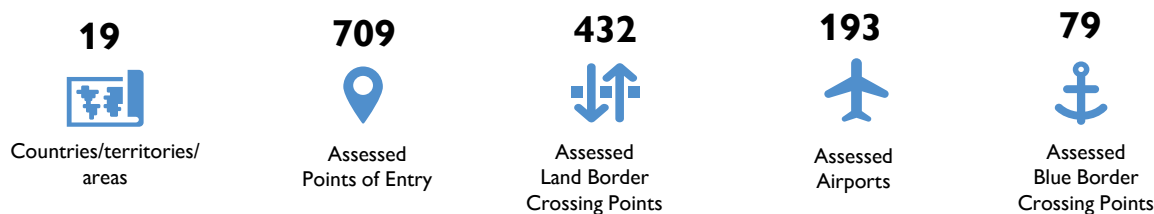


COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact – Points of Entry Analysis

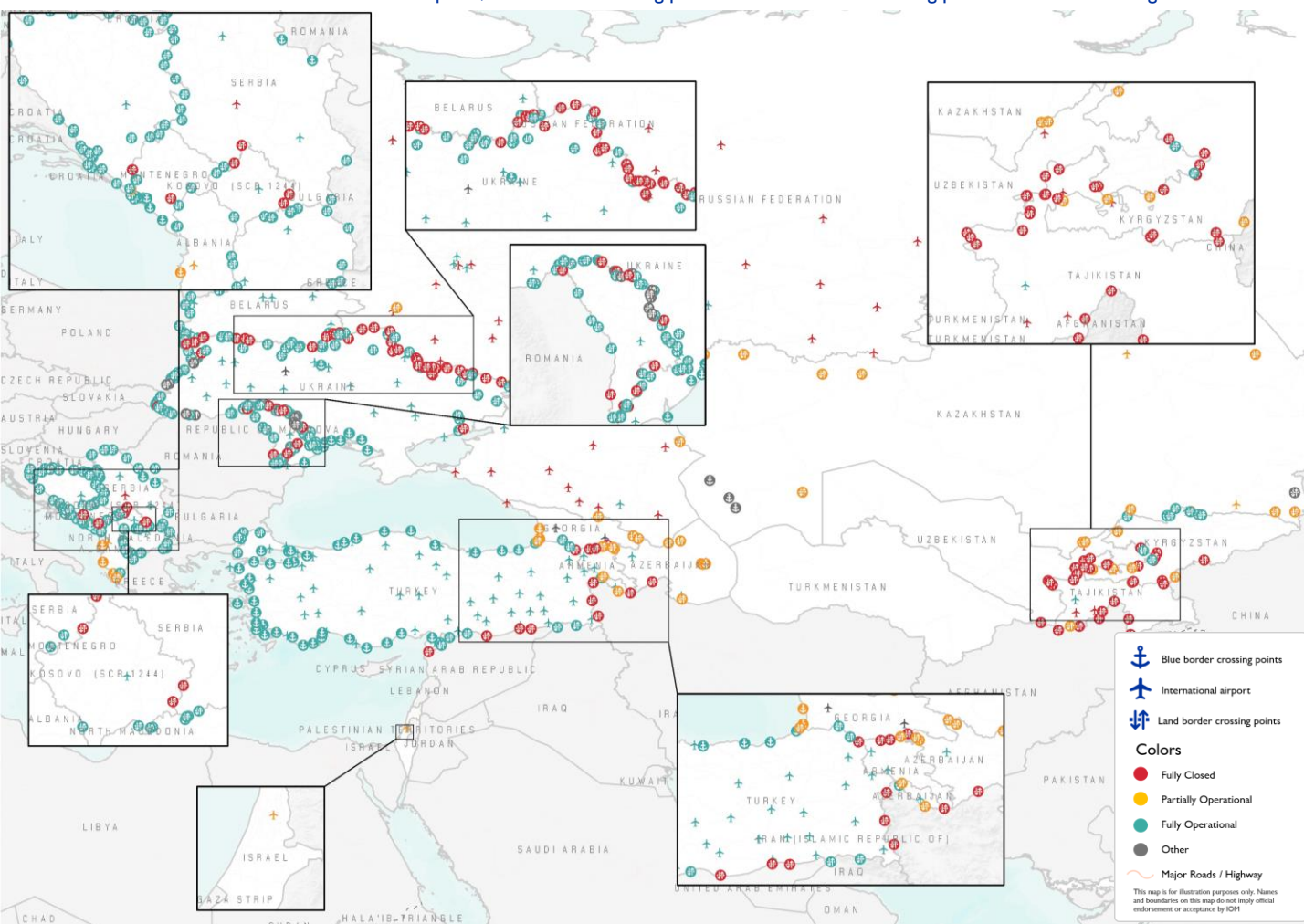
October 27, 2020 – IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has affected global and regional human mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and restrictions. The total number of COVID-19 cases reached 3,612,805 in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia region (SEEECA) as of 4 November 2020 according to the World Health Organization (WHO). To better understand how the pandemic affects the mobility at the Points of Entry (PoEs), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has developed an online tool and database which tracks changes in mobility at PoEs (airports, land and blue border crossing points). This includes preparedness and response measures to prevent, protect against, control and assist in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR). Among the mobility changes tracked by IOM are: 1) Movement restrictions on entry and/or exit, 2) Changes in visa requirements, 3) Restrictions applied to certain nationalities to disembark at this location, 4) Changes in identification documents needed to disembark, 5) Medical measures in place such as Health Staffing/Medical Personnel, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), Infection prevention and control (IPC) and Surveillance and Referral.

