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Factsheet for case FI-2020-14/448

ELY centers' business development aid to companies employing maximum five people

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Country	Finland, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 31 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Direct subsidies (full or partial)
Case created	10 April 2020 (updated 29 April 2020)

Background information

Regional ELY Centers (Centers for Economic Development, Transport and Environment) provide various types of business services (e.g. business development aid, business environment development aid, regional transport subsidies and business development services) for Finnish companies. Companies can apply to these services as usual.

In addition to the regular forms of business services, ELY Centers now grant business development aid for small companies affected by the outbreak of COVID-19. As part of its first supplementary budget, the Government increased ELY Centers grant authorisations for business development projects by EUR 50 million.

Content of measure

Business development aid granted by ELY Centers is available for companies that:

- 1) employ maximum 5 people at the time of applying. (Development aid for companies employing over five is available through Business Finland. Solo-self-employed are not eligible since a separate financing model is under development.)
- 2) are active in sectors other than agriculture, forestry, fisheries and agricultural products processing industry (there will be a separate financing model for these sectors)

3) experience market and production disturbances due to the outbreak of COVID-19

4) seek to renew and strengthen their expertise

Business development aid can be granted either for conducting a situation analysis or carrying out development measures.

Aid granted for conducting a situation analysis covers up to 80% of the costs with a maximum amount of €10,000. Aid granted for carrying out development measures covers up to 80% of the costs with a maximum amount of €100,000.

Use of measure

No information to date.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Public support service providers	Self-employed SMEs One person or microenterprises	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Not applicable
Form of involvement	Not applicable

There is no information regarding to what extent the social partners have been involved in planning out this measure. This measure was not part of the 15-point list of measures suggested by the peak level social partners in March 2020.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 20 March 2020: Social partners' proposals to help businesses in the corona crisis (akava.fi)
- 02 April 2020: ELY Centres' funding for companies in the exceptional circumstances caused by the coronavirus (www.ely-keskus.fi)
- 02 April 2020: Questions and answers regarding the coronavirus and business financing (tem.fi)