



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CINÉMAS
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CINEMAS

UNIC RESEARCH

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the European cinema industry

UNIC collected detailed information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the European cinema industry across the 39 territories it represents. The information below covers the period between March 2020 to July 2022, when restrictions on social cinema-going were broadly lifted across Europe. Please contact UNIC if you need additional details about some of the elements included in this research – communications@unic-cinemas.org

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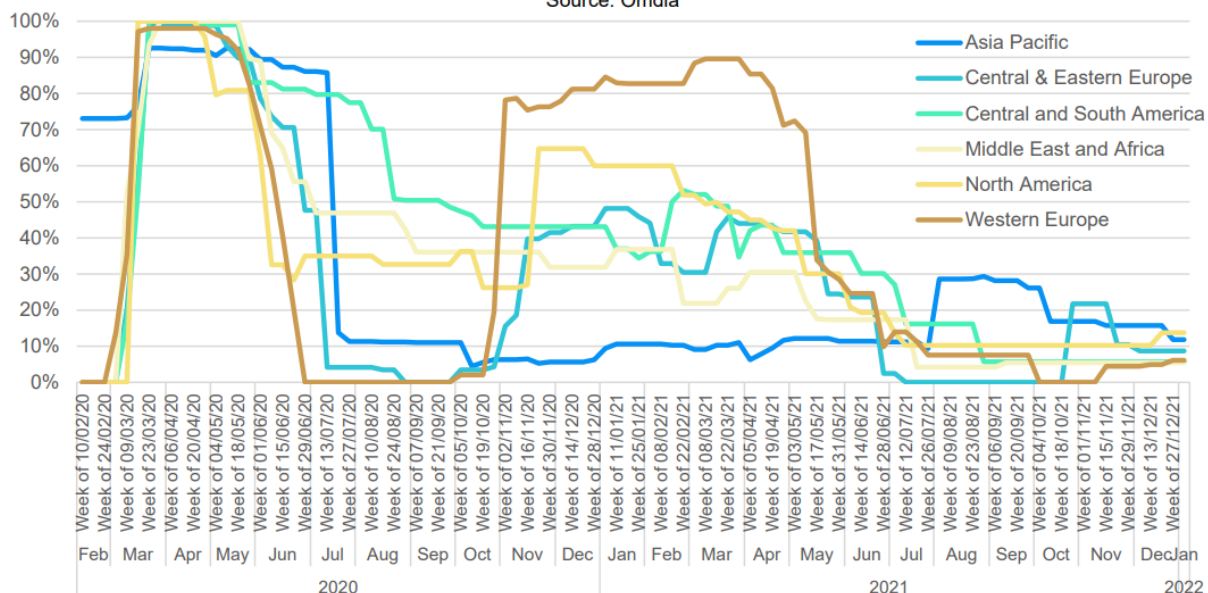
1. PERIODS OF CLOSURE IN 2020-2022

SUMMARY

The vast majority of cinemas across Europe were officially closed by Government order from mid-March 2020, excepting Italy (with almost 50% closed from 23 February), Russia (all closed from 31 March), Sweden (only partly closed) and Belarus (never closed). Overall, less than 2% of the 43,000 screens in Europe were operating until Q2 2020, when cinemas started reopening. Most European markets reopened by July 2020, with a few territories only reopening in September 2020. A second closure round followed in October 2020. A few territories reopened briefly in December-January or in the Q1 2021 – in some cases temporarily. Most territories started reopening in Q2 2021, with all UNIC territories reopened by July 2021. Restrictions including limited occupancy and COVID-19 certificates were broadly enforced across Europe until Q1 2022, with almost all restrictions lifted by July 2022.

Percentage of Cinema Screens Closed by Region, By Week in 2021⁴⁴

Source: Omdia



Source: *MPA Theme Report 2021*

COUNTRY	CLOSURE DATES	TIMELINE
ALBANIA	23 March to 23 June 2020	Cinemas were allowed to reopen on 23 June 2020 but only effectively reopened in late October.
AUSTRIA	16 March to 29 May 2020	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 16 March and reopened on 29 May 2020 - originally planned for 1 July, the reopening date was brought forward. Most cinemas reopened by mid-June.
	3 Nov. 2020 to 19 May 2021	SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Austria entered a second lockdown from 3 November 2020. One federal State, Vorarlberg, allowed cultural institutions to reopen under strict regulations in late March 2021. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 19 May.
	22 Nov. 2021 to 13-17 Dec. 2021	

		<p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Austria became the first country in Western Europe to reimpose a full lockdown from 22 November 2021 and to require its whole population to be vaccinated as of February 2022. The lockdown was extended by 10 days, bringing its total duration to 20 days. Austria lifted its wider general lockdown on 10 December and cinemas reopened on 17 December.</p>
BELGIUM	<p>14 March to 1 July 2020</p> <hr/> <p>29 Oct. 2020 to 9 June 2021</p> <hr/> <p>26-29 December 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 14 March and allowed to reopen from 1 July.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES From 19 October 2020, F&B sales in cinema were banned. From 24 October, curfews were introduced across the country. Brussels closed its cinemas from 26 October, Flanders following on 28 October before a national lockdown from 29 October. Cinemas reopened on 9 June 2021.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES It was announced on 23 December 2021 that the cultural sector would be required to close from 26 December until the end of January. This decision was highly criticised by public figures as well as the scientific community. The restrictions were lifted on 29 December following a ruling of the Belgian Council of State on 28 December. Several independent cinemas remained opened during that short span, with the support of local authorities, and all cinemas reopened by 1 January 2022.</p>
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	<p>13 March to 14 May 2020</p> <hr/> <p>March-May 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 13 March 2020. Bosnian entities applied different restrictions. Republika Srpska reopened most businesses from 11 May 2020. Federal authorities announced that cinemas could reopen from 14 May. Most reopened in June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 13 March 2021 in Sarajevo and from 21 March in Republika Srpska. Cinemas were allowed to reopen in April 2021 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 10 May 2021 in Republika Srpska. All cinemas effectively reopened in late May 2021.</p>
BULGARIA	<p>13 March to 11 May 2020</p> <hr/> <p>30 Nov. 2020 to 31 Jan. 2021</p> <hr/> <p>22-31 March 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 13 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 11 May, with most effectively reopening by mid-June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were ordered to shut on 30 November 2020 and allowed to reopen from 31 January 2021.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p>

		Bulgarian malls – where most local cinemas were located – were required to close from 22 March 2021. Cinemas across the country were allowed to reopen from 1 April.
CROATIA	17 March to 20 August 2020	Cinemas were required to close from 17 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 18 May, with those located in shopping malls having to wait until 15 June. All decided to reopen from 20 August 2020.
CYPRUS	16 March to 17 Sept. 2020 11 Dec. 2020 to 10 May 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 16 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 17 September 2020. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were closed from 11 December 2020 and allowed to reopen from 8 February 2021, but existing restrictions made it impossible to operate. A new lockdown was introduced from 26 April until 9 May 2021. Most cinemas reopened by the end of May.
CZECH REPUBLIC	12 March to 11 May 2020 12 Oct. 2020 to 24 May 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 11 May 2020. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 October 2020 and allowed to reopen from 24 May. Because of a ban on F&B sales inside malls, most local multiplexes only reopened in June.
DENMARK	12 March to 21 May 2020 16 Dec. 2020 to 6 May 2021 19 Dec. 2021 to 16 Jan. 2022 LOCAL CLOSURES 6 November to 3 Dec. 2020 (North Jutland)	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Danish cinema operators decided to close from 12 March 2020, before being forced to do so by the Government on 18 March. Most shops reopened from 11 May, with cinemas allowed to reopen from 21 May. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES From 6 November 2020, a regional shutdown was announced in seven municipalities in North Jutland. All cinemas were ordered to close from 16 December and allowed to reopen from 6 May 2021. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES A third lockdown was introduced on 19 December 2021 until 17 January 2022.
ESTONIA	12 March to 1 June 2020 28 Dec. 2020 to February 2021 1 March 2021 to 24 May 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 March 2020 and reopened from 1 June 2020, with some sites waiting for early July. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES New restrictions, including the closure of cinemas, were introduced in December 2020 at local level, resulting in the closure of most cinemas by the end of the year. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from early February 2021. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES

		Cinemas were required to close from 1 March 2021 and allowed to reopen from 24 May.
FINLAND	18 March to 1 June 2020 December 2020 to June 2021 December 2021 to February 2022	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES The Government declared a ban on gatherings of 10 persons from 18 March but specified that cinemas were not forced to close. All cinemas decided to close after the announcement. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June and effectively did so by July 2020. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES A national lockdown was enforced from December 2020. From 23 April, cinemas were allowed to operate across the country but with a strict 10 people capacity limits. Most cinemas remained closed until June 2021. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES 5 major regions required cinemas to close from December 2021. All other regions had a 10, 20, or 50 capacity limit, significantly limiting operations. From mid-February 2022, Finnish cinemas were allowed to reopen.
FRANCE	14 March to 22 June 2020 30 Oct. 2020 to 19 May 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 14 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 22 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 30 October 2020 and allowed to reopen from 19 May 2021.
GERMANY	14-18 March to 15 May - 30 June 2020 2 Nov. 2020 to 10 May - 1 July 2021 (national) Nov-Dec. 2021 to Dec. 2021 – 14 Jan. 2022 (local)	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES The decision to close cinemas was made by local State authorities, with different start and end dates applied across the country. Cinema were required to close between 14-18 March and reopened between 15 May and 30 June 2020. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES All cinemas were required to close from 2 November 2020. Bavarian cinemas were allowed to reopen from 10 May. Almost all cinemas effectively reopened from 1 July 2021. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES In Saxony cinemas were required to close from November until mid-December 2021. Heightened restrictions on non-vaccinated citizens in several regions meant cinemas were not operating at the end of 2021. Most cinemas were allowed to operate again by mid-January 2022.
GREECE	12 March to 29 June 2020 3 Nov. 2020 to 1 July 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 29 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 3 November 2020 and allowed to reopen from 1 July 2021.
HUNGARY	17 March to 18 June 2020 11 Nov. 2020 to	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 17 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 1 May, with the exception of

	1 May 2021	<p>Budapest and its surrounding areas. The state of emergency was lifted on 18 June and most cinemas decided to reopen from July.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES A state of emergency was introduced again in Hungary from 4 November 2020, forcing the closure of cinemas. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 May, but most reopened in June or July 2021</p>
IRELAND	16 March to 29 June 2020	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 16 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 29 June.</p>
	7 Oct. 2020 to 2 Dec. 2020	<p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Dublin cinemas were forced to close from 19 September 2020. All Irish cinemas were required to close from 7 October and allowed to reopen from 2 December 2020.</p>
	24 Dec. 2020 to 7 June 2021	<p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 March 2021 and allowed to reopen from 29 June.</p>
ITALY	23 Feb. - 8 Mar. to 15 June 2020	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Regional bans from 23 February resulted in the closure of 48% of Italian cinemas. All cinemas were required to close from 8 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 15 June.</p>
	26 October 2020 to 26 April - September 2021 (local)	<p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 26 October 2020. A few cinemas reopened from 26 April. By May 2021, between 10-15% of local sites had reopened. By June, approximately 50% had reopened. By September over 80% had reopened.</p>
KOSOVO	12 March to 1 October 2020	<p>Cinemas were required to close from 16 March and allowed to reopen from 1 October 2020 – with an initial reopening date in June 2020 cancelled.</p>
LATVIA	14 March to 12 May 2020	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 14 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 12 May. Most cinemas decided to reopen from June.</p>
	9 Nov. 2020 to 1 July 2021	<p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were forced to close from 9 November 2020 and reopened from 1 July 2021.</p>
	21 October 2021 to 15 November 2021	<p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 21 October and allowed to reopen from 15 November 2021.</p>
LITHUANIA	13 March to 31 May 2020	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 13 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 31 May. Most cinemas started reopening from mid-June to early July.</p>
	7 Nov. 2020 to 19 April 2021	<p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES On October 20, the Lithuanian Prime Minister called for a two-week “pause” in public life, asking people to avoid gatherings – cinemas were not formally required to close.</p>

		Cinemas were required to close from 7 November 2020 and allowed to reopen from 19 April 2021.
LUXEMBOURG	16 March to 17 June 2020 26 November to 11 January 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 16 March 2020 and allowed to reopen from 29 May. This decision was unexpected and cinema operators reopen from 17 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 26 November 2020 and allowed to reopen from 11 January 2021.
MALTA	16 March to 5 June 2020 4 March to 7 June 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 16 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 5 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 4 March 2021 and were allowed to reopen from 7 June.
MONTENEGRO	13 March to 1 July 2020	Cinemas were required to close from 13 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 1 June. Most reopened from early July.
NETHERLANDS	15 March to 1 June 2020 4-19 Nov. 2020 15 Dec. 2020 to 5 June 2021 19 Nov. 2021 to 25 Jan. 2022	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 15 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 1 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Six regions were under increased restrictions from 18 September 2020. The Netherlands introduced a "partial lockdown" from 14 October. Cinemas were required to close between 4-19 November 2020. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 15 December 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 5 June 2021. FOURTH ROUND OF CLOSURES The Netherlands announced a three-week partial lockdown from 13 November, not resulting in the closure of cinemas. From 28 November, cinemas were required to close by 5pm. Cinemas were required to close from 19 November 2021 and were allowed to reopen from 25 January 2022.
NORTH MACEDONIA	10 March to 24 Sept. 2020 6 April 2021 to 20 April 2021	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 10 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 24 September. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Most cinemas were forced to close again on 6 April 2021 because of a nationwide 8PM curfew. Most cinemas reopened from 20 April.
NORWAY	17 March to 7 May 2020 6 Nov. 2020 to 20 May 2021 (local)	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 7 May. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 6 November 2020 in Oslo and other municipalities until 20 May 2021.

POLAND	12 March to 6 June 2020	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 6 June.
	7 November to 12 February 2021	SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 7 November 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 12 February 2021. Many local cinemas did not reopen.
	20 March to 21 May 2021	THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Tougher restrictions were introduced in Warsaw from 15 March 2021 and later extended to more regions, forcing most cinemas to close by 20 March. Most cinemas reopened on 28 May.
PORTUGAL	16 March to 1 June 2020	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 16 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 1 June.
	15 January to 19 April 2021	SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 15 January 2021 and were allowed to reopen from 19 April 2021.
ROMANIA	12 March to 1 Sept. 2020	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 12 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 1 September, most effectively reopening by the end of the month.
	7- 15 Oct. 2020 (local)	SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were ordered to close again in several Romanian cities, including Bucharest, from 7 October until 15 October 2020.
	20 October – November 2020 to January 2021	THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas located in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Râmnicu Vâlcea were required to close again from 20 October, with cinemas closing across the country in November. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from January 2021.
	March-May 2021	FOURTH ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from March 2021 and were allowed to reopen from May.
RUSSIA	26 March to 15 July 2020	FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 26 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 15 July. Formal reopening decisions were made by Regional Governors, with many cinemas closed during most of 2020.
	17 October to 1 November 2020 (local)	SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Some Russian regions closed cinemas momentarily between October and November 2020, including Sevastopol.
	June-July 2021 (local)	THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Some Russian regions closed cinemas momentarily between June and July 2021, including Buryatia and Vologda regions.
	October- November 2021 (local)	FOURTH ROUND OF CLOSURES
	January- February 2022 (local)	

		<p>Moscow imposed a 10-day lockdown from 28 October until 7 November 2021. Other localised closures were reported.</p> <p>FIFTH ROUND OF CLOSURE</p> <p>Between January and February 2022, 6 out of 49 Russian regions had required cinemas to close. Other regions – including St Petersburg – introduced restrictions severely limiting operations.</p> <p>Following the start of the war in Ukraine in early 2022, at least 50% of Russian cinemas closed down. These were not monitored as part of this research.</p>
SERBIA	18 March to 24 August 2020	<p>Cinemas were required to close from 18 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 24 August.</p>
SLOVAKIA	9 March to 20 May 2020 15 October to 16 Nov. 2020 19 Dec. 2020 to 17 May 2021 25 Nov. 2021 to 14 Jan. 2022	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were required to close from 9 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 20 May. Most reopened in June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were required to close from 15 October 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 16 November.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were required to close from 19 December 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 17 May 2021. Most reopened in June.</p> <p>FOURTH ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were required to close from 25 November 2021 and were allowed to reopen from 9 December. But a cinema-going ban for unvaccinated individuals forced most cinemas to remain closed until 14 January 2022.</p>
SLOVENIA	10 March to 18 May 2020 16 October to 22 April 2021 2 May to 7 June 2021	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were required to close from 10 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 18 May.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>From 16 October, for 7 of the country's 12 regions, cinemas were required to close. Most cinemas in the country decided to close from that date until 22 April 2021.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 22 April until 2 May 2021 – for just 10 days of national “test” – with a capacity limit of 10 people per screening room and other restrictions. Only one cinema decided to reopen under these conditions. Most cinemas effectively reopened on 7 June .</p>
SPAIN	26 March to 25 May 2020 July 2020 (local) October 2020 to March 2021 (local)	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were required to close from 26 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 25 May. Cinemas located in malls were only allowed to reopen from 8 June. This process was managed on a provincial level, resulting in a staggered reopening process. Most cinemas reopened in late June.</p>

