

Diary from Quarantine - 39 – Restart does not mean “Everyone Out”

April 27

Sara Brzuszkiewicz

Yesterday night, like three or four times before, Italians gathered in front of TV to listen to Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in his press conference.

This time he illustrated the main points of so-called Phase 2: what we are allowed to do and what we are not, which businesses will reopen and which businesses will not.

My first impression is that the new system is extremely intricate and my second impression is that this intricateness is somehow unavoidable: we were hit right after China, we were the outpost of the spread in the entire West, and now we have to improvise since we do not have countries around us to take inspiration from to copy the management of this coming phase.

As we were expecting – and I hope my fellow Italians understood – restarting will not be “Everyone Out!”

Starting from May 4th, here is what will change for us:

Movements will be allowed within the same region. For instance, I will be able to move within Lombardy.

The form to self-certify the reasons of the movement will remain mandatory and we will be able to meet only close relatives (parents, siblings, children), with the mask and without big gatherings.

The factories belonging to the so-called strategic sectors will reopen.

Parks and gardens will reopen – with entrances of small numbers of people at a time – and outdoor sports will be allowed provided that we maintain 2 meters distance from others.

Schools will remain closed until September.

Means of transports will allow onboard only half of their capacity and it will be forbidden to stand, whereas on planes masks and gloves will be mandatory and social distancing will have to be respected.

Finally, people will be able to celebrate funerals for their beloved ones, albeit with a maximum number of 15 people.

I look forward to telling you how it will go and, most importantly, if entering phase 2 is too premature and if this will cause a new increase in infections. As of now, we can only hope not to regret any decision.