

Newsletter No. 8 – March 2021

The State of Emergency is lifted, the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. A new beginning? Let's hope for the best.

Although many countries around the world have been hit hard by 3rd wave, which has put many medical systems at the brink of collapse again, the situation in Japan seems to be managed relatively well.

This stands in stark contrast to many European nations, especially in Eastern Europe. It is no longer Italy, the UK and the US that have the highest death rate from Covid-19, but countries like Czechia, Hungary and Bulgaria (see information from Johns Hopkins University: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/mortality>). Due to the recent spike in cases, these three countries in the EU's east have the highest deaths from Covid-19 per 100,000 population – globally. With approximately 250 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, the Czech Republic has the highest death rate – about 50% higher than in the US, Italy, Spain and Brazil.

The reasons are not entirely clear but could well be related to one research topic of this Jean Monnet Module: **labour mobility from East to West**.

Since the accession of 10 new member states (mostly former Warsaw Pact and Soviet Union countries) to the EU in 2004 and 2007, labour mobility from the east of the EU to the west has increased rapidly. Nearly 20 million EU citizens are active mobile labourers, which means they live (and/or work) in another EU member state. While this labour mobility has numerous positive effects on both their country of origin (home country) and their host country, there are also negative effects, such as a brain drain from the East to the West. Several EU member states (no matter whether wealthy or less wealthy) have seen a considerable share of their health professionals move to other EU countries. This is also the case in Bulgaria, as well as in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. While it is not clear whether this labour mobility had a significant impact on the Covid-19 death rate in eastern EU countries or whether the high mortality stems from an underfunding of their medical systems, labour mobility of doctors and nurses in the EU is a topic that deserves special attention. The education and training of doctors is one of the longest and most expensive tasks governments have to stem when it comes to raising professionals. Long years of university studies followed by years of training costs the public large sums of money (well over 200,000 Euro, or 2500 万円) . If fully trained doctors leave their home country to practice in another country, their government loses considerable human capital. If such movement exists on a larger

scale, the risk of serious labour shortages in the medical professions exist, also because in many countries, the number of students in Medicine is often limited by the government.

I do not claim that labour mobility from East to West in the EU is the reason why the death rate is so high in many eastern EU member states. What I want to highlight though is that while labour mobility in the EU should be encouraged, the mobility of healthcare professionals shouldn't drain one country's medical system to a point that the hospitals and clinics can no longer function due to labour shortages.

Labour mobility and migration has been one of my key interests and is thus a reoccurring topic in my teaching.

Students interested in labour mobility in the EU are highly encourages to take the following courses this coming spring term:

1. 経済学部: 経済事情 C: Declining Regions in the EU
2. 総合政策課題研究 A: Labour Mobility and Population Imbalance in the EU
3. 国際学部 : The European Union: History, Politics & Economy (focus on mobility and migration in the EU and Japan), offered as COIL/VE class with LMU (Munich University)

To all students interested in the EU, I highly recommend signing up for the EUIJ Kansai Certificate Program

Here is more information:

日本語

<EUIJ 関西>2021 年度春学期 Certificate プログラムの登録

EUIJ 関西 Certificate プログラムの 2021 年度春学期（前期）の履修登録が始まっています。EU Institute in Japan, Kansai（EUIJ 関西）を構成する神戸大学・関西学院大学・大阪大学に所属する学部生・大学院生（前期課程）は、所定の科

目を修得し、EUに関する研究論文を作成し審査に合格することにより、EUIJ 関西が発行する Undergraduate/Graduate Certificate In European Union Studies (EU 研究修了証) を取得することができます。

プログラム概要や登録については下のウェブサイトからご確認いただき、開講科目の登録期間内に登録してください。

産業研究所からの案内 https://www.kwansei.ac.jp/i_industrial/news/detail/1017

英語

Registration for the EUIJ-Kansai Certificate Programme for the Spring Semester 2021
The EUIJ-Kansai Certificate Programme for the Spring Semester 2021 is now open for registration.

Undergraduate and graduate students (first semester) from Kobe University, Kwansei Gakuin University and Osaka University, which are members of the EU Institute in Japan, Kansai (EUIJ-Kansai), can take EU-related courses prescribed by the EUIJ-Kansai. Upon completing the required courses and successfully defended a research thesis on the EU, students are awarded the Undergraduate / Graduate Certificate in European Union Studies by the EUIJ-Kansai. For more information on courses and registration, please visit the website below and register during the registration period of your course.

https://www.kwansei.ac.jp/i_industrial/news/detail/1017

I look forward to seeing some of you in my classes and wish all students all the best for the spring semester.

Best regards,

Anna

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