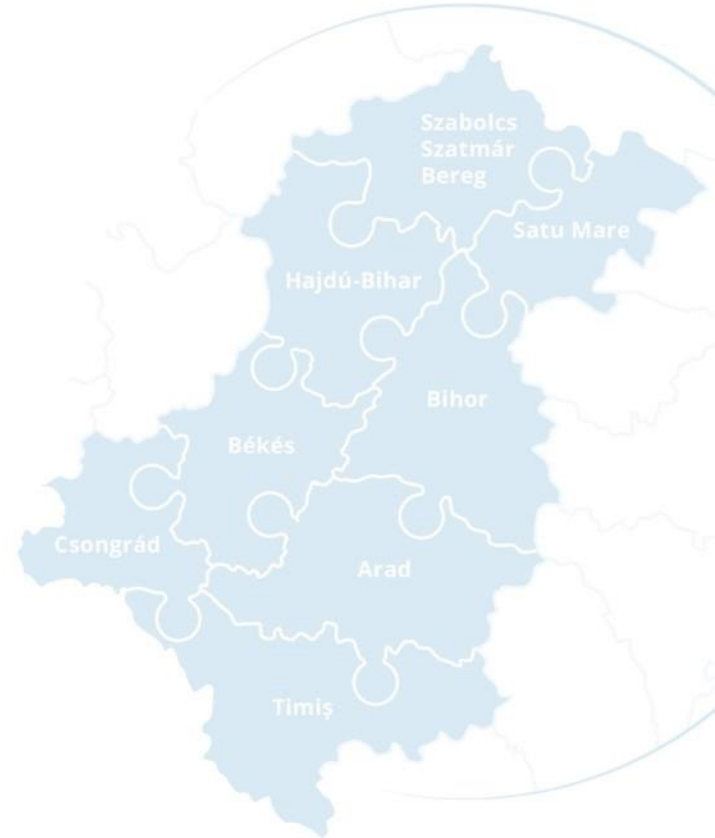


COVID-19

What lessons can we apply to battle climate change?

COVID-19

Ce lecții putem aplica pentru a lupta împotriva schimbărilor climatice?

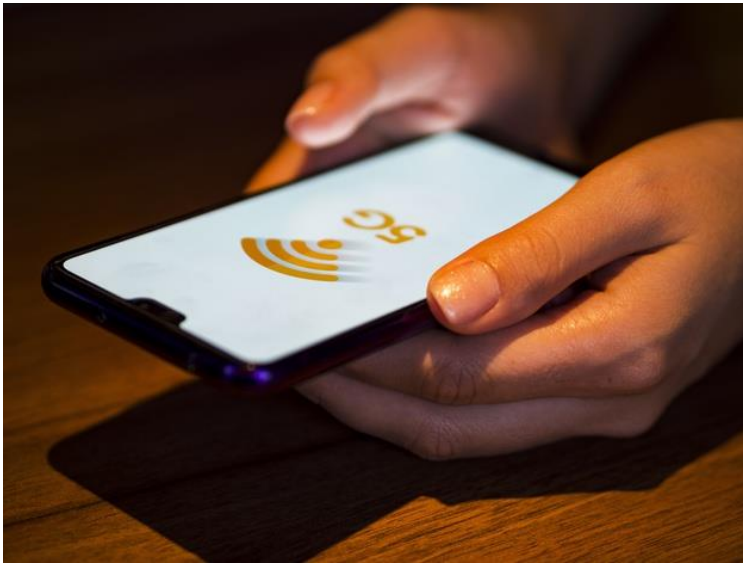


What is COVID-19?

- COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new coronavirus that has not been previously found in humans. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are found in both animals and humans



1. Install fibre-optic broadband and 5G



Many people now know it's possible to work from home and hold meetings virtually - but fast and reliable broadband and mobile phone services make that far easier.



2. Reserve more space for pedestrians and cyclists

- Switching more road space to non-motorised travel could help hold onto the cleaner air many cities have enjoyed during lockdowns and encourage more people to abandon petrol or diesel cars for healthier alternatives, officials say.



3. Install electric-vehicle charging networks

A switch to electric vehicles is already underway, but easy access to charging stations is needed to make it happen faster. Now is the time to invest in getting that network in place, say officials including the UK's Stark.

