

## EU Member State Economic Measures in response to COVID-19<sup>1</sup>

On 23 January, the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in Europe. Ireland saw its first confirmed case on 1 March.

Ireland has been quick to act both medically (through social distancing and self-isolation) and economically (the restriction of non-essential services and social welfare support packages). Many other EU member states have also introduced a range of measures in the same manner, placing moratoriums on repayments of personal and business loans, as well as freezes on the payment of a range of taxes and supports for the continuity of business post-crisis.

To date, the aggregate amount of Member States' discretionary fiscal measures amounts to 3% of EU GDP, a threefold increase since 16 March. Furthermore, Member States have so far committed to provide liquidity supports, consisting of public guarantee schemes and deferred tax payment, which are now estimated at 16% of EU GDP, up from 10% on 16 March.<sup>2</sup>

At the European level, the EU Institutions are working to resolve some of the economic impacts. Some measures taken include:

- Eurogroup ministers agreed on a [€500bn emergency rescue package](#) under which Member States can apply for access – under certain conditions – to a total of €240bn being made available under the European Stability Mechanism, the bailout fund created during the eurozone debt crisis.
- [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative](#) will allow the use of €37bn under the cohesion policy. In addition, the scope of the Solidarity Fund was increased to allow the hardest hit member states to get financial support of up to €800m in 2020.
- Re-activation of the [Emergency Support Instrument](#), to provide support of €2.7bn from EU budget resources.
- European Investment Bank has created a [pan-European guarantee fund](#) of €25bn, which could support €200bn of financing for companies with a focus on SMEs.
- €100bn fund called [SURE](#) to keep jobs and businesses running, involving loans to national governments who would provide guarantees to the EU budget.
- Relaxation of [State Aid](#) rules with the introduction of a [Temporary Framework](#) which introduces five categories of measures designed to help member states to support businesses facing a sudden shortage or unavailability of liquidity as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The [European Central Bank](#) (ECB) has announced a €750bn [Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme](#) until the end of the year.
- The [European Parliament](#) approved three urgent proposals: the [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative](#) (€37bn); an extension of the [EU Solidarity Fund](#) (€800m); and a [temporary suspension of EU rules on airport slots](#).

\*The following document is to serve as a policy comparison tool between Ireland's actions and those of other EU member states and will continue to be updated as new measures are announced.

<sup>1</sup> \*The information in the below table is correct as of **14 April 2020**.

\*The table also includes the UK for comparative purposes.

All new information is highlighted in yellow.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/09/report-on-the-comprehensive-economic-policy-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

	Fiscal & Monetary Stimulus Measures	Income Continuance	Tax Forbearance & Rebates	Loans & Grants	Special Measures
Austria	<p>€38 billion package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €10bn towards tax deferrals</li> <li>• €15 billion towards emergency</li> <li>• €4bn for SMEs and Short Time Working. (Part of this fund forms guarantees for family businesses, self-employed and one-to-one enterprises, which amounts to €100m to help bridge liquidity shortages.</li> <li>• €100m for tourism sector</li> <li>• €9bn dedicated for guarantees</li> </ul>	<p>Working hours may be reduced to up to 10%, at 80% to 90% of normal pay for 3-months</p> <p>Employers will only pay the hours worked, the rest will be paid by the state. Since the 10% working time is an average value for 3 months, in reality it means that companies can send their employees on paid holidays for weeks almost free of charge, and in 2.5 months (when the coronavirus situation possibly eases) they can start up operations again.</p> <p>Companies can thus keep their people and then start up again with a full workforce – in theory. The government has currently planned €400 million for this measure and is considering an extension to 6 months.</p>	<p>No stamp tax would be levied on any documents directly or indirectly related to any measures required to deal with the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>The tax relief measures concern tax payments and tax return filings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction regarding income and corporate tax prepayments in 2020</li> <li>• Deferral of tax payments and ability to pay tax in installments</li> <li>• Reduction or relief from late payments of tax</li> <li>• Suspension of tax audits</li> </ul> <p>Relief from interest or late-payment penalties is available for taxpayers that are able to demonstrate that a liquidity issue is linked to the COVID-19 situation.</p> <p>Case-by-case deferrals on VAT.</p>		
Belgium	Initial budget of €1 billion :	Temporary unemployment due to force majeure will be extended by 3 months, until	The Federal State will not impose fines or sanctions on service providers,	Aid scheme intended to top up the existing schemes in order to	Several business associations disseminate the EU call for interest for businesses who

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €100m aid for SMEs, up to 75% of the requested guarantee.</li> </ul>	<p>June 30, 2020. The benefits for temporary unemployment - both for economic reasons and force majeure - will be increased from 65% to 70% for a period of 3 months.</p> <p>Employment Fund pays 80% of normal salaries, subject to a maximum of 250% of the minimum social wage for an unskilled employee, for a maximum of 1,022 hours per employee per year.</p> <p>'Nuisance premium' for traders, catering, small self-employed persons and service providers affected by the virus to partly compensate them for serious income loss.</p> <p><u>At full closure:</u> The entrepreneurs affected by a full closure receive a one-off premium of €4,000 and if they have to close their business after 21 days, a fee of €160 per day. <u>When closing on weekends:</u> For companies that have to close on weekends, there is a one-off premium of €2,000 and if they still have to close their business after 21 days, they receive a fee of €160 per day.</p> <p><u>Restaurants and chip shops that switch to take-away:</u> Restaurants that do not close completely but switch to take-away can still enjoy the Corona nuisance premium. They can</p>	<p>companies or the self-employed for any federal government procurement that is found to be delayed or non-executed due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The Flemish government has postponed property tax for 6 months.</p> <p>Payment plans for social security contributions for the first and second quarters of 2020: the COVID-19 issue will be accepted as a factor allowing for amicable payment terms.</p> <p>It will be possible to spread VAT payments and to be exempt from the usual fines. This is on condition that the debtor demonstrates that the payment difficulties are related to COVID-19.</p> <p>With regard to the withholding tax, it will be possible to spread deposits and to be exempt from the fines.</p> <p>It is possible to request deferment of payment for personal income tax and corporate income tax if the taxpayer can demonstrate difficulties due to covid19.</p>	<p>support those SMEs. The costs admissible under the new scheme of aid will be limited to the documented loss of income. The aid will take the form of a recoverable advance payment.</p> <p>Entrepreneurs who have a loan from microcredit provider Qredits do not have to repay their loan for a period of 6 months. During this period, the interest will be reduced to 2%. The government supports Qredits with €6 million.</p> <p>A temporary provision, available for at least 3 months, will help out viable entrepreneurs and self-employed professionals. They can apply for support in the shape of additional livelihood support and/or a business capital loan.</p> <p>Flemish government have introduced guaranteed bridging loans or existing non-bank debts, up to a maximum of 12 months (previously only up to 3</p>	<p>can/are willing to refocus their production on PPEs. Belgian government has given the green light for certain sectors to convert production on corona-essential products, eg. distilleries can produce alcohol gels</p>
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		<p>receive a one-off premium of €4,000 and after 21 days a daily fee of €160.</p>	<p>If self-employed persons find that their income is less than the amount used as the basis for calculating their contribution, they may request a reduction in the contribution. For social security contributions (for self-employed) for the first two quarters of the year 2020, the one-year extension with no default interest and the exemption from payment of social security contributions is allowed. Again on condition that there is a demonstrable link to COVID-19. Under the same condition, self-employed persons in the main occupation are eligible for the bridging right on the grounds of a compulsory cessation of the activity, if it lasts longer than a week. The financial support amounts to 1,266.37 euros per month without family expenses and 1,582.46 euros with family expenses.</p> <p>Businesses may be eligible to receive early refunds from February's tax filings by April 30.</p>	<p>months). This measure is in addition to the existing guarantee options for investment credits and working capital.</p> <p>Flemish government have announced a one-off premium to businesses to enjoy the crisis guarantee with a reduction granted from 0.5% to 0.25% of the guarantee amount. This premium is available until the end of August 2020 and is now available for existing bank debts (as previously the long standing 'generic' guarantee only covered existing, non-bank debts). Condition of flexibility is at the discretion of the bank and businesses must be viable.</p>	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Bulgarian National Bank, announced a package of	To prevent job losses, the government said it will cover	Deadlines for filing the VAT returns or for paying	Bank Guarantee Fund for loans to SMES	Employers may, without employees' consent, introduce

measures of €4.76bn, which aims at maintaining the resilience of the banking system and enhancing its flexibility to reduce the negative effects of the constraints on citizens and businesses.