		<p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES From 18 July, the Catalan Government declared the closure of all cinemas in Barcelona and its surrounding area. On 29 July, a court ruling suspended the ban. In August 2020, 70% of Spanish cinemas had reopened.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES While theoretically allowed to operate, many Spanish cinemas closed their doors from late 2020 due to local restrictions. For example, cinemas were required to close in Catalonia from 30 October until 23 November, in Andalusia from 10 November to 10 December and in Asturias from 28 October to 3 December 2020. Throughout Q1 2021, only 40-45% of Spanish cinemas were operating, most of them only on certain weekdays. Valencia introduced a 2 people gathering limit from 24 January 2021, effectively closing cinemas. By April, the share of reopened cinemas rose to 80% and reached 90% by July 2021.</p>
SWEDEN	<p>March-May 2020 27 November to 1 June 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES The main Swedish exhibitor closed on 18 March 2020 due to official restrictions on social gatherings but many independent cinemas remained open. All cinemas were operating again from May-June 2020.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES From 16 November 2020, a ban on public events of more than 8 people was introduced. The largest local chain – representing approximately 2/3 of the market – announced the closure of its cinemas from 24 November. Most Swedish cinemas reopened from 1 June.</p>
SWITZERLAND	<p>17 March to 6 June 2020 October-December 2020 (local) 12 Dec. 2020 to 19 April 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES The closure process was managed at cantons level, with some closing their cinemas from 13 March 2020. At national level, cinemas were required to close from 17 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 6 June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Several cantons and major cities introduced restrictions resulting in the temporary closure of cinemas between October and December 2020.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES At national level, cinemas were required to close again from 12 December 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 19 April 2021.</p>
TURKEY	<p>17 March to 3 July 2020 17 November to 2 July 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 17 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 3 July. Only 60% of Turkish cinemas had effectively reopened in August and many remained shut throughout 2020.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p>

		<p>Cinemas were required to close from 17 November 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 1 June 2021. Most only reopened from 1 July.</p>
UKRAINE	<p>17 March to 2 July 2020</p> <hr/> <p>November-December 2020</p> <hr/> <p>8 January to 24 January 2021</p> <hr/> <p>March-April 2021 (local)</p> <hr/> <p>15 October to December 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 17 March 2020 and were allowed to reopen from 10 June. Cinema operators, following negotiations with local authorities, formally agreed to reopen from 2 July.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES A weekend curfew was introduced across Ukraine in November 2020, resulting in the closure of all cinemas on Saturdays and Sundays. Most cinemas decided to continue to operate during weekdays.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were closed from 8 until 24 January 2021.</p> <p>FOURTH ROUND OF CLOSURES The cities of Kiev introduced a three-week lockdown from 20 March to 9 April 2021. A similar lockdown was introduced in Lviv from March 19 to March 28.</p> <p>FIFTH ROUND OF CLOSURES Five major Ukrainian regions introduced a lockdown from 15 October. More regions of Ukraine followed in November. Major cinemas in Kiev reopened from late December 2021. Following the Russian invasion, most Ukrainian cinemas closed at the start of 2022. Many reopened in the following months. These closures were not monitored as part of this UNIC research.</p>
UNITED KINGDOM	<p>17 March to 4-27 July 2020</p> <hr/> <p>Oct./Nov. to Nov./Dec. 2020</p> <hr/> <p>Nov./Dec. 2020 to May 2021</p>	<p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 20 March 2020 – but an official announcement already forced most cinemas to close from 17 March. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 4 July 2020 in England, with most reopening by the end of July. In Northern Ireland cinemas reopened from 10 July, in Scotland from 15 July and in Wales from 27 July.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES A three-tier alert system was introduced on 12 October 2020, allowing for the introduction of localised restrictions. In Northern Ireland, gatherings were limited to 15 people from 16 October, resulting in the closure of cinemas until 11 December. In Wales, cinemas were closed between, 23 October and 9 November. In England, cinemas were closed from 5 November to 2 December, but due to localised restrictions were forced to remain closed in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Bristol. In Scotland, most cinemas closed from 2 November until May 2021.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES All cinemas located in London were required to close from 15 December 2020. Taken with other closures in the North</p>



		<p>of England, Scotland and Wales, around 20% of cinemas were operating across the country at the end of 2020. New lockdowns were introduced in late December 2020 and early January 2021, formally closing all local cinemas from 20 December in Wales, 26 December in Northern Ireland and 4 January in England. Cinemas in England, Scotland and Wales were allowed to re-open from Monday 17 May and from 24 May in Northern Ireland.</p>
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2. HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

National authorities published health and safety guidelines which differed widely from one country to another – and evolved as restrictions were eased or tightened. For this reason, UNIC did not publish official recommendations or set industry protocols. Cinema operators and their national associations developed guidelines in the first half of 2020, in collaboration with relevant public authorities. At national level, these guidelines served as industry standards consistently observed by all operators. The industry guidelines drafted in 2020 were broadly re-applied upon reopening in 2021 – taking of course into account evolving local rules – but were progressively scrapped as restrictions were eased or more clearly outlined by local authorities. Almost all COVID-19 restrictions on cinema-going were removed by Q1 2022 across Europe. For additional details about local restrictions’ timeline at local level, please reach out to UNIC.

COVID-19 certificate description:

3G: recovered, fully vaccinated or tested;

2G: recovered or fully vaccinated;

2G plus: recovered or fully vaccinated and negative test required.

COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION & CURRENT STATUS
ALBANIA	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from 1 May 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>Among other restrictions, Albania introduced a curfew from on 11 November 2020, from 10PM to 6AM. From June 2021, the curfew moved to 11PM. Most restrictions were lifted in May 2022.</p>
AUSTRIA	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from 1 June 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, occupancy limit was set at 250 people per room from reopening, increased to 500 from August 2020. Mask-wearing was made mandatory but could be removed once seated. F&B sales were limited to inside the screening room and were banned for events running less than three hours.</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas reopened with a 50% occupancy cap and an initial ban on F&B sales. From 1 July 2021, these restrictions were scrapped and replaced by a mandatory “green passport”, proving COVID-19 test, recovery or vaccination status. New restrictions were introduced from 15 September 2021 specifically targeting the unvaccinated. The 2G rule was introduced in Vienna from 4 November and was extended to the whole country from December 2021.</p> <p>In 2022, vaccination became mandatory by February 2022 for every Austrian resident above the age of 18. The government announced it would fine those who refused to comply by mid-March. From 5 March masks were allowed to be removed in cinemas, and the 3G rule was introduced across the country except</p>

	<p>in Vienna, where the 2G rule remained. From 19 March, the requirement to wear face masks indoors was reintroduced across the country. From 1 June 2022, Austria removed most restrictions.</p>
BELGIUM	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from 7 March 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas were allowed to welcome a maximum of 200 per room and respect a distance of 1.5m between customers. The occupancy was temporarily reduced to 100 visitors from 29 July to 1 September 2020. The safety distance was reduced to 1m from 1 September. From 19 October, F&B sales were banned, before a new lockdown was enforced.</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas reopened with an occupancy limit of 200 per room or 75% and mandatory mask wearing. Most of the guidelines introduced in 2020 were renewed in 2021. From 1 July, the occupancy limit increased to 80% and rose to 100% from 30 July. The occupancy limit was raised to 500 persons from October 1. A COVID pass was enforced in Brussels from 15 October and in Wallonia from 1 November, while Flanders relaxed restrictions - no more compulsory mask and no COVID pass requirement. Federal authorities extended the COVID pass to the whole territory and re-introduced mandatory mask wearing. Visitors were allowed to remove their masks once seated. Events welcoming less than 50 visitors could be exempted from the pass if they enforced mask wearing at all times. From 27 November, the COVID pass was extended to all events (not considering a minimum occupancy), with mask wearing mandatory at all times. From 6 December, the occupancy limit was reduced to 200 people and the 1.5 metre distancing returned.</p> <p>In early 2022, restrictions were progressively eased across the country. From 7 March, the vaccination pass requirement was lifted alongside remaining occupancy limits and mandatory mask wearing.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p>The Belgian Cinema Federation (FCB) published official guidelines, which can be found here. They included, but were not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety measures must be clearly communicated to staff and customers; Social distancing of 1m must be respected at all times between people that do not come together as a group; Online and contactless ticketing should be encouraged; Manage audience flow (entrance and exit); Regular cleaning and disinfection of contact surfaces; Information and staff training to implement the above measures.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from March 2022
BULGARIA	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from 1 April 2022 <p>Additional details</p>

	<p>In 2020, maximum occupancy was limited to 30% from reopening and increased to 50% from 15 June 2020 with a limited capacity of 100 people maximum. F&B sales were banned until 15 June 2020.</p> <p>The same principles were applied in 2021, as cinemas first reopened with a 30% occupancy limit, a safety distance of 1.5 m and mandatory mask wearing. From 25 October, a COVID-19 "Green Certificate" became mandatory. All restrictions were scrapped on 1 April 2022, including mandatory mask wearing, occupancy limit and the COVID pass requirement.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfecting the screening room after each show; • People should enter the screening alone; • Hand disinfectant must be available for customers; • A mask must be worn during the show; • Traffic flow must be in one direction – separate entrance and exit; • Cinemas must communicate efficiently about the measures in place.
<p>CROATIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from May 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, wearing a mask was required in all public indoor settings where a minimum of 2m distance could not be maintained at all time. Cinema-goers could remove them once they were seated. From 14 October, occupancy was limited to 50 people. From 26 October, a 10PM curfew was introduced, while occupancy was reduced to 25 people in December.</p> <p>In 2021, occupancy was again briefly reduced to 50 in July-August, but the 2m safety distance already had the same effect. From 5 November a COVID certificate became mandatory. Film screenings could not start later than 11PM. From May 2022, all restrictions were lifted and mask wearing was only recommended, but not mandatory.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p>The cinema chain Blitz Cinestar – in cooperation with the Croatian institute of Public Health the Culture and Media Ministry – issued the recommendations below (available here, in Croatian):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage indicating existing measures in accordance with recommendations from the Croatian Institute of Public Health; • Enhanced personal hygiene & hand disinfecting: Placement of hand sanitizers at the entrance and inside the complex; • Daily temperature checks for staff; • 2m physical distancing, selling tickets with enough space between seats between individual visitors or groups of visitors (groups could sit together); • Designated entrances/exits for visitors; • More time in between screenings to avoid visitors congregating in the common area of the multiplex; • Visitor records including basic data for ticket purchase, with online sales being enabled and encouraged;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective barriers and masks for cashiers, with more frequent hand sanitization; • The sale of food and beverages to be performed in accordance with the Recommendations for the Prevention of Infection in catering facilities ; • Monitoring and proper maintenance of air conditioning and ventilation filters; • Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and those used by a large number of people.
<p>CYPRUS</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 1 June 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>A broad range of restrictions were enforced in 2020, described in the guidelines below. Mask wearing was made mandatory at all times from late October 2020.</p> <p>In 2021, occupancy was limited to 50 per show until the introduction of a mandatory COVID-19 pass from 19 July 2021.</p> <p>Several restrictions were eased in early March 2022, allowing for instance to show a 72-hour negative test to enter a cinema. From 22 April 2022, the mask wearing requirement was dropped. From 15 May, the capacity limit was increased to 100% for venues of less than 500m² and 85% for those above and the COVID pass requirement was scrapped. All restrictions were lifted from 1 June 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p>A national safety protocol was published on 11 September. The document available here.</p>
<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from May 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, mandatory mask wearing, occupancy limit and a ban on F&B sales were enforced until mid-June. From 1 September, mask wearing was made mandatory if the number of participants exceeded 100. From 10 September, mask wearing was enforced at all times.</p> <p>From 1 November 2021, a COVID-19 certificate became mandatory. From 22 November, a 2G requirement was introduced. From 25 November, a 10PM curfew was introduced alongside a ban on public consumption of alcohol and on-site consumption of food in shopping centres.</p> <p>From 10 February 2022, a COVID pass was not mandatory anymore to attend a cinema screening. All restrictions were lifted from early May 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p>Cinema operators drafted self-regulatory recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic ticket sale was encouraged; • Visitors must wear masks; • Reduce/remove all seats in the foyer and corridors; • Air renewal systems were encouraged; • Staff and customers must wear masks;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff should regularly disinfect, wash hands and regularly dispose of gloves; • Disinfectant should be available at all times; • An employee should be in charge of monitoring the respect of social distancing and preventing the accumulation of people; • Cleaning should be done using virucides, UV radiation and air ionization; • Regularly disinfected contact areas and objects; • Locker rooms for spectators were not recommended; • 3D glasses should be disinfected; • Notices for visitors should be visible on the premises of the cinema.
DENMARK	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 1 February 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>On 6 April 2021, Denmark was the first European country to introduce a "coronapas". The pass was mandatory to enter a cinema, along with the requirement to show an ID. Additional distancing rules resulted in a 55-65% occupancy limit. The pass was phased out entirely in cinemas from 1 August 2021. Denmark lifted all remaining COVID restrictions on 10 September 2021, making it the first EU country to do so. On 12 November, the pass was reintroduced for events with more than 200 attendees. Most cinemas decided to make the pass mandatory.</p> <p>From 16 January 2022, Danish cinemas reopened with an occupancy limit of 500. From 1 February 2022, all COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in Denmark.</p>
ESTONIA	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 3 April 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas could initially welcome a maximum of 500 attendees per show, limited to 50% occupancy per room. Until 15 June, cinemas had to respect the 2+2 rule: up to 2 people together in a public space and a distance of at least 2m between groups.</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas reopened with a 50% capacity limit. Mask wearing was compulsory. From 9 August, a COVID-19 pass was introduced for citizens above the age of 18. From 25 October, a 2G rule was introduced. From 1 November, a 11PM curfew was introduced, the COVID pass was extended to minors and it became mandatory to show an ID.</p> <p>The curfew was lifted in early January 2022. From 14 February, the COVID certificate was scrapped for those aged 18 or below. From 15 March, the COVID pass was scrapped for all, but mask wearing remained mandatory. All restrictions were lifted from 3 April 2022.</p>
FINLAND	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restriction from 30 June 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, gatherings were limited to 500 people per room with capacity limited to 50% until 1 August. National safety rules had to be respected for events with 500 attendees or more, while they were only recommended for smaller events. From September, mask wearing was only recommended.</p>

	<p>From October 2020 until May-June 2021, local restrictions reduced occupancy to 10-50 per room depending on the region. From late November to December 2021, events with more than 10 attendees were banned in 12 Finnish regions, representing 80% of the Finnish population. Most if not all cinemas in those regions decided to close, while a few continued to operate. From June 2021, a 1m distance between groups of visitors was enforced across most of the country. The COVID certificate was briefly introduced in the country at the end of 2021 until January 2022.</p> <p>In January 2022, new restrictions were introduced across the country resulting in the closure of several cinemas or reduced occupancy from 10 to 50 people per show max. In mid-February, most Finnish regions reopened their cinemas. Only 6 regions kept impactful restrictions, including limited occupancy rates (50-75%). All restrictions were lifted on 30 June 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020) Recommendations drafted by the Finnish cinema association included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage online and contactless ticketing; • Ensure social distance of 1m inside the screening room, with one empty seat between groups; • Ensure social distance of 1-2m outside of the screening room; • Regularly clean and disinfect contact areas. <p>Additional recommendations related to hygiene rules and sanitary precautions were available here, in Finnish.</p>
FRANCE	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 14 March 2022 <p>Additional details An exhaustive safety protocol was published in 2020 by the French cinema association, drafted in collaboration with local authorities, outlining the various requirements that had to be followed by cinema operators and their customers from reopening. It could be downloaded here.</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas reopened with a 35% occupancy limit and a 9PM curfew. From 9 June, cinemas were allowed to increase occupancy to 65% (or one seat between groups of visitors) and a 11PM curfew, and from 30 June to 100% occupancy without a curfew. The curfew ended earlier than expected, from 20 June. From 21 July a “sanitary pass” was introduced and became mandatory for staff members from 30 August – effectively mandating vaccination – as well as for 12 to 17 years old cinema-goers from 30 September. The mask wearing requirement was scrapped when the pass was introduced. Between 21 July and 9 August, the pass was briefly not mandatory for screenings with less than 50 attendees. A requirement for visitors to show their ID was briefly introduced and scrapped in the last week of July.</p> <p>From 3 January 2022, F&B sales were banned. From 28 February, the ban on F&B sales in cinemas was lifted and wearing a mask was no longer mandatory. From 14 March, the COVID pass requirement was scrapped, alongside most remaining restrictions.</p>
GERMANY	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited restrictions from May-June 2022

Additional details

COVID rules were enforced at local level in Germany, with requirement varying from one State to another. In 2020, Schleswig-Holstein initially set a limit of 50 visitors per room while North Rhine-Westphalia opted for 75. From August 2020, in Schleswig-Holstein the capacity limit rose to 250 while in North Rhine-Westphalia there was no capacity limit anymore. The national 1.5m safety was enforced in most German states. Only a few States made mask wearing mandatory in 2020. It was mandatory in all German states for cinema operators to collect customers data and share this with local authorities in case of an outbreak, for tracking and tracing purposes.

