IMPLEMENTED RESTRICTIONS AS PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN FIGHTING COVID-19 AND VIOLATIONS IN SOME OF THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES FROM MARCH TO MAY 2020

Abstract1	VI. in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in
I. Introduction1	Republika Srpska7
II. Curfew boundaries	
III. Restrictions in the Republic of	VIII. Restrictions in North Macedonia
Slovenia	
IV. Restrictions in Montenegro4	X. Conclusion
V. Restrictions in Serbia 5	

Abstract

The beginning of the year 2020 was marked by the event that affected every single country in the world - COVID 19 pandemic. The most strict measure restricting the movement of people was curfew.

This research contains information and data about implemented curfew in some Western Balkan countries, duration of that measure, sanctioning, recorded violations, comparison of the violations numbers per country and statistical data of recorded curfew violations.

There is also information and data about other measures taken in fighting COVID-19 in the above-mentioned countries that their governments decided to implement, sanctioning the violations of those measures and violations.

Information and data from this research can be of great use to extend further researches in this field, especially for other comparison researches with other countries.

Keywords: restriction on movement, curfew, COVID-19, Balkan countries.

I. INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 will certainly be remembered as the year of the world pandemic, a new coronavirus was detected in China which spread up fast all around the world. As it was a new disease, it was of high importance to stop or even slow down the spreading as fast as possible. Every country in the world was caught up off guard and had to think fast and act fast to find a resolution for how to deal with the spread of the disease. As China was hit first, Italy second and Spain third, these countries had no time to prepare themselves for what happened. Their health system was overloaded and very strict restrictions were implemented as measures for slowing down the spread of COVID-19. Travelling was immediately stopped and all countries closed their borders. Malls, restaurants and coffee shops were closed, schools were also closed and socializing was restricted (in some countries by law, in some as a recommendation only). Many countries implemented lockdown and some countries (like Sweden) had only advised

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their citizens of the need not to physically socialize, not to travel and what to do to stay protected.

In the West Balkan countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, Croatia, Monte Negro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia were implemented different types of restrictions, in some more strict and in some more loose. Restriction called curfew was found to be the most drastic measure, which some countries have implemented.

Violations of curfew and isolation were recorded in each country. Respecting the curfew hours and isolation as protective measures set by the governments was of high importance for stopping the spread of the disease. The discipline of the people in following the government orders was different in each country. During the research, a question derived: was that difference in the discipline of the people approximately the same in those countries or there was a significant difference from country to country? The answer to this question is very important because it can give valid information about the number or percentage of violations made per country and by that, it can be visible the people's discipline in following the government's restrictions in each state. That way it can be easier for some other researchers to make a comparison between the number or percentage in violations on restrictions and their connection to the number or percentage of infected people.

For this research, to get valid information about the implemented methods against COVID-19 spread in each state, every Ministry of interior affairs or Police department was contacted. Valid information's were also collected from the internet official sites of the governments and the Ministry's of internal affairs of all the countries subject to this research. The data collected are presented in continuance.

II. CURFEW BOUNDARIES

Curfew means that during some hours, which the government will announce previously, the movement will be restricted. In other words, people will have to stay home during those hours and not go outside. Violating the curfew by going outside is punishable. This is a very strict prohibition on the freedom of movement – guaranteed with the European Convention on Human Rights in Protocol 4 Article 2 wherein Paragraph 1 and 2 it is stated that everyone who is lawfully within a territory of a state has the right to liberty of movement, everyone is free to leave any country, including their own. The government right to implement curfew in the territory of the state and limit the freedom of movement of the citizens is stated in the same article under Paragraph 3 and 4 where it is stated that no restrictions can be placed on these rights except if they are in accordance with law and are necessary (among other exceptions) for public safety and for the protection of health as in this case. The restriction on movement, in this case, is in accordance with law and justified by the public interest, for the protection of health to all people.

In the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms under the chapter - Freedom of assembly and association in Article 1, it is stated: "everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests" and in Article 2 it is stated: "no restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary for a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State" (European Convention on Human Rights, p.12). This fundamental right was also limited in the interest of public health.

Under Article 15 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is Derogation in time of emergency it is stated that in time of war or other public emergency and in this case it is the proclaimed state of emergency for the protection of the public health, any High Contracting Party may take measures derogating its obligations under the Convention to the extent required strictly by the exigencies of the situation, and such measures cannot be inconsistent with its other obligations under international law (European Convention on Human Rights, p.13).

Under Article 17 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is Prohibition of abuse of rights and it is stated that nothing from the Convention may be interpreted for performing an activity for the destruction of any right or freedom from the Convention or to be limited to a greater extent than it is provided for in the Convention. Under Article 18 is Limitation on use of restrictions on rights where it is stated that the restriction which is permitted with the Convention cannot be applied for any purpose other than for which they have been prescribed (European Convention on Human Rights, p.15).

Having in mind that all counties around the world had claimed a state of emergency at some point, implementation of movement restriction for defending public health was a legal option in the fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Restriction on movement was implemented in all western European countries, but not in all by curfew.

III. RESTRICTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The first case of coronavirus in Slovenia was confirmed on the 4th of March 2020.¹

On the 10th of March 2020 Slovenian government banned incoming flights from Italy, South Korea, Iran and China and the land border with Italy was closed for all but freight transport.²

In the next days, public transport was stopped, all unnecessary services were suspended; restaurants, bars and educational institutions were closed down.³

Slovenian government decided to issue its first decree of General restrictions of gathering at public places and movement of people on the 19th of March 2020. There were exceptions from the restrictions like: going out for work-related activities, individuals were allowed to leave their homes for public parks and areas for walking, public places, but with precautions such as keeping a safe distance. Also were allowed to go out in case of emergencies to health, life and property, to help and care for people in need of support and to shop while shops were open. Going to a stroll in the city was not allowed.⁴ These restrictions were described in Article 3 in the decree. Ten days later, the government issued a more restricted decree which restricted the movement of people only on the area of the municipality of residence -one address only. The movement restriction was also announced via an SMS sent to all phones in the country notifying the people of the prohibition of public gatherings.

