



COVID-19 WATCH

ETUC BRIEFING NOTE

SHORT TERM WORK

24 MARCH 2020

Short Term Work Measures Across Europe

Throughout Europe trade unions are negotiating short term work schemes with both employers and governments so that workers are not let go during the COVID-19 lockdown but instead continue to receive their wages or a percentage of their wages.

Short term work schemes are essential, they support workers and businesses to cooperate during and live through the lockdown period without the fear of unemployment or being unable to meet their bills.

Decisions that are made now will determine if the EU can avoid the COVID-19 crisis becoming a great recession and unemployment crisis. The EU and Member States need to work with unions and employers to develop policies and, importantly, to mobilise resources that will keep businesses afloat and protect as many jobs and livelihoods as we can. This means adopting policies and financial packages that keep the real economy, businesses, including small business afloat in a way that guarantees they can pay their staff and wait out the coronavirus crisis without making workers unemployed.

Maintaining workers in employment is essential. Policy makers often fail to understand that companies that close down in a crisis don't always open up again and even when they do the tendency is to take on different workers, often on more fragile contracts with worse pay, terms and conditions. In addition, for the workers concerned being unemployed and applying for benefits is entirely different situation both economically and psychologically than remaining in employment even though their wages may be partly reduced.

Trade unions have concluded a number of far-reaching agreements that achieve the triple objective of protecting business, maintaining employment and ensuring that when we come out of lockdown we are in the best position to restart our economies and societies. There are different types of short-term work schemes and there are numerous arguments in favour:

- (1) Short term work schemes reduce dismissals in a situation of crisis
- (2) Short term work schemes mean that employees retain employment and income which helps them to broadly keep up their standard of living - provided that benefits cover a sufficient percentage of their wages.
- (3) From a macro-economic perspective Short term work schemes help to stabilize the economy because workers retain and are able to spend a large part of their wages
- (4) the state saves money because usually it is less expensive to pay Short term Work Schemes support than to pay unemployment benefits for the workers who otherwise would have been made redundant.
- (5) Short term work schemes help employers to retain their workers who are readily available when the economy recovers; employers therefore save a lot of costs in hiring people when the economy recovers
- (6) Short term work helps employers to adjust working hours to actual demand in situation of cyclical fluctuations



The following table provides you with an overview of short time work measures adopted during the current COVID-19 crisis. The table not only includes information on crisis-related measures but also basic information on how STW schemes work in the EU countries which we hope helps to better understand the current crisis-related measures. One note of caution, the table captures a dynamic situation which is subject to ongoing change. We therefore kindly ask the affiliates to provide us with further information on crisis-related measures that have been introduced in your country so that we can update the table.



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	Eligibility	Level of support	Length of support	Corona-induced measures
AT	<p>The STW scheme (Kurzarbeiterhilfe) applies under the following circumstances</p> <p>(1) other options need to be used (reduction of overtime, vacation entitlements and working time accounts)</p> <p>(2) A social partner agreement must be established for each company addressing: terms and conditions of the STW arrangement such as the section of the company that has been affected, duration of STW, the maintenance of the number of employees, the extent of STW payments, the level of decreased working time, and educational measures</p> <p>(3) Working time must range from at least 10% to a maximum of 90% of normal working hours.</p> <p>(4) Companies must apply for STW support six weeks before they initiate the measure (or four weeks before extending it).</p> <p>(5) Companies must consult employee reps (involving the works council) with the aim of identifying potential alternatives to STW</p>	<p>level of unemployment benefits (including social security contributions) for the non-worked hours (about 55% of the net wage) – also depending on the number of children</p>	<p>limited to six months, but if the overall situation of the company has not changed, the eligibility time can be extended for another six months. Overall, the maximum is set to 24 months</p>	<p>Collective Agreement between WKO and ÖGB increasing the amount of STW support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 90% of the net wage if the gross was 1.700 EUR or less ➤ 85% of the net wage if the gross wage was between 1.700 and 2.685 EUR ➤ 80% of net wage if gross wage between 2.685 and 5370 EUR. <p>Calculation of support is based on average net wage of the last 13 weeks / 3 months before the start of STW (including all wage supplements)</p>
BE	<p>The temporary unemployment scheme (Tijdelijke werkloosheid) applies to employees during an economic downturn, and to those whose employability has been impacted by bad weather or an unforeseen event if the following conditions apply:</p> <p>(1) all recuperation days need to be used up</p> <p>(2) a collective agreement must exist</p>	<p>Since January 2016, workers receive 65% of their salary regardless of their family situation.</p> <p>The calculation is based on the worker's last monthly wage and cannot exceed a maximum of €2,754.76 per month</p>	<p>In case of a total suspension of employment: four weeks at a time. After the period of 4 weeks it is obligatory to have at least one working week before starting a new period of suspension</p> <p>In the case of a small partial suspension the employee is obliged to work either at least 3 days per week or at least one week every two weeks. With large suspension he/she works less than 3 days a week or less than 1 week every</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>(1) Increase of STW payment from 65 to 70% until 30/06/2020. Due to large number of applications, everyone asking for it will receive a fixed amount of 1.450 euros per month.</p> <p>(2) Payment of social security contribution for companies and self-employed (due for the first two quarters of 2020) for 18 months and exemption of interest in case of late payment</p> <p>(3) Right for self-employed in the event of cessation of activities (1.582 euros for self-employed with family responsibilities).</p>



