

#COVIDJOURNAL – Tales from Germany, Spain, Italy and Belgium



Laura, 28 - Germany

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With regards to the measures that the Italian Government has taken, I got the impression that many Germans believe that we should take Italy as an example when it comes to stricter measures - as arguably only this level of confinement will lead to the flattening of the curve.

In Germany, we have seen a progressive increase of the measures taken by the government. Much of it is "testing out" of what is working. In the sense that the government has tried to give the people as much individual freedom as can be granted at the moment. But whenever the government realizes that not everyone sticks to those rules, they increase confinement measures. So, now we are obliged to stay at home.

The individual Bundesländer (states) can either diverge from the measures implemented by the federal government or they contribute to a delay in measures put into place as they get involved in prolonged discussions.

Overall, I would say Germany's governance is doing the best they can at this moment but this crisis has shown us that there are still so many issues that have to be resolved.

JUANJO, 25 – SPAIN

The impression here is that Italy has not taken necessary measures at the right time. Even when the quarantine was imposed on Italy sooner than in Spain, it seems that measures granting the efficiency of such quarantine (eg: closing public spaces) have come later in time.

Here in Spain, the scientific community was not crystal clear on when measures such as quarantine should be made, and in that manner the government had to improvise.

The economic measures, as well as the management of our public health system, is being the major topic of dispute amongst the different political parties. I am not an expert, however, what I do see it



Juanjo, 25 - Spain

is a lack of cohesion between our political class (phenomenon also seen in the European level) in a time when the society claim for our politicians to leave pretty discourses aside and act together.

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MARIA REBECCA, 24 – ITALY

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Maria Rebecca, 23 - Italy

I believe that Italy underestimated the gravity of the coronavirus pandemic. Nonetheless, in my opinion the Government is well reacting to the emergency, thanks to the adoption of restrictive measures and the employment of resources to help the economy, businesses and those who are more in need of support. While hard times and uncertainties still linger, we are starting to gradually see the light at the end of the tunnel.

ANDREA, 25 – BELGIUM

I have an overall positive opinion of how Italy has handled the crisis, especially considering that it was the first Country to be in such an emergency situation. Italy has been the first Country brave enough to lock everything down and is so far among those Countries who take the situation seriously.

In Belgium, the adopted measures are definitely less stringent. We are advised to stay home, but everything is left to each citizen's common sense. Infections are increasing; hence I wish that the Government will adopt measures similar to Italian ones.

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Andrea, 25 - Belgium