



# COVID-19 GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMY

02 April 2020

# European response Covid 19

2%

EU GDP fiscal measures

13%

EU GDP Liquidity support

7.3%

ECB pandemic  
emergency purchase  
programme

# European response

## European Commission – leveraging a limited EU budget – relaxing rules

- Response Investment Initiative: € 65bn
- SME liquidity support programme: €1bn EU budget guarantee to the European Investment Fund (EIF) mobilising €8bn working capital for SMEs
- Research: €48m for projects; €164 m innovation council accelerator, etc.
- Employment: SURE - Support mitigating Unemployment Risks in Emergency: up to €100 billion to MS as loans on favourable terms (02/04/2020)
- EU Solidarity for Health Initiative €3billion for Member States' health systems.
- Suspension of fiscal rules under the stability and growth pact (23/03/2020)
- Relaxation of state aid rules (18/03/2020)
- accelerated joint procurement procedure for these goods and issuing a recommendation on non CE-marked protective equipment.
- Relaxation of rules on short term export credit insurance

## European Central Bank 7.3% euro zone GDP

- €1,000bn emergency pandemic purchase programme to acquire government and corporate bonds
- €3 trillion in liquidity through refinancing operations -0.75% interest rate

## European Investment bank – mobilizing for SMEs and mid-caps

- €40bn financing plan for businesses –bridging loans, suspension of credit repayment, and other support measures to deal with liquidity and working capital issue

# Summary of national government measures

deferral or  
reduction of tax  
and social security  
contributions

financial  
guarantees

Wage subsidies

Direct loans

Direct grants/  
cash injections

# Austria

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €38 bn package, help with liquidity, prevent mass unemployment and insolvencies
- € 9bn as guarantees incl €100 m as guarantees for family businesses, self employed and one person businesses to help with liquidity
- €15bn for specific sectors,
- €10 bn as tax waivers: Tax deferral and reduction of tax prepayment for affected companies; suspending fees, extending deadlines and tax exemptions for Corona aid; grants to deal with the Corona crisis are tax-free (under certain conditions)
- €400 m support to subsidise working hours reduction: workers receive 80-90% of their gross monthly salary (income-dependent)

## Other measures

- Task force to coordinate measures
- Admin simplification: online form to allow companies to apply for tax reductions
- more information [here](#)

# Belgium

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €5m credit line to support SMEs (national Promotional Institution); €100 m through banks
- € 400m guarantees for companies severely affected for new working capital
- Support to SMES: €4,000 income replacement for SMEs/shop (full closure); €2,000 for partial closure per company.
- Temporary unemployment for technical reasons or force majeure, postponement and reduction of social security contribution.
- optional deferral of VAT payment, social contributions and corporate tax
- cancellation or deferral of social contributions and taxes for self-employed (conditional)
- Specific support to certain sectors
- Postponement of payment of road tax and real estate taxes

## Other measures

- New options for firms on partial employment: workers may access unemployment benefits without preconditions during Covid-19 and receive 70% of their monthly wage until €2754
- Suspension of penalties for suppliers failing to fulfil government contracts
- equivalent to unemployment benefits for self-employment who need to cease activities temporarily

## More information

- [here](#)

# Bulgaria

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €500m liquidity support for SMEs provided by the BG development bank
- Support 60% of wages for one month for companies severely affected
- BG national bank support programme (BGN 9.3 bn i.e. €4.76 bn) to support the resilience of the banking system
- Temporary suspension of monetary and non-monetary consequences of late payments including interests & penalties for late payments, early demand, contract termination and seizure of property
- deadline for annual financial statements from end March to end June
- deadline for annual tax declarations and tax payments from end-April to a later date.
- deadlines for payment of electricity bills is extended from 10 to 20 days

## Other measures

- Support to medical sector; public procurement obligations suspended
- BGN 20 m to municipalities to support social services for the sick and elderly living alone.