According to the information given by the Head of the division of the Slovenian Police and Security Directorate from the Ministry of the Interior Affairs, in the middle of April Government issued a decree, which allowed individual sports in the open area but only in the municipality of residence. The decree also allowed access to the property at other municipality but with a proper evidence-written statement.

At the end of April, Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansha addressed to the public saying that data from the competent institutions were showing that the number of actively infected people with the coronavirus in Slovenia has decreased to a level that allows the adoption of a plan to

¹ https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-slovenia-idUSKBN20R33X

² https://www.rtvslo.si/zdravje/novi-koronavirus/potrjenih-34-primerov-okuzbe-zadnja-dva-odkrita-v-mariboru/516691

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_Slovenia#cite_note-16

⁴ http://www.sloveniatimes.com/slovenia-enters-lockdown-mode

phase out the restrictions for the foreseeable future⁵, so the restriction - movement on the municipality of residence was lifted. All other restrictions from a decree (Article 3) stayed in power. The fine for violating the restrictions from the decree was starting from 41,73 to 417,29 EUR.

Since the 15th of April supervision was carried out in 11.308 locations in Slovenia. Authorities received 363 reports of violations and detected 1.089 violations by themselves. In doing so, some 700 warnings were issued until the 30th of April.

Police have told the Slovenian press agency that they were patrolling public spaces, warning potential violators and ordering them to abide by law such as by urging them to stand apart and keep a safe distance. Those who were not following the officers' instructions faced a notice for violating the protection of the public order act, or referral to the health inspectorate, which issued fines for movement restriction violations. The police force said that people were mostly following officers' warnings and instructions.⁶

Slovenia had no special restriction on hours for movement of people-curfew. The reason for movement had to be in accordance with the exceptions from the decree - Article 3 and 4.

IV.RESTRICTIONS IN MONTENEGRO

The first cases of corona virus-infected person in Montenegro were reported on the 17th of March 2020, in two female patients who arrived from the US and Spain.⁷

After that, public gatherings were prohibited, borders were closed with some necessary exceptions, educational institutions were suspended, and malls, fitness centres, casinos, disco clubs, bars, night clubs and restaurants were closed and so on.⁸

According to the information from the Head of the Department of Analytics and Promotion of the Police work of Montenegro, the Ministry of Health of Montenegro brought measures for the prevention of the coronavirus in the country starting from 30th of March 2020.

Based on Article 55, paragraph 1, point 3, 4 and 9 of the Law for protection of the citizens from contagious diseases⁹, the Ministry of Health (first proposed by the Institute for Public Health of Montenegro) issued an order for implementing contemporary measures to prevent the spread in the country of the coronavirus. In Article 1 point 1 stands a restriction for leaving the living object of the citizens from Monday to Friday in the period from 07:00 PM to 05:00 AM next day and Saturday from 01:00 PM to Monday at 05:00 AM.¹⁰ During this restriction, people who needed to walk their house pets could walk at public places for a maximum of 60 minutes. Public server workers employed in health institutions, inspections, police forces, armies, fire departments, media, waste disposal, agricultural businesses and so on were excluded from this restriction. These types of workers had to carry a document issued by their employer to prove their status. A few days later Ministry of Health made a slight change in the restriction hours of Article 1 Point 1 but only for the weekends.¹¹ In the next few days followed few more time changes by the Ministry of Health in the previous Article and on the 21st of April 2020, the Ministry of Health issued an Order for contemporary measures for fighting COVID-19 with which the previous Orders (from Official Gazette of Montenegro no. 26/20, 28/20, 31/20 and 34/20) ceased to apply. With this Order, new time restrictions were applied.¹²

⁵ https://www.gov.si/en/news

⁶ https://english.sta.si/2742506/slovenia-enters-lockdown-mode

⁷ https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-montenegro-idUSKBN2143SY

⁸ www.gov.me/en/News/

⁹ Criminal Code: Official Gazette of Montenegro no. 12/18 from 23.02.2018

¹⁰ Official Gazette of Montenegro no. 26/20 from 30.03.2020

¹¹ Official Gazette of Montenegro no. 28/20 from 02.04.2020

¹² Official Gazette of Montenegro no. 35/20 from 21.04.2020

In the Criminal Code of Montenegro in Article 287 named "Failure to comply with health regulations regarding fighting contagious diseases" is stated: "Anyone who does not act by the regulations, decisions, orders or laws by which are determined measures for preventing and fighting dangerous contagious diseases will be punished by fine or with prison sentence to one year".

In Article 302 named "Serious acts against human health" the first two paragraphs are referring to the above-mentioned Article 287 stating that if someone suffers heavily body injury due to offence to a referred article or its health is heavily disturbed, the offender will be punished with prison from one to eight years, and if there is death to one or more persons due to offence to a referred article, the offender will be punished with prison from two to twelve years.

Police officials had pressed a total of 565 criminal charges for the existence of grounds for suspicion of a committed criminal offence under Article 287 of the Montenegro Criminal Code for breaking the restriction by going out of the home in the time of the restriction against 700 people, until 12.05.2020. All this data were provided by the Head of the Department of Analytics and Promotion of the Police work of Montenegro.

i. Statistics for Montenegro

The total population in Montenegro is $631\ 219$.¹³ Violations of curfew were recorded in 0.111% (700/631219) from the total population in Montenegro with an average daily violation from 14.28 violations/day (700/49) during the 49 days while curfew lasted, or daily 22 violations on one million population. Offenders of self-isolation percentage were 0.089% (565/631219).

