



INTEGRATED APPROACH IN LESSENING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON VULNERABLE GROUPS - EXPERIENCE FROM THE 2ND WAVE IN SLOVAKIA

- ▶ Z. Katreniakova¹, A. Koscalova, L. Roussier., V. Rusnakova
- ▶ ¹ PJ Safarik Univ. in Kosice, Fac. of Medicine



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union

The SCIROCCO Exchange project is co-funded
by the Health Programme of the European
Union under Grant Agreement No.: 826676
(Chafea)

- 
- ▶ **Setting the scene**
 - ▶ **Birth of an integrated approach to tackle COVID-19**
 - ▶ **Life cycle of new project**
mission, process, action areas, outcomes, partners
 - ▶ **The future of pilot project**
S.W.O.T analysis approach

Self-assessment Process in Slovakia, Kosice Region (spring 2020) on maturity and readiness to change in implementation of integrated care

Final spider diagram as result
of consensus meeting

The lowest value (score 0):

- 2. **Structure & Governance**
- 7. Population Approach
- 9. Evaluation Methods
- 10. Breadth of Ambition

The highest value (score 2):

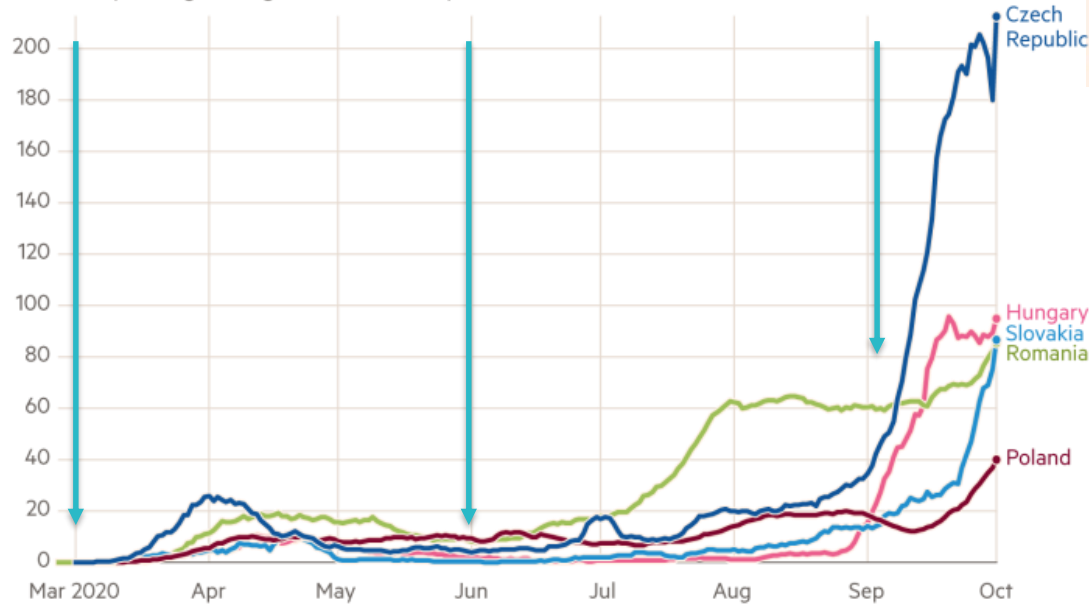
- 4. **Process Coordination**
- **Strategic documents on IC**
with no real progress in implementation
- **Potential for co-operation within IC**
with lack of support from governmental level



1st wave (spring 2020) and starting of 2nd wave (autumn 2020)

New confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Central Europe

Seven-day rolling average of new cases (per million)



Source: Financial Times analysis of data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
Final date in the series is Oct 1 2020
© FT

Central Europe struggles in second Covid surge after earlier success

Strict lockdowns helped region handle spring crisis better than western Europe, but now the number of cases is rising



In June some 2,000 people gathered at a 500m-long dinner table across the medieval Charles Bridge in Prague for a 'symbolic farewell' to the crisis © Gabriel Kuchta/Getty

2nd wave (autumn 2020 – winter 2021)

- Sept 24, 2020
Pilot project on the Alert and Emergency Intervention System (ANI) for the selected COVID-19 related risk groups

