ДЕМОГРАФИЯ ЗАРУБЕЖНЫХ СТРАН

HUMAN SECURITY IN EUROPE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS

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Abstract: *Since the beginning of 2020, the outbreak and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the world in many aspects varying across countries, social groups, and societal domains, of which Europe is one of the regions suffering the most. In an effort to provide an overview of the negative impact of the pandemic, the authors focuse on how the pandemic and the restrictions of European governments have interfered with a wide range of fundamental rights. First, the research paper illustrates the conceptual framework for human security in documents published by the United Nations (UN) and the approach of the European Union (EU) to human security. Second, the paper outlines several key points of the COVID-19 pandemic in the epidemical aspects to emphasize the seriousness of this crisis; thereby, it can be concluded that the stringent measures by EU leaders and national governments which are inevitable are believed to be somehow extreme though. The third part of the paper focuses on the negative impact of the pandemic and policy responses on the rights to education, healthcare, and the increase in the rate of unemployment, food insecurity, and domestic violence. The fourth strand of the paper is devoted to coming up with three policy recommendations for the EU and member states to limit the negative impact on human security.*

Keywords: *human security; human rights; EU; Europe; the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Introduction

Human security is usually understood as giving priority to the safety of people, especially their welfare, safety, and well-being, rather than the security of the country. Proponents of human security believe that, for example, poverty, population displacement, hunger, disease, environmental degradation, and social exclusion are directly related to human and global security. The death toll caused by these far exceeds the sum of war, genocide, and terrorism. Therefore, people believe that development, peace and security, and human rights are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and are included in the concept of human security. The scope of the definition of human security remains the subject of controversy between the so-called narrow and broad human security methods as if the two

are separable. It is most summed up as "the thee freedoms": "freedom from want"; "freedom from fear"; and "freedom to live in dignity."

After the Cold War, the concept of human security received great attention and acceptance. In the past decade, the core information of human security as a general policy reference has gradually become the mainstream of international relations. The 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by all United Nations heads of state on the UN endorsed for the first time the concept of Human Security and one of its main components the Responsibility to Protect. The acceptance of "the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair"[1] and of the responsibility of the state and the international community "to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity"[2]. Many official reports, publications, and international committees have developed this concept.

The opening sentence of the European Security Strategy (ESS) adopted in 2003 states that "Europe has never been so prosperous, so secure nor so free. The violence of the first half of the 20th Century has given way to a period of peace and stability unprecedented in European history" [1]. Since then, a lot has changed not only in the global security environment but also in the EU security environment, which requires both actions and responses from the EU. A shift from a bipolar to a unipolar world challenged the notions of national territory and sovereignty, and thus, domestic politics became more and more integrated with international politics. This new era of globalization brought a new set of universal issues, which included notions of human rights, development, and security. To address these issues, states needed a new focus on both their internal and external policies. While sovereign states saw that they were no longer able to respond to the economic, political, and security dimensions by themselves, they gave up some of their power which created many transnational organizations such as the EU.

First, a brief overview of the human security concept's development and primary justifications is offered, as well as a consideration of the disputes and critiques that have limited its traction. Second, from the standpoint of human security, the essay investigates how the COVID-19 pandemic reveals underlying socioeconomic, educational, food supplies, and medical care inequalities. According to this viewpoint, the pandemic cannot be seen as a discrete or distinct public health concern since its effects and costs are not evenly felt and reflect wider systemic inequities and vulnerabilities. The next strand of the paper is devoted to coming up with three policy recommendations for the EU and member states to limit the negative impact on human security.