V.RESTRICTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The first case of a corona virus-infected person in Serbia was reported on the 6^{th} of March 2020.¹⁴

On the 15th of March 2020, the Serbian government pronounced a state of emergency because of COVID-19¹⁵ and announced that the borders are closing. Serbian citizens who were in other countries and wanted to come back to Serbia were obliged after their entrance to stay isolated for 14 days (28 days if they were coming back from the countries with a high number of corona virus-infected).¹⁶ All educational facilities were closed, public transport was reduced and it was recommended to all employers for which it was possible to organize their work to be executed from home. It was recommended to people over the age of 65 and up to not leave their homes and to all people to go out only if necessary.¹⁷

On the 17th of March 2020 Serbian government brought a decision for restriction of movement - curfew. It was announced that from the next day from 10:00 AM it was prohibited for people on the age of 65 and up to leave their homes. This also was applied to all people from the age of 70 and up in rural environments with a population less than 5000. To all other people, it was announced that the curfew will start from 08:00 PM to 05:00 AM the next day. People going to work and workers going on the third shift were excluded from this restriction.¹⁸ Public gatherings in open and closed space were forbidden. Leaving the homes during these hours was

¹³ https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crna_Gora

¹⁴ https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/30471853.html

¹⁵ Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia no.37 from 19.03.2020

¹⁶ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/451344/srbija-zatvorila-granice-zbog-koronavirusa.php

¹⁷ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/451356/mere-na-osnovu-odluke-o-uvodjenju-vanrednog-stanja.php

¹⁸ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/452130/od-sutra-na-snazi-zabrana-kretanja-za-starije-od-65-godina.php

possible only for health reasons or with possession of a working permit or special approval from authorities. A few days later all restaurants, bars and malls were closed.¹⁹

The curfew was changed only for Sundays for people age 65 and more allowing them to go shopping for groceries that they need but only in specified hours. For that purpose, a list of open stores during those hours was announced that will serve the customers. For all other people curfew was changed only for Saturdays. Parks and public places for sport and recreation were also prohibited.²⁰ People with house pets were allowed to walk their pets in a determinate time in an area close to their home.²¹ In the next few days, the curfew time frame was changed again. In April work of all businesses involving physical contact (beauty salons, hair and barber shops, fitness clubs, gym's etc) casino's and betting stores were closed.²²

Few changes to the curfew time frame followed and later considering the holiday 1st of May, the curfew was longer to prevent people to gather and celebrate the holiday.²³

On the 6th of May 2020, the state of emergency was lifted.²⁴

During the state of emergency, violations were recorded on curfew and self-isolation measure and criminal offences were recorded also.

For the criminal offence "Failure to act by health regulations during an epidemic" in the Serbian Criminal Code is predicted fine or prison to three years.²⁵ In Serbia were issued fines, house arrest, custody and prison.²⁶

For misdemeanour "Breaking the restriction for movement" if there are no difficult consequences, fine or prison to one year is predicted.²⁷ Most often sentence was the lowest fine of 50.000 Serbian dinars.²⁸

Table 1 represents the total number of violations divided into the age category of citizens (citizens above 65 years as violators and others) and the total number of people in self-isolation and violation of that measure. All these data are from proclaiming the state of emergency on 15.03.2020 to 30.04.2020 when the data was received. The curfew violations during the 1st of May holiday are not taken into this time frame because of the lack of those data.

SERBIA 15.03-30.04.2020			
Offenders aged 65 and	1100		
up			
Offenders aged 18-65	6000		
-			
People in mandatory	100 000		
self-isolation			
Offenders of self-	844		
isolation			
Offenders of curfew	6256		

Table 1 – Violations on curfew and self-isolation in the defined period of time in Serbia

¹⁹ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/453126/danas-zatvaranje-kafica-restorana-i-trznih-centara.php

²⁰ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/453303/vlada-poostrila-mere-u-borbi-protiv-koronavirusa.php

²¹ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/453477/od-danas-zabrana-kretanja-u-srbiji-od-17-do-5-casova-ujutru.php

²² https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/456383/zabrana-rada-objekata-i-delatnosti-koje-podrazumevaju-blizak-fizicki-kontakt.php

²³ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/462039/zabrana-kretanja-za-prvomajske-praznike-od-30-aprila-do-4-maja.php

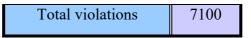
²⁴ Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia no.65 from 06.05.2020

²⁵ Criminal Code: Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia no.72 from 03.09.2009

²⁶ www.mup.rs/wps/portal/sr/aktuelno/saopstenja

²⁷ https://www.rts.rs/page/stories/sr/Коронавирус/story/3134/koronavirus-u-srbiji/3901408/srbija-vanredno-stanje-koronavirus-zabrana-kretanja.html

²⁸ www.mup.rs/wps/portal/sr/aktuelno/saopstenja



According to the Ministry of Interior Affairs from pronouncing the state of emergency to 30.04.2020 about 7100 people had violated the safety measures. More than 1000 people of this number were on the age of 65 and up and other 6000 were other adults. In mandatory self-isolation were approximately 100 000 people and 844 had violated that measure.²⁹

i. Statistics for Serbia

The total population number in Serbia is 6 945.³⁰ Curfew violations were recorded in 0.101% (7000/6945235) from the total population number in Serbia with average daily violations from 137.2 violations /day (7000/51) during the 51 days while prohibition lasted, or daily 20 violations on a one million population.

Curfew offenders by age group were: age from 18 to 65 = 85.71% (6000/7000) and age above 65 was 15.71% (1100/7000).

We set the null hypothesis H₀(1): There is no difference in the offenders of curfew by the age group of the population in Serbia. According to the results from the Chi-squared test (P < 0.0001, $\chi^2 = 6860.893$, difference = 70.0%, 95% CI = 68.790% to 71.156%) where P < 0.05 we reject this hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant statistical difference in the percentage of the curfew offenders according to the age group of the population in Serbia.