As of 27 October 2020, data was collected on 709 PoEs in 19 countries/territories/areas across South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. These locations include: 432 land border crossings points, 198 airports, and 79 blue border crossing points (including sea, river and lake ports). This work is based on the information collected by IOM Country Offices in the region. This PoE brief analysis provides an overview of the changes of impact on operational status and mobility restrictions over time, between April and October 2020. It is important to note that not all data on PoEs have been updated every month meaning that the trend displayed does not necessarily represent the current situation of all PoEs. In April – May 602 PoEs were assessed, in June – July 625, in August 627, in September 642, and in October a total of 709 PoEs were assessed.



Overview of assessed international airports, land border crossing points and blue border crossing points in the SEEECA region

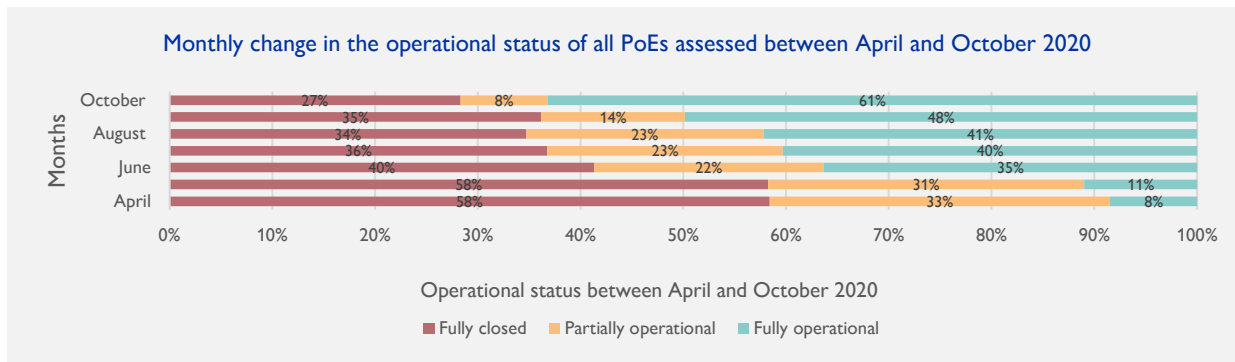


Changes in operational status over time (April – October 2020)

The effect of COVID-19 on global mobility is presently in flux. As of 27 October 2020, while travel restrictions remain in place, there have been changes in the number of travel restrictions worldwide being reflected in the operational status of the PoEs and restriction measures in place at the assessed locations. The following information on PoEs such as their operational status is collected according to the following classification: (1) closed for entry and exit, (2) closed for entry (3) closed for exit (4) open for commercial traffic only (5) open only to returning nationals and residents (6) open for entry and exit (7) other and (8) unknown. All types of measures were considered for airports, land and blue border crossing points.

In the region, the operational status of border crossing points is characterized by the implementation of several restriction measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Significant changes in operational status of the PoEs was observed between April and October.

Overall, over half (58%) of assessed PoEs were fully closed in April and May, respectively, while 40 per cent of them were fully closed in June, 36 per cent in July, 34 per cent in August, 35 per cent in September, and 37 per cent in October. Furthermore, one third (33%) of the assessed PoEs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational PoEs was 31 per cent in May, 22 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July and August, respectively, 14 per cent in September, and 8 per cent in October. Finally, in April, 8 per cent of the assessed PoEs were fully operational, while the share of fully operational PoEs among those assessed was 11 per cent in May, 35 per cent in June, 40 per cent in July, 41 per cent in August, 48 per cent in September, and 61 per cent in October. This is an increase of 53 per cent of fully operational PoEs in October, when compared with April.



