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Factsheet for case **PL-2020-14/805**

Financial shield: small and medium enterprises

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Country	Poland, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, started on 01 April 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Direct subsidies (full or partial)
Case created	30 April 2020 (updated 05 May 2020)

Background information

In mid-April the parliament passed into legislation another set of measures aiming to help enterprises go through the unfolding economic slowdown triggered by the COVID-19 public health crisis. The Act amending the Act on the System of Development Institutions facilitate a public support programme commonly referred to as the Financial Shield, operated by the Polish Development Fund (Polski Fundusz Rozwoju). The programme is divided into specific sub-sets of measures targeting 1) micro, 2) small and medium firms and 3) large firms.

Ustawa z dnia 4 lipca 2019 r. o systemie instytucji rozwoju („Ustawa o SIR”), znowelizowana ustawą z dnia 31 marca 2020 r. o zmianie ustawy o systemie instytucji rozwoju.

Content of measure

The programme relies on a scheme of advanced payables offered to small and medium firms (10 to 249 employees) with annual turnover of no more than 50 million EUR (or balance sheet total not higher than 43 million EUR). Eligible are the enterprises which: experienced decrease in sales by at least 25% experienced on a month-to-month basis after 1 February 2020 (or to the same month of the preceding year) due to COVID-19 outbreak; are not in administration or liquidation procedure; had tax residency in Poland and paid taxes for two previous fiscal years; held operations on 31 December 2019; had all social securities duly paid as of 31 December 2019. The scale of support: total allocation of 50.000.000.000 PLN and up to do 3,5 mln PLN per beneficiary for three years (up to 75% of the amount loaned can be annulated after 12 months).

Use of measure

Some 670 thousand enterprises altogether (both micro and small and medium) can be possibly covered.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	SMEs	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	No involvement

Social partners not involved, employer organisations critical of measures as insufficient

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 31 March 2020: The Act of 31 March 2020 amending the Act on the System of Development Institutions (prawo.sejm.gov.pl)