

**National measures to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural and creative sectors**

<p><b>AT</b> <b>(4/6/20)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COVID-19 Measures for culture in Austria</b></p> <p>As in all European countries the Austrian cultural scene is severely affected by the measures to combat the Corona virus. All cultural institutions suffer from a major loss of revenues from ticket sales and rental of venues. The loss of income poses an existential threat for many freelance artists, cultural operators and NGOs in the field of culture.</p> <p>The Federal Government has adopted a series of general and sector-specific measures to support the cultural sectors. Moreover, there are various measures by regional governments. The Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport has launched a hotline, regularly updated FAQs on the website and a study to assess overall financial losses. There is also an ongoing dialogue with representatives from all cultural sectors (round tables, surveys).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>General support measures by the Federal Government:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Hardship fund</b> The fund, endowed with € 2 billion, provides financial support for self-employed workers, one-person companies, micro enterprises, whose turnover has collapsed due to “Corona”-measures. The fund is also open to artists and cultural SMEs and intends to cover the costs of living. The grant amounts to a minimum € 1.000/month for a period of up to 6 months. Grants are not repayable. The hardship fund is operational since 27 March 2020 and managed by the Chamber of Commerce.</li><li>- <b>Corona Short-time work</b> This model can also be used by cultural institutions. The work schedule can be reduced to 10% (temporarily 0 hours of work possible), while employees remain in stable employment with nearly full wage compensation.</li></ul>
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- **Fund for Non-Profit-Organisations**

The fund will support NPOs from the fields of culture, sport and volunteering with € 700 million in total. The fund will be established in the Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport. Applications will be processed by Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH, the promotional bank of the Federal Government, starting from the beginning of July.

- **Further measures**

- Social security contributions: reduction and deferral for freelance operators, including cultural organisations and cultural freelance operators
- Tax reliefs

Sector-specific measures by the Federal Government:

- **COVID-19 Fund for artists and cultural educators**

The existing Artists' Social Insurance Fund was increased by € 5 million to compensate income losses of artists and cultural educators having difficulties to cover their living costs due cancellations. The fund is open to artists and cultural educators who are not entitled to apply for the hardship fund. The initial grant amounts to € 1.000, in a second phase up to € 2.000/month for a period of up to 3 months. Grants are not repayable. The "COVID-19 Fund" is operational since 30 March 2020.

- **Bridge funding for artists (in preparation)**

From July freelance artists will be able to apply for bridge funding of € 1.000/month for up to 6 months. This measure is endowed with € 90 million and shall ease the financial situation of freelance artists. It will be processed by the social insurance agency for self-employed persons.

- **Voucher redemption for cancelled events**

The new law for cancelled events due to the COVID-19 pandemic aims to

ensure the liquidity of event organisers. Instead of refunding, a voucher can be issued for tickets amounting up to € 70. For more expensive tickets, reimbursement is possible up to € 180 combined with vouchers. Vouchers are valid until the end of 2022. After that deadline, a payment of the outstanding amount of the voucher can be requested.

- **Default costs for film productions**

The Federal Government provides € 25 million for film productions (cinema, TV, documentary films, commercials) that have been discontinued due to Covid-19. Film producers can receive a non-repayable grant of up to 75% of the default costs occurred since 16 March.

- **Grants by the Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport**

- Subsidies have been increased by € 3,1 million (1,2 for the Austrian film and € 500.000 for cinemas, € 800.000 for the publishing sector, € 420.000 for the Austrian Music Fund, € 250.000 for art acquisitions).
- Annual grants by the Ministry are paid in full, even if not all activities can take place due to the Corona crisis. The aim is to ensure employment of staff.
- In case events and projects funded by the Ministry are affected by cancellations or postponements, artists and cultural institutions are asked to inform the funding department in charge of their grant agreement in order to find a practical and accurate solution for every individual case (case-by-case decisions).

Lifting of lockdown measures in the field of culture:

The shutdown measures and the extraordinarily high level of discipline among the population have led to a considerable decline of infection numbers. Thus, Austria has started a gradual unlocking, while still observing general protection requirements. Starting from 15 May, museums, libraries and archives have resumed their work. Since 29 May events with up to 100 persons may take place.

<p><b>BE</b> <b>(4/5/20)</b></p>	<p>Step by step, authorised visitor numbers will be gradually extended. From 1 July events with allocated seats may welcome 250 persons indoors and 500 outdoors, from 1 August 500 persons indoors and 750 outdoors, and with a special safety concept and permission by the regional administrative authorities even 1.000 persons indoors and 1.250 persons outdoors. Events with standing places are still limited to 100 persons until 31 August.</p>
	<p><b>Financial and social-economics measures taken by Belgium against the Covid-19 crisis</b></p> <p><b><u>Introduction</u></b></p> <p>In Belgium, among the measures taken on Friday 13 March by the Federal Government, are prohibited until April 3 inclusive (extended until the 3th of May) on the national territory, activities of a private or public nature, of a cultural, social, folk and recreational nature. All establishments belonging to the cultural sectors (including museums, libraries, places of dissemination, etc.) festive and recreational must also be closed.</p> <p>In the beginning of May, an exit strategy will be cautiously deployed (on 4, 11 and 18 May and later 8 June). The reopening of museums and exhibition spaces under strict conditions on 18 May is a part of this strategy. Mass gatherings (e.g. festivals) are banned until the end of August. It is not yet clear when smaller gatherings in, for example, theatres or small music venues can take place again.</p> <p>In Belgium, cultural policy is foremost a competence of the Communities. However, the measures that affect the arts and culture sector to contain the spread of the virus as well as relief plans come from different government levels. Most of these government actions are not specifically aimed at arts and culture workers, but apply to larger portions of the Belgian (working) population.</p> <p>Beside the measures on securing national health, an important part of the government actions in Belgium is focused on the socio-economic impact of the crisis, mitigating financial losses for the working population or adjusting the social welfare</p>

system, funding schemes or taxation. The following list contains the most relevant new measures that impact the arts and culture sector.

### **1) Federal Government**

#### **Postponement of tax payment**

The payment terms for VAT and withholding tax are extended by 2 months. Postponement of payment means that you can pay later and that the tax authorities collect no interest on late payments and no fines. If this additional postponement is not sufficient, additional payment methods can be agreed with the Federal Public Service Finance, such as a payment plan and no application of default interest.

- Postponement of payment and remission of increases in social security contributions

Self-employed persons affected by the effects of the corona virus can apply to their social security fund to defer payment of their provisional contributions. This measure applies to the provisional contributions of the first two quarters of 2020. The cooperating partner may request a remission of the increase.

- Temporary unemployment

The group of temporary unemployed, who are already 671,000 on March 20, is also being expanded to include people who have to stay at home because family has to in quarantine. In concrete terms, people receive an extra 150 euros per month on top of the existing benefit. Earlier, the amount had already increased from 65 percent of the gross wages to 70 percent, with a ceiling of 2,700 euros. The government expects that there will eventually be 800,000 to a million technical unemployed.

- Self-employed

For self-employed persons there will be a replacement income for March and April. It is best for all self-employed persons to contact their social insurance office. They

will also be deferred for their social security contributions until December 15 for the two quarters.

- Postponement of payment and guarantee scheme for companies, the self-employed and families

The federal government has drawn up an agreement with the financial sector with the support of the National Bank of Belgium.

This agreement consists of two pillars:

1) The financial sector is committed to defer payment to viable non-financial corporations and the self-employed as well as mortgage borrowers with payment difficulties due to the corona crisis until 30 September 2020.

2) The federal government will activate a guarantee scheme for all new credits and credit lines for a maximum maturity of 12 months, which banks provide to viable non-financial companies and the self-employed. In this way, we maintain financing for the economy.

- No taxes on regional premium

The regional authorities have also already taken measures, for example the EUR 4,000 nuisance premium for catering establishments that have to close. On March 20, the federal government decided not to levy taxes on this premium.

- Tax shelter Audiovisual Works and Tax shelter Performing Arts

The exceptional situation caused by the coronavirus and the measures taken by the federal government as a result also affect the Tax Shelter audiovisual works and Tax Shelter performing arts. In these circumstances, for the performing arts, it was decided to extend the current 24-month term for expenditure by 6 months.

For the audiovisual sector it was decided to extend the current term of 18 months (24 months for animation) by 6 months. In order to benefit from the measure, it is

necessary for the producer to demonstrate that he has suffered direct damage as a result of the measures taken by the public authorities to combat the coronavirus.

## **Events**

On 19 March a ministerial decision was taken on the reimbursement of tickets for cancelled events. The organiser shall not have to reimburse tickets if the event is moved to a later date (within the year and at the same or a nearby location), unless the consumer is unable to attend the event on the new date (e.g. due to illness or to professional reasons). In case of cancellation, the organizer will be given until 20 September (six months after the publication of the Decree the time to make the repayment.

## **2) Walloon Region**

### **An extraordinary solidarity fund**

This fund is distributed as follows:

*- € 233 million in order to support SMEs and the self-employed in the sectors affected by the crisis, through flat-rate compensation;*

- 5.000 EUR by company completely closed or stopped as a result of decisions adopted by the National Security Council and belonging to the following sectors: catering, accommodation, activities of travel agencies, tour operators, reservation services and related activities ;
- 2500 EUR by company which must modify the days of closure without being closed all week in application of these decisions adopted by The National Security Council (Personal services like hairdressers until a certain date)

In addition to this direct support, the Walloon Government intends to bring together all the Walloon financial forces to maintain the financing of businesses. This is why, the Walloon financial tools as a whole (SRIW, GROUPE SOGEPA, SOWALFIN, invests) will grant a general freeze on

loans under way until the end of March 2020. This freeze can be extended until the end of April 2020.

Other measures of support are put in place within economic tools, for example the granting of guarantees.

*- 115 million euros to support the health and social sectors;*

*- 2 million euros intended for local authorities in compensation for the abolition of taxes and fees for businesses and the self-employed affected by the coronavirus crisis.*

- Taxation

Tax payment deadlines: taxpayers will benefit from a suspension of the payment deadline, which will be extended by the period corresponding to the crisis.

### **Get up Wallonia**

The Government of Wallonia has worked to respond to emergencies related to the covid-19 crisis, as well as to prepare the future. *Get Up Wallonia!* whose objective is to shape, together, the future of Wallonia was presented on April 22. As part of this initiative, the government has identified three phases of action for the coming months: the emergency phase, the recovery phase and the reorientation phase.

The main measures decided and concerning the cultural sector are the following:

In terms of economy and employment, € 285 million comes on top of the € 233 million already allocated in March to support the economy, businesses and the self-employed. They are intended to extend the categories for the lump sum indemnity of € 5,000 (it includes Arts, performing and recreational activities, cinemas venues), to set up a second lump sum indemnity of € 2,500 for the self-employed / companies which were only able to function partially during the confinement period and who benefited from the gateway right.

They also make it possible to create a ricochet loan for the self-employed who need



cash to pass the course. In total, the Government estimates that 110 to 115,000 self-employed people / companies will benefit from this aid.

In order to maintain employment in the social economy and guarantee its sustainability, the immunization of subsidies from associations was decided when the suppression of their activities was linked to the Covid-19 crisis.

More information on : <https://spw.wallonie.be/get-wallonia>

### **3) Wallonia- Brussels Federation**

The first measures taken by the WBF following this crisis, is to favor the postponement, where it is possible, of cultural activities and events knowing that it is possible that the measures of social distancing will be maintained after the 3 of April, the situation changing from day to day

It is important, particularly in the Performing Arts sector and for venues, to be able to take care, if possible, the reimbursement of the real costs incurred by the providers, namely the companies recognized by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, in the event of cancellation of performances. Interventions requested from the Arts and Life Tours, School Show will already be paid in order to pay the companies for the costs incurred for each cancelled performance.

On 19 March 19, 2020, the Government made the decision to create an Emergency and Support Fund for operators, workers and users in sectors hit by the COVID-19 coronavirus health crisis. In order to identify the needs of the cultural and audiovisual sector and their actors, the Minister of Culture, Bénédicte Linard organized a series of meetings and consultations with the various recognized federations. As a reminder, several measures have already been taken following these consultations:

1. The maintain of the grants for operators who will be unable to comply with some conditions of granting specifically due to the health crisis and the possibility to pay the grants in advance to avoid loss of cash for operators hit by

the crisis;

2. The establishment of the emergency loan launched by the St'art investment fund for the treasury of culture and creativity companies located in the Wal-lonia-Brussels Federation;
3. The common thread of the Federation's interventions, and a condition for having access to them, is to allow remuneration for creators and final service providers, such as companies, authors, artists and technicians. It is a ques-tion of solidarity with the most fragile actors in the cultural world and who are the most affected by the crisis we are going through. The WBF also con-tinues to be the voice of the cultural world and to question the Federal Au-thority on the various questions linked to access to temporary unemploy-ment, access to and maintenance of the status of artist, the rights of author and the application of the Tax Shelter.

<https://linard.cfwb.be/home/presse--actualites.html>

### **All measures taken in the context of the Coronavirus crisis**

**1. Request the Federal State for a flexibility demand in the European financial framework**

**2. Guarantee of the grants despite the crisis and speeding up the payment of the various grants**

**3. Financial support for actors and operators of the WBF**

Offer a loan guarantee for sectors and operators who could encounter difficulties in accessing credit due to the Covid-19 crisis and facilitate access to borrowing by a crowdfunding mechanism (citizens, businesses and insurers).

**4. Urge the insurance sector and work with other levels of authorities**

The government is working with the federal, Walloon and Brussels governments to adopt concerted and adapted measures (bridge law and temporary unemployment,

employment assistance, etc.). He will meet with the insurance sector to request reimbursements or guarantees offered by insurance contracts (school trips, internships, cancellation of shows, etc.).

#### **5. Establishment of an emergency fund of € 50 million**

This emergency fund will provide assistance to sectors affected by containment measures whose viability is in danger (culture, equal opportunities, education, youth, sport, etc.). . The organizations benefiting from the emergency fund will have to ensure the remuneration of the final service providers (for example, for culture: companies, artists, etc.).

#### **6. Establishment of an Audiovisual task force with the media actors**

Mobilize media operators in order to broadcast quality educational, artistic and cultural content on television and on multimedia platforms

#### **7. Emergency measures for audiovisual and media actors**

On 14 April, WBF approved emergency measures to allow cinema and audiovisual professionals to cope with the health crisis. These new provisions aim to increase the cash reserves of those involved in the creative chain, in addition to the systems already set up by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. These emergency measures are based on three major axes.

*1. Removal of the obligation to pay advances on receipts received in 2019 (Film Selection Commission, Special Fund and FWB-RTBF Series Fund*

*2. Production assistance:* extension of approval times and the validity of contracts. All deadlines for files for which approval is pending are extended by 12 months. All production, development and writing assistance contracts are extended by 12 months.

*3. Modification relating to reinvestment premiums*

On April 30, a plan to assist the media and journalists was adopted.

This plan is divided into 4 measures of support:

*1/ A communication campaign:* the Government undertakes to purchase advertising space for a communication campaign of public interest in all national, regional and local written and audiovisual media, in order to respond to the drastic drop in their advertising revenue. A provisional amount is planned for 1,383,043 euros for this measure.

*2/ Support for the media, the viability of which is threatened due to the COVID-19 crisis:* media pluralism is an essential pillar of democracy. However, the Covid-19 crisis risks jeopardizing the viability of certain players in the media world as well as emerging initiatives.

In this context, the Government has provided a budget of 3,000,000 euros to compensate the sector for the loss of revenue caused by the crisis. The media covered by the daily and periodical press will be eligible for these allowances, the radios, including independent and associative ones, the televisions, including the local televisions.

*3/ Direct support for independent journalists:* journalists are particularly exposed in this crisis. Many workers have seen their workload increase, sometimes with a salary cut by temporary layoff. Other journalists, often freelancers, have seen their work volume decrease drastically without being able to benefit from the gateway right. Beyond the social emergency experienced by these journalists, the attractiveness of the profession is also jeopardized.

The WBF intends to support the work of independent journalists (and assimilated status) through an increase of 550,000 euros in the resources devoted to the Journalism Fund.

These additional resources will be allocated to monthly calls for projects up to the end of the year. They will be dedicated to independent journalists and journalists without income.

*4) Enable the transition of the media sector towards an economic model less dependent on advertising:* the COVID-19 crisis underlines the fragility of the media sector, and in particular its excessive dependence on advertising.

## **8. Emergency loan for the treasury (cash-flow) of cultural and creative enterprises**

In addition to the measures taken, the Government of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation approved this 26th of March, the emergency loan launched by the St'art investment fund for the treasury of cultural and creative enterprises.

This emergency cash loan will be intended for all cultural and creative businesses in the activity sectors having as main object the creation, development, production, reproduction, promotion, dissemination or marketing of goods, services and activities that have a cultural, artistic and / or heritage content.

This product would be available for a period of 6 months (possibly renewable for 6 months) for an amount of 20,000 to 100,000 euros with a fixed rate of 2%.

An analysis will be carried out by the St'art team to verify the capacity to reimburse and that the other measures of support (federal, regional, community) have been activated. The files will be examined by prioritizing cases according to the urgency of the situations, with the objective of providing a rapid response and ensuring that the loan effectively meets needs and does not constitute difficulties future.

In addition, the Board of St'art, supported by the Government, validated the possibility of granting a moratorium on outstanding loans (interest and capital) at the request of the companies concerned. This measure will be implemented on the 31 of march 2020. Any extension of the moratorium or any request for moratorium covering more than one month will be dealt on a case-by-case basis.

For the Minister of Culture Bénédicte Linard: "Since the start of the health crisis, we have been listening to cultural players to provide answers to the unprecedented difficulties they face. The decision on the St'art fund is a new concrete measure targeting the cultural and creative industries. The work continues at the Wallonia-Brussels Federation level to accompany and support the cultural sector, and in particular its most fragile actors, and prepare the conditions for its redeployment at the end of the health crisis. "

Any additional information: [http: //start-invest.be/](http://start-invest.be/)

#### 4) German speaking Community

The German-speaking Community continues to subsidize the operating costs and the human resources costs of cultural operators recognized by the decree. In addition, the real costs of projects already admitted and stopped or suspended because of the Covid 19 crisis will be eligible for the grant.

Furthermore, the government has created a special fund of 10 Million euros which serves to support among others the organisations of the cultural sector and the youth sector.

In order to help cultural organisations to keep financial liquidity during the crisis, the government will propose to the parliament a temporary change of funding rules which would allow cultural operators to apply for the payment of their entire annual grant for management costs in one payment instead of monthly twelfths, if they wish so. Regarding the longer term, the German-speaking Community is currently reflecting on measures and plans that could give cultural organisations a boost after the crisis. This reflections are still ongoing and should lead to some kind of “Marshall plan” for culture in the German-speaking Community.

#### 5) Flemish Community (these apply to people and organisations living and working in Flanders and Brussels)

- An emergency fund of EUR 200 million for the cultural and other sectors has been announced. **More information on the distribution of this fund will be provided in due course.**
- In order to inform individual and organisations active in the CCS on socio-economic and legal issues connected to the impact of the current COVID-19 situation, the Department of Culture, Youth and Media in close cooperation with Cultuurloket has created a periodically updated, online FAQ about the impact of the COVID-19 situation on the CCS.

(<https://cjsm.be/informatie-covid-19>). In addition, a dedicated COVID-19 info line was set up, providing legal counsel to both individuals and organisations.

- The Flemish government has agreed upon an emergency decree to allow for flexibility in administrative obligations and deadlines when funding recipients need to account for their subsidized activities towards the Department of Culture, Youth and Media, for example:
    - Deadlines for submission of grant applications and reporting will be maintained, but the Department of Culture, Youth and Media is more flexible regarding the completeness of grant applications and/or reporting.
    - In order to prevent organizations from experiencing liquidity problems, advance payment foreseen to be paid out later in the financial year, will be brought forward, in order to alleviate the financial burden upon the beneficiaries.
  - A new round of project funding for the arts will proceed in May, while lockdown measures are still in place. The procedures for project funding are therefore temporarily adjusted, such as a reduction in the number of people in the peer review commissions that give advice on applications.
1. Flanders Audiovisual Fund – VAF and Literatuur Vlaanderen have introduced flexibility regarding the deadlines and requirements of grant application and/or reporting. (<https://www.vaf.be/corona> & <https://www.literatuurvlaanderen.be/nieuws/update-corona-en-auteurslezingen>)
  2. Deferral of remuneration of recognised network and local radio broadcasters until 30<sup>th</sup> of September  
(<https://www.vlaamseregulatormedia.be/nl/nieuws/2020/uitstel-tot-30-september-2020-voor-betaling-vergoeding-erkende-netwerk-en-lokale-radio>)

**6) Flemish Region (these apply to the territory of the Flemish Region, which excludes the Brussels-Capital Region)**

**Legal instruments**

Due to the corona crisis, many individuals, local authorities and professionals with an ongoing immovable cultural heritage project may experience problems with their ongoing works or applications.

In order to offer maximum legal certainty the Flemish Government therefore decided to extend or suspend certain procedural terms.

- some decisions/applications which usually have to be sent by registered post can now be sent by e-mail (by citizens as well as the administration);
- time limits of heritage protection procedures, appeal procedures and grant applications are extended;
- the period of validity of a granted permission for actions involving protected heritage will be extended for as long as the emergency lasts;

the time limit of the current public consultation about the Establishment of the Inventory of Architectural Heritage in the province of Flemish Brabant is suspended until April 24th, with a possible extension.

**Financial Incentives**

- An impediment fee ('hinderpremie') of EUR 4.000 for businesses, independents and organisations employing at least one full time employee (including those in the arts and culture sector), who were forced to close due to decisions on the federal level. The amount is given once, but smaller, recurring fees can be added. Only those providing services to an audience on a physical location (e.g. a theatre, an exhibition room, a store, a travelling circus tent etc.) are eligible. Businesses operating in the heritage sector can also benefit from this subsidy.  
([www.vlaio.be/coronahinderpremie](http://www.vlaio.be/coronahinderpremie))



- A compensation fee ('compensatiepremie') of EUR 3.000 for businesses, independents and organisations employing at least one full time employee that suffer a loss in income of 60% or more. These include those working in arts and culture. Contrary to the impediment fee, this one also applies for organisations or businesses which do not provide services to an audience on a physical location. Businesses operating in the heritage sector can also benefit from this subsidy.  
([www.vlaio.be/coronacompensatiepremie](http://www.vlaio.be/coronacompensatiepremie))
- The conditions of an existing stimulation fee ('aanmoedigingspremie') — aimed at (cultural) businesses in financial distress that keep employees in part time employment in order to avoid firing them — have been modified. Also businesses suffering financial losses of 20% or more due to the COVID-19 crisis can apply now. See [www.vlaanderen.be/aanmoedigingspremie-bij-onderneming-in-moeilijkheden-privesector](http://www.vlaanderen.be/aanmoedigingspremie-bij-onderneming-in-moeilijkheden-privesector).

### **Flemish tax measures**

- Postponement of property tax for companies: It was decided to postpone the assessments for property tax for companies in order to prevent companies from running into liquidity problems. This means that approximately 1 billion in taxes will not be collected in the spring, but only in the autumn. In concrete terms, the property tax assessments for companies will be sent out from September onwards.
- 4 months deferment of payment of annual road tax
- Allow flexible repayment plans
- Extension of time limits to meet tax obligations for inheritance tax and registration tax. Due to the security measures in place in Belgium, notary offices and citizens are not always able to complete all (fiscal) formalities on time. As a general measure, the Flemish Tax Administration therefore grants a tolerance period with a term extension up to two months after the end of

the period in which the strictly corona measures apply.

More information via [belastingen.vlaanderen.be/coronamaatregelen-vlaamse-belastingdienst](https://belastingen.vlaanderen.be/coronamaatregelen-vlaamse-belastingdienst)

### **PMV Coronavirus crisis guarantee**

Flanders' government has expanded investment firm PMV's 'generic' guarantee capacity of EUR 1.9 billion by adding a **coronavirus crisis guarantee** of EUR 100 million. ([www.pmv.eu/nl/maatregelen-van-pmv-tegen-de-impact-van-het-coronavirus](http://www.pmv.eu/nl/maatregelen-van-pmv-tegen-de-impact-van-het-coronavirus))

The associated one-time premium rate has been lowered to 0.25% instead of 0.5%. Under the generic guarantee scheme, which will be fully deployed, an existing credit, line of credit or previously guaranteed lease can be extended.

The additional coronavirus guarantee is meant to:

- make it easier for companies to receive bank financing for their working capital if they have been unable to pay outstanding invoices due to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- enable companies and self-employed individuals to have a 'bridging loan' guaranteed for existing non-bank debts for up to 12 months (adding 9 months to the 3-month period under the 'generic' guarantee scheme);
- allow guarantees for bank debts – in addition to supplier debts – related to existing lines of credit or non guaranteed investment loans (provided that the bank is also prepared to grant at least 3 months of payment deferral or to maintain lines of credit).

### **PMV subordinated loans**

In order to mitigate the effects of the Corona crisis for Flemish companies, PMV also created a medium-term financial buffer with subordinated loans over 3 years. A subordinated loan means that PMV will be the last in line of creditors if an SME

would have a hard time. The measure is intended only for healthy companies, which may temporarily suffer from poor profitability.

The focus is on start-up companies and scale-ups, as well as mature companies that temporarily run into difficulties due to the Corona crisis and need financial strengthening to overcome the effects of the Corona crisis.

These subordinated loans must be applied for before 15 November 2020. The target is to limit the lead time between the application (subject to a complete and substantiated information package) and the availability of the Corona loan to a maximum of 1 month. (<https://www.pmv.eu/nl/maatregelen-van-pmv-tegen-de-impact-van-het-coronavirus>)

### **Payment suspension for SMEs**

Entrepreneurs benefitting from the Start-up Loan, Co-financing and Co-financing+ schemes (granted by PMV/z) are temporarily not required to repay this financing. The direct debits foreseen for repayment of capital and/or interest are automatically suspended for all borrowers. The suspension is valid for 3 months and will be extended to 6 months if necessary.

### **Microcredits of microStart**

MicroStart also continues to finance those entrepreneurs who do not have access to bank credit in this corona crisis. For each microcredit granted, a deferral of repayment of up to 3 months will always be proposed. In addition, a new credit for urgent cash flow needs has been created: mS Express microcredit is a credit of up to € 2000, without a guarantee to resolve cash flow needs quickly. In collaboration with Fund For Good, microStart also offers an additional interest-free loan of €1,000 without a guarantee. ([www.microstart.be](http://www.microstart.be))

### **Employment and start-up subsidies made more flexible**

It was decided to relax a number of Flemish support measures aimed at employment

and stimulation of entrepreneurship as a result of the corona crisis:

- The Flemish Support Premium (VOP) for the self-employed: In order to be eligible for this premium, self-employed persons with a work-limiting disability must demonstrate that their net business income is high enough on an annual basis. Due to the corona crisis, this threatens to become impossible for many. For this reason, the possibility is provided for the income not to be taken into account during the crisis months so that they can continue to rely on this premium in the future.
- Recruitment incentive for long-term job-seekers: This subsidy is intended to encourage employers to recruit people aged between 25 and 55 who have been registered with VDAB for at least two years as non-working jobseekers and to employ them sustainably. In order to prevent employers from incurring additional financial losses as a result of the corona crisis, the calculation of the premium is based on the months prior to the corona crisis.
- Transition fees to entrepreneurship: This fee for jobseekers over 45 wants to stimulate the transition to self-employment. However, candidate-entrepreneurs prefer to wait until the corona crisis is over to start as self-employed persons in their main profession. That is why the following periods can be extended by 3 months: the submission period for application files and the period of validity of the compulsory pre-starter trajectory.
- Work card for economic migrants: Work permits are granted to economic migrants from 'third countries' (non-EU) for a maximum period of ninety days. Due to the corona crisis, several labour migrants are unable to return to their country of origin in time. Therefore, provision is made to extend the stay of labour migrants who are unable to leave the country for exceptional reasons. This will allow them to continue working for the duration of their stay.

#### **Utilities**

The Flemish Government takes care of the water and energy bills of households with family members who become temporarily unemployed as a result of the corona measures for a period of one month. The amount is automatically paid into the account

### **Culture Credit**

The Culture Credit is an initiative of the Flemish government to support organisations and individuals in the cultural sector by financing their operations. It can also be used to bridge a period in which income is uncertain. This measure was in place before the Corona crisis, but has proven very useful during these challenging times as well.

### **Free insurance for volunteers who commit to 'Vlaanderen Helpt' ('Flanders Helps') during the corona crisis**

The Flemish Government is extending the voluntary insurance to all citizens who will set up actions to help neighbours and vulnerable people during the corona crisis in the coming weeks. This coverage allows to give extra protection to the many helping hands.

Until now, only associations were able to take out a free volunteer insurance at the Flemish Volunteering Support Centre (<https://www.vlaanderenrijwilligt.be/>) This is now also temporarily possible for volunteers who are committed to 'Vlaanderen Helpt'. They can also apply via the said centre to be insured for physical accidents, civil liability and legal assistance during the volunteering work.

It is important that volunteers also adhere to government guidelines in the context of the corona crisis (e.g. keeping enough distance from each other, washing hands consistently, not to organise child care by themselves and not to volunteer if the person is ill or suspects that s/he will become ill. Moreover, the Volunteer Act remains fully applicable: organizations working with volunteers remain in most cases responsible for insuring their (new) volunteers.

More info and registration as a volunteer (<https://www.vlaanderenwilligt.be/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/vlaanderenhelptinfo15032020.pdf>) and more info about the extension of the free volunteer insurance (<https://www.vlaanderenwilligt.be/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/verzekeringenkele-verduidelijkingen2403.pdf>)  
#VlaanderenHelpt

## **7) Brussels Region**

The Government of the Brussels-Capital Region has decided to take unprecedented economic and social measures to support the most affected sectors, for a budget of more than 150 million euros:

- **A single premium of € 4,000 per company**, the closure of which is made compulsory following decisions adopted by the National Security Council (“press point” can benefit of this support, all cultural activities are out of the scope).  
<http://werk-economie-emploi.brussels/fr/prime-covid-19>
- **The suspension of City Tax payment** by the Brussels Region for the first half of 2020;
- **Strong support for the cash flow** of the companies affected via the granting of public guarantees (via the Brussels Guarantee Fund) on bank loans, for a total of 20 million euros;
- **The accelerated, even anticipated processing, engagement and payment of support** for economic expansion for the HORECA, tourism, events and cultural sectors;

- **The strengthening of support for companies in difficulty by hub.brussels** in collaboration with the Center for companies in difficulty (CED) whose endowment is increased by € 200,000.

