

Policy on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on EJTN activities

Update of 10th March 2020

The EJTN is permanently assessing the impact of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation on its activities and is taking the following preventive measures which apply to all EJTN activities (body meetings, training activities including preparatory meetings) and all persons involved in these activities, hereinafter called participants (delegates to EJTN body meetings, experts, training participants, EJTN staff members). The requests of cancellations will be analysed on case by case basis.

1. Cancellation of activities:

EJTN will cancel activities on duly substantiated and documented request by the host. The cancellation 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.

2. Individual cancellations – eligibility criteria:

- a. The following category of participants are requested to cancel their participation to EJTN activities: Persons showing symptoms of the Coronavirus;
- b. The following categories of participants are requested to cancel their face-to-face participation to EJTN activities, but stay invited to join the activity by skype et al. videoconference means where possible:
 - i. Persons who have been in contact with or taking care of Coronavirus patients in the last 14 days before the activity;
 - ii. Persons who have been in **high risk areas** within the last 14 days before the activity. This includes travel itineraries though these areas and stopovers at airports in these areas. The following high risk areas are currently declared as such by national authorities:
The yellow and red zones in Italy.
- iii. Persons **advised by their national authorities to reduce the non-essential travels**, forbidden to travel or to be in contact with other participants by a duly substantiated and documented decision of the institution of origin.
- c. **Participants can individually cancel their face-to-face participation if they can make their necessary arrangements to follow the activity online.**

3. Travel arrangements and reimbursement of costs:
- a. Costs for travel arrangements already paid by participants before 4th March 2020 will be reimbursed in all the cases mentioned above if the participant or his/her institution of origin certifies that the costs cannot be recovered from other resources (cancellation of flights and hotels, insurance).
 - b. New travel arrangements should not be made until further express notice or authorisation by the EJTN secretariat. This applies also to activities already launched.
4. Other individual cancellations:
- EJTN believes that these preventive measures are necessary, but sufficient to address the risk of the Coronavirus at the current state. Cancellations of individual participants not falling under the abovementioned categories will therefore only be approved in exceptional cases. Any such request must be sent to the EJTN Secretariat and approved before any costs for travel arrangement can be reimbursed. The general, not substantiated fear of infection or quarantine measures is not considered sufficient reason for such cancellation.

Resources

- [The European coronavirus response](#)
- [EU Agency European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)
- [Sources of updated information on COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK](#)
- [Coronavirus outbreak: current status Belgian health authorities](#)

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Judge Markus Brückner

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