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- 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
- Establishment of a new financial instrument Micro Rural Development Loan for Working Capital (faster processing, grace period, lower interest rate).
- new financial instrument "COVID-19 loans" (HRK 380 m), to SMEs for working capital,
- Postponement of certain tax payments; no interest or penalties charged on tax payments that are postponed



# Cyprus

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- € 450 million to support SMEs and private businesses.
- € 250 million to strengthen liquidity via extension of VAT tax payment until end April 2020; temporary reduction of VAT rates (19% to 17% and 9% to 7%);
- € 10m Small Business Support Plan for businesses with up to 5 employees, provided they retain their employees at work and have reduced their turnover by more than 25%. (subsidy covering up to 70% of employees' salaries)
- € 110 million to businesses that decided to suspend their operations and for those businesses that continue to operate and suffer a turnover loss > 25%. Business Suspension Plan to avoid layoffs and ensure employees get unemployment allowance for as long as the company is suspended.
- ECB support to bank lending to allow Cypriot financial institutions to obtain liquidity from the Eurosystem on favourable terms, including release of capital stock of €1.3 bn

## Other

- 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.

# Czechia

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- COVID loan programme for SMEs (about 1 bill CZK): interest-free loans with postponement of instalments for SMEs affected by coronavirus; individual loans range from 500k up to 15M CZK, maturity up to 2years, postponement of instalments up to 12 months.
- Flat waiver of late payment of personal and corporate income tax return until 1 July 2020 ; 3rd and 4th wave of electronic sales records postponed for 3 months

## Other

- New compensation for self employed for child-care (about 17 EUR per day) and extended eligibility period for employees to total length of school closure.

# Denmark

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- guarantee scheme for SMEs: 1bn Danish kroner (USD 150m) to guarantee up to 70% of bank loans to help companies keep solvent. Limits for publicly guaranteed loan schemes available to companies are raised to DKK 25 billion (EUR 3.3 billion) to large companies and DKK 17.5 billion (EUR 2.3 billion) for SMEs.
- guarantee initiative for businesses that have lost 50% of business due to the COVID-19 outbreak (large and small)
- Compensation for self-employed and those employed in small businesses with fewer than 10 employees facing a loss of earnings up to a maximum of DKK 23 000 (EUR 3 000) per month in direct financial support and DKK 46 000 (EUR 6 000) where the self-employed or small business owner's partner is also employed in the business.
- Businesses able to demonstrate a loss of earnings > 40% eligible for direct compensation up to 80% of their fixed costs, including rent. Businesses that have been ordered to close will receive 100% compensation of fixed costs
- 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 will receive an offer for credit card payments to be charged only after three months.
- A total of DKK 1.25 billion (EUR 165 million) in additional export credits will be made available to small and medium-sized export companies.
- Extend deadlines for payroll taxes and VAT for up to 4 months.
- Public procurement measures incl. advance payment of procured products and services up to DKK 1 Mia; no PP sanctions imposed, if the sanctionable action can be referred to Corona.

## Other

- The Danish Export Credit Fund (EKF) will increase its liquidity
- Cash benefits from the unemployment scheme will change due to the difficulty in finding jobs under the current circumstances.

# Estonia

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- € 2 bn min. package of measures
- €1 bn Euro loan collateral for companies for bank loans already issued in order to allow for repayment schedule adjustments
- Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund will cover for wage reduction (€250 m), (March to May). The state will compensate for the first 3 days of sick leave.
- Rural Development Foundation provides guarantees (up to 50 million Euro), business loans (up to 100million Euro) and land capital financing (up to 50 million Euro)
- KredEx Foundation business loan: €500 million to overcome liquidity problems caused by coronavirus ; investment loan €50 m for taking advantage of business opportunities created by the coronavirus
- Reduction of interest rates for late payment of taxes

## Other

- Advance social tax support measure for self employed workers.
- Temporary suspension of payments into Pillar II of the pension
- State compensates for the direct costs of cultural and sporting events cancelled due to Coronavirus, up to €3 m.

