

Strengthening capacities to respond to the COVID-19 crisis

The health emergency that has led to the spread of the COVID-19 virus worldwide has necessitated the adoption of measures of all kinds to combat the wave of contagion and its spread to mitigate its serious economic and social effects.

In order to maintain health security as a priority, the Govern de les Illes Balears has made a huge public effort to strengthen essential services, including the protection measures related to the health response that has involved, among other actions, the recruitment of personnel, the purchase of protective equipment in international markets under high demand and the redesign of care systems and the multiplication of efforts to carry out COVID diagnostic tests and limit contagion to both healthcare personnel and the general public.

To respond to the public health crisis in the health care services of the Balearic Islands, the ERDF 2014-2020 Operational Programme finances health expenditure linked to the fight against the disease. This operation was approved under the European Coronavirus Response Initiative (CRII and CRI+), which has involved *the* mobilisation of immediate financial support from the Structural Funds to address the most urgent needs of Member States with the maximum flexibility possible.

In particular, the co-financed action corresponds to the contracts made by the Balearic Islands Health Service (IB-SALUT), a public body attached to the Conselleria of Health and Consumer Affairs of the Balearic Islands for the purchase of health equipment to protect health personnel and the sick and prevent contagion. In particular, the material purchased was as follows: Individual Protection Equipment (EPIS: masks, gloves, covers shoes, gowns, overalls and personal screens), material for carrying out diagnostic tests, as well as the costs of transporting material to the Balearic Islands.



The total eligible cost of actions related to the strengthening of COVID-19 crisis response capacities in the Balearic Islands is **EUR 74.943.010** of which EUR 44.161.188 comes from the ERDF and EUR 30.781.822 from the Recovery Assistance Instrument for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU).

Thanks to the contribution of the ERDF funds of the European Union, a total of **468 respirators and 4,841 medical devices and instruments** have been purchased to support the treatment of patients and to cope more safely with the COVID-19 pandemic, including those needed to increase the **testing capacity to diagnose**, the refrigeration infrastructure of the vaccine, in addition to more than **56 million personal protective equipment (PPEs)**.

The following are the arguments that make this project a good practice, in accordance with the criteria defined for this purpose.

Criterion 1. High dissemination between beneficiaries and the public.

The project has a high degree of dissemination of the contribution of European funds to the development of this action, both among potential beneficiaries and among the public, and has been widely disseminated through the various information and publicity measures developed. Among the **mandatory measures** that have been carried out in accordance with European legislation, the following should be noted:

During **the procurement procedures**, the EU's contribution to the co-financing of the action has been highlighted through the publication in the Official State Gazette (BOE) of a notice expressly informing this.

On the **IB SALUT website**, a specific section for the European Funds has been created which includes information on the various actions co-financed by the ERDF, including the corresponding logos.



Once the action is completed and to comply with the regulations on the information and communication measures established in the European legislation, the corresponding commemorative **permanent plaque**, with the dimensions and the regulatory logos, have been placed at the entrance to the premises of the network of public hospitals of the Balearic Islands (Son Llàtzer, Son Espases, Can Misses, Inca Hospital and Formentera Hospital) in a place visible to the public.



On the other hand, **other actions and measures** in the field of communication and information have been carried out to strengthen and give greater visibility to the European Union's co-financing of the action, including the following:

News and press releases on the purchase of equipment have been published in various media, both online and on paper. Multiple press releases have also been published on the website of the Govern de les Illes Balears, which explicitly mention EU funding.

El IbSalut destina 16,6 millones a compra de emergencia de material sanitario frente al COVID-19



Boletín de Gestión del Conocimiento
Sistema Sanitario Público de las Illes Balears
Un servicio de ibsalut

FORMACIÓN INVESTIGACIÓN GESTIÓN SANITARIA SALUD PÚBLICA FARMACIA

CA ES

Categorías: COVID-19, Promoción de la salud y prevención de la enfermedad, Epidemiología

Contratación de emergencia del IB-Salut por 5,8 millones

17 MARZO 2021 / VISTO: 242

Por otro lado, se incluye la contratación, por parte de la **Gerencia de Atención Primaria** de Mallorca, de un servicio extraordinario de refuerzo de limpieza y desinfección en las instalaciones del Hospital Son Dureta y en el centro de Inca donde se hacen pruebas para detectar la **COVID-19**. El importe es de 78.000 €.

