

MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE EPIDEMIC FOR THE POPULATION AND ECONOMY

(#ACP1, #ACP2, #ACP3)

Data have been collected on different dates, as different institutions approve applications of persons eligible to assistance and carry out payments on different dates. These are live data that cannot yet be presented in a uniform manner. For certain groups, a preliminary number of recipients of assistance is indicated. The final number will be known when the implementation of the measures is concluded.

1. Labour, family, social affairs and equal opportunities

Already paid from the state budget by 28 May 2020:

- **lay-off pay** for more than **130,000 employees at more than 23,500 employers** paid in the first and second rounds (on 11 May and 15 May respectively): **EUR 49.4 million;**
- **basic income** paid in March (EUR 350) and April (EUR 700) to self-employed, farmers, company members and the employees of religious organisations: **EUR 40.9 million;**
- **one-off solidarity bonus for pensioners** (EUR 300 for pensions of up to EUR 500, EUR 230 for pensions of EUR 501–600, and EUR 130 for pensions of EUR 601–700): **EUR 66.4 million;**
- **one-off solidarity bonus for recipients of financial social assistance or income support** (EUR 150): **EUR 7.4 million;**
- **increased large family allowance** (EUR 100 for families with three children, EUR 200 for families with four or more children): **EUR 3.4 million.**

Total amount of payments from the state budget: EUR 167.5 million.

At the end of June, the **one-off solidarity bonus** in the amount of **EUR 150** will also be paid to other vulnerable groups (from ACP1 and ACP2):

- 2,600 recipients of parental allowance and 7,650 recipients of child care allowance, 830 home care assistants, 840 foster carers, and 7,500 persons entitled to maternity/parental compensation;
- the unemployed recipients of disability insurance benefits and the recipients of occupational pensions;
- 7,200 persons with the status of a disabled person;
- 840 persons entitled to partial payment for the loss of income;
- 4,300 war veterans and 50 war disabled for whom the family benefit is the only income.

By the end of June the **one-off solidarity bonus** in the amount of EUR 30 will be paid to **more than 200,000 children in families** with one or two children that receive child benefit.

Estimated total: EUR 4.4 million.

#ACP3:

- the subsidization of short-time working;
- assistance to providers of home help services (personal assistants);

- the payment of institutional care services for users who were transferred to home care due to the COVID-19 epidemic;
- allowance for hazards and special burdens during the epidemic for employees at safe houses, women's shelters and homeless shelters;
- increase in the subsidization of the salaries of persons with disabilities;
- assistance to scholarship recipients: ensuring equal opportunities in exercising the right to the Zois scholarship, suspending scholarship relationships due to exceptional circumstances, co-financing company scholarships, and deferring the repayment of scholarships or allowing repayment of scholarships by instalments due to exceptional circumstances;
- a one-year extension of contracts on the provision of student meals in 2019 and 2020.

2. Finance

Already realised:

- **exemption from the payment of social security contributions for temporarily laid-off workers: EUR 75 million** granted by 21 May (EUR 20.7 million have already been paid from the state budget by 26 May¹);
- **exemption from the payment of contributions from salary for pension and invalidity insurance of employees** working during the epidemic (borne by employees and employers): **EUR 226 million** granted by 21 May, of which EUR 83.3 million have already been paid from the state budget by 26 May²;
- according to the data of the Financial Administration on 21 May, **approximately EUR 67.5 million of taxes were deferred**, while for approximately EUR 125.8 million of taxes applications for payment in instalments were submitted;
- according to the data of the Financial Administration on 21 May, the **exemption from the payment of contributions** for self-employed, farmers, company members and the employees of religious organisations amounts to EUR 27 million³;
- according to the data of the Financial Administration on 21 May, **EUR 87.5 million of crisis allowance** have been paid **to employees** who are working by employers other than sheltered workshops;
- according to the data of the Financial Administration on 21 May, **EUR 1.6 million of crisis allowance** have been paid **to employees** who are working by sheltered workshops⁴;
- the **extension of deadlines for the submission of income tax prepayment returns, corporate income tax returns and annual AJ PES reports** (until 31 May 2020)

3. Economy

Already realised:

¹ The shortfall of social security contributions is being reimbursed to the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia and the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia from the state budget on the basis of claims in REK forms submitted to the Financial Administration by employers. Therefore, there is a time lapse from the submission of forms to the payment from the state budget.