- **In foreign trade:** hub.brussels is responsible for regularly monitoring the impact of Covid-19 on the Brussels economy and in particular on high-risk sectors. There is close cooperation with private actors. Following the cancellation of missions abroad (major fairs, missions in risk areas), hub.brussels individually contacts companies to explain the technical details clearly to them (information on cancellation, explanation on how the reimbursement of their costs can be organized, etc.) Depending on the evolution of the situation, hub.brussels will present alternative proposals for cancelled missions.

- In order to support the associative sectors and the events, tourism, cultural and sports sectors of Brussels, following measures were taken *for events taking place, in whole or in part, from March 1 to April 30, 2020 inclusive:*

- For events postponed later in the year 2020, the grant remains without modification of the grant decree and without modification of the amount awarded;
- For cancelled events, the Brussels government authorizes the use of this grant to settle invoices for expenses already incurred for the event and which cannot be cancelled

These measures complement the measures put in place by the federal authorities to fight the economic crisis that has hit our country. Whether in the sectors of Health, Social, Aid to people in Training and Socio-professional Integration, **Culture** and Sport or even Social Cohesion, associations and services bear the brunt of the consequences of the crisis. It is therefore essential to support them, in order to limit the impact of the crisis on their activities and their workers.

This is why the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, with other authorities, have decided to take several measures, including the creation of a special fund “COVID-19” of 29 million euros.

These measures are, among others:

**1. Maintaining structural grants for all sectors**

- For the subsidized sectors and which will face a reduction in their activities or even the cessation of these for various reasons (forced closure, incomplete teams, etc.), it is proposed to guarantee the planned structural subsidies;
- Non-planned expenditure derogations directly linked to the crisis and administrative simplifications will be proposed

**2. Maintaining optional subsidies for all COCOF (French Community Commission) sectors**

- Maintaining optional grants for events, projects and / or activities to take place in the period from March 1 to April 30, 2020 and having been postponed, with the possibility of requesting an additional grant in the event of additional costs linked to the postponement;
- Authorization to use the subsidies to settle invoices already incurred for cancelled events, projects or activities;
- At the same time, to make life easier for organizations, more flexible procedures will be put in place with administrations (filing of supporting documents, inspection procedures, etc.).

**3. Creation of a special “Covid-19” Fund of 29 million euros**

The Brussels regional authorities have decided to provide support to all non-profit businesses, and in particular to the services and operators who are at the forefront of this crisis. Among these, as we know, the Social Action and Health sectors are all the more affected by the current crisis as they have to adapt and continue their activities under difficult and changing conditions. However, they constitute an essential link in the fight against Covid-19.

See website : <https://coronavirus.brussels/>



## **8) National Bank of Belgium**

### Bank sector

The coronavirus turns out to be a shock to our economy. Banks must be able to continue to finance households and businesses experiencing temporary difficulties. The measures set out below aim to support banks, in order to help the economy and to cope with operational challenges, in particular the pressure exerted on them.

The National Bank of Belgium (NBB) already contacted the banks under its supervision regarding the activation of business continuity planning.

### Economic Risk Management Group

In addition, an economic working group has been created to fight the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. This working group, called Economic Risk Management Group (ERMG), brings together representatives of important economic interest groups, the financial sector, public bodies, communities and regions, academia and social partners (employers' organizations and union). The task of this task force is to map the magnitude of the consequences for the economy and the financial sector, to detect risks on time and to make recommendations for support measures.

### Payment deferral and guarantee scheme for individuals and companies affected by the coronavirus crisis

On March 22, the National Bank, the federal government and the financial sector agreed to a "real financial bazooka" to limit the impact of the coronavirus crisis. Stable businesses and the self-employed can get deferred mortgage payments until September. For all new self-employed or business loans, a cushion of 50 billion euros is provided in case these cannot be paid due to the coronavirus crisis.

In the meantime, the practical details of the payment deferrals have been incorporated into two charters: the first for mortgage loans ([crédits hypothécaires](#)) and the second for business loans ([crédits aux entreprises](#)).

<p><b>BG</b> <b>(6/4/20)</b></p>	<p><b>Measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural and creative sectors in Bulgaria</b></p> <p>The Bulgarian Government has taken social and economic measures to deal with the situation caused by the state of emergency in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Representatives of the cultural and creative sectors in Bulgaria will have the opportunity to take advantage of them in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like other economic entities, cultural organisations can apply for state funding to support employees in the „Artistic and Creative Activity“ and „Cinema Theatres“ sectors – possibility to pay employers a state compensation of up to 60% of the salaries of the permanent staff members of staff.</li> <li>• It is envisaged that the cultural organisations, which operate with non-commercial activity, such as foundations, associations, etc., can also use lighter regimes - for example interest-free loans.</li> <li>• In the event of unemployment in the freelance creative professions, those workers will be able to apply for support through regional services and through the national unemployment service.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry of Culture is preparing a proposal for restructuring funds under the Operational Program “Human Resources”, which will support socially representatives of the entire cultural and creative sector, including those employed as permanent staff in various state and municipal institutes, as well as NGOs.</p> <p>National Fund for Culture (NFC), which is one of the essential instruments of the Ministry of Culture for funding the cultural sector foresees the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete steps will be taken with regard to the restructuring of funds allocated to specific NFC programs (strands), increasing the percentage of administrative and overhead costs. This restructuring enables more flexibility for organizations and individual creators to apply with projects also incorporating existing topics into their projects.</li> <li>• Programs (strands) can adapt new tools according to those activities that relate to building a network of contacts and partnerships (which can be implemented remotely); participating in events for the exchange of experience and practices (when carried out remotely); participating in events of a training nature (when they could be held remotely); carrying out activities and overall projects for adaptation/creation of content in digital formats in order to reach a wider/new audience.</li> <li>• New activities will be added to the „Critique“ program, focusing on – preparation of analysis, discussions, etc. that relate to creative processes, products, content and overall organisational activity under circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis (covering cultural sectors and art forms).</li> <li>• Priority will be given to organisations and artists at risk within the current crisis, whose activities can be safeguarded through financial support for next</li> </ul>
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	<p>year.</p> <p>With regard to targeted programs directly administered by the Ministry of Culture, existing competitive design sessions for creative projects will be restructured, increasing the percentage of administrative and overhead costs.</p> <p>In order to ensure good coordination of information and actions, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria is conducting regular online meetings (video conferences) with representatives of the independent sector, NGOs, who are most affected by the current events. The possibilities are being discussed and the necessary funding is being sought to set up two funds to support the cultural and creative sectors in Bulgaria, which will continue to exist after the end of the pandemic: „Solidarity“ Fund, which will support Bulgarian freelance creators who cannot exercise their profession because of the declared state of emergency and the „Art in Crisis“ Fund, which will guarantee the sustainability of organisations from the independent creative scene, while partially supporting the direct costs of their operational existence.</p> <p>With a view to keeping all stakeholders informed, interactive online events and sessions are planned to promote and explain the programs, with the aim to clarify their content and opportunities. Those online sessions and presentations will be accessed through the channels of the Ministry of Culture. New application measures are under discussion, which will facilitate the electronic application procedure for all upcoming calls, with a view to avoid physical hand-in of applications. Those groups of applicants who do not cope with the online application system, will be assisted and allowed to send their package of documents by e-mail.</p> <p><u>Additional information:</u></p> <p>In order to encourage reading among people, including online, the Ministry of Culture is about to announce a competition session in the coming days for the renewal of the funds of the Bulgarian libraries for a total value of BGN 2 million (1 million EURO). With this measure, not only will the library network gain access to more attractive literature for readers, but it will also support Bulgarian authors and publishers. Readers will be able to access online resources in the current situation of social isolation.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture hopes that all these measures will have a positive effect on the cultural and creative sectors in the Republic of Bulgaria and will help the creators at this difficult times. Due to the rapid changes in the situation, the proposed measures are under development and may be modified to be adequate and adaptable to the changing environment.</p>
<p><b>CY</b> <b>(4/6/20)</b></p>	<p><b>Measures to support the cultural and creative sectors at national level in the context of the COVID-19 crisis</b></p>

Cyprus has adopted supportive measures to aid businesses and employees, including businesses and employees in the Cultural and Creative sector. The support package contains, among others, the following measures:

- a) Suspended Operations Plan: To all businesses that have decided to suspend their operations and to all businesses that will continue their operations and will suffer losses beyond 25% of their turnover, a Suspended Operations Plan of the businesses is applied aiming at avoiding redundancies and at the same time the affected workers will receive unemployment allowance for as long as the business will be under suspended operations.
- b) Support Plan for Small Businesses, for businesses employing up to 5 people, under the condition that they keep employing their employees and have suffered a loss bigger than 25% of their turnover. The Plan foresees a subsidy of 70% of the workers' salary. The conditions and safeguards of the Plan will be announced along with the invitation.
- c) The obligation to pay bank instalments, including interest on credit facilities granted and / or purchased and / or managed by financial institutions, is suspended for all beneficiaries until the end of the year. The beneficiaries are natural persons, legal entities governed by public law, self-employed persons and undertakings who have had no delays in paying the instalment more than 30 days from the date provided for by existing contractual obligations on 29 February 2020.

Apart from the measures addressed by the Cyprus Government, the scope at the current situation is to mainly continue to provide the financial resources and support to artists and institutions affected and compensate damages caused by cancellations of events and activities. Thus, the Cyprus the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth has decided the following:

i. New measures

- Emergency grant of a fixed amount of €900 towards professionals of the creative and cultural sector.
- Increase, by 50%, the amount provided for the Purchase of Art Works for the State Collection.

- Enhance the screening of European and Cypriot film productions
- Promote online film and audiovisual activity in short films, documentaries and animation.

ii. Readjustment of existing Programmes

- Subsidy Programmes

- (a) Flexibility and adjustments regarding funding expenditure, administration, reporting in current programmes
- (b) Funding for online presentation of an already approved activity
- (c) Partial prepayment of planned activities which will be implemented until the first semester of 2021.
- (d) Approved beneficiaries who had already committed to participate in events locally and abroad or made arrangements for the organization of events/activities will be proportionately (suggestion for 60%) compensated.
- (e) Emergency grant of an amount of €900 towards professionals of the art and cultural sector.

- Film Production

- (a) With regard to the funding of filmmakers (for films that were already granted Government funding) more flexibility will be allowed on formal requirements of granting programmes.
  - Extension of all ongoing movie productions that have been signed with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth.
  - Rescheduling of the continuation or commencement of filming for productions affected by the crisis in consultation with the Cultural Services and the Cyprus Cinema Advisory Committee.
  - Rescheduling of all approved productions, of all categories, for 2020-2024

- (b) Regarding film productions that were either in the progress of filming or

<p><b>CZ (5/4/20)</b></p>	<p>had prepared for filming for the months of March to June 2020 and were forced to halt production-due to the repercussions caused by the loss of state aid the following should apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grant of a percentage of the total amount of confirmed losses due to the pandemic. Losses should not include amounts that fall within or are covered by the general financial framework of State aid to corporations (e.g. salaries of permanent staff etc.) or are covered by insurance companies with which they have entered into agreements.</li> <li>• <u>Operating Expenses</u> Support of Cultural Entities by financing their operating expenses in order to sustain their viability.</li> <li>• <u>Financial and Institutional Support</u> Continue to provide financial and institutional support of the operation and support of institutions that offer cultural programmes to the public, namely cultural centres and theatres.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry is also in close cooperation with the Cyprus Theatre Organisation in order to support the professionals and producers in the field of theatre.</p> <p>According to the latest government decisions, Museums, archaeological sites and historical sites re-opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, open space theatres and cinemas will reopen during the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the lifting of the measures, thus after the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, while indoor theatres and cinemas will reopen at the beginning of August.</p> <p>.</p> <p><b>Based on the evaluation of the current situation and the prospect for the realization of cultural events in the next period, the Ministry of Culture proposes the following measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realization of all subsidy programs in 2020 will be carried out in full version, while implementation also means preparatory actions or partial steps implemented by the beneficiary for the complete realization of the project.</li> <li>• Reducing the impact of the crisis on the independent culture sector caused</li> </ul>
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by the coronavirus pandemic through the newly prepared “COVID Cultural Infrastructure Sustainability Program”. This is an increase in the existing allocation for projects of subjects that do not have their own founder and whose project will not be able to be implemented by 30 June 2020. At the moment, the amount is 400 million CZK.

- Providing a program to promote access to culture through digital media. The aim is to create cultural content by subjects in the field of live art using several platforms, including a stream on the Culture Net website, operated by the Arts and Theater Institute, in the amount of 30 million CZK.
- In relation with the further development of the situation, it is necessary to take into account the need to strengthen the contribution to the operation of contributory organizations established by the Ministry of Culture. The first impacts on contributory organizations established by the Ministry of Culture will be solved by increasing the chapter and by amending the Act No. 355/2019 Coll., on the state budget of the Czech Republic for 2020, by 300 million CZK. In the case of 29 organizations, the yearly average revenue loss is 34-36 million CZK per week, while taking into account the seasonality of the second quarter, it is almost 42-44 million CZK per week. Depending on the further development of the traffic restrictions affecting the income from the activities of contributory organizations of Chapter 334, a further additional increase shall be envisaged.
- Maximum use of additional funds from national sources to ensure the implementation of projects co-financed from the EU through state contributory organizations. A total of 150 million CZK is needed to complete large-scale projects and to secure investment activities in the sector.
- For the provision of regional cultural infrastructure in the field of performing arts and cultural heritage, a loss of revenues from respective activity in the total amount of 390 million CZK is expected; the performing arts will be covered through the State Support Program for Professional Theaters and Permanent Professional Symphony Orchestras and Choirs in the volume of 250 million CZK and cultural heritage, primarily comprising museums and

	<p>galleries, in the amount of 140 million CZK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The above points are based on the assumption that self-employed persons will be primarily solved through the Ministry of Industry and Trade; a part of the corporate sector in the area of culture will reach the program of the Ministry of Industry and Trade named “Interest-free loan from the COVID Loan Program” for SMEs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DE</b> <b>(6/4/20,</b> <b>8/4/20,</b> <b>22/5/20)</b></p>	<p><b>6/4/20</b></p> <p><b>Corona emergency aid for the cultural und creative sector in Germany</b></p> <p>The cultural und creative sector in Germany is heavily affected by the partly shut-down of public life because of the Corona/Covid-19 crisis. People working in the sector are concerned about their living.</p> <p>One core element of the measures taken by the Federal Government not only but also with respect to culture is an emergency financial aid programme for SMEs, microenterprises and self-employed persons totalling up to 50 billion euros. The German Government will provide immediate financial assistance in the form of grants to cover (at least partly) ongoing operating costs such as the rents for cinemas, music clubs or artists’ studios, but also loans for operating premises or leasing instalments, or to bridge financial bottlenecks.</p> <p><b>General measures taken by the Federal Government</b></p> <p>The Federal Government's aim is to ensure quick and easy access to social security and operational assurance. The necessary legal changes were passed by the Federal Government, the German Bundestag and the Bundesrat during the last week in March. These general measures benefit the cultural und creative sector as well as other sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aid package for solo self-employed persons and micro-enterprises:</i> the German Government has decided on Corona emergency aid for solo self-employed persons and small businesses in economic difficulties as a result of Corona, totalling up to 50 billion euros in federal funding. Thus the Federal Government will provide immediate financial assistance in the form of grants to secure the economic existence of applicants and to bridge acute liquidity bottlenecks. The funds can be used to pay current operating costs such as rent, loans for operating premises, leasing instalments and similar. Solo self-employed persons - i.e. self-employed persons without employees, individual artists, etc. - and micro-enterprises with up to five employees can</li> </ul>



receive up to 9,000 euros for three months. For up to ten employees micro-enterprises can receive up to 15,000 euros for three months. In addition (cumulative) some German federal states (Länder) also provide grants for larger companies with more than ten employees. The federal state aids are executed by the Länder.

- *Aid for organizers of cultural events:* organizers are facing immense re-claims because of the cancellation of cultural events due to the Corona crisis. At the same time, they face a lack of new income which threatens their economic existence. The Federal Government is preparing a regulation to enable organizers to offer holders of an admission ticket - instead of a refund - a voucher to attend another "equivalent" event until the end of 2021. Thus the organizers should have sufficient time to offer alternatives. Important: The customers don't have to make use of the voucher by then and will finally get their money back if they choose to do so. It is therefore de facto a kind of deferral which benefits all because increased insolvencies in the event industry would have a negative effect on the consumers as well. The bill still has to pass the legislative bodies, Deutscher Bundestag and Bundesrat.
- *Liquidity assistance:* the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) will support companies in coping with the Corona crisis by facilitating the short-term supply of liquidity to companies. To this end, KfW will make use of existing loans and improve access and conditions there. These offers are open to companies, self-employed persons and freelancers in the cultural and creative industry. In addition KfW is preparing a special programme through which the risk assumption for investment funds (exemptions from liability) will be significantly improved.
- *Short-time allowance:* short-time work compensation is becoming more flexible and can be paid retroactively as of March 1, 2020. Companies will be able to receive it under simplified conditions. Social security contributions will be fully reimbursed by the Federal Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit). Short-time compensation is also possible for employees who are temporary employed. The short-time work compensation only applies to employees and not to (solo) self-employed persons.
- *Simplified access to basic income:* for all workers including those in the cultural and media field whose income has been greatly reduced by the current crisis or whose livelihood is threatened, the access to basic income is being simplified. Applications between March 1 and June 30, 2020 are made easier and will be handled unbureaucratically.
- *Aid for parents and families:* those who have to look after their children because of school or daycare closures and therefore cannot go to work will be protected against excessive income losses. In addition access to child allow-

ances will be simplified in order to quickly help families who have lost income because of the Corona crisis.

- *Tax aid measures:* in order to support those affected by the Corona crisis tax reliefs come into effect. To companies directly affected by Corona the authorities grant deferrals of tax liabilities from income tax, corporation tax and value added tax. Tax prepayments can be adjusted for the income and corporation tax. Enforcement measures and late payment surcharges are waived (corporate tax, value added tax).
- *Insolvency law:* under insolvency law the obligation to file for insolvency affected companies is suspended until September 30, 2020. Incentives are created to inject new liquidity into companies affected by Corona and to maintain business relations with them. For a three-month transition period the right of creditors to request the opening of insolvency proceedings will be restricted. For private individuals in the case of an insolvency the effects of the Corona pandemic are taken into account in connection with residual debt discharges.
- *Protection of tenants:* landlords are not allowed to terminate the tenancy because of rent debts in the period from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 if the rent debts are based on the effects of the Corona pandemic. This applies to both residential and commercial leases. The obligation to pay the rent remains in principle.
- *Artists' Social Security Fund (Künstlersozialkasse):* due to the Corona pandemic insured persons - independent artists and publicists - may face a loss of income due to, among other things, cancelled events, returned tickets, etc. Insured persons whose income forecast has changed can report this and their contributions will be adjusted to the changed conditions. In case of acute payment difficulties individual payment facilities may also be granted. For companies subject to the levy monthly advance payments can be reduced or individual payment facilities may be granted.
- *Consumer loans:* for loan contracts a legal deferral regulation is to be introduced. After the deferral period has expired contracts will be adjusted. Initially these regulations are limited until September 30, 2020.

#### **Additional measures taken by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media**

- *Waiver on recovery orders:* in the event of a Corona-induced cancellation of funded cultural projects or events, the recovery of subsidies already spent can be renounced.
- *Reallocation of funds and flexibilization of programmes:* the Federal Gov-

ernment Commissioner for Culture and the Media will consistently sharpen existing funding programmes in such a way that the measures benefit both cultural institutions as well as artists in need and other freelancers working in the cultural and creative industries sector.

- *Film funding:* the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the funding agencies of the German federal states and the German Federal Film Board (FFA) have agreed upon an increased safeguarding of current funding (in particular production and distribution). This can be achieved, among other things, by waiving reclaims for postponements or terminations due to the Corona pandemic or by taking over additional costs in the event of postponements and interruptions of funded projects.
- *Recognition of media companies as critical infrastructures:* media companies ensure the basic information supply for the population which is of utter importance for any democracy. Therefore the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media requests that those companies are recognized as critical infrastructures which have to be supported in case of need and especially excluded from Corona-induced closures. Their core employees should be recognized as indispensable critical infrastructure personnel, to provide them, for example, with emergency care for their children.

22/5/20

#### **Additional measures taken by the Federal Foreign Office**

- *Assistance for German cultural institutes and German schools world-wide:* On 14 May Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas announced Corona assistance for German cultural institutes and German schools world-wide: up to 70 million EUR each for the support of the Goethe-Institute's network (145 locations in 97 countries) as well as the 140 German schools abroad.
- *kulturama.digital:* The Goethe-Institute's online platform kulturama.digital will make digital cultural offers internationally visible and tangible.
- *Flexibility on grants:* The Federal Foreign Office is supporting exchange students and scholars affected by the crisis by giving exchange organizations (among others the DAAD and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) flexibility to extend or postpone grants and travel.
- *Capacity building measures:* Reallocation of cultural preservation measures and especially capacity building measures into the virtual space. The aim is to improve access to knowledge by expanding e-learning offers and creating Open Access Databases.

### **Contributions by the German Länder**

Numerous federal states in Germany have adopted their own support programmes and measures for the cultural and creative sector. These programmes can usually be used in addition to federal aid as long as this does not lead to overcompensation.

**8/4/20**

### **Summary of measures by the German federal states (German Länder) to face the Corona-crisis in the cultural sector**

The German federal states („Länder”) are basically in charge of cultural and media affairs within the German constitutional system and therefore are the main public supporters of cultural institutions. They either run own cultural institutions (e.g. state theatres, museums) or institutionally support non-state institutions. Each Land also supports artists of all sectors to a huge extent and finances institutions for their education. In addition to the measures of the German federal government each of the 16 German Länder are envisaging a bundle of measures to help the cultural and creative sector to overcome the massive economic and financial damages the COVID-19-pandemic causes in the culture and creative sector. Whereas the programmes differ in the technical details and the concrete procedures are not yet completely fixed in many cases basically the following types of measures are foreseen by the German Länder:

- i. Programmes for immediate financial aids for SMEs and freelancers to alleviate shortages of liquidity of their businesses, e.g. costs for rents and staff. The culture and creative sector is by its structure highly affected and expressly comprised by this aid scheme. These programmes are mainly run by the ministries of economy. (Special programmes to particularly support the cultural sector are being developed in some of the Länder.)
- ii. Measures concerning non-state beneficiaries of public cultural support schemes: high flexibility and derogation from state aid rules in regards of Corona-caused disruptions, especially giving up possible refunds, prolongation of deadlines and funding etc.
- iii. Measures concerning state-run institutions (e.g. state theatres, state-owned museums etc.): Compensation of losses caused by cancellations of events or closing.
- iv. Alleviations and derogations of tax procedure rules for cultural institutions.
- v. Single payments for artists to alleviate personal financial hardship which is not covered by other programmes.

**DK  
(30/4/20)**

**Danish Government measures following COVID-19 with relevance for the cultural and creative sector**

*Please note that, due to the current situation with developments on an almost daily basis, this information may not be up-to-date nor is it intended to be exhaustive.*

The Danish Government has introduced general measures, some of which also apply to the cultural and creative sector (on condition that requirements set out for the measure in question are met).

In addition to such general measures, specific initiatives with particular focus on the cultural and creative sector are carried out or under consideration, with a view to addressing possible gaps in the general assistance packages.

Examples of general measures relevant for the cultural and creative sector and of culture-specific responses are outlined below.

**Examples of temporary general measures with relevance for the cultural and creative sector** include:

**A compensation scheme concerning cancelled or postponed events** involving more than 1000 participants that were planned to take place from 6 March to 9 June 2020. This package is targeted organisers of events and is a follow up to the Danish Government's original encouragement to cancel major events. Specific conditions apply. As of 18 April 2020, the scheme has subsequently been prolonged and widened so that it covers a larger number of events, including events carried out by public organisers. Covered by the scheme are cancelled or postponed events originally taking place from 6 March to 31 August 2020 and involving more than 350 participants. Total amount approx. 1.7 billion DKK (approx. 227 million EUR)

The Commission has considered the scheme to be in line with the EU State aid rules. The non-confidential version of the Commission's decision has been made available under the case number SA.56685 in the State aid register on the Commis-

sion's competition website.

**A salary compensation scheme for self-employed, freelancers, artists and seasonal workers**

Freelancers and self-employed people with a loss of expected turnover or income of at least 30% can - under certain conditions - get a compensation of 75% of the loss up to 23.000 DKK (approx. 3.080 EUR/month). The scheme also includes freelancers with low income of a minimum of 10.000 DKK (approx. 1.330 EUR/month).

**A compensation scheme targeted businesses' expenditures for running costs**

Businesses, including organisations, self-governing institutions etc., can receive compensation for documented running cost (such as rent, interests, irredeemable contract obligations etc.) if the turnover is reduced more than 40%. The compensation is of 25% at a reduction of 40% of turnover and increasing up to 80%, if the reduction is 80% or more - and if the business is ordered to close by the Government the compensation may be as high as 100 %.

**Salary compensation scheme**

The Danish Social partners and the Danish Government have concluded a tripartite agreement on a temporary scheme for salary compensation in order to retain jobs that would otherwise be lost as a consequence of COVID-19. The scheme covers the period 9 March-8 June 2020. It is targeted private businesses, organisations, self-governing institutions etc. that suffer financially because of COVID-19 and therefore risk either layoffs of more than 30% of their workforce or of more than 50 employees. A number of conditions apply, including that no layoffs are carried out. A maximum amount of 30.000 DKK (approx. 4.000 EUR) per employee can be given from the scheme.

**Postponed payment of VAT, tax and labour market contribution**

The deadlines for the businesses payment of VAT, tax and labour market contribution are extended in order to ensure the liquidity of vulnerable businesses.

### **Temporary measures with specific focus on the cultural and creative sector**

The main purpose of such initiatives is to complement general assistance packages where some or all cultural and creative sectors for different reasons are unable to meet eligibility criteria. Initiatives are of various types and range from financial assistance to fast track temporary amendments of regulations, guidelines etc. in order to provide flexibility in connection with deadlines, conditions for state support etc.

The following measures aim at mitigating the financial impact of COVID-19 in the cultural and creative sector. They are either already carried out or under consideration and consist of for example:

- Tailored temporary initiatives to adjust and complement state subsidies to organisations providing non-formal education (i.e. folk high schools, Open University Extension and non-formal adult education). 141 million DKK (approx. 18.8 million EUR). On 20 April 2020 the scheme has been widened to cover more types of non-formal education organisations with an estimated additional amount of 1.2 million DKK (approx. 160.000 EUR)
- Tailored temporary aid scheme targeted zoos and aquariums given their special obligations, such as maintaining some staff to take care of and feed animals 60 million DKK (approx. 8 million EUR).
- A compensation scheme for all printed and internet based media experiencing a fall in income following a decline of the advertising market. Expected total amount 180 million DKK (approx. 24 million EUR). In addition, amendments to formal guidelines concerning the media support scheme have been made so that all support will be paid in April 2020 instead of on account throughout the year.
- Easing a number of requirements in connection with support schemes under the Ministry of Culture (through temporary formal changes in guidelines), such as prolonging various application deadlines and project deadlines, introducing the possibility of paying financial contribution to applicants without the supported project taking place, etc.
- Through temporary amendment of regulation, the Ministry of Culture has made

it possible for local authorities to continue to give financial support to non-formal education institutions and voluntary associations in the field of culture and sport even if no activities are taking place.

- A temporary support scheme targeted artists with combined sources of income (salary, fee and profit from own company) has been put in place. The scheme covers artists with a minimum combined income of 8.300 DKK/month (approx. 1.100 EUR/month). Total estimated amount of the scheme is 100 million DKK (approx. 13.3 million EUR).
- Accelerated payment of state subsidies to almost 900 cultural institutions receiving financial support from the state. The initiative intends to ensure liquidity to each institution.
- A temporary support scheme targeted local sports organisations and associations to compensate for their loss of income following the cancellation of sports events. The total allocated amount of the scheme is 50 million DKK (approx. 6.6 million EUR).
- An emergency residual scheme targeted a number of different types of cultural institutions and seasonal performance activities. The purpose of the emergency scheme is to assist a variety of institutions in the field of culture that for different reasons are not covered by other COVID-19 schemes and packages. An estimated total amount for the scheme: 200 million DKK (approx. 27 million EUR).

**Smaller initiatives concerning cultural and creative sub-sectors** include:

- Initiative aimed at *playing more Danish music on the radio*. The main public service provider, DR, along with a number of other Danish radio providers have – after consultations with the Danish Minister for Culture – announced their intention to promote Danish music in order to soften the financial blow of COVID-19 on the music sector.
- Fast track legislation in order to *postpone the closing of the aerial signal for TV broadcasts* originally planned for 31 March 2020. Without the postponement, up to 150.000 Danes could have lost their TV signal given the difficulty of acquiring necessary equipment under the current restrictions on businesses. The closing date is postponed until 2 June 2020.



EE (6/5/20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated payment of the public lending right fee (a culture support scheme that provides library royalties to authors, translators, illustrators, and composers).</li> <li>• Flexible application of Danish film funding schemes through adjustment of guidelines, including e.g. redirecting support to development activities, launching of film on digital platforms etc.</li> <li>• Financial support to athletes' preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games postponed to 2021. Amount: 15 million DKK (approx. 2 million EUR).</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 virus outbreak in culture and audiovisual sector in ESTONIA</b></p> <p>Together with cultural and creative sector, Estonian Ministry of Culture is continuing mapping the situation and possible consequences for culture, cultural heritage, audiovisual field, media sector and for sport sector. The overall aim of mitigation and support measures is to preserve the structure of cultural and sports sector and avoid reduction of wages and unemployment. First discussions have already started to see for horizontal post-crisis measures.</p> <p><b>General economic measures adopted by the Government on March 19 followed by supplementary budget act submitted to Riigikogu (Parliament) on April 2.</b></p> <p>Estonian government introduced the first package of economic measures to alleviate the huge impact of the spread and prevention of coronavirus on the economy, and to support and protect working people and companies. The detailed package of measures and supplementary budget is EUR 2,62 billion euros.</p> <p>Additional batch of longer-term measures including possible tax cuts and investment package is planned, however several decisions have already made bringing forward Government investments in different sectors.</p> <p>The first support package includes labour market support, sickness benefits, tax benefits and allows tax arrears to be deferred for 18 months. It also includes the temporary suspension of the second pillar contribution to the pension fund and the</p>

partial reimbursement of the direct costs of the cancelled events. State funds are channeled to support businesses through financial measures and direct support measures.

