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Factsheet for case **HR-2020-18/775**

## Interest-free loans for liquidity protection of entrepreneurs in the tourism Direct interest-free loans for entrepreneurs in tourism sector

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Country	Croatia, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 01 May 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Access to finance
Case created	23 April 2020 (updated 24 April 2020)

### Background Information

The government of the Republic of Croatia through its measures so far has paid great attention to all economic segments whose business activity has been reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic, and especially to tourism as one of the most important economic sectors in Croatia.

The Ministry of Tourism and the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR) have concluded a "Business Cooperation Agreement on the Implementation of Liquidity Assurance Measures for Entrepreneurs in the Tourism Sector", which enabled the approval of HBOR's direct interest-free loans.

Through this line of credit up to HRK 600 million (€ 80 million) will be available to entrepreneurs in tourism sector, in order to preserve jobs, maintain liquidity and be ready to continue their active and successful business. Recognizing the fact that these are entrepreneurs who in many cases own pledged real estate or lack sufficient insurance in the form of real estate and movable property, as an additional convenience, it is possible to approve loans with smaller requirements for classic collateral, which will replace the insurance policies issued by the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development or guarantees of the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO).

## Content of measure

The Ministry of Tourism and the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development have concluded a Business Cooperation Agreement on the implementation of liquidity measures for entrepreneurs in the tourism sector. The Agreement contains the approval of the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development for direct interest-free loans. The signed agreement stipulates that the Ministry of Tourism will provide funds in the amount of HRK 26 million (€ 3.47) for interest rate subsidies of up to two percentage points for crediting the liquidity of entrepreneurs in tourism activities whose business suffers because of the COVID-19.

The funds are intended for subsidised lending to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises with registered accommodation activities (hotels, resorts, camps, other accommodation), food and beverage service activities (restaurants, catering, other food preparation and service activities), renting water transport vehicles and travel agencies and tour operators. The loan application will be submitted directly to the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which will also grant the funds for up to five years with the possibility of using the grace period of up to one year. The interest rate, thanks to subsidy funds, can be zero percent for the repayment period of up to three years, and in the fourth and fifth repayment years the interest rate can be 1.5 percent (the interest rate depends on state aid regulations). The minimum loan amount that can be applied for is EUR 100 thousand and the highest is limited to EUR 1.25 million in HRK equivalent. The funds can be used to finance salaries, overheads and other basic operating expenses, preparation of the tourist season, and settlement of liabilities to suppliers and other expenses, except for credit obligations to commercial banks, other financial institutions or VAT liabilities.

## Use of measure

Not yet known at this stage.

## Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	Sector specific set of companies SMEs One person or microenterprises	National funds

## Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	No involvement

Due to the nature of the measure social partners were not involved.

## Sectors and occupations

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

Economic area	Sector (NACE level 2)
I - Accommodation And Food Service Activities	I55 Accommodation
	I56 Food and beverage service activities

This case is not occupation-specific.

## Sources

- 17 April 2020: Beskamatni krediti poduzetnicima u turističkim djelatnostima ([www.hgk.hr](http://www.hgk.hr))