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Factsheet for case FI-2020-17/540

State-funded unemployment security during the waiting period

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Country	Finland, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 20 April 2020 - 06 July 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income protection beyond short-time work – Income support for unemployed
Case created	13 April 2020 (updated 20 April 2020)

Background information

According to sections 7 and 5 of the Unemployment Security Act (Työttömyysturvalaki) (1290/2002), labour market subsidy and basic or earnings-related unemployment allowance can be paid out after a job-seeker has been unemployed or temporarily laid-off for 5 working days.

Some of the COVID-19 related temporary amendments to the Finnish labour market regulation have weakened the possibilities of employees to prepare for unemployment. As a result of this, temporary amendments to the Unemployment Security Act and other related Acts have been made. These amendments remove the waiting period in the sense that job-seekers will receive benefits from day one of the unemployment period. During this period, the state will cover for the expenses (after the waiting period unemployment funds will cover parts of the earnings-related unemployment allowance of their members).

Content of measure

This measure applies to all job-seekers. As for usual, persons who are laid off temporarily or dismissed (either for personal reasons or financial or production-related reasons) need to register with the TE-services as unemployed job-seekers on the first day of the lay-off or unemployment period.

Also during the waiting period the amount of financial support is dependent on whether the job-seeker is a

member of an unemployment fund and meets the specific criteria (temporary changes due to COVID-19 has been made) and can apply for earnings-related or basic unemployment allowance or not. Those who do not qualify for earnings-related or basic unemployment benefit receive labour market subsidy.

The temporary removal of the waiting period applies to cases where the waiting period has started between 16 March 2020 and 7 July 2020.

Use of measure

No information to date.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Social insurance	Unemployed	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Consulted
Form of involvement	Direct consultation

Peak-level social partners have been consulted.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 02 April 2020: Hallituksen esitys eduskunnalle laeiksi työttömyysturvalain, työttömyysetuuksien rahoituksesta annetun lain ja työttömyyskassalain väliaikaisesta muuttamisesta (www.eduskunta.fi)
- 09 April 2020: Unemployment benefit in the coronavirus situation (www.kela.fi)