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Factsheet for case **AT-2020-16/737**

Hardship fund for SMEs - Upper Austria

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Country	Austria, applies regionally – AT31 Oberösterreich
Time period	Temporary, 16 April 2020 - 30 June 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Direct subsidies (full or partial)
Case created	20 April 2020 (updated 04 May 2020)

Background information

As a reaction to the closure of businesses and decline in revenues, the Austrian government together with the social partners have set up a nationwide hardship fund, with the aim to support small and medium sized enterprises (see AT-2020-13/212).

As the eligibility criteria in the first phase were rather strict, many companies did not obtain immediate support. This is an additional regional support initiative, funded by the Upper Austrian regional government. For all Upper Austrian. Small businesses that are unable to receive support from the Federal Government's Hardship Case Fund or the Corona Aid Fund due to federal criteria are supported by the state of Upper Austria with direct grants.

The Upper Austria. Hardship fund is processed within the framework of the general funding guidelines of the State of Upper Austria, the grants are granted as de minimis aid in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of December 18, 2013.

Content of measure

Eligible are small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs in the sense of the EU definition; with less than 50 employees and an annual turnover or an annual balance sheet of less than 10 million euros), who are a member of the Upper Austrian Chamber of Commerce and have their company or branch location in Upper Austria.

State support is provided in the form of non-repayable grants (de minimis grants). The funding is based on the amount of the fixed costs for a maximum of three months (period 16 March to 15 June 2020) and covers 25 percent of fixed costs, at a maximum of €25,000.

Fixed costs include: business rent, insurance premiums, interest expenses, operational, contractual payment obligations, license costs, payments for electricity, gas, and telecommunications.

Requirements:

- Sales decline of at least 25 percent
- The company wasn't already in distress before the COVID-19 measures
- Due to federal criteria, the applicant was unable to avail himself of funds from the Federal Government's Hardship Fund or Corona Aid Fund.

Use of measure

Not yet known.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
Local / regional government	SMEs One person or microenterprises	Regional funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Not applicable
Form of involvement	Unknown

No information available.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 20 April 2020: Upper Austrian hardship fund (www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at)