As in 2020, restrictions upon reopening varied widely from one State to another in 2021. In May 2021, Bavarian cinemas reopened with mandatory mask wearing at all times and a ban on F&B sales. Schleswig-Holstein cinema reopened with a capacity limit of 125 per show. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania reopened with mandatory mask wearing and COVID-19 test, while F&B sales were allowed. From 23 August 2021, the 3G requirement was applied to German districts with a 7-day incidence of 35 COVID-19 infections per 100,000 people, in addition to various local requirements. From October-November 2021, new restrictions were introduced across the country, mostly related to the COVID pass and test requirements. In late December 2021, people who had already received a booster vaccination were exempted from the obligation to test under the 2G+ rule. In some federal states, students were required to deliver a negative test certificate during the 2021 Christmas holiday. In 2022, the 2G+ rule was introduced for Bavarian cinemas from January, in addition to a 25% capacity limit. The same rule applied to cinemas in 8 German States, with several others making it mandatory only when surpassing a certain capacity limit. From February 2022, restrictions were gradually eased. From 16 February, most States lifted the 2G+ rule and re-introduced the 3G rule. In March 2022, several States advocated for an extension of existing measures, but the Federal government brought down most restrictions from 2 April, including the requirement to wear masks indoor. At the same time, Federal authorities encouraged citizens to continue to wear masks on a voluntary basis, creating confusion as to whether the restrictions had been lifted or not. Restrictions were in effect lifted from 2 April 2022 in most federal States. From 1 April, only Hamburg and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania still enforced serious restrictions. From June 2022, few restrictions were still enforced across the country, with the exceptions of localised requirements.

Industry guidelines (2020)

The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media published on 03 March a list of recommendations related to air quality and ventilation for cultural venues. [The report available here, in German.](#)

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina published a paper outlining three key measures to be implemented from reopening: (1) general use of mouth and nose protection, (2) short-term use of mobile phone data and (3) increase in testing capacities. [More information can be found here.](#)

	<p>The German cinema association HDF Kino published official recommendations on health and safety requirements to be considered when reopening cinemas. <u>The document, translated into English, available here.</u></p> <p>The guidelines were divided into two categories:</p> <p><u>Protection of employees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information on the virus; • Compliance with distance regulations; • Contactless ticket control; • Use of protective screens at the box office; • Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.; • Provide protective masks and gloves for employees; • Regularly clean/disinfect specific areas and surfaces; • Provide instruction in case of suspected infection (stay at home) and actively communicate with your staff. <p><u>Protection of visitors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on health and safety measures; • Compliance with 1.5m distance regulations in the lobby with markings on the floor, etc.; • Compliance with distance regulations in the screening room with fixed seat allocation, reduced capacity, etc.; • Compliance with distance regulations with staggered showtimes start/end times; • Minimise contact between visitors and staff; • Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.; • Regular ventilation of the lobby and screening rooms.
<p>GREECE</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 1 May 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas reopened with a 50% occupancy limit and a requirement for cinema-goers to provide a negative COVID-19 tests or proof of vaccination. From 12 July, only vaccinated people were allowed. Mask wearing was not mandatory for cinema-goers, but it remained mandatory for staff members. From Autumn 2021, a 3G requirement was introduced across the country. Unvaccinated workers had to undergo two tests per week. From early 2022, it became mandatory for cinema-goers aged 4-17 to show a negative test. From 1 May, most restrictions were lifted in the country, including the COVID pass requirement and the occupancy limit. Mask wearing was not mandatory anymore from 1 June 2022.</p>
<p>HUNGARY</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from March 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>From September 2020, mask-wearing was made mandatory. From 4 November, a curfew was introduced from midnight to 5AM.</p>

	<p>Only vaccinated individuals were allowed in cinemas in 2021, with mask wearing only mandatory for staff members. Visitors under 18 years old had to be accompanied by vaccinated adults. It was not clear how seriously these requirements were enforced, as vaccination rates across Europe were low in the first half of 2021. Mask wearing became mandatory again from 20 November 2021.</p> <p>Almost all restrictions were scrapped in March 2022.</p>
<p>IRELAND</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 23 January 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>From 29 June 2020, a 2m minimum distance and an occupancy limit of 50 people per room were enforced. From 10 August, face masks were made mandatory. From 15 September, the Irish Government launched a <u>5 Level Framework for Restrictive Measures in Response to COVID-19</u>. Cinemas had to enforce an occupancy limit of 200 per room for larger venues or 100 for smaller venues, with a 2-metre seated social distancing and one-way controls for entry and exit.</p> <p>From June 2021, cinemas reopened with a capacity limit of 50 people per room. Mask wearing was not made mandatory. Cinemas could operate at 60% capacity from 6 September. The COVID-19 pass requirement (based on vaccination or recovery) was extended to cinemas in December – but many were already applying it to allow for greater capacity. From 20 December, an 8PM curfew and a 50% occupancy cap were introduced.</p> <p>From 23 January 2022, almost all restrictions were lifted.</p>
<p>ITALY</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 16 June 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas enforced an exhaustive safety protocol drafted in collaboration with local authorities and described below.</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas reopened with distanced seating, reserved seats, mandatory mask wearing and a ban on F&B sales. Occupancy was limited to 50%, with a maximum cap of 500 per show. From 17 May, the curfew moved to 11PM and other restrictions were lifted. The curfew was moved to midnight from 7 June and abolished from 21 June in areas still enforcing it. From 23 July, a COVID-19 “Green pass” was introduced. The Italian “super green pass” took effect from 6 December and required people to prove they were vaccinated or recovered to access cinemas.</p> <p>From 10 March 2022, F&B sales were allowed again. The state of emergency ended on 31 March. The COVID pass requirement was effectively dropped on 1 May across the country. The mask wearing mandate remained until 16 June.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p>Regional authorities could enforce additional restrictions. Official guidelines included but were not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make information available to customers on the safety measures; • Ensure a 1m safety distance at all times, with the exception of members of the same household or those living under the same roof;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing physical barriers (plexiglass) between audience groups could replace the 1m distance; • Customers must wear a mask when they enter the cinema but could remove it as soon as they sit inside the screening room (NB: regions could make this rule stricter like in Lombardia where masks had to be worn the whole time); • Encourage reservations and keep a list of attendees' names for a period of 14 days. For tickets purchased online, cinemas must keep the seat number and the email address. For tickets bought at the box office, one name and telephone number or email address per group of attendees; • Checking the temperature of staff and guests was allowed, as well as prohibiting them from entering the cinema if it was above 37.5°; • The box office and other workstations could be equipped with physical barriers; • Encourage electronic, contactless ticketing; • Hand sanitising units must be available across the cinema; • Ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of all areas and contact surfaces; • Ensure good air circulation inside the cinema; • For food and beverage sales and services, cinemas had to follow rules that apply to the restaurant sector.
<p>LATVIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from June 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, occupancy was initially limited to 25 people, before being increased to 100 from 9 June, 250 from 1 August and then to 300 people and a 50% occupancy limit from September. The 2+2 rule had to be respected by cinemas from reopening (a maximum of two people together, minimum 2m social distancing), before being replaced by 1m between customers inside the auditorium and 2m outside of the auditorium. From mid-October, mask-wearing was made mandatory in all public spaces.</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas reopened from 15 June for people with a valid COVID-19 certificate. It was also necessary for visitors to present an ID. Mask wearing remained mandatory, along with a 2m social distancing at all times. From 1 April 2022, most restrictions were lifted, with the exception of the 2m safety distance. From early June 2022, all restrictions were lifted.</p>
<p>LITHUANIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 5 February 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, attendance was limited to 30 people per room and a 2-metre distance between cinema-goers had to be ensured. From late October, cinemas had to respect a 50% occupancy limit and could welcome 600 cinema-goers per auditorium. The safety distance was reduced to 1 meter and mask-wearing was made mandatory at all times. Cinemas were required to collect customers' contact details and F&B consumption inside of the auditorium was banned. Rules enforced in 2020 were still effective upon reopening in April 2021. From July 2021, a 75% capacity limit was enforced if non-vaccinated people were in</p>

	the auditorium, rising to 100% if all were vaccinated. From 5 February 2022, the COVID pass requirement was lifted for cinemas alongside other restrictions.
LUXEMBOURG	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from 11 March 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, occupancy was limited to 20 people per screening. From 28 October, mask wearing was made mandatory at all times and F&B sales were banned. Rules enforced in 2020 were still effective upon reopening in January 2021. Several restrictions were eased in June 2021. From late July 2021, visitors were required to show a COVID-19 pass (3G rule). From 25 December 2021, the 2G+ regime was introduced for cinemas.</p> <p>From early 2022, the 3G requirement was applied across the country for cultural events with more than 10 attendees. Mask wearing and social distancing requirements were scrapped. From 11 March 2022, all restrictions were lifted in the country.</p>
MALTA	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from March 2022 <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p><u>The detailed rules could be consulted here.</u> Official rules included, but were not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible signage shall be affixed at the entrance of the premises, indicating the maximum number of patrons that the premises could welcome; Check visitor's temperature at the entrance for the presence of fever (persons with 37.2° or higher was denied entrance); Provide adequate and easily accessible hand sanitisers across the cinema; Regulate audience traffic; Ensure a 2m safety distance at all times; Record contact information (name and a phone number) of at least one person per party, to be kept for up to 28 days after the show/performance; Except in the case of families with children and people from the same household, no more than 6 people should be allowed to sit together; The distribution of 3-D glasses to be reused was not allowed; Ensure that staff and patrons wear masks or visors; Provide ongoing cleaning and disinfection operations of all the common areas inside the premises; Ensure that bar, restaurant or café facilities operate on the premises within the respective applicable guidelines.
MONTENEGRO	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from June 2022
NETHERLANDS	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions from 25 February 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas reopened with an occupancy limit of 30 people per screening. From 1 July, the occupancy limit was lifted but a safety distance of 1.5m was enforced at all times, which meant an empty seat behind and in front of a</p>

seated attendee. Only children aged up to 17 years old could sit together without maintaining a distance of 1.5m. Therefore, real occupancy was closer to 1/3 per room. From 6 August, reservation became mandatory. From 29 September, the occupancy limit was brought back to 30 per screening. Cinemas with a restaurant or bar had to close it at 10PM and not welcome new customers from 9PM. Cinemas were required to close at midnight. From 14 October, bars or restaurants located in cinemas had to close. Cinemas entirely stopped selling F&B from 20 October. From 14 October, mask wearing was made mandatory in indoor spaces until seated. From late November, mask wearing was made mandatory at all times.

In 2021, cinema reopened with a 50-person limit, a 1.5m safety distance, mandatory mask wearing until seated and F&B sales allowed until 10PM. From 20 September 2021, a “corona ticket” for citizens aged 13 years old and above was introduced for events welcoming more than 75 people per site, not per room. Other restrictions were scrapped from 25 September, including the 1.5-meter distance and occupancy limit. From 5 November, masks became obligatory in indoor public spaces. From 13 November, cinema-goers aged 14 years and older had to show an ID in addition to a valid COVID pass. Cinemas had to enforce fixed seats and a 5PM curfew was introduced.

In 2022, the curfew moved to 1AM from February 18 and the 1.5m distance was lifted along with mandatory mask wearing. COVID certificates remained mandatory. Cinemas were only required to have fixed seats in rooms with more than 500 seats. From 25 February 2022, all restrictions were lifted.

Industry guidelines (2020)

The Dutch cinema association’s included:

General recommendations:

- Visitors should only arrive 15 minutes before the start of the screening;
- A 1.5m safety distance in the room should be ensured by escorting visitors to their seats. Practical tips for people with disabilities on keeping the 1.5 m distance were issued.
- The doors should be left open until the start of the screening and be reopened by employees at the end of the screening;
- Screening times should be staggered in order to regulate incoming and outgoing visitors and respect the official occupancy limit;
- When leaving the room, visitors need to be escorted by staff.

Ticketing recommendations:

- Cinema-goers should be encouraged to buy their tickets online and avoid public transport;
- Visitors need to be made aware of the social distancing rules at the entrance of the cinema;
- Ticket controls should only be done visually;
- Every visitor should be asked about health issues in their household. When in doubt about the health situation of a visitor, the cinema could decide to deny access;
- A maximum of two people or a household (a group of people living under the same roof) was allowed.

Hygiene recommendations:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizers should be available across the cinema; • Contact surfaces need to be cleaned multiple times a day; • Rooms should be closed during cleaning in between screenings and disinfectant should be used for contact surfaces; • A corona supervisor should be appointed in every cinema to check compliance with the rules and employees need to be trained to correctly execute the rules. <p>The Dutch cinema association published a Q&A for its members to better understand the guidelines above. The document available here, in Dutch.</p>
<p>NORTH MACEDONIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from June-July 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>From October 2021, COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. Venues were allowed to operate to 50% capacity – when it was set at 30% since the reopening of cinemas in 2020.</p> <p>From 6 April 2022, cinemas were required to limit occupancy to 75%. Restrictions were generally scrapped in June-July 2022.</p>
<p>NORWAY</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from February 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas reopened with a capacity limit of 50 people per screening, increased to 200 people from 15 June. From 7 May, the social distance was defined as 1 meter from face to face. This allowed every second seat in an auditorium to be used with the exception of groups who could sit together. From 18 June the authorities redefined the metre from shoulder to shoulder. This allowed just every third seat to be used. From 12 October the meter was again defined as from face to face (every second seat), except for Oslo (every third seat). In the city of Bergen and Stavanger/Sandnes, maximum occupancy per room was reduced to 20 people in late 2020.</p> <p>From 18 January 2021, national authorities recommended that all cultural performances across the country should be cancelled or postponed – or respect a limit of 200 people per show. From December, cinemas were required to limit occupancy to 50 people. A complete ban on alcohol sales was introduced.</p> <p>From 14 January 2022, the occupancy limit was raised to 200 and a 11PM curfew on alcohol sales was introduced. In February 2022, all restrictions were lifted in the country.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p>The Norwegian cinema association Film&Kino published a set of key health and safety recommendations for cinema operators, which included, but were not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform customers and staff about measures taken; • Train staff to efficiently implement those rules; • Ensure social distancing in common areas, also between staff members, and reduce physical interactions (plexiglass at box office, etc.); • Only card/contactless payment, no cash;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage online sales; • Extra hygiene measures to be taken across the cinema, for specific areas as well as F&B, have hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.; • Ensure at least a 1-metre distance (previously 2 metre) between each customer outside of the auditorium; • Adapt seating arrangements to respect official social distancing rules (depending on row distance/seats it would vary from room to room); • Staggered end/start times so as to avoid queues; • Minimum 30 minutes for cleaning/disinfection between performances; • Sick employees should stay at home; • Ensure good air ventilation; • The cinema must inform customers that contact information was stored for two weeks after the time of payment for infection control reasons (new rule included on 15 July). <p>Film&Kino also drafted a document outlining cinemas' reopening strategy. The document available here, in Norwegian. Specifically related to health and safety measures, its recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact local authorities for advice and guidance; • Practice/train staff to perform all new cleaning routines that must be introduced in advance; • Provide clean uniforms to all employees; • Buy latex work gloves; • Hand disinfection stations must always be accessible to everyone; • Thoroughly clean and disinfect all equipment and furnishings several times before reopening; • Regularly clean specific contact areas and surfaces at least 5 times a day once reopened; • Inform and communicate efficiently with staff and customers about the new measures that were introduced. <p>In addition to these health and safety guidelines, the reopening document also included considerations related to rent payments, maintenance of equipment and building, finances and insurance, inventory, etc.</p>
<p>POLAND</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 28 March 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>From August 2020, occupancy limits varied between 50% and 25% occupancy depending on local requirements. From early October, all cinemas had to abide by a 25% capacity limit. From 24 October, occupancy was limited to 25% across the country, cinema-goers allowed to come in groups of 5 people maximum and F&B only available for takeaway.</p> <p>From 1 February 2021, some restrictions were relaxed as cinemas were allowed to reopen with a 50% capacity limit and a ban on F&B sales. Mask wearing was mandatory from reopening. From 26 June 2021, the occupancy limit was increased to 75%. But the limit did not apply to vaccinated customers, meaning that - in theory - once 75% of tickets were sold, the remaining 25% could be sold to vaccinated customers. As a COVID-19 vaccination certificate was not introduced in Poland, cinema operators implemented a 75% occupancy</p>