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³ This will be covered from the state budget on the basis of claims by the insurance institutes, as explained in the first footnote.

⁴ The employers may exercise the right to the reimbursement of crisis allowance with the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia.

- the **deferral of loan repayments** for a period of 12 months for borrowers whose business operations have been impaired due to the epidemic (companies, sole traders, farmers, associations, cooperatives and institutions, as well as the self-employed and natural persons provided they are Slovenian citizens): **22,230 applications** submitted to banks by the beginning of May amounting to **EUR 267.2 million** of deferred payments;
- **guarantees by SID Bank** for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (80%) and large enterprises (70%) for loans for up to five years for working capital, and new and already started investments in the amount of up to 10% of the enterprise's revenue in 2019;
- vouchers for tour operators.

#ACP3:

- the **subsidization of short-time work** for individual workers for 5–20 hours per week; the measure will apply from 1 June to 31 December 2020;
- **the subsidization of compensations for temporary lay-off** in all industries for another month after the end of the epidemic is declared (until 30 June 2020);
- **tourist vouchers for all residents in Slovenia** (EUR 200 for adults and EUR 50 for minors), **estimated at EUR 345 million**;
- groundwork for drawing up a **programme of financial incentives** for tourism, disadvantaged border areas and other sectors;
- **ensuring the liquidity of companies** by allowing financial resources that have already been earmarked in the central government budget to be used for very favourable fast-track liquidity loans through the Slovene Enterprise Fund and the Slovenian Regional Development Fund;
- the **definition of a foreign investor** in accordance with the relevant EU regulation, the **definition of a foreign direct investment**, procedure for **notifying and screening foreign direct investments**;
- the **suspension of conditions for the allocation of incentives** regarding the number of new jobs and investment value;
- **additional financial incentives**, i.e. state aid in the form of refundable and non-refundable funds for the digitalisation and digital transformation of companies and for the development projects that are already underway or have potential for a quick start.

4. Agriculture, forestry and food

Planned:

- **compensation for the loss of income in various branches of agriculture** (cattle production **EUR 3.3 million**, forestry **EUR 1.4 million**, viticulture **EUR 5.07 million**); assistance to operators of secondary activities is also envisaged;
- **call for applications for current assets in the primary agricultural production** (fertilisers, phyto-pharmaceutical products, animal feed, fuel, transport costs, labour costs, etc.): **EUR 3 million** (submission deadline: 29 May);
- **financial aid granted to the heads or members of agricultural holdings** who have fallen ill and are insured under the pension and disability insurance scheme as farmers in the amount of 80% of the minimum wage: **EUR 30,000**;
- **one-off solidarity bonus (EUR 150) for farm members** older than 65 who are not entitled to the one-off solidarity bonus for pensioners: **EUR 200,000**;

- **compensation for the payment of berthing fees for fishing vessels** in the amount of 40% of the total payment for 2020 to all holders of commercial fishing licences: **EUR 80,000**;
- **the reduction of water use fee for 2020** by 40% of the total amount for aquaculture producers, which would amount to **EUR 10,000** shortfall in revenue.

#ACP3:

- **reduced rent for agricultural land** managed by the Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia in 2020 by 20%, and an option to **lease overgrown agricultural land free of charge for ten years**: estimated at **EUR 2 million**;
- **the write-off of public utility charge** for building a greenhouse: **EUR 1.5 million**;
- **the extension of season permits** for seasonal work in agriculture or forestry for up to 150 days.

5. Infrastructure

Already realised:

- exemption from payment for electric power distribution service for households and other small consumers: **on average by 25% per month** for the period from March to May 2020.

#ACP3:

- the establishment of a **fund for the transportation sector in the amount of EUR 35 million**, of which 10 million will be contributed by the state and 25 million by SID Bank;
- the reimbursement of **part of the fixed costs of mountain lift operators**: up to EUR 12,200 per operator;
- option to **extend the validity of contracts with public transport providers** on special regular services:

6. Public administration

Already realised:

- **the increase in the lump sum provided to municipalities** from EUR 589.11 to EUR 623.96 per resident; the total increase for 2020 for all municipalities amounts to **EUR 73 million** more in public expenditure and **EUR 4 million** more for the co-financing of municipal investments;
- **the reduction of salaries of certain public office holders** at the state level by 30%: this data is not recorded directly in the budget and will be collected separately;
- **the allowance for hazards and special burdens** to be paid to public employees in healthcare and other public services during the epidemic, which can amount to up to 100% of the hourly rate of the basic salary. The applications submitted by 21 May amounted to **EUR 37 million**.