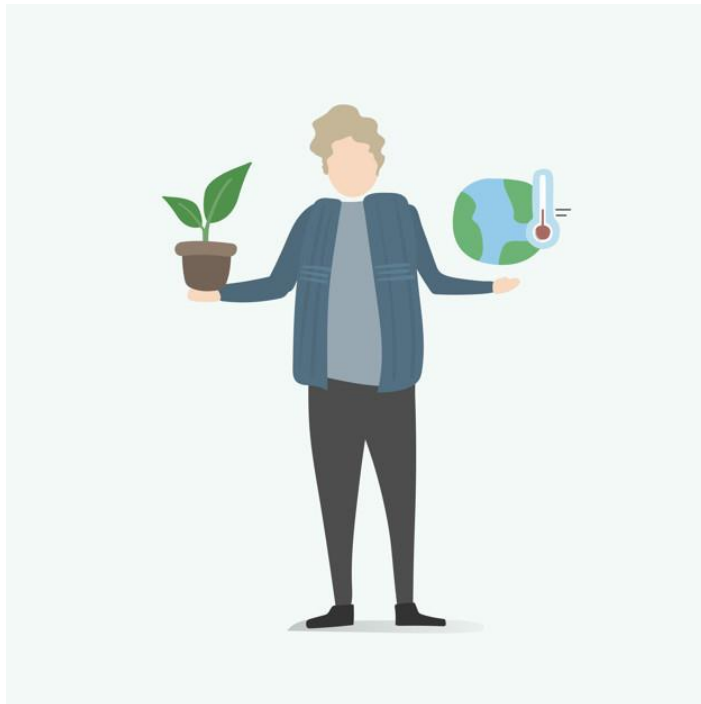


4. Expand cleaner public transport

- As governments mull where to spend economic stimulus funding, using low-interest borrowing to buy electric buses or make public transport more effective and efficient could be a good way to get people out of cars - and maintain at least some of the air-quality improvements seen during virus lockdowns.



5. Plant more trees



Pakistan is paying more than 63,000 out-of-work labourers to plant tree saplings as part of a broader "10 Billion Tree Tsunami" push to rebuild depleted forests, battle climate change and provide a virus-era income to its poor.





Interreg

Romania-Hungary

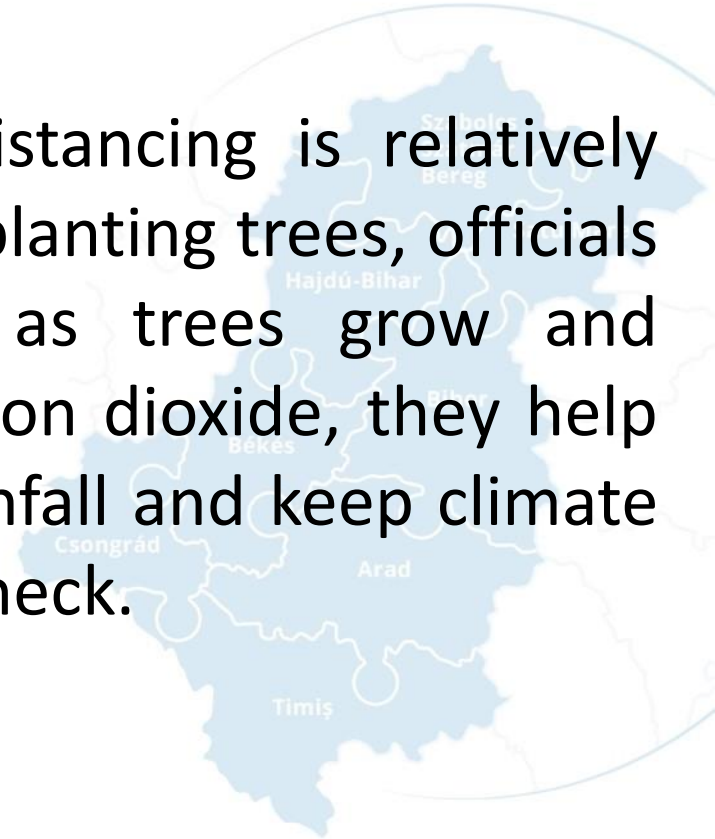
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION



Social distancing is relatively easy while planting trees, officials note, and as trees grow and absorb carbon dioxide, they help stabilise rainfall and keep climate change in check.



Partnership for a better future

www.interreg-rohu.eu

6. Keep working from home

- During COVID19 shutdowns, some office-based employees have discovered they can work effectively at home.
- Putting policies in place to encourage that to continue after the crisis, where possible, could hold down emissions from commuting, better maintain social distancing and ease pressure on overloaded public transport systems, experts say.



7. Plan for virtual meetings

- Virtual meetings can work, we have learned, even if they aren't always as satisfying or effective as gathering in person.





With the necessary technology now tested and proven, companies, governments and other groups committed to reducing emissions could commit now to holding a percentage of their future events and discussions online.



Sources

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