60% of the wages for one month of employees in companies with proven impact from the epidemic.

Intention to cover 60% of the gross wage of workers for 3 months in companies which were forced to close down fully or partially by an order from a state body (not yet passed by Parliament)

BGN 1500 for people placed on unpaid leave by their companies, which will be received by commercial banks, but will be guaranteed by the Development Bank

monthly VAT liabilities **will not be adjusted**, but it may be that penalties and interest for late filings or payments could be waived.

Exemption from the “sidewalk right” fee of those traders who have closed their premises during the state of emergency.

The deadline for annual financial statements will be postponed from end-March to end-June.

The deadline for annual tax declarations and tax payments could also be postponed from end-April to a later date.

Public procurement procedures will not be required for the purchase of medical supplies and personal protective equipment, medical and laboratory equipment, as well as for the incineration of medical waste.

affected by the crisis amounting to BGN 1m.

work from home or send employees in paid annual leave for half of the entitled period, which in most cases means 10 days.

The deadlines for payment of electricity bills is extended from 10 to 20 days, which can be changed by order of the Minister of Energy.

Sofia Municipality - Exemption from rent for the period of emergency of those tenants of municipal properties whose sites do not operate.

€10m from Operational programme ‘Human Resource Development’ will be used to give a monthly bonus of BGN 1000 (€500) a month to all medical staff dealing with coronavirus.

Additional BGN 20 million will be given to municipalities to support social services for the sick and elderly living alone.

BGN 500mn – for additional salary expenses in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence because of the increased amount of work.

BGN 600mn which will not enter the budget now due to extension of the deadline for

					payment of taxes by businesses and individuals until the end of June.
<b>Croatia</b>	<p>Second economic relief package announced on 1 April, tailored to entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>The State will cover the minimum wage up to €525, aiming to cover 400,000 workers.</p> <p>Also, the state is going to cover all additional contributions for workers on condition that employers keep them in their jobs. This measure is worth approx. €1.1bn (8.5 billion HRK).</p>	<p>Deferment of income tax, profit tax and contributions on wages for 3 months initially, with the possibility of an extra 3 months grace period after this if necessary. After that these payments can be made in installments of up to 24 months.</p> <p>Those companies that are recording 20-50% lower profits can apply to postpone payment by up to 24 months.</p> <p>VAT payments will be charged only after the invoices will have been charged. However, this measure does not mean there will be VAT exemption.</p>	<p>3 month moratorium on business liabilities and personal loans.</p> <p>Counter-guarantee at a rate of 50% on principal for working capital of tourism loans (interest rate 0.5% -0.75% - 1.0%).</p> <p>Croatian Small Business, Innovation and Investment Agency (HAMAG-BICRO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moratorium on all instalments of ESIF Micro and Small Loans and Micro and Small Rural Development Loans by 31 December 2020 and the extended term / repayment period of the guaranteed loans.</li> <li>• Establishment of a new financial instrument Micro Rural Development Loan for Working Capital (faster processing, grace period, lower interest rate).</li> </ul> <p>Corona loans, i.e. a new financial instrument "COVID-19 loans" will</p>	<p>Banned increase on essential items such as bread, pasta, detergent, disinfectants, PPE equipment, medication, etc. Stated that the price of these goods on 30 January 2020 will remain as the highest possible price</p>

				be established in the amount of HRK 380 million, which will serve small and medium-sized enterprises for working capital, announced the Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, to be implemented by HAMAG-BICRO.	
<b>Cyprus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €450 million will be dedicated to the support of SMEs and private businesses.</li> <li>• €240 million will be dedicated to strengthening liquidity (this does not have a fiscal impact, i.e. it is not increasing the government's deficit) via temporary suspension of VAT payments between 10 of April and 10 of June. It involves companies whose turnover did not exceed €1m according to tax declarations submitted in 2019 or they experienced turnover decreases by more than 25%. Arrangements will be made so that the payments will be paid progressively until November 11, 2020. Plus €70m for possible reduction of the standard</li> </ul>	<p>€10m Small Business Support Scheme for businesses that employ up to 5 people, provided they retain their employees at work and have reduced their turnover by more than 25%. The Plan provides for a subsidy of 70% of employee salaries.</p> <p>A Business Suspension Plan is in place to avoid layoffs and at the same time affected employees will receive an unemployment allowance for as long as the company is suspended.</p>	<p>VAT payments deferred between 10 of April and 10 of June. It involves companies whose turnover did not exceed €1m according to tax declarations submitted in 2019 or they experienced turnover decreases by more than 25%. Arrangements will be made so that the payments will be paid progressively until November 11, 2020.</p> <p>Suspension of the requirement to retain guarantees under public and private contracts for the supply of services or products that will be delayed by the crisis.</p> <p>Postponement of payment of business' annual fee.</p>	<p>All performing business and public loans (capital and interest) will be frozen for nine months (subject to decision on 2 April:) A state guarantee of €2bn for businesses and self-employed. €1.75bn government guarantees for new lending and €0.25bn subsidising interest payments. The first loans are available from the beginning of May 2020. Any losses from these loans will be covered to 70% by the government and to 30% by the banks. The low-interest rate loans will be conditioned by employment terms (no laying-off of personnel)</p>	<p>Reduction of electricity prices by 10% for 3 months.</p> <p>Freezing of foreclosure procedures for three months.</p> <p>The Chamber of Commerce and Industry also opened an account for contributions to the crisis.</p>

	<p>VAT rate from 19% to 17% for two months, and of the reduced rate (from 9% to 7%) for 3 ½ months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €10m Small Business Support Scheme</li> <li>• €110 million for those businesses that currently decided to suspend their operations and for those businesses that continue to operate and suffer a turnover loss of more than 25%.</li> <li>• €11 million for the tourism sector for the period June-September 2020, in cooperation with Airlines and Travel Organizers, as well as actions to enhance initiatives to attract tourists during the period October 2020 - March 2021.</li> </ul>				
<b>Czech Republic</b>		<p>Government to contribute to part of salaries in companies affected by COVID-19). The state will pay 30-80% of wage, depending on the case.</p> <p><u>Targeted employment support program:</u> The period of validity of the Program is provisionally fixed until 30 June 2020, with the possibility of eventual extension. The program can be used to pay a contribution to reimburse employers' eligible</p>	<p>Deferrals on a case-by-case basis until July 1.</p> <p>A general waiver of penalties and default interest in respect of income tax (for tax returns for the 2019 tax period with an original filing deadline of 1 April 2020). Corporations with taxable periods other than the calendar year may not make use of the general waiver and must</p>	<p>The Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank have launched COVID credit applications. Target group are SMEs and self-employed, whose economic activities are limited due to the outbreak of coronavirus infection and related preventive measures. It aims to facilitate access to</p>	<p>New indemnity for self-employed (currently available only for employees with kids below 12 for 10 days) to take care for kids below 13 years of age. For each day of schools closed, they will be entitled to about €17 per day. In case of employees, eligibility period extended from 10 days to total length of school closure.</p>



costs incurred after March 1, 2020.

The aim of the program is to compensate for wage costs, or part thereof, in the form of wage or salary reimbursement due to employees for periods of obstacles to work, caused by quarantine, emergency measures and crisis measures related to the spread of COVID-19 in the Czech Republic and abroad.

**There are several regimes (A – E) depending on the kind of obstacle:**

- Employees in ordered quarantine - wage or salary compensation.
- Inability to assign work to employees in connection with government crisis resolutions.
- Inability to assign work to employees with no ordered quarantine, due to the quarantine of significant portion of employees – 30%.
- If the employee must stay at home to take care of a child younger 13 years because of the schools shutdown. (*was only up to 10 years before*)
- Limited availability of inputs for continuing the company operations caused by the COVID-19 situation. Including missing inputs from foreign suppliers.
- Reduction in demand for employer's services, goods and

apply for a waiver separately.

Waiver of penalties for the late payment of tax, and penalties for the late filing of returns in respect of all taxes (to be determined on a case-by-case basis).

Waiver of default interest for the late payment of tax (including prepayments).

General waiver of penalties for the late filing of value added tax (VAT) ledger statements.