In spite of the analytical and definitional shortcomings of the human security concept, as well as the unwillingness of many national policy players to truly adopt it, it provides a persuasive framework for comprehending the implications of COVID-19 for security analysis and policy. While security studies experts have traditionally reacted negatively to the negative securitization of COVID-19, this paper argues that the positive framing of human security has both analytical insight and important policy consequences. Although the distinct effects of COVID-19 are becoming clear, the added usefulness of a human security viewpoint is to frame this issue within competing definitions of security as a concept and to suggest consequences for how this notion is interpreted politically. The article makes use of publicly accessible official data from national and international sources, as well as second-

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[1]   UN General Assembly. World Summit Outcome : resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 24 October 2005, A/RES/60/1. 38 p.
[2]   Ibidem.

ary epidemiological data. Given the importance of studying the influence of COVID-19 on numerous aspects of life according to "the Conceptual framework for human security in UN texts," the primary empirical focus is on the situations in European countries.

Human Security

The Conceptual framework for human security in UN documents

Human Development Report 1994 of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) introduces the concept of human security, which focuses on the people. The same document points out that the term "security" has long been interpreted too narrowly in the context of "security of territory from external aggression" and thus suggests that human security involves much more than just the absence of conflict. This formally shifts the emphasis from state security to human security. The report further qualifies human security as "safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression as well as protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, jobs or communities" [2].

The UN Commission on Human Security (CHS) was established in January 2001. The report "Human Security Now" defines human security as: "to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military, and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood, and dignity" [3]. Overall, the definition proposed by the CHS re-conceptualizes security in a fundamental way by: (i) replacing a traditional, state-centered security concept that focuses on national security against military aggression with a security concept that focuses on personal security, protection, and empowerment; (ii) taking notice of multiple aspects that span different aspects of human life threats, thereby highlighting the links between security, development and human rights; (iii) strengthening a new integrated, coordinated and people-oriented approach to promote peace, security, and development between states and across the world.

The EU's approach to human security

The general principles of 'human security' have been incorporated into the EU's policies on foreign and security policy even though it remains controversial. Human security was proposed as a foreign security policy for the EU by experts from LSE who presented The Human Security Doctrine for Europe in September 2004 at the Barcelona Forum [4]. The EU's support of the doctrine, as the world's largest contributor of humanitarian and development aid, was motivated by two factors. First, as an outward-facing approach, it has the potential to reaffirm the EU's position as a model of peaceful growth based on collaboration and key principles such as respect for diversity, the rule of law, human rights, democracy, and citizen involvement. Second, the report argued that as a defense strategy, contributing to global human security was once the most realistic security policy for Europe, given that where people lived in poverty, where violence and lawlessness reigned under dogmatic ideologies, there was fertile ground for human rights violations, criminal networks, and terrorism, resulting in the importation of hard drugs and weapons into Europe. The doctrine's goal was to emphasize the need of dealing with the growing instability that existed beyond Europe.

Following the Barcelona report, the Study Group for Security produced the Madrid Report in 2007 [5], which expanded on the EU's human security approach and predicted institutionalization procedures in the framework of the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). Human security, according to the Madrid Report, refers to the basic requirements of people and communities in times of danger. It's about having a sense of security on the street, as well as material survival and the exercise of free choice. It acknowledges that "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want" are necessary for both people's happiness and willingness to live in peace.

The core principles of the Treaty of Lisbon show a broader perspective to security implying that they clearly move away from the more traditional understanding and so focus more on people's security. Even though the term "human security" is not mentioned directly in the Treaty, its relevance is clear in the wording concerning the strategic goals of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and within the associated general principles. The Libyan conflict, which began in 2011, was the first litmus test for an EU policy articulated in this manner. In 2011, the EU planned military action. However, it was never carried out. Following that, they were heavily chastised for their lack of commitment during the Libya crisis and their unwillingness to take the initiative to address the Libyan crisis. Once France, as one of the EU states, took the initiative with the UK – which had been included in the process from the start – the NATO intervention officially began. It includes 14 NATO member states, 11 of which are also EU members[3]. Hence, in spite of persistent advocacy for common foreign policy and the necessity to align it with the Human Security doctrine, high military politics and the use of force to resolve international issues, as well as ignoring fundamental human rights – had prevailed.