# Finland

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Finnvera's (Finnish state-owned financing company) financing capacity is increased by €10 bn to a total of €12 bn
- Regional Centres for economic development (ELY centres) will allocate €50 million for SMEs, in particular in the service sector. €150 million will be made available for certain sectors through Business Finland network.
- Tax and pension contribution payments postpone; pension funds will invest in up to € 1 billion in commercial papers
- Reduction of interest rates for late tax payment and postponed deadlines
- Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA) measures to promote the provision of credit and to minimise disruption to the market and increasing the lending capacity of Finnish banks by around €52 billion. This is estimated to increase the imputed lending capacity of credit institutions to Finnish businesses and households by €30 billion.

## Other

- €500 000 will be dedicated for counselling and support services for entrepreneurs

# France

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €45 bn government spending; €300bn loan guarantees
- BPI bank to provide state guarantees on commercial loans and credit lines for businesses up to 5,000 employees
- Encouraging firms to resort to temporary lay-offs; government compensation 100% of partial employment compensations (up from 70% previously).
- The legal obligation to maintain salary in the event of sick leave is extended to employees with less than one year's service.
- solidarity fund created to support microenterprises with cash flow issues (€ 1,500 for SMEs wit TO <€1 m).
- A special fund of €300 bn to guarantee cash-flow loans; credit mediation to help SMEs wishing to renegotiate credit terms
- €1,500 euros support to SMEs that have been forced to close or lost >70% TO in March
- A global fund of €1 bn financed by the State and the Regions, for micro enterprises and self-employed workers
- Payment of social or fiscal contributions can be delayed (up to 3 months) without penalty. For the smallest companies facing difficulties, payment of rents or water, gaz or electricty invoices can be delayed. A deferral of tax payment will be put in place.

## Other

- Chambers of Commerce and industry (CCI) as well as Chambers of Trades and Crafts (CMA) have been appointed as first level contact points for all SMEs, crafts and entrepreneurs looking for help and information.

# Germany

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Companies' liquidity will be protected via new measures of unlimited scope
- €600 bn Economy stabilisation fund (Wirtschaftsstabilisierungsfonds), incl. €400 for liquidity guarantees, €100 for direct equity participation in businesses of strategic importance and €100 for re-financing by the KfW)
- working capital loans and guarantees; expanded access to short-term work arrangements (Kurzarbeit); short-time work allowance extended to prevent employees from having to be laid off; workers receive at least 60% of their pre-crisis pay; companies can now register when 10% of their workforce is impacted by an economic crisis (previously 33%).
- one-off grant for micro businesses (€9,000 for companies up to 5 FTE; €15,000 for companies up to 10 FTE)
- state bank KfW lending capacity increased to \$610 bn to companies to cushion the effects of the coronavirus
- Conflict mediation between SMEs and clients/suppliers; credit mediation to help SMEs wishing to renegotiate credit terms
- A suspension of penalties for payment delays in government contracts
- Deferral of tax payments and reduced amount of advance payments; no late payment fines in cases related to the effects of coronavirus.
- Additional support packages by the federal states

## Other measures

- Besides, the country's labour ministry plans to relax the Sunday work ban to prevent supply bottlenecks.

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €500 million scheme in collaboration with the European Investment Fund (EIF) could address the financing gap faced by SMEs, which is expected to grow in the context of the coronavirus
- financial relief measures for companies, including a deferral of value-added tax (VAT) payments and social security payments.
- Government will also encourage employers to consider work-from-home initiatives and adjust shifts to help contain the outbreak.



