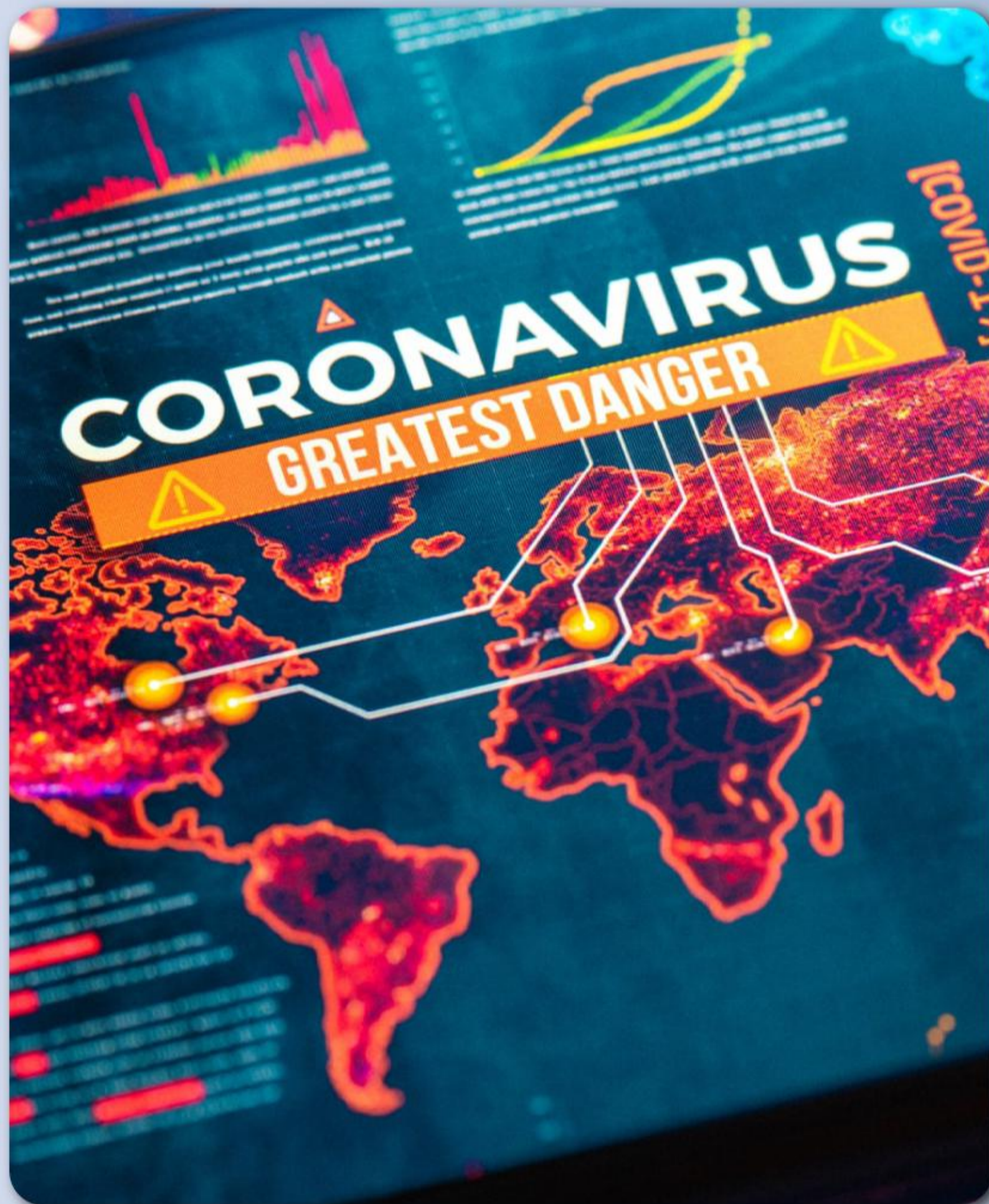


COVID-19 AND CORRUPTION IMPLICATIONS

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS SHED NEW LIGHT ON THE PROBLEM OF INFORMALITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.

THE LOW HEALTHCARE COVERAGE IN THE REGION AND THE INEFFICIENT BUDGET SPENDING IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR RAISES LEGITIMATE EXPECTATIONS FOR FURTHER SCRUTINY, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OBSERVED HIGH CORRUPTION AND STATE CAPTURE RISKS. THERE ARE NUMEROUS CASES INDICATING THAT THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY MEASURES HAVE ALREADY HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.



SPIKE IN UNEMPLOYMENT



PEOPLE SEEKING ALTERNATIVE (UNDECLARED) WORK



ENTERPRISES EMPLOYING UNDECLARED WORKERS



NOT ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM RECOVERY MEASURES AND IPA FUNDS



LACK OF HEALTHCARE COVERAGE OF THE FULLY UNDECLARED WORKERS



POSES A THREAT TO THEIR HEALTH AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