	<p>limit. From December 15, the attendance cap was lowered to 30%, while F&B consumption (not sales) was banned. The limit did not apply to vaccinated customers. Masks remained mandatory.</p> <p>From 1 March 2022, occupancy limits and the ban on F&B consumption were lifted. Mask wearing remained mandatory until 28 March 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020) Official guidelines and recommendations (Polish version available here) included the following key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers and staff must be wearing a mask; • 30% occupancy inside the screening room for non-vaccinated customers • Consumption was banned • People living under the same roof, children and those with disabilities were not obliged to sit apart; • It was recommended to appoint a health coordinator; • If possible, it was recommended to regularly air/ventilate closed rooms; • Regularly clean and disinfect all public areas and contact surfaces, at increased frequency for toilets and concessions; • Make a hand washing and disinfectant unit available in the toilets and at the entrance and exit of the cinema; • Make instructions/measures visible across the cinema; • It was recommended that cinema-goers provide their contact details, to make tracing possible in case of contamination; • 1,5m social distance was recommended when people were queuing; • For cinemas with one entrance - setting separate entry hours for screenings if possible; • Online ticketing and non-cash payment should be encouraged.
<p>PORTUGAL</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from May 2022 <p>Additional details Detailed safety guidelines drafted in 2020 can be found below. From 4 November 2020, cinemas were required to close at 10PM and occupancy was limited to 50%. From 28 November, a ban on F&B sales was introduced. Between 19 April and 3 May 2021, cinemas had to respect a 10PM curfew during the week and close at 1PM on weekends. From 10 June, the curfew was moved to 1AM throughout the week. From 2 July, a 10.30PM curfew was introduced in 45 municipalities, including Porto and Lisbon. Occupation was limited to 50%, while the ban on F&B sales was lifted. From August 2021, a COVID-19 certificate was mandatory for indoor events welcoming more than 500 guests. PCR tests were valid for 72 hours, antigen test for 48 hours, rapid self-tests for 24 hours or on-the-spot. The pass was not mandatory for accompanied children under 12 years old. Portugal lifted other COVID-19 restrictions, allowing full occupancy from 1 October. From December 2021, vaccination became mandatory – it was not clear if this was enforced across the country. Mask wearing became mandatory.</p>

	<p>On 17 February 2022, the capacity limit requirement was lifted, along with the mandatory COVID certificate. Only mask wearing remained mandatory until May 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines The complete guidelines can be found here, in Portuguese.</p>
<p>ROMANIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 9 March 2022. <p>Additional details From May 2021, cinemas were allowed to reopen in Bucharest with a 30% occupancy limit. From 13 May, screenings were allowed at 50% capacity for pilot events approved by the National Council for Emergency Situations. Cinema-goers taking part were required to show a valid COVID pass. The occupancy limit was increased to 70% from 1 June 2021. A 9PM curfew and a 30% capacity limit were introduced from 25 October. The occupancy limit increased to 50% and the curfew moved to 10PM from 9 December 2021. COVID certificates became mandatory from December. In early 2022, cinemas were allowed to open at 50% capacity in localities where the incidence rate was lower or equal to 1 per 1,000 inhabitants and at 30% of capacity where the incidence rate was higher than 1 per 1,000 inhabitants. The curfew was lifted in late January. All restrictions were lifted from 9 March, including mandatory mask wearing, occupancy limits and the COVID pass requirement.</p>
<p>RUSSIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 1 July 2022 • Operations limited by conflict <p>Additional details Health and safety rules were enforced at local regional level. Until September 2020, most cinemas were operating with a 50% capacity limit. From October 2020, mask-wearing was made mandatory in public spaces – but this federal rule was not enforced across the country. In December 2020, occupancy was temporary reduced to 25% in St. Petersburg. In summer 2021, most Russian regions were enforcing a 50-75% occupancy limit depending on local restrictions. Three regions – the Republic of Bashkortostan, Buryatia and the Nizhny Novgorod Region – required cinema-goers to present a vaccination certificate. Other regions reduced the occupancy limit. In late 2021, 36 of 85 regions required a vaccination certificate or a negative test for attendees and staff members. From December 2021 until February 2022, children were not allowed in cinemas of St. Petersburg & Moscow. In early 2022, 50% of Russian regions introduced restrictions specifically targeting those aged below 18 – including in major cities like St Petersburg. In February 2022, an occupancy rate of 50% was enforced in Moscow, while an 11PM curfew was enforced in St Petersburg. Most restrictions were eased in the following weeks. All restrictions were scrapped on 1 July 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p>

	<p>The Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing published health and safety recommendations for cinemas, drafted in collaboration with the Russian Association of Cinema Owners. Please find an English translation of the official document here. These recommendations included but were not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily temperature checks of employees; • Limit unnecessary contacts between employees; • Prohibit eating in the office, unless there in a specially designated room; • Make hand disinfection stations available across the cinema; • Provide staff with a supply of disposable masks and gloves and other sanitary material; • Ensure that staff use protective masks and gloves when interacting with customers; • Ensure 1.5m social distancing in the lobby and at least 1m once the audience was seated. This rule does not apply to customers that were from the same family or that live together; • Recommend, if possible, contact-less concession sales; • Dispose of used masks and gloves; • Enhanced hygiene and daily cleaning of working areas, including disinfection of contact surfaces every 2 hours; • Improve air circulation and ventilation of your cinema; • Inform staff and customers about the measures taken and the need to comply with them; • Recommend that visitors wear masks; • Set intervals of at least 30 minutes between shows to allow for efficient cleaning and reduce traffic; • Reduce traffic inside the cinema by allowing customers to enter the auditorium 15 minutes before the show starts; • Recommend contactless payment methods and avoid the use of cash if possible – also check tickets using contactless techniques.
<p>SERBIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from May 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>From 6 November 2020, public gatherings of more than 5 people were banned. Cinemas were only allowed to operate during weekdays and until 5PM during the weekend, later extended to weekdays. These measures were eased from April 2021, when the occupancy limit increased to 500 guests, a 1.5m distance and mandatory mask wearing. All restrictions were lifted in May 2022.</p>
<p>SLOVAKIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from April 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas reopened with a capacity limit of 100 per room, increased to 500 from 15 June and 1,000 from 1 July. Mask wearing was made mandatory in all public spaces and F&B sales were banned from October 2020. Cinemas were allowed to reopen with a 50% capacity limit from May 2021.</p>

	<p>New measures were introduced in January 2022, limiting occupancy to 50% and 100 people per room without F&B sales OR 25% and 100 people per room with F&B sales. These rules were eased in the following weeks, allowing for 100 per room occupancy, F&B consumption outside of the screening room and mandatory COVID-19 vaccination or recovery. From 26 February, the occupancy limit was lifted. Most restrictions were lifted in late March. The mask wearing requirement was dropped in April 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory mask wearing at all times for staff and customers; • Ensure 2m space between customers at all times; • Remove seats in the lobby area; • Ensure 15m² per customers in the foyer; • Encourage cash-less payments; • Check temperature of each employee when they arrive to work (not mandatory); • Disinfection stands available for staff and customers across the cinema; • No hand dryer machines; • Clean all washable surface areas once a day; • Keeping track of all cleanings and disinfection cleanings of the cinema. • One staff member must be in charge of ensuring respect of sanitary rules; • Disinfect all contact surfaces before every show, which in theory means disinfecting the whole screening room before every show.
<p>SLOVENIA</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from May 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, mask wearing was only mandatory if a 1.5-meter distance was impossible to enforce. Occupancy was limited to 10 per room. A COVID-19 certificate was introduced from May-June 2021. From 21 February 2022, most restrictions were lifted, including the COVID pass requirement. Only mask wearing and the 1.5-meter distance remained mandatory. All restrictions were lifted in May 2022.</p>
<p>SPAIN</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from April-May 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas reopened with pre-allocated seats and a 30% maximum occupancy. Depending on local epidemiological reports, the allowed occupancy could increase. This decision was taken province-by-province. Some provinces allowed for 60% or 75% occupancy from mid-June, while others were still at 30% or 50%. These limits continued to evolve locally throughout 2020 and early 2021, with different occupancy limit and minimum safety distance enforced. F&B sales were for instance entirely banned in 8 regions until early 2021. From 21 May, the Spanish Government made it mandatory for all citizens above 6 to wear masks. Cinema-goers could remove their mask when eating and drinking. The national state of emergency was lifted on 9 May 2021, with local authorities no longer able to introduce restrictions without the formal authorization by local courts. Some local restrictions remained, such as a 10PM curfew for cultural</p>

	<p>activities in Basque Country or a 75% capacity limit in Madrid. In June 2021, F&B consumption was still banned in 6 communities, while occupancy was limited to 50-75% in most. In mid-August 2021, a Spanish court lifted a 1AM-6AM curfew imposed on most of Catalonia, including the capital Barcelona. Most restrictions were lifted across the country in late February and early March 2022. Only two regions enforced limited occupancy and one banned F&B sales until February 2022. A COVID certificate was only briefly required in the region of Valencia and lifted on 28 February. The mask wearing requirement was lifted in April 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>The Spanish cinema association FECE drafted a safety protocol, including the following rules. They also <u>published an online video</u> highlighting the key principles below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging online ticketing and contactless payments (up to €50); • Providing information (posters and online) explaining the safety measures; • Placing hydroalcoholic gel dispensers in the cinema for staff and customers; • Reinforcing the physical distance between workers and customers with transparent barriers; • Eliminating physical control of cinema tickets (to be replaced by digital or visual control); • Increasing cleaning and disinfection, with special attention to the most sensitive areas and surfaces; • Ensuring the respect of official distancing measures throughout the cinema-going journey; • Reducing the capacity of each screening room in accordance with local rules and reopening phase; • People living under the same roof was seated together in accordance with local rules; • Staff would receive appropriate personal protective equipment for each activity they carry out, following recommendations of health authorities. All workers would receive special training on COVID19.
<p>SWEDEN</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from February 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>Occupancy was limited to 50 per show during most of 2020. From November 2020, occupancy was increased to 300 per room. From 16 November, occupancy was again limited to 8 per room.</p> <p>From 1 June 2021, occupancy was increased to 50 people per room, with a 1-meter safety distance between groups of 4. The limit was increased to 300 from 1 July.</p> <p>From 12 January 2022, occupancy was again reduced to 50 people per room for events that did not require a COVID certificate. For events with a mandatory COVID certificate, fixed seats became mandatory, and groups were limited to 8 people maximum. All COVID restrictions were scrapped in February 2022</p>
<p>SWITZERLAND</p>	<p>Current status</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from 16 February 2022 <p>Additional details From reopening in 2020, occupancy was limited to 300 people per room, with at least 1 empty seat between people. This was reduced to 50 people from 28 October 2020. Rules varied widely from one canton to another. From 19 October, mask-wearing was made mandatory across all of Switzerland. The rules introduced in 2020 were again enforced in 2021 as cinemas reopened. Cinemas reopened on 19 April 2021 with a capacity limit of 50 people or 1/3 of the screening room, mandatory mask wearing, a ban on F&B sales and contact tracing – similar to the rules enforced in 2020. Capacity was increased to 100 people with social distancing and F&B sales allowed later in the year, and to 1,000 with a maximum ceiling of 2/3 occupancy during the summer. From 13 September 2021, a COVID-19 certificate became mandatory (3G rule). Children under 16 didn't need a certificate. Masks were not required and there was no limit on occupancy. From 20 December 2021, the 2G rule was enforced, while mask wearing became mandatory. Most restrictions were lifted from 16 February 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines <u>The official guidelines were available here, in French.</u> Groups from the same family or living under the same roof could sit together. Additional rules included but were not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obligation for cinema operators to trace customers by taking note of their name and phone number. That information must be kept for 14 days and then destroyed. Chains were encouraging customers to book tickets online to simplify the data collection process. The data could only be shared with local authorities if there was an infection in the days following the customer's visit; • Abide by official hygiene rules: ensure social distancing in the lobby and at the box office, have a plexiglass panel at the box office, make hand sanitizer available across the cinema, regular cleaning, improved air circulation, etc
<p>TURKEY</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from March 2022 <p>Additional details From 6 September 2021, a PCR test requirement was introduced. People who had not been vaccinated were able to enter by showing a PCR test (valid for 48 hours). It was not clear if this requirement was effectively enforced. In March 2022, it was announced that masks were not mandatory when there was enough ventilation and if the distance rule was respected, and that the COVID pass was not required anymore.</p>
<p>UKRAINE</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited restrictions • Operations limited by conflict <p>Additional details In 2021, a COVID pass was required in some of the most populated regions of the country. From 1 November, cinemas in Kiev were only allowed to operate if</p>

	<p>all staff were vaccinated. Few restrictions remained in 2022, as the focus turned to the conflict with Russia. Many Ukrainian cinemas managed to reopen in the first half of 2022, but with very limited attendance.</p>
<p>UK</p>	<p>Current status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions from January-February 2022 <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, cinemas across the UK had to enforce a 2m social distancing requirement when they reopened. From 4 July 2020, this was replaced by a ‘1m plus’ requirement – meaning a minimum of 1m with additional. Wales and Scotland maintained the 2m distance. From 2 July, the UK Government established a ‘trace and test’ scheme with cinemas being asked to collect and keep customer information for a period of 21 days. This was, however, a request rather than an obligation – more information available here. Guests were asked to wear face coverings in cinemas in England from 8 August but were able to remove them once seated in the auditorium. In England, from 14 September, cinema-goers could only attend in groups of 6 maximum when attending with people not living under the same roof. A three-tier alert system was introduced from 12 October, allowing for the introduction of local restrictions, such as different occupancy limits, ban on alcohol sales, etc. Between May and July 2021, occupancy was limited to 50% and 1000 visitors per room. Mask wearing remained mandatory along with a minimum safety distance of 1-2m depending on the region. From 19 July, cinemas could operate at full capacity in England. Wales and Scotland announced in early August that most remaining restrictions would be scrapped, allowing for full restart of all businesses without occupancy limits. COVID passes were introduced in Welsh cinemas from 15 November 2021 and in Northern Ireland from 13 December. From 10 December mask wearing became mandatory in cinemas in England. 1m social distancing between groups was re-introduced in cinemas in Scotland from 27 December.</p> <p>England removed all restrictions from the end of January 2022. Also in January, Scotland removed the 1m social distancing and the requirement to collect customer details, but mask remained. In Northern Ireland all COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and replaced by guidance from 15 February. Wales removed the COVID pass requirement from 18 February and the mask wearing mandate from 28 February.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>Guidance on cinemas was published on 25 June and available here. Guidance for cinemas in Scotland was also available here, and for cinemas in Wales here. The guidelines included, but were not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing - cinemas would do all they could to ensure social distancing during each visit to the cinema. • Guest hygiene - anti-bacterial gel stations was made available in prominent locations throughout the cinema. • Cinema auditoriums – social distancing was particularly important here. The capacity of each auditorium was reduced to support this, and some auditoriums may remain closed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleaning - enhanced cleaning regimes was introduced throughout each cinema. Particular attention was given to areas such as kiosks, guest thoroughfares, toilets and washrooms and auditoriums.• Ticketing - cinemas would encourage online booking and the use of e-tickets. Cinemas would encourage contactless payment for tickets as well as food and drink.• Personal Protection Equipment - Perspex screens and other physical safeguards was introduced as appropriate at key customer points such as ticket offices and concessions desks.• Film scheduling - screenings in each auditorium was scheduled so as to allow the safe entrance and exit of audiences, and sufficient time for thorough cleaning between each show.• Training - cinema staff was trained specifically around COVID-19, including common symptoms and routes to infection as well as the importance of hygiene and social distancing.
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3. SUPPORT MECHANISMS

SUMMARY

Support measures were introduced across Europe from the start of the pandemic, with varying levels of detail and effective actions from authorities. However, schemes specific to the film, or even cultural, sector were relatively limited. And while crisis management or so-called emergency funds were introduced swiftly almost everywhere in Europe, few Governments announced long-term recovery schemes. Most existing support schemes were ceased as soon as cinemas were allowed to reopen, even when major restrictions on operations were still in force.