Besides, it is believed that there is a gap between doctrine and the institutionalized development of Human Security in the EU. There are differences in the EU's institutional framework regarding commitment to the human security approach, with the European Commission and Parliament more supportive of the approach and the European Council, particularly member states such as France and the UK (before Brexit), less enthusiastic. The Global Security Strategy, published in 2016, presents the incorporation of human security into EU security policies for the following period.

The impact of COVID-19 and policy responses on human security in Europe

The global COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Europe with its first confirmed case in Bordeaux, France, on 24 January 2020, and subsequently spread widely across the continent. By 17 March 2020, every country in Europe had confirmed a case, and all have reported at least one death, with the exception of Vatican City. On March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic, which urged governments to simultaneously implement policy responses to protect the health of their citizens by imposing travel restrictions, lockdowns, business closures, workplace hazard controls, testing protocols, systems for tracing contacts of the infected, encouraging people to raise their awareness of disease prevention by wearing masks, not going out if not necessary. Lockdowns implemented in Europe affected more than 250 million people by March

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[3]   Martin, M. EU Human Security Approach // Human Security Course :[site]. URL: http://humansecuritycourse.info/module-1-the-concept-of-human-security/eu-approach/   (accessed   on 18.08.2022).

18, 2020. Despite the deployment of COVID-19 vaccinations[4], Europe once again became the pandemic's hub in late 2021. Dr. Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, stated on 11 January 2022 that "more than half of the people in the region will be infected with Omicron in the next six to eight weeks"[5].

According to newly updated data on Worldometer's website, as of October 1, 2022, the number of COVID-19 infections in Europe is 231,144,000 cases, including 1,929,611 deaths and 223,513,435 recovered cases[6]. The COVID-19 pandemic presents the EU with an unprecedented health crisis with significant ramifications for Europe in all sectors. In many European countries, the existential health threat of the pandemic has caused large-scale governmental interventions, often limiting basic social and political rights. The combination of these remedies has created an economic shock, likely to surpass that of the financial crisis in the last decade. The complex nature of the current crisis, along with a health threat with an economic shock and with a reshuffling of social practices and expectations in various domains – puts European societies under severe stress. Due to these events, human security, social integration, and cohesion, within and across European countries, have been threatened. It is all too clear that the crisis resulted in considerable loss of lives, a variety of health impairments, and psychological, social, and economic consequences across the world, and also amongst European societies. As we discuss below, women, migrants, older people, caregivers, and the homeless seem particularly hard hit as the crisis exacerbates existing inequalities, and pose considerable threats against human security.

The detrimental consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic affect people's lives in Europe and across the globe[7]. Faced with the above situation, countries have no choice but to impose urgent measures to curb the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. However, it is worth noting that not only the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening people's health, but even the measures to prevent the disease by the governments of European countries are having a direct impact on people's lives. In other words, the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences are directly affecting fundamental human rights.

First, there has been a sharp increase in the rates of unemployment and food insecurity in the region. The unemployment rate in Europe increased continuously in the last months of 2020. According to the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), the unemployment rate remained relatively stable between September and December 2020, but over the course of the year saw a dramatic rise from 6.5% to 7.5%. Overall, Eurostat estimates that 16 million people were unemployed in December 2020 – up by 2 million compared to the previous year. More than 3 million are under 25 years old, of whom 2.6 million are in the euro area[8].

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[4]   More than 150 Countries Engaged in COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility // World Health Organization : [site]. 15.07.2020. URL: https://www.who.int/news/item/15-07-2020-more-than-150-countries-engaged-in-COVID-19-vaccine-global-access-facility (accessed on 18.08.2022).

[5]   Over 50% Of Europe's Population will be Infected with Omicron in the Next 2 Months, WHO Says // CNBC :[site]. 11.01.2022. URL: https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/11/more-than-half-of-europe-will-be-infected-with-omicron-in-the-next-2-months-who.html (accessed on 18.08.2022).

[6]   COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic // Worldometer : [site]. URL: https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/ (accessed on 18.08.2022).

