

WAITRO



WORLD
ASSOCIATION OF
INDUSTRIAL &
TECHNOLOGICAL
RESEARCH
ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 REPORT

Insights from WAITRO member organizations



Introductory Remarks

COVID-19 has been impacting the daily lives of millions of people around the globe over the past months. As the largest global network of research organizations, WAITRO member organizations are harnessing their expertise and knowledge to help combat the fight against the pandemic. This report gives an overview of WAITRO's response to COVID-19 and insights into the impact of the pandemic on research organizations.

Executive Summary

WAITRO'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- 97% of WAITRO member organizations are actively supporting the worldwide efforts to combat COVID-19. The actions are versatile and reach from developing confinement exit strategies over producing facemasks, detergents, and hand sanitizers to providing support in testing and diagnosis.
- To provide the public and private sector with access to important research outcomes and technologies, the WAITRO Secretariat launched an open access add-on to SALRA. The new Open Access Hub facilitates a structured distribution of research, technologies, insights, and best practices on COVID-19, moderated by a panel of expert reviewers from WAITRO member organizations.
- The WAITRO Secretariat is responding to the needs of its organizations and is facilitating various Online Capacity Development workshops.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

- An estimated 40% of WAITRO members are not able to work remotely. Poor internet connection, missing equipment and missing digital infrastructure are the top 3 barriers for working remotely within a WAITRO organization.
- 52% of WAITRO members estimate the long-term impact of COVID-19 on collaborative research and innovation to be positive.
- 63% of WAITRO members estimate the long-term impact of COVID-19 on the role of frugal innovation to be positive.
- 73% of WAITRO members estimate the long-term impact of COVID-19 on the importance of knowledge and technology transfer to be positive.



WAITRO'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19*

An overview of various actions taken by WAITRO member organizations in response to COVID-19.

Facemask, Detergent & Hand Sanitizers



Adaptation



Testing & Diagnosis



Digital communications



Confinement exit strategy



Confinement Management



Analysis of contagion trends



Impact modelling of (de-) confinement scenarios



Ventilators & Respirators



Restarting the economy



Logistics



Medical supplies



Treatments



Data tracking & modelling



Triage Solutions



Vaccines



Telemedicine



Preparation for a second wave



Open Access Hub to fight COVID-19

WAITRO strongly believes in the importance of collaborative innovation in international research – especially in times like these. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WAITRO and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft jointly developed an open innovation portal to pool competences and create visibility of and access to them. On the SAIRA® Open Access Hub, researchers can publish their technologies, insights, findings and best practices related to COVID-19 and make them publicly accessible. The Open Access Hub is an add-on feature to the existing Open Innovation Portal of SAIRA®.

The SAIRA® Open Access Hub aims to make a significant contribution to combating economic and health damage and to enable the targeted transfer of technological solutions against COVID-19, especially to emerging and developing countries. The goal is to offer a showcase platform for research, research results and developed technologies around COVID-19 and its consequences in the broadest sense. SAIRA is working with an international network of experts to ensure the quality of the publications uploaded on the platform.

Do you have research or a technological development around COVID-19 you would like to share with the world? Then the SAIRA® Open Access Hub might be exactly what you have been looking for. It is publicly accessible – everyone can browse the submissions and directly contact the authors in case of collaboration potential. Therefore, the Open Access Hub increases researchers' visibility and might connect them with valuable partners and stakeholders.

To view existing publications or submit your own go to:
<https://saira.eco/open-access-covid-19/>

Capacity Development

WAITRO aims at strengthening the capacities of its organizations and individual members and enabling them to be more responsive to global challenges and market needs – especially in times of COVID-19.

In response, WAITRO has facilitated various on-site workshops in the past to enhance its members' expertise in research organization related fields. Due to COVID-19, bringing people together from around the world on-site is irresponsible and WAITRO decided to temporarily refrain from facilitating on-site workshops. Nevertheless, WAITRO will continue to provide Capacity Development workshops for its members in an online format. This is in response to various requests from members to offer more online activities based on their needs.

WAITRO is continuously working together with experts in order to provide research organization related Capacity Development workshops for its members. Also, WAITRO has a vast pool of experts within its member organizations. WAITRO invites members to take this opportunity to share their expertise with the WAITRO community and beyond by facilitating Capacity Development workshops. WAITRO will provide technical and financial support for these.