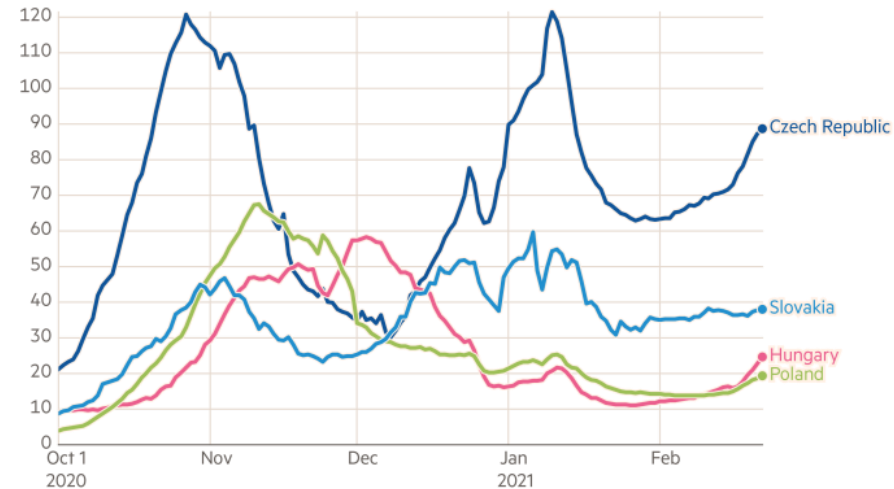


Alena Koščálová, MD

Deputy Head & Head of the Dept of Infectious Diseases and Geographical Medicine at Kramáre Hospital, Bratislava, with many years of experience in tropical countries

Signs of a fresh surge in central Europe

Seven-day rolling average of new cases (per 100k)

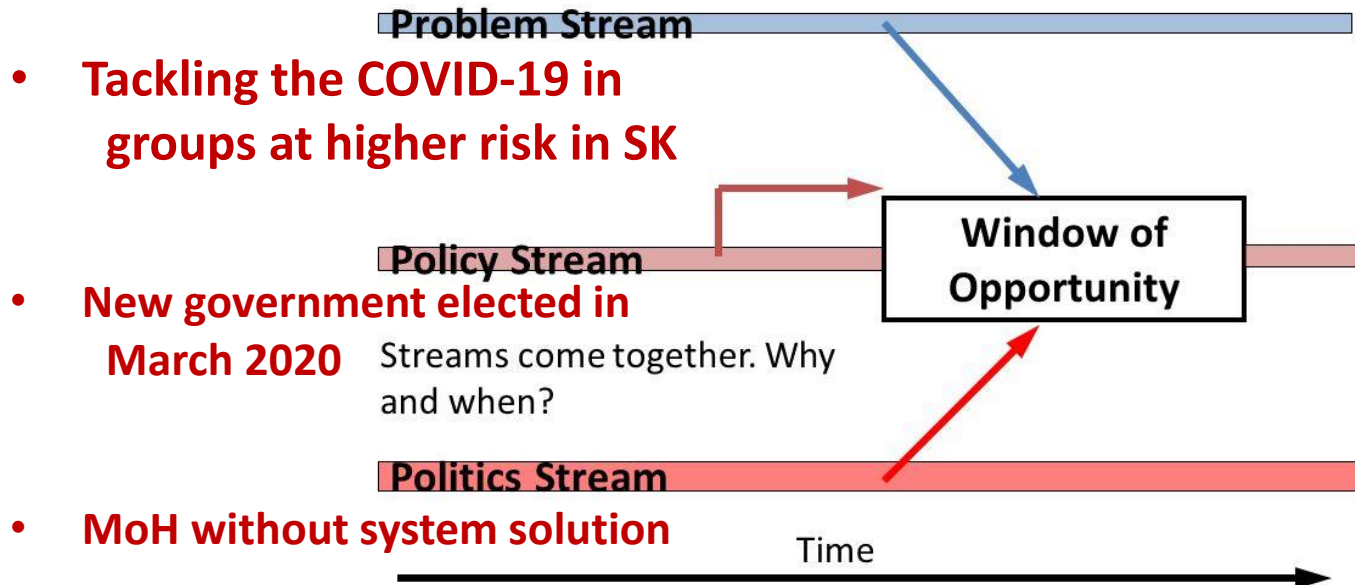


Source: FT coronavirus tracker [ft.com/covid19](https://www.ft.com/covid19)
© FT

2nd wave (autumn 2020 – winter 2021)