[7]   Chu Thi Nhuan. Châu Âu đối mặt với những thách thức về an ninh con người trong bối cảnh đại dịch COVID-19 [Europe faces human security challenges amid the COVID-19 pandemic] // Tạp chí Cộng sản [Communist Magazine] : [site]. 21.01.2021. URL: https://www.tapchicongsan.org.vn/web/guest/the-gioi-van-de-su-kien/-/2018/821045/chau-au-doi-mat-voi-nhung-thach-thuc-ve-an-ninh-con-nguoi-trong-boi-canh-dai-dich-covid-19.aspx (accessed on 18.08.2022). (In Viet.)

[8]   Unemployment statistics // Eurostat : [site]. URL: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Unemployment_statistics (accessed on 18.08.2022).

There are growing concerns that government bailout programs have not been able to help businesses avoid bankruptcy. It is predicted that the unemployment rate in Europe will increase even more considerably in the coming months as the wage subsidy programs expire, while the number of COVID-19 cases still remains high[9], leading to the fact that travel restrictions will be re-imposed in some countries, seriously affecting socio-economic activities. For instance, Germany, the EU leading economy has also plummeted when the German Central Bank (Bundesbank) warned of an increase in the number of companies defaulting. Due to the expiration of the moratorium on debt payments for defaulting companies, the number of businesses going bankrupt could increase by more than 35%, the highest rate since 2013 [6].

A knock-on effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment is placing unprecedented stresses on the food system and food security due to disruptions in the food supply chain, loss of income, interruption of social protection programs, and increase in food prices. In any case, those who are most affected are the poor and vulnerable people with few available resources to deal with the loss of jobs and incomes, the rise in food prices, and the instability of food supplies, thereby limiting the ability to adapt to the crisis.

Second, the COVID-19 crisis has directly affected children's right to an education. School closures have disrupted children's education. To prevent the COVID-19 outbreak from affecting the health of teachers and students, most schools across Europe have to temporarily close. Especially in countries that were coronavirus hot spots such as the UK, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, and Russia, there was also a tendency to close all educational institutions for a long time. Although online teaching and learning solutions are applied, not all students have access to this form of learning, especially the poor.

Third, the pandemic has had a direct impact on the right to medical care. In some countries, the number of positive cases of the SARS-CoV-2 virus increased too quickly, while vital medical resources such as ventilators, medical protective equipment, and even medical staff cannot meet the needs. Therefore, medical personnel are forced to decide who should receive primary priority care. On March 23, 2020, a group of doctors and academics from around the world published a set of ethical guidelines in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), outlining how to allocate resources during the COVID-19 pandemic [7]. Accordingly, at peak times, treatment was applied based on age limits and specific underlying medical conditions for those admitted to emergency treatment, rather than on a first come first served basis. With benefit maximization paramount in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the argument is made that prioritizing patients with the highest chance of survival during COVID-19 would save the largest number of people. This clearly raises questions about the guarantee of equality of all people's right to medical care.

Fourth, the pandemic has hurt women and children when they have to stay in quarantine at home. It is too early to see the full impact of violence against women and children from official statistics. But since the EU and member states' governments imposed travel restrictions, women and children experiencing violence cannot have access to the local authority, so the risk of domestic violence is increasing. In France, for example, before travel restrictions, the number of calls to the national helpline dropped sharply. But within a week of tightening the emergency travel restrictions from March 2020, according to the reports of police, the rate of domestic violence has increased by a third across the country. even the most in Paris. There have been now many requests for help sent via email, up 286% compared to February

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2020[10]. In Spain, in the first two weeks of the implementation of travel restrictions in March 2020, the helpline received 18% more calls than in February 2020. According to Marceline Naudi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), within the Council of Europe, the threat of infection from the coronavirus is in some cases a direct obstacle for victims to seek help.

