

Steering Committee decision of 19th October 2021
on the prolongation of the measures impacting the EJTN activities
in answer to the coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Further to its previous decisions, considering the evolution of the Coronavirus pandemic, the perspectives of national lifting of the containment measures, their foreseen impact on all EU Member States, its citizens and in anticipation of the prolongation of the confinement measures and subsequent travel bans;
- Pursuing its monitoring and assessment, on a regular basis, of the impact the prolongation measures of the online activities;
- Bearing in mind the protection of the good health and well-being of EJTN Members, EJTN staff, and EJTN training activities' participants, experts, hosts and guests;

The EJTN Steering Committee decided to modify and recast its decision of 2nd June 2021, **with immediate effect**, as follows:

1. **Level A restrictions remain in place until 31st July 2021.**
2. **Level B restrictions are in place from 1st September 2021 until further notice.**
3. **The implementation of EJTN activities to be held in August 2021 are subject to the decision of the Secretary General on a discretionary basis.**

For the purposes of this decision,

I. Level A restrictions entail:

1. All EJTN activities with face-to-face contact remain **suspended**. Exceptionally, where all involved actors and their hierarchy agree and on their own risk, the Secretary General can decide on **exceptions** in case of body, working group and other meetings, long term and individual exchanges, study visits and essential missions. Such cases are governed by the provisions on Level B restrictions.
2. The Secretary General remains mandated to encourage and urge all organisers (*being EJTN Members, Partners and Hosts, as well as Activity Coordinators*) to pursue their efforts to **hold suspended activities online** to the widest possible extent. Online activities can be held without interpretation.
3. Where online implementation is not feasible, activities shall be **postponed** wherever possible **before** being considered, solely by the Secretary General, subject to full **cancellation**.

II. Level B restrictions entail:

1. Regularly scheduled activities involving face-to-face contact (*exchanges, seminars and other training activities, working group meetings and other meetings, missions*) will be resumed.
2. Activities will be **launched** by the EJTN secretariat usually **one to three months before the first day of the activity** and only after confirmation of the hosting institutions. The hosting institutions shall communicate with their confirmation the sanitary rules which are applicable at their venue, and update the EJTN secretariat in case of amendments of these rules. Wherever possible, launched activities shall be held as hybrid ones, *i.e. enabling in-person as well as online attendance*.
3. Participants are allowed to make **travel arrangements** one month before the first day of any activity and only after confirmation and launch of the activity by the Secretariat. Wherever possible they are requested to book flexible and reimbursable transport tickets as offered now by many airlines and train companies, as well as accommodation that can be cancelled on short notice. They are advised to buy travel cancellation insurance policies, provided that such insurance covers the case of omission of the travel purpose due to cancellation of the training activity, or the case of cancellation of the travel by the traveller due to infection with the COVID-19 disease.
4. Non-launched and launched activities will be **suspended on** duly substantiated and documented **request by the host**. The suspension request should come from the hosting institution and include the reason (e.g. general national or institutional approach towards meetings that are not mandatory and can be postponed, closing of access to public spaces). A decision or attestation of the national authority issuing the policy should be added.
5. The Secretary General is mandated to **relocate** activities to another venue or another country where it can take place; space rent will be financed by EJTN. Further, the Secretary General remains mandated to encourage and urge all organisers (*being EJTN Members, Partners and Hosts, as well as Activity Coordinators*) to pursue their efforts to **hold suspended activities online** to the widest possible extent. Online activities can be held without interpretation.
6. Where online implementation is not feasible, activities shall be **postponed** wherever possible **before** being considered, solely by the Secretary General, subject to full **cancellation**.
7. **Participants can cancel** their participation in any EJTN activity **individually** where they can demonstrate that they have - in the latest 14 days before the request – been affected by the pandemic or been in contact with persons affected by the pandemic,

come from a risk area or belong to a high risk group, are subject to travel restrictions (regardless if issued by a government or internally by his/her hierarchy or sending institution), or that they have made the necessary arrangements to follow the activity online.

8. In case of a full cancellation of a face-to-face activity, or in case of an individual cancellation as mentioned under Nr. 7, costs already incurred will be **reimbursed** if the procedure under Nr. II.3, 4, and 7. has been observed, and if the participant or his/her institution of origin certifies that the costs cannot be recovered from other resources (reimbursement by the transport provider and hotel, including vouchers; insurance as booked under Nr. 3).
9. The Secretary General remains mandated to:
 - a. to limit the EJTN staff missions to the essential ones;
 - b. to suspend all planned meetings and visits to the EJTN Headquarter, following the local sanitary legislation;
 - c. to suspend all or individual EJTN activities in case of a new outbreak of the pandemic, depending on its geographical scope;
 - d. to decide on exceptions to this policy on a discretionary basis, namely but not exclusively in relation to the long-term individual exchanges which shall be maintained if authorised by the hosting institutions;
 - e. to provide further information on possibilities of terminating or, if need be, prolonging this suspension proposal at its date of expiry.