General waiver of administrative fees.

In addition to the tax relief measures, there are also other procedural options that may enhance cash-flow, such as:

- Application for the release from an obligation to pay corporate income tax prepayments: If a decline in income is expected, it is possible to apply for the cancellation of a duty to pay tax prepayments, covering also a prepayment payable on 16 March

operational financing for these businesses through

**interest-free loans.**

The range is €18,000 to €540,000.

Entrepreneurs will be eligible to use it for example, to pay employees' salaries, energy costs, rent, to finance supplies, to pay supplier-customer invoices, to pre-finance receivables, etc.

**CMZRB also provides Guarantee** for commercial loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (for companies, not self-employed).

other products as a result of quarantine measures at the employer's point of sale (Czech Republic and abroad) or otherwise causally related to COVID-19.

- that has already been paid.
- Application for tax deferment (in form of a postponement of the tax due date or the division of tax into instalments): The tax administrator can allow the deferment of a specific tax liability amount (such as VAT or income tax). It is appropriate to file the application together with the tax liability calculation or the relevant tax return. The tax relief package then allows for the waiver of interest on the deferred sum.
- Extension of the deadline for filing corporate income tax returns (including fiscal years): It is possible to apply for the extension of the statutory deadline for up to three months, or 10 months where income from abroad is also involved. If the tax administrator agrees to the extension, the due date for the payment of tax will also be postponed.

## Denmark

Approx. €38.5 billion package (13% GDP)

- A total of €165 million in additional export credits will be made available to small and medium-sized export companies.

Under the 3-month aid period that will last until June 9, the state offers to pay 75% of employees' salaries at a maximum of €40,000, while the companies pay the remaining 25%. This is under the condition that private companies do not fire anyone during this period.

For hourly workers covered by the salary agreement, the government will cover 90% of their wages, up to approx. €3,162 per month. The State will also cover 75% of employee salaries (including benefits) not on an hourly wage in businesses under budget pressure. As part of the new package, everyone contributes to maintaining existing contracts. While the state pays three-quarters, the employer provides the last 25% of the salary. In return, each of the employees give up five paid vacation days. This scheme will run from March-June, and the target group is companies, who have to lower their work force by 30% or fire more than 50 persons. The monthly cap for regular employees who are not paid hourly is €3,077. (The philosophy here is that the government wants companies to preserve their relationship with their workers. It's going to be harder to have a strong recovery if companies have to spend time

The payment deadline for "A-tax" and labour market contributions for April, May, and June 2020 is to be postponed by four months.

The payment of "B-tax" for self-employed persons for April is to be postponed from 20 April 2020 to 20 June 2020. Similarly, payment of B-tax for May 2020 is to be deferred from 20 May 2020 to 20 December 2020.

The payment deadline for VAT for monthly settlement companies is to be postponed by 30 days for March, April, and May 2020. The VAT period for the first and second quarters (Q1 and Q2) of 2020 must be stated by 1 September 2020. However, if VAT liability for Q1 2020 is negative, it is still possible to report VAT for Q1 by 1 June 2020 so that the negative response can be "paid out" (refunded). The VAT for the whole of 2020 must be stated by 1 March 2021. If the VAT liability for the first half of 2020 is negative, however, it is still possible to report the VAT for the first half by 1 September 2020 so that

The state agreed to compensate companies for their fixed expenses, like rent and contract obligations, depending on their level of income loss.

Guarantee scheme for SMEs to help them bridge the two-and-a-half week lockdown. The government will allocate €25 billion to guarantee up to 70% of new bank loans to help companies keep solvent. This will encourage more lending even in the case of more bankruptcies.

Denmark's National bank has announced an extraordinary lending facility, allowing banks to borrow at -0.5% instead of the regular lending rate of 0%, which is set to put a cap on lending rates.

Danske Bank (commercial bank) will allow businesses to defer payments; the charging of negative interest will be suspended for the rest of the year and SMEs

Cash benefits from the unemployment scheme will change due to the difficulty in finding jobs under the current circumstances. Those that have since 9/3 have used up all cash benefits may re-admitted into the unemployment scheme before 9/6 and received another 3 months of cash benefits.

hiring back workers that have been fired.)

People on unemployment benefits are put on pause.

Government to pay sick leave from day 1.

Businesses able to demonstrate a loss of earnings of more than 40% since the beginning of the COVID19 outbreak will be eligible for direct compensation in respect of between 25% (in case of 40-60% loss of earnings) and 80% (in case of 80-100% loss of earnings) of their fixed costs, including rent.

Businesses that have been ordered to close will receive 100% compensation of fixed costs. The scheme is applicable from 9 March to 9 June and will be notified to the European Commission as state aid. Self-employed and those employed in small businesses with fewer than 10 employees facing a loss of earnings of 30% or more will receive 75% compensation, up to a maximum of €3,000 per month in direct financial support. Where the self-employed or small business owner's partner is also employed in the business, the compensation threshold will now be €6,000, as opposed to the €4,500 proposed by the Government. The compensation

the negative response can be paid out.

will receive an offer for credit card payments to be charged only after three months.

		is subject to tax. The scheme is applicable from 9 March to 9 June and will be notified to the European Commission as state aid.			
<b>Estonia</b>	€2bn package	<p>Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund will cover for wage reduction, amounting to €250m, covering the period March to May.</p> <p>The state will compensate for the first 3 days of sick leave.</p> <p>Self-employed workers are subject to an advance social tax support measure. Payments into Pillar II of the pension fund are temporarily suspended. State compensates for the direct costs of cultural and sporting events cancelled due to Coronavirus, up to €3m.</p>	<p>Interest penalties on late corporate tax payments for two months.</p> <p>VAT payment holiday until May 1.</p>	<p>€1bn for bank loans already issued to allow for repayment schedule adjustments.</p> <p>Rural companies can apply to the Rural Development Foundation for guarantees (up to €50m), business loans (up to €100m) and land capital financing (up to €50m).</p> <p>KredEx Foundation business loan amounting to €500m to overcome liquidity problems caused by coronavirus.</p> <p>KredEx Foundation investment loan amounting to €50m for taking advantage of business opportunities created by the coronavirus.</p>	
<b>Finland</b>	<p>€15bn package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€12bn guaranteed loans to SMEs</li> </ul>	Workers laid off can claim income-linked benefits, provided they are a member of an unemployment fund through	Temporary reduction in the employers' pension insurance contribution of 2.6%, remaining in force until 31 December 2020.	Government will increase its coverage of credit and guarantee losses from 50% to 80%.	The notice period for temporary lay-offs would be shortened from 14 to 5 days, saving firms salary costs as they cut back.

	<p>Consideration of an addition €400m supplementary budget.</p>	<p>their trade union or independently.</p> <p>Entrepreneurs, including sole traders and free lancers, will be eligible for unemployment benefits.</p> <p>Pension funds to invest up to €1bn in commercial papers.</p>	<p>This is aimed to be rebuilt by a raise in the employers' contribution from 2022-2025.</p> <p>Tax and pension contribution payments can be postponed. Finnvera has shorten the application processing time (3-4 days).</p>	<p>€73 million in liquidity to businesses.</p> <p>€700 million will be channelled through the Business Finland network. It is targeted to SMEs who employ 6-250 persons and mid-caps with an annual turnover less than €300 million and which are operating in tourism or related sectors, creative industries and all sectors where supply chain are affected.</p> <p>€300 million channelled through ELY centres to small businesses employing 1 to 5 persons. All sectors except primary production.</p>	<p>€500,000 will be dedicated for counselling and support services for entrepreneurs.</p> <p>A crisis working group on company financing was set up to look into financing-related issues at national/European/ and global level.</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>€345 billion package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment benefits linked to forced part-time employment will cost the government €8.5 billion, while a solidarity fund for the self-employed and shopkeepers will require at least €2 billion.</li> <li>• €300bn guaranteed loans for businesses</li> <li>• €1bn solidarity fund for affected businesses.</li> </ul>	<p>Sick leave payments to parents who are not ill but have to stay at home to look after their children will also be provided.</p> <p>Wage subsidy for affected workers.</p> <p>Government to reimburse 100% of partial employment compensations (up from 70% previously).</p>	<p>Reduced social security contributions and tax payments on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Force majeure applying for all public contracts, so penalty clauses abandoned.</p> <p>Direct tax payments delayed for 3 months.</p>	<p>Government to reimburse 100% of partial employment compensations (up from 70% previously). A Solidarity Fund, financed by the State and the Regions, is being created to support microenterprises (with up to 10 workers) or self-employed with cash flow problems (special</p>	