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			two weeks. The maximum duration of a small suspension is 12 months; for large suspension it is 3 months.	At regional level (Flanders): (4) Payment of energy bill by the government in case of temporary unemployment (5) Incentive bonus for those who switch to part-time work (on the top of unemployment benefits)
BG	<p>In the case of insolvencies, there is a Guarantee of Claims Fund to secure the payment of parts of the unsettled claims of the workers affected, including wages, social security contributions and other compensations., and the employee must have been in employment with the same employer for at least three months</p> <p>During the crisis in 2009 / 2010 a temporary STW measure was introduced to provide financial support for workers affected by involuntary short-time working. In case of business reasons, employers were given the right to introduce reduced working time for a period of 6 months in one calendar year. Employees on reduced working time had the right to apply for wage compensation for 4 months equal to half the minimum wage. Employees were eligible for compensation if they continued to work at least 50% of the legally defined regular working time as stipulated by the Labour Code.</p>	<p>The guaranteed support from the Guarantee of Claims Fund amounts to the last six accrued but unpaid monthly wages and cash benefits in the last 36 calendar months preceding the month in which the decision of insolvency is entered. The amount cannot be more than the maximum amount of guaranteed claims decided by the law in the annual State budget</p>		<p>CITUB proposals:</p> <p>(1) Provision should be made for guaranteeing the earnings of temporarily unemployed workers through compensation from the state as benefits, or from the state budget, or from the Guarantee of Claims Fund, extending the possibility of reduced-income for companies to receive money from the fund.</p> <p>(2) In case of termination of work due to a state of emergency, employees should receive a monthly compensation 60 % of their gross remuneration;</p> <p>(3) The remainder of the compensation payable by the employer for the period of emergency should be paid to the employee by the employer. The employers should have the right to repay the entire remainder of the compensation within two months after the state of emergency has been cancelled.</p>
DE	<p>Short-time work scheme (Kurzarbeit)</p> <p>According to the German Social Code III (SGB III, §95-§111) STW compensation can be paid if</p> <p>(1) there is a substantial loss of working hours with loss of pay due to economic reasons or an unavoidable event and if it is temporary.</p> <p>(2) in the respective calendar month (entitlement period) at least one third of the workforce in the</p>	<p>STW compensation amounts to 60% of the net pay which the employee loses due to the working time reduction (or 67 % if the worker has at least one child)</p> <p>In 2018, STW allowance was provided for monthly wages that do not exceed</p>	<p>STW limited to a period of 12 months. Until 2015, the basic duration was 6 months. However, if exceptional circumstances on the labour market exist, the maximum duration can be extended to up to 24 months by statutory order. The latter was used during the crisis in 2009.</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>Legislation adopted in March 2020 and valid until December 2021 contains the following temporary improvements and extension of the regular STW scheme:</p> <p>(1) STW compensation will be paid if already 10 % of the workforce is affected (in contrast to one third in normal times)</p>