Hay que destacar que todas estas contrataciones se financian a través del **Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER)** de las Illes Balears autorizado por la **Comisión Europea**. Esta redistribución de las ayudas europeas se enmarca en la decisión de la **Unión Europea** de flexibilizar el uso de los fondos de cohesión para reforzar los sistemas sanitarios y la capacidad de respuesta ante la crisis sanitaria.

LAVANGUARDIA

ESPAÑA

Salud realiza contrataciones de emergencia por 4,1 millones debido a la pandemia

• La Conselleria de Salut y Consumo ha realizado contrataciones de emergencia de suministro y servicios a cargo del IBSalut por un valor de 4.103.484 euros para hacer frente a la pandemia de la COVID-19.

Costa ha destacado que todas estas contrataciones se financian mediante el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER) de Baleares autorizado por la Comisión Europea. Esta redistribución de las ayudas europeas se enmarca en la decisión de la Unión Europea de flexibilizar el uso de los fondos de cohesión para reforzar los sistemas sanitarios y la capacidad de respuesta ante la crisis sanitaria.



Consell de Govern
Conselleria de Salut i Consum

Actualitat informativa del dia: 26/02/2021

COVID-19: CONSELL DE GOVERN:
S'INFORMA EL CONSELL DE GOVERN DE DIVERSES CONTRACTACIONS D'EMERGÈNCIA A CÀRREC DEL SERVEI DE SALUT PER 4,4 MILIONS

Destaca la compra d'EPIs i la contractació de serveis d'assistència a l'Agrupación Médica Balear i l'Hospital de Muro

Aquestes contractacions es financen a través del Fons Europeu de Desenvolupament Regional (FEDER)

In addition, on 17 November 2021, a thorough **briefing on 'the EU response to the health crisis and its socio-economic consequences'** was organised by videoconference, with the participation of representatives of the European Commission, the General State Administration and the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands. More than 100 attendees were made aware of the contribution of the ERDF and REACT-EU in strengthening the coronavirus response capacity in the Islands.

Information on these actions and on EU financial support in their implementation has been published in issue 10 of the **Butlletí de Fons Europeus de les Illes Balears** published by the Directorate-General for European Funds in its edition of DECEMBER 2020.

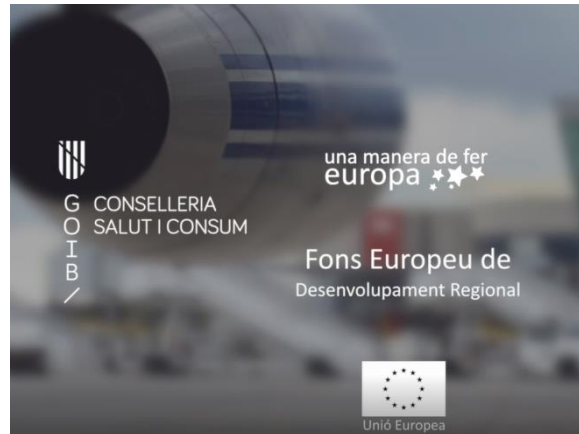


LA UNIÓN EUROPEA AUTORITZA AL GOVERN DE LES ILLES BALEARS DESTINAR 65 MILIONS D'EUROS A AFRONTAR LA CRISI SANITÀRIA

This action has also been disseminated through the **system of mapping projects co-financed** with ERDF and ESF funds of Directorate-General for European Funds, located on its website

(http://www.caib.es/sites/fonseuropeus/ca/portada_2016/?campa=yes). This online application, which is accessible to anyone, allows viewing, not only the geographical location of the investment, but also offers systematised data of the investment made.

In addition, a short-lived **video** for the public has been edited, providing information on the arrival of the material and the cost of the operation. It is available for viewing in this link: http://www.caib.es/sites/fonseuropeus/ca/arxiu_multimedia/



Criterion 2. Incorporation of innovative elements.