Fifth, the poor and the homeless have suffered a lot due to the pandemic. It is a dilemma to apply COVID-19 Prevention Strategies to those who do not have a safe and adequate quality of life, especially the homeless or dwellers in slums with a lack of clean water and sanitary facilities. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a socio-economic crisis, severely affecting individuals, families, and communities. According to a new report from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)and the World Health Organization (WHO), 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely-managed drinking water, while 4.2 billion go without safe sanitation services, and three billion lack basic handwashing facilities, so regular washing hands is not a habit of theirs[11]. It is estimated that no less than 150 million people, or about 2 percent of the world's population, are homeless. However, about 1.6 billion, more than 20 percent of the world's population, may lack adequate housing[12]. Without safe places to live, material disparities, and food shortages, it is difficult for them to stay in quarantine at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is poverty that is a high-risk factor, let alone the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on them.

In addition to the impact on human security, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the threats against European integration. Subjectivity and procrastination have cost Europe dearly with the large number of patients dying due to COVID-19 disease. The COVID-19 pandemic is a litmus test for the entire European health system, economy as well as European unity. The case of Italy, the COVID-19 epicenter of Europe in the first wave, was the first country to suffer the terrible losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic both in the epidemical and as well economic aspects. However, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in this country, the EU and its member states were accused of being slow in coming to Italy's aid over the coronavirus pandemic and activating the EU's civil protection mechanism for supplies of personal protective equipment.

In addition, regardless of negative economic consequences in the initial stages of the pandemic, European countries did not quickly take any unified and synchronous measures to deal with them, but showed deep divisions, especially regarding "corona bonds." This is a shared debt bond guaranteed by all Eurozone countries to help pay for economic recovery efforts after the COVID-19 pandemic. Some EU countries were firmly against the issue of these bonds; and cited the principle that it is not allowed to turn national debts into common debt of the EU. Besides, the nationalist and populist individuals have blamed border-free, the so-called 'freedom of movement' zone, migration, etc. They also criticize that the EU's encouragement to reopen internal borders too soon, even without a vaccine, made member states have to struggle with the second and third waves of the pandemic right after

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[10]   Higgins, N. Coronavirus: When Home Gets Violent under Lockdown in Europe // BBC News : [site]. 13.04.2020. URL: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52216966 (accessed on 18.08.2022).

[11]   Khánh Linh. Liên hợp quốc: Hơn 2 tỷ người không được tiếp cận với nước sạch [United Nations: More than 2 billion people do not have access to clean water] // Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam [Communist Party of Vietnam] : [site]. 20.03.2019. URL: https://dangcongsan.vn/the-gioi/nhung-van-de-toan-cau/lien-hop-quoc-hon-2-ty-nguoi-khong-duoc-tiep-can-voi-nuoc-sach-516701.html (accessed on 18.08.2022).

[12]   Chamie, J. As Cities Grow, So Do the Numbers of Homeless // YaleGlobal Online : [site]. 13.07.2017.   URL: https://archive-yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/cities-grow-so-do-numbers-homeless (accessed on 18.08.2022).

the first one with the emergence of new variants. The far-right, populist parties in some countries such as France, Germany, and Spain have used this momentum to call for strengthening the controls of borders and migration flows so as to protect the health of people in the country and to reduce the burdens on the national health system and social welfares.

It is clear that EU institutions are bound by many restrictive regulations in their operation. In some key policy areas to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, such as healthcare, border control, and fiscal policies, member states have not yet been ready to share decision-making power. The EU pioneering the movement to protect the environment and climate change, can easily approve the policies of animal-related diseases, but no agreement was reached on human security-related issues at that time.