**Labour Market Support Measure** is channeled via the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund (total of the measure EUR 250 million) and is intended to help employers to pay salaries and not to fire their staff.

- Each qualifying company or institution will be eligible for the grant for a period of two months from March 1 to May 31 2020.
- The allowance shall be paid monthly up to a maximum of EUR 1,000 per worker requiring assistance.
- The allowance shall be paid, as a general rule, at 70% of the gross wages of the employee over the period of the previous 12 months, plus at least EUR 150 payable by the enterprise to the employee.
- In order to qualify, two out of three conditions must be met: the turnover compared to the same period last year is less than 30%; the reduction in workforce is at least 30%; or the cuts in wages is at least -30% for at least 30% of the employees. No employee may be fired during the period of payment.
- The measure covers both public and private sector.

**Tax administration measures** include:

- The abolition of the advance payment of social tax for self-employed persons for the second quarter of 2020.
- The calculation of tax interest is suspended by the state for two months (March-April).
- Payment of tax arrears is deferred for 18 months (currently up to 6 months) and with a lower interest rate on tax arrears.

**Reimbursement of sick days** for employees from the first to the third day of sickness insurance (currently without pay) for the period March-May 2020, total allocation for this measure EUR 1.5–2 million per month.

**To support businesses,** the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

provides assistance in the supplementary budget through two institutions:

- Kredex Foundation financial measures include loan guarantees for bank loans already issued (EUR 1 billion), working capital loans (EUR 500 million) and investment loans (EUR 50 million). These measures will become accessible for business in stages. More information can be found here: <https://kredex.ee/en/koroona>
- Financial support for micro- and small enterprises (SME-s) and tourism enterprises is provided by Enterprise Estonia.
  - SME-s have the possibility to apply for a support (from 3000 to 5000 euros) for partial compensation of a small entrepreneur's damages as a COVID-19 crisis support. The support is for micro enterprises whose 2019 turnover was at least €20,000 and at most €100,000. The total amount for supporting SMEs is 35 million Euros. Additionally, the support mechanisms for product development will be simplified.
  - Support mechanisms for tourism enterprises, in the total sum of 25 million Euros, is directed at the target groups that were most affected and hurt by the crisis and whose business activities have stopped or been significantly damaged due to the suspension of travel. Additionally, it is possible to apply for support to develop tourism business models.
  - More information can be found here: <https://www.eas.ee/covid-19/?lang=en>

### **Specific support measures for culture and sport sector**

The size of the crisis package in the **field of culture and sport is 25 million euros and is provided by Estonian Ministry of Culture**. The package consists of two parts:

1. Subsistence support for **natural persons in the field of culture and sport** with the total amount of **5.2 million euros**:

- Support scheme for freelance creative people is additional **4,2**

**million** euros allowing to support (with minimum salary during 6 month period) of up to 1200 persons in 2020. The detailed conditions of application and qualifying criteria are set in existing Creative Persons and Artistic Associations Act that is amended according to the crisis situation. This support scheme excludes students and pensioners, also those with employment contracts/regular income.

- Support scheme for children and youth coaches at professional qualification level 3 and higher is in total **400,000**. The support is intended to help to cover the staff costs of a coach supervising children and young people up to and including the age of 24 at the preparatory level, training level and mastery level on the basis of an employment contract for a sports federation, sports club and sports school. Applications are processed by the Sports Training and Information Foundation.
- Support scheme for mentors of dance groups and choirs participating in the song and dance festival movement is **600,000**. The labor costs of conductors, folk dance directors, assistant conductors, concertmasters, piano accompanists, leaders of folk music groups will be paid to the collective member with up to 70% of his/hers average salary, but not more than 1000 euros per gross month. The support may be paid for the period from 1.03.2020 to 31.05.2020.

- **The partial compensation** of the costs already incurred due to cancelled events or cessation of activities of culture and sport organisations both in **public and private sector**; also the partial compensation covering unavoidable fixed costs of the organisations that had to close their doors. The total amount of the scheme is **19.8 million euros** and the grants will be distributed in proportion to the amount requested by all applicants in specific sector as set below. The applications can be sent from May 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> and the support decisions will be taken in 30 days.

- The support scheme for **museums is 6 million euros**. The grant is foreseen for all museums, regardless of their form of ownership including state museums, municipal museums, museums of a legal person in public law, as well as museums operating as a foundation or non-profit association.
- The support scheme for **theaters is 4 million euros**. The support can be applied for by a performance institution regardless of the form of ownership or previously received operating grant from the state budget. Amateur theaters are excluded.
- The support scheme for **music field is 4 million euros**. The target group is concert and festival organizers, music groups and individual performers, but also support services in the field of music, such as sound and studio services, agency and management services, music publishing and also public concert venues (with certain restrictions). The support is intended to foundations and organizations receiving public support, as well as for private or non-profit who do not receive public support from the state budget. Both self-employed persons and legal entities whose main activity has been organizing of live concerts for the last three years are eligible, provided they have paid the royalties correctly.
- The support scheme for **design is 500,000 euros**. The measure supports micro and small companies of designers, self-producing designers. Support will be given to design companies whose company has been active in the field of material-based design for at least three years, has an average annual turnover of at least 25,000 euros in the last three years and who preferably creates innovative form-based products with export potential.
- The support scheme for **visual arts is 600,000 euros**. The target group of support are exhibition institutions and professional service providers in visual art field who have been operating for at least 6 months prior to the crisis. Support service providers refer to all those legal entities whose services or activities contribute to the professional art life in Estonia by supporting the work of artists or art insti-

tutions - including renting studios for artists, production of works of art, installation, publishing activities related to art exhibitions, development activities, etc.

- The support scheme for **film production and distribution is 800,000 euros**. The goal of the scheme is to support the film production and distribution companies and art house cinemas, who have received grants from Estonian Film Institute. The companies whose production (development, shooting, post-production) and distribution has been interrupted due to an emergency situation.
- The **sport field and physical activity events** will be supported with 2.7 million euros. This includes extra measure of 800,000 euros to support the sports federations as their funding from the gambling tax, private sector and organizing events is declining due to the crisis. Also, an extra measure to support the leagues and the clubs through the sports federations has been planned with up to 1 200 000 million euros. A special measure for competitions organizers to help to cover the costs of cancelled/delayed events will be up to 300 000 euros. There will be an extra measure to support the private owners of the indoor sport infrastructure. This measure will amount to 400 000 euros.

Estonian Government has allocated additionally **100,000 for the Estonian Public Broadcast** ERR to ensure the ability to make recordings of cultural events, such as smaller theater productions during an emergency situation, and to obtain licenses to show already recorded performances and audiovisual content.

### **Support measures for literature and publishing**

There has been an increased need for library services during the crisis period. Additional support of 300,000 euros has been allocated to libraries and Estonian Children's Literature Center in order to give libraries additional ability to buy more books and thus help publishers. For example through the Estonian Children's Literature Center, libraries who participate in the reading program "Reading

Content”, are able to purchase additional books to be distributed through county libraries participating in the program (89 libraries at the moment).

Additionally, the budget for the library loan compensation at the Author Compensation Fund (SA Autorihüvitusfond) will be increased by 100,000 euros.

Estonia has also launched a pilot project for its own audio books in co-operation with the National Year of Digital Culture 2020 with a total budget of 50,000 euros.

Within the supplementary budget, number of amendments have been made that help the sector - the reduction of VAT to 9% for e-books and e-publications, and additional funds for natural persons in creative sector.

### **Processing of regular applications and grants**

Some of the calls for applications in support of cultural and creative and cultural heritage sectors managed by the Estonian Ministry of Culture have been suspended or the submission deadlines postponed. However, other calls remain open as planned before the crisis. The Ministry of Culture will not request reimbursement of funds already used to carry out activities that have been cancelled or changed due to circumstances related to the spread of coronavirus. Every such case will be dealt with on case-by-case basis.

**The Cultural Endowment** continues receiving applications and issuing grants and evaluating reports as planned. In addition, the Cultural Endowment offers a measure by which sectoral endowments and county expert groups have the right to allocate additional special scholarships to creative and sports people recognized by the field and / or the county to maintain their activities. The amount of scholarships ranges from 500 to 2000 euros per person. It is also possible to apply for support for procure medication from Cultural Endowment during the state of emergency.

### **Restrictions**

#### *Government restrictions in arts sector*

1. As a general rule all public and private cultural institutions are closed to the

public until May 17<sup>th</sup>. This includes cinemas and other cultural institutions. All theatrical performances, conferences and all sorts of gatherings banned. Day-to-day work within the organizations can continue (rehearsals) according to the instructions of the heads of the institutions. An exception is granted for some libraries who can provide some services while avoiding physical contact with people.

2. From March 27 also all entertainment venues like nightclubs, bowling, billiard rooms, hookah cafes, adult clubs are closed. Restrictions also apply for rental agencies. Restaurants and bars that provide food must close at 10 pm. However home delivery is allowed.
3. No public events will take place in Estonia in May and June. Until 31 August, no major/mass events will take place in Estonia. It is too early to confirm whether events with a limited number of visitors can take place in July and August. The members of the government will make a decision on the possibility and conditions for public events during May. The government's views are based on and in line with the recommendations of the Scientific Council.
4. From 11<sup>th</sup> of May, visits to the indoors of museums and exhibition halls are permitted, subject to special conditions. Admission to the open-air museum exhibits and to the museum's courtyards is permitted since May 2. Visitors are allowed in groups of a maximum of 10 members. Exceptions for families. The 2 + 2 rule must be followed, hand sanitizers must be provided in the establishment and surfaces frequently touched by visitors must be wet cleaned. In the case of interactive exhibits, the authority must take measures to ensure that the exhibits can be used safely without COVID-19 infection. Alternatively, interactive exhibits may be kept closed. Because the virus can also spread from contaminated surfaces, visitors are not allowed to distribute flyers, for example. It is also not allowed to organize creative workshops and workshops with shared tools. The Ministry of Culture, in co-operation with the agencies and the Health Board, has prepared a code of conduct, which sets out both mandatory minimum requirements and additional recommendations.
5. From May 15<sup>th</sup> the libraries will be open, subject to special conditions.



Government restrictions in sport sector

6. As a general rule all organized sports and exercise activities are prohibited until May 17<sup>th</sup> . This includes hobby activities, hobby schools. Competitions are not allowed.
7. Sports halls, sports clubs, gyms, spas, swimming pools, day centers and children's playrooms are closed 17<sup>th</sup> of May.
8. Co-training should not be performed indoors.
9. From 2<sup>nd</sup> of May the organization of open-air sports activities and trainings are allowed provided that there are a maximum of 10 participants in the group and the 2 + 2 rule is followed. The organizer of sports activities must ensure that disinfectants are available. In the case of minors, each group must be supervised by an adult coach or tutor. For activities with high intensity or higher speeds, the recommended distance between people is 20 meters (eg running sections, cycling, etc.).
10. Since 5<sup>th</sup> of May, all candidates of the Estonian national team in their respective discipline are allowed to train indoor while respecting that the maximum limit of the training group is 10 people including the coach and other support personnel (except the sports where in the team there is more people), there is at least 10m<sup>2</sup> per person and disinfectants available etc. The sports federation need to chose maximum 2 training venues in Estonia, needs to have the permission of the owner of venue and submit it with the list of athletes, coaches and other support personnel for the approval of the National Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Culture.
11. Students can study independently with distance learning or with the help of online materials.

Restrictions in public space and movement

- Parks, nature trails, open-air sports facilities are open. Since March 28<sup>th</sup> , all shopping centers are closed except shops for food and critical services, pharmacies, some post offices, from May 11<sup>th</sup> they will be open again.
- Due to high level of corona outbreak in Saaremaa and Muhu islands, Government has issued additional restrictions in those areas that are gradually lifted again.

- No more than two people (except family members) are allowed together in public place, there must be at least 2 meters apart (including indoor public spaces). The owners of the public facilities must assure that those requirements are followed. Public gatherings are allowed from May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Some local governments (Tallinn, Tartu) have imposed additional restrictions (playgrounds) that are lifted gradually.

### **Government Exit Strategy**

On April 27 the Estonian Government approved the COVID-19 crisis exit strategy, which creates a framework of coordinated approach across sectors, to mitigate the effects of the emergency situation declared on March 12 and transition period following it. The Strategy has four goals: to ensure the physical and mental health of the people;

- to ensure the livelihood of people and return to regular life;
- to support the coping and continued competitiveness of enterprises;
- to ensure the functioning of the society and the state.

The actions are divided to three stages:

- the escalation of the infection outbreak (passed);
- the stabilisation stage – where it is possible to slowly roll back the restrictions that have been imposed since the start of emergency situation (current stage);
- the returning to everyday life, which also includes readiness for another possible disease outbreak.

The restrictions will be eased and lifted in stages when certain conditions are met and if the agreed metrics allow it for each stage. The Metrics include the number of people infected; the number of people hospitalized; occupancy of intensive care beds; availability of medical care; people's readiness to follow the general guidelines; general health of economy; capability to implement confidence measures like general testing, isolation, 2+2 rule; the epidemiological situation in the region and abroad.

Exit Strategy: <https://www.kriis.ee/sites/default/files/news-related->

	<p>files/the_strategy_for_exiting_the_situation_caused_by_the_spread_of_covid-19.pdf</p> <p><b>Other useful links:</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Culture is gathering and promoting opportunities for cultural consumption from home. Please see: <a href="https://www.kul.ee/en/culture-you-can-enjoy-home">https://www.kul.ee/en/culture-you-can-enjoy-home</a></p> <p>Please see more about general economic measures: <a href="https://www.kriis.ee/en/economy-and-business">https://www.kriis.ee/en/economy-and-business</a></p> <p>Updates of the mitigation measures in cultural sector: <a href="https://www.kul.ee/en/news/measures-mitigate-impact-covid-19-virus-outbreak-culture-and-audiovisual-sector-estonia">https://www.kul.ee/en/news/measures-mitigate-impact-covid-19-virus-outbreak-culture-and-audiovisual-sector-estonia</a></p>
<p><b>EL</b> <b>(6/4/20,</b> <b>11/5/20)</b></p>	<p><b>6/4/20</b></p> <p><b>Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports:</b></p> <p><b>Measures taken for the support of contemporary culture</b></p> <p><b>due to the COVID-19 crisis</b></p> <p>As a first response, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports is contributing €15 million to support Contemporary Culture and its creators and to increase the sector's resilience through a complete plan.</p> <p>The Ministry's measures aim at (a) increasing the resilience of the cultural and creative sectors, (b) supporting the sectors' professionals by providing funding opportunities, (c) encouraging the production of digital and digitalized content in order to make culture more easily accessible remotely.</p> <p>This is the first wave of measures taken; additional measures will be taken. Also, it has to be noted that these measures (section A) are in addition to the horizontal measures taken by the Government to counter the impact of the current crisis across all sectors of the economy (section B).</p> <p><b>A. MEASURES TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS</b></p> <p><b>1. Film and Cinema:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for the development of short films and documentaries</li> </ul>

- Call for the development of animation films
- Acceleration of payments by the Greek Film Center to motion pictures that are in the production stage,
- Acceleration and simplification of the application process regarding funding proposals
- Extension of existing film production deadlines
- Emergency support of small arthouse cinemas that traditionally present mostly Greek and European motion pictures

## **2. Performing Arts:**

- Increase of the funding earmarked for Municipal and Regional Theaters.
- Support of small theatrical productions
- Increase of the monetary amount of the National Theater Play Awards
- Support of contemporary dance companies.

## **3. Visual Arts:**

- Specific call for visual arts projects, including long-term research and interdisciplinary projects
- Partial coverage of the participation fee of art galleries for the Art Athina International Art Fair
- Allocation of additional resources to state-owned museums of Contemporary Art for the acquisition of works by Greek visual artists,
- Direct acquisition by the Ministry of Culture and Sports of works by Greek visual artists..

## **4. Books:**

- Design of a new digital platform to promote Greek literature, in light of the cancellation of all major international book fairs so far. The platform will also provide funding opportunities for the translation of Greek works
- Increasing the resilience and outreach capacity of the Thessaloniki International Book Fair for next year
- Acquisition and distribution through a dedicated platform of eBooks for children and young adults in collaboration with the Greek publishing community

## **5. Design**

- Specific call for design projects in order to promote the visibility of Greek design abroad
- Call from the Archeological Resources Fund for the design of products to be

sold in the stores of state-run archeological and cultural heritage museums

## 6. Digital

1. Specific call for digital culture projects aiming at improving remote access of culture
2. Specific call for gaming projects
7. Grants to the cultural entities supervised by the Ministry of Culture and Sports to enable **commissions** to Greek artists.
8. **Extension** of various proposal submission deadlines as well for the completion of projects funded by the Ministry in 2019 for the 2019-2020 season.
9. The **distribution of rights** to artists has been expedited and extended by the Special Service of Emergency Rights Management.

In addition, the Ministry of Culture and Sports will commission a nationwide qualitative and quantitative survey among professionals in the Greek cultural and creative industries, measuring the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on Culture. Finally, a series of institutional measures will be taken within the next months to increase the overall resilience and sustainability of the sector.

It is noted that the Minister of Culture and Sports with her counterparts of other member-states of the EU has already asked for the augmentation of the financing program for Culture for the period 2021-2027, while at the EU Council of Ministers of Culture on the 8th of April, the issue of direct support to the sector by the EU with a special package of measures due to the pandemic, will be discussed.

## HORIZONTAL GOVERNMENT MEASURES

The Greek Government has taken a series of horizontal measures to support the economy, businesses and employees affected by the pandemic. .

The Ministry of Culture and Sports has ensured that these horizontal support measures by the Government cover also the businesses and professionals of the cultural and creative sector.

- **For businesses that have been negatively affected by the situation** (Suspended by a Decree s or severely affected) employees are **entitled to a special purpose compensation of €800 paid by the State**. The relevant amount is free of tax and covers 45 days.
- The aforementioned employees will have full social security coverage social security contributions will be covered by the State. (It is important to mention that the businesses are not allowed to terminate the employment contracts of their employees during this time, and such terminations will be considered void.)
- Short-term contracted employees in businesses affected by the situation can also apply for the €800 sum.

- Employees
- The right of the employer to unilaterally enforce teleworking.
- **Suspension of payment of taxes for 4 months for employees and employers alike and social security contributions of March and** for affected businesses and self-employed, provided that they maintain their existing headcount and that they make no layoffs.
- Provision by law that affected businesses and self-employed will pay 60% of the **rent** on the properties they're leasing for the months of March and April. The same applies for the rent of employees of businesses affected and whose employment contract is suspended, on the condition that this is their primary residence.
- Financial bridges offered to small and medium sized businesses in order to provide liquidity, through the concept of "returnable advancement".

### ACCESSIBILITY

Developing alternative ways for citizens to access Culture was a basic priority since the outbreak of the pandemic, since Culture has proven to be, the citizens' refuge. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports has built a reservoir of cultural material, created by its own services and supervised organizations. It consists of material from the huge cultural reserve - monuments, museums, archaeological sites, publications - as well as contemporary cultural productions. These include among other digital tours of museum collections, online showing of performances, motion pictures and concerts, e-courses etc. The reservoir is continuously expanded with new material.

Furthermore, within the next days, the Ministry of Culture and Sports - with the support of the Ministry of Digital Governance - will introduce a new Cultural Platform, to inform and connect citizens with daily cultural happenings in Greece and abroad, and hosting all aforementioned content.

**11/5/20**


### **Hellenic Ministry of Culture & Sports**

#### **Support measures of Culture and its stakeholders**

7 May 2020

#### **The pandemic highlighted structural problems**

Work	Rights	Skills
2. High percentage of undeclared work 3. Various labor	5. Negligence in the protection of intellectual	7. Ability of adaptation in new conditions 8. Outdated operating models 9. Reduced credit skill

	relations 4. Unmapped landscape	property rights and related rights 6. Deterioration of online piracy		
				
	<b>Integrated management strategy</b>			
	<b>immediate measures</b>	<b>medium-term measures</b>	<b>long-term measures</b>	
	1. Support of employees and enterprises of the sector  2. Market stimulation through measures for growth  3. Creation and adaptation of cultural content with the aim of remote access	1. Research, record, mapping  2. Design of the next operating day  3. Generating employment opportunities	1. Structural changes aimed at shielding the sector, strengthening its resilience and competitiveness as well as the protection of its employees  2. Transformation of the way of operation, where required  3. Visibility and promotion of contemporary creation along with cultural heritage.	
	<b>Double goal from the beginning</b>			
	<b>3. Keep culture active</b>			
	<b>4. Support creators and artists</b>			
	<b>5. Employment subsidy, not unemployment</b>			

### **Immediate support measures**

Since March, 45.000 employees and self-employed workers in culture are entitled to the support measures, announced by the Government:

- Allowance € 800: **Total € 35.5 million (March-April)**
- Suspension of insurance and tax liabilities
- Facilitation of bank obligations, etc.

Furthermore, those who received the **special seasonal allowance** of September-November 2019 and are not beneficiaries of regular unemployment in the first quarter of 2020, they will receive the allowance of 800 € from 13.5 to 19.5.2020.

### **Immediate support measures**

4. Beneficiaries of the financial support of € 800 are **all the employees**, whose employment contracts expired prematurely, before their contractual period, from 1.3.2020 to 20.3.2020.
5. From 7.5.2020 to 10.5.2020, following the Declaration of Honour of the employers and the Declaration of Honour of the Employees in ERGANI system of the Ministry of Labor, from 8.5.2020 to 12.5.2020, the employees become beneficiaries of their financial support of € 800, which will be paid from 14.5 to 15.5.2020.

### **NEW immediate support measures**

**They are included and covered retroactively:**

- Employees of the cultural sector, whose job contract for a certain period of time ended prematurely, during the period 15.2.2020 to 29.2.2020. These employees become also beneficiaries of € 800, following their Declaration of Honour to ERGANI System.

### **NEW immediate support measures**

**They are included and covered retroactively:**

- The employees who worked under more than one employer, during the period from 15.3.2020 to 20.4.2020 and they had an average of up to 30% per week in total working hours. The aforementioned employees will receive € 800 from 14.5 to 15.5.2020, following a Declaration of Honour to ERGANI System, according to a relevant Circular of the Ministry of Labor.
- Those, who have performed occasional work with 6 daily allowances per month or 50 daily allowances, during the period from 1.6.2019 to 1.3.2020, will also receive € 800.

### **NEW immediate support measures**



**The ushers** of the Athens Concert Hall are included and covered **retroactively**, following a **special arrangement**.

#### **NEW immediate support measures**

For all of the abovementioned categories, the support measures also apply in May.

- Total € 24 million for employees and self-employed in the field of culture, plus all the others categories of employed in the sector.
- Culture professionals are included in the wider support plan for all sectors.

#### **NEW immediate support measures**

Support of the **urban non-profit culture organizations**, registered in the “**Cultural Agencies Register**” of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture & Sports, following a special call of the Ministry, which includes a direct grant of € 2.5 million.

#### **Register of Creators and Artists**

- Since 13.05.2020 a platform operates on the website [artandcultureprofessionals.services.gov.gr](http://artandcultureprofessionals.services.gov.gr) in ERGANI System of the Ministry of Labor for the registration of artists and creators of each sector. There will be an evolution into a Register of Artists and Creators of the Ministry of Culture.
- This is the first time that the real potential of the cultural sector has been recorded with transparency, in order for the design of policies and financial instruments to be easier and more effective.
- Reduced criteria for joining the platform - cross-checking data with ERGANI, EFKA, TAXIS Systems.

#### **Development Measures**

##### **Protection of Intellectual Property Rights of Creators**

Direct voting against piracy (dynamic site blocking) – this strengthens creators in all sectors, mainly in music, cinema, television.

#### **Development Measures**

##### **Development Package of € 15 million (April 2, 2020)**

Investment in production:

- Short films, documentaries, animation
- Theatrical performances
- Music events
- Visual arts
- Design
- Gaming
- Digital Culture

Strengthening cinemas

Purchase of books

### **Development Measures**

#### **Digital Culture**

For the first time there was a call for Digital Culture, which was announced on 20.03.20 and completed on 30.04.2020 with 325 applications, more ever received by the Ministry.

### **Development Measures**

#### **Municipal & Regional Theatres**

- Immediate disbursement of the entire grant, with no conditions
- Additional grant

### **Development Measures**

#### **Theatres that receive grants (Urban non-profit organizations)**

Doubling of the amount of grants for 2020

- Extension of the theatrical season 2019-2020 to 31.05.21
- Extension of the theatrical period 2020-2021 to 31.12.21
- No refund of the grants will be requested, under any circumstances, even if it is not possible for the performances to be organized.

### **Development Measures**

#### **Dance companies that receive grants (Urban non-profit organizations)**

Doubling of the amount of grants for 2020

- Extension of the period 2019-2020 to 31.08.21
- Extension of the period 2020-2021 to 31.12.21
- No refund of the grants will be requested, under any circumstances, even if it is not possible for the performances to be organized.

### **Development Measures**

#### **Coupon for cultural productions**

- Coupon valid for 18 months for attending cultural events, in the future, for those who had booked tickets for productions that were cancelled.

### **Development Measures**

#### **Social Work**

- Programme of the Ministry of Labor for 10.000 culture professionals, amounting to € 13.000.000, using social and other criteria, following a points process.
- The participants will receive a social work voucher of € 1.000, with full social insurance coverage, during their work, for a period of 3 months (15.6.2020 to 15.9.2020) and for 20 wages, depending on their specialization.

### **Development Measures**

#### **Programmes for the unemployed**

Possibility to join programmes of the Ministry of Labor:

- Programme for 8.500 participants, for people aged 55-67.
- Programme for 36.500 unemployed in Municipalities and in Public entities, with high scoring for long-term unemployed.
- Future Programmes for about 100.000 unemployed.

### **Active culture, with safety**

Greece is one of the first countries to coordinate centrally the gradual restart of the cultural sector, taking all security measures.

Caution!

It all depends on the epidemiological data and the course of the epidemiological curve.

### **Active culture, with safety**

#### **18.05.20**

- Archaeological sites
- Start of Rehearsals
- Start of Cinematic Shooting

#### **01.06.20**

- Summer Cinemas

#### **15.06.20**

- Museums

#### **15.07.20**

- Events in open spaces
- The data will be constantly evaluated and the time schedule will be adjusted accordingly.
- In each case, special measures will be taken to protect the workers and the audience.

### **Active culture, with safety**

#### **Archaeological sites**

- Archaeological sites open on May 18.
- Distances of 1.5 meters should be kept.
- A certain number of people will enter per hour.
- Recommended use of a protective mask and alcohol antiseptic solution.
- Special rules for sanitary facilities.
- Special procedure for regulating the entry-exit flow of the public.

### **Active culture, with safety**

#### **Museums**

- Museums open on June 15.
- Distances of 2 meters should be kept.
- Only open circuit air conditioners are allowed.
- A certain number of people will enter per hour.
- Recommendation for the use of a protective mask and an alcohol antiseptic solution.
- Special rules for sanitary facilities.
- Special procedure for regulating the entry-exit flow of the public.

### **Active culture, with safety**

#### **Summer cinemas**

- Summer cinemas open on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Occupancy limit of 40% to keep distances.
- Recommendation for the use of a protective mask and an alcohol antiseptic solution.
- Special rules for sanitary facilities.

- Special procedure for regulating the entry-exit flow of the public.

#### **Active culture, with safety**

##### **Rehearsals - Filming**

- Rehearsals and filming may begin on May 18.
- Distances should be kept.
- Adequate ventilation and aeration should be provided indoors, wherever possible (only open circuit air conditioners are allowed).
- Disinfections should be performed indoors (10: 1 chlorine solution) before and after the end of each rehearsal / shooting.
- The types of personal protection recommended for the artists and employees are protective non-medical mask, alcohol antiseptic solution for hands and protective mask (in rehearsals).
- Special rules for makeup, hairdresser, cloakroom, equipment, etc.

#### **Active culture, with safety**

##### **Live shows - Events**

- They will start after July 15, only in open spaces.
- Individuals (with non-medical mask) who are on stage should keep the distance of at least 1.5 meters among them.
- 40% occupancy limit, so that the recommended distances are kept.
- The stage should be at least 3 meters away from the first row of seats.
- In case of an event where the public is standing, the distance of 1.5 meters should be kept.
- Recommendation for the use of a protective mask and an alcohol antiseptic solution for the public.
- Special rules for sanitary facilities.
- Special procedure for regulating the entry-exit flow of the public.
- Special rules for makeup, hairdresser, cloakroom, equipment, etc.

#### **Active culture, with safety**

- The state theatres and orchestras, as well as the Municipal & Regional Theatres, will play an essential role in order for the culture to remain active this summer.
- The Athens and Epidaurus Festival will adapt their events accordingly and they will focus on productions of state cultural institutions, while they will take advantage of the new technologies.

#### **Active culture, with safety**

- The Hellenic Ministry of Culture & Sports, in cooperation with its supervised organizations, will organize in archeological sites 200 "small" cultural events, of € 2 million.
- Under the initiative of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, municipal cultural spaces will be provided free of charge.

#### **Artistic education**

##### **11.05.20**

- Higher Schools of Dramatic Art
- Senior Professional Dance Schools
- Senior Circle of Conservatories & Music Schools

- 4th-5th year of Byzantine Schools Music

**24.05.20**

- Operation of other educational structures for artistic education for students over 12 years.