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	<p>enterprise is affected by a loss of remuneration of more than 10% of their monthly gross remuneration in each case</p> <p>STW needs to be based on a collective agreement, a works agreement or an individual employment contract. In companies with a works council, the latter has to agree to the use of STW in a works agreement (Betriebsvereinbarung)</p>	<p>€6,500 in western Germany and €5,800 in eastern Germany.</p> <p>In some sector there are collective agreements in place to raise the level of STW support up to 90 % of the net wage lost due to working time reductions. Such agreements mainly exist manufacturing branches such as metals or chemicals where wages are relatively high. By contrast, most low wage sectors do not have such agreements.</p>		<p>(2) a partial or even full payment of social security contributions by the Federal Employment agency (not by the employer)</p> <p>(3) the extension of STW to temporary agency workers (which are excluded from the regular scheme)</p> <p>Collective Agreements:</p> <p>On 17 March 2020, the trade union NGG and the employers' federation concluded a collective agreement for the systems-based food catering sector (Systemgastronomie) which increased STW compensation to 90 % of the lost net wages.</p>
DK	<p>The work-sharing scheme (Arbejdsfordeling) providing unemployment benefits during periods of temporary unemployment applies under the following conditions:</p> <p>(1) firms need to be covered by a collective agreement;</p> <p>(2) employers and employees must agree on reducing working hours, within a limited, low-demand period, in order to avoid redundancies.</p> <p>(3) According to the Law on Supplementary Unemployment Benefit, the employees must qualify as active job seekers</p>		<p>Work-sharing can take place over a maximum of 13 weeks. The employees can receive unemployment benefits for a minimum period of two days. Employees can work for one week and receive the unemployment benefit the following week, and so on. They could also, for instance, spend six weeks at work followed by seven weeks on benefits or vice versa.</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>More flexible arrangements for the use of work-sharing scheme: it can now be launched as soon as the job centre has been notified and there is now the possibility for companies to alternate between the types of working time distribution once a cycle of working time distribution has ended.</p> <p>Collective agreement:</p> <p>Tripartite agreement on 14 March 2020 between government, FH and employers (DA) on the introduction of a temporary wage compensation scheme for companies with employees who are at risk of redundancy. Key themes are:</p> <p>(1) the scheme will be effective from 9 March -9 June 2020</p> <p>(2) wage compensation will cover 75 % of the wage but not more than 23,000 DKK (approx. 3,000 EUR) per month and full-time employee; non-salaried employees receive 90 % of the wage</p>



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				<p>but not more than 26,000 DKK a month per full-time employee.</p> <p>(3) for the duration of the wage compensation period, the company refrains from dismissing employee for economic reasons</p> <p>(4) The individual worker for whom the company seeks wage compensation must take holiday or time off in lieu amounting to a total of five days in connection with the compensation period.</p>
ES	<p>Temporary lay-off scheme (<i>Expediente Temporal de Regulación de Empleo</i>) allows companies to temporarily dismiss workers or to reduce the working time. In those cases, working time can be reduced between 10% and 70%. Once the measure is over, workers return to their jobs according to their previous contractual conditions. Employers need to:</p> <p>(1) notify the public employment services about the initiation of the layoff process;</p> <p>(2) notify the employees' representative in writing about the opening of the consultation process. The notification must contain the following information: number and professional categories of the workers affected by the redundancy, number and professional categories of the workers normally employed during the last year, justification of the measure according to the concurrence of economic, technical, organisational or productive causes</p>	<p>Workers are entitled to unemployment benefits, while the enterprise must continue paying social security contributions. In the case of working time reduction, workers are entitled to partial unemployment benefits. The benefit may under no circumstances be less than 75% or more than 220% of the national inter-professional minimum wage applicable when eligibility to compensation begins</p>	<p>The benefit may be paid out for a maximum period of 2 years.</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>On 17 March, the government adopted a new law making many STW provisions more flexible:</p> <p>(1) simplifying the implementation procedure temporary lay-off scheme and shortening the employee consultation time to 7 days;</p> <p>(2) Covid-19 related temporary lay-offs scheme will be considered as a 'force majeure' and as such employees will receive full unemployment benefits.</p> <p>(3) For reduced working situations, companies will pay the salary for the time worked, and the public employment services will pay the rest;</p> <p>(4) Public schemes will fully cover social contributions for small businesses (independent workers with a small number of employees) and SMEs, and they will cover 75% of the contributions for companies with 50 or more staff</p>
FI	<p>Temporary lay-off scheme (<i>Lomautus</i>)</p> <p>Applies to situation in which:</p> <p>(1) the employer could (as an alternative to the temporary layoff) dismiss the employee because the work to be offered has diminished substantially</p>	<p>During 4 consecutive weeks the allowance paid plus 50% of the income are at most the same as the full allowance payable over the same period.</p>	<p>Maximum of 36 months</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>The government will allow self-employed and freelancers access to unemployment benefit during the crises.</p>