The UNIC infographic on support measures for European cinemas – [available online along with a manifesto on the value of the European cinema industry](#) – provides a summary of the range of national, European and sector initiatives that were introduced across the region.

In the sub-sections below, we have included measures that specifically targeted the cultural or cinema sector, as well as broader support mechanisms such as special loans, grants, employment support schemes, measures related to rent payments and taxation measures.

3.1. SUPPORT FOR THE CULTURAL AND CINEMA SECTOR

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced VAT on cinema tickets VAT on cinema tickets was reduced to 5% (from 13%) until the end of 2020. This decision was effective for all sales in the cultural sector. Cultural institutions also benefited from deferred social security contributions. • Grants for event organisers The European Commission approved in January 2021 a €300 million Austrian scheme to support organisers of events affected by the coronavirus outbreak. Under the scheme, economic assistance was provided to all undertakings that organised events taking place in Austria between 1 February 2021 and 31 December 2022 and that would be cancelled or organised with significant restrictions. • Local support scheme A support scheme was introduced in the city of Vienna, with grants of €50,000 distributed to cinemas of less than 5 screens.
BELGIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support guidelines Guidelines were created specifically for the cultural sector, to explain available support mechanisms and the application process. See Flanders guidelines and FAQ here, in Flemish. • Support from film funds and local entities The Belgian cinema federation FCB estimated that cinema operators lost roughly €4.3m of potential revenues per week of closure, excluding fixed costs. Belgian film support bodies introduced more flexibility regarding administrative, reporting and other funding conditions until the end of 2020. Cultural policies were managed at local, community level, with different support initiatives announced for Belgian cinemas, including the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Brussels-Wallonia Federation introduced an emergency support fund of €50m specifically targeting those worst-hit by the crisis, in particular the cultural and AV sector. The fund was divided in several instalments. The first instalment was worth €8.5m and meant to cover losses endured between 14 March and 3 May. More information available here, in French. This initial support fund was split between the 321 cultural institutions and businesses who applied, with €1.6m going to the film sector specifically, including cinema operators. A second €8.5m instalment covered the period of 4 May to 5 July, followed by additional instalments covering the rest of 2020. - On 25 May, the Brussels-Wallonia Federation announced a recovery plan of €6m to support the entire film value chain, including arthouse cinemas (as defined by the Federation), with three key measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Covering all costs related to the acquisition of sanitary equipment; ▪ The purchase of 20,000 tickets, to be redistributed to cinema-goers (sold at €1 in 11 art-house cinemas every Tuesday until the end of August); ▪ Launching a reopening campaign dedicated to arthouse cinemas. More information available here, in French. - In Flanders, a Flemish emergency corona fund of almost €300m was introduced. 30% of its budget went to local authorities. €65m was redistributed as grants for the cultural sector, through 411 structurally subsidised organizations. - A support scheme for the Flemish cultural sector was introduced whereby vulnerable core players in the Flemish cultural ecosystem who were unable to benefit from the various federal and/or regional compensation measures, but had nevertheless suffered damage from the corona crisis, could apply for a 1,500€ grant. - In Brussels, a recovery plan was introduced in June 2020 to support the cultural, event and tourism sector, with a fund worth €5m in direct grants. The support scheme included a fund for cinema operators related to investments in online ticketing (€10,000 maximum per company), sanitary measures/equipment (€10,000 maximum per company) and digital solutions (€30,000 maximum/50% of the total amount invested per company). More information available here. - The Ministry of Culture of the Brussels-Wallonia Federation included cinemas in its recovery plan and made a budget of €645,000 available for around 40 independent cinemas. The amounts awarded depended on the number of screenings in particular: €7,500 for cinemas with a single-screen or dual-screens, scheduling at least 15 sessions per week and €15,000 for cinemas with more screens with a minimum of 30 screenings per week. More information available here.
<p>BULGARIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <p>The Bulgarian Government supported the cultural sector with nearly €2.5m. €1.4m directed to freelance artists and independent cultural organisations through the Ministry of Culture and €1.1m was allotted through the National Culture Fund.</p>
<p>CROATIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <p>The Ministry of Culture established a crisis fund to provide support to the cultural sector. It covered the fields of activity under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Croatian Audiovisual Center and the Culture New Foundation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative project grants The Ministry of Culture launched a public call to encourage entrepreneurship in the cultural and creative sectors for 2020. The call was aimed at designing and establishing alternative ways and models of business that would mitigate the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the liquidity of cultural and creative industries, in the interest of long-term application and usability of new solutions in further business. Grants were granted up to 85% of the eligible costs of the proposed project. More information available here. • Guaranteed loans for the cultural sector A Guarantee Programme for loans to entrepreneurs active in the field of culture and creativity was approved by the European Commission on 17 June 2020. Entrepreneurs were able to take out a loan from a bank of up to €800,000, for which the Croatian Government provides a 100% guarantee. The interest rate was up to 2% and the repayment period includes a grace period of at least one year and a maximum of five years. More information available here.
<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal assistance The Audiovisual Producers' Association and the Czech Film Fund provided legal assistance to all film industry workers regarding support programs and national financial help available. • Support from film fund In mid-May 2020, the State Fund for Cinematography announced a special €50m fund for the promotion of films in cinemas. All cinema operators could apply. The main purpose of this scheme was to help cinemas cope with the very strict restrictions upon reopening. The Czech Film Fund provided financial support worth a total of €1.5m to local cinema operators, first distributed in Spring 2020 via grants based on revenues made in 2019 – with received amounts varying between 1,000€ and 30,000€ per cinema – and in Autumn 2020 based on number of screens per company. • Reduced VAT on cinema tickets The VAT on cinema ticket was exceptionally reduced from 15% to 10%. • Grants for event organisers The European Commission approved a €34 million (CZK 900 million) Czech scheme to support companies who had to cancel or postpone event(s) due to the restrictive measures that the Czech Republic had to implement to limit the spread of the coronavirus. The public support took the form of direct grants and covered up to 50% of eligible expenses, i.e. the expenses incurred by the operator to organise the event/s that was ultimately postponed or cancelled. In order to be eligible for support under the scheme, the relevant expenses had to be incurred between 1 October 2019 and 17 May 2020 for events which were to take place between 10 March 2020 and 31 August 2020. The Czech Government introduced a scheme in later 2020 for private venues like cinemas, with 1€ per seat per day of closure between 12 October and 31 December 2020 – with a ceiling of €1,090 per company. The European Commission approved an approximately €7.9 million (CZK 200 million) Czech scheme to support film production workers, producers, distributors and cinemas in the context of the coronavirus outbreak
<p>DENMARK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for cultural events

	<p>The Danish Parliament presented a summer package in June 2020 supporting the cultural sector by financing half price tickets for various cultural activities, but the scheme did not apply to cinemas. The Government initially explained it was forbidden under EU state aid rules but tracked back in September 2020. The ministries of Culture and Commerce then introduced a joint “activity-supporting-package”, running from 1 September to 31 October, worth 300m DKK (app. €40m) for the whole cultural industry. The scheme was extended in October and ran until January 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for organising events <p>A small aid package worth €2m specifically targeting cinemas was introduced in late October, covering the months of November, December 2020 and January 2021. Unfortunately, this support package only covered direct or indirect costs related to the organisation of film screenings that took place between 1 September and 31 December 2020. For instance, investment in sanitary equipment or in audience engagement, energy bills or rent, etc. The scheme did not support revenue losses incurred during closure. These restrictions – <u>and the complex nature of the application requirements, available here</u> – made it challenging for local cinemas to apply to the funding. The maximum amount available for applications was €40,300 – but the amount was also dependent on the number of total applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for local audiovisual sector <p>In mid-November, the Danish Ministry of Culture earmarked €12 million to offset the impact of the coronavirus on the country’s audiovisual industry, with a focus on production of local content. Of this, €2.3 million was earmarked for the Danish Film Institute, the country’s audiovisual agency, to cover additional costs generated by the health crisis and to ensure the funding of an undiminished number of Danish films in the coming years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support guidelines <p>An online database of all the compensation schemes that could be applied for (via the Danish Ministry of Culture) was <u>available here</u>. A new Corona hotline was created by the Ministry of Culture and the Danish National Palace and Culture Agency – <u>available here</u>.</p>
<p>ESTONIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for cultural sector <p>The Culture and Sport Crisis Package totalled €25m. The package included compensation for already incurred costs and unavoidable fixed costs related to the interruption of events and organisations in the fields of culture and sport. The Estonian government announced in March 2021 a €42m support package for the struggling cultural sector. The film sector received €5.3m, of which €3.3m was earmarked for cinemas and film distributors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from local film fund <p>The Estonian Film Institute distributed €1.3m as compensation measures. €800k went to film production, distribution and cinemas. This scheme could support arthouse cinemas and companies whose production and distribution activities were interrupted. The remaining €500k went strictly to film production. The European Commission approved an Estonian scheme to support film producers and distributors, as well as cinemas affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State Aid Temporary Framework.</p>

	<p>Under the scheme, support took the form of direct grants of up to €700,000 per beneficiary.</p>
FINLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from local film fund <p>The Finnish Film Foundation received €1m from the Ministry of Education and Culture to help relieve the situation of cinemas and film festivals during the restrictions on public gatherings caused by the pandemic. €900,000 was allocated to cinemas. Cinema operators had to apply to benefit from this fund. The relief funds were available for small and medium-sized cinemas whose operations had ceased and for film festivals supported by The Finnish Film Foundation who had had to cancel or postpone their event from March 13 – May 31, 2020. More information available here.</p> <p>A second support round worth €1.2m was later allocated to distributors and cinemas. As part of this scheme, cinemas were allocated over €800k in support, distributed between 108 cinemas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from cultural institutions <p>Funding totalling approximately €1.5m were allocated via the Arts Promotion Centre (Taika). Different foundations were granted significant sums in aid through their own channels.</p>
FRANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cinema sector <p>The Government, the French National Cinema Centre (CNC) and sector representatives introduced various support mechanisms for the film industry, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CNC stopped requesting payments of film levies from cinema operators; - Cash flow measures for theatres and increased support for the sectors most affected, distribution and cinemas; - Assistance to cinemas to adopt the most proactive protection measures against the spread of the virus, by enforcing barrier measures; - Accelerated payment of the Art et Essai cinema grants from March 2020, for the 1,200 classified establishments; - Rapid adoption of a measure allowing exhibitors, distributors and producers to mobilise their support funds in advance. <p>The French Prime Minister announced a recovery fund for the cultural sector worth €2 billion on 26 August 2020. As part of this fund, €165m went to the French Cinema Centre (CNC) to relaunch the cinema sector. €60m was used to support the Centre specifically (and balance its significant financial losses during the crisis – which were estimated at €113-121m by the French Government). The remaining €105m were invested in a plan entitled “export and attractivity”, which included targeted projects and a reinforced support of cinemas, festivals, cinemathèques and film education workshops. An additional €11.5m was spent by the CNC to support the reopening of cinemas on 22 June 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 23 September, the Minister of Culture announced in Deauville at the FNCF congress how the €105m would be divided and redistributed by the CNC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €34.3m went directly to cinema operators, with €30m deposited on their automatic support account. This amounted to a full year of CNC support for an independent cinema owner and for 9 months of support for a large circuit; - €2m went to art house cinemas; - €1m to film education;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €500k to administrative expenses; - €800k to cover the Cinenum debt (related to digitization in the early 2010s); - In addition, €17.7m was allocated to distribution and €12.2m was allocated to production of theatrical films. More details available here. ▪ In addition to this, cinema operators were able to apply to a new compensation mechanism for losses incurred because of the crisis (after being allowed to reopen), worth €50 million. This support scheme was running between 1 September and the end of 2020. It covered 50% of the losses for independent cinema operators (around €23m in total) and 40% for the large chains (around €27m in total). The exact amount was calculated based on average admissions between 2017 and 2019 (so approximately €20-25 cents per ticket sold, or €20-25k per site that achieved 100,000 admissions per year). The payment was divided in two payments, with €40m/80% at the end of October and the remaining €10m/20% in early 2021. The money was transferred to all cinema operators who could benefit from it, without a need to apply for it. More information available here, in French. The CNC created a page to share information on the schemes introduced by the Centre to support cinema operators, available here. ▪ On 22 October 2020, the French Minister of Culture announced that an additional €30m fund would be allocated to support the cinema sector following the new curfew announcements across the country. The Government publicly acknowledged that evening screenings – cancelled because of the curfew – represented roughly 50% of cinema operators’ revenues. This fund was specifically dedicated to the release of films during the curfew period, as cinemas operators insisted that what they needed most was content in the coming weeks. ▪ Following the extension of the second lockdown from 15 December to at least 7 January, the French culture minister Roselyne Bachelot requested an extra €35m to help cultural venues. ▪ The CNC redistributed a support fund worth €15m between French cinema operators, covering the second round of closure in late 2020. Cinemas could apply to this fund based on market share. More information here. ▪ On 19 May 2021, the French Minister of Culture announced that 150m€ would be allocated to support the relaunch of the cultural sector, with 80m€ specifically going to the cinema industry – of which 60m€ to cinema operators. On 29 July, the CNC confirmed a new support scheme to cover revenue losses for cinemas incurred until their reopening on 19 May as well as those suffered after reopening (due to temporary restrictions and the gradual recovery process in general). The total amount of €60m was divided in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a support for all cinemas, whatever their status, based on their pre-pandemic revenues (following a principle similar to previous aids) (see here) - a support for businesses registering over €1m turnover per month but that benefitted from little State support; - an exceptional support mechanism for the worst affected cinemas, especially those that opened most recently and therefore did not benefit from existing State support. - support to accompany cinemas in their actions with young audiences
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Under the CNC scheme, producers received €16.7m and got a 25% bonus on existing subsidies if they released their film in theaters before spring 2022.

- In September 2021, the Culture Minister announced that €34 million would be given to the industry, to compensate for the losses due to the introduction of the COVID pass - of these, €27 million went to cinemas.
- In September the CNC announced the opening of two additional support mechanisms: Exceptional aid to particularly vulnerable operators, and fund for the development of young audiences (15-25 years).
- In November 2021 the CNC announced a "cross-sectoral compensation aid" of €27m intended to compensate for losses due to the drop in attendance during the implementation of the COVID pass. All cinemas could apply for this aid, regardless of their status. The measure was aimed at all cinematographic establishments from the moment they had an activity in 2020 and, for establishments created in 2020 and whose opening was prevented due to health measures, as soon as they could justify that at least one paid session had to be done before December 31, 2020.
- The Government announced on 11 February 2022 a compensation mechanism specifically covering loss of turnover related to restriction caused by the ban on F&B sales. The scheme covered the period ranging from 3 January to 15 February 2022. The €14m fund would be distributed between the film and performing arts sectors, with at least half expected to cover cinemas. The amount given was based on average revenues from F&B sales in 2019. [A detailed description of the scheme available here.](#)

- **Tax exemptions**

Tax exemptions – including the payment of the French film levy to the CNC – and related support schemes already introduced were formally extended to at least the end of 2020. This aid represented a total amount of around €36m for French cinema operators in 2020.

- **Guaranteed loans**

The French culture and audiovisual bank (IFCIC) guaranteed up to 70% of any loans granted in the context of COVID-19 and accepted any requests from banks to prolong guarantees.

- **Support guidelines**

Various support schemes were introduced. [Additional, detailed information can be found on the FNCF website](#) or on [the CNC website](#), all in French. The FNCF has created a FAQ on social/employment questions, [available here in French](#). (This FAQ has not been updated since June 22).