			<p>Tax rebates to be granted to certain companies facing extreme difficulties as a result of the coronavirus situation. The tax rebate opportunity, however, appears to be limited because rebates generally would be available only with respect to corporate income tax and would be granted on a case-by-case basis after an examination of the company's situation. The difficulties required to benefit from the rebate appear relatively significant, given that they are described as "companies threatened with disappearance due to the economic impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Accelerated VAT refunds.</p>	<p>help of €1500 available for SMEs having a turnover of less than €1m and that have been forced to close down by administrative decision or that have lost more than 70% of their turnover in March). In addition, the coverage on state guarantees was increased from 70% to 90% for SMEs.</p> <p>A special fund of €300bn has been set up to guarantee cash-flow loans to continue activity and preserve jobs. A mobilisation of credit mediation to help SMEs wishing to renegotiate credit terms is in place.</p>	
<b>Germany</b>	<p>€600 billion package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The package includes a supplementary government budget of €150bn, €100bn for an economic and stability fund that can take direct equity stakes in companies, and €100bn in credit to public-sector development bank KfW for loans to struggling businesses.</li> <li>€50 billion in support for businesses and €500</li> </ul>	<p>Wage subsidies for affected workers.</p> <p>Short Time Work Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a company sees orders decline as a result of difficult economic trends, it can announce short-time work, if a minimum of <u>10% of its workforce</u> could be affected by the lack of work. The limit has hitherto been 30% of the workforce.</li> </ul>	<p>The social insurance contributions that employers must normally pay for their workforce will be fully reimbursed.</p> <p>Case-by-case deferral options for businesses that apply by the end of 2020; advance payments delayed.</p> <p>Companies' liquidity will be improved by means of tax measures. It will be easier</p>	<p>German state guaranteeing "unlimited" liquidity to impacted companies.</p> <p>Bavaria has launched a €10bn fund to buy stakes in struggling companies.</p>	<p>The country's labour ministry plans to relax the Sunday work ban to prevent supply bottlenecks.</p>

billion in liquidity measures for businesses

- Contract workers will also be eligible for short-time work allowance.
- It is to be possible to dispense in full or in part with the requirement that negative working hours balances be established before short-time work allowance can be paid. The current legal situation means that companies that have agreements to deal with fluctuations in workload must also use these to avoid short-time work, meaning that workers' working hour balances become negative.

The government has referred SMEs to instruments already available to help companies cover short-term liquidity requirements, including working capital loans and guarantees.

Self-employed will be supported through one-off grants: self-employed with up to 5 employees are entitled to €9000 in the first 3 months while those with up to 10 (full-time equivalents) are entitled to €15000 (under specific circumstances it can be extended by another 2 months).

Extra-income limits have been relaxed for those employees on wage subsidy programmes. This

to defer tax payments and reduce the amount of advance payments. There will be none for closures or late payment fines in cases related to the effects of coronavirus. In addition, the Bundesländer have initiated sizeable support packages complementing the federal initiatives as regards liquidity supports, grants, including direct not means-tested subsidies as well as tax deferrals.

Conflict mediation between SMEs and clients/suppliers.

A suspension of penalties for payment delays in government contracts.

A mobilisation of credit mediation to help SMEs wishing to renegotiate credit terms.



		means that those workers forced to work shorter hours in their normal profession get a bigger incentive to take up work in a profession where their skills may particularly be needed during the crisis (e.g. in the health sector).			
<b>Greece</b>	€3.8bn support measures	For a 6-month period, all businesses can employ 50% of their employees for two weeks per month, giving them 50% of their wages.	<p>A four-month extension of tax payments generally otherwise due in the month of March 2020, without imposition of penalties or late-payment interest.</p> <p>Extension to 31 August 2020 of the payment deadlines for tax remittances due in the period from 11 March 2020 until 31 April 2020.</p> <p>Suspension of tax collection of assessed taxes that were unpaid as of 11 March 2020, suspended until 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Reduced VAT to 6% from 24% for certain products that are necessary to protect against COVID-19 (such as mask and gloves, antiseptic liquids and wipes, etc.) effective until the end of the year (31 December 2020).</p>	Suspension of performance loan repayments.	40% reduction in rent for businesses that have to close.

			<p>Social security contribution payments suspended until June 30.</p> <p>A four-month extension for the payment of real estate tax, when the owner (landlord) is an individual.</p> <p>Acceleration of refunds of income tax and VAT, when the refund amounts do not exceed €30,000 per type of tax and per taxpayer</p> <p>Certain freelancer, self-employed or independent contractors will be eligible for compensation payment of €800 to address COVID-19 implications, and tax payments due in March 2020 by these persons will be extended for four months.</p>		
<b>Hungary</b>	€1.24bn package	<p>Exemption from taxes listed across this table does not affect the entitlement to social security benefits and the amount of those benefits.</p> <p>Employees will only be liable for their 4% health-care contribution rather than the total 18.5% social security contribution.</p> <p>Protection programme for families and pensioners, "with the reintroduction of the "13th-month pension" in four</p>	<p>Moratorium on principal and interest payments until the end of the year for all households and enterprises. This will mean that customers who are on a moratorium do not become an unbearable burden for future restart payments.</p> <p>Tax authorities are to exempt 81,480 SMEs from the flat-rate tax liability until June 30 and delay tax</p>	<p>Additional financing for businesses worth around €5.5 billion in the form of loans, interest rate subsidies and guarantees.</p> <p>From 1 January 2021, the amount of an original installment of a loan taken out earlier may not increase. The maturity is extended so that the amount of the installment is</p>	<p>Media service providers will also be tax exempt due to loss of advertising revenue.</p> <p>Evictions and seizures are also suspended until after the end of the pandemic for both private and commercial premises.</p> <p>Maternity benefits that end during the period are to be prolonged.</p>

instalments, adding an extra week's pension starting from February 2021 until 2024. Healthcare workers will receive a one-time cash payment of gross €1,370.

debts already incurred before 1 March until after the end of the state of emergency.

SMEs are exempt from taxes until 30 June 2020.

Any debts incurred before 1 March shall be deferred.

However, if the taxpayer fails to pay the due installment on the next agreed date (30 June or thereabouts), he will lose his entitlement to benefits and the debt will be due in one lump sum.

Employers will not be required to pay the employer side of social security contributions from March through June.

unchanged during the maturity.

Hungarian government are also further extending soft loans to employer loans and extending it to the National Asset Management Program. Employer loans are also subject to a deferred payment, meaning that until 31 December 2020, employees are not required to repay the loan amount or interest to their employer.

Participants in the National Asset Management Program not only receive a deferral of payment of the purchase price and the obligation to pay rent, but also housing, as the company cannot terminate the lease due to non-payment.

Commercial banks can use their loans to large enterprises as collaterals, the National Bank applies a haircut of 30% - as much as 5% of the annual GDP will be mobilized. The National Bank

Childcare entitlement, education benefit and child-raising allowance are all extended for the duration of the crisis.

Hungarian farmers to receive grants of up to €2.8bn over the next 3 months.

announced on 23 March the introduction of new credit lines to commercial banks with 3, 6 and 12 months and longer term credit lines for 3 and 5 years. However, the interest rate cannot be lower than the applicable main interest rate of the National Bank but the credit programme has no upper limit. At the same time banks need to deposit collaterals at the National Bank for the credit - for these collaterals banks can use their credit portfolio with large enterprises (estimated amount of these large enterprise credits is 2600 billion HUF) and other free collaterals (estimated amount of free collaterals of the banking sector is 7000 billion HUF).