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	<p>and permanently due to financial or production-related reasons, or for reasons arising from reorganisation of the employer's operations; or</p> <p>(2) the work or the employer's potential to offer work has diminished temporarily (expected duration maximum 90 days);</p> <p>(3) the employer cannot reasonably provide the employee with other suitable work or training.</p> <p>The temporary layoff can be either on a full-time basis, or it can involve a reduction in regular working hours.</p> <p>Persons who work more than 75% of normal full-time hours in the sector during a review period are not entitled to an adjusted unemployment allowance</p>			<p>Joint trade union and employers proposal (18 March 2020):</p> <p>State to assume obligation to pay remuneration in exceptional circumstances:</p> <p>(1) if the suspension of work is due to a decision by an authority the state should cover the employees' loss of earnings for the duration of the suspension, but not for more than 14 days.</p> <p>(2) In cases where, due to a decision of another authority, work is prevented or a school or kindergarten of a child under 12 years of age is closed, the employee's loss of earnings for the duration of the obstacle is fully compensated from state funds.</p> <p>(3) The state should contribute to the funding of lay-off allowances for a limited period up to the end of 2020, by funding a portion of the basic earnings-related allowance.</p>
FR	<p>The partial unemployment scheme (Activité partielle) applies if the reduction or the temporary suspension of activity is due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the economic situation - supply difficulties - a disaster or weather conditions of an exceptional nature - the transformation, restructuring or modernisation of the company - or any other exceptional circumstance <p>Before placing its employees under partial activity, the company must ask the labour inspectorate for authorisation. The labour inspectorate has 15 days to answer.</p>	<p>(1) Workers receive 70% of their gross hourly wage (approximately 84% of the net hourly wage);</p> <p>(2) The remuneration cannot go below the statutory minimum wage;</p> <p>(3) Workers in training receive 100% of the net hourly wage.</p> <p>(4) The employer receives an allowance jointly from the state and the unemployment insurance body. For a company with fewer than 250 workers this is €7.74 per hour per worker; for a company with more than 250 workers this is €7.23 per hour per worker.</p>	<p>Partial activity is allowed for a maximum period of 6 months, with the option to renew it once.</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>On 18 March the Council of Ministers adopted an 'Emergency bill to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic', that also affects the temporary unemployment scheme by including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) an extension to new categories of beneficiaries; (2) a reduction in income losses for employees, the remainder borne by employers, and the self-employed, via different arrangements for implementing the legislation; (3) improved links with vocational training; (4) improved assessment of the situation of part-time employees.



