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Factsheet for case BG-2020-11/499

COVID - 19: Assistance for parents taking unpaid leave due to a state of emergency

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Country	Bulgaria, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 13 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Employment protection and retention – Income support for people in employment (e.g. short-time work)
Case created	12 April 2020 (updated 23 April 2020)

Background information

Parents of children up to 12 years of age, who due to the declared state of emergency, are taking unpaid leave of at least 20 working days for childcare at home are entitled to an additional single childcare allowance. The assistance has an allocated budget of BGN 20 million (€10 million) allocated. They could reach approximately 55,000 families, according to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. The one-time assistance amounts 375 BGN (approx. €200).

Income tested benefit: the monthly income of a family member for the month preceding the use of unpaid leave does not exceed BGN 610 (€305) (minimum working salary for 2020).

Content of measure

The family aid, which amounts 375 BGN (approx. €200), is granted if:

- Both parents / single parent enjoy continuous unpaid leave of at least 20 working days due to the inability to provide the employer with remote home work;
- Both parents / single parent do not receive:
 - Social assistance benefits under the LPA (Labour Policy Assistance);
 - other income (such as contract work);

3. Both parents / single parent are not entitled to paid leave, or it has already been realised;
4. The two parents / single parent are not included in the 60/40 compensation scheme (under Decree No. 55 of the Council of Ministers of March 30, 2020 laying down the conditions and procedure for payment of compensation to employers in order to maintain the employment of workers and emergency workers, announced by a decision of the National Assembly of 13 March 2020);
5. Both parents / single parent have been insured in the last 6 months;
6. If only one parent is on unpaid leave, the other parent shall not receive:
 - unemployment benefit, temporary disability benefit or pension (excluding disability pension);
 - compensation for use of parental leave up to 2 years;
7. The child is not placed outside the family in accordance with the Law on Child Protection;
8. The child attended kindergarten / day nursery / school before 13 March 2020;
9. There is no possibility of taking care of the child from other relatives and relatives.

Use of measure

No information available as 15 April 2020.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	Employees Children (minors) Single parents	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Consulted
Form of involvement	Direct consultation

The measure was discussed with the social partners beforehand and additional ones are currently being discussed in this direction, including an extension of the current programme.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 12 April 2020: Родители в неплатен отпуск ще получат еднократна помощ от 375 лева (www.investor.bg)
- 14 April 2020: Родители в неплатен отпуск ще получат 375 лв. еднократна помощ (www.mlsp.government.bg)