- **Support for employers in the cultural sector**

On 30 July 2020, a new law was introduced to support worst-hit sectors, including the cultural sector. As part of this law, SMEs (less than 250 employees) could be fully exonerated of certain social charges related to salaries due for the period between February 1 and May 31. This measure was renewed under the same conditions for the period between September 1 (for companies affected by the curfew) or October 1 (for others) to November 30 and was extended until January 30, 2021. Large businesses could benefit from a special scheme to support the payment of social charges for the same period. For businesses that were struggling to pay other social charges that were due by 30 June, the law allowed

	<p>for staggered payments and debt delays. A web portal was created to explain in detail all the new rules that were introduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass Culture In May 2021, the “Pass Culture” was introduced, providing 300€ to all French citizens aged 18 and valid for 2 years. The pass could be used to access cultural activities, including cinema screenings. • Local support schemes A range of local support schemes were introduced in France at city or department level, such as in Paris where a €1m support fund for independent cinemas located in the capital was announced on 2 June 2021.
<p>GERMANY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the audiovisual sector On 27 March, federal and State sponsors launched an aid programme for the film and media industry worth €15m. The aid programme related to projects jointly funded by various funding agencies and was intended to take effect where all other federal and state aid measures and funding programs taken in the context of the Coronavirus crisis could not be used. When it comes to cinema exhibition, the programme was available only to small Arthouse Cinemas who were awarded a <i>Kinoprogrammpreis</i>. The German cinema association, HDF Kino, highlighted that only 50% of Germany cinema operators could apply for the federal emergency aid. It was reported in April 2021 that the <i>Kinoprogrammpreis</i> would be awarded a budget of €5m in 2021. These delivered as grants, based on a flat rate per screen. • Support for the cultural sector A special programme to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on culture was formally approved on 17 June 2020. €1b was made available for the cultural sector, with €165m going to the film industry, of which €75m specifically targeting cinema exhibition. Running from July, the programme, under the name NEUSTART KULTUR / Zukunftsprogramm Kino, targeted cinemas through the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pandemic-related investment in cultural institutions. This means investment in online ticketing systems, modernisation of ventilation systems, adaptation of visitor guidance, etc.; - Preservation and strengthening cultural infrastructure and emergency aid. The film sector was helped with €120m to primarily support cinemas and finance additional needs for film production and distribution. <p>The support plan was regularly renewed throughout 2020 and 2021, with three programmes following and complementing each other under the NEUSTART KULTUR umbrella:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino I</u> launched in March 2020 was intended to strengthen cinemas throughout Germany, especially outside of metropolitan areas (cinemas with up to seven screens and meeting certain criteria could apply for funding). This involved an increase in the maximum amount of the federal share of grants, rising from 40% to 80% of eligible costs for 2020. Cinema operators could receive support via grants of €60,000 for one-screen cinemas and 45,000 € for two-screen cinemas. The programme, initially worth €5m, increased its budget to €22m and then again to €30m following high demand. The programme was extended several times, also covering losses incurred in 2021 and 2022. .

- Zukunftsprogramm Kino II – introduced in July 2020 and building up on Zukunftsprogramm Kino I, addressing smaller cinemas - a funding programme worth €40m to support cinemas (that do not meet the application requirements for Zukunftsprogramm Kino I) in their resumption of operations following closure, particularly in the implementation of protective measures as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. In addition, the programme supported future-oriented investments to strengthen the attractiveness of cinemas. Applications could be submitted from 1 August 2021 and more information available [here](#). HDF Kino members reported that despite a clear connection with the corona pandemic, applications to the programme were rejected due to unclear interpretation of the funding principles. The approval period was extended until 30 June 2022, with the proof of use submitted by 30 September 2022 at the latest.
- Zukunftsprogramm Kino III, launched in July 2021, was meant to support cinemas by covering operating costs during the reopening phase with grants worth a total of €30m.

A new support scheme was announced in June 2021 entitled “Sonderfonds für Kulturveranstaltungen” worth a total of €2.5b and targeting the wider cultural sector. This support program was initiated by the ministry of finance for all cultural events including cinemas and was launched on 1 July 2021.

On 4 February 2021, it was announced that an additional €1b fund was dedicated to the cultural sector, with 60 sub-programmes targeting cinemas, museums, theatres and other venues as well as artists. The objective of this fund was to help the sector cover expenses and losses relate to the current crisis but also to stimulate investment in innovation and digitisation. This scheme was a direct follow-up program to the NEUSTART KULTUR rescue and future program. In April 2021, the budget committee of the German Bundestag decided that the funds for the individual funding lines of NEUSTART KULTUR would in principle be available until the end of 2022. It was confirmed in June 2021 that a total of €30m would be made available as part of the Zukunftsprogramm Kino in 2022. It was also announced that funds for administrative processing would still be available in 2023 (if necessary). The decision was subject to the supplementary budget coming into force in 2021.

- **Support for cultural events**

On 26 May the federal cabinet gave the green light for a special fund for cultural events (*Kulturfonds*) amounting to 2.5b€. The scheme specifically targeted the restart of cultural events, including concerts, theater performances and cinema screenings. Since the restart of cultural life was still associated with local restrictions, the fund was intended to cover for occupancy limits and other restrictions and risks.

- **Support guidelines**

A database of relevant documents and guidelines can be found [on the FFA website in German](#). HDF Kino also created a page with all the relevant information for cinema operators related to the crisis, [available here in German](#). HDF-Kino created [a document](#) – in German – listing the subsidies / support aids that could or could not be cumulated with each other.

- **Support from film fund**

The FFA suspended film levies and loans until December 31, 2020. The sales generated by operating drive-in theatres were an exception. The distribution of the

	<p>Film Fund's (FFA) money was accelerated to provide more liquidity for cinemas in the short term, while reimbursements of loans and payment of levies was deferred. Deferrals that were already granted were automatically extended until 31 December 2020. More information available here. The FFA decided in December 2020 to further extend the moratorium on film levies and loans until June 30, 2021.</p> <p>With a new version of guideline D.14, decided by the FFA Board of Directors on June 18, 2020, more flexible payment of the cinema reference funds was possible. Since the applications for the cinema reference funds for the 2019 calendar year had to be submitted by March 15, 2020, retroactive measures were included in the new regulation. More information available here.</p> <p>In March 2022, the FFA Cinema Commission approved funding worth a total of €2m, to be distributed between 50 cinema projects – with a focus on modernisation and expansion of existing sites.</p> <p>In May 2022, it was announced that the Parliament had decided to increase future program Kino I, by 10 million euros.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced VAT on cinema tickets <p>VAT on cinema tickets was reduced for a limited period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, from 7% to 5% for cinema tickets. More information can be found here, in German.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred payments to collecting societies <p>Payments to GEMA, the German collecting society, deferred until further notice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from local entities <p>Bundeslands or local authorities introduced additional support mechanisms targeting the cultural sector, some of which were more specific to cinemas. Please find below a list of several of these local initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of early July 2020, Bavaria was the first and only German State to introduce a support scheme specifically targeting cinemas, whatever the number of screens operated. Detailed information can be found here, in German. It was announced in October that this aid for Bavarian cinemas would be extended until June 30, 2021 and increased by €12m. The amount that could be received by a cinema was based on the number of screens. - In February 2022, Bavaria announced a €12,3m fund for the cultural sector, including cinemas, launched in April 2022. - The Hamburg Senate approved a series of measures that could provide "quick and unbureaucratic" assistance to artists and creative industries companies. The grants were up to €5,000 for companies with fewer than 10 employees. The city also provided a "Corona cultural promotional loan support module" meant to compensate for the financial losses caused by the COVID-19 crisis for all eligible cultural enterprises. The maximum amount of the loan was €150,000. - Hessen introduced a support fund to which cinemas could apply, for a maximum amount of €18,000 per businesses. More information can be found here, in German. - Sachsen State launched a grant scheme for cinema operators who were faced with restrictions as a result of official measures taken during the corona pandemic, which impacted their economic performance. The funding covered commercial rent, expenses for telecommunications and insurance, leasing
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	<p>instalments and interest and principal payments for existing company bank loans. More information available here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Hessen, a scheme was introduced in July 2020 and was aimed specifically at all cinema forms. Cinemas could receive up to €18,000 in support for programming, marketing and construction measures to help overcome the challenges of event management in the corona pandemic. 500 fund packages were awarded. - In late September 2020, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate provided €500,000 as part of a new funding line for arthouse cinemas. In the first round of funding, worth €114,723, eight cinemas were supported. Part of the fund came from the Federal Government’s Zukunftsprogramm Kino programme. - It was announced on 6 November 2020 that North Rhine-Westphalia would support its cinemas with a €15m aid program, intended to benefit all cinemas in the state. The aid program started from 1 January 2021. This support took the shape of grants, based on admissions in 2019 and the number of screens per sites (from €1 per ticket for one-two screens cinemas to 0.30€ for sites with 10+ screens). - In Lower Saxony, the bridging aid was increased by up to 50,000 euros for small and medium-sized cinemas. A total of €7m available for cinemas. - The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (an association supporting the media industry in the Germany capital region) allocated €1.5m in Spring 2020 to support art-house cinemas, with 61 cinemas benefiting from the scheme. It was announced in March 2021 that the Medienboard would again award local cinemas with a €1.5m fund. The procedure to apply for the fund was simplified in 2021. - The Rhineland-Palatinate cinema program award – usually awarded in October – was brought forward to May 2021. The total amount awarded was increased by almost 50%, to reach 100,000€. 24 art-house cinemas benefited from the award, receiving between 1,000€ and 9,500€ each. - In May 2021, 13 cinemas located in Hessen were awarded a total of 570,000€ for renovation and modernization measures. - In June 2021, Hessen announced it would be supplementing the federal economic aid fund for cultural organizers. The aid was awarded according to the same criteria as the funds from the federal special fund. For events with up to 500 guests under pandemic conditions, the income from the tickets sold was doubled; for events reduced to less than 25 percent of the possible capacity, income was tripled. The compensation was capped at the level of the event costs plus an organization fee of 10 percent.
<p>GREECE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cinema industry - The Greek Film Centre took measures to support the sector, with a strict focus on film production. - The Greek Ministry of Finance announced in late October 2020 that it would support cinemas and other event venues by subsidising a “significant percentage” of the potential box office. - Emergency financial aid was introduced by the Government targeting independent cinema owners, under two conditions: cinemas of 1 or 2 screens only, which screened at least 2 Greek/European films in 2019-2020.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Greek Government announced it would acquire over 5m vouchers worth 4€ a piece, to be distributed to citizens and valid for Greek and European movies over a period of 3 year. - Financial aid for all entertainment venues from 26 November 2021: From 26 November 2021 private cinemas or film distribution companies could submit applications for financial aid which takes the form of financial coverage for the loss in ticket sales for the year of 2021. Application for cinemas for the months of January-November 2021 was possible when there was at least a 20% decrease in turnover in 2020 compared to 2019 (except for those cinemas that started their operation after 1 January 2019).
<p>IRELAND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support guidelines Screen Ireland created an online FAQ listing all the key support schemes that were currently available. • Expert planning support Screen Ireland introduced Strategy and Financial Planning Support for Companies experiencing financial stress in terms of cashflow, resourcing and future-proof planning, which provided access to strategy or financial planning consultants who could assist in developing a short- to medium-term plan and assist companies to strategise out of the pandemic. Total amount of the fund was €150,000, with a maximum of €5,000 available to each company. • Deferred payment to collecting societies The Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO) committed to a moratorium on any payments due before April 30 for any business that was forced to close by the Government due to the coronavirus.
<p>ITALY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cinema industry An Emergency Fund of €130m was provided for the Cinema, Audiovisual and Live Entertainment sectors. Following the approval of the “Relaunch” Law Decree on 13 May, this amount was increased to €245m, and then again to €259m on 19 May. It was gradually redistributed across the industry. - €40m was allocated to cinema operators, with each site receiving a €10,000 grant (totalling €15m) as well as an extra amount calculated as a percentage of lost box office between 15 March and 15 June, compared to box office revenues for the same period in 2019 (totalling €25m). These grants were distributed after summer 2020; - Another €20m was added to the Emergency Fund for cinema operators in October 2020, derived from the 2020 allocation of the Extraordinary Fund for investment in cinemas (a 5-year fund created by the 2016 Cinema Law). Recipients of the first fund package could apply to the additional fund - divided according to the same criteria; - A separate €2m fund was provided for open-air cinemas. <p>The Government issued a new law decree on 28 October, following the introduction of new restrictions, including the closure of cinemas. Cinemas, like the other categories who qualified for grants in May 2020, received a contribution that was double the amount previously received. The Emergency Fund for Cinema and Live Entertainment was refinanced with an additional €100m.</p> <p>In late May 2021, the Culture Minister introduced a law decree pledging 40m€ to cinemas. This fund brought the total sum of extraordinary resources allocated to cinemas to over 275m€. 25m€ was allocated to compensate for box-office losses</p>

	<p>between 1 December 2020 and 28 February 2021 compared to the same period in 2019-2020. 5m€ covered 2020 cinema rental expenses. 5m€ supported cinemas that were opened at least three days a week since 26 April 2021 and another 5m€ to those that reopened from 1 June 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated industry support The Directorate General for Cinema accelerated the payments of ordinary funding as per the Cinema Law. This involved tax credit measures (€18m for 2019, €60m for 2020), €100m to facilitate investments in new and renovated cinemas and €10m for art-house cinemas. A proposed amendment was aimed at creating a guarantee fund allowing the transferability of the tax credits of the exhibition sector. More information available here and here. • Support guidelines Relevant information and official documents can be found on the ANEC website, in Italian. • National refund initiative A national initiative was launched to provide refunds via vouchers for tickets to shows, cinemas, theatres and other cultural venues and hotels. This Government approved initiative allowed for an 18-month extension to the validity of vouchers issued to compensate cancelled shows (vouchers to be issued until 30 September). More information available here, in Italian. • Deferred payment to collecting societies The collecting society SIAE stopped collecting debts or sanctioning delayed payments (including musical rights) during the crisis, and the payment of the amount due for "foyer music" was postponed.
KOSOVO	<p>The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports allocated €5m in funds to support cultural and athletic activities affected by the crisis.</p>
LATVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the audiovisual sector Audiovisual and cinematographic activities were officially recognised as “disrupted sectors”, justifying their eligibility for several forms of Government support funds including tax delays and compensation to employees. More information available here. <p>€32.1m was allocated to the stabilisation plan for the cultural sector, with €10.6m to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19, €10.4m to promote modernisation and for the creation of new cultural content and €11m for cultural infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for event organisers The European Commission approved in January 2021 a €5 million Latvian scheme to support organisers of cultural events who had to cancel announced public cultural events due to the restrictive measures that the Latvian government had to implement to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Under the scheme, the support took the form of direct grants. Beneficiaries received up to 80% of the total amount of ticket money reimbursed to spectators and ticket reversal costs, such as bank or ticket sales network commission fees.
LITHUANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector The Lithuanian Government provided a total of €68.3m to the cultural sector. €43.3m was earmarked for the development and renewal of cultural infrastructure. €13m was distributed through the Lithuanian Council for Culture for funding initiatives supporting cultural organisations, both public and private. An additional €1.4m was administered by the Lithuanian Film Centre, providing support for film

	<p>production and distribution, the recovery of cinemas, the development of new television and film productions and other activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from film fund <p>It was announced in early October that the Lithuanian Film Centre had granted €2.8m in support for cinemas and film distributors to compensate for losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In all, 18 cinemas, operating 71 screens in Lithuania, received €2.24m.</p>
LUXEMBOURG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support guidelines <p>The Ministry of Culture published an FAQ to address the cultural industries current issues along with hotline – available here, in French.</p>
MONTENEGRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <p>The Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Montenegro Film Centre, launched an emergency assistance of €500,000 for co-financing activities in the cultural and artistic sector that serve the public interest and the protection of the socio-economic interests of unemployed artists and cultural professionals, cultural entrepreneurs, self-employed artists and cinemas/enterprises whose activities were suspended due to the coronavirus. It was open to film production companies, cinemas and individuals, as well as other actors in the creative sector.</p>
NETHERLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <p>On 27 May 2020, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science announced a €300m fund available for the cultural sector to support institutions that were essential for the sector as a whole. This included €48.5m to support municipalities and provinces and €3.5m for cinemas via the Film Fund – more information available here, in Dutch.</p> <p>An additional €482m to support the cultural sector was made available on 28 August. €200m was allocated to cultural institutions which were crucial to the national infrastructure, €15m was allocated to film production and €150m went to municipalities to support local cultural infrastructure.</p> <p>On 27 October the Dutch Government announced that the support package would be expanded, and that additional measures would be introduced specifically for events, culture, catering and producers.</p> <p>It was announced in September 2021 that from 1 October 2021, generic support measures that helped the Dutch economy during the COVID-19 crisis over the past 18 months would cease. The NOW, TVL, Tozo, TONK and various tax measures – all included in this report – were not extended from that date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for fixed costs <p>The Government announced a one-off contribution of €4,000 for cinemas and other businesses included in the Education, Culture and Science category, which could be used for fixed costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for local content <p>- The Minister of Education, Culture and Science announced it would make an additional €5m available for the Abraham Tuschinsky Fund to support Dutch film productions. Dutch cinemas usually contribute to this fund for each ticket sold – but the closure of cinemas in 2020 of course reduced that contribution. With this support 5 to 8 large Dutch productions could be supported.</p> <p>- A new support scheme to encourage the screening of local content was introduced in June 2021, specifically targeting members of the Dutch cinemas association NVBF. The scheme was entitled Full Circle Screening Scheme. Under</p>