**18.05.20**

- Preparatory and Vocational School of Fine Arts of Panormos, Tinos
- Amateur Dance Schools for students over 12 years
- Higher theoretical courses and composition in Conservatories and Music Schools
- Circle of undergraduate, graduate courses in Conservatories and Music Schools
- 1st to 3rd year of Schools of Byzantine Music

#### **Artistic education**

- The academic year will be extended until 31.07.20. There will be special announcements for graduation exams.
- The Hellenic Ministry of Culture & Sports has acquired the software of tele-education for state structures of artistic education and recommends its use, where possible.
- The data will be constantly evaluated and the time-schedule will be adjusted accordingly.
- Special protection measures will be taken in each case for the staff and the students.

**Substantial investment in culture:  
More than € 100 million**

<b>Horizontal support measures</b>	<b>Development measures</b>
• <b>Till today allocation of more than € 60 million</b>	• <b>Till today allocation of more than € 35 million</b>

**17/4/20**

#### **Employment and labour market measures taken/planned to mitigate impact of the COVID-19**

**ES  
(17/4/20,  
12/5/20)**

The Spanish government has taken exceptional measures to counter the health crisis caused by the COVID 19. In particular, the Government has declared the **state of alarm** for the management of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 (Royal Decree 463/2020, of March 14).

In this framework, on 10th, 12th and 17th March the Spanish government approved various **health, economic, labour and social protection measures** to alleviate the

effects on the economy and employment of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19. These measures represent a **mobilisation of resources of up to 200 billion euros**, 20% of Spain's GDP. 117 billion will come directly from the public sector and the rest will be complemented by the mobilization of resources from the private sector.

The measures are **in line with** the actions agreed by **international bodies** in recent days, **in particular with** the conclusions of **the President of the European Council** following its extraordinary meeting held by videoconference on 10 March **and** with the measures announced by **the European Commission**.

On the 27th and 30th of March and on 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April new measures on the labour and social protection areas were approved to alleviate the effects of the crisis on workers and firms. In particular, **all non-essential economic activity is halted** between March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> in Spain.

In this line of collaboration with these institutions, the Government is tackling this exceptional situation with a multiple focus, which includes **alignment with the recommendations of the health authorities**, developing real-time indicators to record the possible economic impact of COVID-19, identifying possible risks for companies or sectors that are particularly exposed, and implementing a plan to mitigate their impact, limiting it as much as possible in terms of duration and scope.

The measures for the social protection of workers are the result of the **social dialogue** developed between the Government and the most representative business and trade union organisations.

The **particular measures** already implemented in the health, economic, labour, and social fields **are the following**:

**1) Measures aimed at combating the health emergency and guaranteeing the supply of medicines and medical products:**

- € 2.8 billion will be transferred to the Autonomous Communities so that they can dedicate it to **health care** for the coronavirus.
- Secondly, € 1,000M will be mobilized from the State Budget, from the

**Contingency Fund, for priority health interventions** indicated by the Ministry of Health.

- Third, the **supply of medicines and all the necessary material for protection** against the virus will be guaranteed, centralizing the supply of all kinds of products that experts may consider necessary to combat the disease.

New measures adopted on 27<sup>th</sup> March:

- **Activity of health and care institutions for elderly and dependent care is established as essential services**, which must maintain their activity during the health crisis, whether they are public or private. Health and care centres and care institutions are not allowed to apply suspensions or reduction of hours.
- **Measures to facilitate public procurement.** Public procurement to address COVID-19 will be dealt with under the emergency procedure, as well as specific measures to **accelerate recruitment during the health crisis**, particularly abroad.

## **2) Support measures for businesses and the self-employed:**

- A line of **public guarantees** for an amount of **100 billion euros** is created for loans that **companies** may request in order to **maintain their liquidity**.
- **2 billion euros** specific line of guarantees **for export companies** is created.
- A specific financing line is available through the Official Credit Institute for the amount of **400 million euros** to meet the liquidity needs of companies and self-employed workers in **the tourism sector**, as well as related activities that are being affected by the current situation.
- **Affected SMEs** will be granted **deferrals of their tax debts** with the Administration for a period of six months, without interest. This will allow € 14 billion of liquidity to be injected into the economic system.
- **Exemption for companies' social security contributions in case of temporary suspension of contracts and reduction of working hours** due to the Covid-19 during the period of suspension or of reduction of working

hours. For SMEs the exemption will be total. For non SMEs the exemption will be of 75% of the employer's social contribution.

- **Targeted Social Security rebates.** To protect jobs, the rebates offered on companies' Social Security contributions **for permanent seasonal contracts** shall be extended to encompass contracts from February to June 2020 in the tourist industry and in associated retail and hospitality sectors.
- **New extraordinary economic benefit financed** by the Social Security System to compensate **self-employed workers** whose activity is suspended by the declaration of the state of alarm or whose income in the month prior to which the benefit is requested is reduced by at least 75% in relation to the average income for the previous semester (this reference period can be extended in the case of workers from agriculture and fishing sectors). This benefit will last initially one month, or until the end of the period of state of alarm, and will be **compatible with exemption from** payment of Social Security **contributions** (and with any other benefit or exemption from Social Security that the self-employed worker was eligible for). This has now been extended for agricultural sector and cultural activities with special conditions.
- Payment of **social security contributions** for the months of April to June for self-employed persons and companies can be delayed for six-months, without interest, for those activities not suspended as a result of the state of emergency.
- Deferment until June 30 of outstanding debts to the Social Security for self-employed and companies, with a substantial reduction of the required interest rate, which is set at 0.5%.
- A three-month moratorium on **mortgage** payments is established, applicable to the self-employed and professionals with respect to the properties affected by their economic activity.
- More flexibility for conditions on loans and grants from the General Secretary of Industry and SME.
- The Foreign Trade Institute of Spain will reimburse companies of expenses incurred for participation in fairs or other international promotion activities which have been convened by the institution and which have been cancelled, post-



poned or affected by COVID-19.

- The payment of interest and amortisation of loans granted by the State Secretariat for Tourism is suspended for a period of one year and without needing to be requested.

### 3) Social protection measures for workers:

- For temporary **absences** of working people from work, **periods of isolation or contagion** of workers as a consequence of the COVID-19 virus **will be considered** as a situation assimilated to a **work accident**. This enables workers and self-employed subject to isolation measures to perceive the economic benefit of temporary disability of the Social Security system during the period of isolation. This implies that those isolated or suffering from the virus will receive 75% of their social security regulatory base (compared to 60% for workers on sick leave with a common illness). This measure has been extended to workers framed in Special Regimes of the Public Sector in its article 11.

Workers who usually travel to a different location for work and are unable to do so at the moment due to the restrictions in mobility of citizens and cannot work from home can also be considered to be in a temporary medical leave.

- To **avoid layoffs** and encourage temporary employment adjustments:
  - The legally established procedures are streamlined so that companies, whose activity is affected by the Covid-19 crisis, can adopt measures to temporarily suspend employment contracts or reduce working hours as quickly as possible, i.e. the so-called temporary employment regulation (ERTE) files. Specifically, the duration of these procedures is reduced from 15 to 7 days.
  - During these periods of temporary suspension of employment contracts, companies will not have to pay social security contributions.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, to reinforce this measure, **all dismissals on grounds of the COVID-19 crisis are not justified**. Moreover, the process to apply for those temporary employment adjustments is simplified for firms and workers, and the

unemployment benefits (see below) are paid from the date of suspension; **all temporary employment adjustments process related to the COVID-19 crisis are covered under this provision**, even if they were initiated before the approval of the measure. In order to avoid fraud, the Labour Inspectorate will check all firms that present a temporary employment adjustment plan and **will sanction firms that do not meet the criteria**.

- Access to **unemployment protection** is improved for workers affected by such measures of temporary suspension of employment contracts or reduction of working hours in particular:
  - All employed persons affected by such measures of temporary suspension of employment contracts or reduction of working hours shall be entitled to unemployment benefit, even those who are not entitled to it because they have not contributed for long enough.
  - Unemployment benefits received during this situation shall not count towards consumption of future unemployment benefits. This means that these persons will not have exhausted their unemployment benefit, and if they are dismissed in the future, they will start receiving it from scratch.

These two measures are also applicable to members of associated work cooperatives and of 'labour companies' who pay contributions for the contingency of unemployment.

- All workers will have the **right to adapt or reduce their working hours**, even up to 100%, to care for family members, the elderly or children in the event of the closure of schools and social centres as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis.
- The exercise of **remote working** is facilitated and promoted as a priority alternative to ensure that business activity and working relations resume normally once the exceptional health situation has been overcome. Companies should encourage the implementation of teleworking whenever the activity of the company allows it.

To this end, ongoing public programmes to support the digitisation of small and medium-sized enterprises and R&D plans will be expedited.

- The **suspension of temporary contracts**, including training, temporary replacement and replacement contracts, will result in **interruption of the duration of these contracts** and the reference periods equivalent to the period during which they are suspended under each of these contractual arrangements.
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, **all workers in non-essential sectors or activities who were still working and not able to telework are subjected to a “recoverable paid leave”** between March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>. During the period of leave, workers will continue to receive their pay in full, both the basic salary and the allowances to which they are entitled. After the end of this period, employees and employees will gradually return the non-working days to the company. Companies must negotiate with the unitary representation, trade unions or workers with the way in which these working days are recover by the company from the end of the State of alarm until 31 December 2020. This measure affect both public and private sector.
- A **temporary extraordinary unemployment benefit is established for domestic employees** in the event of lack of activity, reduction of hours worked or termination of the contract as a result of COVID-19. The amount of the subsidy will be 70% of the Social Security “regulatory base”, with a maximum amount of 950€ per month. The duration of the benefit is open. This allowance will be compatible with the performance of other activities by the domestic employee.
- An **exceptional subsidy is introduced for workers with a temporary contract** of at least two months, when their work contract expires, and they do not have the minimum period required to access ordinary unemployment benefits. This allowance, in the amount of 430€, will last for one month and can be extended.
- **Contracts for temporary teaching staff at university** that are due to end during the State of Alarm **are extended**, as well as **research contracts financed by grants** of the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation. These extensions will have an extension equivalent to the duration of the State of Alarm and, exceptionally, such extensions may be extended up

to 3 months in addition to the duration of the State of Alarm.

- During the State of Alarm and until June 30<sup>th</sup>, it is possible to combine unemployment benefits with temporary employment in agriculture. This measure has a triple goal of ensuring the supply of groceries, the maintenance of income and the activity and sustainability of the agricultural sector, and it is applicable to unemployed people, workers under a temporary suspension of contract, migrant workers whose work permit ends between June 15<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2020, and young people (between 18 and 21 years old) non-Spanish citizens who are legal residents in Spain.

**4) Measures related to the social protection of the most vulnerable families:**

- First of all, **600 million euros for funding social services programs: home care services and distance caregiving for dependents, both elderly, and people with disability; support and care services for homeless people; funds for minimum income schemes; caregiver assistance for families (especially, for single-parent families); social workers hiring; means for health prevention; and other relevant social services.** This measures will be financed by both the Central Government (€ 300M budgetary transfer to Autonomous Communities), and Local Governments (€ 300M thanks to the use of their budget surpluses), which are the government level in direct charge of the social services provision.
- **25 million euros** will be allocated to alleviate child poverty as a result of the suspension of the activity of school canteens. The Government provides 25 million euros of specific resources to the Autonomous Communities **to guarantee the basic right to food for children in vulnerable situations** affected by the closure of schools, so that this does not have undesirable added consequences. This also makes it possible to maintain the economic activity linked to these food services.
- On the other hand, a **suspension in first-home mortgages payments** for those workers losing their jobs, or affected by temporary reductions in employment; and for those self-employed workers suffering intense drops in earnings.

This moratorium will last three months and will also apply to non-mortgage loans, such as consumer loans, for people in with economic vulnerability.

- **Evictions** for non-payment of rent due to loss of income by Covid-19 are suspended for six months.
- To facilitate the payment of rents to persons in a situation of economic vulnerability by Covid-19, the Government will grant microcredits at zero per cent interest rate and without commissions, to cover rent of up to six months. The loan has to be repaid within six years, extendable for a further four years.
- In addition, **the supply of utilities** (water, electricity, and gas) **has been guaranteed** for vulnerable households. Moreover, the social voucher for energy provision has been extended until September. Telecommunications services will also be guaranteed.
- Access to savings in **pension plans** is facilitated by including situations of unemployment resulting from a temporary suspension of employment and the cessation of activity of self-employed workers as a result of the COVID-19.
- Consumer credits will a three months moratorium for those in vulnerable situation.

Regarding the **EU funds**, so far, no measures have been taken by the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy (MLSE) to re-programme resources from European funds (whether from the European Social Fund or others) to alleviate the economic and social effects of the Covid-19 crisis.

However, the MLSE intends to redirect ESF funds to support the extraordinary measures adopted to alleviate the consequences of the coronavirus in the workplace.

In this regard, the MLSE plans to allow the ESF to finance the costs of the following extraordinary measures:

- Temporary employment regulation schemes.
- Unemployment protection (benefits and allowances) for dismissed workers.
- Care benefits for dependent persons.
- Extension of the period of reductions in social security contributions for permanent, discontinuous workers.
- Direct subsidies to workers affected by dismissals or reductions in working hours.
- Unemployment benefits for workers in social economy companies.
- Discounts on employer's contributions for companies in the tourism and hotel sector.
- Carrying out work activity by means of teleworking.
- Recruitment of health personnel to deal with public health emergencies.
- Reductions in social security contributions.
- Supplementing the salary of workers who have been reduced due to less economic activity, in order to support the maintenance of employment and avoid dismissal.

This would require a change in the regulatory framework that goes beyond the proposed regulation on the "Initiative for investment in response to the coronavirus".

In particular, procedural and regulatory changes would be required to enable the following:

- Expressly allowing ESF funding of "passive" measures related to income support for people who lose their jobs or have their jobs reduced by this crisis, in particular the extraordinary measures listed above.
- That the EU immediately pays out the 2020 pre-financing (3% of the

total EU aid allocated to each Operational Programme) and that this can be used in full or in part, at the discretion of the Member State, for the extraordinary measures, without this being considered a breach of the obligation to pay the beneficiaries within 90 days

- That the EU should immediately pay 10% of the settlement of the annual accounts for the 2018-2019 accounting year without waiting for these accounts to be approved and that the amount of this payment can be used for extraordinary measures.
- That each Operational Programme may decide, with justification, how much of the amount not yet implemented from the ESF is allocated to these extraordinary measures, including those of a passive nature, without applying the limits of 4% or 8% contained in the proposal to amend the Regulation on Common Provisions, and that the amounts not yet implemented corresponding to budgetary commitments prior to 2020 may be used.
- That in relation to the extraordinary measures aimed at mitigating the effects of Covid 19, European co-financing should be 100% or, at least, that Spain should be considered as a single category of region with the highest possible co-financing rate (85%).
- That the financial allocation of the European Aid Fund for the Most Disadvantaged Persons (EAFP) be increased in order to address the situations of material deprivation resulting from the crisis situation.
- That the Regulation on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) be amended to allow action to be taken in cases of redundancies resulting from this crisis and also to admit 'passive' measures and not just retraining.

On the other hand, there are no European funding programs available in the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations, but additional EU funding would be very welcome to finance exemptions for the social contributions of those workers and businesses most affected or any other policy addressed to ensure minimal disruption on labour market or social security systems.

In the case of the Ministry of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda, European Social Fund funds have not been redirected yet.

Regarding the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), it will be reprogrammed to finance health spending and the mobilization of working capital to help SMEs among others.

The Commission proposal must be considered a first step in the response to this crisis, but not the definitive answer, which, to be effective, must be much more flexible.

Finally, Spanish government supports the initiative of a European Unemployment Benefit Reinsurance Scheme that can support our economies and our people in times of external shocks (like in this coronavirus crisis).

**12/5/20**

#### **SPAIN. DECONFINEMENT STEPS**

The Spanish Government has established four stages of reducing the confinement, with an estimated duration of at least 2 weeks each stage, provided that the pandemic remains under control; the monitoring will be done at territorial level.

- **STEP 0**, in progress from 4 May. A physical separation of at least 2 meters will be maintained and other hygiene and protection measures will be adopted for workers and the public during this steep.
  - **Bookstores and music stores:** They could reopen on May 4, but by appointment for individualized attention. These stores must have a counter, a screen or, when this is not possible, guarantee the maximum of individual protection.
  - **Archives**, have been reopened on 4 May, by appointment and taking extreme precautions, for example, regarding the looked up materials.
- **STEP 1**, in progress on 11 May, provided that the pandemic be under control. In any case, a physical separation of at least 2 meters will be



maintained and other hygiene and protection measures will be adopted for workers and the public.

- **Bookstores and music stores:** they will be able to receive a third of their reception capacity. A preferential schedule is always maintained for people over 65.
- **Libraries:** Books can be loaned and returned, Libraries that will have limited reception (30%). Cultural activities cannot be carry out. Users can borrow books in phase 1. 14 day quarantine period for returned books. Only in the National Library of Spain and in specialized libraries with old, unique, special or excluded funds from loans for any reason, it will be possible to use these publications, that once consulted will be deposited in a separate place for at least 14 days.
- **Museums:** They can open to allow visits to the collection and temporary exhibitions. The reception will be reduced to a third of each of its rooms and public spaces. They are only open for visits, but not for cultural or educational activities. Prohibited the elements of tactile use, prohibited audio guides and room brochures. Group visits are also prohibited, as long as it is not a family or similar coexistence unit.
- **Shooting movies:**

In addition to the general prevention and hygiene measures, the following means must be taken during the course of an **audiovisual production**:

- a) Work teams will be reduced to the essential number of people.
- b) When the nature of the activity allows it, the corresponding interpersonal distance will be maintained with third parties, as well as the use of protective equipment appropriate to the level of risk.

c) When the nature of the activity does not allow respecting the interpersonal distance, those involved will use protective equipment appropriate to the level of risk as a protection measure.

d) In cases where the nature of the work does not allow respect for interpersonal distance or the use of protective equipment appropriate to the level of risk, as is the case for actors and actresses, security measures ad hoc will be designed for each case following the recommendations of the health authorities.

e) Recommendations will be established so that the transfer to the workspaces and filming are carried out with the least possible risk, and the workers will inform about the means of transport that they will use in each case.

f) In the makeup, hairdressing and wardrobe activities, the appropriate protective equipment must be used according to the level of risk that ensures the protection of both the worker and the artist, in any case ensuring the maintenance of the two-meter distance between the artists. and disinfection of materials after each use.

g) Measures will be implemented so that the garments are sanitized before they are provided to other people.

- **STEP 2**, would start on 25 May provided that the pandemic be under control. In any case, a physical separation of at least 2 meters will be maintained and other hygiene and protection measures will be adopted for workers and the public.
  - **Cinemas:** Cinemas will return to activity with their capacity limited to one third. Cinemas are encouraged to sell their tickets online, preferably with preassigned seats.
  - **Live performances:** Theatres, concert rooms and other cultural centres can open as long as a third of the authorized capacity is not exceeded. Indoor shows there may not be more than 50% in total and, if they are outdoor, the maximum capacity will be 400

	<p>people. It will always be guaranteed that the spectators have pre-assigned seats and maintain the safety distance. Doors must be opened early enough to allow staggered access. The exit, too. Handheld programs prohibited. Intermediate breaks are not recommended (to avoid leaving and entering), shops, cafes or wardrobes, prohibited. Cleaning and security of closed premises must be done at least once a day, prior to opening to the public; in case of performing several functions, before each one of them. Also, the dressing room will not be shared at any time if it has not been cleaned and disinfected before. Technical personnel must use personal and non-transferable equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Monuments:</b> reopening with reduced capacity</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>STEP 3 and STEP 4:</b> progressive increase in personal mobility. In any case, interpersonal distance and reduced reception will be kept.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FI</b> <b>(13/5/20)</b></p>	<p><b>13/5/20</b></p> <p><b>Support and exit measures in Finland due to corona virus outbreak</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Broadening of unemployment security:</i> entrepreneurs and freelancers, regardless of their form of enterprise, will be included in unemployment security.</li> <li>● <i>Business Finland, 150 milj. euro</i></li> </ul> <p>- Financial services for SME's and midcap- enterprises that are affected by the corona virus outbreak</p> <p>- Possibilities for creative industries and performing arts</p> <p>- Call for applications open, support of to 80 %</p> <p>1) Funding for preliminary studies on business disruptions. Up to 10,000 euros of funding. Companies can use the funding to investigate and plan new business, alternative subcontracting chains and ways to organize production during and after the disruption caused by the coronavirus.</p> <p>2) Development funding for business disruptions. Up to 100,000 euros of funding.</p>

Companies can use the funding to carry out development plans identified in the preliminary study or otherwise in its operations to improve the company's potential for success during and after the disruption caused by the coronavirus. The goal of the measures must be to create new solutions related to products or production for the company.

[https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/disruptive\\_situations\\_funding/](https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/disruptive_situations_funding/)

- *Center for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY-keskukset), 50 milj. euro*

- development projects
- De minimis-support

Other supporting measures as well regarding state-garanted loans, taxes etc.

- *Short-term grants for freelance artists, 1,5 milj. euro*

Funded both by the state (0,6 milj. euro) and a large number of Finnish private foundations (0,9 milj. euro). The call has been launched and administrated by the Arts Promotion Centre of Finland.

<https://www.taike.fi/en/newsitem/-/news/1307164>

The Government has allocated an extra 40 million euro to help the culture and creative industries. This support complements the horizontal measures and address immediate liquidity issues as well as encourage innovative projects. State subsidies will be granted to national art institutions, professional communities within the culture and creative industries and professional artist as well as to museums, orchestras and theatres included in the State subsidies system and to audiovisual field.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has also informed the possibilities for flexibility in using the state grants for this year (regarding change of planned activities, costs occurred by force majeure-situation, postponing of planned activities etc.)

Gradual re-opening of: museums, theatres, the National Opera, cultural venues,

	<p>libraries, mobile libraries, services for customers and researchers at the National Archives, hobby and leisure centres, swimming pools and other sports facilities, youth centres, clubs, organisations' meeting rooms, day care services for the elderly, rehabilitative work facilities and workshops from 1 June.</p> <p>Easing of restrictions for public gatherings from 10 persons to 50 from 1 June.</p> <p>Public events with more than 500 people are prohibited until end of July.</p>
<p><b>FR</b> <b>(18/5/20)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST MEASURES TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY IN FAVOUR OF THE CULTURAL SECTOR</b></p> <p>In response to the global health crisis linked to the COVID-19 epidemic, France announced a global support plan worth 110 billion euros.</p> <p>While cultural facilities have been forced to close and faced with the unprecedented shock that this crisis represents for the economy and employment in the cultural sector in France, the Ministry of Culture has been mobilized to respond to the risk of the disappearance of the most fragile cultural structures, particularly independent or small structures. It is also necessary to remedy the social consequences of the situation on the intermittent workers and author artists, who are at the heart of the French model of cultural diversity.</p> <p><i>"The unprecedented health crisis affecting our country is hitting cultural actors hard. We must do everything we can to ensure their survival. It is the very future of our cultural model that is at stake,"</i> said the Minister of Culture, Franck Riester.</p> <p>The Minister of Culture first of all undertook to ensure that cultural actors benefit from a large number of the cross-cutting emergency measures announced by the French Government. He also expressed the wish that sectoral measures be taken, on a subsidiary and complementary basis, to ensure that all situations, which are by nature heterogeneous, find a response adapted to the realities of their sector.</p> <p>It is essential to share national practices, as well as to reflect together on the adaptation of instruments at European level.</p>

- **Emergency measures have been put in place in favour of businesses, which will benefit the cultural sector.**

**1.1 Economic players in the world of culture, whether they are legal entities (companies, associations) or natural persons (freelancers, artists and authors), will be eligible for the provisions of ordinary law.**

- Solidarity fund profit of €1 billion;
- Mobilisation of the State guarantee for the benefit of the cultural sector;
- Benefit of cash health insurance benefits;
- Maintaining employment through the simplified and reinforced short-time working scheme;
- Early repayment of certain tax credits in the cultural sector;
- Delays in the payment of social and/or tax debts or even direct tax rebates;
- Non-application of penalties for late payment in the context of public contracts;
- Deferral of rents, water, gas and electricity bills;
- Mobilization of credit mediation and business mediation.

**1.2 The Ministry of Culture's operators (CNC, CNL, CNM, CNAP) set up sector-based mechanisms in subsidiarity and complementarity with aid under ordinary law for a total of €23.5 million.**

- For the cinema and audiovisual sector, a series of measures have been put in place by the National Centre for Cinema (CNC), in particular :

- 1) Accelerated payment from March of the « Art et Essai » grants for the 1200 classified establishments;
- 2) Accelerated payment from March 2020 of selective support to distribution companies;
- 3) Suspension of the deadline due in March and April 2020 for the special additional tax (TSA) (if theatres remain closed for 3 months, the loss of TSA revenue is estimated at €35m);
- 4) adoption at the board of directors' meeting of April 1 2020 of a measure

allowing exhibitors, distributors and producers to mobilize up to 30% of their support account to face a cash flow problem that the State measures recalled in 1.1 would not already allow to overcome;

- 5) payment, to events cancelled for health reasons, of the planned subsidies.
- 6) in the law on the state of health emergency to deal with the covid-19 epidemic, the Government furthermore opens the possibility of entrusting the CNC with a reduction in the media chronology deadlines for films whose exploitation has been interrupted by the coronavirus.
- 7) Funding provided by the CNC for the solidarity fund created by the SACD allowing the payment of an emergency aid of €1500 per month to authors who cannot be eligible to the National Solidarity Fund;
- 8) Funding provided by the CNC for the solidarity fund created by the SCAM to provide an emergency aid of 1500€ per month to authors of audiovisual documentaries receiving CNC supports and who are not eligible to the National Solidarity Fund.
- 9) Launch of a call for projects to support the technical industries in their investments projects related to the organisation of teleworking and business recovery plan.

- For the music sector, a support fund has been set up and is endowed by the National Music Centre (CNM) and the collective management organisations (SACEM, ADAMI and SPEDIDAM) with a budget of €11.5 million. This support plan comprises three components:

- aid of €8 000, intended for very small businesses and SMEs with a show business licence and operating in the field of music and variety and whose continuity of activity is likely to be compromised by the covid-19 epidemic (in particular because of cash flow difficulties) ;
- this aid may be increased up to EUR 11 500 if the undertakings undertake to devote at least EUR 1 500 of the aid to the payment of compensation to artists whose fees have not been paid as a result of the cancellation of one or more performances;
- 5% of each grant paid will go into a solidarity fund managed by SACEM in favour of authors and composers;

- The CNM has also suspended for the month of March the collection of ticketing fees.

- For the book industry, several measures were adopted by the National Book Center (CNL) to help small publishers, authors and booksellers (including francophone booksellers abroad) with an initial budget of €5 million. Collective management organisations recently provided another 1,350 M€ to the CNL in order to reach more firms and authors. Low interest loans for treasury need and investments will also be granted to the firms in the book industry by a specialized bank (IFCIC).

- For the visual arts an emergency fund initially endowed with €2 million will also be created for art galleries, approved art centres and artist-authors.

- For the performing arts sector, in particular the private theatre sector, emergency aid of €5 million may be allocated (<https://www.fusv.org/>). Local and regional authorities have also put in place aids for the sector.

- Finally, in the field of press, it is fundamental to guarantee access to information for all citizens, which is a key issue in the current crisis context, and to protect strategic companies. Several measures are under consideration/announcements are in preparation.

- The State is mobilising €105 million for IFCIC loans for CCIs.

**1.3 The financially strongest cultural structures, as well as operators and structures subsidised by the state, are asked to demonstrate professional solidarity by paying the companies for the performances planned and by honouring the fees of casual workers so as not to weaken them.**

**– Support measures for intermittent workers in the performing arts and audiovisual sectors**

**2.1 Extension of the period for calculating entitlements during the period of**



## **application of the activity restriction measures**

Intermittent workers in the performing art and audiovisual sectors receive financial aid if they have been able to work for a certain minimum number of hours over a period of one year. In response to the current situation, the rights of job-seekers expiring on 1 March 2020 will be extended during the period of application of the activity restriction measures. The 12-month reference period during which the period of affiliation applicable to intermittent workers in the entertainment sector is sought will be extended by the same amount.

In May it was announced that the intermittents worker will profit from a "white year", allowing them to maintain their statute until August 2021 without justifying a certain minimum number of hours.

### **2.2 Use of short-time working made possible for all commitments and contracts entered into before 17 March 2020:**

As for all employers, cultural employers will be able to mobilise the short-time working scheme, including for short contracts and intermittent workers in the performing arts, without any minimum contract duration. All paid hours, including partial unemployment, will be counted in the calculation of the opening of rights (the necessary "507 hours").

### **2.3 Setting up a social assistance scheme for the most precarious situations :**

**A social assistance scheme is being studied in order to respond to the most difficult cases.**

#### **➤ First emergency plan for artist-authors (AA)**

### **3.1 Application of the massive and transversal measures announced by the Government to the AA**

AA can benefit from the measures (see 1.1).

### **3.2 Application to AA of complementary, subsidiary and sectoral measures**

The sectoral operators of the Ministry of Culture (CNC, CNL, CNM, National Centre for Visual Arts (CNAP)) are asked to mobilize to respond to the specific difficulties encountered by artist-authors by means of the first budget envelopes that have been made available in each sector (cf. 1.2).

Each of these operators will shortly present the measures envisaged. In addition, a large part of the aid paid by these operators under the emergency measures will be conditional on the payment of the fees due to the artists/authors.

### **3.3 Broadening the scope of use of private copying remuneration in order to provide specific assistance to author artists**

Collective management organizations will be authorized to mobilize the sums that the law requires them to devote to artistic and cultural actions (the "25% private copy") as well as irreparable sums resulting from compulsory collective management, in order to financially support authors, performers and producers who are deprived of economic income due to the repercussions caused by the coronavirus health crisis.

### **3.4 Preparation of a plan to revive activity**

The Minister of Culture has initiated a reflection on measures likely to encourage the revival of the country's creative and cultural activity in the best conditions as soon as the period of health emergency has ended.