Some cities started to offer businesses reductions on their rental fees for business premises owned by cities; in Gyula for example is this reduction 25% if the business still operates, if a business is

				<p>impacted by the lockdown and out of operation, this reduction is 50% - the measure is valid so far up till the end of June.</p> <p>In the case of unsecured consumer loans taken under a contract entered into after its entry into force, the total annual percentage rate of charge may not exceed the central bank base rate plus five percentage points.</p>	
<b>Ireland</b>	<p><b>€7.7bn package</b></p> <p>EU Approves €200m fund to support Irish business during Covid-19 pandemic. The scheme was approved under the <a href="#">State aid Temporary Framework to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak</a>, adopted by the Commission on 19 March 2020.</p> <p>The fund will be administered by Enterprise Ireland, operating in addition to the SBCI Working Capital Scheme.</p>	<p>Ireland has introduced 2 measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment</a> of €350 per week for employees who have been let go by their employers. This is funded by INTREO, and is paid directly to the employee or self-employed.</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme</a> that provides, for 12 weeks from 26 March 2020. The Scheme increases the maximum non-taxable refundable payment to €350 or 70% of the employee's Average Net Weekly Pay, whichever is lesser, for those earning over €586 per</li> </ol>	<p><a href="#">Deferral rates payments</a> due from the most immediately affected businesses (primarily in the retail, hospitality, leisure, and childcare sectors) until the end of May 2020.</p> <p>Interest charges on late VAT payments suspended for January-April inclusive.</p> <p>Interest charges on late PAYE (employers) liabilities suspended for January-April inclusive.</p> <p>Current Tax Clearance status will remain in place for all businesses over the coming months.</p>	<p>Deferral of up to 3 months on loan repayments will be available to many businesses.</p> <p>In addition, banks are adopting a customer-focussed approach to these businesses with a wide variety of tailored supports including extensions of credit lines, risk guarantees, and trade finance.</p> <p><a href="#">SBCI COVID-19 Working Capital Loan Scheme</a> (with DBEI). Loans made available through AIB, BOI and Ulster Bank, worth</p>	<p>3 month moratorium on mortgage repayments.</p> <p>All debt enforcement activity remains suspended until further notice.</p>

week net and less than or equal to €960 per week net. To qualify for the scheme a business must be able to demonstrate that turnover is likely to decrease by 25% for quarter 2, 2020. See [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) for the most up-to-date information.

Expedited payment of any instalment of excess R&D tax credit that is due to be paid in 2020.

8<sup>th</sup> April: Minister Humphreys announced €1bn in additional packages:

- Expansion of two SBCI loan schemes by €450m. These are to provide an extra €250m for working capital and €200m for long term loans.
- €180m Sustaining Enterprise Fund with will help companies in manufacturing and international services sector. (The fund was recently approved by the European Commission in line with State Aid rules and aims to assist companies who have suffered, or expect to suffer, a 15% or more reduction in turnover or profits.
- €13m expansion of Microfinance Ireland. Interest rates on these loans dropped from 7.8% to 4.5%.
- Expansion of €2,500 trading online voucher scheme for micro-enterprises.

between €25,000 and €1.5m per eligible enterprise, with a maximum interest rate of 4%.

€200m [Rescue and Restructuring Scheme](#) available through Enterprise Ireland for vulnerable but viable firms.

The maximum loan available from [Microfinance Ireland](#) has been increased from €25,000 to €50,000 (these loans are now interest free with no repayments for 6 months)

Local Enterprise Offices in every county will be providing [vouchers](#) from €2,500 up to €10,000.

A [Finance in Focus](#) grant of €7,200 will be available to Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta clients

€2,500 Lean Business Continuity Voucher to help companies quickly access expertise in reviewing and optimising operations.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €2m retail online scheme through EI.</li> </ul>		
Italy	€25 billion emergency decree	One-off payments of €500 per person for the self-employed, government support for companies paying redundancy payments to their staff, a freeze on any worker lay-offs, and a cash bonus for Italians still working during the lockdown.	<p>All tax payments due between February 23 and April 30 extended until May 31.</p> <p>Tax credits will be granted to companies that suffer a 25% drop in revenues.</p> <p>Businesses will receive a 50% tax credit for sanitation expenses, such as daily cleaning services, masks, and other precautions that help stop the spread of new coronavirus.</p> <p>Banks have been given options to take some loss deductions and convert them to tax credits.</p>	<p>€10bn to support families and workers, with incentives extended to self-employed and precarious workers. For these ‘weaker’ categories, government will provide a one-off contribution of €600.</p> <p>Several improvements of SME guarantee fund. Simplification of Confidi for micro companies. Special fund to support internationalisation. Special fund for cultural sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The measures on guarantees and debt forbearances are worth ca. €3.2 billion. The Ministry foresees a leverage effect of €340bn.</li> <li>• Special provisions for the Central Guarantee Fund will last 9 months. €1bn budget is foreseen to reinforce it.</li> <li>• Among these, free access for all businesses and an increase, in compliance with the EU rules, of the maximum guaranteed amount per single</li> </ul>	<p>3 month moratorium on business and mortgage repayments.</p> <p>There will also be financial support for Italian families that have children at home, and for taxi drivers and postal workers who are continuing to work providing urgent services during the outbreak.</p> <p>Families with children, forced to skip school due to the outbreak, will be helped with longer parental leaves and so-called “babysitter” vouchers.</p> <p>Italian exchange commission issues a resolution that lowers the threshold for the reporting of substantial interest to 1% (down from 3%) for companies with “high market capitalization” and a large number of shareholders, and to 3% (down from 5%) for SMEs. The resolution is a relief measure relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its implications for the Italian financial market. The intention is to determine that corporate governance operates efficiently and transparently.</p>

				<p>company at €5m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automatic extension of the guarantee for transactions subject to loan moratorium signed by the Italian Banking Association and business associations</li> <li>• The opening to the "mid-caps" and the increase of guarantee to 90% is not included (it will reach 80% and only for Regions which integrate the Fund's resources)</li> <li>• All the affected transactions have access to a special section of the Guarantee Fund, which will have an endowment of 1.73 billion, and will "cover" banks for 33%.</li> <li>• There is another guarantee mechanism. The State - with a budget of €500m - will guarantee CDP, up to 80% of the exposure assumed, to guarantee the banks that finance damaged businesses who have no access to the SME Fund.</li> </ul>	
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>Approx. €2bn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial estimate that sick pay costs will amount to €200m.</li> </ul>	<p>If employers working in the industries affected by the crisis do not employ workers or if the company is idle. The law</p>	<p>Support measures for the state of emergency also relieve alcohol used for the production of disinfectants</p>	<p>For guarantee, new programme for covid19 include the possibility of providing support of up</p>	<p>Postponement of real estate tax payments.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief package for businesses facing decreased income due to the outbreak.</li> <li>• €600m in re-programmed structural funds</li> <li>• €400m stand-by loan from EIB.</li> </ul>	<p>provides for the government to compensate idle workers' wages up to 75% of the remuneration, but no more than €700 per month.</p> <p>Plans are being evaluated how the state could pay sick leave payments to COVID-19 patients and persons in quarantine, instead of payments being made by employers.</p>	<p>from excise tax. The State Revenue Service is permitted to provide businesses with a special permit to perform storage operations and who manufacture alcohol with an excise tax discount of up to 90%. Businesses have to inform Revenue about alcohol production commencement no later than one week prior to commencement of the manufacturing process</p> <p>Companies can request an extension for the repayment term for delayed tax payments if the delay was caused as a result of Covid19 without incurring a penalty fee.</p> <p>Cancellation of advance payments of individual (personal) income tax for self-employed individuals, and no late-payment fees for failure to remit the advance payments.</p> <p>The Tax Administration authorities have the right to divide repayment into terms or postpone repayment for up to 3 years from the day the application is submitted.</p>	<p>to €100m per every €10m-15m of risk coverage. SMEs and MNCs eligible for support.</p> <p>Conditions for supporting businesses of any size that must be met include that the business must not have been in financial difficulty <i>before</i> the crisis. The maximum amount permitted is €1m with a maximum repayment term of up to 3 years.</p> <p>Loans interest rates will be charged at a reduced and subsidised rate.</p> <p>The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal to provide the following support instruments to crisis-stricken businesses - loan guarantees for crisis resolution and a loan for crisis resolution; Commercial banks (SEB, Swedbank and Luminor) announced deferral of business and mortgage loan principal payments for periods between three and six months without</p>
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Postponement of current and overdue tax payments, for up to 3 years, or the ability to make instalment payments when the delay is related to COVID-19 without triggering late-payment penalties; a request must be submitted to the tax authority.

A quicker process for refunds of VAT; beginning 1 April 2020, the tax authority will refund the approved input VAT within 30 days after the due date of submitting the VAT return (and not until end of the tax year), and the faster refund of input VAT will also apply for January and February 2020.