Kingdon's Streams Metaphor



From Thomas A. Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process*, 3rd ed. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

15.10.2020 12:51 | Sprawy | Demokracja
Chcú minimalizovať šírenie koronavírusu: Do ohrozených oblastí poslalo ministerstvo intervenčné tímy



Intervention Team of the MoH of the SR: BIRTH

Established within **the Pandemic Plan of the SR** and under the auspices of **the Operating Centre of the Ministry of Health of the SR**



Two target groups:

Older people living in social care facilities

- rapid spread of SARS-Cov-2, severe course, and mortality due to COVID-19

Marginalized (Roma) communities

- rapid spread of SARS-Cov-2, limited access to health care, limitations on compliance with anti-epidemic measures

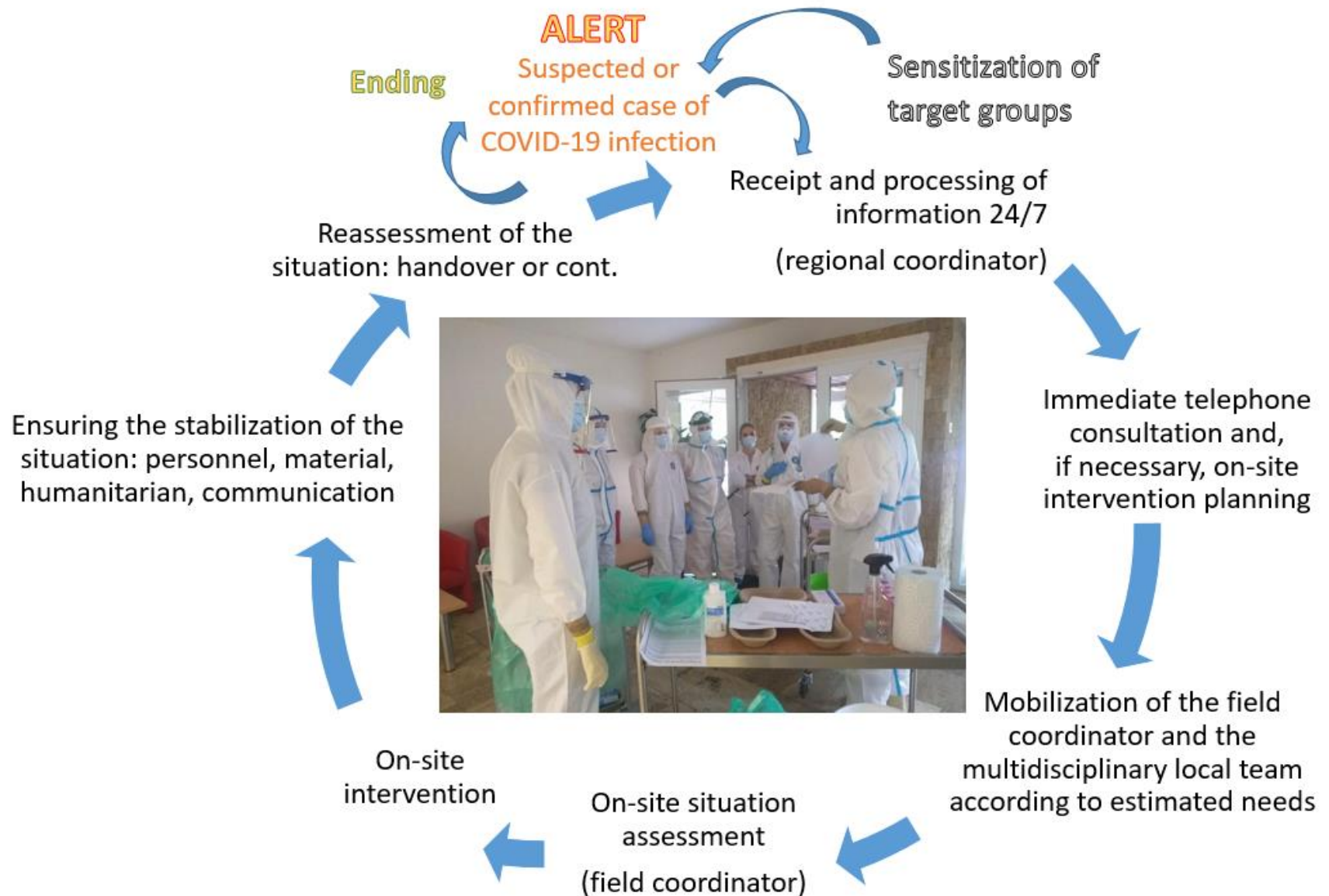


Intervention Team of the MoH of the SR: MISSION

Early short-term **medical** and **psychosocial intervention** in the case of reporting occurrence of suspected and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in target groups through regional multidisciplinary teams



Intervention Team of the MoH of the SR: PROCESS



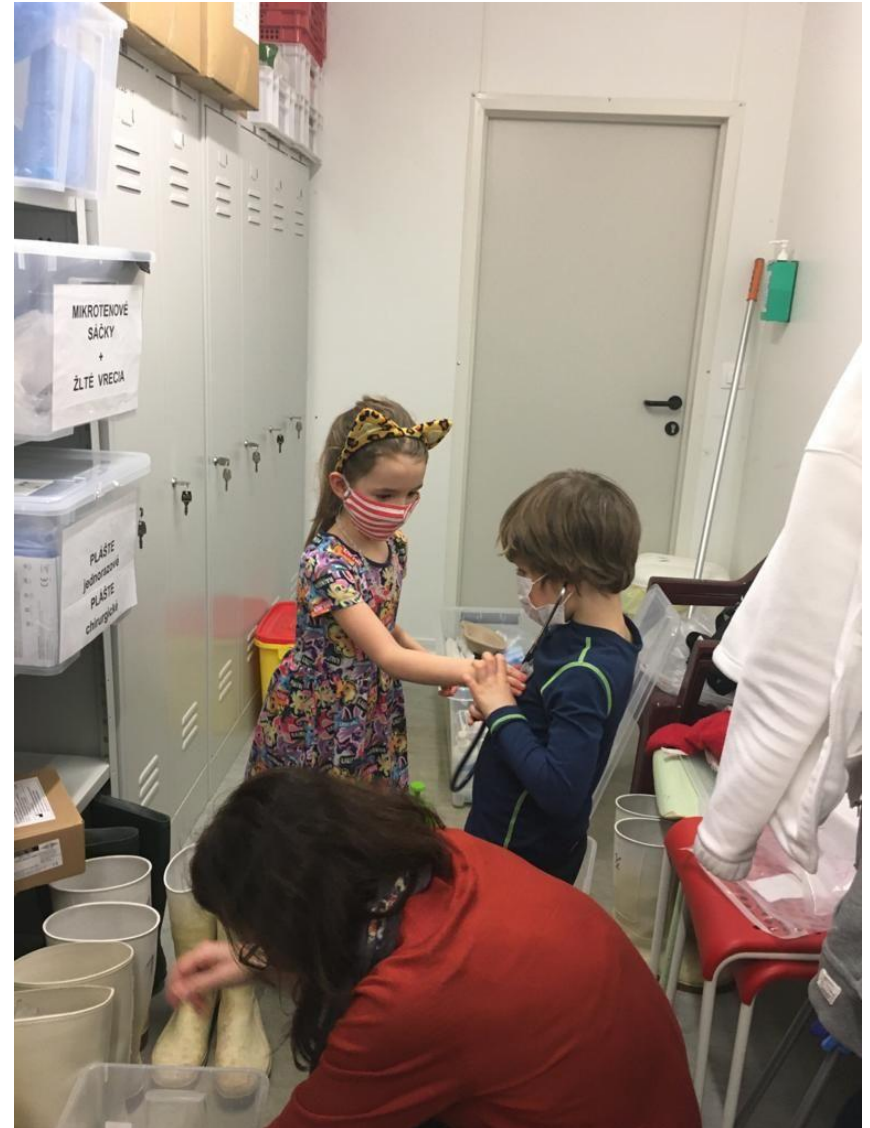
Telephone consultation

Receipt of a request for support from target groups via 3 **non-stop telephone lines** operating in 3 regions through **regional co-ordinators**