# Hungary

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Businesses in the sectors seriously impacted are exempted from paying the employers' social security contribution until the end of the year.
- Small businesses under the simplified tax scheme are exempted from paying their tax lump payments until the end of June.
- Specific measures for the tourism sector
- Grocery stores and HORECA businesses are allowed to start home delivery service without prior registration/authorisation. Tendering activities for COVID-related products/services may differ from standard tendering procedures.
- Commercial banks can use their loans to large enterprises as collateral, the National Bank applies a haircut of 30% - as much as 5% of annual GDP will be mobilized
- Small businesses under the simplified tax scheme "KATA" are exempted from paying their tax lump payments until the end of June

# Ireland

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- SME CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME to encourage additional lending to SMEs, with partial Government guarantee (currently 80%) to banks against losses on qualifying loans. The Credit Guarantee Scheme supports loans up to €1 million for periods of up to 7 years to SMEs and small mid-caps (up to 500 employees). Refinancing of existing debt and property-related activities will be excluded from the Scheme.
- FINANCE IN FOCUS GRANT of €7,200 for consultancy support to undertake immediate finance reviews. Local Enterprise Offices are providing VOUCHERS worth €2,500 to €10,000 with matched funding for innovation, productivity and business continuity preparedness.
- Revenue published advice for SMEs ([here](#)): suspension of application of interests on late payments; of all debt enforcement activity;
- local authorities to agree to defer business rates payments due from the most immediately impacted businesses; Short-term cash flow support for local authorities will be made available to support this measure.

## Other measures

- SHORT-TIME WORK SUPPORT: income support payment if an employee has been temporarily placed on a shorter working week. The payment is made in respect of the regular salary for the days that the worker is no longer working.
- NEW REFUND SCHEME FOR EMPLOYERS: refund to employers keeping employees on the payroll (€203 per week).
- COVID-19 PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENT: flat rate of €203 per week for a six-week period for self-employed who have lost business and to those who have lost employment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

# Italy

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Measures on guarantees and debt forbearance are worth ca. € 3.2 bn; expected leverage effect of €340 bn; €1 bn to reinforce it special guarantee fund; measures include free access for all businesses and an increase of the maximum guaranteed amount per company at €5 m; Automatic extension of the guarantee for transactions subject to loan moratorium signed by Abi (Italian Banking Association) and business associations
- special section of the Guarantee Fund, which will have an endowment of 1.73 billion, and will "cover" banks for 33%.
- guarantee mechanism, driven by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti as state guarantee (€500 m)
- Several improvements of SME guarantee fund. Simplification of Confidi for micro companies. Special fund to support internationalisation.
- € 600 EUR (March and April) bonus for self employed all sectors (should cover 5 m people); 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.
- Loan repayments suspended for SMEs and companies hit by the crisis. Access to the "first home fund" for self employed/professional activity. Special clauses for micro and small businesses to save the credit lines and to suspend payment of installments of mortgages and loans until 30 September 2020.
- Social security payments, compulsory insurance and taxes suspended for most hit sectors until May. VAT payments suspended until May for micro companies and for all companies in the most hit sectors.
- Tax credits: 60% of March rent cost, 50% of sanitizing costs

## Other measures

- Simplified process for calls to digitalise public administration if one of targeted contractors is an innovative SME/start-up. Facilities for small towns for calls for energy efficiency (possible benefit for local SMEs).

# Latvia

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €2 bn package, incl €600m EUR in re-programmed structural funds, €400m stand-by loan from the EIB, and financial instruments (loan guarantees and loans) financed from State Treasury > €1bn EUR
- Credit guarantees up to 50% of loan and €5 m cap through national development institution Altum;
- Emergency support measures incl. salary compensation for employees (capped at 700 EUR per month and 75% of prior salary). 15% from EU Funds reconverted to Covid support pgs
- Specific sectors support: €10 m for health care and €0,3 m for purchasing smart devices for needy families to ensure distance learning;
- the State Revenue Service will disburse VAT refunds within 30 days after the VAT declaration deadline, which is April 1, 2020 (€ 60 m)
- Allow self-employed personal income tax payers to not make advanced income tax payments in 2020 (€30 to 35 m);
- Suspension of fiscal discipline rules and designation of expenditure as one-offs for calculation of structural balance;
- Tax holidays (income tax, VAT, excise)for businesses from 1 to 3 years;
- Prolongation of tax declaration submission deadline until 31 July 2020;
- Faster repayment of pre-paid VAT in 2020;
- Cancellation of self-employed income tax advance payments since 1 January 2020;
- Municipalities are allowed to extend deadlines of real estate tax payments;