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GR	<p>A temporary lay-off scheme was introduced in 2010.</p> <p>(1) the temporary lay-off cannot be longer than three months annually and at the end of the three-months period, the same employee cannot be temporarily laid off for at least another 3 months.;</p> <p>(2) the relevant employee representation structures must be consulted;</p> <p>(3) The relevant departments of the labour inspectorate (SEPE), the Social Insurance Foundation (IKA) and the Labour Force Employment Organisation (OAED) must be notified</p>	<p>During the period of temporary layoff, salaried employees receive 50% of the average of their full employment earnings for the previous two months. When the employer temporarily dismisses salaried employees, OAED pays those who remain unemployed while dismissed 10% of the average of their regular full employment earnings for the previous two months</p>	<p>These allowances are paid for a maximum of three months every year.</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>On 18 March the government announced the following measures providing support for SMEs and maintaining employment:</p> <p>(1) a allowance of €800, at the start of April (in compensation for March) for all workers whose employment contracts have not been renewed, and for those being placed on partial unemployment;</p> <p>(2) State will cover social security benefits, pensions, and health care costs for these employees as well as their social contributions;</p> <p>(3) For all those in quarantine and self-isolation, tax payments will be suspended for four months. All these measures will also apply to freelance professions and self-employed.</p>
HU	<p>In the context of the economic crisis 2009 / 2010 the Hungarian government set up three STW schemes for employees of firms hit by the downturn working reduced hours. A precondition for participation in STW schemes was that the company has to retain its employees (or at least the number of its employees) for at least twice of the period of the support.</p>	<p>Employers were reimbursed social security contributions and up to two times the minimum wage for hours not worked.</p> <p>Training costs were also supported up to 80% of the expenses and 80% of the lost wages</p>	<p>Support in all schemes was available for up to 12 months</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>On 16 March, prime minister Viktor Orbán announced a series of economic measures to support businesses:</p> <p>(1) exemption from social security contributions during this period for the sectors most affected by the pandemic, such as tourism, restaurants, entertainment venues, sports, cultural services and transport;</p> <p>(2) relaxation of labour regulations in order to facilitate agreements between employees and employers</p>
IE	<p>On 15 March 2020 the government introduced the new COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment applying to both self-employed and employees. Also entitled are temporarily laid off employees due to a reduction in business activity. Employees who are on short-time work as a</p>	<p>(1) The payment of the new COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment scheme is €203 per week</p> <p>(2) The amount of STW support paid depends on the social security contributions paid by the employee</p>	<p>STW support is paid for a maximum of 234 days</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>Introduction of COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 15 March 2020</p>



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	consequence of a reduction in business activity can apply for short-time work benefits – to qualify for STW support the employee must work 3 days per week or less			
IT	<p>There are different measures in place for short-time work allowances:</p> <p>(1) Ordinary Wages Guarantee Fund – CIGO (<i>Cassa integrazione guadagni ordinaria</i>)</p> <p>(2) Extraordinary Wages Guarantee Fund – CIGS (<i>Cassa integrazione guadagni straordinaria</i>)</p> <p>The CIGO can be activated in case of suspension of, or reduction in, working activities due to temporary events that cannot be ascribed to the company. The CIGS can be activated under the following conditions:</p> <p>(a) business restructuring for a maximum period of 24 months over a five-year period;</p> <p>(b) business crisis for a maximum of 12 months;</p> <p>In addition to this legal measures there are bilateral measures put in place by an agreement between trade unions and employers:</p> <p>(1) Solidarity contracts as wage guarantee instruments with the aim to avoid, in whole or in part, staff reductions through a reduction in employees' working hours.</p> <p>(2) Solidarity funds to cover those sectors, types of companies or types of workers (such as craft and temporary agency workers) not covered by CIGO and CIGS. They aim at protecting workers' income in case of suspension or termination of working activity.</p>	<p>CIGO provides for 80% of previous earnings for hours not worked between 24 and 40 hours a week, with a fixed maximum decided each year by the National Institute for Social Protection (INPS).</p> <p>CIGS also amounts to 80% of total pay for hours not worked, from 0 to 40 hours per week. The benefit is capped in the same way as the CIGO</p> <p>In the case of Solidarity contracts the income support disbursed by the State (via the INPS) is equal to 60% (up to 75%) of the pay lost because of the reduction in working hours</p>	<p>CIGO measures have a maximum duration of 13 weeks, which can be extended up to 52 weeks.</p> <p>CIGS allowances are paid for a maximum period of 12 months in case of company crisis, 24 months for reorganisation, restructuring and industrial reconversion, 18 months in case of bankruptcy.</p> <p>Solidarity contracts usually run for a maximum time span of 24 months, which can be extended up to 36 months</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>On 16 March 2020, the government adopted a bill which includes the following key issues:</p> <p>(1) Extension of the scope of CIGO and CIGS to all workers, all sector and all regions and it will also include companies with fewer than five employees. Affected companies will be able to access this provision for a maximum period of nine weeks.</p> <p>(2) Extraordinary parental leave of two weeks paid at 50% of salary for one parent and only for children under 12 years of age. For children aged 12-16 the leave can still be taken but will be unpaid. Alternatively families are entitled to €600 for child care (up to €1,000 for front line medical and law enforcement staff and public order services). These measures also apply to independent workers registered with their specific INPS scheme (<i>gestione separata</i>).</p> <p>(3) Compensation for independent workers of €600 tax-free for March. A specific €300 million fund is also being set up for those not eligible for the €600, such as those in liberal professions (freelance workers).</p> <p>Collective Agreement:</p> <p>On 14 March 2020, trade unions and employers adopted a 13-point joint protocol, which defines procedures and operational guidelines to combat</p>