Policy recommendations

COVID-19 has proven that public health emergencies are not equally recognized in either international law or national constitutions; some international treaties permit "limiting" rights in the name of public health rather than requiring derogation, and nationally some governments authorize emergency measures in practice without ever doing so in name. International law provides that states parties should duly take into account the developments within international law as to human rights standards applicable in emergencies. In particular, on December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the second clause of Article 29 – "In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely to secure due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society"[13]. In this case, the pandemic size and severity are the basis for each state to apply its restrictions. However, in order to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the impact of prevention measures on human security, The United Nations has available a powerful set of tools, in the form of human rights, that equip States and whole societies to respond to threats and crises in a way that puts people at the center. Observing the crisis and its impact through a human rights lens puts a focus on how it is affecting people on the ground, particularly the most vulnerable among us, and what can be done about it now, and in the long term; thereby, observing the crisis and its impact through the lens of human rights, focusing on the impacts and impacts of the epidemic on all aspects of human life, especially those who are vulnerable. most vulnerable in society and what measures should be taken in the immediate and long term for the benefit of the people and without prejudice to their rights [8].

From the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in Europe, it is advisable that on the basis of human rights, countries adjust response measures to maximize their effectiveness in preventing and combating this disease and minimize its negative consequences, especially to ensure the preservation of human dignity with three objectives: (i) to improve the efficiency of immediate responses while human rights should also be considered; (ii) to mitigate the broader impact of the crisis on people's lives; (iii) to avoid creating new or exacerbating existing problems. All three of these factors will help build better human rights institutions.

First, it is necessary to improve the efficiency of immediate responses while human rights should also be considered. The COVID-19 pandemic shows no sign of ending and may last for the next

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[13]   Universal Declaration of Human Rights // United Nations : [site]. URL: https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights (accessed on 18.08.2022).

few years. Therefore, in the short term as well as in the long term, countries need to focus on ensuring their citizens' priority rights during the current pandemic:

The right to life and the duty to protect life. To protect human life, countries have somewhat strongly imposed restrictions to avoid infection during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, given the scale and danger of the pandemic, these recent responses in Europe seem to be insufficient, stronger measures should be applied nationwide to quell the pandemic, especially the new coronavirus variant Omicron. Next, there are stimulus packages for socioeconomic development to stabilize people's lives. According to the official page of Europa on December 16, 2020, the European Parliament (EP) approved the EU budget for the period 2021–2027 worth 1,074 trillion euros along with 15 billion euros supplementing programs' importance of the Block. President of the EP D. Sassoli affirmed: "With today's vote, the European Parliament has adopted the European budget for the next seven years. With this vote, the European Marshall Plan can start, help us get out of the dramatic crisis generated by COVID, and lay the foundations for a new beginning: a greener and fairer Europe. And for the first time in the history of our Union, we have ensured that the resources of the European budget are conditional on respect for the rule of law and democracy throughout Europe. The next step is a tax on digital giants and financial transactions in Europe"[14]. This is considered an important milestone as this is the first time all EU countries have agreed to take a common loan and repay a common debt to jointly revive the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a big step forward in the process of European unification.

The right to health care and access to health care. The right to health care is a fundamental human right. The COVID-19 pandemic is a litmus test for the ability of countries to protect health to the fullest extent. In fact, the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic in countries around the world show that the countries suffering the most are those with the strongest economy and healthcare systems in Europe such as Italy, the UK, France, Germany, and Spain. There are two main reasons: (i) the governments of these countries were not fully aware of the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the implementation of solutions is not drastic enough; (ii) their health systems have their own shortcomings in preventive healthcare, public health, quarantine regulations, so when the pandemic broke out, these countries did not have enough ability to control it. Not only will the COVID-19 pandemic have a long-term impact, but other new diseases may arise, so it is a matter of research to build a balanced, appropriate, and effective healthcare system. In the long term, countries need to step up the building of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) systems, approach the vulnerable, and strengthen pandemic prevention and preparedness.

