

Covid-19 short overview (*attache list*) – with a focus on currently applied models of teaching/learning

#### 15 October

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SI - in Slovenia, as of Monday, distance learning will be again introduced for all pupils as of 6th grade onwards (including all secondary schools). In most cases it will last for at least one week, while in some until end of October.

LV - after the autumn holidays (next week) distance learning will be used for grades 7 to 12 for at least one week. Other newly adopted measures re-introduce restrictions for hobby education and sport.

#### 16 Oct

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AT - certain regions in Austria are introducing distance learning on upper secondary school level again as well.

PL - From Monday (19/10) secondary schools and higher education institutions will introduce blended learning. However, in so called red zones they will switch to distance learning.

SK- in Slovakia as of Monday (12/10) upper -secondary level also switched distance learning. All after-school activities are now forbidden.

#### 21 October

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LT: schools after the autumn holiday (Oct 26-Oct 31) will continue in distance learning mode

HR: in Croatia, for the time being schools are open for teaching and learning, though a decision whether to switch on distance or blended learning is possible and if needed can be made by school itself in cooperation with the local/regional authority and local epidemiologic team.

FR: no distance learning is applied. Some schools may have been closed in case of suspicion, but reopened after some days. More blended teaching in higher education but no official lines to follow.

IE: In Ireland, a level 5 lockdown is coming into effect from midnight tonight so only essential workers should travel to work, no social visits, most retail closed etc. But schools will remain open. VET and Higher ed will operate largely via distance learning.

CZ: In CZ all schools are closed at least till November 3rd.

FI: the same situation as in HR

EE: the same as in FI and HR

ES: no changes in the situation in Spain. Face-to-face education continues in schools, except for temporary closures decided by the school, in the context of each city or region, this being the exception. More online and blended learning in higher education.

RO: in Romania the traffic light system continues to be implemented. According to the number of cases, the schools may function in a full physical mode (green light), in a blended mode (combining physical and online education) or in full online mode (red light).

AT: the same applies to the Austrian situation as described by RO

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### 22 October

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BG: In Bulgaria, no changes. Schools remain open, but ready to switch on distance or blended learning if necessary. Most of the higher institutions combine virtual and physical learning.

LU: no changes.

### 23 October

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PL - New: The whole area of Poland is treated as a red region. For education it means that distance learning is used in higher education institutions, secondary schools and primary schools in grades 4-8 (children 10-14 years old).

SK - As of 26/10 all schools apart from primary schools and kindergartens will switch to distance learning.

MT - In Malta, as of 14 October, all students attending compulsory education have now completed the staggered process for the reopening of schools, and are now back to school. Rapid testing for COVID is planned to be implemented in schools from the 28 October. Academic year 2020/2021 for further and higher education institutions: all students at the University of Malta (UoM) and MCAST, Malta's main VET institution, have now commenced their academic year.

### 27 October

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SK: On 26/10 all schools apart from primary schools and kindergartens switched to distance learning until at least 27/11. Thus, ECEC and primary schools continue with face-to-face education. After-school clubs for children could remain open for primary level pupils. All face-to-face extracurricular and afterschool activities, excursions etc. are suspended. However, if possible, they can carry on in online format. School dormitories and canteens are temporarily closed. VET: practical learning for VET students can continue at employer's workplace in line with protective and preventive measures taken by the employer. HE: it's recommended to carry out distance or blended learning until the end of winter semester. Autumn holidays will be from 30 October until 9 November and apply to all levels and all ET institutions. From 24/10 nationwide lockdown was introduced with several exemptions (commute to work/school/ essential shopping, doctor/pharmacy). During 2 weekends (31/10-1/11 and 7-8/11) Slovakia is going to carry out a nationwide Covid-19 testing which is mandatory for all inhabitants older than 10 years. Those who do not want to be tested must remain in a strict isolation at home for 10 days. During the week between the "testing weekends", only people who tested negative may leave their homes.

AT: For Austria the situation stays the same for the moment. Measures and Covid19 restrictions are implemented on a highly differentiated level. Generally speaking, authorities are doing their best to keep educational facilities open.

