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Factsheet for case **AT-2020-13/585**

## Covid €100 million special fund for nursing care

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|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Country      | Austria, applies nationwide                                   |
| Time period  | Temporary, started on 24 March 2020                           |
| Type         | Legislation or other statutory regulation                     |
| Category     | Measures to prevent social hardship<br>– Access to healthcare |
| Case created | 14 April 2020 (updated 02 May 2020)                           |

### Background information

In Austria, around 33,000 persons in need of long-term care rely on personal 24-hour care workers (most often two carers per person to be cared for, which alternate in biweekly shifts), of which the vast majority (over 98%) are from abroad (mostly from Romania and Slovakia). Due to travel bans, maintaining this care has become a major problem. But also those who are cared for by family members may encounter capacity problems, as well as those in older people's homes or care homes, when staff get sick or are in quarantine. Thus, the government has announced to provide a specific Covid-Fund worth €100 million for the 460,000 persons in need of care, to be distributed among Austria's nine federal states (as nursing care lies within their competencies). It lies within the regional states' responsibility on how to invest this money. For example, some federal states have made exceptions to travel bans for care workers from the above mentioned countries.

### Content of measure

The implementation of the special funds from the 100 million € fund for those in need of long-term care will be left to the regional states.

The money is to flow into the expansion of hotlines, more staff and spatial resources. According to the Minister of Health, it would not be possible for the existing care situation to be maintained everywhere. The goal would be to “create resources so that nobody stays alone”. The federal government will make the capacities available to the states that have been freed up by the closure of the spa and nursing homes. In addition, civilian servants (Zivildienster) are used to relieve the personnel situation (see separate entry AT-2020-11/463 in this database), even if they are to be used for basic care only. At the same time, civilian

servants who were currently working in federal institutions such as museums would be assigned to organisations in need of support, e.g. in the nursing area. Institutions and people who need support would have to report their need for civil servants to the respective regional office of the Red Cross.

## Use of measure

No specific information on costs and investments are available

## Actors, target groups and funding

| Actors  | Target groups            | Funding        |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| National government<br>Other social actors (e.g. NGOs)<br>Local / regional government<br>Social insurance<br>Public support service providers | Older people<br>Disabled | National funds |

## Social partners

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Role of social partners | No involvement |
| Form of involvement     | Not applicable |

not their genuine field of work

## Sectors and occupations

This case is sector-specific.

| Economic area                               | Sector (NACE level 2)                            |
|---|--|
| Q - Human Health And Social Work Activities | Q86 Human health activities                      |
|   | Q87 Residential care activities                  |
|   | Q88 Social work activities without accommodation |

This case is occupation-specific.

| Occupation (ISCO level 2) |
|---------------------------|
|---------------------------|

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| Personal care workers |
|-----------------------|

## Sources

- 24 March 2020: Package of measures to prevent care crisis ([orf.at](https://www.orf.at))