COVID-19 Case Study 2021

The European Business Registry Association (EBRA), together with our peer organizations International Association of Commercial Administrators (IACA), Corporate Registers Forum (CRF) and ASORLAC, sought member feedback on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on business registries. The response period was open from 8 March to 16 April 2021. We hereby present the received responses from our member jurisdictions.

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Belgium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
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**COVID-19 in your country**

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on daily life (lockdowns, limited social life...) and the economy (lower revenue in almost all the economic sectors, shrinking economy...).

**Impact of COVID-19 on workload and operations**

Remote work became mandatory for our staff (exceptions for essential tasks, such as server maintenance, etc.). We saw an increase in the e-mails and phone calls to our Helpdesk after support measures were taken to help businesses that were impacted by COVID-19. Application for support measures required correct data in the register.

**Impact of COVID-19 on development projects and strategy**

Most projects were delayed, because meetings could not take place (remote work was not suitable, people were unavailable...).

**COVID-19 and companies**

Companies which had not registered for online sale or take-away activities received an exception (activity could be exercised without prior registration). Annual meetings can be held online even when statutes do not foresee the possibility. These are examples of some measures taken.

**The “New Normal”**

The pandemic has once again made it clear that digital/online procedures are indispensable. "Paper formalities" must become exceptions, and processes have to be automated where possible.