## Other measures

- State covers workers' sickness leave from the first day of sickness;
- Boards of limited liability companies can vote electronically;
- Some terms of contractual obligations and liabilities are extended, etc.

# Lithuania

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €2.5 billion rescue package; loan guarantees to businesses increased by €500 m
- €500 m subsidies to ensure laid-off workers or workers with reduced working time (+salaries) still receive the minimum wage incl fixed payments to the self-employed
- postpone tax payments as well as payments for gas and electricity consumption to the state-owned company UAB Ignitis without penalties.
- Bank of Lithuania to ease capital requirements of the banking sector to facilitate additional lending up to €2.5 bn

## Other measures

- Simplification of some procurement rules to facilitate Government buying

# Luxembourg

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- A major liquidity initiative together with the state investment bank SNCI to support companies most affected
- Wage subsidies for shortened working hours
- financial support for SMEs facing financial difficulties
- Taxes and social solidarity levies can be paid later

# Malta

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Liquidity injection and bank guarantees of up to EUR 1.6bn incl. deferral of tax payments (€400m-€700m); €150m bank guarantees; €750m soft loans
- State guarantee up to €900m, making credit of EUR 4.5bn available
- € 210m of funds (equal to 1.5% of Malta's GDP in 2019) available to cover expenditure resulting from COVID-19.
- Government speeding up payments to private industry, such as VAT refunds in order to help the financial liquidity of employers and self-employed.
- Support to individuals having lost their jobs and self-employed losing their business (2 days per week based on a salary cap of €800 per month covered by government)
- Possibility of requesting a three-month moratorium for both personal and business loans.
- Local bank measures incl. capital repayment 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.
- 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 under terms of this measure; €700 m in deferred tax payments, including income tax, VAT and NI contributions, for the months of March and April for employers and the self-employed;

# Netherlands

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Emergency Bridging Measure for Sustained Employment provide financial support for employers to help pay their employees' wages. 90% of a company's total wage bill will be paid in case of 100% loss of turnover, lower rates of compensation apply for lower losses of turnover. The unemployment benefit during short-time working scheme has been cancelled.
- A surcharge of 30% to the wage bill is added to account for holiday money, pension premiums and other costs borne by employers
- the SME credit guarantee (BMKB) scheme will be extended to help SMEs secure bank guarantees and bridge financing.
- The Business loan guarantee scheme (GO) has been extended.
- Self-employed professionals will be able to apply for an extra, temporary benefit for self-employed professionals (Tozo) to bridge the loss of income from 1 March onwards; 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 credits with 6 m euros.
- €4,000 Compensation for entrepreneurs in affected sectors scheme (TOGS): open for entrepreneurs in specific sectors
- export credit insurance facility is extended; provides a short-term guarantee with a runtime of less than 2 years.
- The Dutch Trade and Investment Fund (DTIF) will be extended to include pre-delivery advances.
- Payment extension for income tax, corporate tax, payroll tax, and turnover tax (VAT).
- No fines for late tax payments. Interest rates on late tax payments almost 0%.

## Other measures

- Government measures to help businesses here



# Norway

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Postponement of VAT; postponement of employers' tax; losses in 2020 can be deducted against taxed profits in 2019 and 2018
- The government covers employers' cost on layoffs, sick pay and care pay (care for children that are now out of schools and kindergartens).
- State guarantee for bank loans to SMEs (if they are economically sound) and have established a government bonds fund (€10 bn)
- State guarantee up to 90% of the loans to companies that are affected (cap NOK 50 million i.e. €5 m) for each company, if the companies are economically sustainable.

