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Factsheet for case **EE-2020-17/355**

Subsistence support for freelancers in creative industries

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Country	Estonia, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 19 April 2020 - 31 December 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income protection beyond short-time work – Extensions of income support to workers not covered by any kind of protection scheme
Case created	07 April 2020 (updated 06 May 2020)

Background information

The cultural sector has been strongly affected by the Corona outbreak due to the restrictions on public gatherings and the cancellation of all public cultural events. The Ministry of Culture has proposed a measure to support the freelance creative persons by mitigating the conditions for applying for a support benefit. The support is paid from the Ministry to the artistic associations who use it as 1) support to creative persons engaged in a liberal profession for creative activity and 2) grants for the creative activities of creative persons. Changes to the conditions are foreseen in the Creative Persons and Artistic Associations Act, but it is dependent on the approval of the supplementary state budget which is currently being discussed by the Parliament.

Content of measure

The changes are meant for creative persons, who are not in civil service or not employed on the basis of an employment contract or similar contract, and who are active in the following artistic fields:

- 1) architecture;
- 2) audiovisual arts;
- 3) design;
- 4) performing arts;
- 5) sound arts;
- 6) literature;

- 7) visual arts or
- 8) scenography.

The changes foresee, that the support for creative persons must be used solely for creative persons support (and not for grants and trainings) until the end of 2020, in case specifically allowed by the Ministry.

Additionally, current eligibility criteria for the support will be relaxed:

- a person can apply for the support if at least two years have passed since the end of the previous support period - this restriction will be abolished
- a person cannot apply for the support if they have received other income under service contract the previous month and they cannot receive income while receiving the support - the changes will allow income in the sum of national minimum wage.

These measures will be in force during the emergency situation and six months afterwards.

A total of €5.2 million is expected to be used for the measure.

Use of measure

Currently, the regular support is paid for around 100 creative persons. It is expected that additional 1,200 persons will receive the support.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Other social actors (e.g. NGOs)	Particular professions	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	Not applicable

No information to add.

Sectors and occupations

This case is sector-specific.

Economic area	Sector (NACE level 2)
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R - Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	R90 Creative, arts and entertainment activities
	R93 Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 05 April 2020: Measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 virus outbreak in culture and audiovisual sector in Estonia (www.kul.ee)