VI.RESTRICTIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND REPUBLIKA SRPSKA

Bosnia and Herzegovina consisted of two autonomous entities: Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation and Republika Srpska.

The first case of a corona virus-infected person was confirmed on the 5th of March 2020.³¹On the 21st of March 2020, the Government of the Federation established a curfew on the territory of the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina from 06:00 PM to 05:00 AM the next day. That lasted for one week when curfew was shortened to 08:00 PM to 05:00 AM the next day with instructions for the people to use protective equipment and keep a safe distance as recommended from the World Health Organization when in public. The fine for breaking the movement restriction was about 250 EUR.³²

In Republika Srpska, also on 21st of March 2020, the Republic's Headquarters for emergencies brought a Conclusion for restriction and prohibition of movement of the people on the territory of the Republika Srpska - curfew. With that Conclusion, the movement of people over the age of 65 and up was limited, in a way that they could not go out at any time and movement to all others was limited until 08:00 PM. From 08:00 PM to 05:00 AM the next day, movement to all people was prohibited. One week later the curfew was even on the whole territory of the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. The curfew was not applied to health workers while at work, people that need emergency help, members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs when at work and other members to agencies for law enforcement and organizations with public authorities on a mission. Also, excluded from this restriction were people who had document issued by their employer about the necessity of continuity to work and people to whom the Ministry of Internal Affairs had issued a permit for movement.

²⁹ https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/462717/mere-propisane-tokom-vanrednog-stanja-krsilo-7100-gradjana.php

³⁰ https://www.stat.gov.rs/sr-latn/oblasti/stanovnistvo/procene-stanovnistva

³¹ https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/30469735.html

³² https://www.bbc.com/serbian/lat/balkan-52274888

In the next few days, the Republic Headquarters with Conclusion made few changes in the time frame of curfew for people aged 65 and up, and for the Easter holidays, 1st of May holiday and for St.George's day the curfew time frame was changed again to more hours to prevent the people to gather and celebrate.

The police officials of Republika Srpska from 21.03.2020 to 11.05.2020 evidenced a total of 3565 violations of Article 22 of the Law of Public order and peace and in correlation with the curfew and self-isolation measure. Also, there were recorded 31 criminal acts against the health of the people, one case of transmitting an infectious disease and 30 cases of failing to comply with health regulations in the time of the epidemic.³³

Table 2 presents the total number of violations divided into the age category of citizens (citizens above 65 years as offenders and offenders aged 18-65) and offender of self-isolation measure. All these data are from 21.03.2020 to 11.05.2020 when the data was received.

Table 2 - Violations on curfew and self-isolation in the defined period of time in Republika Srpska

R.SRPSKA 21.03-11.05.2020			
Offenders aged 65 and up	382		
Offenders aged 18-65	2921		
Offenders of curfew	3303		
Offenders of self-isolation	94		
Total violations	3565		

During that period, 382 people of age 65 and up were committing the violation on movement during curfew while lasted for the whole day every day; 2450 people of all the other ages violated the curfew while it was from 10:00 PM to 05:00 AM the next day; 471 people violated the curfew during the weekends when it was prohibited to move outside the place of residence; 184 people violated the restriction for not grouping more than three people on public places; 77 people violated restriction for self-isolation and 17 people violated the restriction for self-isolation during curfew.

All this data were provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska, Office for Public relations. All data for Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina was taken from the cited internet sources.

I. Statistics for Republika Srpska

The total population in Republika Srpska is 1 218 107.³⁴ Curfew violations were recorded in 0.272% (3320/1218107) from the total number of the population in Republika Srpska, with average daily violations from 75.45 violations/day (3320/44) during the 44 days while prohibition lasted, or daily 62 violations on one million population. The percentage of the offender of the citizens in self-isolation was 0.008% (94/1218107). Offenders of curfew by age group were: age 18 – 65 =87.98% (2921/3320) and age > 65 = 11.51% (382/3320).

We are setting the null hypothesis H₀ (2): there is no difference in the percentage of curfew offenders by the age group of the population in Republika Srpska. According to the results from the Chi-square test (P < 0.0001, χ^2 = 3882.363, difference = 76.47%, 95% CI = 74.857%

³³ https://www.blic.rs/vesti/republika-srpska/korona-ceh-za-nepostivanje-mera-gradani-srpske-kaznjeni-sa-11-milion-evra/lfjevkx

³⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republika Srpska#cite note-bhas.ba-3

to 77.956%) where P < 0.05 we reject the set hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant statistical difference in the percentage of the offenders by age group of the population in Republika Srpska.

VII.RESTRICTIONS IN CROATIA

The first case of corona infection in Croatia was reported on the 25th of February 2020.³⁵ The Croatian government started with recommendations for their citizens to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 by minimizing the time outside of the home, keeping distance from other people and other precautionary measures which were recommended by the WHO (World Health Organization). Entrance in Croatia from other countries was possible, but with the mandatory quarantine of 14 days upon the arrival. Some borders were closed. Recommendation to all employers was also made, if possible to organize their work to be executed from home.³⁶ On the 19th of March 2020, the Croatian government brought a decision for the next 30 days for closing all cultural institutions, restaurants, bars, cinemas, hairdressers, fitness centres, beauty salons, gyms and all other businesses that are including close physical contact and are not of prime signification. Schools were closed in some areas sooner and in some later. Social gatherings were also restricted to a maximum of 5 people. Two days later public transport was reduced and a decision was brought to limit the walks in public places. A decision was made to restrict the movement by which it was banned to leave the place of residence. An exception was made for workers who must attend to their work duties, health emergencies etc. E-passes were obliged to people in need to go out. On the 20th of April, the restriction on movement outside the place of residence was lifted for some areas.³⁷

Restriction on a movement called curfew was not implemented in Croatia.

