

# **The Covid19 epidemic and the restart of the Cyprus economy**

## **Technical report for the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation**

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### **A. Introduction**

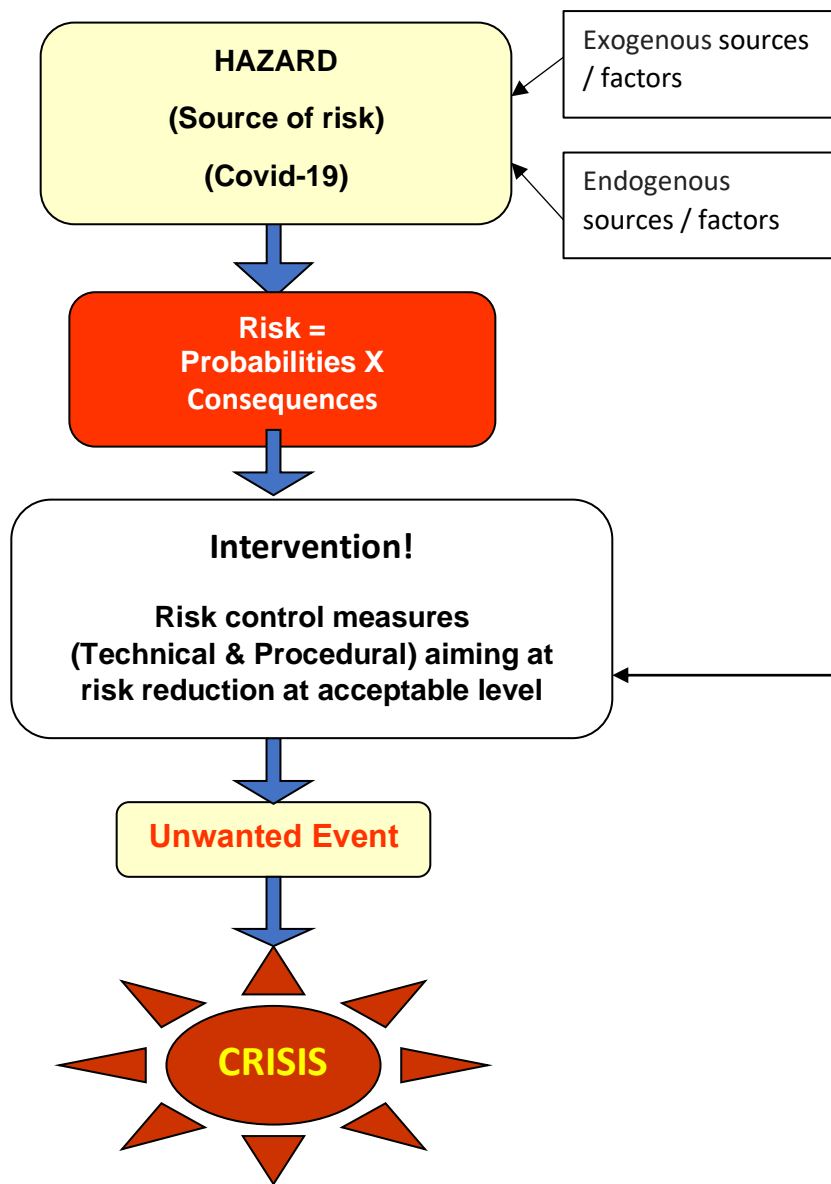
I personally believe that the collapse of the economy shall be avoided and hence to suggest that the philosophy of approaching the restarting of the economy should be rational and purely risk based. One could argue that this is self-evident and logical. I do not disagree, but the measures taken after the outbreak did not all characterized by this feature. For example, the work of up to 3 people in construction sites, regardless of size, does not have the characteristic of the risk-based approach. If this measure is compared with the practice applied for example in the banking sector where in a branch of say 150 sq.m. six employees and about five customers are inside, then it makes it crystal clear.

With regards to the launching time for the first phase of the plan: the data until April 23<sup>rd</sup> indicates a remarkable declining and very promising trend. Furthermore, should the number of infections in the British Bases, the Cypriots returned home from abroad and have entered quarantine and the infections of the health professionals, subtracted from the statistics, then the cases concerning the general population are no longer terrifying. I would therefore suggest the implementation of the first phase could start from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, unless there is a drastic escalation in the number of infections. Certainly (under specific and appropriate risk control measures), the geographical distribution of the infection cases as well as groups with a high number of cases, must be part of the equation of the risk-based approach

Finally, I would like to add that in any Crisis, the decisions on control measures should be taken by a group of technocrats of various relevant specialties and professions (in this case medical science) as well as specialists in risk management.

### **B. Systematic and structured process of risk assessment and management**

With the help of the following drawings, an attempt is made to explain the process, which will help and document decision-making regarding the restart of the economy and more specifically the prioritization of economic activity sectors, which will be reactivated, adopting the philosophy of gradual restart.