IE: The situation remains the same in IRELAND too – schools are now closed for mid-term break, but are currently expected to reopen fully as normal after the term holiday.

LT: In Lithuania the situation is the same. 5-12 grades of schools as well as VET schools after the autumn holiday (Oct 26-Oct 31) will continue in distance learning mode for one week (until Nov 8), whereas pre-primary and primary schools will go back to face-to-face learning after the holiday. HEIs are recommended

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to switch to distance learning. Non-formal education and adult education will be carried out via distance learning.

SI: in Slovenia, during 19-23 October, distance learning was again introduced for all pupils from 6th grade onwards (including all secondary schools). During school holidays (26-30 October), the decision how to continue as of 2 November will be taken. In ECEC, as of 26 October, limits have also been introduced, however, for those working in critical sectors the ECEC services are still at disposal. As part of restriction measures, student dormitories have temporarily changed its purpose in order to be also available as an accommodation facility for persons performing tasks important to the state (eg tasks in call centers, assistance in health care institutions, in educational institutions, etc.). Higher education institutions operate in accordance with the decisions and guidelines of universities and their members, and they have all switched to online learning.

PL: In Poland the situation hasn't changed and the information in your overview is still relevant. However, please find below more detailed information. A) Suspension of face-to-face education for pupils in primary schools in grades IV-VIII and in secondary schools: pupils of primary schools (grades IV-VIII) and of secondary schools (all grades) as well as learners of continuing education institutions and centres of vocational education switch to distance education. New rules of functioning schools and educational institutions have entered into force from October 24 and they will apply until November 8. Previously from October 19 until October 23 pupils of secondary schools in red zones participated in distance education, and pupils of secondary schools in yellow zones participated in blended education in the mode of approx. 50% 50%. This means that at least half of the pupils from a given school will have classes at school, and the rest remotely. The task of the school headmasters was to implement appropriate introductory procedures and inform the entire school community about the adopted system of blended education. B) Schools and institutions where face-to-face education is continued: Kindergartens and grades I-III of primary school works without any changes. Face-to-face education is provided: Face-to-face education is also provided in special schools in youth educational centers and youth sociotherapy centers. Directors of special schools and special educational centers, as well as special schools in medical entities and in social welfare units, will be able to decide on the mode of teaching in grades IV-VIII of primary schools and in secondary schools during this period. C) Concerning higher education - online delivery is obligatory. Exceptions include classes that cannot be taught remotely and those scheduled for the last year of study, in which case the rectors or – in doctoral studies – the heads of the entities running doctoral studies can opt for on-site delivery. Any decisions taken by university authorities must first of all take into account the safety of students, doctoral students and university employees. Education in the fields of study preparing to perform the professions for which educational standards have been defined, must take into account specific solutions provided for in these standards. In accordance with the provisions of the ordinance on studies, classes shaping practical skills are conducted in conditions appropriate for a given scope of professional activity and in a manner enabling students to perform practical activities. University employees perform work in accordance with the rector's decision taking into account the need to ensure the functioning of the university, including scientific activity. Bearing the above in mind, the rector may make decisions about the performance of work by university employees outside the place of its permanent performance (remote work).

NL: In the Netherlands, generally, pupils are attending schools as regularly as possible at the moment (VET and HE institutions already have a blended format). The situation is being closely monitored in relation to the Covid-19 figures.

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SE: In Sweden there are no recent changes to report. As before there are conditions in place that will allow education providers to shift to more flexible forms of education, including digital or blended learning. For many HE institutions digital or blended learning continues to be the most common format. For the other levels physical education is the norm even if some upper secondary education schools have adopted more flexible formats to decrease the pressure on public transport.