In Croatian Criminal Code under the chapter "Transmission of Contagious Diseases" is Article 180 wherein Paragraph 1 it is stated that "Whoever fails to comply with regulations or directions by which the competent state authority orders examinations, disinfection, quarantine or other measures for the suppression or prevention of a contagious disease and where consequently the danger of the spreading of a contagious disease occurs shall be punished by imprisonment to two years."³⁸

For violating the restriction on movement a fine is predicted and for violating mandatory isolation or self-isolation is predicted a fine or a prison sentence. The fines were 8000 Croatian kuna with a warning, and if the person is still violating the fine can be from 30000 kuna to 120000 kuna.³⁹

VIII.RESTRICTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The first case of corona infection was confirmed on the 26th of February 2020.⁴⁰ The Ministry of Health recommended the people follow the precaution measures (from the World Health Organization) to prevent the spreading of COVID-19. The Ministry also

³⁵ https://civilna-zastita.gov.hr/vijesti/priopcenje-za-medije-stozera-civilne-zastite-republike-hrvatske-od-25-veljace-2020/2184

³⁶ https://mup.gov.hr/vijesti

³⁷ https://civilna-zastita.gov.hr/

³⁸ Criminal Code: The Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia "Narodne novine" No. 110 of October 21, 1997, Amendments and Supplements "Narodne novine" br. 125/11, 144/12.

³⁹ https://www.glas-slavonije.hr/427989/1/Stozer-Ako-gradjani-ne-budu-disciplinirani-mjere-ce-biti-jos-rigoroznije

⁴⁰ http://zdravstvo.gov.mk/category/soopshtenija/page/14/

recommended all public gatherings and events to be cancelled and sports activities to be held without public presence.

On the 10th of March 2020, the Ministry of Health informed about the next preventive measures issued by the government: suspending the work of all educational institutions, prohibiting public events, sports games with public presence and travelling with bus or van to or from North Macedonia internationally, mandatory self-isolation (later state quarantine) for all entering the Republic of North Macedonia travelling from countries with high or medium risk from COVID-19 and recommendation for the elderly and people suffering chronic diseases to lower their time outside and if possible to avoid public transportation etc.⁴¹

In the next few days, the government decided to first cut down the working hours of the restaurants, bars, casinos and sports betting shops, and then to entirely forbid the work of all restaurants, bars, casinos sports bet shops, malls, cinemas, theatres and other institutions. Entering into North Macedonia if arriving from the countries with high risks (later from all countries) was prohibited.⁴²

On the 13th of March 2020, the government proclaimed a state of emergency and restriction of movement in some municipalities where the number of infected people was higher. In the next day's gathering of more than 5 people on public places was prohibited, it was recommended to all employers to organize their work from home where possible and airports were closed.

On the 21st of March 2020 curfew started in the whole territory of North Macedonia and it was from 09:00 PM to 06:00 AM and in the next few days, this restriction was corrected few times. For the people under the age of 67 and up curfew was from 11:00 AM to 05:00 AM the next day and for children under the age of 18, it was from 09:00 PM to 12:00 AM the next day. Excluded from the restriction were officials who had to perform their work continually (police, health staff, agricultural workers, people in need of emergency issues etc.) for what they had to own a document issued by their employer. The government decided to change again curfew duration for the Easter holidays⁴³ and for the holiday of 1st of May. ⁴⁴ All parks, picnic areas, recreation areas in national parks and forests, as well as the weekend settlements during the period of the restriction and special regime of movement for the forthcoming holiday, we're closed. At the end of April, the curfew duration was lossened. The restriction was equalized for all people a few days later for all ages. From the 27th of May 2020, the Decision for restriction and special movement restriction for the people on the territory of North Macedonia was lifted.⁴⁵

In the Criminal Code under the 21st Chapter "Offences against the health of the people" is Article 205 "Transmission of infectious disease" where it is stated that one who breaks the regulations or orders issued by the authority for determining examination, disinfection, separation of ill people or some other measures for fighting or preventing the spread of infectious diseases in people and by that causes transfer of infectious disease will be punished with fines or prison to three years and if it is done with negligence will be punished with fines or prison to 6 months. If the transferred disease is incurable the punishment is from one to ten years of prison. Contempt is punishable. The object of protection here is the body and the life of the people through the form of preserving the health of people during an epidemic. The main point in this Article is the transfer of an epidemic disease violating the regulations or orders issued by the government to protect the people's health. This article implies not just to all the people as citizens but also to the people working as doctors and medical personal.

⁴¹ http://zdravstvo.gov.mk/category/soopshtenija/page/13/

⁴² https://vlada.mk/node/20489

⁴³ https://vlada.mk/covid19#measures

⁴⁴ https://vlada.mk/node/21206

⁴⁵ zdravstvo.gov.mk/

Under the same chapter is Article 206 "Failure to comply with the health regulations during the epidemic" which is stated that one who in time of epidemic or other dangerous infectious disease fails to follow the regulations or orders by which are determined measures for fighting or preventing will be punished with fine or prison to one year. The incrimination here is the jeopardizing the health of the people and the failure to comply with the orders and regulations that the government had issued to protect the people from the contagious disease is punishable. This implies to diseases that are confirmed to be a source of an epidemic, as in this particular case it is the COVID-19. So, this means that when people were violating the order for self-isolation, isolation, exiting outside in the curfew hours, grouping in public places etc, they violated Article 206, Paragraph 1. Violation of Article 206 Paragraph 2 is when a legal entity violates the order issued by the government for protecting the people's health during an epidemic, in the example the restaurants, bars, hotels and coffee shops giving their services during the restriction for work, night clubs opening during an epidemic etc.⁴⁶

According to the data from the Ministry of internal affairs about the activities of the internal affairs sectors in implementing government decisions and measures about COVID 19, for the total period from 26.02.2020 to 23.06.2020 were the following outcomes presented in Tables 3 to 6.