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				and contain the spread of the coronavirus and to protect workers at the workplace On 16 March trade unions and employers in the banking sector concluded a similar agreement to protect workers.
LT	<p>There is a guarantee fund which in the case of the employer's insolvency provides compensation for workers.</p> <p>During the crisis in 2009 / 2010 an amendment to the Law on Employment Promotion provided for the possibility to combine STW and public works during idle time. Under these measures, those companies which announce reductions in working time were able to organize public work for their employees and receive wage subsidies from the state up to 100% of the remuneration for public works (based on the minimum hourly wage) and reimburse the associated social security contributions.</p> <p>Part-time employees of companies facing temporary economic difficulties can also participate in public works organised outside their company. Workers placed in part-time work as a result of economic difficulties can also receive vocational training</p>	<p>The compensation from the guarantee fund in case of insolvency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) wage compensation up to three average wages; (2) cash compensation for an unused annual holiday, equal to the minimum monthly wage; (3) severance pay, equal to two minimum monthly wages; (4) payment for idle time up to the minimum monthly wage; 		<p>Legislative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Self-employed or freelancers will get a payout 257 euros a month, if a person has paid social insurance fees at least 3 months in the last year (and does not work elsewhere by a traditional contract); (2) Working remotely is encouraged. Where workers cannot work remotely but are prohibited to go to a workplace due to safety reasons, a downtime is compensated by a guaranteed minimum monthly wage (40% by an employer + 60% by the state). Additionally, there is a newly confirmed list of special sectors, for which the state compensates 90% and the employer 10% of the minimum wage. Minimum wages are therefore guaranteed for ALL workers.
NL	<p>The existing short-time work scheme (werktijdverkorting) applied in situations outside the normal entrepreneurial risks such as fire, epidemics and floods</p> <p>Companies are eligible if there is at least 20% less work for a period of 2 to 24 weeks.</p>	<p>During STW the employee remains employed and the income usually remains the same. The employers pay for the actual hours worked and the state pays the wages for the reduced hours directly to the employer. The pension contributions continue as</p>	<p>Maximum of six weeks. Extension for another six weeks is possible after the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment checked whether the situation has improved in the meantime. Three six-week extensions are possible to an overall maximum of 4 periods and a total of 24 weeks.</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>Since 17 March 2020, the existing STW scheme has been replaced by a new Temporary Emergency Bridging Measure for Sustained Employment (<i>NOW, Noodfonds Overbrugging Werkgelegenheid</i>). NOW includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Eligible are companies which expect a loss of turnover of at least 20%;



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		usual, so pension accrual is not disrupted.		<p>(2) The actual wage support depends on the size of the loss of turnover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90% of salary if the loss is 100%; - 45% to cover a 50% loss; - 22.5% of salary if the loss is 25% <p>Upon application, the unemployment insurance agency (UWV) will pay an advance of 80% of the expected compensation and the actual loss of turnover will be determined subsequently, so any adjustments can be made.</p> <p>(3) NOW also applies to temporary workers and staff employed on zero-hour contracts;</p> <p>(4) The wage support is for three months with the possibility of an extension for another three months</p>
NO	<p>Temporary lay-off scheme (<i>Permittering</i>)</p> <p>An employer can temporarily lay-off workers if there are justifiable reasons such as low influx of orders, financial problems, need to repair machinery etc.</p> <p>The employer needs to notify the public employment authorities and to consult with the shop stewards before giving notice of temporary lay-offs.</p> <p>Employees shall be given in writing 14 days' notice of temporary lay-offs.</p>	<p>Employees are entitled to unemployment benefits in accordance to the National Insurance Act.</p> <p>In case of part-time layoffs, if working hours are reduced by less than 50%, the employee will not be entitled to unemployment benefits.</p>	<p>The temporary lay-off can be applied for 52 weeks during a period of 18 months</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>(1) Reduce the number of days that employers are obliged to pay salary to workers at temporary lay-offs, from 15 to 2 days.</p> <p>(2) At the same time temporary full pay from the date of layoff for a minimum of 20 days will be secured, the government covers the costs from day 3 to 20.</p> <p>(3) The threshold to receive unemployment benefits was reduced from 150.000 NOK to 75.000 NOK.</p> <p>(4) Introduction of a scheme that guarantees people a decent income by increasing the unemployment benefits to 80% for salaries up to 300.000 NOK and 62.4% for salaries between 300.000 and 600.000 NOK after the end of the 20 day full-pay lay off period.</p> <p>(5) Temporary agreement that self-employed and freelancers are entitled to a compensation of</p>