## Other measures

- Compensation measures for retail and services for loss of turnover and to cover fixed costs for businesses that are closed or have a big fall in turnover due to the measures against the corona virus is being worked out in cooperation with Virke, NHO and the banks.

# Poland

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- **Anti-crisis Shield (1 April 2020)** – package of measures up to 10% of GDP
- **Loan guarantees** to secure up to 80% of a loan's value (PLN 9.5 bn).
- **Banking system:** Systemic risk buffer removed will free PLN 30 bn of capital, which may increase the supply of loans to SMEs by PLN 40 bn. banks are enabled to extend working-capital loans (worth approximately PLN 150 billion) for entrepreneur
- **Taxes:** entrepreneurs may apply for tax payment deferral, spreading the payment of tax into installments or cancellation of tax arrears, Postponement of retail sales tax to 2021
- **Social security contributions** entrepreneurs may apply for a 3-month payment deferral of social security contributions for the period from February to April 2020.
- **Public Procurement Law:** Institutions covered by the Public Procurement Law can bypass these provisions.
- **financial support for self-employed and contractors** (80% of the minimum wage);
- **Guarantees for large and medium-sized companies** for liquidity loans (up to 80% of a loan's value);
- The **new short-time work scheme system** is to be based on the 40-40-20 model: (i) the employer pays at least 40% of the remuneration due, (ii) the second 40% is covered by the State (but only up to the amount of the average salary in 2020 (PLN 4,918 in 2019)), and (iii) the remaining 20% is the employees' loss. The total may not be lower than the minimum wage.
- **Employees from Ukraine** will receive an automatic extension of visas and work permits.
- **Provisions on specific sectors affected**

## Other measures

- There is also the **Anti-crisis Guide for Entrepreneurs** published by the Polish Development Fund S.A. (here)

# Portugal

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- COVID-19 credit line under the Capitalizar programme: to support businesses (€400 million) incl. support to working capital and credit with a mutual guarantee from the capitalizar fund.
- 4 State Guaranteed Credit lines for specific sectors, through the banking system - grace period for beneficiaries until the end of 2020 with the possibility of repayment over 4 years, in line with EU State aid rules
- Portuguese Social Security Authorities have announced postponement of the deadline for making Social security contributions; extension of the deadlines for making corporation tax payments and submitting tax declarations.
- Extension of deadlines for VAT and CIT payments
- Relaxed VAT rules on donations
- Postponement of new Stamp Duty return

## Other measures

- simplifications in administrative procedures (e.g. certification)
- Overview of support measures [here](#)

# Romania

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- package of measures represents +/- 3% of GDP.
- support for technical unemployment for 30 days (or up to 60 days), with €300 m from EU funds
- Government to pay the min. wage to self employed or micro/ family enterprises.
- Guarantees: RON 15bil. (EUR 3.12 bn) for easing the access of SMEs to loans for working capital and investments.
- The National Bank of Romania to support the banking system to ease ongoing loan repayments and to facilitate access to new lines of credit. Some banks have announced allowances extended to their customers, which include deferring the payment of loan installments for one or two months.
- 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.
- Extending local taxes deadline
- Reimbursement of VAT is speeded up in order to provide additional liquidity to companies

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Package of measures to cancel penalties for underpayments of income tax and extend the deadline for the filing of tax returns
- Other support measures adopted but unspecified

# Slovenia

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Short- and long-term measures such as state guarantees mostly from existing financial facilities.
- The state-owned export and development bank SID Bank to 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.
- Compensation for companies that temporarily lay off
- Temporarily laid-off workers entitled to 80% of their wage average from the past three months, with the employers having to cover 60% of this sum and the state 40% (in cases of self-isolation the state covers the full 80% ) (cost €50 m).
- €600 m from the state-owned export and development bank SID Banka, plus additional €200 m from SID Bank for new financial measures (loans, credit lines) directly or via banks to provide liquidity.
- The Slovenian Enterprise Fund with €115 m for SMEs; Slovenian Regional Development Fund offering a scheme under which companies can roll over debt.
- 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
- Self-employed can defer their social contribution payments; 12-month deferral of credit payments, under the condition that the company was solvent and paying taxes