Table 3 present violations of curfew in the territory of North Macedonia through its whole duration from 22.03.2020 when it started to 27.05.2020 when it was lifted. The violations are presented in numbers and separated by groups of the offender's age – under 18, from 18 to 67 and above 67.

In Table 4 are presented the types and numbers of actions taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs officials regarding the curfew violations in North Macedonia from 22.03.2020 to 27.05.2020.

Table 4 – Actions are taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding curfew violations in North Macedonia from 22.03 - 27.05.2020

N.MACEDONIA 22.03-				
27.05.2020 CURFEW				
VIOLATIONS				
Age under 18	329			
Age 18-67	4989			
Age above 67	93			
Curfew violations	5411			

⁴⁶ Criminal code: Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia nos. 37/1996, 80/1999, 4/2002, 43/2003, 19/2004, 81/2005, 60/2006, 73/2006, 7/2008, 139/2008, 114/2009, 51/2011, 135/2011, 185/2011, 142/2012, 166/2012, 55/2013, 82/2013, 14/2014, 27/2014, 28/2014, 41/2014, 115/2014, 132/2014, 160/2014, 199/2014, 196/2015, 226/2015, 97/2017 and 248/2018.

ACTIONS FOR CURFEW VIOLATIONS IN N.MACEDONIA FROM 22.03 - 27.05.2020			
Custody 3627			
Warnings	399		
Personal data taken	1385		
Criminal charges	3272		
Criminal acts	3031		
Against perpetrators	4288		

Regarding the prohibition on movement curfew which was implemented on 22.03.2020 and stayed in force until 27.05.2020 with periodical three-day quarantine, 5411 people disobeyed the curfew (329 were under the age of 18, 4989 were from 18-67 years of age and 93 people were above the age of 67). From this total number, 3627 were taken into custody, 399 were warned and 1385 people personal data were taken. As a result of all that, 3272 criminal charges were raised for 3031 criminal acts against 4288 perpetrators. Almost all charges were regarding Article 206 of the Criminal Code. Against 96 people have raised misdemeanour charges and to the Primary Public Prosecutors were filed 297 notifications.

In Table 5 are presented the numbers for mandatory state quarantine, isolation and selfisolation and the violations against them.

Table 5 – Number of state quarantine, isolation, self-isolation and violations against them in North Macedonia in the specified period of time

N.MACEDONIA 26.02-23.06.2020 QUARANTINE, ISOLATION AND SELF-ISOLATION VIOLATIONS			
People in state quarantine	7596		
People in isolation	17770		
People in self-isolation	14278		
Isolation controls made	117267		
Self-isolation controls made	125190		
Violations on state quarantine	23		
Violations of isolation	69		
Violations of self-isolation	204		

In Table 6 are presented the types and numbers of actions taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs officials regarding the isolation and self-isolation violations in North Macedonia from 22.03.2020 to 27.05.2020.

Table 6 – Actions are taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding isolation and self-isolation violations in North Macedonia from 22.03 - 27.05.2020

ACTIONS FOR ISOLATION, SELF-ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE VIOLATIONS IN N.MACEDONIA FROM 22.03-27.05.2020				
Criminal charges 139				
Criminal acts	170			
Against perpetrators	182			
Misdemeanour charges	19			
Against offenders	19			
State quarantine criminal charges	23			
State quarantine criminal acts	27			
State quarantine perpetrators	30			

Regarding the measures for self-isolation and isolation from their implementation on 26.02.2020 to 23.06.2020, the total number of people in isolation was 17770 and in self-isolation were 14278 people. The number of people under this measure active on 23.06.2020 was 6501 for isolation and 2721 people for self-isolation. A total of 117267 controls were made by the police officials in people in isolation and 125190 controls in people in self-isolation. Police had found that 69 people had violated the isolation and 204 people had violated self-isolation. According to all that, during the above mentioned period of time 139 criminal charges were issued for 170 criminal acts against 182 perpetrators and 19 misdemeanour charges against 19 offenders. Here also the vast number of criminal charges was about violating Article 206 from the Criminal Code.

With the measure for State quarantine total of 7596 people were covered and on 23.06.2020 this measure was active for 399 people. For breaking this measure 23 criminal charges were raised for 27 recorded criminal acts perpetrated by 30 perpetrators.

Regarding the controls of the hospitality establishments and other objects where the Ministry of internal affairs is authorized to implement this measure together with inspection officials during the above mentioned period of time were made 25282 controls and it was found that in 163 objects the measures were violated so there were 27 criminal charges raised against 38 perpetrators from which 41 were natural and 13 were legal persons – companies.

Regarding the activities of the Computer Crime sector and Digital Forensics and in the context of the COVID-19 measures, there were 58 events recorded for which they have taken actions and 2 criminal charges were raised for 3 criminal acts perpetrated by two perpetrators using social networks and 33 notifications to the Primary Public Prosecutors were sent.

Regarding the measure "Wearing protective equipment" (protective face mask) from its implementation on 22.04.2020 to 23.06.2020 when this data was collected (this measure is still in force) or more precisely from 01.05.2020 when the part for sanctioning was on the force, there were 20327 violations of this measure by 20325 people and 940 were only warned.

i. Statistics for North Macedonia

The total population number in North Macedonia is 2 067 471.⁴⁷ Curfew violations were recorded in 0.262% (5411/2067471) from the total population in North Macedonia with an average daily violation from 80.8 violations per day (5411/67) during 67 days while curfew lasted or daily 39 violations on one million inhabitants.

Curfew offenders by age were: age < 18 = 6.08% (329/5411); age 18-67 = 92.20% (4989/5411) and age > 67 = 1.72% (93/5411).