**RISK CONTROL MESURES**

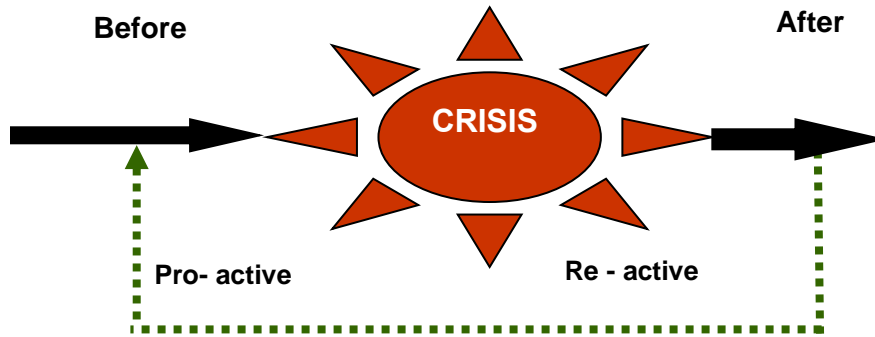
To be governed by the following fundamental parameters:

1. Based on the source of risk
2. Well designed.
3. Targeted.
4. Practically applicable / feasible.
5. Effective.
6. Understandable.
7. Combination of technical and procedural measures.
8. Technical control measures are more effective.
9. Do not create other risks. If this is unavoidable at least do not create larger risks than those they are intended to reduce.
10. Monitoring implementation and timely corrective actions.

The sources of risk (hazards) regarding Covid-19 (modes of transmission to the population) are known. The risk level can be calculated.

The implementation of measures in the workplace is determined by the Occupational Safety & Health Legislation, that describe the specific prevention principles.

### Flow of actions for the Crisis Management



Where: 1= Acceptable, 2= Medium, 3 & 4=High,  
 6= High to extremely high  
 8 = Extremely high, 9= Crisis border  
 12 = Unacceptable Risk – Crisis  
 16= Crisis

The calculation of the risk level is made with the help of the Matrix below:

		Consequences				
		0	1	2	3	4
P r o b a b i l i t i e s	0					
	1		1	2	3	4
	2		2	4	6	8
	3		3	6	9	12
	4		4	8	12	16

### C. Levels of risk of the main sectors of economic activity in Cyprus

#### 1. Risk sources for the transmission of Covid 19

- Exogenous sources / factors: Entrances to the Republic
- Endogenous sources / factors: Dispersion from existing cases

Exogenous factors, which are essentially airports, ports and the occupied territories, are already being effectively controlled and should continue with the same measures until the situations in the connected countries reach acceptable levels of risk.

As for the endogenous factors, some classifications could be made to facilitate the analysis. In particular, the geographical distribution of the cases as well as the groups with a high number of cases, must be part of the equation of the risk-based approach. For example, in the area of Aradippou and Paphos, the time for the restart and the risk control measures must be adjusted accordingly.

Also, high-risk groups in case of virus spread, must be meticulously protected. For example, control measures in nursing homes and institutions providing services to people with special needs, disabilities, etc., must continue to be strict for as long as the health experts deem it appropriate and necessary.

## 2. Risk assessment per sector of economic activity

They are presented on the table below clarifying that the risk levels are calculated before taking and implementing effective risk control measures.

No	Sector of economic activity	Risk level	Parameters of risk control measures
1	Construction industry and relevant activities	2	1. Personal Protective Equipment and Social Distancing between people for a period of more than 15 minutes (PPE and SD) 2. Personal Hygiene 3. Number of floors 4. Number of employees depending on area per floor.
2	Industries and workshops related to the construction industry	2	1. PPE and SD between people for a period of more than 15 minutes 2. Personal Hygiene 3. Number of employees depending on area.
3	Retail shops trading materials for the construction industry and DIY shops	2	1. PPE and SD between people for a period of more than 15 minutes 2. Personal Hygiene 3. Number of floors. 4. Number of employees and customers depending on area per floor.
4	Small retails shops and service workshops for tools, machinery and equipment	2	»
5	Sales of vehicles	2	»
6	Malls, except for their restaurants, bars and cafeterias (please see 9 below).	2	1. PPE and SD between people for a period of more than 15 minutes 2. Personal Hygiene 3. Number of floors. 4. Number of employees and customers depending on area per floor and per individual shop.
7	Hair salons and barber shops	3	1. PPE and SD 2. Personal Hygiene 3. Number of employees and customers depending on area per floor and distances between workstations.

8	Beaches	3	With no sunbeds and umbrellas. Each swimmer to carry his/her own.
9	(α) Catering and cafeterias (open – air premises)	3	1. PPE and SD 2. Personal Hygiene 3. Number of employees and customers depending on area and distances between customers.
	(β) Catering and cafeterias (enclosed premises)	6	It would not probably be desirable at this stage to pursue their opening, as it will be difficult and costly to implement risk control measures that will reduce the risk even at level 3.
10	Supermarkets	8	They are open anyway and despite their high-risk level they have not presented a high degree of transmission of the virus.
11	Pharmacies	8	»
12	Cinemas – Theatres	8	It would not probably be desirable at this stage to pursue their opening
13	Playgrounds – sports’ premises – Gyms	8	»
14	Concerts and music performance areas	8	»
15	Restaurants with live music, dancing floors, conference halls – Churches and temples- and civic and/or other activities with gathering of people.	8	»
16	Important and vital Public Sector Services, which directly affect economic activity - Municipalities and Community Councils.	2	-

In all cases, the risk control measures must include appropriate information, where necessary training of employees as well as adequate management, supervision and guidance. Informative and training material in many languages is available free of charge on the website of the European Occupational Safety & Health Agency. (<https://osha.europa.eu/el> και <https://osha.europa.eu/el/highlights/napo-lends-hand-fight-against-c-19-pandemic>).

Nicosia, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2020