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Factsheet for case BG-2020-15/501

COVID - 19: Assisting artists and freelancer

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Country	Bulgaria, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 10 April 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income protection beyond short-time work – Extensions of income support to workers not covered by any kind of protection scheme
Case created	12 April 2020 (updated 24 April 2020)

Background information

Free-lance artists will be entitled to one minimum wage, together with social security contributions, for the period of emergency plus one month thereafter - that is, for 3 months.

The money will be donated through the Culture Fund and will be applied for online and by mail. The criteria are to be announced. Acceptance of applications and then disbursements should start by 15 April 2020. The idea is to support the most needy artists, who have relatively lower incomes compared to others in their industry.

Content of measure

Artists who had monthly incomes of less than BGN 1,000 (€500) last year could benefit from the support. The measure will cost BGN 2,7 million (€1,35 million) to the budget of the Ministry of Culture.

More projects are being considered through the National Culture Fund, for example a drastic increase the budgets of these projects. So far, 10% of their value has been for administrative expenses. In addition, the duration of many cultural projects, which have been delayed by the pandemic, will be extended. In this way the ministry hopes to sustain art teams.

The free artists in Bulgaria are approx. 2,200 people. According to preliminary estimates, at least 50% of them will be able to benefit from the measure.

Use of measure

It is expected that around 1,200 people from the cultural field will be supported.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	Self-employed Particular professions Workers in non-standard forms of employment	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Negotiated
Form of involvement	Direct consultation

The measure was implemented after negotiations with the unions and at their insistence

Sectors and occupations

This case is sector-specific.

Economic area	Sector (NACE level 2)
R - Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	R90 Creative, arts and entertainment activities
	R93 Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities

This case is occupation-specific.

Occupation (ISCO level 2)
Legal, social and cultural professionals

Sources

- 10 April 2020: 3 минимални заплати държавна подкрепа за артистите на свободна практика (offnews.bg)

- 10 April 2020: Мерки за творци и организациите в областта на културат (mc.government.bg)