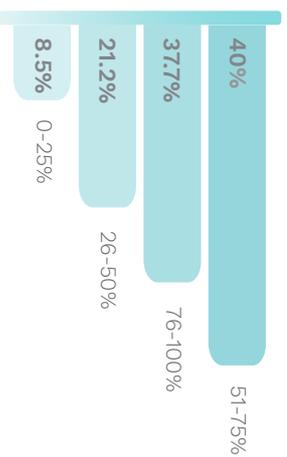
To see which Capacity Development workshops are currently on offer have a look here: <https://www.waitro.org/capacity-development/>

If you are interested in facilitating a research organization related Capacity Development workshop with the help of WAITRO's financial and technical support have a look here: <https://www.waitro.org/online-activities/>



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS*

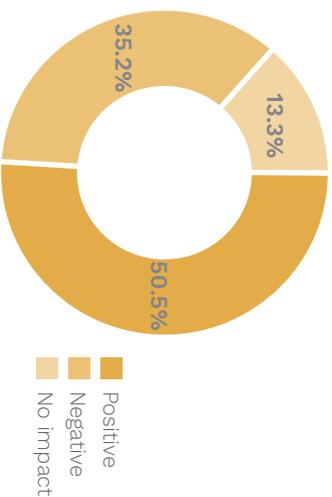
How many colleagues do you estimate have the possibility to work remotely? Please select the most adequate range:



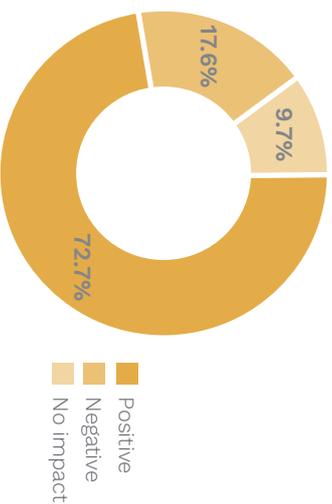
What do you think is the greatest barrier for working remotely within your organization?



How would you estimate the long-term impact of the current COVID-19 crisis on collaborative research and collaboration?



How would you estimate the long-term impact of the current COVID-19 crisis on the importance of knowledge and technology transfer?

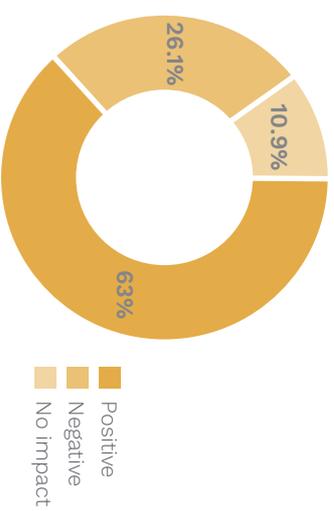


"The long term impact could change our lifestyle, daily activities, working culture and different approach of business strategy."

"Opportunities to enter into new segments e.g. testing of face mask is also available."

"Economically a disaster but a chance to build resilience and change to a more sustainable, flexible system."

How would you estimate the long-term impact of the current COVID-19 crisis on the role of frugal innovation?



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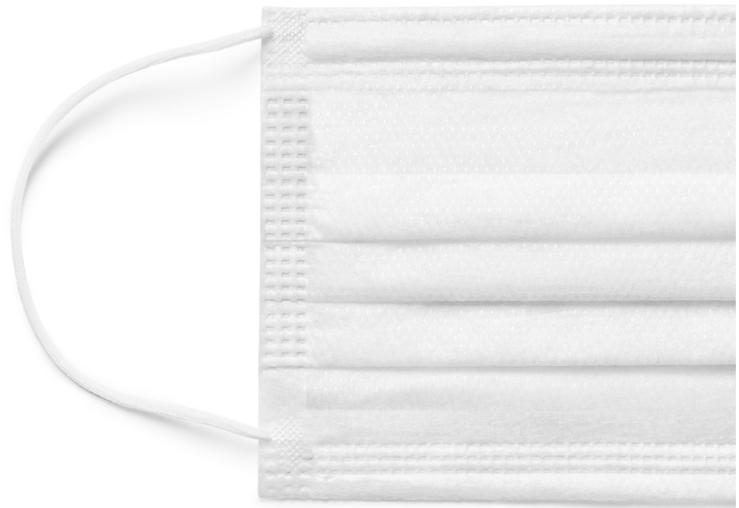
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Editors: Jerome Harrison, Dominik Reinertz

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* The data and facts in this report were obtained from a survey conducted by the WAITRO Secretariat. 172 people from over 50 WAITRO research organizations participated in the survey between the 27th April and 30th May 2020.



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