Affected businesses can apply to write off all outstanding VAT.

additional bank commission. Measure as of 19 March: Subsidized loans for all businesses up to 1 million EUR with 50% reduced interest rate for tourism industry SMEs and 15% reduced rate for other tourism and related industry businesses through Altum; Use of EIB stand-by loan arrangement for EU funds co-financing in the amount of 400 million EUR for COVID response; Use of State Treasury Eurobond repayment funds in the amount of €1bn as a guarantee for emergency business loans and loan guarantees. On 25 March a state backed guarantee scheme for bank loan holidays and a loan scheme for working capital became available for companies in various sectors, including agriculture and fisheries. The maximum amount of guarantee is €5m for 6 years, maximum loan – 1 million for 3 years. The development financial institution

				<p>ALTUM manages both schemes. These measures are within the €250m scheme approved under the State aid Temporary Framework to support the economy in the context of the Covid-19. Latvia issued bonds worth €550m on 26 March.</p>	
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>Approx. €2.5bn</p>	<p>Subsidies will be paid to employers who preserve jobs during downtime that will amount to 60% of a salary for those businesses whose activity was not banned because of the emergency but restricted for various reasons. Employers will have to pay the remaining amount from their own funds.</p> <p>The second subsidy would amount to 90% if a business's activity was completely suspended, and employers would have to pay the remaining 10%. In both cases, subsidies would not exceed the minimum salary in Lithuania (€607) and employers would be required to pay 10 or 40% in addition to that.</p> <p>Parents staying home to look after sick children will be eligible for full sick leave benefits for children only for 2 weeks.</p>	<p>Concerning corporate income tax, the deadline for filing advance corporate income tax returns and making payments of tax is deferred until 30 March 2020 (instead of 16 March 2020).</p> <p>Also, taxpayers are being allowed the ability to revise their advance corporate income tax calculation methods (for instance, based on estimates for the current year, instead of using the previous years' results).</p> <p>Taxpayers may also apply for a tax installment agreement to defer tax underpayments (without interest); to request a suspension of collection of tax underpayments; and to seek abatement of</p>	<p>Government increased loan guarantees to businesses by €500m. It also softened the conditions attached to these guarantees (-&gt; for all businesses, not only SMEs).</p>	

			<p>penalties and late-payment interest.</p> <p>For individual taxpayers, the deadline for submitting their annual income tax returns and for remitting payments of tax is extended until 1 July 2020 (instead of 4 May 2020).</p>		
<b>Luxembourg</b>	€300 million	<p>It should be noted that no payment extension is granted for withholding tax on salaries; employers are required to levy and pay such tax within the ordinary deadlines.</p> <p>Employment Fund pays 80% of normal salaries, subject to a maximum of 250% of the minimum social wage for an unskilled employee, for a maximum of 1,022 hours per employee per year.</p> <p>Wage subsidies for shorter working hours in companies have been offered and there has already been interest from many companies.</p> <p>Up to €5000 are available as direct support for self-employed and micro-enterprises (up to 9 employees).</p> <p>Taxes and social solidarity levies can be paid later. Social security contributions can be deferred for 6 months.</p>	<p>Legal entities and individuals exercising commercial, agricultural and forestry or self-employed activities facing liquidity problems due to COVID-19 can request a cancellation of their advance corporate income and municipal business tax payments for the first two quarters of 2020.</p> <p>A request can be made to postpone by 4 months the payment of corporate income, municipal business and net wealth tax for which the due date is set after 29 February 2020. This extension of the payment date will be granted without computation of interest for late payment.</p> <p>Businesses are allowed to resort to various short-time working schemes.</p>	<p>A major liquidity initiative of 2.5€bn in guarantees, together with the state investment bank SNCI, has been announced. The initiative aims to support companies through simple and unbureaucratic means. Aid will only be granted to enterprises that are in difficulties because of the coronavirus crisis.</p>	

			The Indirect Tax Administration will reimburse VAT credit balances below €10,000, which should help to improve cash positions of approximately 20,000 enterprises established in Luxembourg.		
<b>Malta</b>	€1.6bn	<p>Government will be speeding up its payments to private industry, such as VAT refunds in order to help the financial liquidity of employers and self-employed.</p> <p>Individuals which ended up unemployed due to the employer's mandatory suspension of business, will benefit from 2 days per week based on a salary cap of €800 per month covered by government. This is expected to apply to individuals previously employed in the accommodation, food and beverages, language schools and entertainment.</p> <p>Self-employed individuals who suffered from a complete suspension of operations such as accommodation, food and beverages, language schools and entertainment, will benefit from 2 days per week payment based on a salary cap of €800 per month covered by government. This benefit is increased to 3 days per week if</p>	<p>€700m in tax bills to be paid later</p> <p>Postponement of certain tax payments (income-tax, VAT and social security contributions payments of March and April for both employers and self-employed), resulting in expected deferred tax payments estimated at between €400m - €700m.</p> <p>The measures announced by Government include the postponement of certain tax payments otherwise due by end of March and April 2020. No interest or penalties will be charged on tax payments that are postponed in terms of this measure.</p> <p>€700m in deferred tax payments, including income tax, VAT and NI contributions, for the months of March and April</p>	<p>€4.5bn in bank guarantees (combined)</p> <p>Possibility of requesting a three-month moratorium for both personal and business loans.</p> <p>A number of local banks have announced measures to support business customers who are being adversely affected by the virus, with funds specifically set up for this emergency.</p> <p>APS Bank followed the example of three other domestically-oriented banks and also announced it will be accepting requests for moratoria on loans for both commercial and retail customers.</p> <p>Other measures include capital repayment</p>	

the self-employed also employs individuals.

Individuals employed with entities which suffered a downturn in operations of at least 25% but continued operating, will benefit from a 1 day per week benefit, based on a salary cap of €800 per month covered by government. This benefit is applicable also in the case of self-employed and is increased to 2 days per week if the self-employed employs individuals

Employees who ended up unemployed as from 9th March, will benefit from a special unemployment benefit of €800 per month.

Payments owed by Government to businesses will be accelerated so as to help protect their liquidity.

As of 25 March, an additional economic package was announced that includes:

- Full time employees will be entitled to up to 5 days' salary per week based on a monthly wage of €800. This includes all self-employed. Part-time employees will be eligible up to €500 per month.
- Full time employees of enterprises in other adversely affected sectors, including

for employers and the self-employed;

holidays, ease of trade finance services via internet banking at no additional cost and the provision of direct working capital for customers facing short term cash flow issues.

		<p>wholesale, manufacturing and warehousing will be entitled to 1 day's salary per week, equivalent to €160 per month. Part-time employees will be eligible to 1 day's salary per week, equivalent to €100 per month.</p> <p>- In the case of enterprises in other adversely affected sectors based in Gozo (Malta's sister island), the entitlement will be two days' salary per week equivalent to €320 per month for full-time employees, whilst for part-time employees, the entitlement will be €200 monthly.</p> <p>- Self-employed operating their own business pertaining to other adversely affected sectors will be entitled to two days' salary per week, equivalent to €320 per month. This will increase to 3 days' salary, equivalent to €480, for those self-employed businesses who employ staff.</p> <p>Prime Minister Robert Abela announced that these measures will be applicable retroactively as of 9 March, including for those employees that had been laid off and are re-employed by their former employers.</p>			
<b>Netherlands</b>		<p>The new temporary measure Temporary Emergency Bridging Measure for Sustained Employment will provide financial help for employers to help pay their employees' wages</p>	<p>Payment extension for income tax, corporate tax, payroll tax, and turnover tax (VAT). The Dutch Tax Administration will put on hold any measures in place</p>	<p>If you have a business in the Netherlands and employ no more than 250 workers (you have an SME), you may be eligible for a guarantee</p>	<p>Schools and childcare centres will be open for children of key workers to enable these parents to continue to work. Key workers are people who work in healthcare, public</p>

if they expect a turnover loss of 20%. The unemployment benefit during short-time working scheme has been cancelled.

Employers can claim a maximum for 90% of wages, depending on the amount of turnover that they lose. You can claim the compensation for 3 months, with the possibility to extend it for a further 3 months. You can claim the compensation for turnover you have missed from 1 March onwards.