We are setting the null hypothesis H_0 (3): There are no differences in percentages of curfew offenders according to the age structure of the population in North Macedonia. According to the results from ANOVA (Analysis of Variance): F = 7232.5345, F crit = 3.3158 and P = $5.48 \cdot 10^{-41}$ because the calculated value of F is much greater than the critical (theoretical value F crit), F > F crit and by P < 0.05, this hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant statistical difference in the percentage of the curfew offenders according to the age structure of the population in North Macedonia.

From the citizens that were in mandatory isolation, 0.39% (69/17700) had perpetrated violation on their prohibition and from the citizens in self-isolation 2.06% (294/14278) had violated the prohibition.

Citizens in self-isolation showed statistically significant difference in discipline from citizens in mandatory isolation during their prohibition (P < 0.0001, $\chi^2 = 196.3$, difference = 1.67%, 95% CI = 1.427% to 1.929%). There is a statistically significant difference in the discipline in citizens isolated by will and those in mandatory isolation.

IX.DISCUSSION

Considering all this information and data it is visible that from the researched Balkan countries the first case of Corona infected person was in Croatia (25.02.2020), next in North Macedonia (26.02.2020), then in Slovenia (04.03.2020), Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska (05.03.2020), Serbia (06.03.2020) and Monte Negro (17.03.2020). All of these countries first partially closed their borders and restricted entering into their countries with mandatory quarantine after the entrance from the countries with high and medium risk. They all also closed educational facilities, restaurants, bars, night clubs, casinos, fitness centres, gyms and all businesses that are providing hospitality, socializing, physical contact etc. All public gatherings were banned and sports activities were first played with no public presence and then totally shut down. In all these countries movement was restricted with some difference: in Croatia and Slovenia the movement restriction was not so tightened as in other countries, during the restriction people were banned to move outside their place of residence. In Croatia, the restriction on movement lasted a little less than a month and in Slovenia lasted a little more than a month. The fine in Slovenia was from 41 to 417 euro.

From the other countries of this research, Serbia was first to implement a curfew, four days later Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and North Macedonia implemented the curfew and nine days after them Monte Negro implemented a curfew. The state of curfew lasted 67 days in North Macedonia which lifted that restriction last, 51 days in Serbia which lifted that restriction second, 49 days in Monte Negro which lifted that restriction third and 44 days in Bosnia and Herzegovina which lifted that restriction first.

In North Macedonia, during the 67 days (from 22.03.2020 to 27.05.2020) of movement restriction in pre-determined hours - curfew (mostly from 07:00 PM to 05:00 AM, except for weekends and some holidays when it was longer) 5411 people had violated this measure. From 26.02.2020 to 23.06.2020 in isolation were 17.770 people from which 69 had violated the isolation, 14.278 people were in self-isolation from which 294 violated the self-isolation. One

⁴⁷ http://www.stat.gov.mk/publikacii/2.4.15.10.pdf

hundred sixty-three violations were recorded by restaurants and hospitality establishments providing their services while there was a restriction for working.

In Serbia, during the 51 days of curfew movement restriction was mostly from 08:00 PM to 05:00 AM except for weekends and some holidays when it was longer. From 16.03.2020 to 30.04.2020 when the data was received about 7100 people have violated the safety measures, and from 100.000 people in self-isolation, 844 violated that measure.

In Montenegro, during the 49 days of curfew movement restriction was mostly from 07:00 PM to 05:00 AM except for weekends and some holidays when it was longer. From 30.03.2020 to 12.05.2020 when the data was received 1265 people were violating the restrictions (curfew 700 violations and Self-isolation 565 violations).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, during the 44 days of curfew movement restriction was mostly from 08:00 PM to 05:00 AM except for weekends and some holidays when it was longer. In Republika Srpska from 21.03.2020 to 11.05.2020 when the data was received, 3565 violations were made. Three thousand three hundred and twenty violations on curfew, 94 self-isolation violations and the rest is for other violations on failing to comply with health regulations during an epidemic.

All these information and data are presented in Table 7 and Table 8 followed next.

Country	SLOVENI A	CROATIA	SERBIA	BiH/R S	N.MACEDO NIA	MONTE NEGRO
Measures	Restriction on movement	Restriction on movement	Curfew	Curfew	Curfew	Curfew
Order of curfew implemen tation	/	/	1st	2nd	2nd	Last
Order of lifting curfew	/	/	2nd	1st	Last	3rd
Curfew duration	/	/	51 days	44 days	67 days	49 days
Total violations	/	/	7100	3565	5937	1265

Table 7 - implemented measures by country, duration of curfew and total violations number

In Table 7 are presented the measures implemented by these Balkan countries governments and the order of their implementation and lifting as "the first", "the second", "the third" and "the last" country that implemented the curfew inside their countries and the total number of violations of the measures during the above mentioned period of time (from the start of the implementation of the measures to the date of the received data). The total number of violations contains total violations for movement restriction-curfew, self-isolation and other violations on failing to comply with health regulations during an epidemic.

Country	Country Serbia H		N.Macedonia	Montenegro
Curfew violations	6256	3320	5411	700
Self-isolation violations	844	94	294	565

Table 8 - violations on curfew and self-isolation measure by country

In Table 8 are presented violations against movement restriction-curfew and self-isolation violations during the above mentioned period of time (from the start of the implementation of the measures to the date of the received data). The data in this table in the column of BiH/RS contains data only for Republika Srpska.

For getting statistical data we used statistical software SPSS for Windows version 24.0 (IBM Corp. Released 2016. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 24.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp). The descriptive analysis of the results was presented with numbers (N) and per cent (%), appropriate chart figure and tables. A confirming or rejecting of the set hypothesis was made by ANOVA (Analysis of variance) and Nonparametric rank's analysis with Kruskal-Wallis H-test, independence from the character and distribution of the data. The significance of the differences between the groups was calculated by the Chi-squared test (χ^2). Statistical significance of the differences and the threshold for confirmation or rejection of the set hypothesis was set with the value of P < 0.05.