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				<p>80% following a calculation where the income from the past 3 years is taken into account (up to 600.000). The compensation will be valid from day 17 of the day of registered lost income.</p> <p>(6) Regardless of whether the employee is laid off, sick, at home with children or in quarantine, rights regarding salary, pay and benefits will therefore be secured. A doubling of the amount of home care compensation and at the same time reduce the days to be covered by the employer is secured to this effect.</p> <p>(7) At the same time a temporary rule entitles self-employed and free lancers to care benefits from day 4 pursuant to the same rules as for wage earners, on sick pay level for self-employed.</p>
PL	<p>In the context of the economic crisis 2009 / 2010 the government adopted the "Act on the alleviation of the impact of the economic crisis on employers" to provide support for short-time working and temporary layoffs. In the event of an employer suffering temporary financial problems, working time of employees may be reduced by up to 50% of normal working time for a period of up to 6 months. Employers can then apply for temporary state assistance covering part of the employees' remuneration.</p> <p>There is furthermore the Guaranteed Employee Benefits Fund (<i>Fundusz Gwarantowanych Świadczeń Pracowniczych</i>) which guarantees all claims of employees in the case of the employer's insolvency</p>	<p>According to the first Crisis Act an employee shall receive a salary of at least 50 per cent of the current remuneration, but no less than the applicable minimum wage.</p>		<p>Legislative measure:</p> <p>New law has been adopted on 8 March 2020:</p> <p>(1) Should business revenues fall, then the State will cover 40% of employees' gross salary amounts (up to the average salary level of PLN 2,113 (€464))</p> <p>(2) The State will cover up to 80% of the minimum wage (PLN 2,080, €455) of independent workers' incomes (with service provision contracts). 2.2 million workers are expected to be impacted by this measure.</p> <p>(3) An additional 14 days of childcare allowance for parents looking after children if schools remain closed for more than two weeks.</p> <p>The trade unions suggest further measures to specifically protect workers' incomes in the crisis:</p> <p>(1) The state shall contribute to the amount paid to the employees with the equivalent of 100 per</p>



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				<p>cent of unemployment benefit from the Guaranteed Employee Benefits Fund.</p> <p>(2) The employer shall receive a refund from the Labour Fund of part of the paid remuneration (e.g. up to 50 per cent).</p> <p>(3) Special provisions to also protect workers on civil contracts and self-employed</p>
PT	<p>The scheme for the temporary reduction of working time / suspension of employment contracts (<i>Redução dos períodos normais de trabalho/suspensão dos contratos de trabalho</i>) applies to companies in economic crisis in order to ensure the companies' economic viability and the maintenance of jobs.</p> <p>(1) the company must notify the worker representatives, but no longer requires their agreement;</p> <p>(2) the written notice period is 5 days.</p>	<p>(1) Workers receive a minimum amount equal to 66 % of the gross salary (without discounts) that they would receive if they were working normally;</p> <p>(2) the minimum is the national minimum wage and the upper limit three times the national minimum wage;</p> <p>(3) 30% of the compensatory payment is borne in by the employer and 70% by the social security institution.</p> <p>(4) During the measure the employee keeps all his/her social security benefits, which are calculated based on the normal remuneration</p>	<p>The measure can last six months - the initial six months may be extended for an additional six months as long as the employer notifies, in writing and in a substantiated manner, the worker representatives, and they do not oppose</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>Introduction of simplified STW scheme (lay off simplificado) on 16 March 2020:</p> <p>(1) companies in temporary economic difficulties (i.e. that cease their activity due to a break in the supply chain as well as those whose business records a 40% drop in turnover compared to the same period in 2019) are eligible for the new STW scheme.</p> <p>(2) the measure is treated as a reduction of working time to 0 rather than as previously a termination of the employment contract;</p> <p>(3) Workers will receive 66% of their salary up to a limit of €1,905 (i.e. three times the minimum wage). 70% of this reduced salary will be covered by social security, and the remaining 30% by the employer.</p> <p>(4) Workers can be taken off work for one month, which can be renewed six times, for a maximum of six months</p>
RO	<p>In 2011, Romania introduced a scheme for the temporary reduction of activity (<i>Reducerea temporara a activitatii</i>) to be used in cases of temporary business slowdown for economic, technological, structural or other similar reasons. There are essentially two options:</p> <p>(1) After consultation with the trade unions or</p>	<p>The allowance for technical unemployment according to option two should not be less than 75% of their usual salaries</p>		<p>Legislative measures</p> <p>On 18 March 2020, a multilateral working group at governmental level involving trade unions agreed a first plan of economic measures including the following:</p> <p>(1) Establishing part-time work, with the agreement of both parties. The employees will be</p>