Second, it is essential to minimize the impact of the crisis on people's lives. The pandemic is much more than a health crisis. By stressing every one of the countries it touches, it created devastating social, economic, and political crises, but the tragedy can be even worse if society ignores the broad negative effects of this pandemic, such as prioritizing those receiving treatment as mentioned above, aroused a wave of protests against discrimination in society. It is important that countries take early measures to minimize the impact in the age of COVID-19 and be fully equipped with the necessary medical equipment to ensure access to health services for all without discrimination. Besides, countries should: (i) strengthen early warning systems including detection, analysis, prediction, and then warning; (ii) increase investment and promote the capacity of the national and international healthcare

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[14] EP Approves MFF: Now We Need the Courage to Change // European Parliament : [site]. 16.12.2020. URL: https://the-president.europarl.europa.eu/home/ep-newsroom/pageContent-area/newsroom/sassoli-pe-approva-qfp-adesso-il-coraggio-di-cambiare.html (accessed on 18.08.2022).

systems, especially investment in human, material, and financial resources for centers and pharmaceutical companies to research and produce vaccines; (iii) supplement necessary mechanisms, policies and projects to improve the quality of preventive healthcare and public healthcare systems to limit the impact of other pandemics in the future.

Third, European countries should avoid creating new or exacerbating existing problems. Due to nationalism, populism, authoritarianism, and protests against the COVID-19 pandemic, which are believed to affect the human rights of people in some European countries, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis can be an excuse to apply repressive measures for other purposes unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic. The concerns that the pandemic is exacerbating human rights now, for example, discrimination against groups of people from the epicenter, abuse against refugees, asylum seekers, displaced people, and migrants, sexual and gender-based violence, etc. require more attention from governments [9].

Conclusion

This paper shows that the COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses of the EU and member states associated with it have negatively impacted social and health security. Given the fact that many countries have been struggling to cope with different facets of political, economic, social, and health security challenges without much success before COVID-19 broke down, the additional setbacks created by the pandemic have made the situation more cumbersome. This is due to the fact that stringent responses such as travel restrictions, curfews, and national lockdowns have hindered economic activities, hence influencing the various sources of livelihood across different parts of Europe.

It is believed that, sooner or later, the COVID-19 pandemic will be under control, but even if it is controlled, this pandemic has sounded the alarm to the world about the complicated nature and danger level of infectious diseases. Therefore, in order to ensure the successful realization of human security, countries need to reform their policies, have more appropriate strategies in the future, and promote international and regional cooperations to ensure food security, access to health care, and social insurance coverage for all people, especially vulnerable populations in society. At the same time, the author emphasizes that human rights protection is a key issue to ensure peace, security, social stability, and sustainable development for every country, every region, and the world.

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ГУМАНИТАРНАЯ БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ В ЕВРОПЕ ВО ВРЕМЯ ПАНДЕМИИ COVID-19: СОЦИАЛЬНО-ДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ

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Аннотация: С начала 2020 г. вспышка и последовавшее за ней стремительное распространение вируса COVID-19 негативно повлияли на жизнь человечества во многих аспектах, при этом наблюдались различия по странам, социальным группам и социальным сферам. Европа является одним из регионов, страдающих от пандемии больше всего. Стремясь дать обзор негативных последствий пандемии, авторы данной статьи сосредотачивают внимание на том, как пандемия и карантинные меры, введенные европейскими правительствами, нарушили широкий спектр основных прав человека. Сначала в статье приводятся концептуальные основы безопасности человека, изложенные в документах, опубликованных Организацией Объединенных Наций (ООН), а также подход к безопасности человека, принятый Европейским союзом (ЕС). Затем в статье излагается несколько ключевых характеристик COVID-19 в эпидемических аспектах, которые доказывают серьезность данного кризиса и позволяют сделать вывод о том, что жесткие ответные меры, принятые лидерами и национальными правительствами ЕС, хотя и были неизбежными, но все же в каком-то смысле могут быть названы экстремальными. Третья часть статьи посвящается анализу негативного влияния пандемии COVID-19 и мер по борьбе с ней на права человека, такие как право на образование и здравоохранение, и иных последствий пандемии, таких как рост уровня безработицы, ухудшение продовольственной безопасности, вспышки домашнего насилия. В заключение авторами предлагаются политические рекомендации для ЕС и государств – членов Союза по ограничению негативного воздействия пандемии и карантинных мер на безопасность человека.

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