**What is the best way for the country to open up again?**

The handling of the COVID-19 pandemic is probably the most important political subject for most of the world today. All countries have and are approaching the pandemic differently. Throughout the pandemic a plethora of restrictions have been set up to keep the virus at bay, with the most important restriction being the quarantine.

But as we have been in this restricted state for a few months and the virus is starting to wear off, the government needs to shrug off some of these restrictions in order to keep the country functioning properly. This brings up the important question: „What is the best and safest way to open up and go back to normal?”

In my opinion, all of the decision making behind this should stem from the data amassed throughout the pandemic, meaning that when a country doesn´t have enough information from the time spent restricted it probably won´t open up properly.

The first obstacle to opening up is the timing. A badly timed lifting of restrictions can easily negate the progress already done and bring a second wave upon the population. To figure out a good time to do this the authorities need to have a significant amount of data concerning various fields, for example travel, economy, state of other nearby countries, state of the virus regionally and quite certainly many others.

What I believe has the biggest impact on when to open up is the state of our economy as it is one of the most hindered by the restrictions resulting from the pandemic. In my opinion, the economic stagnation will and should be the catalyst for opening up.

The second on the list after the when is the how or in other words what format should the opening up be initiated in. The most important factor in this question is the containment of the virus. The restrictions will most certainly still be needed to some degree when the catalyst for opening up kicks in, meaning that the best way to lift them is gradually.

The gradual type of lifting the restrictions is the best system, because it creates a safe, controllable and natural way of returning to normal, which doesn´t hinder the progress done before, when constructed carefully and taking into account the related data.

As I see it, if a second wave should appear after opening up the country, the essential experience of the first wave should be enough for the country to learn from and handle the second one better. In conclusion, I would hope that we will be able to open up properly with the important data in mind, control the damage done to the country and keep us away from a possible ensuing crisis.