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Factsheet for case CY-2020-12/343

Special scheme for self-employed workers

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Country	Cyprus, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 16 March 2020 - 12 June 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 Scheme addresses self-employed workers who have fully suspended their operations and self-employed workers who have partially suspended their operations in accordance with the Decree 127 of the Quarantine Law, Chapter 260 of the Minister of Health. It excludes self-employed workers that their financial activity has not been particularly affected by the crisis such as doctors, pharmacists, operators of medical appliances, grocers, kiosk owners, manufactures of daily products and veterinarians.

* On Wednesday 8 April, the President of the Republic announced the decision of the Cabinet to extent the measure up until 12 June 2020. Currently, the Ministry of Labour undertakes a legal and technical processing of the measure.

Content of measure

The basic prerequisite for participation in the Scheme is that no employee have been fired since 1 March 2020. Additionally, participants in the scheme should not dismiss any employee during the period of participation, during an additional period equal to the period of participation and plus an extra month.

The special allowance will be equal to the 60% of the amount of the weekly total of insurable earnings, based on which the beneficiary had the obligation of paying contributions to the Social Insurance Fund for the fourth trimester of 2019.

The allowance cannot amount less than 300 euros to a period of 4 weeks with the maximum limit of 900 euros for the same period.

Self-employed who employ other workers may also submit on behalf of their employees an application for the Schemes for Complete or Partial Suspension of operations.

Use of measure

The estimation is that 40,000 self-employed workers may be benefited from the Scheme. The total budget available is 20 million euros.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Social partners jointly Trade unions Employers' organisations Social insurance	Self-employed Solo-self-employed One person or microenterprises Other businesses	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Agreed (outcome)
Form of involvement	Direct consultation

The government has consulted social partners - trade unions, employers' organizations, political parties - and the emerged measure is an outcome of an agreed base.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 07 April 2020: Special scheme for self-employed workers (www.coronavirus.mlsi.gov.cy)