#### **1. Administrative simplification measures concerning the culture sector are also being implemented.**

A number of measures have been the subject of simplification and flexibility provisions, which may concern cultural operators:

- An ordinance has made it possible to simplify and adapt the conditions under which the governing bodies of legal entities governed by private law meet and deliberate (rules for remote deliberation), and a second ordinance has also adapted the rules relating to the preparation and approval of accounts and other mandatory documents.

- An ordinance extends the time limits for administrative procedures (decisions, opinions, deadlines for investigations) that expired during the health emergency period.
- An ordinance simplifying and adapting the law applicable to the operation of public establishments and administrative collegiate bodies.
- An ordinance adapting the terms and conditions of access to higher education training, the awarding of diplomas or the terms and conditions of holding competitive examinations or entrance examinations for the civil service.

## 2. Deconfinement steps

France began a phase of deconfinement. Since May 11, bookstores, music stores, libraries, art galleries and some museums that receive a local audience have been able to open provided they comply with the necessary health security rules. Depending on the evolution of the health situation, a decision will be taken at the end of May on the next steps of the deconfinement of the sector : reopening of theaters and cinemas as well as other cultural centers and cultural venues. This decision will be taken together with the local authorities and professional professionals concerned. Large venues of more than 5,000 people such as festivals for exemple will not be allowed until the end of August.

In order to provide guidance to the culture and creative sector in the phase of deconfinement a set of practical guides has been published by the ministry of culture:

- [https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Aides-demarches/Covid-19-le-ministere-informe-les\\_professionnels/Deconfinement-aide-pour-la-reprise-d-activite-et-la-reouverture-au-public](https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Aides-demarches/Covid-19-le-ministere-informe-les_professionnels/Deconfinement-aide-pour-la-reprise-d-activite-et-la-reouverture-au-public).

**Croatian Ministry of Culture:  
Measures taken to support the culture, audiovisual and media sectors  
due to the COVID-19 crisis**

*FIRST PACKAGE OF MEASURES ADOPTED IN THE PERIOD OF SUSPENSION  
OF ALL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES*

**HR  
(2/6/20)**

As part of the Government's activities and in coordination with other departments, the Ministry of Culture developed the first package of measures that entered into force immediately after the announcement of restrictive measures.

The decision on the postponement of the execution of the contracted programs of public needs in culture and the conditions of payment for approved programs in special circumstances.

This measure allows a maximum of flexibility for contracted programs within the Ministry of Culture, the Croatian Audiovisual Center and the Foundation “Kultura Nova”. The measure insures a recognition of costs for the organization and an adapted structure of costs in order to ensure minimal liquidity in the cultural sector and prevent the collapse of the entire cultural value chain (creation, production, distribution and participation). This Decision ensured the retention of funds within the sector and enabled the payment for independent artists, part-time workers and those without permanent sources of income.

The Decision on the suspension of the revision of freelance artists to the payment of contributions for pension and health insurance from the state budget for a period of six months.

On 17 March, the Government adopted the first package of measures which applies to all citizens and legal entities. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Labor and Pension System, in cooperation with the Croatian Employment Bureau, launched a measure to support job preservation which is also intended for entrepreneurs within the cultural and creative industries, including art organizations, as well as self-employed artists and journalists who pay contributions for pension and health insurance.

Public call to support artists who professionally perform independent artistic activity and whose contributions are paid from the budget of the Republic of Croatia is launched by the Ministry of Culture as a complementary measure to the measure of the Croatian Employment Bureau.

Special fund for independent professionals who do not have a regulated status, are

not in the register of taxpayers, do not pay contributions or have not acquired the right to pay contributions from the state budget. From this special fund one-time fees will be paid to artists through artistic associations they are members.

The measure of the Government aimed at preserving jobs also applies to media service providers. The Agency for Electronic Media (AEM) will pay from the Fund for Encouraging Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media for 2020 with the possibility of repurposing part of the Fund on the topic of public monitoring of the coronavirus epidemic and to enable the adaptation of the program bases of media service providers to special circumstances. For media workers who are not covered by this measure, the AEM will conduct a tender for the payment of aid for part-time media workers.

The Ministry of Culture made a Decision to support part-time media workers whose cooperation was cancelled due to the COVID-19 epidemic. In parallel with the measures taken to assist artists, the Ministry of Culture continued to publish and conduct public calls and tenders through which certain sectors are additionally co-financed or responding to identified shortcomings and needs in the field of culture: Public call for purchase of books for public libraries, Public call for encouraging musical creations, and currently the evaluation of the Public Call for proposals for programs that enable access to cultural content for persons with disabilities and children and youth with developmental disabilities is being made.

*THE SECOND PACKAGE OF MEASURES AIMED TO ENCOURAGE AND  
RESTART CULTURAL LIFE AS WELL AS THE PRODUCTION AND  
DISTRIBUTION OF CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC CONTENT*

On 18 May, the Ministry published the call Art and Culture Online, with a total grant of 25 million Kuna (approximately 3.300.000 EUR). The call is implemented within the Operational Program Effective Human Resources 2014-2020 and will finance activities of preparation and implementation of online artistic and cultural activities.

On 28 May, the Ministry launched a call Entrepreneurship in Cultural and Creative Industries which is focused on funding activities to adapt business models of production, distribution, availability and access to cultural and artistic content. The

call covers the fields of performing arts, literature, publishing and book activities, visual arts and audiovisual activities. The total amount of funds is 8 million Kuna (1.050.000 EUR).

Additional funds will be provided for the co-financing of films through the Croatian Audiovisual Center, in terms of providing the funds needed to comply with the recommendations of the Croatian Institute of Public Health.

The Ministry of Culture is in the process of adopting a State Aid Program to support entrepreneurs in culture and creative industries and facilitate access to finance to improve the liquidity of small and medium enterprises affected by the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Consultations are made with the organizers of events and festivals, as well as all other beneficiaries of support from the Ministry of Culture in order to approve new programs and budgets. Discussions are also in the process on the possible extension of support for those activities that cannot be launched until all restrictions have been lifted, and concern primarily the performing arts and the cinema industry.

*RECAPITULATION RELATED TO THE RELAXATION OF MEASURES AND THE NEED FOR ADAPTATION AND ACTION IN NEW CIRCUMSTANCES*

As the epidemiological situation was improved, the Ministry of Culture, in coordination with the Civil Protection Headquarters, the Croatian Institute of Public Health and other cultural stakeholders whose work was disabled due to the establishment of preventive measures, developed a series of recommendations for the realisation of artistic activities, which contributed to the production, distribution and use of cultural content.

As part of the relaxation of measures, the Government has decided that libraries, bookstores, museums, archives, galleries and antique shops can open from 27 April. From 11 May, it is possible to hold rehearsals in theaters.

On 15 May, the Croatian Institute of Public Health published Recommendations for the Prevention of COVID-19 Disease During Professional Art Performances, Cultural Programs and Events, and Recommendations for the Production and Recording of Audiovisual and Music Content During the COVID-19 Disease

<p><b>HU</b> <b>(25/5/20)</b></p>	<p>Epidemic that allow performances and recordings indoors as well as outdoors.</p> <p>In constant consultation with the Croatian Civil Protection and through consultations and exchange of experiences at the European level, the Ministry of Culture will continue to monitor the situation and respond to it, providing support to artists in order to preserve the chain of cultural values.</p> <p>On 1 June, the Croatian Institute of Public Health updated the Recommendations for prevention of COVID-19 Disease During Professional Artistic Performances, Cultural Programmes and Events. In accordance with the positive developments of the epidemiological situation related to COVID-19 Disease in the Republic of Croatia, it is now allowed to organise professional artistic performances, cultural programmes and events in indoor and outdoor areas as well as public events and gatherings. The set limit for the total number of visitors who can stay indoors at the same time is 300 people, while open space allows a maximum of 500 people to gather, respecting the recommended physical distance of 1.5 meters between visitors.</p> <p><a href="https://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=24389">https://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=24389</a></p> <hr/> <p><b>The impact of COVID-19 on the Cultural and Creative Sectors – responsible governance</b></p> <p>On behalf of Hungary, we thank the Croatian Presidency for organising the second video conference and especially for sharing information on Member States' measures on a regular basis. We support that member states contribute to the planning of the restarting the cultural and creative sectors, and to identifying the way of gradually lifting the restrictions by sharing national best practices. Learning lessons from the COVID-19 epidemic will make it possible to find long-term sustainable solutions.</p> <p><u>Update on the gradual lifting of containment measures:</u></p> <p>As for the current situation in Hungary, thanks to the preventive measures, life could be partially restarted in the countryside from 4 May and in the capital, Budapest from 18 May. In the perspective of this, lifting containment measures in</p>
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the cultural field has begun. The government prohibited mass events until the 15 of August, so events for the public cannot be organized. However, cultural institutions can continue to work, staff can visit buildings, actors can participate in rehearsals, and outdoor museums and zooparks can be open. The emergency situation declared by the Government of Hungary on 11 March will remain in effect until withdrawal.

Measures taken both on governmental and sectorial level in the interest of the cultural and creative sectors:

First of all, we would like to point out that in Europe, Hungary has already provided outstanding support for the cultural sector so far, even before the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. According to 2017 data, we spent 2.6 per cent of our total public expenditure on cultural services, making it, along with Latvia, the second largest contribution in terms of proportions, after Finland.

The Government, realising the weight of the crisis, has decided on immediate general and sector-specific measures that react to the challenge. These measures foster the operability of the country as well as prepare its recovery. They are also helping the stakeholders of the cultural sector, by way of introducing special actions both for economic and social relief.

- as an outstanding example, we grant temporary *tax exemption* for SMEs that is effectively easing the situation of the cultural and creative sectors;
- as the Prime Minister of Hungary announced in his speech on 6<sup>th</sup> April, the national economy recovery plan includes *the film and creative industries* together with other priority areas like tourism or construction;
- according to a Government Decree of 5<sup>th</sup> April the deadline of all state-funded programmes and projects is extended with the duration of the emergency situation (including projects with a central budgetary funding which are launched under the emergency period);
- from the beginning of the crisis, the State Secretariat for Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Human Capacities has been at the cultural stakeholders' disposal with regular sectorial videoconferences as well as with non-stop online and telephone access;
- Hungary's cultural government, as an important step in the restarting process, provides one billion Hungarian Forints (appr. 2,85 million EUR) to independent performers who have been left without income. The name of the programme is "Thank you, Hungary!" It is important to emphasize that we do not distribute aid, instead, we pre-finance future artistic productions: approximately 5,000 performances by about 3,000 artists. This way, when the pandemic ends, a national programme series involving around 2,000 settlements will be launched. Within the framework of this programme, our public institutions are free to choose from a central database among artistic productions when planning their cultural



calendar;

- the Capital Circus of Budapest through its maintainer, the National Circus Centre provides significant support, approx. 1 million EUR to the Hungarian and Central European circus life. The support system is complex. It gives emergency aid to traveling circuses for animal feeding, animal care (1500-50,000 EUR); it provides 30,000 EUR to help unemployed artists; grants free use of premises to a company and 6 groups of artists stranded in Hungary; the Capital Circus of Budapest is broadcasting an online circus program on social channels and it operates a helpline;
- the National Film Institute has initiated a Film Industry Aid Fund of 50 million Hungarian Forints (approximately 140,000 EUR) to provide immediate help to freelance filmmakers left unemployed in a difficult situation due to the coronavirus; the Institute is also looking forward to offers from film companies and individuals who are in a stable economic position;
- the State Secretariat for Culture of the Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities, the Petőfi Literary Agency, MTVA (Media Service Support and Asset Management Fund) and A38 Concert Ship and Cultural Centre announced a joint tender for musical and contemporary performing arts productions. The aim of the call is to encourage musicians, actors and writers to produce creative works and make them available to the public online, and at the same time to provide Hungarians at home with quality contemporary cultural content. Each performing member of the selected productions received a gross remuneration of HUF 50,000;
- the Hungarian Performing Arts Rights Management Society (EJI) and the Collective Rights Management Society of Literary and Music Authors (ARTISJUS) made extraordinary social benefits available (each organisation allocated 90 M HUF, appr. 257.000 EUR) to help performers and authors in difficult financial circumstances due to the coronavirus. The support is provided by the EJI to its members who have missed at least four performances as a result of emergency government measures taken in connection with the coronavirus epidemic, thus suffering a significant loss of revenue, and have applied for compensation by 31 March. The amount of the social benefit may be between 32 thousand to 128 thousand HUF, according to the degree of need (approx. 90-365 EUR);
- the majority of theatres, concert halls, museums, as well as our libraries, archives and centres of community culture have offered free access to their performances or virtual collections to spread knowledge and culture to the widest audiences, fully respecting the rights of authors;
- some outstanding examples are: the József Attila Theatre and the Hungarian Theatre in Pest offers educational dance videos, the Capital Circus of Budapest broadcasts on-line performances, the Hungarian State Opera has made perfor-

	<p>mances available at their Spotify-page, the Palace of Arts provided access to more than 40 literary evenings, the exhibitions of the Hungarian National Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Petőfi Literary Museum or the Museum of Ethnography offer online access to various exhibitions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a very important initiative is that Hungarian libraries started functioning as authentic information sources in connection with the epidemic, thus contributing to the prevention of spreading fake news.</li> </ul> <p>An important lesson learnt from the epidemic is that we must not forget the many good practices of operation that our institutions and artists have introduced. A kind of revolution took place with the launch of digital, online interfaces and channels, as well as by the expansion of services, on which we must continue to build. We believe that culture is of key importance in preserving people's spiritual strength, and we are handling the challenges of the sector accordingly.</p>
<p><b>IE</b> <b>(4/6/20)</b></p>	<p><b>Ireland's Updated Measures and Actions to alleviate the impact of Covid-19 on the Culture and Creative Industries</b></p> <p>The Irish Government has introduced a number of economy-wide measures which are applicable to the cultural and creative sector, in addition to the sector specific initiatives which are updated below:</p> <p><b><u>Economy-wide measures applicable to the cultural and creative sector:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wage subsidy:</b> the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme administered by the Revenue Commissioners (the tax authority) which supports employers retain staff through a subsidy of wages via the payroll (up to a maximum net weekly income per employee of €410) was introduced from 26 March for a period of 12 weeks;</li> <li>• <b>Income supports:</b> Income supports paid to employees and households affected by Covid-19 by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the €350 per week COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment paid to those in employment or self-employment immediately prior to 13 March whose employment or self-employment income ceased on or after 13 March due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

(which will run till at least 5 June);

- the €350 per week Enhanced Illness Benefit paid to those self-isolating or ill due to Covid-19;
- the traditional range of insurance and means-tested payments still apply.
- **Liquidity and equity:** €1bn in COVID-19 related loans and guarantees were made available by the State to firms, whether directly or through financial intermediaries, up to 2 May, and an additional €4bn will be made available following a decision made on 2 May;
  - the €150m (shortly to be increased to €2.15bn) Credit Guarantee Scheme for all sustainable SMEs;
  - the €180m Sustaining Enterprise Fund for firms in the manufacturing and international services sector (with State aid approval under the Temporary Framework now in place for a wider Sustaining Enterprise Scheme);
  - the €2 billion Pandemic Stabilisation and Recovery Fund within the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) – the Irish sovereign development fund - which will make capital (through equity, loan or hybrid instruments) available to medium and large enterprises on commercial terms.
  - the €450m SBCI Covid-19 Working Capital Scheme for SMEs and Small MidCap firms who meet an ‘innovation’ criterion;
  - an additional €200m for the SBCI Future Growth Loan Scheme for investment in plant and machinery;
  - the €20m Microfinance Ireland COVID-19 Business Loan for micro-enterprises unable to avail of banking finance.
- **Direct enterprise grants:** Direct grants available to commercial firms through Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), or Údarás na Gaeltachta (all Irish enterprise support agencies) and provision of a Restart

Fund for micro and small businesses of €250 million for micro and small enterprises.

- **Tax deferrals and waivers:** The ‘warehousing’ of tax liabilities for a period of twelve months after recommencement of trading during which time there will be no debt enforcement action taken by the Revenue Commissioners and no interest charge accruing in respect of the warehoused debt and the waiver of commercial rates (property tax paid to Irish local government) for a three month period commencing 27 March.
- **Private financial sector deferrals:** Deferrals and policy changes offered by private suppliers of credit and insurance following engagement with Government and the Irish Central Bank, including:
  - A deferral of up to 6 months on loan repayments for SMEs to commercial banks;
  - Reduction in Employer Liability/Public Liability and Commercial Motor insurance; and,
  - where there is ambiguity in a business interruption policy that insurers will interpret it in favour of the consumer.

**Cultural and creative sector specific initiatives:**

In the first two weeks following the announcement of restrictions, the Department of Culture provided funding of €25 million to Ireland’s National Cultural Institutions, Arts Council and Screen Ireland to help address the impact of the crisis. This has helped the institutions involved to maintain operations and introduce tailored supports for the sector, which are detailed more fully below.

The Arts Council announced a **€1 million fund** scheme, called the Arts Council COVID-19 Crisis Response Award. The scheme is designed to **support the creation of new artistic work and its dissemination online** for the public benefit. The award is open to anyone who can demonstrate a track record of professional practice as an artist. There is **no restriction on the type or form of art that can be created**, whether new writing; new music; readings; music performances; performance of short monologues or dramas; visual art such as painting, photography or sculpture; sound art; presentation of art films or documentaries; or

online collaborations.

The Arts Council continues to operate fully throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Their priority is to support artists and arts organisations through this difficult time, maintaining contact with a broad range of artists and organisations to provide a deep understanding of how COVID-19 is impacting the sector as well as, the Department for Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht and wider Government in planning how best to manage through the crisis. The Arts Council has also **undertaken a detailed survey of arts organisations to identify the impact on audiences, employment and finances** for March, April and May as well as a survey of artists seeking information on the economic impact on individual artists.

Overall **the survey results show** severe disruption to the sector with **19,000 days of paid work have been lost** to the end of April, with some **2.4 million members of the public losing** out on artistic experiences. An estimated income of **€6.4 million will be lost from cancelled activities** to the end of May.

In addition the Arts Council has brought together a number of leading expert voices from the arts and other sectors including public health, economics and media to set up an **Advisory Group to identify ways to deal with the Covid-19 Crisis.**

*As previously detailed **Culture Ireland** working with Facebook Ireland, has operated a new grant scheme **IrelandPerforms** that facilitates artists creating new content and showcasing to a new and developing audience. Over a six week period some 120 performances have taken place online attracting a global audience of over 800,000.*

*Performances under the Ireland Performs initiative covered all genres of music, spoken word, theatre and visual arts by artists located in 28 counties of the island of Ireland. There has been strong audience engagement from around the world with online comments posted from Asia, countries across Europe and the US.*

*Over 120 artists have each offered a unique audience experience, with many performing in unexpected spaces including a beach, poly-tunnel, van and shed. There has been a high level of interest by artists, with an equally high volume of applications received.*

*Culture Ireland placed a special focus on artists who lost international touring*

*opportunities including musicians who were due to perform at high profile international showcases such as SXSW and The Great Escape as well as artists who had international tours interrupted and had to return home from the US in March. 100 of the performances remain available for people in Ireland and the world to still enjoy through Culture Ireland's Facebook page.*

<https://events.cultureireland.ie/events/>

**Ireland's National Theatre** launched the **Dear Ireland** project. This initiative saw commissioned writers from Ireland, with unique additional contributions from the USA, China and Italy, each write a monologue, to be performed by 50 actors, and then streamed on YouTube channel over four night.

Each writer nominated one actor to perform their piece, and the actors self-recorded their performances from social isolation. 100 artists participated in this initiative reaching an online viewing audience of 146,500. **Dear Ireland** monologues performances remain available to view on Abbey Theatre You Tube Channel for six months.

**Cruinniú na nÓg 2020** is our **National Day of free creativity for young people under 18** and now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year is believed to be the only such **initiative of its kind in the world**. Under the Government's **#InThisTogether** campaign, which supports everyone to stay connected, stay active and look after physical and mental wellbeing, **children and young people are being encouraged to start now on preparing their creative and cultural ideas** in their own homes and gardens. Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth plan to enable the creative potential of children and young people and is delivered in partnership with 31 Local Authorities supported by the National Broadcaster. It was originally planned that Cruinniú na nÓg would take place in 2020 on 13<sup>th</sup> June. However, arising from public health advice associated with the Covid 19, **Cruinniú na nÓg 2020**, will now take place virtually, with every local authority in the country having developed a number of creative, cultural and engaging "calls to action" which children, young people – indeed entire families – can create in their own homes and gardens on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**Ireland's audio-visual industry**

The State development agency for the Irish film, television and animation industry (**Screen Ireland**) remains open for business as normal as possible in terms of processing funding applications.

The agency has announced a number of stimulus measures to support the sector in response to the devastating effects of COVID19. These new measures include practical supports and are designed to aid production companies and creative talent in developing a strong slate of quality projects, so that the industry can emerge from the current situation in a position to scale up production activity.

In response the lack of production activity, Screen Ireland is devoting care and attention to the development of projects so that the industry can be ready to flourish when production is in a position to resume.

#### **Audio Visual - New Funding Schemes**

- **Strategic Slate Development Fund:** The **fund** is valued at up to **€3 million** and aims to **support strategic slate project development** with strong creative ambition and a focus on diversity and inclusion. This fund aims to support production companies, working closely with screenwriters and directors with strong creative vision to develop their own IP.
- **Enhanced Development Support:** An additional **€1 million in enhanced development support** across feature film, TV and animation, will be available to Irish production companies working with writers on a project by project basis, where the Strategic Slate Funding Scheme does not apply. 90% of this funding will be made available upfront for successful applicants.
- **Creative Concept Development Scheme for Directors:** A new creative conceptual development fund will be made available directly to Irish directors aimed at investing in the early vision of a director to develop high value, well refined projects for feature film and television. This is expected to generate exceptional screen work with the

early creative leadership of a director and refined development before bringing it to a producer or financier. The value of this fund will be announced shortly.

- **Enhanced Investment in Screenplay & Spotlight Schemes:** An additional **€100K** total investment will be made **available into the Screenplay Development and the Spotlight writing** schemes. The Spotlight scheme is aimed at discovering and developing diverse, fresh and exciting new screenwriting talent in Ireland. The scheme is intended as an opportunity for new writers to develop a feature film screenplay, with guidance and mentorship from leading industry figures at the very beginning of their careers.
- **Financial Planning Support:** Funding will be made available for companies in need of urgent financial planning support resulting from the challenges caused by Covid 19. Funding to enable production companies to develop a financial plan with the **advice of a financial consultant** will be provided, the fund is worth **up to €150K**, with companies able to apply for a maximum of €5K.
- **Distribution Support:** We have provided additional marketing and distribution support to local independent distribution companies for upcoming Irish film and TV releases during this period.

**Initial Measures to support cashflow and provide flexibility on existing loans were announced in Early March. These were:**

- Provision of 90% funding upfront on all development loans to Irish screenwriters and production companies through to 31st May 2020.
- Existing development and production loan offers which are due to expire in the coming months will all be extended to 31st May 2020.
- Provision of additional marketing and distribution support for up-



coming Irish film and TV releases during this period.

- Continue to provide skills development opportunities for industry practitioners, with Screen Skills Ireland delivering some of its planned activity for 2020 online free-of-charge over the next 6-10 weeks.

In respect of **Screen Skills Development** the following measures and supports have been put in place:

- **The Festivals and Events Funding Scheme** has been repurposed as a **Skills Development Events Funding Scheme**, which will assist Irish organisations and film festivals to provide online industry events including masterclasses, workshops, panel discussions, and seminars.
- **The International Bursary Award Scheme** has been repurposed as a **Bursary Award Scheme** to support industry professionals **to undertake high level online skills development courses**.
- The Stakeholders & Guilds Funding Scheme has been announced and supports screen stakeholders and guilds to deliver a range of skills related activity over the course of a year.
- A Screen Mentoring Funding Scheme will support industry professionals to access Mentor support over a 12-month period will be announced shortly.

#### **Broadcasting Authority of Ireland - Audiovisual supports**

At the end of March the broadcasting levy payable by the radio sector to the independent regulator, the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) was waived for the first six months of the year. This will save local radio and independent stations

	<p>around €1m.</p> <p>The Regulator put in place urgent funding of up to €2.5million for the commercial independent radio sector through a repurposing of existing Sound and Vision funding towards a special round under that Scheme. The funding came from ring-fencing funds under the Sound and Vision 4 Scheme, funded by the TV licence and administered by the BAI. The Scheme supports the production of high-quality TV and radio programmes on Irish culture, heritage and experience.</p> <p>The Sound and Vision Scheme also provides for funding of the community radio sector in respect of their social benefit obligations. The Minister also asked that the BAI put in place funding of €750,000 for community radio in 2020.</p> <p>There will be a further round in Quarter 3 2020 for television broadcasters/producers and public service radio. In addition, the BAI is currently finalising a Revised Sectoral Development Plan and is liaising with Broadcasting Funding Scheme Sound &amp; Vision grantees to facilitate payments for pre-production &amp; administration work where a grantee is unable to start filming/recording.</p>
<p><b>IT (5/6/20)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>National measures aimed at alleviating the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural and creative sectors in Italy</b></p> <p>On 08.03.2020 a Prime Ministerial Decree (DPCM) ordered the cancellation of any public events and performances and the closure of establishments, including cultural public and private ones (cinemas, theatres, museums, libraries and archives, archaeological and other cultural sites) until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. Those measures were extended by further DPCMs issued on 01.04.2020, 10.04.2020, 26.04.2020. A last DPCM of 17/05/2020 ordered the gradual reopening of cultural establishments, such as museums, from the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. Starting from June 15, performances and shows able to provide distancing can reopen to up to 200 spectators indoors and up to 1000 spectators outdoors.</p> <p><b>Decree-Law “Cura Italia” (D.L. 17.03.2020, now Law 27 of 24.04.2020, and the Italian Government and the Parliament adopted a package of measures, for a total of 25 billion euros, aimed at supporting the Italian economy in the</b></p>

**framework of the Covid-19 crisis.** These include:

- Extension of unemployment benefits to cultural workers and non-profit organisations (for all employees, both permanent and fixed-term).
- Extension of social safety to seasonal tourism and entertainment workers, aid to authors, artists, performers and agents.
- 600 € allowance for self-employed and pseudo-self-employed (para-subordinate) workers (for the month of March) for a maximum of 203,4 M€ in 2020. The allowance was extended to the month of April (600 €) by the Restart Decree of 19.05.2020.
- 600 € allowance (for the month of March) for freelancers in the performing arts sector/entertainment business. The “Restart” Decree of 19.05.2020 extended the allowance to the months of April and March and included those workers who had at least 7 daily contributions in 2019 with an income up to 35,000 €.
- Suspension, without payment of interest, of tax and social security payments, welfare contributions, compulsory insurance premiums and other levies and taxes (including VAT) for museums, libraries, archives, monuments, historical sites, theatres, concert and film venues and other cultural and artistic organisations, extended until 16.09.2020 by the Restart Decree of 19.05.2020.
- Vouchers for reimbursement or replacement of tickets already sold (e.g. cinema, museums, theatre, concerts, other cultural venues) valid for 12 months (extended to 18 months by the Restart Decree of 19.05.2020).
- Establishment of two emergency funds to support the audio-visual, cinema and performing arts sectors with an overall budget of EUR 130 million in 2020, increased to 245 € by the Restart Decree (19.05.2020): EUR 80 million (increased to 145 m€) will be in current account; EUR 50 million (increased to 100 M€) in capital account will be devoted to investments. The funds are aimed at supporting authors, interpreters, artists, performers, distributors, exhibitors and producers hit by the measures taken in the framework of the Covid-19 emergency, implying the cancellation of their activities and the closure of venues.
- General support measures referred to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises subject to debt exposure.
- Facilitation of access to credit by PMIs’, including creative and cultural ones, for 9 months, drawing on the PMI Guarantee Fund.

- 30% tax credit, up to a maximum of 30.000 €, for cash and in-kind donations supporting measures combating Covid-19 emergency; beneficiaries include public and private bodies active in the cultural sector.
- 10% of income from “private copy” levies collected by SIAE in 2019 devolved to support authors, interpreters, performers and self-employed copy-right agents.

**Decree-law “Rilancio” (“Restart”) nr. 34 of 19/05/2020 adopts further measures aimed at supporting the resumption of activities. The culture package includes:**

- **Emergency Fund for non-State run institutions and businesses: 210 M€** for the year 2020 to support bookshops, publishing and related supply chain; non state-run museums and other cultural establishments; recovery of losses due to cancellation of performances, congresses, fairs and exhibitions.
- **State museums and cultural locations fund:** 100 M€ for the year 2020 allocated to compensate for ticketing revenue losses following the adoption of containment measures for Covid-19 pandemic, in order to ensure the functioning of State-run museums and other cultural locations museum sector.
- **Performing Arts Fund (FUS):** For the years 2020 and 2021, the FUS share devoted to **opera-symphony foundations** will be exceptionally distributed based on the average share for the three-year period 2017-2019. For the year 2022, said criteria will be adjusted taking into account the activities carried out in the framework of COVID-19 pandemic, the needs for protecting employment and the rescheduling of performances. **Performing arts bodies other than opera-symphony foundations** that benefitted from FUS in the three-year period 2018-2020 will receive in 2020 an advance payment corresponding to 80% of the amount received in 2019; the remaining 20% will be paid based on the activities carried out during the pandemics, the needs for protecting employment and the rescheduling of performances. In 2021 contributions will be paid based on the activities carried out and reported in 2020. Performing arts organisations will be able to use FUS also to supplement the income of their employees in 2020.
- **Digital platform for arts and culture.** 10 M€ for the year 2020 are allocated to the development of a digital platform enabling the online enjoyment of cultural heritage and live performances. The initiative is aimed

at supporting the restart of cultural activities and might be supported also through the Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (Deposits and Loans Fund). In due course it might be established that operators benefitting from public funding should provide content for the platform.

