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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, started on 01 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Direct or indirect financial support
Case created	25 April 2020 (updated 26 April 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 March 1st 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 percent from the regional state, and another 30 percent 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, e.g. furniture etc are not covered.

The max. eligible costs are EUR 50,000 per company and EUR 5,000 per teleworker (average view). The grant volume must be between EUR 1,000 and EUR 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 organizations, healthcare companies and people outside the SFG target group.

Use of measure

Between 1 April 2020 and 15 April 2020 550 applications were received.

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: Neuer Foerderaktion fuer Unternehmen - SFG (www.sfg.at)
- 25 April 2020: Tele!Arbeit (www.sfg.at)