RO: The Ministry of Education and Research in Romania monitors the dynamics of the three (traffic light) operating scenarios within the pre-university education units, at national level. This is influenced by the evolution of the epidemiological situation in each county. Therefore, today, 27 October, according to the information sent by the county school inspectorates, the following situation is registered: 9.580 educational units are listed in Scenario 1 (green light): daily (face-to-face) participation of all preschoolers and pupils in educational units, in compliance with and application of all health protection rules; 4.969 educational units are listed in Scenario 2 (yellow light). It involves the daily participation (face to face) of all preschoolers and pupils in primary education, pupils in grades VIII and XII, in compliance with and application of all rules of protection, respectively partial return (by rotation, per one or two weeks) of pupils from other secondary and upper-secondary classes, in compliance with and application of all protection rules; 3.107 educational units are listed in Scenario 3 (red light), which involves the participation of all preschoolers and pupils in online activities / classes. The management board at the level of each educational unit adopts the scenario proposals and their subsequent change depending on the analysis of the epidemiological situation carried out by the local public health institutions and the National Institute of Public Health, the existing infrastructure and resources in each educational unit. According to the joint order of the Minister of Education and Research and the Minister of Health of 1 September 2020, the epidemiological criterion based on which the educational units establish one of the three operating scenarios is the total number of new cases in the past 14 days per 1.000 inhabitant.

PT: no change compared to entry in the Covid-19 questionnaire from 13 October - the face-to-face modality is the preferential for all school years. However, two other scenarios are planned and prepared (blended or distance) that will only be applied as temporary and exceptional, if needed and determined by the education and health authorities.

EE: no change.

FI: no change.

## **28 October**

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EL: In Greece there is no major change. ECEC institutions and primary and secondary schools, both general and vocational (initial VET) are functioning as before. If COVID19 cases occur in a school, then the class, the department or the whole school (depending on the number of cases and the contacts they had) continues with distance learning for at least two weeks. Regarding higher education most universities have decided for blended learning.

LV: After the autumn holidays (next week) distance learning will be used for grades 7 to 12 till 13 November. Till 13 November the completion of programmes of interest education and vocational orientation are held remotely or on site individually (except for persons living in one household) or only for the educatees of one group, class, or course who at the same time are not educatees of different groups, classes, or courses (except for sports and educational institutions where the vocational

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orientation education programme is implemented concurrently with the programme of general basic education or general secondary education). In VET programmes up to 30 persons per group. HEIs distance learning till 31 December. Till 6 November organized sports trainings (sessions) are organized outdoors – up to 30 persons or indoors - individually (including for persons living in one household) or remotely. When organizing sports trainings (sessions) outdoors, the changing rooms cannot be used.

### 29 October

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FR: Reconfinement is now decided in France but school learning, whatever level, will continue in face-to-face. Higher education will be in distance learning. Wearing masks obligatory as of age 6.

BG: From today all secondary schools (8-12 grades in Bulgaria) both general and vocational, as well as all universities switch to distance learning for a period of two weeks. The kindergartens and primary schools remain open. However the number of schools/grades in the red areas in Bulgaria which change face to face learning to virtual learning is increasing every day.

CY: All schools work in a face-to-face mode with hygiene protocols in place. Very few classes which were affected use distance online learning. Some individual students who were affected are taking asynchronous distance learning

DE: as for Germany, the Education Ministers of the Federal States have agreed that schools remain open, while observing the developing situation of the pandemic. Decisions on making wearing masks in the classroom compulsory vary from federal state to federal state. It has also been agreed yesterday by the federal together with the regional governments to keep the elementary education sector open.

### 30 October

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BE: the overview of the measures applying in Belgium regarding schools. Keep in mind that new general measures will be announced today by the Federal government.

- **Elementary education :**
  - BE FR : 100% in school ;
  - BE FL : 100% in school ;
  - BE DE : 100% in school
  
- **Secondary education :**
  - **BE FR :** 28, 29, 30 Oct. 100% distance learning – situation will be evaluated and decision will be taken, most probably this Thursday, regarding the approach that will be put in place after the school break. In vocational education and dual education, traineeships may continue as long as the health rules applying to the host sector allow it
  - **BE FL :** Pupils go to school as a general rule, but schools can based on their individual health situation decide to switch to distance learning.
  - **BE DE :** The secondary schools will organise distance learning for the 2nd and 3rd levels from Thursday 29 October 2020. The 1st level will receive distance learning on 12 and 13 November 2020.