- **Culture Fund. 50 M€** for the year 2020 will be devoted to the promotion of investments and interventions for the preservation, enhancement, use and digitisation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The endowment of the fund can be increased by the contribution of private bodies.
- **Fund for performing artists.** A fund for performing artists is established based on the remaining funds from the liquidation of IMAIE (Mutual institute for the protection of performing artists). The expected starting allocation of the fund is 50 M€.
- **Tax credit for rents of cultural locations.** Small and medium enterprises, including theaters, cinemas, cultural organisations, with a turnover of up to € 5 million, are entitled to a tax credit up to 60% of the costs of the monthly rent or lease of the premises where their activities take place, on the condition that they have suffered a decrease in turnover of at least 50% in the reference month compared to the same month of the previous tax period.
- **Tax credit “ArtBonus”.** The 65% tax credit for donations to culture is extended to include instrumental ensembles, concert and choral societies, circuses and travelling shows.
- **Tax credit for cinema and audiovisual.** Flexibility is introduced for the maximum tax credit percentages in the cinema and audiovisual sector.
- **Tax credit for sanitization.** Businesses and not-for-profit organizations are entitled to a tax credit of 60% of the expenses incurred in 2020 for sanitization of spaces and tools and for purchase of protective equipment and devices to counter the spread of COVID-19, up to a maximum of 60,000 € per beneficiary.
- **Contributions for sanitization.** Contributions from 15,000 € up to 100,000 €, depending on the number of employees, can be claimed by businesses for extraordinary interventions aimed at containing and contrasting the spread of COVID-19 virus in work environments
- **IRAP exemption.** Enterprises with a turnover of up to 250 M€ are exempted from paying the 2019 open balance and 2020 advance payment of the Regional Tax on productive activities (IRAP).
- **Italian capital of culture.** Parma, Italian capital of culture in 2020, will

keep the title in 2021. The selection procedure for the next Italian capital of culture currently ongoing will award the title for 2022.

**Other measures taken by MiBACT:**

- MiBACT Directorate-General for cinema and audiovisual unblocked tax credit incentives (ca. 64,8 M€) and released other funds previously frozen.
- Ministerial Decree 04.05.2020 exempted from the requirement of theatrical film release films eligible to public support. The exemption is valid since February 23rd and is aimed at introducing flexibility for eligible films that for reasons of force majeure could not be released in cinemas, to be broadcast on TV or made available through streaming platforms. According the film industry, up to 40% of Italian and international titles being restrained from theatrical release will go straight to TV or on-demand platforms.

LT (6/5/20)	No.	Adopted measures	Planned funds, sources	Implementing institution	Status of implementation, special requirements	
	Specific measures for cultural and creative sectors					
	1.	Creative downtime payments for artists. Granted for 3 months, EUR 607 / monthly	Extra funds EUR 2 million, Economic Stimulus and Coronavirus (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan  (Government Decision 29/4/20 No. 439)	The Ministry of Culture  <a href="http://lrkm.lrv.lt/">http://lrkm.lrv.lt/</a>	Under implementation. Natural persons with the status of art creator may apply	
	2.	Individual grants for	Redistri	Lithuanian Council	Under	

	artists and culture professionals. Granted for 3 months, EUR 600 / monthly	buted funds EUR 600 000 , Culture Support Fund	for Culture <a href="https://www.ltk.lt/">https://www.ltk.lt/</a>	implementation. Natural persons with no status of art creator may apply	
3.	One-off payments for self-employed artists; the size of payment depends proportionally on the size of revenue loss due to the emergency and quarantine, EUR 600 (up to 42% of the programme), EUR 1200 (up to 29% of the programme) or EUR 1800 (up to 29% of the programme), respectively	Redistri buted funds EUR 750 000 , Compe nsatory remune ration for the reprodu ction of works for private use, by agreem ent with copyrig ht and related rights associat ions	Lithuanian Council for Culture <a href="https://www.ltk.lt/">https://www.ltk.lt/</a>	Under implementation. Natural persons carrying out activities under individual activity certificate, which must be registered no later than in 1/7/2019 and active until at least 16/3/2020, may apply	
4.	New Programme “Development of new products and / or services of cultural and arts organizations” 1. adaptation of cultural products and services to the digital environment; 2. development of new cultural products and / or services adapted to the changed circumstances of cultural consumption during and after the quarantine period; 3. activities ensuring employment of artists;	Extra funds EUR 3 million, Econo mic Stimulu s and Corona virus (COVI D-19) Mitigati on Plan.  (Gover nment Decisio	Lithuanian Council for Culture <a href="https://www.ltk.lt/">https://www.ltk.lt/</a>	In preparation. Will be open to all cultural organizations, private and public.	

		4. cooperation with other organizations, ensuring activities of artists and / or access to their services.	n 22/4/20 No. 412)			
	5.	Support for film industry: grants to filmmakers, support for cinemas, film production and distribution.	Extra funds EUR 3,4 million, Economic Stimulus and Corona virus (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan  (Government Decision 22/4/20 No. 412)	Lithuanian Film Centre under the Ministry of Culture  <a href="http://www.lkc.lt/">http://www.lkc.lt/</a>	Under implementation	
	6.	Acquisition of library collections – purchase of books and printed material.	Extra funds EUR 1,7 million, Economic Stimulus and Corona virus (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan	The Ministry of Culture  <a href="http://lrkm.lrv.lt/">http://lrkm.lrv.lt/</a>	In preparation	
	7.	Long-term measures for the development of cultural and creative sectors	Extra funds EUR 13,6 million, Economic	Lithuanian Council for Culture  <a href="https://www.ltkt.lt/">https://www.ltkt.lt/</a>	In preparation	



		Stimulus and Coronavirus (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan			
8.	Renewal of the infrastructure of the cultural organizations under the Ministry of Culture.	Extra funds EUR 18,3 million, Economic Stimulus and Coronavirus (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan	The Ministry of Culture <a href="http://lrkm.lrv.lt/">http://lrkm.lrv.lt/</a>	In preparation	
9.	Renewal of the infrastructure of municipal cultural organizations and acquisition of equipment.	Extra funds EUR 25 million, Economic Stimulus and Coronavirus (COVID-19) Mitigation Plan	The Ministry of Culture <a href="http://lrkm.lrv.lt/">http://lrkm.lrv.lt/</a>	In preparation	
10.	<p>Law on the effects of the quarantine in relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus infection) on the implementation of the contracts for the provision of events organization services  <a href="https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/3caf53038f9a11ea51db668f0092944?jfwid=j4ag08j7">https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/3caf53038f9a11ea51db668f0092944?jfwid=j4ag08j7</a>  (Adoption by the Parliament 30/4/20 No. XIII-2876)</p> <p>Main provisions:  Where the event does not take place due to prohibitions imposed during quarantine (during the period of prohibitions established during quarantine and within a period of 3 months from the lifting of the quarantine prohibitions which have made it impossible or significantly more difficult to organize the events), the service provider shall have the right to set a later date for the event</p>				

	<p>within 30 days of the lifting of that prohibition.</p> <p>The event must take place within a reasonable time from the original date of the event, but no later than 12 months after the lifting of the quarantine prohibitions that have made it impossible or significantly more difficult to organize the event. In this case, the service provider is not entitled to charge the consumer any additional fees.</p> <p>The consumer shall have the right to notify the service provider no later than 60 days after the service provider announces the later date of the event that he does not agree with the later date set by the service provider. In this case the service provider shall reimburse no later than within 30 days from the date of receipt of the consumer notification by providing the consumer with a coupon of at least the amount paid for the ticket without any additional charges. With the coupon, the consumer can pay for the ticket price or part of the ticket price for future events organized by the same service provider.</p> <p>If the consumer does not pay the ticket price or part of the ticket price for future events organized by the same service provider with the coupon within 12 months from the date of issue of the coupon, he shall request the service provider no later than 14 days after the expiry of this period for the return of money equal to the value of the coupon.</p> <p>Where the provider does not set a later date for the event, the consumer shall have the right to demand that the service provider reimburses the consumer for the ticket price no later than 14 days after the end of the period of exercise of the service provider's right.</p>				
	General measures relevant for the cultural and creative sectors				
	1.	The State Tax Inspectorate has announced a list of companies most affected by COVID-19. Affected companies that have accumulated taxes before the end of the emergency and for two months after that, will be automatically, without request, exempted from default interest and no tax recovery actions will be initiated.		State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance  <a href="https://www.vmi.lt/cms/informacija-verslui-del-covid-19">https://www.vmi.lt/cms/informacija-verslui-del-covid-19</a>	Under implementation
	2.	Self-employed residents whose economic activity is included in the list of economic activities most affected by COVID-19 and who accumulated taxes from March 16 until the end of the emergency and two months after that,		State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance  <a href="https://www.vmi.lt/cms/vykdantiems-individualia-veikla1">https://www.vmi.lt/cms/vykdantiems-individualia-veikla1</a>	Under implementation

		will be automatically, without request, exempted from default interest and no tax recovery actions will be initiated.				
	3.	Compensation of loan interest 100%; partial compensation of rent; state funded soft loans; guarantees for the financial services provided by financial institutions.		INVEGA <a href="https://invega.lt/en/covid-2019/financial-measures-business-covid-19-crisis/">https://invega.lt/en/covid-2019/financial-measures-business-covid-19-crisis/</a>	Under implementation	
	4.	Subsidies for employers to maintain jobs: 90% of the employee's accrued salary but not more than EUR 607 gross or 70% of the employee's accrued salary but not more than EUR 910.5 gross.		Employment Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour <a href="https://uzt.lt/en/">https://uzt.lt/en/</a>	Under implementation	
	5.	Flat-rate allowance of EUR 257 per month for self-employed persons who do not have employment relationship and do not receive work-related income.		Employment Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour <a href="https://uzt.lt/en/">https://uzt.lt/en/</a>	Under implementation	
LU (4/6/20, 19/5/20)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recovery plan for the cultural sector</b></p> <p>The aim of the recovery plan is not simply to compensate for a loss, but to sustainably strengthen the cultural sector by providing targeted and structural subsidies.</p> <p>The support measures, capped at € 5 million, relate to the 2020 financial year and break down as follows:</p> <p><u>1. Compensatory measures for structures / associations under agreement with the ministry of Culture (“structures/associations conventionnées”)</u></p>					

- Compensation for financial losses resulting from the cancellation or postponement of events or the closure of the institution between March 14 and June 1, 2020.

The containment measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic have hit the various cultural sectors with full force and continue to have a negative impact on a sector that was forced to close its doors first. In order to support the institutions and associations under agreement, the Ministry of Culture offers the petitioning structures compensation for financial losses resulting from the cancellation or postponement of events or the closure of the institution insofar as these losses have been caused by the measures and recommendations taken by the government to combat the epidemic of the coronavirus.

## 2. Support measures for the relaunch of culture and artistic creativity

- “Mission artist-in-residence” for a group of artists for the management and animation of the ministry of Culture’s premises "The annexes of Bourglinster castle" over a period of three years.

The ministry of Culture proposes to set up a residence-mission for a collective of artists for the management and animation of the building "Les Annexes du Château de Bourglinster" over a period of three years. This call for applications is part of the efforts of the ministry of Culture to support the artistic sector and promote the professionalization of artists engaged in cultural and/or creative action. The objective of this residence-mission is the free management of the "Annexes to the Château de Bourglinster", designed as a collaborative creation laboratory. This cultural center allows the discovery and experimentation of new artistic forms and disciplines, while cultivating a mixture of practices, activities and audiences. This residency-mission aims to remedy the fragile situation of the cultural sector by providing direct assistance to artists, encouraging artistic creation while creating opportunities for experimentation for a collective of artists engaged in cultural action and / or creation. Their presence on the site of Château de Bourglinster will contribute to the animation and enhancement of this heritage site.

The budget for this aid amounts to EUR 100,000.- per year.

- Artists associated in residence: support for cultural establishments under agreement with the ministry of Culture for the reception in residence of an artist or a collective of associated artists for a minimum period of 6 months.

In order to contribute to the support of the professional career of the artists and to the revival of the artistic activity, the ministry of Culture proposes to set up an aid for cultural establishments under agreement with the State, in order to accommodate in residence an artist or a collective of associated artists for a minimum duration of 6 months. The assistance for the reception of artists-associates in residence aims to provide direct support to artists, by setting up artistic creation and networking opportunities, as well as a prolonged or accompanies artistic presence, going beyond the production or presentation of works or shows. The aid also aims to support cultural establishments, in particular by making better use of spaces.

The overall budgetary envelope for this aid amounts to EUR 500,000 (incl. taxes).

- Musical commission: launch of a second call for applications for musical compositions for the 2020-2021 season with the participation of 8 new partners.

As part of the aid for the revival of culture and artistic creativity, the ministry of Culture is launching a second call for applications for musical compositions for the 2020-2021 season, this time with the participation of 8 new partners.

The budget envelope for these musical commissions is increased by 50,000 EUR to reach a total amount of 100,000 EUR.

- Art collection of the ministry: increase of the acquisition budget and call for proposal of works to art galleries for the collection of the ministry.

In accordance with its policy of support for creation and promotion, the ministry of Culture is proposing a call for works, intended for art galleries, for the acquisition of works of art for the collection from the ministry of Culture. This call for proposals is part of the efforts of the ministry of Culture to support in-

intermediaries in the Luxembourg artistic sector. The commercial galleries are an essential link in the development of an artist's career and play an important role in a dynamic and structured art ecosystem. They not only ensure the sale of works but also ensure visibility for artists beyond gallery exhibitions, in particular by participating in fairs and shows. The closure of the art galleries due to the Covid-19 situation had serious financial consequences for an already fragile commercial sector. This aid aims to remedy this precarious situation by providing direct aid to art galleries and, consequently, to strengthen the ecosystem of the art scene. The absence of sales and the risk of closing galleries have a direct impact on artists.

The overall budget envelope for this aid amounts to 150,000 EUR (incl. taxes).

- Support in favour of professional theatrical structures for commissioning the writing of dramatic works in order to encourage them to commission the writing of new original dramatic works.

The performing arts sector is particularly affected by the consequences of the current COVID-19 health crisis. Within the framework of its policy of support for the performing arts, the ministry of Culture proposes to set up five extraordinary grants of 20,000 EUR in favour of professional theatrical structures established in Luxembourg in order to encourage them to commission the writing of new dramatic works original to Luxembourgish or resident authors with the stated intention of mounting them in production over the next 36 months while respecting the health restrictions in measure. The purpose of the assistance is to support the author's writing process and the creation of an innovative work in the performing arts.

The budget envelope for this specific aid amounts to EUR 100,000.

- Assistance in researching and mounting new performance formats for artistic teams in the professional performing arts established in Luxembourg in order to encourage them to perform, over the next 36 months, shows that initiate new creative paths and alternative staging formats in accordance with health restrictions.

Within the framework of its policy of support for the performing arts, the ministry of Culture proposes to set up a series of extraordinary grants between 5,000 EUR and 15,000 EUR in favour of artistic teams of professional performing arts established in Luxembourg in order to encourage the production, over the next 36 months, of shows that initiate new creative paths and alternative staging formats while respecting health restrictions linked to the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the assistance is to encourage new ways of working and performing in the performing arts.

The budget envelope for this specific aid amounts to EUR 100,000.

### 3. Investment in regional museums and heritage sites for tourism

- Support for investment and upgrading of regional museums.

In order to contribute to the revitalization of regional and national economic activity, the ministry of Culture proposes to create financial aid for regional museum institutions. The aid will benefit regional museum institutions and will aim to enhance the infrastructure of these heritage places. With this aid, the ministry of Culture provides direct support for cultural employment (museographers, communication agencies, artists, creative industry, etc.) as well as indirect support for cultural institutions, diversifying the cultural offer on the tourist plan.

The budgetary envelope for this aid amounts to EUR 1,000,000.

- Support for investment and revaluation of cultural sites with a tourist vocation (feudal heritage sites, archaeological sites, historic sites etc).

The aid will benefit cultural sites with a tourist vocation and will aim to enhance the infrastructure of these heritage places. With this aid, the ministry of Culture provides direct support for cultural employment (museography, com-

munication agency, artists, creative industry, etc.) as well as indirect support for cultural institutions, by promoting them.

The budget envelope for this specific aid amounts to EUR 1,000,000.

For the different support measures, the eligible structures/artists, the precise criteria, the details on the eligible costs and the maximum amounts allocated per file can be consulted on the ministry's website:

[https://mc.gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers/2020/Coronavirus\\_Neistart\\_Letzebuerg.html](https://mc.gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers/2020/Coronavirus_Neistart_Letzebuerg.html)

### **Establishment of an aid scheme for independent professional artists and intermittent performers**

The law of 3 April 2020 on the establishment of an aid scheme for companies with temporary financial difficulties modifies the amended law of December 19, 2014 relating, inter alia, to social measures for the benefit of independent professional artists and intermittent show performers and introduces a **social aid scheme** for independent professional and intermittent show performers in the event of an exceptional event, such as acts of terrorism or epidemics.

This scheme guarantees in particular:

- social assistance for independent professional artists, with the possibility of paying monthly social assistance up to the minimum social wage for qualified persons, provided that the difficulties in performing artistic services are linked to this exceptional event;
- additional daily allowances, up to 20 daily allowances per month, in the event of involuntary inactivity compared to the 121 daily allowances provided for in "normal" time, provided that the exceptional event prevented the intermittent of the show to offer his/her services as foreseen by law.

These additional social aids are granted on condition that the applicant demonstrates that the lack of artistic activity is directly related to the exceptional event (for example: cancellation of exhibitions or concerts, cancellation or postponement of cinematographic productions or shows).



Additional assistance can be requested by means of a declaration that supplements the usual request. Specific forms have been created for independent professional artists and intermittent performers.

- In the context of **new requests for the right to benefit from social aids**, the aforementioned law stipulates an immunization from the period of involuntary inactivity by reducing, for independent professional artists, the income conditions required to be able to benefit from the aid schemes commensurate to the duration of the persistence of the exceptional event (i.e. € 714 per month during which the situation persists),
- a reduction in the days of activity required for the intermittents of the show, also commensurate to the duration of persistence of the exceptional event (namely 7 days per month during which the situation persists).

These requests are examined by an advisory committee to the Minister of Culture.

The règlement grand-ducal of April 3, 2020 implementing articles 5, 6 and 8 of the amended law of December 19, 2014 relating to 1) social measures for the benefit of independent professional artists and intermittent workers in the entertainment industry, 2) the promotion of artistic creation, stipulates that the aforementioned measures extend over the period from March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020.

On May 20, the Government decided to extend these extraordinary assistance measures for independent professional artists and intermittent performers until June 30, 2020.

### **Subsidies for canceled projects**

With regard to subsidies granted for projects that had to be canceled, the ministry of Culture maintains its commitment provided that the commitments made to the artists are also met for the most part.

Regarding new requests, the ministry, as long as the crisis lasts, will focus either on projects that can be carried out despite the constraints resulting from the health situation, or on requests from entities or artists finding themselves in difficulty financial following the cancellation of a planned project.

### **Partial unemployment for employees in the cultural sector**

Employees in the cultural sector are eligible for partial unemployment in the event of force majeure. The partial unemployment scheme for force majeure may apply for employees:

- who do not have a certificate of incapacity for work;
- that a company can no longer occupy full time or no longer occupy at all:
  - because its supplier can no longer deliver it in raw materials for reasons due to the coronavirus, or;
  - in the event of a significant decline in customer demand due to the coronavirus, or
  - if the company can no longer operate at normal speed or one or more departments are completely shut down due to staff shortages due to external decisions related to the coronavirus.

If agreed, the Employment Fund can then cover 80% of the normal salary (capped at 250% of the minimum social wage for an unskilled employee) for at most 1.022 hours per employee.

### **Support instruments for SMEs in the cultural sector**

The Ministry of Culture drew the attention of businesses in the cultural sector to the bill adopted at the Government Council on March 11, 2020 and to the amendments adopted at the Government Council that introduced a support scheme aimed at supplementing aid instruments to support small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the self-employed (including those in the events or cultural sector) who find themselves in temporary financial difficulty following the repercussions of an exceptional and unforeseeable event of national scope, or international. The granting of such aid is subject to a triple condition, namely that an event has been recognized as having a harmful impact on the economic activity of certain enterprises during a given period, that the company is experiencing temporary

financial difficulties and that there is a causal link between these difficulties and the event in question.

A pandemic like that of the coronavirus falls under the definition of an exceptional event. For impacted SMEs able to benefit from such assistance, the costs eligible under the new aid scheme are limited to the loss of income observed. The aid takes the form of a recoverable advance.

### **La culture à domicile! & FAQ**

In order to reach the public at home, the ministry of Culture has set up a platform on its website that lists remote, online cultural offers.

Likewise, an FAQ section has been created on the ministry's website to answer the questions frequently asked by the cultural sector in relation to the COVID-19 coronavirus epidemic.

**19/5/20**

### **Journalism**

At the international level and on online platforms, the health crisis goes hand in hand with an 'infodemia', an overabundance of information, a large and potentially dangerous part of which is made up of false content. In order to fulfil their mission of public interest and against all economic logic, publishers are refusing to make massive recourse to short-time working.

It is therefore a matter of supporting, in the general interest and for the health of democracies, professional journalism producing verified information from reliable sources and based on the standards of professional ethics, and thus contributing to maintaining an environment conducive to quality journalism.

It is therefore proposed to allocate an indemnity of 5000 euros per full-time equivalent of a professional journalist on a permanent contract with a publisher for the production of editorial content for the publication.

	<p>This exceptional measure should be part of the package of measures taken by the government to help sectors experiencing temporary financial difficulties to mitigate the effects of the crisis.</p>
<p><b>LV</b> <b>(3/6/20)</b></p>	<p><b>Measures to alleviate the negative impact of Covid-19 on the cultural and creative sector, and the media in Latvia</b></p> <p>In Latvia companies and NGOs in the cultural and creative sector can benefit from horizontal support measures that the government has put in place to support all sectors affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Culture has developed horizontal support mechanisms for self-employed persons and those whose main income is royalty payments.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture has created a <b>Covid-19 crisis management group</b> and is implementing an <b>active dialogue with culture industry</b>. The Ministry of Culture has also established the <b>Events Industry Advisory Board</b> and has reached an agreement with The Consumer Rights Protection Centre of Latvia (the CRPC) for the transfer of the tickets of cancelled and postponed cultural events.</p> <p><b>Recommendations for the work of libraries, museums and other cultural operators have been developed.</b></p> <p><b>Horizontal measures for businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses in the crisis-affected sectors <b>including the cultural and creative sector</b> can apply for deferral of payment of taxes. If a crisis-affected company is at standstill, its employees are eligible for a state-compensated remuneration (so called “idle-time benefit”) of 75% of their gross salary during the previous two quarters, but not exceeding EUR 700 per calendar month. The idle-time benefit is not subject to payroll tax (personal income tax) and State Social Insurance Mandatory Contributions. The idle-time benefit program will be operational until 30 June.</li> </ul>

- Furthermore, it is possible for businesses **to defer tax payments for a period of up to three years**, and the deadline for submitting annual tax reports has been extended to at least 31 July. The State Revenue Service will refund approved VAT payments within 30 days of submission of VAT declarations.
- The State and local authorities are entitled to **exempt businesses in a crisis-affected sector from rent payments or to reduce them**. It is also possible not to set any interest and contractual penalties in the case of delay of payments, except on those for services used - electric power, water supply and other property maintenance services.
- ALTUM, the national development finance institution, provides loan guarantees and loans for crisis solutions to businesses affected by the Covid-19 crisis.
- In addition, **sick leave pay** to persons who have been tested positive for Covid-19 or who must go into quarantine is paid from the state budget (normally the employer covers the first 10 days of the sick leave).

#### **Self-employed persons**

- Self-employed persons as well as those who earn their income from royalties and micro-enterprise (a special form of small businesses) tax payers are eligible for the idle-time benefit provided that they do not undertake any economic activity during the period of receiving the benefit and are not employed full-time. The idle-time benefit program will be operational until 30 June.
- For self-employed persons the amount of the benefit is 75% of their gross income during the previous two quarters, but not exceeding EUR 700 per calendar month. Micro enterprise tax payers can receive 50% of their micro-enterprise's average revenue during the previous two quarters but no more than EUR 700 per calendar month.
- As of 24.04.2020. self-employed persons carrying out part-time creative or pedagogical work in state and municipal institutions and companies can also apply for the idle-time benefit.

## Media

- As the media sector is among the sectors affected by the Covid-19 crisis, media companies can qualify for general support mechanisms (tax breaks, idle period, support instruments for improving financial accessibility, etc.).
- The Ministry of Culture has proposed to the government to decide on increasing the funding of the **Media Support Fund** – a governmental financial programme for supporting the media - for the development of material of public interest as well as providing that the tenders of the Media Support Fund can be carried out in a shorter time.
- The Ministry of Culture has also proposed to the government to support covering the costs of printed media delivery as well as the costs of broadcasting radio and TV channels.
- The Ministry of Culture and **National Electronic Mass Media Council** have proposed to the government to grant additional funding in order to assign to commercial broadcasters the production of certain programmes of the public service remit to provide information to society on the emergency situation.
- In order to make it easier for the media to generate own revenue, the ministry has encouraged revision of advertising restrictions.
- **On 07.04.2020 the Government supported allocation of 2.04 million EUR to all commercial media, including print media and online news portals** – to ensure creation of high-quality public content.
- **The Media Support Fund (under Ministry of Culture) will receive a total of 1.04 million EUR:**
  - 599 492 EUR will be provided to support printed press and commercial online news portals;
  - 223 737 EUR (per month) to support monthly delivery costs of press subscription during the confinement;
  - 217 699 EUR (per month) to support monthly broadcasting costs for public broadcasting media programs;
- **The National Electronic Mass Media Council** was allocated 1 million EUR to ensure that the public receives diverse and comprehensive information and views on the Covid-19 crisis, as well to ensure safety of national

information space.

- The media sector will be able to apply for the support through open tenders. Special criteria will be used to determine the amounts of compensations, for example the extent of the drop in revenue, size of media company's target audience, the originality of the created content of the media company, whether the media company works in investigative journalism or provides analytical content and other criteria.

### **Gradual lifting of restrictions**

- **A gradual lifting of restrictions in Latvia began on 12 May 2020. With due care, libraries, museums and cultural venues are opening their doors to visitors:**
  - Cultural events with up to 25 persons (including both attendees, staff and performers) are allowed, while respecting social distancing (2 m distance between persons);
  - The maximum duration of an indoor event is 3 hours
  - Venues can be open from 7:00 to 24:00
  - Libraries, museums, exhibition halls can admit up to 25/50 simultaneous visitors (depending of the public space available – 25 persons at the venues with space of up to 1000m<sup>2</sup>, 50 persons – at the venues with space of more than 1000 m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Hand sanitizers must be available at the event venue.
- **Car events** are allowed, while respecting social distancing; distance between parked cars must be at least 2 m
- **Professional performing arts collectives** can return to rehearsal process following certain requirements:
  - Distance must be at least 2 m between persons;
  - Min 4 m<sup>2</sup> per actor or musician during the process of rehearsal;
  - Min 9 m<sup>2</sup> per dancer or singer during the process of rehearsal;
  - Length of a rehearsal cannot exceed 4 hours (breaks included);
  - Hand sanitizers must be available at the rehearsal venue.
- The Ministry of Culture and the National Film Centre of Latvia have also prepared **an order on the sanitary protocol for film and TV production,**

therefore in the near future it will be possible to resume on-set production if compliance with safety rules is ensured.

- **The campaign carried out by Latvian museums #TiekamiesTagad** has been recognised as **the best practice in European museums**, according to a recently published report by NEMO.

#### **Investment in culture**

- The Ministry of Culture is currently working on a **stabilization plan for the cultural and creative sector**, which includes:
  - Compensation of losses to cultural operators, including NGOs and private sector;
  - Grants and subsistence allowances for artists and cultural professionals;
  - Grants for creation of new cultural content, with emphasis on access to the culture in a digital environment, skills of cultural professionals and research and development;
- **On 02.06.2020 the Government supported allocation of additional 32.1 million EUR** for the stabilisation plan for the cultural sector.
  - **10.6 million EUR** to mitigate the negative effects of Covid-19 on the cultural sector;
  - **10.4 million EUR** to promote modernization in the cultural sector and for creation of new cultural content;
  - **11 million EUR** for cultural infrastructure.
- The Ministry of Culture as a partner participates in a survey by the Latvian Academy of Culture on the impact of Covid-19 in order to analyse in depth the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis on the cultural sector.

#### **Return of tickets**

- The Ministry of Culture and the Consumer Rights Protection Centre have



	<p>agreed on a special procedure for refunding tickets to events that cannot take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic which is treated as a <i>force majeure</i>. If the event is postponed to a later date previously purchased tickets will be valid and the organisers of events will not be required to reimburse the tickets. Event organisers must communicate the information on the timing of the relocation of the event as soon as possible after the end of the emergency state, but not later than within six months (it, however, does not mean that all the postponed events have to take place within those six months). If postponing the event is not possible, the organisers can offer to exchange the tickets for entry to an equivalent event or to refund the ticket costs in line with the Consumer Rights Protection Law once the <i>force majeure</i> situation is over.</p>
<p><b>MT</b> <b>(7/4/20)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Malta</b> welcomes the call for an informal discussion amongst EU ministers responsible for Culture. Indeed, as outlined in the letter from Minister Obuljen Koržinek, the EU's cultural and creative sector, as also in Malta has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• The Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, has, together with stakeholders analysed this novel and sudden situation. The findings reflect those carried out by the research conducted at EU level, wherein although the data available is not comprehensive and exhaustive, it is clear that the cultural and creative sector is in dire need of financial, professional and social support. The National Statistics Office (NSO) of Malta will in the interim announce official figures on how COVID-19 impacted the cultural and creative sector.</li> <li>• In Malta several online initiatives have emerged in the past days including crowdfunding, live or recorded streaming, web conferencing and e-networking amongst others. However, this does little to deter the uncertainty, insecurity and fear of the current situation.</li> <li>• Malta believes that during this pandemic, the creative sector should receive equal financial support in line with all other key sectors of the economy. As</li> </ul>

a measure to combat the impact of the novel coronavirus, the Maltese Government has announced a wage supplement of €800 monthly for self-employed persons. This is vital for the cultural and creative sector which includes a high number of self-employed persons.

