

PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum: Ad-Hoc question

Asked by: Ireland

Asked on: 16/06/23

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Table 1: Country responses

Country	<p>Topic: NATIONAL REVIEWS/INQUIRIES OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE</p> <p>Question(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has a Review of the Response to Covid-19 been undertaken or is currently underway in your country? If so, please provide the title of the Review. 2. What areas / topics are covered by the Review? 3. How is the Review structured / undertaken? 4. What type of Review was undertaken and what type of organisation undertook the Review? 5. Are the Terms of Reference for the Review publicly available? If so, please provide a link to the Terms of Reference. 6. Was the Review made publicly available? If so, please provide a link to the publication
Austria	<p>There are some reports and assessments by the Austrian Court of Audit (Rechnungshof). They are all in German. Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pandemic management in general (first year of pandemic) https://www.rechnungshof.gv.at/rh/home/home/2022-18_Pandemiemanagement.pdf - financial aid measures https://www.rechnungshof.gv.at/rh/home/news/COVID-19_Hilfsmassnahmen1.html - vaccine procurement https://www.rechnungshof.gv.at/rh/home/home/Bericht_2023_16_Impfstoffbeschaffung.pdf - data management https://www.rechnungshof.gv.at/rh/home/home/2021-43_Gesundheitsdaten_Pandemiebewaeltigung.pdf <p>This report provides a summary of their activities and includes recommendations for actions: https://www.rechnungshof.gv.at/rh/home/home_1/home_6/Rechnungshof.Mehr.Wert_Fokus_Covid-19_BF.pdf</p> <p>You might find further assessments of your interest by using their search functions: https://www.rechnungshof.gv.at/rh/suche/Suche.html?l=de&q=covid-19&thema=&Bereich=#</p> <p>There is an ongoing research project aimed at developing a pandemic public health preparedness plan using real-world data from the COVID-19 pandemic, simulations and stakeholder discussions: https://www.wwf.at/funding/programmes/ls/LS22-071/index.php?lang=EN</p> <p>To our knowledge the MoH a/o some Austrian provinces like the city of Vienna plan such a Review/ Evaluation. But the evaluation needs to be procured most likely as we as GÖG cannot perform it as we have been involved in the response. So it had not started. But our "Rechnungshof" has e.g. analysed the use of financial subsidies to companies during Covid already (German report attached). 2023_13_COVID_Datenaktualisierung.pdf</p>

	<p>Report from Austrian scientists with important considerations: Bogner Essay Was kann die Wissenschaft bei Pandemien leisten.pdf (in German but key points are summarized below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Today, pandemics are primarily seen as a challenge to scientifically informed crisis management. But this is creating new crises and conflicts in which science itself is at the center. - The primacy of science or medicine supported a policy of no alternatives in the early phase of the crisis. - In the course of media reporting, we had to get used to unfamiliar and difficult terms and learned to know and understand new concepts. - The corona crisis shares a high degree of scientification with other crises and conflicts. - Despite all the disputes, the science in the current pandemic has demonstrated a consensus understanding of reality and truth. - In the pandemic, science had not only the virus as a major counterpart, but also conspiracy theories. - Due to the contradictory paradigms of science, there can be no sort of overall model from which a unanimously superior conclusion can be drawn in response to politically relevant questions.
Latvia	<p>No. We have in force Regulation No. 662 “Epidemiological Safety Measures for the Containment of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection.” https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/326513-epidemiological-safety-measures-for-the-containment-of-the-spread-of-covid-19-infection</p>
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we have launched an After Action Review with the ECDC and are now in the planning phase • We are planning to evaluate the response of the National Public Health Centre • Still in the planning phase, we will follow the ECDC recommendations • After action review will be undertaken by National Public Health Centre • No • No
Malta	<p>COVID-19 report: https://nao.gov.mt/loadfile/72037e48-2990-4aad-bd42-61064292433f</p>
Norway	<p>In April 2020, the Government appointed an independent commission to conduct a thorough and comprehensive review and evaluation of the authorities' handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission submitted its second and final report on April 26, 2022. The review covered the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Norwegian authorities' preparedness and plans for pandemics, at both national and municipal level, in relation to earlier pandemics and scenarios. - Preparations, management and cooperation between the affected ministries and organisations, including the division of responsibility and cooperation between the Directorate of Health and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. - Measures implemented to reduce the spread of infection, improve the capacity of health services and treat patients. - Measures implemented in the primary health services, and measures and preparations for protecting residents of care facilities. - Division of responsibility and cooperation between state and municipal levels. - Communication and dissemination of information to the general public, and the behaviour and response of the public. - The economic and social ramifications of the pandemic and the infection control measures. - How the broader social consequences of the pandemic have been dealt with and followed up by the authorities. - How vital societal functions, including democratic structures, have managed to maintain their functional capabilities and whether appropriate functions were identified and safeguarded. <p>The ToR / Mandate is described her: Mandate in English – Koronakommisjonen The report is her: NOU 2022: 5 (regjeringen.no) All documentation is public.</p>
Romania	<p>No.</p>

Serbia	Serbia hasn't conducted a review of the response to COVID-19 pandemic so far.
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Analysis of Pandemic Response in Slovenia will be prepared (according to ECDC guidance for AAR) with the help of experts from ECDC. • So far, we have proposed 3 topics (Risk and crisis communication and community engagement, Community IPC measures and NPIs, Vaccination deployment). • Not yet structured • NO • NO (not yet)
The Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, the Dutch Safety Board (Onderzoekraad voor Veiligheid) carried out research on the Response to COVID-19 in the Netherlands. Title: Corona Response • The reports address the approach and the measures taken by the government in response to the pandemic. • The Dutch Safety Board has in place Methods to investigate situations where personal safety is dependent on third parties (e.g., management of Covid). It has various phases and procedures. Methods Dutch Safety Board - Onderzoeksraad • By the Dutch Safety Board (Onderzoekraad voor Veiligheid) - Dutch safety board - Onderzoeksraad • Corona response - Onderzoeksraad • Corona response - Onderzoeksraad
UK	Review ongoing (will last a year or so). Link: https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/