We are setting the null hypothesis $H_0(4)$: there is no difference in the percentage of curfew offenders between offenders in the four states: North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Republika Srpska.

According to the difference in the percentage representation of the number of offenders comparing with a total number of population in a certain state (0.262%, 0.101%, 0.111% and 0.272%, for each state respectively) and by the results from the gotten ranks (H statistic is 17.8571, P = 0.00047) where P < 0.05, we reject the set hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant statistical difference in the percentage of the offenders by their state affiliation.

We are setting the null hypothesis H_0 (5): there is no difference in the number of curfew offenders on daily basis between the four states: North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Republika Srpska.

According to the difference in the numerical representation of the curfew offenders daily (80.8, 137.2, 14.28 and 75.45 for each state respectively) and by the results gotten from the ranks (H statistic = 32.8378, P < 0.00001) where P < 0.05 we reject the set hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant statistical difference in the number of offenders at a daily basis by their state affiliation.

We are setting the null hypothesis H_0 (6): there is no difference in the percentage of curfew offenders among the offenders in the age group of < 67 (65) between the three states: North Macedonia, Serbia and Republika Srpska.

According to the gotten ranks (H statistic = 20.48, P = 0.00004), where P < 0.05 we reject the set hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant statistical difference between the curfew offenders on age < 67 (65) in the three states.

We are setting the null hypothesis $H_0(7)$: there is no difference in the percentage of curfew offenders among the offenders in age group > 67 (65) between the three states: North Macedonia, Serbia and Republika Srpska.

According to the gotten ranks (H statistic = 17.8182, P = 0.00014), where P < 0.05, we reject the set hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant statistical difference among the offenders on age > 67 (65) in the three states.

In Figure 1 violations per country are presented just to have a visual picture of the percentage and number of violations explained above. The blue chart named "Offenders/population" presents the percentage of offenders who perpetrated violations compared to the population number of each country. The red chart named "Offenders daily basis" presents the number of offenders daily gotten by statistic calculations.

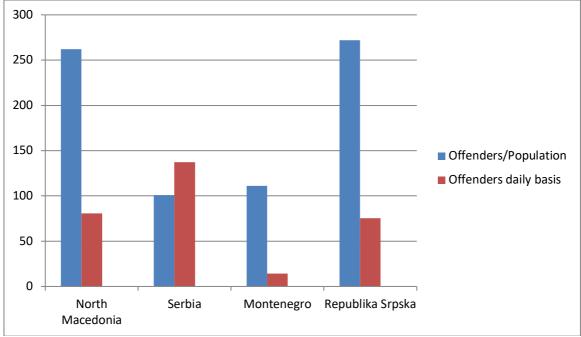


Figure 1 – visual presentation of the intensity of violations in North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Republika Srpska

Here it can be easily noticed that if observing through the total population of each country and the number of offenders, Republika Srpska and North Macedonia are having the highest percentage of violations so they demonstrate the greatest number of people that are not disciplined and are violating the restrictions. But, if observing through the average daily number of offenders per country, having in mind that in each state the number of days the curfew lasted was different, it is visible that Serbia and North Macedonia are demonstrating the greatest number of curfew violations.

X.CONCLUSION

Looking through the collected information and data from the researched Balkan countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, it is visible that in most of them their governments decided to implement the most strict measure for fighting COVID-19 restricting the freedom of movement called curfew. Those countries are: Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. Slovenia and Croatia went with restriction on movement for their citizens limiting only the area of their movement to the place of their residence. The essence of the curfew is to restrict the movement of people in a certain time frame during which going outside is a violation and it is punishable. During this time police officers were patrolling the streets and only people with health emergency were allowed to go out to seek for help. Also, few categories of people were allowed to exit their homes but only if they own a document permit allowing them to move outside at a specific time. Because the elderly were the category of people at the highest risk that needed to be protected from the coronavirus infection, their movement was limited most of the time during the curfew. Children under the age of 18 were also defined as a category of high risk because of their nature to socialize more and by that to be a risk for the others in transferring the virus, so their movement was also mostly limited. Curfew restriction applied to all people. This restriction was mostly obeyed but there were a number of recorded violations of the same in every country. The highest number of violations was in Serbia and North Macedonia and lowest in Montenegro. The time frame of the collected data is not equal in all countries so there is variance between the data, having in mind that the data from North Macedonia are in longest time frame.

Self-isolation was mandatory for everyone potential to be a carrier of the coronavirus whether it was someone arriving from another country or someone who was in close contact with an infected person. From the presented data it is visible that this measure was mostly violated in Serbia and Montenegro and less in Republika Srpska.

The total number of violations was highest in Serbia and North Macedonia and lowest in Montenegro.

The duration of the curfew was different in each state. By the statistical method, we calculated the significance of the differences in the number and percentage of curfew violations per country. It can be concluded that the highest number of curfew offenders when calculating compared to total population number in each state was found to be in Republika Srpska, second in North Macedonia, third Montenegro and last Serbia. However, considering the number of curfew violation number on an average daily basis (divided by the days while curfew lasted) it was found that the highest number of curfew violations was in Serbia, second North Macedonia, third Republika Srpska and last Montenegro. By all this, it can be concluded that people in Serbia and North Macedonia had the lowest discipline in following the regulations on curfew.

There is a significant difference in the number (percentage) of the curfew offenders by their age structure in the population in North Macedonia, the smallest is in population on age < 18 and greatest at the age group of 18 - 67 (65). There is a significant statistical difference in the discipline at people in self-isolation and people in mandatory isolation in North Macedonia in favour of mandatory isolated people over the people in self-isolation (people in mandatory isolation showed greater discipline in respecting the prohibition unlike the people in self-isolation).

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