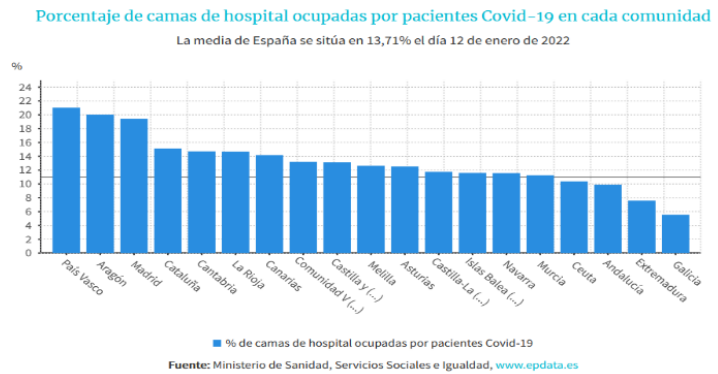
The speed with which action has been taken to take exceptional measures to limit the spread and spread of COVID-19 and the rapid and vigorous response given as a unique innovative factor.



Indeed, the adoption of the European Investment Initiative in response to coronavirus, coupled with the financial support provided by REACT-EU, has made it possible to combat the pandemic more effectively, avoiding a further spread of the virus among citizens.

In addition, the focus of the coronavirus strategy by Primary Care in the Balearic Islands should be highlighted. This has made it possible for 90 % of patients infected during the pandemic to have gone through these services in suspected cases, diagnosis, initial phase, referral or follow-up and quarantine of close contacts. Through telephone care, home visits and out-of-hospital emergencies, it has been possible to contain the avalanche of patients who would otherwise have reached hospitals.

This has contributed to the fact that the hospital pressure generated by patients admitted to COVID-19 in hospitals in the Balearic Islands has been comparatively lower than many other Spanish regions.

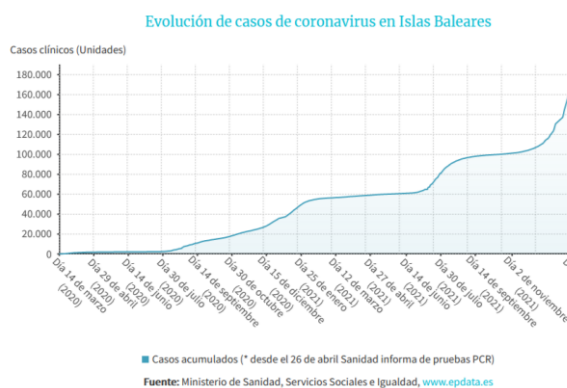


Other innovative elements relate to the adoption of new, more effective practices to address the problem of protecting professionals who have been on the front line against the virus. Thus, different videos have been edited by IB-SALUT to explain to the health personnel how to put protective equipment properly and thus avoid a greater number of contagions.



Finally, the Directorate-General for Public Health and Participation has launched a web space to provide up-to-date information on COVID-19 coronavirus in the Balearic Islands: <http://www.caib.es/sites/coronavirus/es/portada/>

Criterion 3. Alignment of the results achieved with the stated objectives



All the measures taken in response to COVID-19, from the use of EPIs to the improvement of the necessary medical devices and instruments, have helped to contain the contagion and death curve in the Balearic Islands, to provide better health care to infected people and to reach the disease control phase.

The strategy of the Balearic society to respond to the health challenge and the resulting economic and social effects has initially focused on protection, first against the virus and its spread, and immediately thereafter, against the effects of a stop in economic activity that has threatened the survival of thousands of businesses and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Although up to January 2022, the number of cases confirmed by PCR in the Balearic Islands has been 170,054, the results obtained have made it possible to give a more effective response to the fight against COVID-19, achieving the objective of ensuring safety and health care during the pandemic. In addition, the Balearic Islands have presented a fatality rate (number of deaths per thousand infected per covid-19) of 6.22 the second minor in Spain, which has an average of 11.21.

Criterion 4. Contribution to the resolution of a regional problem or weakness.