Collection of information based on areas of interest of the problem solving:
- **local epidemic situation, clinical status, control measures, team capacity, resources - material, psychosocial**

Evaluation of information

Consensus on the follow-up steps



On-site intervention

Assessment of the situation in the field

Rapid medical and psychosocial intervention:

- testing and/or sampling
- consulting and screening health status of clients/community members
- consultation in crisis management
- individual or group psychological intervention
- education in the community in order to motivate compliance with measures
- advice on the implementation of measures to prevent and control the spread of virus



Short-term support – lack of personnel

7-days intervention in field:

Daily monitoring of health status including oximetry, blood pressure, heart rate, temperature

Training of staff – zoning and isolation, personal protective aids, oxygen therapy



Mobile vaccination of vulnerable groups

Active approaching and collaboration with the self-government

Whole process co-ordination:

- verification of interest,
- pre-registration, preparation of vaccines and action in the field,
- implementation of vaccination,
- post-vaccination telephone counselling



Intervention Team of the MoH of the SR: OUTCOMES

Outcomes achieved after 6 months (and later):

- 170+ alerts
- 172 short-term interventions
- 50+ psychological interventions
- 5.300+ hours of support in the field
- 266 facilities and communities
- 6000+ vaccinated people
- 2 online surveys mapping the needs and satisfaction



Intervention Team of the MoH of the SR: KEY PARTNERS

- Ministry of **Health** of the SR
- Ministry of **Labour, Social Affairs, and Family** of the SR
- Ministry of **Interior** of the SR (army, fire brigade, regional pandemic centres)



- **National and Regional Public Health Authorities**

- **General practitioners' clinics**
for adults, and for children and adolescents

- **Self-government –**
regions, cities and villages

- **NGOs –** Healthy Regions (MoH),
EQUITA n.o., N. DEDO, N. ETP, ...

- **Private HC providers**

Intervention Team of the MoH of the SR: FUTURE

STRENGTHS

- 👍 NGOs and individual stakeholders with **awareness on IC action**
- 👍 Very well **co-ordinated multidisciplinary team work**
- 👍 Highly **motivated** voluntaries
- 👍 Active **involvement** of students
- 👍 Partial **political, governmental and institutional** (public-private) support

WEAKNESSES

- 👎 Lacking
 - health professionals from practice
 - financial, and structural support
 - permanent “core” team for the field work
- 👎 No existing pathways and documentation for the action areas

OPPORTUNITIES

- increase of scope of rapid responses to a variety of disaster-related situations
- engage in target vulnerable communities in disaster risk reduction and preparedness

Intervention Team of the MoH of the SR: FUTURE

Ready for the 3rd wave



Intervenčný tím Ministerstva zdravotníctva SR



Konzultácie a poradenstvo

Bezodkladná
podpora a konzultácia,
- telefonicky a online.



Rýchla intervencia na mieste šírenia

Zhodnotenie potrieb, testovanie,
zdravotnícke poradenstvo,
psychosociálna podpora.



Osveta a očkovanie

Informačná kampaň a
plánované alebo núdzové
očkovanie.

S cieľom **ochrany pred šírením a dôsledkami SARS-CoV-2**, MZ SR zabezpečuje bezodkladné riešenie krízových situácií v zraniteľných komunitách cez **multidisciplinárne tímy** naprieč Slovenskom.

Cieľové skupiny:

Pobytové zariadenia sociálnych služieb



zariadenia pre seniorov,
špecializované zariadenia,
domovy sociálnych služieb

Marginalizované komunity



marginalizované rómske komunity,
ľudia prežívajúci bezdomovectvo,
zariadenia krízovej intervencie



Konzultácia výskytu a šírenia:

Západné Slovensko 0940 633 582 michaela.kosticova@gmail.com
Stredné Slovensko 0910 520 148 markovaveronika@gmail.com
Východné Slovensko 0910 520 169 emilyrevajova@centrum.sk

Očkovanie a osвета: 0948 339 647 zdenka.lazova@gmail.com



Thank you for your attention

▶ zuzana.katreniakova@upjs.sk