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	<p>workers' representatives, the employer may reduce working time from five to four days per week, in case of business slowdown over periods exceeding 30 working days. This may come with a corresponding reduction of salary.</p> <p>(2) During business slowdown and/or temporary interruption of operations, employers may suspend the employment contract of workers. In this case, the employees who are affected must receive an allowance for technical unemployment paid by the employer. During this period, the employees must remain available for the employer. All social contributions have to be paid, except contributions to the unemployment insurance system.</p>			<p>remunerated in proportion to the time worked or according to the volume of work done;</p> <p>(2). In case the work/production needs to be stopped, with the exception of the case of technical unemployment, remuneration is made at least 2/3 of the basic salary per established time unit, but not less than the minimum wage;</p> <p>(3) In case of temporary impossibility of continuing the production activity by the unit or by its internal subdivision for objective economic reasons, the employer may announce technical unemployment, with the payment of an allowance that cannot be less than 75% of the base salary, but not more than 75% of the gross average wage stipulated by state social insurance budget for 2020;</p> <p>(4) Exemption from the payment of social and healthcare contributions for a period of 3 months for employees of companies active in the fields of tourism, transport and entertainment. Normally these contributions are paid by the employee and not the employer.</p> <p>(5) For the people in quarantine, the payment of the utility bills and the suspension for 3 months of their monthly loan payments to banks will be ensured</p>
SW	<p>Introduction of a short-time working scheme in 2013 in the aftermath of the crisis</p>	<p>(1) employees working 80% of their usual hours receive 90% of their usual wage, 80% of this to be paid by the employer and 10% by the government;</p> <p>(2) employees working 60% of their usual hours receive 85% of their wage, 65% paid by the employer and 20% by the government;</p>	<p>Maximum of 12 months</p>	<p>Legislative measures:</p> <p>On 7 April 2020, the Swedish government introduced legislation on a short-term layoff scheme: This model is similar to short-time work, but the subsidy level is significantly increased. The employers' pay costs can be reduced by half, while the worker gets at least 90 percent of the pay. 75 % of the costs will be covered by the</p>



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		(3) those working 40% of usual hours would be paid 80% of their wage, 50% paid by the employer and 30% by the government.		<p>state. The proposal has been applied from the 16th of March and it runs throughout 2020.</p> <p>Collective agreements Several collective agreements on short-term work have been signed since the 16th of March, e.g. by the social partners in the hotel and transport sectors and for white-collar workers.</p>
UK	There was no STW scheme in the UK – In March 2020 a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been introduced			<p>Legislative measures: Introduction of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which is applicable to all UK businesses in order to pay part of the employees' salary for those employees that would otherwise have been laid off during this crisis. Pre conditions:</p> <p>(1) company needs to designate affected employees as 'furloughed workers,' and notify the employees of this change</p> <p>(2) submit information to HMRC about the employees that have been furloughed and their earnings through a new online portal (HMRC will set out further details on the information required)</p> <p>(3) The state will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.</p> <p>(4) The scheme is initially intended to be run for three months can be extended.</p>



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