- If the turnover loss is 100%, the compensation will amount to 90% of wages
- If the turnover loss is 50%, the compensation will amount to 45% of wages
- If the turnover loss is 25%, the compensation will amount to 22.5% of wages

to collect payment immediately upon reception of your request.

No fines for late payments.

The normal collection interest rate for paying after the payment term has passed has been decreased temporarily to nearly 0%. This applies to all tax debts. The tax interest rate will also temporarily be set to the lowest possible percentage for all entrepreneurs

Late payment interest fees reduced to 0.01 percent.

for part of a loan through the SME credit guarantee scheme (BMKB). The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy stands as guarantor. This will enable you to borrow more than would otherwise be possible based on your collateral. Businesses can use the BMKB scheme for a bridge loan, or to increase the overdraft limit (how much they are allowed to be 'in the red') on their current account. The guarantee runs to 75% of the credit given by the financing party.

The Business loan guarantee scheme has been increased. Per business you can now take out a loan of a maximum of €150m. Capital providers receive a 50% guarantee from the government. The maximum term for the Business loan guarantee scheme is maximum 8 years.

Self-employed professionals who run a viable business can

transport, the police and fire services and other crucial sectors. This childcare will be provided at no extra cost.

Most Regional Water Authorities allow you to apply for a temporary extension of payment.



claim an extra, temporary financial support. The support is for the self-employed who are experiencing financial difficulties due to the corona crisis. The scheme comes into effect with retroactive effect on 1 March 2020, and will remain in place until 1 June 2020 at least.

- Income support, depending on the income and your household situation this can amount to a maximum of €1,500 (net). You do not have to repay, and there is no capital or partner test.
- A loan for business capital to a maximum amount of €10,157. You do have to repay this loan, but it is possible to request a delay of your payment obligation. The interest rate will be reduced.

Entrepreneurs in the sectors that are hit hardest by the coronavirus measures

				will be able to apply to the Netherlands Enterprise Agency for the €4,000 Compensation for affected sectors scheme. The terms for this compensation are yet to be announced. A list will be made available of all the sectors that can apply.	
<b>Poland</b>	€2.5bn	<p>State coverage of payments of social security contributions for three months for micro-enterprises reported as remitters before 29 February 2020, and employing up to 9 employees (contributions for all employees), as well as self-employed and contractors, provided that they were operating before 1 February 2020 and their revenue from business activities obtained in February 2020 did not exceed 300% of the expected average monthly gross salary in the national economy in 2020.</p> <p>Payment by the Polish social security administration of guaranteed monthly benefits (non-taxable and not being subject to social insurance contributions) to self-employed and employed under contract of mandate (at 80% of the minimum wage).</p>	<p>Deadlines for submitting returns by corporate taxpayers and the payment of the amount of corporate income tax due for 2019 are extended for all taxpayers until 31 May 2020.</p> <p>For taxpayers that have only tax-exempt income or have revenue consisting of revenue from work for public benefit (at least 80%), the deadline for submitting the return will be extended until 31 July 2020.</p> <p>The personal income tax deadline is extended by one month, and businesses can apply to defer social security contributions for three months.</p> <p>Other changes—include:</p>	<p>Employers who find themselves in a difficult situation related to the spread of coronavirus will receive support from the Guaranteed Employee Benefits Fund. The financing will apply to companies whose turnover will drop by at least 15%.</p>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitations related to split-payment mechanism</li> <li>• Accelerated VAT refunds</li> <li>• Possible recognition of expenses as tax deductible costs, due to cancellations of tours by entities operating in the tourism sector</li> <li>• Relief from prolongation fee.</li> </ul> <p>Businesses can apply for a VAT payment deadline extension.</p>		
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>€3 billion provided under 4 guarantee schemes for SMEs and midcaps in tourism, hospitality, extractive and manufacturing industry, and event organisation.</p>	<p>Portuguese government providing up to 70% of employee pay from social security.</p> <p>Outside of school break periods, absences from work due to unavoidable care of a child or other dependent under the age of 12 or, regardless of age, with a disability or chronic illness, arising from the suspension of school and non-teaching activities in school or social support equipment, determined by a health authority or by the Government, <u>the employee is entitled to receive an exceptional monthly support</u>, or proportional, corresponding to <u>two thirds of his/her basic salary</u>, with a minimum limit</p>	<p>Suspension of social security contribution payments for companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak. VAT and withholding tax payment schedules can be adjusted for businesses with less than €10 million in revenues in 2018 or a 20 percent reduction in revenues.</p> <p>The requirement to prove a drop in sales for accessing the Covid-19 credit line has been deleted</p> <p>Extension in making deadlines for corporation tax declarations.</p>	<p>No new grants announced at this stage. Some business stakeholders have highlighted a need for grants. For ongoing grant schemes and projects, some flexibility measures have been announced to cater for actions / projects that are negatively impacted by the epidemic (for example, for activities that did not take place due to the crisis, or where targets are not fully met, prolongation of deadlines for calls, etc.)</p>	

		<p>corresponding to a guaranteed minimum monthly salary and a maximum of 3, paid in equal parts by the employer and the Social Security (the employer must pay in full and receive the Social Security portion). This support is granted automatically, as long as there are no other forms of alternative provision of the activity, namely teleworking, cannot be received by both parents and can only be perceived once, regardless of the number of dependent children under their care.</p>			
<b>Romania</b>	€15bn package	<p>The Government put forward a package estimated at approx. 3% of GDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Measures include support for technical unemployment for 30 days (or up to 60 days), with €300m earmarked from EU funds for an equivalent of 620,000 salaries (200,000 work contracts were suspended last week); i.e. to pay 75% of gross salary.</li> <li>+ In addition, the reimbursement of VAT is speeded up in order to provide additional liquidity to companies (about €1.9bn by the end of April), i.e. to ensure the flow of capital and capital injections to businesses.</li> <li>+ The state would pay the minimum wage to persons who cannot enter in technical unemployment, like self-</li> </ul>	<p>Suspension of most tax audits.</p> <p>Extension of the deadline for an annual profits tax from March 25 to April 25.</p> <p>Speed up VAT refunds to help businesses.</p> <p>Taxes with deadlines after March 21 will not face penalties and interest until 30 days after the end of the state of emergency</p>	<p>€3.12bn guarantees for easing access to loans for working capital for SMEs.</p> <p>Suspension of loan repayments for 9 months.</p> <p><b>INTEREST RATE</b> =&gt; The board of the National Bank of Romania (BNR) lowered the key interest rate to 2% and started purchasing bonds in the secondary markets, ensuring that commercial banks have sufficient liquidity.</p>	

		employed or micro/ family enterprises.			
<b>Slovakia</b>	€800m	<p>Care allowance (55% gross wage) for parents of children up to 11 years of age or 18 years of age in care of long-term disability. Quarantine sick leave at 55% of the daily income</p> <p>Allowance to employers for keeping a job – employers must maintain the work position beyond quarantine.</p>	<p>Companies and individuals will receive an automatic tax payment deadline extension of up to three months.</p> <p>Cancellation of the penalty for underpayments of income tax.</p>		
<b>Slovenia</b>	€2 billion package	<p>* As per the "bazooka" act: - The state shall pay the employers' pension and invalidity insurance contributions for employees. - Most employees shall get monthly supplement of €200. - Temporarily laid-off workers getting 80% of their wage, with the state paying all of this sum and the related social contributions (with some conditions). - Self-employed and one-person companies significantly affected by the crisis getting 3-monthly basic income and social contributions paid by the state.</p> <p>Pensioners with lower pensions getting solidarity supplement.</p> <p>Some additional supplements for other financially weaker groups of society.</p>	<p>* Prolonged deadlines for tax documentation filings for businesses until summer. * Companies can ask for a tax deferral of up to 2 years or for paying tax in up to 24 instalments within 2 years: a deferral has already been possible previously, but conditions were softened and simplified. * Suspension of all timelines in court and non-urgent administrative proceedings for the duration of the epidemic. * Measures speeding-up public procurement (doubled thresholds for public procurement).</p>	<p>* Short- and long-term measures such as the state's loan guarantees for companies and self-employed. * The state-owned export and development bank SID Bank could adopt a second round of anticyclical measures if the contagion is not stopped, e.g. via a special anticyclical fund; guarantee schemes for some sectors could be envisaged; and for export-orientated companies SID Bank will offer several insurance instruments, including mitigating the disruption of value chains.</p>	<p>Electricity prices for households and businesses reduced by 20% from 1 March until 31 May.</p> <p>Government to impose some trade restrictions on PPE to ensure sufficient supplies.</p>

