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Factsheet for case BG-2020-15/501

COVID - 19: Assisting artists and freelancer

Factsheet generated on 23 April 2020, 12:58

Country	Bulgaria, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 10 April 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income support to workers and those laid off – Extensions of support to workers not covered by any kind of protection scheme
Case created	12 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 15.04.2020. The idea is to support the most needy artists, who have relatively lower incomes than others in their industry

Content of measure

Artists who had monthly incomes of less than BGN 1,000 last year could benefit from the support. The measure will cost BGN 2.7 million to the budget of the Ministry of Culture.

More projects are being considered through the National Culture Fund. Drastically increasing the budgets of these projects. So far, 10% of their value has been for administrative expenses. It will now proceed to 25-30% to create sustainability. In addition, the duration of these projects, which have been delayed by the pandemic, will be extended. In this way the stability of the teams will be achieved.

The free artists in Bulgaria are approx. 2200 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	employees particular professions	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 not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 10 April 2020: 3 минимални заплати държавна подкрепа за артистите на свободна практик (offnews.bg)
- 10 April 2020: Мерки за творци и организациите в областта на културат (mc.government.bg)