Airports:¹ Less than half (38%) of the assessed international airports were fully closed in April, while the share of fully closed airports among those assessed was 37 per cent in May, 30 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July, 11 per cent in August, 9 per cent in September, and 37 per cent in October, marking a significant change. The number of fully closed international airports increased by 28 per cent in October when comparing with September, where only 9% of the assessed international airports were fully closed. Furthermore, over half (59%) of assessed airports were partially operational in April and May respectively, while the share of partially operational airports among those assessed was 17 per cent in June, 19 per cent in July and August, respectively, and 12 per cent in September, and only 2 per cent in October. Increasing numbers of airports operating was observed in July, while increasing numbers of airports closing was observed in October. Only two per cent of the assessed airports were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational airports among those assessed was 3 per cent in May, 51 per cent in June, 58 per cent in July, 64 per cent in August, 70 per cent in September, and 59 per cent in October. The number of operational airports increased significantly by 68 per cent between April (38%) and September (9%), while this number decreased significantly again in October to 37 per cent, comparable to the month of May (37%).

Land border crossing points:² Regarding assessed land border crossing points, 72 per cent of them were completely closed both in April and May, while the share of fully closed land border crossing points among those assessed was 47 per cent in June, 44 per cent in July and August, respectively, 46 per cent in September, and 28 per cent in October. Moreover, 16 per cent of the assessed land border crossing points were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational land border crossing points among those assessed was 13 per cent in May, 15 per cent in June, 16 per cent in July and August, respectively, 15 per cent in September, and 10 per cent in October. Twelve per cent of the assessed land border crossing points were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational land border crossing points was 15 per cent in May, 35 per cent in June, 40 per cent in July and August, respectively, 38 per cent in September, and 58 per cent in October. The number of operational land border crossing points increased by 46 per cent between April and October. An upward trend of the numbers of operational land border crossing points were recorded between September and October, with an increase by 20 per cent more of land border crossing points reported to be fully operational.

Blue border crossing points:³ Nineteen per cent of the blue border crossing points were completely closed in April and May, respectively, while the share of fully closed blue border crossing points among those assessed was 18 per cent in June, July and August, respectively, 16 per cent in September, while none of the assessed blue border crossing points were closed in October, reportedly. At the same time, 81 per cent of the assessed blue border crossing points were partially operational in April and May, respectively, while the share of partially operational blue border crossing points among those assessed was 66 per cent in June, July and August, respectively, and 11 per cent in September and October. In April and May, none of the assessed blue border crossing points were reported as being operational (75 out of 75 assessed points), while this number changed slightly in June, July and August, respectively, where 13 per cent of the assessed blue border crossing points were reportedly operational, and changed more in September and October when 68 and 84 per cent of the points were reported to be operational. A significant increase of operational blue border crossing points was observed between August and October. The number of operational blue border crossing points increased by 71 per cent, which can be explained by the downward trend in the numbers of partially operational blue border points observed the same reporting period (see page 3, for further information).

1. 122 airports were assessed by April and May. The number of assessed airports increased from 122 to 130 by September 2020, and, increased further in October to 198, which is the total number of airports assessed so far.

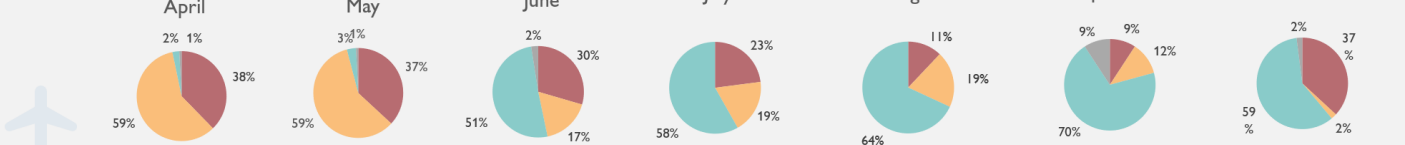
2. By April and May a total of 405 land border crossing points were assessed. The number of assessed land border crossing points increased from 405 to 433 by August 2020, and decreased slightly in October, where 432 land border crossing points were assessed.

3. By April and May a total of 75 blue border crossing points were assessed. The number of assessed blue border crossing points increased from 75 to 79 by June 2020 and remained stable since.