				<p>* Roughly €600m (with maximal flexibility regarding the repayment of loan and moratorium and now e.g. also possible to finance 100% of the project) coming from the state-owned export and development bank SID Banka, plus additional €200m from SID Bank for new financial measures (loans, credit lines) implemented directly or via banks to provide liquidity.</p> <p>* The Slovenian Enterprise Fund with €115m available for SMEs, while the Slovenian Regional Development Fund offering a scheme under which companies can roll over debt.</p>	
<b>Spain</b>	<p>€200 billion package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €117 billion will come from the public purse, with the remainder being private money.</li> <li>• €400 million credit line for tourism sector</li> <li>• Providing measures to support small and medium size entities in terms of research and development (R&amp;D) and the financing of projects</li> </ul>	<p>Workers will be able to receive unemployment benefits even if they have not paid enough in social security contributions, and companies will not have to pay taxes for employees who have been temporarily made redundant.</p> <p>Those who become unemployed or lose their regular income will be able to postpone their monthly mortgage payments as well as their utility bills.</p>	<p>SMEs and freelance workers are exempt from tax payments.</p> <p>Tax relief measures include extensions or suspensions of the deadlines for certain tax procedures to 30 April 2020 or 20 May 2020. However, the extensions do not apply with regard to the requirement to self-assess taxes or to file</p>	<p>€10bn will be made available to businesses in the form of public guarantees to help them to stay solvent.</p> <p>Moratorium on mortgage payments for 1 month will imply both the suspension of the mortgage payments and of the accrual of ordinary and default interest during its</p>	<p>Companies will not be able to take measures against employees who cannot show up for work because they need to look after children or the elderly.</p> <p>Suspension of the obligation of debtors to file for insolvency while the estate of crisis is in force.</p> <p>Providing public procurement-related measures to protect</p>

to support “remote working”.

In a bid to help Spain's more than 3 million self-employed workers, the government will allow them to halt their business by citing 'force majeure.' This would allow them to receive benefits similar to those for the unemployed, which until now were available to only a very small number of self-employed workers.

information returns—those remain subject to the usual deadline.

Streamlining and promoting the use of temporary collective layoff procedures, as adapted for COVID-19-related issues; broadening unemployment protection and granting exemptions on social security contributions (to address and prevent employment dismissals and to enable companies to adjust their employment costs).

Recognizing a right to an “economic benefit” for self-employed workers who stopped their business activities due to the crisis or who are experiencing a drastic drop-off in revenues.

duration; therefore the lender will not be able to request payment of any amounts owed under the loan agreement regardless of its nature (principal, interest, default interests, fees, etc). It will also prevent lenders from triggering the events of default set out in the loan agreements.

Requested that extraordinary postponement of the repayment schedule for loans granted by the General Secretariat for Industry.

Government to provide “extraordinary liquidity” to businesses and the self-employed—essentially in the form of bank financing secured by the central government or backed by CESCE (the Spanish export credit agency).

contractors who encounter delays or failures to comply.

Removing restrictions on the freedom of foreign (non-EU) investment in Spain’s strategic sectors.

## Sweden

Package of approx. €300 billion:

- €90 million to cultural sector and sports movement
- €5.3 billion to help businesses that have

Introduced a model that is similar to short-time work, but the subsidy level is significantly increased. The employee receives more than 90% of their wage. It is proposed that the proposal on short-term layoffs enter into force on 7 April and be

Businesses to be allowed to **defer tax payments** for up to a year at a cost of more than €27.5bn to the treasury, or 6% of gross domestic product. VAT payments are also deferred. This proposal

The businesses will receive grants to help cover between 25-80% of their fixed costs. Self-employed and firms with up to 10 people who see their revenues fall more than 30% will also

seen their revenues decline by 40% or more.

in effect throughout 2020, but be applied from 16 March.

It is proposed that central government assume the entire cost of all **sick pay** during April and May. Self-employed persons will also be compensated in that they can receive standardised sick pay for days 1–14.

means that employers' wage costs can be halved, in that central government will cover a larger share of the costs - between 75-90% of the salaries of employees that businesses send home during the crisis.

Liquidity reinforcement via tax accounts: Under this proposal, companies can defer payment of employers' social security contributions, preliminary tax on salaries and value added tax that are reported monthly or quarterly. Company payment respite covers tax payments for three months and is granted for up to 12 months.

It is proposed that the new regulations take effect on 7 April 2020, but can be retroactively applied **from 1 January 2020**. This means that companies that have paid into their tax account for January to March can receive repayment of the tax from the Swedish Tax Agency.

VAT payments delayed by 12 months.

be offered compensation worth 75% of their normal monthly income - up to a maximum of €3,000-a-month. These 2 grants will be available for 3 months.

The Swedish financial supervisory authority has announced that it is lowering the countercyclical capital buffer to zero to safeguard a well-functioning credit supply, freeing up €27.5bn in potential liquidity.



			Ability to reclaim tax payments made from January to March and repay them at a future date		
<b>*UK</b>	£350 billion, equivalent to 15% of GDP.	<p>HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.</p> <p>Proposed legislation would allow SMEs to reclaim statutory sick pay amounts paid for sickness absences due to COVID-19. The repayments will be available for employers with fewer than 250 employees as of 28 February 2020.</p> <p>Employers will need to consider keeping records of staff absences for purposes of refund claims; there will be no need for employees to provide a doctor's note.</p> <p>Direct support for the self-employed aimed at replacing 80 percent of average earnings</p>	<p>Rates holiday for businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure for 3 months.</p> <p>VAT deferred for 3 months until 30 June 2020. All statutory Sick Pay costs for SMEs to be met by UK government for 14 days.</p> <p>Self-employed tax payments due in July 2020 will be deferred to January 2021.</p> <p>Income tax payments deferred from 31 July 2020 to 31 January 2021.</p> <p>The UK is also expanding the Universal Credit and working tax credit by £1,000 and delaying £30 billion in VAT payments until June 30.</p> <p><b>£300 million</b> to support community pharmacies.</p> <p><b>Import taxes and VAT</b> on specific medical equipment and medicines have been waived to speed up the supply chain</p>	<p>Cash grants of £10,000 for small firms</p> <p>£25,000 for medium sized businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000.</p> <p>Retail and Hospitality Grant Scheme provides businesses in these sectors with a cash grant of up to £25,000 per property. For businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of under £15,000, they will receive a grant of £10,000.</p> <p>SMEs will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness due to Covid-19. The refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee and employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible.</p>	<p>Complete ban on evictions for 3 months.</p> <p>3-month mortgage pause.</p> <p>Nursery businesses will have a rates holiday for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.</p> <p>Paused plans to expand rules on the employment status of contractors in the private sector.</p> <p>The Government is <b>removing administrative barriers</b> to make it easier for businesses to supply PPE to the NHS and, for those businesses who wish to do so, manufacture hand sanitiser.</p> <p>A free-to-use <b>Government WhatsApp service</b> for people to get up to date advice and guidance. It is available by texting "hi" to 07860 064422.</p>

The government will provide additional Small Business Grant Scheme funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBBR), rural rate relief (RRR) and tapered relief. This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs.

The **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme** offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank, up from £1.2 million, for up to 6 years. The government will pay to cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees, so smaller businesses will not face any upfront costs and will benefit from lower initial repayments. The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on

claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs.

Under the new **Covid-19 Corporate Financing Facility**, the Bank of England will buy short term debt from larger companies.

A temporary coronavirus business interruption loan scheme is to be delivered by the British Business Bank to support businesses in accessing bank lending and overdrafts. The government would provide lenders a guarantee of 80%, free of charge, on each loan to foster confidence when lending to SMEs. This would be extended to cover loans up to £5 million (previously £1.2 million) and no interest would be due for the first six months. This scheme is expected to be available as of Monday, 23 March 2020. It is expected that the loan scheme would only be available for companies with a turnover of up to £41

million and is designed for small businesses with a “sound business proposal” but insufficient security to get a lender comfortable without the government guarantee.

Companies with revenue between £45 and £500 million will now be able to access government loans up to £25 million.