The evolution of the pandemic in the Balearic Islands has shown serious difficulties in bending the contagion curve. This has led to the need to strengthen containment measures with significant mobility restrictions, closure of catering activities and limitation of meetings to prevent the spread of the virus, maintaining these efforts for a long period of time to ensure safety and adequate health care.



The Balearic Islands have been the region of Spain where the economic impact of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been most intense. The fall in GDP in 2020 was 21 %, almost double that in Spain as a whole.

The expansion of the epidemic has abruptly altered the evolution of the Balearic economy, with a particularly pronounced decline in activity and employment, due to its intense specialisation in the service sector and high dependence on the tourism sector. The advance of the virus has also exacerbated inequality and poverty among the most fragile sectors of society.

Thanks to the implementation of these preventive measures, as well as the effectiveness of the administration of vaccines to monitor health developments, the recovery rate of the Balearic economy has been more intense than in the major European economies.

Criterion 5. High degree of coverage of the target population.

All the professionals who have acted in the front line against the pandemic exposed to the contagion, such as those of the Health Service of the Balearic Islands and other groups belonging to healthcare services, have benefited directly from the action as they have been provided with personal protective equipment for the prevention of infection to comply with the containment measures to stop contagion and the spread of the pandemic.

This measure has made it possible to ensure the protection of 100 % of health and health workers (attached to residences) of the Balearic Islands, which amounts to a total of 35,513 and 7,148 persons, respectively.

Although anyone at any age can get COVID-19 and present a serious picture or die, this action has especially benefited those groups who are at higher risk of contagion: people over 60 years of age and those with underlying medical conditions, such as high blood pressure, heart or lung problems, diabetes, obesity, or cancer, who are at increased risk for serious conditions. People living or working in closed institutions are also considered more vulnerable, with special attention to older persons living in residential homes.

Criterion 6. Consideration of horizontal criteria for equal opportunities and environmental sustainability.

The inclusion of the criterion of equal opportunities in this action is justified by the fact that women represent 66 % of health workers in Spain, up to 84 % in the case of nurses and are the majority in sectors of hospital cleaning services and residences.



All of them form a set of essential and essential feminised professions, which are at the front line of response to the disease, and it is therefore essential to use appropriate protective measures to be able to carry out the tasks related to the health response to the crisis.



It should also be noted that various awareness campaigns have been carried out on the importance of placing masks and gloves after use in waste bins or waste containers, with the aim of raising public awareness of the importance of throwing away the material derived from the COVID-19. These campaigns have helped to halt the increase in the volume of health waste generated by Covid and which jeopardises the management of waste collection and treatment systems.

Criterion 7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments.

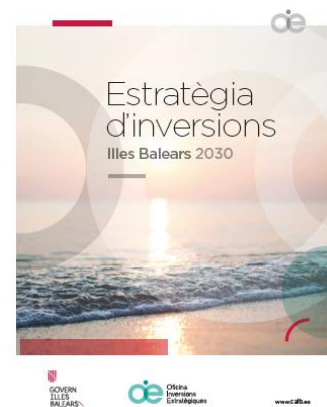
The implementation by the Govern de les Illes Balears of *Basic Safety and Prevention Measures Plan — use of mask*, hand hygiene, maintenance of interpersonal distances, ventilation of enclosed spaces — of a general nature and application, as well as a series of measures

applicable to certain sectors of activity at higher risk depending on the declared level of health alert for each island. The determinations of the level of health alert regularly carried out are those that determine the effective set of prevention and protection measures against the transmission of COVID-19 set out in the Plan and which are always applicable on each island.



In addition, the **Pact for the Reactivation and Economic and Social Diversification of the Balearic Islands**, a precedent agreed in July 2020 between the Govern de les Illes Balears and the main economic, social, and political actors to overcome the health crisis and boost recovery and move towards a more inclusive and sustainable model, includes protection measures to combat the pandemic, as well as other measures aimed at ensuring health security.

In turn, it should be noted that this action is linked to the ‘Balearic Investment Strategy 2030’, which details the actions that are considered essential to move towards the future with the support of European Funds in the context of the health crisis and the serious socio-economic effects caused.



In this context, Strategy E04 “Resilience of the socio-health system” stimulates actions to strengthen the response capacity of the health system to such situations.