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Factsheet for case **BE-2020-13/422**

Wallonia: Financial support for SME's

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Country	Belgium, applies regionally – BE3 RÉGION WALLONNE
Time period	Open ended, started on 25 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Direct subsidies (full or partial)
Case created	09 April 2020 (updated 30 April 2020)

Background information

The Walloon regional government provides financial support for small companies (less than 50 employees) in certain sectors that are facing cashflow problems due to the Corona virus. The measure provides a direct financial contribution to companies that are forced to close due to the Corona virus or the associated measures. The financial support is also provided to companies that experience a significant decrease in revenue due to the Corona virus or related measures.

Content of measure

The region has set up an emergency fund of approximately 233 million euro to aid the sectors and companies that have been directly impacted by the Corona virus and/or associated measures.

Eligible companies that are forced to close due to the crisis can avail of a single tax-free payment of €5000 to support them.

In addition, a lower amount, €2500, is available for companies that notice a significant reduction in revenue because of the situation.

In addition there are also guarantees available through the regional government and loans of up to €200 000.

The following sectors are eligible :

Washing and polishing of motor vehicles

Retail

Other passenger land transport

Accommodation

Eating and drinking establishments

Other activities of specialised designers

Rental and leasing of tents

Rental and leasing of crockery, glassware, kitchen utensils, tableware, electric household appliances and other household utensils

Travel agencies, tour operators, reservation service and related activities

Organisation of congresses and fairs

Driving schools

Specialised image, lighting and sound techniques

Other personal services (laundry, hairdresser, beauty care, ...)

Fairground attractions

Tourist attractions

Use of measure

Approximately 48 890 small businesses are eligible (small and in the designated sector) for the single payment of €5000 due to closure.

In addition approximately 6015 companies are able to apply for the lower compensation of €2500 because of a significant reduction activity/revenue.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
Local / regional government	Sector specific set of companies SMEs	Regional funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Informed
Form of involvement	Unknown

It is to be expected that social partners were at least informed of the measures, their concrete involvement is unclear.

Sectors and occupations

This case is sector-specific (only private sector).

Economic area	Sector (NACE level 2)
G - Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	G47 Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H - Transportation And Storage	H49 Land transport and transport via pipelines
I - Accommodation And Food Service Activities	I55 Accommodation
	I56 Food and beverage service activities
R - Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	R90 Creative, arts and entertainment activities
	R93 Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities
S - Other Service Activities	S96 Other personal service activities

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 18 March 2020: RTL (www.rtl.be)