As the situation further develops, the Maltese government is actively considering implementing various internal and external practices including:

- facilitated teleworking for all employees within Arts Council Malta and all Public Cultural Organisations falling under its wing;
- increasing and maximising its channels of communication via online platforms and even in traditional methods to assist individuals, entities and organisations in every possible way;
- fast-tracking any pending payments from Arts Council Malta and all Public Cultural Organisations falling under its wing so as to release the financial burden in the sector;
- ensuring full logistic cooperation by all Public Cultural Organisations;
- relaxing obligations and timeframes in conjunction with funding agreements;
- assuring funding beneficiaries that project losses due to COVID-19 measures and restrictions will be made up for;
- implementing various alternatives online to keep all networking, training and presentations happening on track.
- launching of a Special Call of the long-standing Malta Arts Fund. The Call will aim to invest in projects which address with immediacy and on a long-term basis, the cultural and creative sector impacted by the COVID-19 situation. Projects may fall under one or more of the following areas: artistic development and production; community-based initiatives; cultural and creative sector support; training or education development; international exchange and collaboration, and artistic research. Applicants are being encouraged to tackle themes such as Borders, Confinement or Isolation; applicants are also encouraged to adopt New Media and Technologies in

	<p>order to implement their projects.</p> <p>In order to generate income within the cultural and creative sector, the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government is considering to introduce a collaboration between Arts Council Malta and Public Broadcasting Services to provide broadcasting space as a platform to air artistic audiovisual content, including but not limited to concerts, performances, events and similar initiatives. A call will be issued shortly to produce such content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malta welcomes the work of the European Commission, particularly in the extension and flexibility of the call of the Creative Europe programme. Additionally, the recently adopted Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak has enabled Member States to provide additional support measures to the cultural and creative sector. However, Malta believes that flexibility should not be limited to tangible infrastructure but also to the intangible cultural efforts, in view of the negative effects caused by the spread and dangers brought by COVID-19.</li> <li>• Malta recognises that following the end of the pandemic, further support will be required to encourage persons to actively participate in a new way of life. The cultural and creative sector could act as a catalyst for persons to actively participate in society. To this end, flexibility for EU Funds related to culture is vital, particularly in rebuilding the cultural and creative sectors in member states.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NL</b> <b>(2/4/20,</b> <b>22/4/20)</b></p>	<p><b>2/4/20</b></p> <p><b>Measures Cultural and Creative Sectors – mitigating COVID 19</b></p> <p>The Dutch government has introduced <b>several generic measures</b> (where relevant, also applicable for Cultural and Creative Sectors), which as of March 17 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>guarantee facility for SME loans (BMKB)</b> is already in place and working – EUR 665 million of an available budget of EUR 765 million, 0.08% of GDP. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy has</li> </ul>

expanded guarantees to a higher guarantee percentage, up to 90% of the credit risk of banks for SMEs that want to take out a loan of EUR 1.5 mln maximum but that do not have the required collateral. This measure was recently expanded for SMEs coping with risks associated with the nitrogen ruling (adopted) and is further expanded to apply to SMEs affected by COVID-19.

- The social assistance decree, aimed at self-employed persons, (Bbz, Besluit bijstandverlening zelfstandigen 2004) will be expanded, meaning that **the self-employed and entrepreneurs will be able to receive social assistance if they meet certain standards, which will be relaxed**. This social assistance will include additional benefits to meet livelihood standards and/or a loan for working capital.
- A new temporary measure will be introduced to **help entrepreneurs paying wages**, in order to prevent unemployment. This measure replaces the current working time reduction scheme, which was not designed for handling a pandemic. In the new scheme, employers will be supported more quickly than before. Employers using the scheme must commit to not firing their employees on economic grounds. Employers who expect a decline of at least 20% in revenue can request an allowance for a period of 3 months of maximally 90% of the total wage sum. The Employee Insurance Agency (UWV) will pay a deposit beforehand, and it will be determined afterwards whether a firm has received too much or too little support. The Dutch government will work on the details of the proposal in the coming period and will send a request to the European Commission regarding state-aid rules. The costs will strongly depend on the number of applications. If 25% of all employers apply for an average of 45% of their wage bill, the costs will be around 10 billion euros in the first 3 months. These costs will increase when the number of applications rise.
- **Businesses can request for a special deferral of payment in income tax, corporate tax, turnover tax, energy tax and wage tax. Temporarily, no penalties for failure to pay taxes (on time) will be imposed.** Businesses that already forecast lower profits due to the epidemic can request a

reduction of the provisional tax assessment and will be able to pay less initial tax in order to avoid liquidity problems. To avoid immediate liquidity problems, the requirement for a “third expert” will not have to be included in the request immediately (but after two weeks). Moreover, the tax authorities will temporarily decrease the recovery interest rate from 4% to 0.01%.

- The so-called GO-regulation, through which **SMEs can secure a 50% guarantee from the government on their bank loans and bank guarantees**, will be expanded. The maximum ceiling guaranteed will be increased from EUR 400 million tot EUR 1.5 billion and the maximum GO-facility per firm will be increased from EUR 50 million to EUR 150 million. This will enable both small and large firms to benefit from this policy.
- In order to support small firms and start-ups with little financial reserves, we will expand the Qredits-programme. Through this program, we expect to support approximately **3000 to 6000 firms by a deferment of payment for a period of a maximum of six months and by giving those firms a discount on their rent payments for the same period.**
- **Agricultural and horticultural SMEs will be supported by temporarily relaxing the guarantee for working capital**, which is part of the existing decree *Borgstelling MKB-Landbouwkredieten (BL)*. The decree will ease acute liquidity problems for agricultural and horticultural business who experience those problems due to the COVID-situation. The credit is for a maximum of 2 years.
- The central government will discuss with **local governments** on how they can support local entrepreneurs within the current regulatory frameworks. In order to support the liquidity of local firms, the central government will discuss whether it is possible to postpone the collection of local taxes, including tourist taxes.
- To support firms that are affected by our government’s health measures - for example by the closure of restaurants - an **emergency desk** will be introduced, through which those firms can receive a one-off lump sum allowance of EUR 4000. The conditions for this allowance are currently

being drafted.

### **CCS specific measures**

On 27 March specific measures were announced such as:

- Rent suspensions for cultural institutes whose building is in possession of the Dutch government.
- Subsidies are prolonged and deadlines for expenditure justification for projects from 2019 are extended by 2 months.
- The government will be lenient with subsidy obligations that cannot be fulfilled because of Covid 19. Less strict rules will result in faster payments, even if the event in question has been cancelled. This also applies to indirect government funding through 6 national cultural funds. These funds are also allowed to use their reserves for measures towards specific needs for different cultural sectors suffering from the crisis.
- Measures in relation to already bought tickets for cultural events which have been cancelled or visits that cannot take place are being prepared together with the ministries of Economic Affairs and Sports. Measures considered include the possibility of giving out vouchers instead of direct cash returns.
- Owners of national monuments that receive subsidies can receive pre payments or can receive redemption of 6 months on outstanding loans from the National Restoration Fund.

Private funds have stated that they also will apply force majeure.

**22/4/20**

### **Culture**

On April 15th 2020, the Dutch government announced that **300 million euros** were

made available for the cultural sector. This support will help cultural institutions that are vital to the sector through the financially difficult first months of the corona crisis. It will also enable them to invest in the coming cultural season.

The additional €300 million is made up of four components:

- Money will be used to increase subsidies for institutions in the basic cultural infrastructure and for institutions and festivals that are supported on a multi-annual basis by the six national culture funds.
- The government is also raising money to increase existing loan facilities from the National Restoration Fund for National Monuments.
- The six Rijkscultuurfondsen will receive a budget to support crucial institutions that carry the cultural infrastructure, particularly in regions and cities, such as important municipal and provincial museums, (pop) venues and film theatres.
- The borrowing facilities at Cultuur+Ondernemen will be increased. Critical private parties, such as free theatre producers, commercial festivals and art galleries, can turn to Cultuur+Ondernemen. Eligibility is conditional on maximum use being made of the generic measures.

## **Media**

A Temporary Support Fund for Local Information Services was opened on 11 April 2020. This temporary Support Fund is intended to ensure that the continuity of the local news supply is maintained during the corona crisis. A one-off grant of € 11 million will be made available to help door-to-door newspapers and local public service broadcasters who are in need caused by the corona crisis. In order to prevent many people from becoming deprived of local information, these door-to-door newspapers and local public broadcasters receive a contribution for the duration of 3 months depending on their circulation.

This specific measure supplements the government-wide, generic measures that apply to the entire media sector. National media organizations and journalists can make use of the generic measures. This includes extra support for freelancers and postponement of paying various taxes. Furthermore, this is in addition to the

	leniency measures of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science for media institutions with which it has a funding relationship.
PL (17/05/20)	<p>Directly after the suspension of the activities of cultural institutions in connection with the epidemic threat declared in Poland, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland has begun to work on solutions to compensate for losses that the cultural and creative sector has suffered through the restrictions. They include:</p> <p><b>The Anti-crisis Shield:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The Anti-crisis Shield</i> is a set of long-term anti-crisis measures and was prepared by the Polish government and adopted by the Parliament. It provides, among others, state support for artists, employees of the cultural sector, as well as companies and NGOs whose activities cannot be performed during the COVID-19 crisis.</li> <li>2. This instrument provides for an increase in funds for social assistance for artists, additional support for the development of new forms of sharing culture online and activation after the restoration of activities.</li> <li>3. Cultural enterprises so NGOs are now able to take advantage of the solutions proposed in the acts related to the Anti-crisis Shield, for instance government subsidies of 40 percent to employees' wages up to the average wage in the national economy. Self-employed people or people performing a contract of mandate or a specific task contract are entitled to receive aid up to 80 percent of the minimum wage.</li> <li>4. Moreover, artists and cultural entities may benefit from the regulations implemented not only by the Polish government but also by the local governments, such as: reductions of local taxes, postponement of rents, changes in tax instalments payment schedules, and loans to cover the running costs of a micro-enterprises.</li> <li>5. The total amount of support for the cultural sector in various forms may be even up to PLN 4 billion (c. EUR 880 million).</li> <li>6. Up-to-date information on measures prepared by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage related to the <i>Anti-crisis Shield</i> are available on: <a href="https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/tarcza-antykryzysowa-dla-kultury">https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/tarcza-antykryzysowa-dla-kultury</a> (in</li> </ol>



Polish).

### **Minister's Programs**

- In accordance with the decision of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, in the *Minister's Programs* which have been announced so far, the managing authorities will apply an individual approach to each applicant allowing implementation of tasks and project settlement under the changed conditions and thus ensuring a continuity in conducting cultural activities.
- The budget of the *Minister's Programs* has been increased by PLN 60 million (c. EUR 13 million). In total nearly PLN 390 million (c. EUR 85,5 million) has been allocated to 32 grant programs this year.

### **Culture Promotion Fund**

- Artists and creators who are in a difficult financial situation can benefit from social aid under the *Culture Promotion Fund*. The call for proposals is constantly ongoing. The Minister of Culture and National Heritage took steps to increase funds up to PLN 3 million (c. EUR 660 thousand) to be allocated for social aid for artists and creators. So far 429 decisions on granting benefit have been signed. If the restrictions on cultural activities are going to be prolonged, it will be possible to apply again.

### **Movies and cinemas/audiovisual productions:**

- Cinemas remain closed due to the declared state of epidemic. Therefore, it was proposed to change the regulations regarding film and audiovisual productions by indicating that “a film” is also a production that has not been played in a cinema but has been showed online. This change is to enable the audiovisual sector to receive grants/subsidies from the Polish Film Institute also for audiovisual productions, which will be streamed and viewed on digital platforms.
- Having in mind that the definition of “a film” has been changed and many of film productions are now published online a decision has been made to impose a fee on VOD platforms and service providers in order to support national audiovisual production. The VOD providers have now have to pay

1.5 percent of their revenue to the Polish Film Institute from the movies made with the support of the Institute. This regulation represents a partial implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive.

- Moreover, we have reduced the cinemas' data reporting obligations such as daily number of viewers, the number of tickets sold on given day, the daily revenues or monthly revenues from films and from on-screen advertising.
- Facilitations in applying for funds on film audiovisual production have also been introduced, both in terms of the Polish Film Institute's grant and a so-called "mechanism of incentives" these production for which PLN 100 million PLN (c. EUR 22 million) is dedicated this year.
- The amendments to the "Audiovisual Incentives Act" were also introduced and it is now allowed to extend deadlines and simplify the procedures for submitting applications in order to receive a subsidy on a production.
- The director of the Polish Film Institute has also launched the Film Professions Support Program for creators who are in a difficult financial situation due to the coronavirus outbreak. Applicants must provide a declaration with a description of their situation in order to receive a stipend. Such stipend can be granted up to three times.

### **Museums/art galleries**

- In terms of reopening the cultural institutions such as museums, art galleries and other cultural facilities, guidelines that are in line with the new sanitary/safety principles have been issued by us for these institutions (available in [English](https://nimos.pl/files/articles/156/COVID19_(guidelines_for_museums).pdf) on [https://nimos.pl/files/articles/156/COVID19\\_\(guidelines\\_for\\_museums\).pdf](https://nimos.pl/files/articles/156/COVID19_(guidelines_for_museums).pdf)). The guidelines were also sent to other countries via Network of European Museum Organizations.
- The vast majority of cultural institutions subordinate to the Ministry have transferred their daily activities to the Internet, offering exhibitions, concerts, seminars, workshops for children, youth and adults as well as access to their archives, using various digital platforms.

### **Culture Online**

- The Ministry has prepared an instrument called "Culture Online". It aims at

	<p>supporting creators whose activities cannot be carried out due to the restrictions. This mechanism has two components. The first one is a grant program. It aims at supporting the implementation of projects disseminating cultural achievements and increasing the presence of culture in social life by online tools and resources. The second one is a minister's stipend program. It is designed for creators, artists, animators and educators, as well as researchers who want to find new ways of presenting cultural goods via the Internet. The program has budget of PLN 80 million (c. EUR 18,6 million). More information is available on <a href="https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/kultura-w-sieci">https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/kultura-w-sieci</a> (in Polish).</p> <p><b>Measures foreseen for the time after the epidemic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the end of the state of epidemic is officially announced, we are planning to start a national program the main purpose of which will be to revive cultural activities and compensate for any losses that the cultural sector has suffered through the restrictions. At this point, conceptual work on such a program to develop an optimal range of support is already underway. The program has an estimated budget of PLN 50 million (c. EUR 11 million).</li> </ul> <p><b>Other measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrepreneurs from the SME sector conducting their activities in industries within the creative or cultural sectors can also benefit from the Creative Europe guarantee program with a budget exceeding PLN 500 million (c. EUR 110 million). The program is implemented by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PT</b> (24/3/20, 25/3/20, 8/5/20)</p>	<p><b>24/3/20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Instituto do Cinema e do Audiovisual</i> (ICA) will maintain the planned closing dates for the calls for cinema and audio-visual support in 2020;</li> <li>• The ICA will maintain and, where possible, speed up the procedures concerning the grant of cinema and audio-visual support;</li> <li>• In the ongoing processes each situation will be analysed, on a case-by-case basis, privileging a protectionist action of the candidates and/or beneficiaries, through the application of the regulations, although with flexibility of some formal requirements;</li> </ul>

- For the time being, the ICA foresees the possibility of flexibility in the execution of the distribution and exhibition plans supported in the scope of the ICA film support programmes and the rules of support for the realization of film festivals in the national territory;
- The need to maintain general obligations for the beneficiaries of support, namely the need to ensure compliance with the remuneration obligations towards creative, artistic staff or any other worker involved in the implementation of the project, is highlighted;
- Now the possibility for cinematographic works to have initial exploitation on television or on on-demand audio-visual media services;
- Suspension until further notice, and including the month of March, the obligation on exhibitors to retain 7.5% of the sale price of cinema tickets to the public;

Preparing amendments to the regulations of the support programmes in order to increase their flexibility.

**25/3/20**

The Portuguese Government has been developing a package of measures to mitigate the effects of covid-19 including, *inter alia*, social protection and postponement of social security payments.

**Museums, Monuments and other cultural places or events:**

1. Closed or cancelled until further evaluation;

**Institutional communication:**

- Official video message from the Minister of Culture to the Portuguese cultural sector - <https://we.tl/t-YKOhPAmagb;>
- Launch of a website dedicated to the measures approved by the Government targeting the cultural sector - [https://www.culturacovid19.gov.pt/;](https://www.culturacovid19.gov.pt/)
- Creation of an e-mail address for contacts with artists and cultural agents regarding COVID-19 and the measures approved by the Government;

**Financing and complementary measures:**

- Measures directed to support SMEs and employment combined with a package of social measures – cultural sector agents and artists are eligible;
- Announcement of a 1M€ “emergency financial support fund for arts” to promote the development of projects for future implementation;
- National Theatres will uphold all previous financial commitments, namely those assumed with independent artists, technicians or troupes;

- The Directorate-General for the Arts will maintain its financial support to approved projects which have been deferred due to COVID-19 context;
- Gathering of information regarding public municipal libraries, informing their users about the existing opportunities of online information, cultural content and recreation activities;
- Creating Future – “*Movimento Portugal entra em Cena*” – Development of a collaborative platform to match private companies with artists and cultural agents’ ideas and projects, enhancing the cultural offer in the context of COVID-19, while promoting direct and immediate investment in the cultural sector;
- Film and Media:
  - The Portuguese Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual (ICA) will not alter the deadlines for grant applications and, whenever possible, will speed up application processes, with a view to distribute funding packages as quickly as possible;
  - Rules for specific formal demands in the evaluation of ongoing processes have been relaxed; there is, for instance, no need to verify limits to private funding when validating eligible expenses;
  - Regarding exhibition, ICA will allow for cinematographic works to be initially released on TV or through VoD services – requests that will be examined on a case by case basis, and that depend on the authorization of the producer. For now, ICA will suspend, with immediate application in March, the investment obligations of exhibitors;

8/5/20

### **COVID-19 – PT Supporting and lifting measures**

#### **(Culture/Audiovisual/Media)**

The Portuguese Government has been developing a package of measures to mitigate the effects of covid-19 including, *inter alia*, social protection and postponement of social security payments. This document also includes a number of lifting measures that the Portuguese Government is applying gradually and carefully.

- **Museums, Monuments and other cultural places or events**

**4<sup>th</sup> May**

**opening of libraries and archives (with reduced capacity and physical**

**distance)**

- **18<sup>th</sup> May**

Opening of museums, monuments and palaces, art galleries and similar (reduced capacity and physical distance)

**From June 1st onwards**

Reopening of cinemas, theatres, auditoriums and concert halls (with booked seats, reduced capacity and physical distance)

- **Institutional communication:**

- Launch of a website dedicated to the measures approved by the Government targeting the cultural sector - <https://www.culturacovid19.gov.pt/>;
- Creation of an e-mail address for contacts with artists and cultural agents regarding COVID-19 and the measures approved by the Government;
- Official video message from the Minister of Culture to the Portuguese cultural sector - <https://we.tl/t-YKOhPAmagb>;

- **General measures**

- Measures directed to support SMEs and employment combined with a package of social measures – cultural sector agents and artists are eligible, including independent workers;
- Deferment of social and tax payments.
- Credit lines directed to address SMEs' immediate liquidity needs.
- Credit moratoriums during 6 months with an extension of the debt period in the future.
- Special measures to defer the payment of rents, including for professionals, during the period of declared State of Emergency and following month.

- **Financing and complementary measures:**

- 1M euros “emergency financial support fund for arts” to promote the development of projects for future implementation;
- 400K euros for the acquisition of books from the catalogues of small publishers and bookstores, up to a maximum of 5K euros by publisher and bookstore, allowing to stimulate and promote the activities related to the book chain. The acquired books will be distributed both through the Network of Portuguese Teaching Centres abroad and the Network of Cultural Centres in the Portuguese Embassies.
- Anticipation of the opening of literary scholarships with a global value of 180K euros. This amount represents an immediate increase of 45K euros, compared to the value for 2019 and foreseen budget allocation. Thus, the Ministry of Culture will award 6 annual grants and 12 six-monthly grants, supporting 18 original literary creation projects.
- National Theatres upheld all previous financial commitments, namely those assumed with independent artists, technicians or troupes;
- The Directorate-General for the Arts maintained the financial support to approved projects which have been deferred due to COVID-19 context;
- Gathering of information regarding public municipal libraries, informing their users about the existing opportunities of online information, cultural content and recreation activities;
- Creating Future – “*Movimento Portugal entra em Cena*” – Development of a collaborative platform to match private companies with artists and cultural agents’ ideas and projects, enhancing the cultural offer in the context of COVID-19, while promoting direct and immediate investment in the cultural sector;
- **Exceptional measures to be applied, for a transitional period, in the film and audiovisual sector, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic):**

- The ICA will maintain the planned closing dates for the calls for cinema and audiovisual support in 2020 and, where possible, speed up the procedures concerning the grant of cinema and audiovisual support.
- In order to provide support to candidates, a dedicated helpdesk is set up on the day before and on the closing day for the submission of applications to a competition.
- In the ongoing processes, each situation will be analysed privileging a protectionist action of the candidates and/or beneficiaries, through the application of the regulations, although with flexibility of some formal requirements. The need to maintain general obligations for the beneficiaries of support, namely the need to ensure compliance with the remuneration obligations towards creative, artistic staff or any other worker involved in the implementation of the project, is highlighted.
- In the framework of the exceptional measures, it is now possible to:
  - Submit the contracts digitally, with a digital signature, being granted equal legality, by means of the signature of the Directive Council of ICA with the qualified digital signature of the citizen card, allowing the presentation of the materialized contract later;
  - Submit other documents instead of those who are requested for the purpose of granting support, that guarantees the same objective, maintaining the obligation to present the documents requested in the regulation later;
- Examples of documents to be accepted:
  - Contract with the authors (only when they are intermediated by entities representing the authors), upon delivery of a declaration of honour of the presentation of the contract, as soon as possible.



- Registration of the screenplay in IGAC - acceptance of the application for registration together with a declaration on honour that the approval will be attached to the file as soon as possible.
- E-mails, as an alternative to original documents, in the application or in the 2nd phase of the procedure.
- Documents whose validity has expired, in compliance with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 10-A/2020, 13.03, Article 16.
- Hold jury meetings using digital tools, that allow the meetings to take place according to the planning, avoiding the delay of the deadlines for the conclusion of the procedures;
- Have a remote consultation of applications and documents by interested parties, during preliminary hearing proceedings, avoiding travelling to the premises of the ICA;
- Deliver the final copies and other materials through a link, so that they can be viewed by teleworking means, which is valid for registration of the works purposes. For this purpose, an email should be sent to the respective process manager or to the person responsible for receiving the materials, indicating when and which materials are available for delivery, link to the final version of the work. In the same email this document (link) should be attached, duly completed and signed;
- Regarding eligible expenditure, the limit of support to be granted by the ICA continues to be verified, but ICA will no longer verify the limit of private support;
- The initial exploitation of cinematographic works on television or via on-demand audiovisual media services;
- The suspension, until further notice and including the month of March, of the investment obligations of exhibitors.
- For the application of article 11,7,b) of Decree-Law No. 25/2018, 24.04, applications submitted under production support programmes for works of the same type or category, whose director has not completed, for reasons attributable to

him, the post-production of a project previously supported by the ICA, may be admitted to the call, provided that the candidate proves that the fact arose from the current pandemic context, namely due to the cancellation of the respective shooting.

- In addition to these measures, the ICA will also make changes to the regulations for 2020 support programmes (to be published in the Portuguese Official Journal):
- In the writing and development support program, the first payment, corresponding to the signing of the contract, will increase from the current 30% to 50%;
- In the audiovisual writing and development support programme, under point 4.6 of Annex XIV, a production company may apply for Writing and Development Support in the 2020 call without the previously supported plan having been completed, provided that cumulatively: confirms that the previously supported written plan already established the completion of the work, at an earlier date than the deadline for submission of applications for the 2020 call; and confirms that the reason for the non-conclusion is not attributable to the producer, namely for any impediments caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In any case, the support will only be granted and the project will be eligible, if they conclude the plan previously supported, at the date of that grant, which if not, will cause the support to lapse and the amount will be allocated to the applicant positioned in the subsequent place. This measure only applies to the audiovisual writing and development support programme.
- In the distribution support program, the first payment will be increased from the current 50% to 80% of the total value of the contract;
- In production support programs, it is now possible to pay half

(50%) of the value of the contract payment relating to the start of shooting, before it starts (with or without expenses incurred). The remaining (50%), will be paid at the time of issuance of the road visa to be effective;

- In the automatic support program, the beneficiary may choose to apply for the support to be received to new production projects (as currently provided in the regulations) or to new writing and development projects;
- In the complementary support program, the possibility is opened for directors with 5 works (that meet the admissibility requirements), but in which the 6th work, proven to have its premiere scheduled before the closing of the 2020 competition, may apply already this year, submitting a statement by the exhibitor confirming the dates;
- In the support programme for film finalization and audiovisual and multimedia innovation, ICA will continue to make available and improve the access to the ICA FILMBOX portal for candidates, to enable the submission of digital formats (only MP4 format media up to 5gb are accepted);
- In the festivals support program: in the ongoing supports, ICA will accept the re-programming of festivals activities, namely allowing the programming to be more extended in time, also allowing the payment related to the festival action, even when it has been cancelled;
- Analyse and, consequently, accept the conclusion of partially fulfilled distribution or exhibition plans, without the need for prorogation, when their conclusion is foreseen to occur in days covered by the declared State of Emergency, considering the circumstance not attributable to the beneficiary and without any penalty;
- In the national distribution programme for national works, the plan may be considered to have been fulfilled:
- With the placing of a work on a VOD platform, provided that the film is made available to the public on that platform with

a duration never shorter than the distribution plan presented in the application. That is, if a film has a plan with 10 sessions planned, running from January to May, it must be available on the platform at least until May;

or

- With the placing of a work on pay-tv channels with cinematographic and audiovisual content, the beneficiary shall ensure that the works are shown at least once a week, counting the weeks equally. That is, if a film is scheduled to be distributed for 4 weeks, the film must be shown at least once a week for four weeks; and
- With the delivery of a promotion plan of the work that, although not delivered with the application, will be important to prove that the beneficiary has made a set of efforts to promote their work to potential viewers in these exhibition channels.
- Accept the extension of the deadlines for submission of copies and final accounts report, for a longer period than the ones that the regulations provide for;
- In the context of intermediate and final accounts reporting, the ICA shall not require for the sample expenditure documents as set out in Article 5(b) of the Eligible Expenditure and Reporting Regulation. In general, entities are not required to submit copies of the supporting documents for expenditure listed, except where requested by the ICA;
- Allow the payment of half of the value of the last tranche of the contract (50% of the last 5%), relating to the final accounts, when it is manifestly impossible for the beneficiary to obtain the necessary documentation; the remaining will be paid when the required documentation is submitted, and the file will be closed;
- In all ICA support programmes, the possibility of extending the contractual deadline, currently granted for production

support, is extended to the other support granted by the Institute, enhancing its conclusion.

- *Increase the percentage associated with the category of structural general costs: from the current limit of 15% to 30% of the amount of the ICA financial support. This measure is only applicable to festivals and distribution supports*

- **Independent production supporting measures from RTP:**

- Maintenance and honouring of hundreds of contracts with companies and independent workers in different areas of content provision: support to programming, format conception, research, scriptwriters, commentators, presenters and show hosts, among others;
- Anticipation of payment deadlines for immediate liquidation for fiction and other productions already delivered or to be delivered soon;
- Improvement in payment conditions for film projects, fiction and documentary, already approved in previous content calls, and that will be produced in the next few months, namely an advance of 25% for production, with 25% being paid once the shooting process is complete and 50% for immediate pay when the final product is delivered; in the cases of music and the performing arts, the advance can be of up to 50%;
- Increased budget for content acquisition already in the next few weeks, with a preference for buying stock from independent producers and rights acquisitions for the performing arts – content that can be broadcast on radio and TV, and streamed on RTP's online platforms;
- Launch of a series of online music gigs, to be defined and negotiated

	<p>with performers and agents, to be streamed on RTP's digital channels;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anticipation of content acquisition processes, so that film and audio-visual production companies can present their projects – deadline for film: 4 June 2020; for audiovisual: 28 May 2020-04-24;</li> <li>○ Emphasis, until the end of 2020, on national production on TV, radio and online programming.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Media sector</b></p> <p>To meet the information needs of citizens in the context of the pandemic crisis, the Government has adopted a Decree-Law (n.º 20-A/2020, 6 of May) with the objective to immediately process the acquisition of commercial space for the diffusion of institutional public advertising in the amount of 15M€; such measure will have the secondary effect of supporting the cash flow management of companies in the media sector; Institutional advertising should include campaigns by the General Health Directorate or other public health entities, campaigns in favor of relevant social and humanitarian causes (combating domestic violence, combating discrimination, among others), campaigns to promote media literacy and campaigns for dissemination of cultural activities, campaigns for the recovery of economic and social activities.</p> <p>The Government is also preparing a set of measures to promote the recovery of the media sector, once the peak of the crisis will be over.</p>
<p><b>RO</b> <b>(4/6/20)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Measures and actions to alleviate the impact of COVID-19</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>on the cultural and creative sectors</b></p> <p>In order to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural and creative sectors, severely hit by this unprecedented crisis, Romania adopted legislative and non-legislative measures and consolidated the financial support for the development of the online cultural offer. The online repertoires of cultural activities, as well as the research studies analysing the dynamics of the online market are also of particular</p>

importance during these difficult times of crisis.

### **I. Legislative measures**

#### **1) Specific measures**

- **Support allowances in the benefit of independent artists**

One of the most important measures adopted in Romania in reaction to the pandemic include a series of special provisions, in the benefit of independent artists, who are entitled to receive **support allowances** if they usually obtain regular income from copyright and related rights activities and they are no longer able to carry out their work.

More precisely, the Emergency Ordinance no. 32 / 30.03.2020 contains a special provision for the individuals who obtain income exclusively from copyright and related rights, according to the regulations in force. These persons will receive a **compensation equal to 75% of the average gross national salary**, if they do not obtain an income from other activities and if they are unable to carry out their work, during the emergency period.

- **Specific support in the benefit of the film sector**

*Lottery* funding is a particularly important resource for the film sector, especially during this period of crisis. A draft law is in the process of being adopted, so as to enable the film industry to receive a bigger percent from the lottery's income (an increase from 2% to 4%). These funds will be transferred to the National Cinema Funds, aiming at consolidating support of the cinema industry.