School holidays (compulsory education) are extended until 11 Nov (incl.) for all 3 Communities. For the children of parents who do not have childcare facilities, the primary schools will organise childcare.

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- **BE FR** : HE et Universities (until 19 Oct.) : all courses must be organized in distance learning format. Exception is made for practical courses (sport, art, medical practice, etc.) and internship as long as the health rules applying to the host sector allow it.
- **BE FL** : HE : From Friday evening 30 October until Wednesday evening 11 November: only distance learning is permitted. This means that:  
Teaching activities with physical contact between or with students are not possible. Online activities are possible.  
Any planned evaluation moments will be postponed or digitally organized.  
Internships can only continue as planned and in accordance with the rules of the sectors, in mutual understanding between the internship, educational institution and student.  
Only one exception to these rules is permitted: in the nursing, midwifery, medicine, dentistry and physical therapy programmes (including follow-up programmes), practical training, skills training and work placements remain possible.  
From Thursday 12 November onwards, it will be possible to relax for the first-year students and also to organize seminars, practicals and exercises. The minister explicitly asks higher education institutions to make an effort to still offer contact education to this vulnerable group.
- **BE DE** : The centres for education and training will switch to distance learning from 9 November 2020 (except for the practical part of the training). For the period of suspension of secondary education, i.e. from 29 October to 13 November 2020, all face-to-face teaching in higher education and adult education will be suspended.

### 31 October

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AT: Austrian government announced another lockdown for the month of November (from 3rd of Nov onwards). ECEC and primary institutions will remain open, higher education institutions and upper secondary level will go back to distance learning (after the autumn holidays).

### 3 November

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FI: no new developments compared to last week under the theme COVID-19 and schools. Primary and secondary schools remain open. Mainly distance learning as also in the vocational education and training and in high schools because the virus is in acceleration status (even though moderately so).

BE: Elementary education\*: school holidays were extended until 13 November – Pupils will return to school on Monday 16 November – 100% face-to-face. Crèches can remain open. \*Early childhood education (pre-primary education) is included in elementary education. Secondary education: school holidays were extended until 13 November - Two first grades: pupils will return to school on Monday 16 November – 100% face-to-face; From grades 3 to 6 (or 7 in VET) : hybride learning will be organized – the number of pupils present simultaneously in schools is limited to 50% of the usual population. HE: only distance learning is permitted until 13 December. From 1st December, BAC 1 students will be able to go back partially to face-to-face if the situation allows it. Rules for practical courses and internships remain the same. The situation will be evaluated on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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5 November

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PL: introduction of distance learning in grades 1-3 of primary schools - from November 9 to November 29 (switch from face-to-face education);

· extension of distance learning in grades 4-8 of primary schools and all secondary schools - until November 29; previously it was planned until November 6;

· school care will be provided for children of medical staff and uniformed services

· education and care for children in kindergartens, pre-school classes in primary schools and other forms of pre-school education remains unchanged (face-to-face format). The provisions make it possible to suspend the operation of a kindergarten, a kindergarten section in a primary school and other forms of pre-school education, a school or an educational institution, if there are circumstances that could threaten the life and safety of pupils;

· distance learning is still used in higher education.

EL: In EL, all lower and higher secondary schools except the ones for students of special needs will pass to distance learning from 8 to 30 November.

LT: Yesterday (November 4) due to the worsening epidemiological situation the Government decided to introduce a three-week nationwide lockdown (from November 7 to November 29). Tighter infection control measures will be enforced, and work and education will be arranged with a minimum of contacts.

- Kindergartens and primary schools as well as special needs schools and special needs classes will continue as usual (face-to-face), while lower-secondary and upper-secondary schools will either move a part of their classes online or switch to full distance learning altogether.