	<p>the scheme, cinema operators could qualify for a screening fee of €1 per paying visitor to a Dutch feature film, full-length animation film or documentary that was made with a regular realization and/or Incentive contribution from the Dutch Film Fund. The total contribution per film was a maximum of €100k. Applications could be submitted until September 1, 2021 and targeted productions released between June 5 to December 31, 2021. Based on registered visitor numbers to Dutch films in 2019, an applicant could request an advance payment as soon as possible after approval by the Film Fund.</p>
<p>NORWAY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government supported the cultural sector with NOK300m (€27m), including cinemas. The scheme was intended to compensate for the loss of income from ticket sales as well as additional expenses as a result of events being cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus. The support equalled 90% of losses for March to April, 80% from May to September, 70% for October and 50% for November and December 2020. The scheme was renewed several times, running until February 2022. More details available here, in Norwegian. - The Government would not seek repayment of public subsidies paid for cultural and voluntary purposes. - A draft new regulation, upon adoption, could provide compensation opportunities to companies (including cinemas) registered in the Volunteer Register, covering lost revenues from events and for lost ticket revenues or rental income from other specified activities. More information available here. • Reduced VAT on cinema tickets <p>The Government declared that the VAT rate on cinema tickets was further reduced from 12% to 6%, effective from 20 March to 31 October 2020. This was later extended to the rest of the year and early 2021 as cinemas remained closed. The previous reduction had been set to 8% and was effective from 1 January 2020.</p> • Support guidelines <p>Arts Council Norway created a web page including a range of initiatives targeting the cultural sector – available here, in English.</p>
<p>POLAND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <p>The Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage worked on a package of support for cultural institutions as well as filmmakers and artists who suffered losses due to the cancellation of artistic and entertainment events. More information in Polish available here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was announced in December 2020 that the Polish Government would give an additional €27m from the COVID-19 Counteracting Fund to specifically help the cinema industry. The Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport would transfer these funds to the Polish Film Institute. Smaller cinemas (micro entrepreneurs) could apply to the fund, with €8.8m specifically dedicated to these businesses. To receive the support, they had to reopen in the week following the lifting of coronavirus restrictions in the country and show at least 50% of local titles. This programme ended on 31 August 2021. - The European Commission approved a €1.9 billion (PLN 8.6 billion) Polish scheme to support companies operating in certain sectors affected by the coronavirus-outbreak. It would provide support to companies of all sizes operating in several sectors affected by the coronavirus outbreak, including

	<p>gastronomy, fitness, fairs, stage, film, entertainment and recreation, photography and physiotherapy. These companies could not provide services due to the measures introduced by the Polish government to limit the spread of the virus, or had to bear costs related to sanitary restrictions resulting in a decrease in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred payment to collecting societies The Polish Government introduced an exemption from the payment of royalties to collective management organizations for entrepreneurs performing public reproduction and display – including cinemas. More information available here. Additional mechanism allowed entrepreneurs (including cinemas) to apply to collective management organisations for a reduction of payments of royalties proportionally to the reduction of entrepreneur’s revenue in relation to the revenue obtained in the same accounting period in the year before pandemic (2019). • Support from film fund The Polish Film Institute, together with the Government, prepared a programme of bank loans available for cinemas to stabilise their payment gridlocks. The Polish Film Institute created a “crisis team in the cinematographic industry”, bringing together stakeholders from the sector and working on preparing an exit strategy for the industry. More information available here.
<p>PORTUGAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector An Emergency Support Line for the Arts of €1m, financed through the Cultural Development Fund of the Ministry of Culture, was intended to support artistic entities and artists that had to stop working because of the crisis. In May 2020, a €30m fund was created to support cultural programming at municipality level. • Support from film fund The Portuguese film fund ICA maintained and, where possible, speed up the grant procedures of cinema and audio-visual support. The ICA suspended, including the month of March, the 7.5% film levy until further notice. • Support guidelines The Ministry of Culture created a website that was constantly updated with all relevant information for professionals in the cultural sector. The platform informed about forthcoming extraordinary support measures. Available here, in Portuguese.
<p>ROMANIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from film fund All financial support from the National Cinema Centre CNC (including to cinema exhibition) were postponed until the end of the state of emergency. • Support for the cultural sector The Romanian Ministry of Culture announced in November 2020 a €100m aid scheme to support organisations working in the cultural sector whose activities were suspended to stop the spread of the COVID -19. Eligible beneficiaries included both SMEs and large enterprises that carried out activities in the last 2 years.
<p>RUSSIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the film sector In a Russian Government resolution listing the economic sectors most affected by the epidemic, the culture, leisure, entertainment and film exhibition sectors were included. The Russian Association of Cinema Owners asked for a 3.5b rubles support fund for cinema exhibition. This amount was equivalent to 10% of the industry's losses from the forced coronavirus downtime. The Russian Government announced various schemes during 2020:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In July, the Federal Fund for social and economic support of Russian cinematography launched development measures to support the Russian film industry in three directions: financial, tax measures and non-financial organisational assistance, including questions on the return of people to the cinema, repertoire policy and medium-term strategy for the film industry for the next three years; - In August, the Federal Fund for social and economic support of Russian cinematography started accepting applications from cinematography organizations to receive a subsidy of up to 10m rubles for distributing national films. Support was also given to the first titles released after the reopening of cinemas. This subsidy was 100% refundable; - In December 2020, 4.2b rubles (approx. €45m) were allocated to support organizations in the Russian cinema industry affected by the negative economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on encouraging the production, distribution and promotion of national content. 50% of the fund was allocated to cinema exhibitors as incentives to show national titles and the other 50% to Russian film producers and distributors. The amount of the subsidy to cinemas depended on the share of national films shown in the period before the March 2020 lockdown. The allocated funds could be spent on activities related to screenings, maintenance of the cinema building, maintenance and development of cinema equipment, as well as repayment of debts incurred between March 2020 and the application to the fund.
<p>SLOVAKIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cinema sector <p>On 28 September, the Audiovisual Fund announced that Slovak cinema operators would receive €500k as a part of the extraordinary €11m aid package of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for independent culture. The Slovak Audiovisual Fund decided to allot this amount from the €700k support it received from Ministry of Culture. This fund was redistributed between 176 cinema sites, representing 80% of the sector. Single screen cinemas received between €2,500 and €3,400 in grants, while chains/multiplexes received support of €2,000 to €2,650 per screen – more information available here.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the Slovak Audiovisual Fund introduced several measures to support cinemas and the film sector in general, including (on a case by case basis) increased the subsidy granted or provided specific short-term loans to small cinemas. More information available here. The Audiovisual Fund, for instance, supported expenses for film festivals or screenings directly affected by the crisis. It also postponed the payment of the contribution to the fund for cinema operators who were suffering temporary insolvency and was providing short-term interest-free loans to cover necessary operating costs, in particular for smaller cinemas.</p>
<p>SPAIN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <p>The Spanish Government announced it would allocate €76.4m to support the cultural sector. Of that, €13.2m was allocated to cinema operators specifically, potentially ranging from €8,000 (for single screen operators) to €32,000 (for 8 screens multiplex or bigger) per site. Applications for this support scheme were opened in August 2020 and the grants were expected to be received from October. The grants could be used for various purposes, including:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incidental expenses generated as a consequence of the sanitary measures adopted. Among others, implementation of a risk prevention plan for workers and the public; - Campaigns aimed at reopening cinemas; - Actions to increase the programming of school campaigns; - Advertising space for promotion and trailers of Spanish cinema, as well as institutional campaigns. <p>The grants were redistributed by the ICAA. Cinema operators who wished to access these grants had to comply with the screen quota of cinematographic works from Member States of the European Union established in article 18 of Law 55/2007, on Cinema. However, said obligation was considered fulfilled when works of this nature were scheduled in a percentage of at least 30 percent in the year immediately after receiving the aid (2021). At the end of 2021, the Spanish Congress took down this last 30 per cent requirement, allowing cinemas to access grants without extra conditions. In August 2021, the Spanish government added €10m in grants to the €13.2m originally allocated to cinema operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery and Resilience Facility Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, cinemas received 17 million euros. More information here. • Support guidelines The ICAA published a Good Practice Guide on Special Measures for Audiovisual Productions in the Face of the COVID Pandemic, available here. • Support from local entities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regional Government of Madrid injected €1m into the Guarantee Society Crea SGR to guarantee that SMEs in the cultural sector could access to funding. Crea SGR promoted lines of financing aimed at companies in the cultural sector for a total amount of €20m. Support per company ranged from €20k to €100k. In addition to this, the City Council in Madrid presented the Aid Plan for cinemas in Madrid to cover the costs of supplies and rent from March to September 2020; - The DG for Culture of the Canary Islands launched a package of measures to support the cultural sector, with a budget of €2.6m, which included the creation of 2 calls for creative projects in the field of culture. More information available here; - The Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies (ICEC) opened an extraordinary grant line of €8m in June, to compensate for the running costs of companies and cultural entities during the COVID-19 crisis (structural expenses such as salaries, rents or mortgages, expenses for supplies and taxes and professional fees for those companies that had to process an ERTE, as well as the costs of adapting their premises to the health requirements set by the relevant authorities for the post-COVID-19 period); - The Catalan Financial Institute (ICF) and ICEC created the ICF Cultura Liquiditat credit line, worth €10m. This line allowed companies in the audiovisual sector to apply for zero interest loans of between €20,000-300,000 with a repayment period of 5 years and a grace period of one year. ICEC assumes 80% of the risk of operations. - In Andalusia, extraordinary measures were officially approved to, among others, reactivate the cultural sector. Line 2 of the official law includes a new
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	<p>emergency fund for cinema owners: €3,000 per screen with 75 seats or more, and a maximum grant of €90,000 (30 screens). Applications opened in June 2020. Cinema operators received the support towards the end of 2020.</p>
SWEDEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from film fund The Swedish Film Institute confirmed the implementation of various provisions, including faster payments of subsidies to smaller exhibitors, contributing a total of €1.8m (SEK 20m) to the cinema industry. The Institute forwarded SEK 20 (€1.90) per sold ticket for Swedish movies in 2019 to cinema operators. This measure applied to markets under 25,000 inhabitants and certain arthouse cinemas in bigger markets. Every cinema received SEK 30 (€2.90) per non-sold ticket between 12 March and 31 May 2020 – by comparing results with the same period in 2019. The maximum being SEK 10m (approx. €950k) per company, which was later increased to SEK 20m for the last round of support in 2020. On 5 October, the Swedish Government announced a SEK 375m support fund for the AV sector as part of an overall SEK 1.5b recovery programme for the cultural sector. The Swedish Film Institute was handling the Government's rescue package to be earmarked for cinemas, distribution, festivals and for the first time, for film & TV production. This scheme covered the period between 1 June and 31 December 2020. On 1 April, the Swedish Film Institute redistributed grants worth a total of SEK125m (€12.3m) covering losses incurred by cinema operators between 1 January and 30 April 2020. The grants were delivered on a company basis, with a ceiling of SEK40m (€3.9m). As part of a national aid package worth SEK1.3b, the Swedish Film Institute received SEK211m (€20.7m) in April 2021. This fund was redistributed between distributors, producers and cinema operators. • Support for the cultural sector Additional funding was allocated (SEK 500m/€46m) to businesses in the cultural sector that lose revenue as a result of the restriction of public events. More information available here in Swedish. • Deferred payments to collecting societies The 1% of box office payment to collecting societies that was due for 2019 was split into 4 instalments to be spread out over 2020.
SWITZERLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector CHF 280m (€260m) was allocated to support culture in general. An additional fund of CHF 130m was added to the scheme later in 2020. Cultural enterprises and artists could claim compensation from the cantons for financial loss caused in particular by the cancellation or postponement of events or the closure of establishments, up to a maximum of 80% of the damage; the Confederation paid half of the compensation granted by the cantons. More information can be found here, in French. On top of that, usual support funds for playing Swiss movies and diversified programming still apply and was paid earlier in 2020. Swiss Movies received an additional CHF 0.6m, redistributed across the sector. Support for the cultural sector was extended to 2021, and also to 2022.
UKRAINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cinema sector

	<p>For a long period of time, there was no legislation in support of the creative industries in Ukraine, but a law was passed on 16 June 2020. However, cinemas were not mentioned in the law, which was mostly focused on film production. The Ministry of Finances intended to reduce the Governmental support for the cultural sector. This included €25m to the Ukrainian State Film Agency. Following protests, the Prime Minister of Ukraine said that support of culture and education was going to be “preserved as much as possible”.</p>
<p>UK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from film fund <p>On 9 April 2020, the BFI announced a programme of support worth £4.6m (€5.3m) to aid the UK film sector. More information available here. This fund included, but was not limited to, the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The £1.3m BFI FAN COVID-19 Resilience Fund repurposed funds from the BFI Film Audience Network’s (FAN) National Lottery activity funding to offer relief to exhibitors and other FAN members across the UK. From 15 April, applications could be submitted to local Film Hubs. - The BFI announced the establishment of an emergency relief fund with the support of The Film and TV Charity and Netflix, worth £500,000. This fund primarily supported freelance workers in film production, rather than other parts of the film/cinema ecology. <p>The BFI announced the launch of its “Culture Recovery Fund for independent cinemas” on 10 August. This fund consisted of two sets of grants: safety grants to help cinemas purchase and implement any new safety measures required to be compliant with new Government/UKCA guidance & business sustainability awards which were designed to support cinema’s long-term survival, through the coming weeks and months. More information can be found here.</p> <p>It was announced in December 2020 that the BFI had already awarded £750,000 to UK exhibitors to support diverse film programming. More than 140 independent cinemas benefitted from the support scheme. More than 200 independent cinemas across England received in December 2020 grants totalling £16m to help see them through the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The grants were ranging from £7,000 to £564,000.</p> <p>Between August 2020 and March 2022, the Culture Recovery Fund distributed £1.57 billion to around 5,000 organisations and sites across the country, including cinemas. In March 2022, £35 million from the final round of Culture Recovery Fund went to 340 organisations across England. More details available here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector <p>The UK Government unveiled a £1.6bn support package to help protect the futures of UK theatres, galleries, museums and other cultural venues. Independent cinemas were also eligible. More information available here.</p> <p>The BFI introduced a £30m recovery fund specifically targeting independent cinemas as part of the above package. From August 10 until October 30 2020, venues were allowed to apply to two pots of funding: £3m for safety grants to enable cinemas (up to £10,000 per cinema) to put the necessary measures in place to ensure the safety of their workforce and the public; £27m business sustainability grants (up to £200,000 per organisation) to support independent cinemas to operate viably under the restricted conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was open to all building-based venues with a year-round program, therefore not for film festivals or touring operators. Cinemas applying to the fund</p>

for business sustainability grants were required to demonstrate a commitment to increasing their organisational diversity and the diversity of their audiences. They were also be expected to demonstrate commitments to reducing negative impacts on the environment and increasing educational outreach.