#ACP3:

- the **estimated value** up to which a low-value contract procedure may be carried out **in the public procurement of construction works** in the general area **increased to EUR 1 million**;
- the **suspension of restrictions on municipal borrowing**.

7. Education, science and sport

Already realised:

- **one-off solidarity bonus** in the amount of EUR 150 for students: **EUR 6.8 million**;
- **reimbursements to residence halls for upper-secondary students** due to non-operation: **EUR 970,000**;
- **compensation for the loss of income** in March and April 2020 for residence halls for tertiary students: **EUR 751,000**;
- the simplification of enrolment procedures for the 2020/2021 academic year;
- **reimbursements to municipalities** due to closure of kindergartens: **EUR 5.5 million**, and to **private kindergartens** due to non-operation: **EUR 248,000**.

Planned:

- **one-off solidarity bonus** in the amount of EUR 150 for **7,000 part-time students** by the end of June.

#ACP3:

- **exemption from income tax for pupils and upper-secondary students for donated computer equipment** and internet connection equipment intended for distance education;
- **vouchers for sports events or for sold tickets** for Ski Flying World Championships in Planica and Alpine Ski World Cup in Kranjska Gora;
- **exemption from payment for kindergarten for parents** who will not send their children to kindergarten until 30 June to facilitate the organisation of work in kindergartens with the smaller number of children as a result of prevention measures.

8. Environment and spatial planning

Already realised:

- **exemption for the holders of water rights from the payment of water use fee and concession fee** for bathing sites, and for the holders of water permits from the payment of water use fee for swimming pools; estimated at: **EUR 375,000**;
- **accelerated issuing of building permits**, the simplification and shortening of administrative procedures prescribed by the Construction Act and regulations on the protection of the environment and nature conservation; the estimated value of investments based on ACP2 and ACP3: **EUR 100 million**;
- the expected quantity of **municipal packaging waste not collected** by waste packaging management companies in the first half of 2020 and in the previous years: 41,925 tonnes. The costs of collection and processing are estimated at **EUR 7.8 million** or EUR 1 million per month until the end of 2020 provided that the packaging waste management companies will not increase their capacities for the collection of municipal packaging waste.

#ACP3:

- The **intervention act governing the promotion of investments of national importance** will provide approximately EUR 500 million per year in investments. Contribution to the growth of GDP between 2 and 3% and the creation of several thousand new jobs are expected. The objective is to re-start the economy after the epidemic and speed up its recovery.

9. Defence

#ACP3:

- **allowance for hazards and special burdens for the members of the Civil Protection Service** or citizens who volunteer to participate in the performance of protection, rescue and relief tasks in local communities.

10. Public health

Planned:

- **sickness benefit** for employees is covered by the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia from their first day of absence from work, which significantly eases the burden on employers;
- **up to 80% of salary compensation for the employees** ordered to quarantine by the Minister of Health.

#ACP3:

- **reimbursements to healthcare providers** in the network of public healthcare service (including concessionaires) due to restrictions and bans on activities and the resulting inability to carry out the programmes of planned healthcare services.

11. Justice

#ACP3:

- **shorter summer court recess**, i.e. from 1 August to 15 August;
- **the suspension of deadlines** for procedural acts by parties and authorities, the submission of applications to authorities, the electronic submission of applications without a secure electronic signature, oral hearings and public participation at oral hearings, and the service of documents **in administrative and other public law matters**.

12. Development and European Cohesion Policy

#ACP3:

- cohesion funds (for the Operational Programme 2014–2020) for:

- **improvements in healthcare infrastructure** (two biggest projects: the construction of an extension to the Clinic for Infectious Diseases of the Ljubljana University Medical Centre, and of replacement building for the Clinic for Infectious Diseases of the Maribor University Medical Centre),
- **co-financing the measure of short-time work** and general assistance to the economy, primarily the hospitality and tourism industries.

13. Slovenians abroad

#ACP3:

- a **three-month extension of the status of a repatriated person** of Slovenian descent from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela who arrived to Slovenia between 13 November 2019 and 12 March 2020.