#### **2) Horizontal measures**

- **Support allowance of other professionals – natural persons and individual enterprises**

Emergency Ordinance 30 / 18.03.2020 (article 15, paragraph 1) foresees assurance of equal pay with the minimum gross salary. Thus, the natural authorized persons and the individual companies can benefit of this support.

- **Technical unemployment measures**

Emergency Ordinance 30 / 18.03.2020 stipulates the method of granting technical unemployment. The employer, Ltd. company or NGO, may temporarily suspend the

individual employment contract, and based on this decision, its employees benefit from a state subsidized allowance of 75% of the salary, but not more than 75% of the average gross salary. The employer can supplement this allowance provided by the state with a salary difference of its choice.

- **Economic and fiscal - financial measures, including deferment of payment for utilities (electricity, water, gas, telecommunication services)**

By the Emergency Ordinance no. 29 / 18.03.2020, the following measures were decided:

a) to implement a multiannual program to support SMEs in order to reduce the effects of the spread of COVID-19, by guaranteeing loans and subsidizing the interest for this funding.

b) Small and medium-sized companies, which have totally or partially interrupted their activity as a consequence of the decisions issued by the public authorities, during the period of emergency, benefit from the deferred payment for utilities, electricity, natural gas, water, telephone and Internet services, as well as a deferred payment of the rent for the building used as office.

**- Public health measures – health services free of charge**

For the specialists who are not covered by a health insurance, the presidential decree 195 /16.03.2020 provides that medical services for the treatment of COVID-19 cases and their complications are granted to all persons on the territory of Romania and are supported by the budget of the National Health Insurance Fund (UNFASS).

**II. Funding programmes and calls especially designed to alleviate the effects of COVID-19 (in chronological order)**

**a. The ACCES Online 2020 programme**

The ACCES Online 2020 programme was launched by the Romanian Ministry of Culture on 27 March 2020 to support the private sector by funding online cultural projects. This programme is exclusively meant for the private sector, thus helping all the artists who, during this period, can no longer perform their artistic activities



in front of an audience.

The main objectives of the ACCES ONLINE programme are the following ones:

- ensuring the continuity of the creative process in key areas, such as theatre, music, dance, visual arts, intangible heritage;
- promoting contemporary cultural values in Romania;
- fostering contemporary creation through actions and projects that encourage innovative approaches to culture.

This first session has an available funding of approximately 200 000 EUR. The deadline for applications was 30 April 2020. The projects are now under the evaluation process. More information is available on the website of the Ministry of Culture, at [www. cultura.ro](http://www.cultura.ro).

## **2) Consolidation of the cultural entrepreneurship and audience development**

On 1 April 2020, the Project Management Unit within the Ministry of Culture, as Operator of the RO-CULTURE Program, financed by the EEA Grants 2014 - 2021, launched the second session of the call *Consolidation of cultural entrepreneurship and the development of the audience and the public*.

The call aims at increasing the degree of access to culture, promoting cultural diversity and strengthening intercultural dialogue, with a budget of 2,000,000 EUR.

The value of the non-reimbursable financial support that can be granted to a project is between 50,000 EUR and 200,000 EUR.

The following institutions can apply for funding:

- public cultural institutions (museums, theatres, operas, operettas, philharmonics, libraries, archives, etc.);
- non-governmental organizations;
- trading companies or cooperative companies that fall into the category of micro, small or medium-sized enterprises.

The deadline for applications is 1 July 2020. More information is available on the website [www.ro-cultura.ro](http://www.ro-cultura.ro).

## **3) Public acquisition of contemporary art**

Another measure to support the sector is the acquisition of contemporary art. The Ministry of Culture initiated all the necessary procedures regarding the acquisition of contemporary art, for an amount of approximatively 400,000 euro.

The programme was launched on 28 April 2020.

#### **4) The National Cultural Fund Administration**

The Ministry of Culture deployed a lot of efforts not to suspend or jeopardize the activities carried out by the National Cultural Fund Administration (an arm's-length body) during the state of emergency, taking into account that several hundreds of artists depend on these funds to initiate and develop cultural projects.

On 30 March 2020, the National Cultural Fund Administration concluded contracts for cultural projects amounting to approximatively 22 000 euros.

On the 2nd of May 2020, the National Cultural Fund Administration launched a funding session dedicated to publishing projects. This year, the budget allocated by the Ministry of Culture amounts to approximatively 20 000 euro.

#### **5) The pilot call managed by the National Heritage Institute**

At the end of May, the National Heritage Institute, under the subordination of the Ministry of Culture, launched a pilot call for funding cultural projects from the historical monuments tax. This tax, foreseen by the national legislation, is collected from the economic agents carrying out their activities in a heritage building or commercialising images with historic monuments.

The total amount of the call is of approximatively 600,000 euros.

### **III. Increasing the online access to culture**

#### **- Online repertories of cultural activities**

The National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (an institution under the subordination of the Ministry of Culture) established an online platform, mapping all the national cultural activities that are available online. The platform, entitled *Culturadata Interactive– Culture in Quarantine: monitoring the cultural field during the Covid-19 crisis* was launched on 8 April 2020, in English and Romanian.

The platform is available at: <https://culturadatainteractiv.ro/home/>

The main objective is to identify not only the institutions and organizations

providing online activities, but also the offer of online cultural content.

The idea of this monitoring started from the need to answer the following research questions: i. How does the production / offer of cultural content adapt to the constraints imposed by the national state of emergency? ii. How does the consumer adapt to the constraints imposed by the national state of emergency?

The project analyses the relevance of the field of culture in daily life, especially at a time when the general priorities of the population are in a reorganization process. If apparently culture does not fall in the priority areas, the measures taken by public, private institutions, associated and independent artists, as well as by the consumers reveal that the field of culture is of major importance, especially in times of crisis. This monitoring is structured in several chapters: i. Context; ii. Effects on the cultural domain; iii. Support provided for the cultural sector; iv. Adaptation of the cultural offer; v. Adaptation of cultural consumption; vi. Working methodology.

Within the monitoring process, 250 cultural institutions and independent cultural actors (public and independent theatres, musical institutions - operas, operetta philharmonics, as well as museums, libraries and publishers) have been analysed so far. All of them have adapted their activity to the crisis context.

#### **- Studies on the online market**

A study on the digital market of cultural products was launched by the Romanian Institute of Cultural Research and Training in early March and will be finalized in the coming months. This study is of utmost importance, since it will enable the governmental authorities to have a better overview of the current situation.

#### **- Online performances and exhibitions: the show must go on, anywhere and everywhere**

Many cultural institutions in Romania are continuously working to broadcast online theatre and opera performances, to make available a wide range of online tools for museum visits, as well as to provide interactive activities. The websites of the cultural institutions and social medias channels are the privileged means of communication in terms of audience development.

On 17 March 2020, the RO Ministry of Culture requested all the institutions under its subordination (museums, operas, theatres etc) to provide information on digital

archives, virtual tours, online catalogues, broadcasting shows or other activities that may attract and involve the isolated public staying at home. Based on the received answers, the Ministry of Culture has developed **a strategy to promote these digital resources and activities.**

**Almost all the Romanian institutions have facilitated access to their online cultural offer.**

- Famous international festivals went online. The online version of the George Enescu International Festival is available at [www.festivalenescu.ro](http://www.festivalenescu.ro) since 18 March 2020. This platform registered a record audience in the first 24 hours (11,460 viewers);
- The great majority of museums offered virtual tours, online exhibitions, video documentation, concerts and publications. Social media such as Facebook and Instagram are also privileged means of communications, reaching out especially to young audiences. Online visits (in 2D and 3D) were provided both for permanent and temporary exhibitions.
- Theatres uploaded online productions and reading sessions on their websites. Youtube and Facebook are other means of communication for the Romanian theatres.
- Operas have also been offering online shows from their repertoires since March. Some of them launched their own apps, allowing subscribers to watch anytime and anywhere unlimited online shows from the institution's repertoire, as well as entertainment and educational shows.
- Private art galleries presented guided online tours of their projects and created new platforms with limited edition works; they also accepted online orders.
- Other cultural institutions provided online courses (personal development or acting) for children.

#### **IV. Public consultations with the sector**

1) During the last months, the Romanian Government launched a series of public consultations with the stakeholders. These high-level events (Ludovic Orban - Prime Minister, Raluca Turcan- Deputy Prime Minister, Bogdan Gheorghiu - Minister of Culture) were based on a sectorial approach. Several special meetings,

systematically dedicated to all the cultural and creative sectors in Romania, gathered cinema representatives, music representatives and festivals organisers to discuss exit measures and national strategies in order to facilitate the recovery of the sector.

2) The National Institute for Cultural Research and Training, working under the subordination of the Ministry of Culture, launched a series of monthly debates that consolidate the structural dialogue with the sector, in the attempt to provide an extensive overview on the effects of the crisis and identify possible solutions to the current challenges.

On 9 May 2020, the first debate entitled *Tomorrow's culture. Talking about the changes* marked Europe Day by approaching the theme of resilience and adaptation of the cultural sector to the current challenges. This online meeting brought together cultural personalities that discussed the best means to produce high-quality online content, to meet audiences expectations and to preserve all artistic manifestations. A thorough research based on figures and statistics is needed to design tailored-made measures both for the public cultural sector and the independent one. In the opinion of the participants, drafting new cultural adaptation policies that include the technological dimension should be the first measure that the European Union should take to preserve common spiritual values and to highlight the importance of solidarity and resilience.

3) A consultation with the museum sector was launched through a call of papers.

On 11 May 2020, the National Institute for Cultural Research and Training launched the call for papers *Museum Review*, collecting information on the challenges faced by the museums during the crisis, the adaptation of their activities, as well as possible solutions for the next period.

#### **V. Exit strategies**

Creative alternatives to conventional public gatherings, such as live outdoor performances and drive-in shows, are vital in the process of gradual lifting of the coronavirus restrictions.

As a consolidated cooperation with the relevant health authorities is strongly recommended during this difficult period, a Joint Ministerial Order, signed on 29 May 2020 by the Minister of culture and the Minister of health, foresees the neces-

	<p>sary requirements to be respected by the cultural institutions that reopened and resumed their activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Museums, art galleries, libraries and bookstores are now able to reopen, subject to preventive measures and social distancing rules.</li> <li>▪ The film and TV production sector has also returned to work, also subject to preventive measures and social distancing rules. A special derogation is provided for the foreign crews, as they are exempted from the 14-day general obligation of quarantine upon arrival in Romania. They should however prove that their coronavirus tests are negative. A second screening test will also be carried out in Romania (in a 2-5-day slot or immediately in case of any symptoms).</li> <li>▪ Outdoor performances (theatre, dance, film, music etc) with an audience of up to 500 people, are allowed. The same special derogation is provided for the foreign artists and organising teams, as they are exempted from the 14-day general obligation of quarantine upon arrival in Romania. They should however prove that their coronavirus tests are negative. A second screening test will also be carried out in Romania (in a 2-5-day slot or immediately in case of any symptoms). As to the audience, a social distance of 2 m between the spectators should be respected.</li> </ul> <p>Drive-in shows are allowed by the above-mentioned order, also subject to hygiene and prevention measures to avoid contamination.</p>
<p><b>SE</b> <b>(25/3/20,</b> <b>3/4/20)</b></p>	<p><b>25/3/20</b></p> <p><b>SEK 1 billion to culture and sport as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The cultural sector and sports movement will receive an extra SEK 1 billion (≈ 92 million €) in support due to the economic consequences affecting these sectors as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.</li> <li>b) The money will be distributed by grant-allocating agencies in the area of culture and by the Swedish Sports Confederation.</li> <li>c) The funds to culture – SEK 500 million (≈ 46 million €) – will be granted to activities that lose revenue as a result of the restriction on public gatherings. Small events are also affected by the Public Health Agency of Sweden's guidelines and by changes in public behaviour. Both large and small actors in the area of culture will be able to receive support. Organisational form will not</li> </ul>

impact the ability to receive support. State institutions are not included, but their situation is being monitored closely.

- d) The funds to sport – SEK 500 million ( $\approx$  46 million €) – will be granted to activities that lose revenue as a result of the restriction on public gatherings. The money will go to associations that organise sporting events, such as major championships, recreational races or elite-level matches.
- e) The Government will continue to engage in dialogue with relevant actors and to examine the support that may be needed as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This is a policy agreement reached between the Government, the Liberal Party and the Centre Party.

**3/4/20**

Due to the economic consequences followed by the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Sweden has taken the following measures up to now that directly or indirectly support the cultural sector and the media sector.

**Cultural sector support**

The cultural sector will receive an extra SEK 500 million (app. EUR 50 million). The support will be distributed by grant-allocating agencies in the area of culture. Both large and small actors in the area of culture will be able to receive support.

**Media sector support**

The Swedish media aid will be reinforced with approximately SEK 200 million (app. EUR 20 million). For 2020 the main part will be used for a new short-term (3 months) general distribution aid for all printed newspapers.

**Employment market support (non-sector specific)**

The unemployment insurance is proposed to be temporarily reinforced. The requirements concerning who can receive money from an unemployment insurance fund will be temporarily relaxed in terms of how much people need to have worked and how long people need to have been a member of the fund. It is also proposed that both the highest and lowest amounts paid out will be raised temporarily, and that the six initial qualifying days will be removed and that the unemployment insurance funds receive funding for administration.

Furthermore, a temporary reduction of employers' social security reductions will be proposed for the period 1 March to 30 June 2020 so that only the old age pension contribution is paid. To provide equivalent relief to sole traders, a reduction of individual contributions is also proposed.

**Enterprise support (non-sector specific)**

An economic crisis package has been presented. The package includes for example

	<p>a central government loan guarantee programme, with the aim to make it easier for primarily small and medium enterprises to access financing. This programme means that the central government will guarantee 70 per cent of new loans banks provide to companies that are experiencing financial difficulty due to the COVID-19 virus but that are otherwise robust. The guarantee will be issued to banks, which in turn will provide guaranteed loans to companies.</p> <p><b>Support to municipalities and regions (non-sector specific)</b></p> <p>Many municipalities and regions have been hit hard financially by the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19. Therefore, an intended proposal is that the spring amending budget for 2020 will include an additional funding totalling SEK 22 billion (app. EUR 2,2 billion). This additional funding will be provided both as increased general government grants and an increased amount to cover additional health care and social services costs.</p> <p>The Government will continue to engage in dialogue with relevant actors and to examine the support that may be needed as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.</p>
<p><b>SI</b> <b>(7/4/20)</b></p>	<p>In order to promptly and effectively assist the cultural and creative sectors at the national level in the COVID-19 crisis, Slovenia adopted fiscal, social and economic measures in the so called Intervention Measures Act to curb the COVID-19 epidemic and mitigate its consequences for citizens and the economy. All measures adopted to assist employers also apply to NGOs in the field of culture as well as self-employed in cultural sphere.</p> <p>The measures adopted in the Intervention Measures Act to curb the COVID-19 epidemic and mitigate its effects on citizens and the economy will apply from 1 April 2020 to 31 May 2020, unless otherwise provided by this Act. If the COVID-19 epidemic is not repealed by 15 May 2020, the expiry date set for 31 May 2020 shall be extended by 30 days.</p> <p>Measures taken to support the cultural and creative sectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>exemptions from obligatory contributions for pension, health and disability insurance for employees</u>; that is for workers who continue to work during the intervention measures under this Act and are receiving salary for their work. During the period of intervention measures, contributions for pension and disability insurance are fully paid by the Republic of Slovenia;</li> <li>• <u>help in the form of monthly basic income for the self-employed in culture, freelance journalists and religious officials</u> of registered churches or other religious communities;</li> <li>• <u>exemptions from obligatory contributions for pension, health and disability insurance for self-employed in the field of culture</u>; contributions are covered by the Republic of Slovenia;</li> <li>• <u>financial compensation during temporary work restraint (“sickness benefit”)</u> is covered by health insurance company. The same measure applies to both,</li> </ul>



	<p>the self-employed in culture as well as NGOs from the field;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>temporary retention of the right of self-employed in culture to have their social security contributions covered by the state budget and temporary entitlement to this right for the self-employed in culture, who exceed the income threshold. Reimbursement of wages to workers whose employers are temporarily unable to provide them with work, reimbursement of wages to employees who are unable to work due to force majeure as well as the exemption from obligatory health security and social security contributions for such workers. An employer, whose employees are financed from the public budget based on a project or a program (eg. an NGO from the cultural sphere) receives a percentage difference that is not covered by the subsidy;</u></li> <li>• <u>temporary financial compensation for loss of employment;</u></li> <li>• <u>regional and other television stations, which are performing the task of keeping citizens of the Republic of Slovenia informed, are exempted from paying service of the distribution of TV signal as well as the licence fee for the period from the announcement to the cancellation of the COVID-19 epidemic.</u></li> </ul>
<p><b>SK</b> <b>(6/4/20)</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed measures to minimize the impact of the coronavirus COVID 19 pandemic on the cultural sector</b></p> <p><b>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b></p> <p>The proposed direct and indirect financial aid <b>measures taken in Slovakia in general</b> have so far been following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• postponing the obligation to pay health and social insurance if the income is lower than 40%</li> <li>• postponing the income tax advance payments for the private businesses until October if their profit is lower than 40%</li> <li>• prolonging the unemployment benefits to those who lost their employment</li> <li>• state aid for the businesses that had to be closed due to the government's order: the government will substitute 80%, 60% or 40% of employees' salaries, including social and healthcare insurance and income tax , based on the profit loss</li> <li>• bank subsidies in the total amount of 0,5 billion EUR for the private employers in order to allow them to continue in their business activities</li> <li>• government will provide financial aid to companies and employees accordingly to the amount of profit loss. This aid includes more than 800 thousand employees and 200 thousand business owners</li> </ul> <p>Currently, the mapping of situation involves considering applying additional aid to cultural and creative sectors.</p> <p>There is a <b>special Working Group at the Ministry of Culture</b>. It is the advisory board for the minister. The working group consists of the representatives of seven</p>

cultural and creative sectors: audiovisual, music, literature, visual arts, design, performing arts and dance and media. The **main agenda is to evaluate the current situation through the sectors and to propose the measures and further steps for the whole culture.**

**Audiovisual Fund** and **Slovak Arts Council** (public funding agencies operating on the cultural sector with year total overall budget about 30 mil. Euro) already took some specific measures to help **the cultural, creative and audiovisual industry in Slovakia** (see the table below). The measures shall:

- **be on project based approach** – there will be no automatic industry-wide support
- require additional **financial resources from the government** (stimulative measures)
- have potential of **swift application** as well as **long-term sustainability** of new concept measures even after the crisis resolution

Administrative measures (already realised)		Stimulative measures (planned)	
Audiovisual fund	Slovak Arts Council	Audiovisual fund	Slovak Arts Council
Changes in deadlines of budget reports	Changes in deadlines of budget reports	Specific calls aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ audience engagement</li> <li>○ design and application of new innovative forms of audience development (aimed at consumers of cultural products as well) including marketing activities</li> <li>○ support of creating and effective running of new platforms for making creative content available</li> </ul>	
Changes in deadlines for payments of grants	Prolonged deadlines for submitting applications	For individuals –creators or researchers in audiovisual industry there might be a specific call for scholarships	For individuals there might be a sepcific call for scholarship applications
Changes in payments deadlines of loans	Approved expenses requirements in grants will stay the same as before the crisis	Operational loans for adjusting to a short-term gap	Support of digitalisation activities (e.g. audiovisual

			in profits (e.g. for distributors or cinema operators)	recording of theatrical performance, online galleries etc.) and accessibility to a wide audience
	Postponed payments of fees to the Audiovisual Fund	Accepting changes in the final project outcomes: online presentation will be considered to be fully representative public presentation		
	Online communication with applicants and online evaluation process including online presentation of projects during the evaluation process	Keeping all the calls for the support of creative projects in all arts		
	Modifications in conditions for refunding of grants in distribution support	Online communication with the applicants and online evaluation process		
	Mapping of current situation with representatives of industry – possibility to temporarily apply personal expenses as eligible budget expense from the grant (currently processing)	Mapping of current situation with representatives of industry (special segments like galleries, booksellers etc.)		
European Commission	The Temporary Framework for state aid measures			

(2/6/20)	<p>The Temporary Framework for state aid measures to support the economy in the current Coronavirus crisis specifically refers to culture as a sector that has been particularly hit.</p> <p>This Framework enables Member States to use the full flexibility foreseen under state aid rules to support the economy at this difficult time.</p> <p>Member States can grant compensation to companies for damage suffered due to and directly caused by the coronavirus outbreak. In addition, Member States can grant financial support directly to consumers, for example for cancelled services or tickets that are not reimbursed by the operators concerned.</p> <p>The information about state aid measures approved by the European Commission as the Member States' response to COVID-19 can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases_en</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative</b></p> <p>The Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and CRII Plus have made EUR 37 billion available to Member States under cohesion policy (ERDF, CF and ESF) to allow them to rapidly re-orient their funds. This will help to limit the spread and mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic by assisting national health care systems, SMEs and other vulnerable parts of our economies.</p> <p>The changes in the regulatory framework will allow Member States to reorient funds rapidly to areas and sectors affected by the Coronavirus crisis. While focus will be primarily on sectors such as healthcare, small and medium enterprises and labour markets, related actions in the field of education and training, as well as the cultural sector, could also be supported. In line with the principle of shared management, it is up to the Member States to identify crisis priorities and refocus structural funding.</p> <p>The cohesion policy funds (ERDF, CF and ESF) are managed in each Member State through their Managing Authorities. The programming of ERDF and ESF, the subsequent organisations of calls for funding, as well as applications for funding are made via the relevant Managing Authorities. Therefore, national culture authorities should contact their respective <a href="#">Managing Authorities</a> at national or regional level to discuss their requests and organise the funding calls for the</p>
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response to COVID-19, when possible. The initiative also includes a 100% financing rate by the EU for measures to fight the crisis, so Member States do not have to frontload money.

### **Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE)**

The aim of this support package is to help protect jobs and workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic. It shall provide up to €100 billion of financial assistance to Member States to help workers keep their incomes and help businesses stay afloat across the EU.

These loans will assist Member States to cope with sudden increases in public expenditure to preserve employment. Specifically, they will help Member States to cover two types of costs: those directly related to the creation or extension of national short-time work schemes, as well as costs for other similar measures they have put in place for the self-employed as a response to the current coronavirus pandemic.

More concretely, SURE will support short-time work schemes and similar measures to help Member States protect jobs, employees and self-employed people against the risk of dismissal and loss of income. Firms will be able to temporarily reduce the hours of employees or suspend work altogether, with income support provided by the State for the hours not worked. The self-employed are not forgotten: they will receive income replacement for the current emergency.

### **Protecting small and medium-sized businesses**

The Commission announced that an estimated €8 billion is available to provide immediate financial relief to small and medium-sized businesses across the EU. The Commission has unlocked €1 billion from the European Fund for Strategic Investments to serve as guarantees to the European Investment Fund in incentivising local banks and other lenders to provide liquidity to at least 100,000 European small and medium enterprises.

### **European Guarantee Fund**

European Finance Ministers approved the establishment of a European Guarantee Fund of €25 billion that will support up to €200 billion of financing for companies, with a special focus on SMEs. The €25 billion guarantee fund will be funded by

EU Member States pro rata to their shareholding in the EIB and/or other institutions. Thanks to the guarantee, the EIB Group will be able to provide existing products to local banks and other financial intermediaries, who are in close contact with businesses in all Member States and can unlock financing to the real economy, without risking financial instability.

### **Overview of policy measures against the coronavirus in the Member States**

Directorate-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the European Commission provides an overview of measures announced or taken in the Member States against the spread and impact of COVID-19. The policy measures enumerated include the following categories:

- expenditures measures,
- tax measures,
- sectorial, regional, or measures other than fiscal,
- any other measures.

The overview document can be found here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/policy-measures-against-spread-coronavirus\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/policy-measures-against-spread-coronavirus_en)

### **Erasmus+ programme**

The programme already provides an invaluable contribution to the cultural sector. In 2019, 110 million EUR were awarded to support over 2,000 mobility and cooperation projects dealing with “culture and creativity” in different ways. This will also be the case in 2020.

Additionally, the Commission will call on the National Agencies to prepare an extraordinary call to support skills development, digital competencies and social inclusion through arts, linking education, training and youth stakeholders with cultural and creative sector grassroots organisations. The Commission’s current intention is to mobilise as much as € 100 million for this call as a clear sign of solidarity and support.

### **Tourism and transport**

On 13 May, the Commission presented a “Tourism and Transport“ package of guidelines and recommendations to help Member States gradually lift travel restrictions and allow tourism businesses to reopen, after months of lockdown, while respecting necessary health precautions. The package also aims to help the EU tourism sector recover from the pandemic, by supporting businesses and ensuring that Europe continues to be the number one destination for visitors.

Many European regions and cities rely heavily on cultural tourism. Technology has helped to reinvent cultural tourism during this pandemic by opening new opportunities for creative expression and by expanding audiences. Coastal, maritime and inland waterway tourism, as well as rural tourism, is present in many EU regions and is creating innovative, localised tourism offers for off-season business and recreation opportunities. New opportunities arise to discover hidden or forgotten natural and cultural gems closer to home, and taste locally produced products. The proposed European Year of Rail 2021 could focus on this specific travel mode to promote intra-EU tourism.

The Commission in cooperation with Member States will call for pledges to launch patronage voucher systems and will set up an online platform to link the pledgers with suppliers in the tourism sector.

From June, Europeana, the European platform for Digital Cultural Heritage, will further develop its tourism angle showcasing European cultural jewels and hidden gems. The companion web-app Cultural gems, will launch a citizen ambassador’s campaign in the second half of the year to support proximity tourism. In cooperation with the Member States, the Commission will continue previous efforts to support information-sharing and encourage Europeans to discover the diversity of landscapes, cultures and experiences in Europe, including the European Capitals of Smart Tourism and the European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN).

#### **Creative Europe programme measures**

The European Commission has adapted the Creative Europe programme to the new realities that the coronavirus outbreak has imposed.

In addition, together with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, the Commission under the responsibility of Commissioners Mariya

Gabriel and Thierry Breton is applying the maximum flexibility it can, in the implementation of the programme, within the limits of the applicable legal framework.

This flexibility for beneficiaries includes all actions supported by the programme.

- **Reinforcing links with Member States, Creative Europe Desks, Networks and Platforms**

Creative Europe relies on the strong relationship with its stakeholders, and the Creative Europe Desks, established in the Member States, form a very important part of this network.

To reinforce these links, the Commission will organise an informal virtual meeting before the summer, to inform Creative Europe Desks and involved stakeholders about the guidance put in place.

- **Cooperation projects to assist the sectors most in need**

With an overall sum of EUR 48,5 million, the 2020 Cooperation projects call is the most substantial part of the Creative Europe Culture sub-programme. The call was launched in November 2019 and the evaluation of has been speeded up to take account of the pandemic. A first substantial part of the budget will reach the sector via the pre-financing instalments very quickly. The projects can start in September 2020 and can last up to four years. These cooperation projects are open to all kinds of organisations from the cultural sector, giving much needed support to artists, organisations and creative professionals involved. These projects also have a clear European dimension and will efficiently complement the emergency measures taken at national level.

- **Support scheme for the cross-border distribution of performing arts works**

The COVID-19 crisis has shed a different light on the support scheme for the cross-border distribution of performing arts works (theatre, dance, circus and street arts) developed under the Work Programme 2020. Two issues have gained an acute relevance: the impact of mobility on the environment and the role of digital culture.

Hence, measures will be proposed to mitigate the sector's carbon footprint. At the



same time, they will include a forward-looking reflection on the longer-term effects the circulation experience may have. Live recording and streaming of the supported performances will be another way to ensure sustainability and a broader outreach through future viewing experiences online.

The call will have a budget of 2,5 million euro and is foreseen to be published in mid June 2020, so that the winning tenderer can start the activity in the autumn 2020 and funds can reach the sector by the end of the year.

- **Additional funding for the Translation scheme**

The deadline of the last call for the translation of European books, under Creative Europe, has been extended to 28 May. Confinement and closures of book fairs and bookshops are having a big impact on the publishing sector. Therefore, the Commission will speed up the selection procedure and increase the budget for this scheme so the diversity of European literature can be available to all citizens including those living in non-urban and less central regions.

- **#CreativeEuropeAtHome Campaign**

Many activities carried out under the Creative Europe programme cannot take place as planned due to the measures imposed by governments to contain the spread of the virus. Beneficiaries of the Creative Europe programme are asked to showcase their art work online. The aim is to highlight great online cultural activities throughout the Creative Europe community – available to culture lovers currently stuck at home. Based on this idea the European Commission has launched the social media campaign #CreativeEuropeAtHome to promote the rich work beneficiaries of the Creative Europe programme are showing online to their audiences.

- **MEDIA sub-programme**

Under the responsibility of Commissioner Breton, special measures for cinemas are foreseen in the context of MEDIA support to the Europa Cinemas network. This is likely to take the form of a €5 million supplementary allocation of funds in the form of “vouchers” for cinemas most severely affected by the lockdown.

**Platforms for knowledge sharing in relation to the COVID-19 impact on the cultural and creative sectors**

The Commission has set up two platforms to help share challenges and solutions at the EU level in relation to the COVID-19 impact on the cultural and creative sectors.

The platform for EU Member States was launched on 24 April. It allows the representatives of EU culture ministries to exchange good practices.

On 5 May “Creatives Unite” (<http://creativesunite.eu/>) was launched. This is a platform for and by the sector, set up through the Pilot project “FLIP”, co-funded by the EU. The platform offers a common space for all those looking for information about cultural and creative sector initiatives responding to the coronavirus crisis. It gives access in one single space to the multitude of existing resources and numerous relevant networks and organisations, and also offers a curated space to co-create and upload contributions towards finding solutions together.

### **Music Moves Europe**

In the context of the 2019 Preparatory actions on music, the Commission extended deadlines to the end of April for two calls for proposals in the fields of music education and co-creation. It will also launch the foreseen call for tenders on music export by the summer, which will be refocused to address the new situation brought by the Coronavirus crisis. Moreover, the Commission will re-programme the 2.5m EUR available under the Preparatory action 2020 to help the sector become more sustainable after the crisis.