- Non-formal education for children and adults will go online or be discontinued. In some cases exceptions will apply provided the conditions are ensured as laid down by the State Commander of National Emergency Operations for the management of the flow of people, safe physical distance, and other key requirements for public health safety, hygiene, and the provision of persons with necessary personal protective equipment.

- Vocational education and training (or its part), with the exception of initial vocational training combined with a social skills programme, and higher education studies (or their part) will have to be provided online.

- Educational support will be provided as usual if all the safety conditions and requirements are met or will be provided remotely.

For further information: <https://lrv.lt/en/news/nationwide-lockdown-as-of-saturday>

6 November

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MT: *The total number of open childcare centres is now 144. A set of guidelines on the functioning of childcare centres were also issued in this regard. On 2 September 2020, the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) under the guidance of the Health Authorities proposed the guidelines for the re-opening of primary and secondary schools consisting of more than 50 measures. These encompass safety protocols to be followed inside classrooms, common spaces in schools and on school transport. On 11 September, Malta College for Science and Technology (MCAST) under the guidance of the MEDE and the Health Authorities issued guidelines for their re-opening. Apprenticeships will resume with COVID-19 measures in place. On 23 September, the UoM published its guidelines for the re-opening. It will be opting mainly for virtual learning to deliver lectures, but exceptions could be made for groups of less than 10*

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*people.* As of 14 October, all students attending compulsory education have now completed the staggered process for the reopening of schools, and are now back to school. Furthermore, as from 28 October rapid tests for COVID will be introduced with the plan to use the facility in schools as well. Academic year 2020/2021 for further and higher education institutions: all students at the University of Malta (UoM) and MCAST, Malta's main VET institution have now commenced their academic year

SI: after two weeks of holidays for primary schools, pupils will go onto distance learning for at least a week. This includes schools for children and adults with special needs. Also kindergartens remain closed, but childcare will be available to parents who work in vital services. The government has instructed schools and local communities to organise free meals for underprivileged children. Secondary schools and HEIs remain in distance learning. The government will re-evaluate the situation by the end of next week.

### 8 November

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IT: Due to the worsening of the epidemiological situation, the Government adopted a Decree introducing strict infection control measures, also regarding education. The Decree entered into force from November 6th to December 3rd.

Measures applicable throughout the national territory

- In upper secondary schools 100% of the activities will be carried out through the use of integrated digital didactic. There still remains the possibility of carrying out in-presence activities if there is the need of using laboratories or ensuring the effective inclusion of students with disabilities or, in general, students with special educational needs.
- In Early Childhood Education and care and in the First cycle of education (primary school and low secondary schools) 100% of the activities will be carried out through in-presence didactic, with compulsory use of protective equipment, except for children under the age of 6 and for pupils with pathologies or disabilities incompatible with the use of the masks.
- The meetings of schools bodies, such as the School Board, may be held only by videoconference. Their renewal, scheduled for this period, will also take place at distance, respecting the principles of secrecy and freedom in participation in the elections.
- Educational trips, exchange or twinning initiatives and guided tours remain suspended, without prejudice to activities relating to work-based learning.

Measures for territories with higher severity scenarios

The country has been divided into three areas depending on the risk: red, orange and yellow areas. In orange and yellow areas, the above mentioned national measures apply. More restrictive measures are on the contrary envisaged in areas with a "maximum severity and high risk" scenario:

- Early childhood education and care, primary schools and the first year of low secondary schools remain open. In all the other cases, the didactic activities will be carried out exclusively with distance modalities. There still remains the possibility of carrying out in-presence activities if there is the need of using laboratories or ensuring the effective inclusion of students with disabilities or, in general, students with special educational needs.

### 9 November

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FR: As for France, distance learning is now allowed in upper secondary school, but not more than 50% of the learning time.

LV: The Latvian government has decided to announce an Emergency situation nationwide starting 9 November till 6 December. Schools will remain open for on-site learning for grades 1-6 and special education institutions, including for pupils with severe mental disabilities or several severe developmental disabilities. Distance learning mode will be provided for grades 7-12. Face masks have to be used at school when outside classroom for pupils age 13 and above. VET and HEIs practical work in small groups, following institutions will provide distance learning. However, classes requiring practical work are allowed for on-site the necessary precautions, as well as the introduction of mandatory face masks in addition to 2 m distancing wherever possible.

