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Factsheet for case MT-2020-11/274

Person with disability benefit who can't work for medical reasons can apply for benefit

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|--------------|---|
| Country | Malta, applies nationwide |
| Time period | Open ended, started on 09 March 2020 |
| Type | Legislation or other statutory regulation |
| Category | Income protection beyond short-time work – Paid sick leave |
| Case created | 04 April 2020 (updated 01 May 2020) |

Background information

Due to COVID-19 certain groups of individuals considered at greater risk were advised not to go to work and to work from home where possible. Individuals with disability were considered to be at greater risk to COVID-19 than other groups of individuals. A benefit was created for individuals with disability who were employed in the private sector, who due to COVID-19 were advised not to go to work on medical grounds, but were also unable to work from home. To be eligible, individuals had to be advised not to go to work on medical grounds after the 8th of March 2020.

Content of measure

Individuals who are registered with Jobsplus as a person with disability and have a special ID Number or EU disability Card issued by the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, who work full or part-time in the private sector, who were medically advised to remain at home after the 8th of March 2020, and cannot work from home are eligible.

Those eligible will receive a direct payment of €166.15 per week if they work full-time or €103.85 per week if they work part-time.

Furthermore, the social security contribution will be paid, and their future contributory pension rights

safeguarded; disability assistance will continue to be received without deductions.

Use of measure

No estimates of numbers have been released but is expected to cost 2 million over 2 months initially.

Actors, target groups and funding

| Actors | Target groups | Funding |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| National government Social insurance | Disabled All companies | National funds |

Social partners

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Role of social partners | Consulted |
| Form of involvement | Direct consultation |

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact upon business, and following consultation with social partners, the government initially announced a package of measures which included the deferral of taxes and financial support to incentivise telework. Following this announcement, employer associations publicly announced that these were insufficient and would not protect their businesses or jobs, stating the government instead needed to subsidise wages. These calls continued when on the 18th March, the government announced further measures including support for those who had lost their job, the disabled (including this measure), and for employers to subsidise quarantine leave. On the 24th of March, the government announced a third package of measures which included support for wages and other measures previously announced. This third package of measures was announced by the government whilst flanked by union and employer association members. It was announced that this package was the result of tripartite consultation. Furthermore, following announcement of these further measures, employer associations announced their satisfaction with the package.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 18 March 2020: COVID-19 - Disability benefit