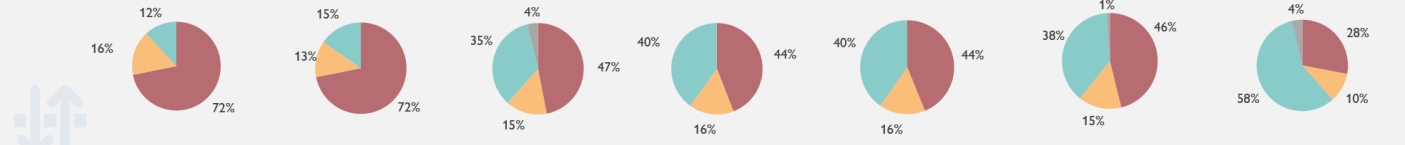
Operational Status – Comparison: April – October 2020

■ Fully Closed
 ■ Partially Operational
 ■ Fully Operational
 ■ Other

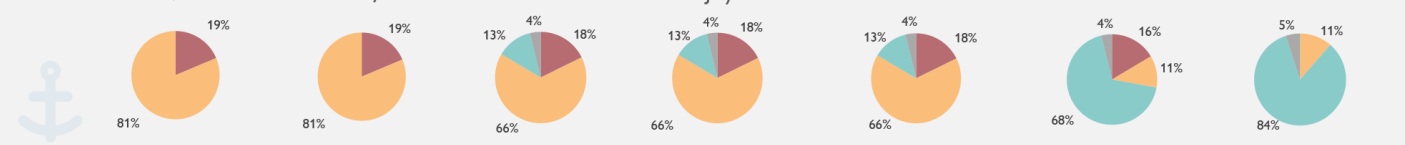
Airports



Land border crossing points

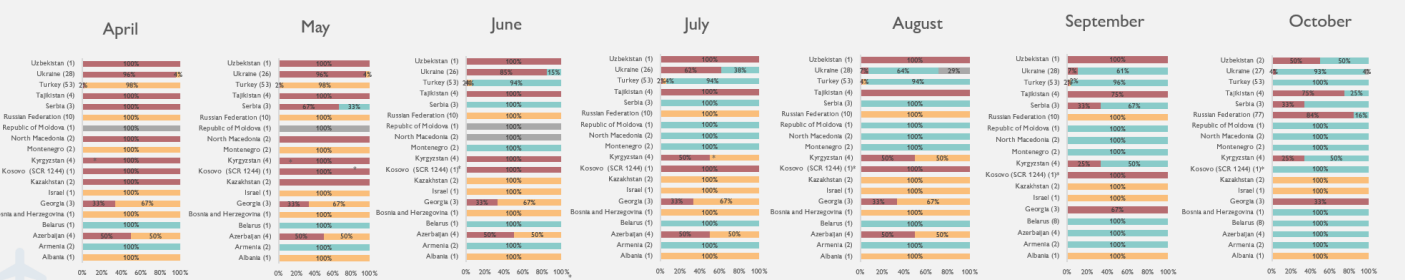


Blue border crossing points

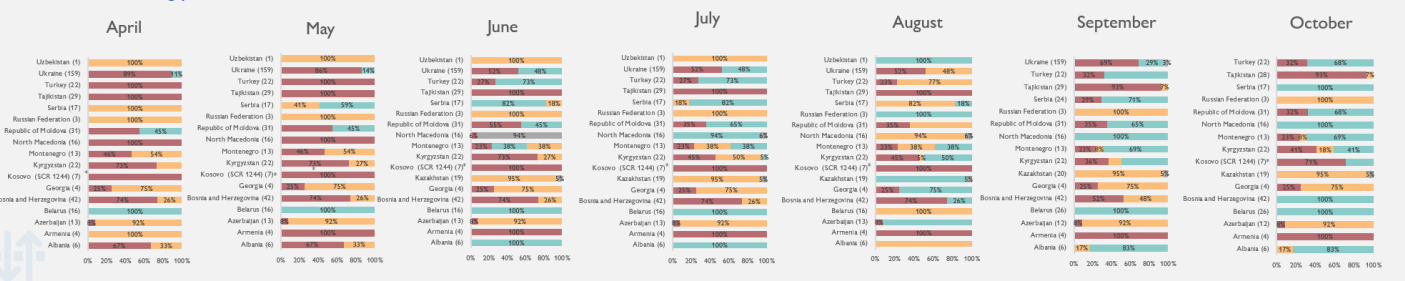


Operational Status breakdown by country/territory/area in the SEECA region

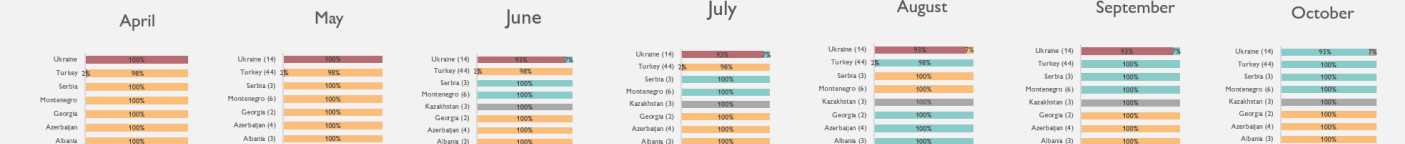
Airports



Land border crossing points



Blue border crossing points



* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Notes:

- The totals in the pie charts are relative to the assessed Points of Entry each month
- Under the category "Partially Operational" IOM includes "closed for entry," "closed for exit," "open only to returning nationals and residents" and "open for commercial traffic only."