10 November

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EE: no change.

11 November

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RO: starting this week, the teaching activities that impose the physical presence of preschoolers and pupils in the preschool, primary, secondary, high school and post-secondary education units are suspended for a period of 30 days. The teaching activities will be carried out online.

LT: In Lithuania a 3-week nationwide lockdown during the period of 7-29 November was introduced. ECEC, pre-primary and primary education continues in physical mode, masks are obligatory from the age of 6 in primary schools, but no masks in ECEC and pre-primary schools. Lower-secondary and upper-secondary schools have switched to distance learning or blended/hybrid mode (based on the decision of the school/municipality and on epidemiological situation).

12 November

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HU : As from the 11<sup>th</sup> of November emergency situation has been introduced in Hungary for the maximum of 90 days. The Hungarian Government decided on the second phase of protective measures for the next 30 days:

- From the age of 6 years it is obligatory to wear mask in shops, malls, public transport, healthcare institutions. Mayors can decide on wearing masks in public areas.
- Curfew from 8 pm to 5 am.
- Shops can be open until 7 pm except for pharmacies and gas stations.
- Higher education and upper secondary education switched to distance learning. ECEC institutions, primary and lower secondary education operates normally.
- All cultural events are postponed.
- Professional sporting events are allowed but without spectators.

Rapid test for teachers, doctors and nurses are planned. The government announced that the rapid test will be repeated weekly.

As regards wearing masks:

Schools

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Before the beginning of the school year 2020/2021 schools had to prepare an action plan for the pandemic situation. Masks were not obligatory, however schools could decide on special rules. The action plans provides scenarios for

- using masks
- isolating children with symptoms
- keeping physical distance
- ventilation
- disinfection procedures

As for public education from 1 October learners' (and teachers') body temperature are measured when entering school buildings.

Schools can decide on mask protocol. Most of the institutions made it mandatory so teachers and learners have to wear masks during classes and breaks. Schools must strive for physical distance among classes. They should organize the schedule of lessons in a way which helps pupils to keep 1.5 meter distance from pupils who belong to other classes. If a classroom is used by more than one class, it must be disinfected during class-changes. Learners have to keep physical distance when they meet learners from different classes or groups for example during breaks.

#### VET

Wearing of masks is obligatory as of November 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 in VET schools during vocational practical training. Theoretical education and education of non vocational subjects must be organized on-line.

#### Higher Education

The sectoral recommendations for higher education are planned to be updated by the ministry soon in line with the new general rules introduced as from the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. The plan is that according to the new recommendations wearing masks will be mandatory in higher education

EE: In Estonia, schools are still open and masks are not obligatory. The only exception is a border city Narva. On the recommendation of the Health Board, the Narva city government has put all general education schools and hobby schools in the northeastern border city to distance learning starting from today 12 November. At today's cabinet meeting, the government approved measures to be taken at work (remote work recommended, at home, on public transport, and in other public places to curb the spread of the coronavirus. On public transport, in the service halls and public areas of commercial enterprises, and at conferences, concerts, theatres, and cinemas, a mask must be worn or the nose and mouth must otherwise be covered. Children under the age of 12 do not have to wear a mask. The government establishes by its order a 2 + 2 rule in service halls and public areas of commercial enterprises, in accordance with which no more than two people may move together and a distance of at least two metres must be kept with others, except for families and if this cannot be reasonably guaranteed. The rule will take effect on 16 November.

#### 14 November

AT: the AT government has just announced that all schools and kindergartens will be closed from next Tuesday onwards until the 6th of December. A kind of emergency service will be provided for those in need.

EL: All schools close for 2 weeks, including kindergartens. Only schools for students of special needs are to remain open. On line learning for all classes (the secondary in the morning, the primary in the afternoon) and complementary TV courses for the primary.