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Factsheet for case **AT-2020-10/790**

SME subsidy for teleworking - region of Styrian and Chamber of Labour

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| Country | Austria, applies regionally – AT22 Steiermark |
| Time period | Temporary, 01 March 2020 - 23 April 2020 |
| Type | Legislation or other statutory regulation |
| Category | Protection of workers at the workplace – Teleworking arrangements, remote working |
| Case created | 25 April 2020 (updated 06 May 2020) |

Background information

The public health measures taken as a response to the spread of the corona virus, have forced several thousands of companies in Styria to resort to telework. It is important to take flexible paths - from management to production and working methods to sales and communication internally and externally. The goal of this initiative is to maintain operations, secure jobs - and at the same time protect the health of customers and employees. For this reason, the regional government of Styria (Land Steiermark, with its support service provider SFG) and the Chamber of Labour in the region of Styria (AK Steiermark) have started their promotion campaign 'Teleworking! Offensive' retrospectively from 1 March 2020.

Content of measure

The campaign supports the set up of temporary teleworking places financially. These are investments in information and communication technology for workplaces outside the company location. This includes some hardware and software, the initial start-up and licenses.

For the incurred expenses, a 50% from the regional state, and another 30% come from AK Steiermark can be received as non repayable grants. Alternatively, the rent or lease of equipment is supported by covering down payments or costs for a maximum of five months.

Costs for the ongoing operation of internet access, telephone, electricity etc., but also office and business

equipment, such as furniture etc are not covered.

The maximum eligible costs are €50,000 per company and €5,000 per teleworker (average view). The grant volume must be between €1,000 and €40,000.

In total funds for supporting 2,300 teleworking jobs have been set up.

Eligible are employers in Styria who are classified as SMEs. Excluded are one-person microenterprises, tourism and leisure businesses, nonprofit organisations, healthcare companies and people outside the SFG target group.

Use of measure

Between 1 April 2020 and 15 April 2020, 550 applications were received. On 22 April, over 1,000 applications were registered.

On 23 April, the funds were used and applications for the subsidy no longer possible.

Actors, target groups and funding

| Actors | Target groups | Funding |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Trade unions Local / regional government Public support service providers | SMEs | Regional funds Trade union |

Social partners

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Role of social partners | Agreed (outcome) |
| Form of involvement | Other |

The Chamber of Labour (AK), an employee interest representation was involved in the design of the initiative and also funds 30% of the costs.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 15 April 2020: New funding actions to support businesses (Neuer Foerderung fuer Unternehmen) - SFG (www.sfg.at)
- 22 April 2020: Teleworking offensive: over 1,000 applications (Telearbeitsplatz-Offensive: Über 1.000 Anträge) (steiermark.orf.at)
- 23 April 2020: Styria: Teleworking offensive - budget exhausted! (Steiermark: Telearbeitsplatz-Offensive - Budget ausgeschöpft!) (www.regionews.at)
- 25 April 2020: Tele!Arbeit (www.sfg.at)