Changes in mobility restrictions over time (April – October 2020)

Slight changes in mobility restrictions of the border crossing points were observed between April and October. Mobility restrictions refer to restrictions of movements imposed both by entrance at PoEs and by exit through the PoEs, and medical measures.

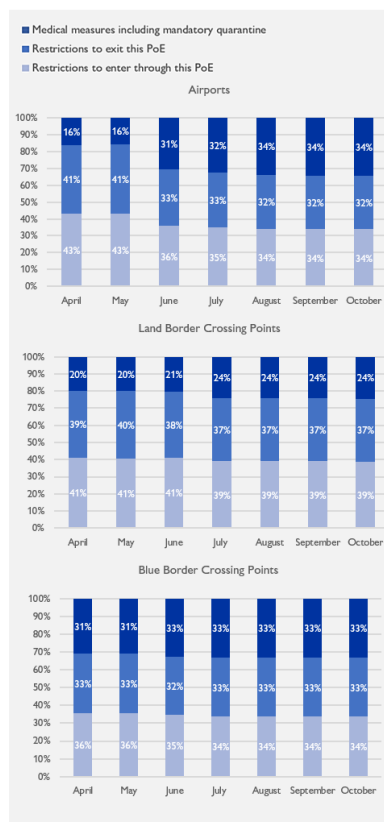
In April and May, 43 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs at the international airports, respectively, while in June 36 per cent, in July 35 per cent, and in August and September, 34 per cent, respectively, and in October 38 per cent. At the same time, in April and May, respectively, 41 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs at the international airports, while in June and July, 33 per cent, respectively, and in August, September, and October, 32 per cent, respectively. The number of medical measures including mandatory quarantine restrictive measures increased in June and July when compared with April and May, however, decreased slightly in October: in April and May, 16 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on the specific PoEs, respectively, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 31 per cent in June, 32 per cent in July, 31 per cent both in August and September, and 26 per cent in October. The share of medical measures decreased by 8 per cent in October when comparing with the last reporting period (September).

Regarding the land border crossing points, in April, May, and June, 41 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs, respectively, while in July, August, September, and October, 39 per cent, respectively. Furthermore, in April 39 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs, while in May 40 per cent, in June 38 per cent, in July, August and September, 37 per cent, respectively, and in October, 38 per cent. Similarly, the number of medical measures had increased slightly by July when compared with April, May and June: in April and May, 20 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, respectively, while in June 21 per cent, in July, August, September and October, 24 per cent, respectively, thereby remaining stable.

With regards to the blue border crossing points, in April and May 36 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs, respectively, while the share was 35 per cent in June, 34 per cent and in July, August, September and October, respectively. Moreover, both in April and May 33 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs, while the share was 32 per cent in June, and 33 per cent in July, August, September and October, respectively. Only a slight increase of imposed medical measures were observed in June and July when compared with April and May: In April and May, respectively, 31 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while the share of medical measures was 33 per cent in June, July, August, September and October.

Overall, majority of imposed restrictions concern the entry through the PoEs (airports, land and blue border crossing points in the SEECA region), and to a lesser extent exit through or medical restrictions imposed at those PoEs. The highest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs were recorded in April and May: 43 per cent at the assessed airports, 41 per cent, 41 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 36 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points. The lowest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs were recorded in August (status remained the same in both September and October): 34 per cent at the assessed airports, 39 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 34 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points.

Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – October 2020 (%)



Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – October 2020

Location type	Mobility Restriction	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Airports	→ Ⓟ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	43%	43%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%
	Ⓟ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	41%	41%	33%	33%	32%	32%	32%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	16%	16%	31%	32%	34%	34%	34%
Land border crossing points	→ Ⓟ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	41%	41%	41%	39%	39%	39%	39%
	Ⓟ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	39%	40%	38%	37%	37%	37%	37%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	20%	20%	21%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Blue border crossing points	→ Ⓟ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	36%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%
	Ⓟ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	33%	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%	33%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	31%	31%	33%	33%	33%	32%	33%