## Other measures

- Suspension of all timelines in court and non-urgent administrative proceedings for the duration of the epidemic
- Electricity prices for households and small businesses reduced by about 20% from 1 March to 31 May.

# Spain

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- €200 bn plan; 50% as a guarantee line to support companies with liquidity issues.
- Spain recently modified its ERTE short-time work scheme to ensure workers temporarily suspended from their jobs can draw around 70% of their salaries as social security.
- The government has approved a compulsory paid leave from 30 March until 9 April 2020 for all employees who do not carry out essential services (food and beverage services, pharmacy, health personnel, financial services, among others).
- From 28 March until the duration of the state of alarm, dismissals based on objective causes (economic, technical, organizational, productive or force majeure) related to COVID-19 will be deemed unjustified.
- € 2,8 bn million transferred from central government to autonomous regions, with support to specific sectors;
- €17 bn to support organisations that will suffer financial difficulties
- Approved the deferment and fractioning of debts with the Public Administration for six months and without interest for affected SMEs

## Other measures

- postponement of mortgages for the households,
- easier procedures for temporary unemployment,
- prohibition to cut off provision of water, gas and electricity in case of non-payment,
- exoneration of 100% of social taxes for SMEs that keep their personnel in post and 75% for bigger companies, unemployment will not be linked to a minimal period of contribution or to a minimal period of employment.

# Sweden

## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- The crisis package > SEK 300 bn if the entire liquidity reinforcement through tax accounts is used.
- Credit guarantees for specific sectors (airlines; max SEK 5 bn)
- Swedish Export Credit Agency's credit guarantee framework extended to support Swedish export companies
- Short-term layoffs: employers' wage costs can be halved with central government covering a larger share of the costs (up from one third to 75%); the employee receives more than 90 per cent of their wage. The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth will be allocated SEK 2.42 billion for 2020 to finance this support.
- Central government to assume sick pay responsibility for two months and entire cost of all sick pay during April and May. Self-employed persons will also be compensated (standardised sick pay for days 1–14).
- Riksbank: loans up to SEK 500 bn to companies via banks to safeguard credit supply. Finansinspektionen (the Swedish financial supervisory authority) is lowering the countercyclical capital buffer to zero to safeguard a well-functioning credit supply.
- Measures to facilitate access to finance; Almi Företagspartner AB to receive a capital contribution of SEK 3 bn to increase its lending to small- and medium-sized businesses
- The Swedish Export Credit Corporation's credit framework will be increased; Swedish Export Credit Agency to decide on credit guarantees that entail new and improved credit opportunities for businesses.
- Companies can defer payment of employers' social security contributions, preliminary tax on salaries and value added tax that are reported monthly or quarterly.
- Tax payment respite: companies that have paid into their tax account for January to March can receive repayment of the tax from the Swedish Tax Agency

## Other measures

- Swedish Central Bank to increase asset purchases and take measures to facilitate credit supply, incl. Increase purchases of securities by up to SEK 300 bn in 2020, reducing the lending rate for overnight loans to banks from 0.75 to 0.20 percentage points above the repo rate.



## Financial guarantees, grants & financial transfers

- Business rates relief package worth £20bn for businesses affected by Covid-19. This is worth around £7.9bn to retailers in England in 2020/2021.
- Companies will be able to defer their next quarter VAT payment until the end of the financial year.
- Government will pay 80% of wages for employees not working as a result of Coronavirus, up to £2,500 a month.
- £330bn of loan funding being made available to support businesses in the UK



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