

# GLOBAL

What's happening around the world? FS East and FS Netherlands are not the only ones who had to cancel their events. Formula Student Online spoke to FS Italy to discover how they are dealing with the current situation.

The impact that COVID-19 had on our society and our lives has been huge and we had to get used to new habits and a new routine quickly. After the necessary cancellation of the majority of 2020 events, we can't exclude the possibility of some adjustments for next year: maybe fewer teams per event, and fewer people directly involved in presence during the competition days, the online shifting for some activities. Anyway, we believe that possible changes could also represent an opportunity to innovate the usual format and will not compromise the educational value and the success of the initiative.

Technically speaking, it is challenging to find the right format to make the students confronting new technological trends - like driverless or the use of alternative fuels, since even the real automotive world is in a transition phase. Speaking about the COVID-19 crisis, the whole world of Formula Student will have to respect the in-force measures to avoid the spread of the virus and there is a lot of uncertainty and unpredictability about this. Another big issue is recovering and safeguarding the original mission of Formula Student, which is to make students "learning by designing" and learning from their mistakes. Sometimes it seems it has been replaced by competing for the positioning in the ranking.

The organizers of the European Formula Student events have helped the teams by deciding not to change the Rules for 2021 edition. In Italy, we also gave the possibility to the 2020 event registered teams to keep their registration for 2021 edition. Moreover, the various organizing bodies are proposing new virtual initiatives to the teams. This is useful to test a new approach to the whole experience both from our side and from the students' side.

Reducing the number of teams accepted per event has been one of the most discussed issues in the last years. Dealing with the current containment measures, we will probably have to consider a lower number of registration slots and this will help us to focus on the quality of the events and the attention given to the young engineers.

An online competition is a good alternative for the students to work on their projects since for many of them it has been almost impossible to work together "physically" on the car, this year. It is in general beneficial learning how to perform best online and how different simulation software work, even if distance simulation of dynamic events also presents some problems (like checking rules compliance). Of course, online events can't entirely replace face-to-face events' advantages. That's why we hope to be back on track in 2021!

Formula SAE Italy,  
Formula Electric Italy  
& Formula Driverless

*Learning by designing!*

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