries.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) manages EU’s relations with 16 of its closest Eastern and Southern Neighbours.

- South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia
- East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The ENP has been reviewed in 2015 and aims at the “stabilisation of the region, in political, economic and security related terms”.

Funding

The European Neighbourhood Instrument is the main financial instrument for implementing the ENP (EUR 15.4 billion for the period 2014-2020). The ENI will be replaced in 2021 by the new and broader Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) included in the MFF proposal for 2021-2027.

Eastern Partnership

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint policy initiative aiming at strengthening relations between the EU and its eastern neighbours.

On 18 March the Partnership has been renewed, aiming at increasing trade, strengthening connectivity and deepening economic integration, strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, environmental and climate resilience, supporting the digital transformation, and promoting fair and inclusive societies.

The five new priorities of the EaP will be:

1. A Partnership that CREATES: Together for resilient, sustainable and integrated economies
2. A Partnership that PROTECTS: Together for accountable institutions, the rule of law, and security
3. A Partnership that GREENS: Together towards environmental and climate resilience
4. A Partnership that CONNECTS: Together for a resilient digital transformation
5. A Partnership that EMPOWERS: Together for resilient, fair and inclusive societies

Southern Neighbourhood

EU cooperation with the Southern Neighbourhood includes ten partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. It is implemented through bilateral (tailor-made for each county), regional, neighbourhood-wide and Cross-Border cooperation programmes.

- EU Initiative for financial inclusion

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) significantly contribute to GDP and job creation across the region. In light of this, the European Commission created the European Union Initiative for Financial Inclusion (EUIFI), in partnership with four leading European finance institutions (EFIs), namely: the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), and Agence française de développement (AFD). The EUIFI total budget amounts to EUR 1.5 billion.

Enlargement Policy

The process of accession consists of 3 stages:

1. When a country is ready it becomes an official candidate for membership
2. The candidate moves on to formal membership negotiations, having to meet accession criteria.
3. When the negotiations and reforms are complete, the country can join the EU.

In February 2020, the accession policy has been revised and tailored to the process of accession of the six Western Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The new process builds on a stronger focus on fundamental reforms and proposes:

- A stronger political steer at the highest levels.
- A more dynamic process the Commission proposed to group the negotiating chapters in six thematic clusters: (1) fundamentals; (2) internal market; (3) competitiveness and inclusive growth; (4) green agenda and sustainable connectivity; (5) resources, agriculture and cohesion; (6) external relations.
- A more predictable process: The Commission will provide greater clarity on what the EU expects of enlargement countries at the different stages of the process.

The EU will provide the countries with financial support through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance. From 2014-2020, the EU dedicated EUR 11.7 billion for this purpose.

On 25 March 2020, the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia, which are both officially identified as candidate countries.

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