- **Support from local entities**

- In Wales, a support package for the creative industries, culture and sport sectors totalling £18m was introduced to help support these sectors in safeguarding their businesses and jobs. [More information available here.](#)
- The Welsh Government also announced an additional investment of £53 million to help Wales' diverse culture sector deal with the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic – which includes independent cinemas. More details [here.](#)
- In England, the Arts Council England set up a support fund totalling £20m for people working in the cultural sector, including artists, creative practitioners and the self-employed, which took the form of individual grants of up to £2500 per person.
- On 28 August 2020, the Scottish Government announced £3.5m in funding for independent cinemas in Scotland, as part of a £59 million funding package to protect jobs and help the industry weather the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. [More information available here.](#)

- **Charity initiative**

The Film and TV Charity set up a COVID-19 Recovery Fund that distributed up to £2m to UK film, TV and cinema workers that were hit hardest, with support for up to 6 months, starting on 23 September. The Film + TV Charity provided 24/7 help to people in all corners of the industry. This happened through a range of support services and talent development programmes. [More information available here.](#)

3.2. LOANS

SUMMARY

A wide range of measures related to loans were introduced across Europe to improve access to liquidity for companies that were worst hit by the crisis. Measures range from special State-guaranteed loans with little to no interest, to improved flexibility and suspension of loan repayments.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	For large businesses, special loans were introduced, with 90% covered by the State at an interest rate of 0.5%. The remaining 10% was at an interest rate of 1%. Those loans had to be reimbursed in 3, 4 or 5 months. The process to apply for this loan was extremely lengthy and complex. A similar scheme was in place for SMEs.
BELGIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Federal Government guaranteed loans for a total amount of €50b. At regional level, €233m was set aside to support businesses in Wallonia, €150m in Flanders and €100m in Brussels. All regions and communes also introduced regional loan guarantees, lower interest rates on certain loans, accelerated payments of subsidies etc. - In the French-speaking community, the ST'ART fund for SMEs in the cultural and creative sector introduced short-term loans of €20,000-100,000 with fixed rate of 2%. This fund specifically targeted businesses that were worst-hit by the crisis. More information here. - SOGEPA and Wallonie Santé offered loans without private counterparts for a maximum amount of €200,000 with a 1-year repayment grace period and a fixed interest rate of 2%. More information here.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €25m was provided as a guarantee for loans, ranging from €2,500 to €250,000, which could be obtained through commercial banks. - All borrowers from the Investment and Development Bank of RS were granted a three-month repayment moratorium. - The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Raiffeisen Bank (RBBH) signed a guarantee agreement allowing the bank to increase its lending capacity to offer €12m of new financing with improved terms and conditions to SMEs. The EIF's guarantee to RBBH was provided under the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility, as part of its coronavirus economic support package.
CROATIA	The Government announced an aid package worth €3.9b. This included interest-free loans to municipalities, cities and counties as well as to the country's health and pension insurance institutes, freezing and delaying loan repayments and the provision of financing for working capital and for restructuring of existing loans. More information available here.
CYPRUS	The Government approved a bill suspending the repayment of loans for nine months (until 31 December 2020) and a stimulus plan for low-interest loans via state guarantees worth €2b to banks, in a bid to boost liquidity in the economy amid the ongoing crisis. The guarantee scheme began in early April 2020. The main condition in securing a loan guarantee from the Government was that employers keep their staff employed at least until 30 September.
CZECH REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government announced an indirect aid package of €32.7b in loans for businesses, with a focus on SMEs and self-employed. - Loan repayments were delayed.

<p>ESTONIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Commission approved two Estonian State aid schemes to support the Estonian economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The €1.75b schemes enabled the provision of public guarantees on loans and loans to be granted under favourable terms. - State funds were introduced to support businesses through KredEx, a foundation set up by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, including €1b for already issued bank loans in order to allow for repayment schedule adjustments, business loans amounting to €500m and investment loans amounting to €50m.
<p>FINLAND</p>	<p>The State guaranteed bank loans to companies. Such guarantees could cover up to 80% of the bank loan in question and could be fast-tracked.</p>
<p>FRANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The French Government supported French business loans (90%, current and upcoming), delayed payments and facilitated agreements with banks. More information available here in French. - The French culture and audio-visual bank (IFCIC) guaranteed up to 70% of any loans granted in the context of COVID-19 and accept any requests from banks to prolong guarantees. - Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October, the French Government announced several improvements to State guaranteed loans introduced earlier in the year. The State also offered direct loans to companies impacted by the crisis that couldn't find other financial solutions, worth €10,000 max for companies with less than 10 employees, €50,000 for companies with 10 to 49 employees and the equivalent of 3 months of turnover for larger companies. - It was announced in mid-January 2021 that all businesses would be allowed to ask for an additional one-year postponement (from 2021 to 2022) to start repaying the State guaranteed loans they had received. Banks were required by the State to show leniency with these companies.
<p>GERMANY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The State h guaranteed certain loans up to 90% for businesses of all sizes, for amounts that could go as high as €1b per business. The German state-owned development bank KfW supported companies in coping with the Coronavirus crisis by facilitating short-term loans. - The deferral of loan repayments was planned from the cut-off date of 1 March 2020. Procedures that addressed late repayments of loans were not be pursued. More information available here, in German. - Each States had their own additional support mechanisms. Here was an online database of all the different support schemes that were introduced locally. - The European Commission approved German plans to set up a €46 billion fund at the level of the German State (Land) of Bavaria ('BayernFonds') to provide guarantees and invest through debt and equity instruments in enterprises affected by the coronavirus outbreak in Bavaria. Under the scheme, the support took the form of (I) guarantees (that were expected to mobilise €26 billion), as well as (II) subsidised debt instruments in form of subordinated loans, and (III) recapitalisation instruments (in total up to €20b), in particular equity instruments (acquisition of newly issued ordinary and preferred shares or other forms of shareholding) and hybrid capital instruments (namely convertible bonds and silent participations).

GREECE	The Greek Government announced various measures worth €10b to mitigate the effects of the Coronavirus on the country's economy, including by providing liquidity to small and medium-sized enterprises that were severely affected.
HUNGARY	Deferral of payment for loans, credit agreements or financial leasing agreement, in certain sectors including entertainment and the film industry.
ITALY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government approved an aid package of up to €25 billion for families and companies, mobilising additional resources of up to €350 billion. Among the measures taken as part of this plan, the State supported enterprises' liquidity through guaranteed bank loans. - A new Law Decree, n. 23 of April 8th, provides measures to safeguard Italian enterprises against the liquidity crisis due to the suspension of activity. More extended State guarantees was provided to banks until December 31st, 2020 for a maximum amount of €200b (at least €30b went to SMEs and the self-employed). Guarantees concern loans with a maximum amount of 25% of the enterprise's annual revenue or double the annual costs for staff. Loans could be guaranteed for a percentage varying from 70-90% of the financing, with a simplified procedure. More information available here, in Italian.
IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Credit Guarantee Scheme for COVID-19 was set up to encourage additional lending to SMEs by offering a partial Government guarantee (currently 80%) to banks against losses on qualifying loans for eligible SMEs. Businesses seeking to benefit from the guarantee scheme could approach a participating lender - Ulster Bank, Bank of Ireland and AIB participated in the Scheme. More information available here. - The COVID-19 Business Loan from Microfinance Ireland was a Government initiative to support microenterprises through the current period of uncertainty that were or may be impacted by the coronavirus in Ireland. It included business loans up to €50,000 for eligible micro-enterprises (businesses with less than 10 employees and up to €2m annual turnover). More information available here. - Eligible applications for the COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme were accepted through the SBCI website at sbci.gov.ie. Working capital was a measure of the short-term liquidity of a business and finances the day-to-day running of a business. This included cashflow for operational purposes. Loans ranging from €25,000 up to €1.5 million could be applied for under the scheme. More information available here. - The European Commission approved an Irish loan guarantee scheme to support companies to access external financing, thus helping them ensure the continuation of their activities. The support took the form of State guarantees on new loans provided by financial intermediaries to companies with up to 499 employees. With the exception of micro and small companies, companies that were already in difficulty on 31 December 2019 were not eligible for aid under the scheme.
KOSOVO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €20m was allocated to businesses via access to interest-free loans until December 2020. Micro-enterprises and self-employed workers could apply for credit guarantees up to €10,000. - The Kosovo Central Bank temporarily suspended loan repayments for firms.

LATVIA	The Latvian Government announced a €2b aid package, with €1bn set aside for measures such as loans to businesses.
LITHUANIA	€5b, amounting to 10% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) was allocated for the implementation of all measures related to the COVID-19 crisis, including immediate tax loans, deferred loan payments or payment in instalments without interest. Detailed information available here.
LUXEMBOURG	The national rescue package provided up to €2.5b of loan guarantees for companies.
MALTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Central Bank mandated the suspension (moratoria) on all interest and capital on loan repayments (except credit cards) for 6 months for individuals or businesses. Said 6 months was added on to the end of the current loan. Here was the FAQs from the Maltese Central Bank. - The MDB COVID-19 Guarantee Scheme (CGS) provided guarantees to commercial banks in order to enhance access to bank financing for the working capital requirements of businesses in Malta facing a sudden acute liquidity shortage as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. More information can be found here.
MONTENEGRO	A new Investment Development Fund (IRF) was created, with credit lines to improve entrepreneurs' liquidity.
NETHERLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government announced an aid package for business worth €10b in total. A range of measures were adopted by the Dutch Government, including the broadening of the scope of the Guarantee Corporate Financing scheme (State loan guarantees) and interest-rate deduction on Qredits microcredit for small companies. - The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (GO) for bank loans between €1.5m-€50m provides a 50% guarantee for SMEs. - The SME Credit Guarantee (BMKB) provided Guarantee for SME loans. The amount of the BMKB surety loan was increased from 50% to 75%. - The Dutch State made an additional €750m available in bridging loans for companies with relatively small financing needs (from €10,000 to €50,000). The Government guarantees 95% (€713m). The loans were provided by the banks and had an interest of up to 4%. - In May 2021, 200m€ was made available for loans to SMEs affected by the crisis. They could qualify for a loan of up to 100k€, under favourable conditions. Entrepreneurs could use that money to restart, expand or adjust their business activities.
NORTH MACEDONIA	The Government adopted a range of measures to support businesses and citizens during the crisis. These included the deferment of loans, reduction of the instalment and reprogramming of loans to financial companies and leasing companies, additional interest-free loans for companies (€8m in total) and low-interest loans from the Development Bank of the Republic of Northern Macedonia, placed through commercial banks to protect the liquidity of companies (€50m in total). More information available here.
POLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poland's Prime Minister announced a PLN 212b (€47b) fiscal package, which includes loan guarantees. - The Polish Government Bank (BGK) issued guarantees for commercial bank loans (up to 80%).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurs could obtain a loan from the Polish Development Fund (PFR). The amount of the loan depended on the actual damage caused by the pandemic and was subject to partial amortisation (the amount of amortisation was PFR's discretionary decision but could not be higher than 75%).
PORTUGAL	The Portuguese Government set aside €9.2b of aid to support companies and households, with €3b in credit lines to help businesses meet cash needs. The aid was spread among restaurants, travel agencies, event organisers etc., with a particular focus on small companies.
ROMANIA	The Government of Romania announced an aid package of €15b. A multiannual program was announced to support SMEs, worth €5b, by guaranteeing certain credits and subsidizing the interest for these financings and providing more flexibility for companies experiencing financial difficulties.
RUSSIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A crisis fund of approx. €3.5b was established. State banks Sberbank and VTB has provided loans with up to 0% rates supported by the Central Bank of Russia to pay salaries. Those loans had to be paid back before the end of 2020. Approximately 15-20% of Russian cinema operators were able to benefit from these loans. - All small and medium size businesses could benefit from a 6 month payments standstill for bank loans.
SERBIA	The Government announced guarantee schemes for loans for the maintenance of liquidity and working capital for small business owners and SMEs through commercial banks operating in Serbia.
SLOVAKIA	The Government announced monthly bank guarantees of €500m to enable banks to refinance entrepreneurs, reimbursements to the self-employed and employees of businesses that suffered losses in revenue.
SLOVENIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government announced a €2b stimulus package to support local businesses and citizens during the crisis, including via loans supporting the liquidity of businesses. - The Slovenian government adopted a new €1b stimulus package in early November 2020 aimed at mitigating and eliminating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the country's economy, labour market, and social and healthcare systems. The new package extended some of the previously introduced economic stimulus measures, as well as introduces new ones. The new package includes state guaranteed loans and the extension of the moratorium on the repayment of bank loans. - The Slovenian Art Cinema Association (SACA) reported that the yearly grant it received from the Ministry of Culture for co-financing of arthouse programmes was cut in half in 2020, from a total of €77,793 in 2019 to €37,766 in 2020. On average around 15 local cinemas were supported by the grant in the past.
SPAIN	The Spanish Government announced a €200b spending package. The main support mechanisms were State guaranteed financial loans, up to 80% for small business and 70% for large business, for a total amount of €100b and with a limit of €100,000 per company. More information available here (in Spanish) .
SWEDEN	The Swedish Government announced a package of measures worth more than SEK 300b (€27b). The aid package for SMEs guaranteed 70% of new loans

	banks provided to companies that experienced financial difficulty due to the virus.
SWITZERLAND	The Government announced a CHF 42b rescue package for the economy, which includes short-term loans to businesses. One of the first urgent measures was to allow any business to, very quickly and without any bureaucracy, access a loan up to CHF 500,000, to be paid back within 5 years and with 0% interest. Bigger loans for bigger companies were also possible, with more bureaucracy and 0.5% interest. <u>More information can be found here, in French, Italian and German.</u>
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The British Government guaranteed £330b of loans to businesses in a package of financial support. The previously-announced lending facility with the Bank of England for loans of up to £5m for small and medium-sized enterprises (typically those with less than 250 employees) was declared interest free for 12 rather than 6 months. <u>Detailed information can be found on the UK Cinema Association website.</u> - The UK Government introduced a number of measures to support businesses, employers and employees, as well as the self-employed, including a Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support small and medium-sized businesses with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years. The scheme was open to businesses with a turnover of no more than £45m. More details can be found on the <u>UKCA website</u>, the UK Government website (<u>here</u> and <u>here</u>) and the <u>BBC</u>. - Several announcements related to business loans introduced during the crisis were made on 24 September. 'Bounce Back Loans' was extended from six years to 10, cutting monthly repayments by nearly half. Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme lenders would also be able to extend the length of loans from the current maximum of six years to 10 years. The deadlines for applications to both schemes was extended to the end of November 2020. Businesses struggling could choose to make interest only payments for six months and those "in real trouble" could apply to suspend repayments altogether for six months without any impact in either scenario on their credit rating.

3.3. GRANTS

SUMMARY

Several European Governments made it possible for businesses to apply for special grants – which could only be received once in most cases – to address fixed costs and other emergency expenses. Those direct subsidies were less common throughout Europe than the loan guarantees described above.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A €2b emergency fund for very small businesses was introduced - applications to the fund were opened in March 2020. The first grant was up to €1,000. In a second phase, up to €2,000 per month could be paid for a maximum of three months, for a total of €6,000 per person. Detailed information can be found here, via an FAQ in German. - A one-off grant of up to €4,500 could be awarded to an applicant in financial distress due to the consequences of the coronavirus. - Following the introduction of a second lockdown in October 2020, a lockdown turnover compensation was introduced whereby worst-affected businesses could apply to a grant worth a maximum of €800,000. This scheme was running from 3 November to 6 December.
BELGIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional authorities announced one-off contributions to support businesses. In Wallonia, they amounted to €5,000 for businesses forced to close/€2,500 to those partly impacted. In Flanders, they amounted to €4,000 to businesses forced to close/€2,000 plus to those partly impacted. In addition, they received €160/day if the measures lasted more than 21 days (which was already the case). In Brussels, they amounted to €4,000 for businesses forced to close. - In Wallonia, it was announced in September 2020 that business would be able to apply for financial support for losses incurred because of COVID-19 restrictions. Businesses could apply to monthly grants worth a maximum of 15% of revenues made during the first 9 months of 2019. The amount was increased to 30% following the introduction of second lockdown in October 2020. Additional information can be found here, in French. - In October 2020, a new support scheme was introduced in Flanders to support businesses that suffered a loss of at least 60% of their usual turnover. The support grants amounted to 10% of the turnover excluding VAT during the same period in 2019. Additional information can be found here, in Flemish.
CZECH REPUBLIC	<p>Self-employed people who proved that they were economically damaged by the Government's exceptional measures or other consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and meet other conditions could receive a one-off payment of €930.</p>
FINLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government allocated €1 billion for direct business subsidies. SMEs that employed less than 250 people were supported, as well as those with 250+ employees but with an annual turnover of less than €300m. - Businesses were able to apply for financing from municipalities to address difficulties caused by the coronavirus. The State allocated €100m of the 2020 budget to providing this support in full. Businesses that were profitable before the coronavirus-induced interruption were eligible for support, consisting of a fixed sum that could be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs. The support scheme ran for a fixed term and be in effect for 6 months. Entrepreneurs could be entitled to this support as well as extended unemployment security.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Finland provided funding for SMEs and midcap companies (6-250 employees with a maximum turnover of €300m) whose business was affected by the coronavirus outbreak. This funding was specifically targeted, among others, at the creative sector. It included preliminary funding of a maximum €10,000 for companies during business disruptions and development funding for companies during business disruptions of a maximum of €100,000. More information available here. - The Finnish State Treasury introduced a Business cost support, intended to cover the costs of businesses that experienced a marked decrease in turnover due to the coronavirus and costs (such as salaries or other necessary expenses) that were difficult to adjust. According to the act, the support granted to the company must exceed €2,000. The maximum amount of support was €500,000 per company. There were two support rounds, covering costs for March to October 2020. Local cinemas received close to €2m in support via this scheme. More information available here.
<p>FRANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solidarity fund - A “solidarity fund” was introduced to support small business (with less than 20 employees and €2m turnover),. They received financial aid of €1,500, with an additional €2,000 under certain conditions. This amount was increased to €3,500 for businesses with €200k-600k turnover and could reach as much as €10,000 for all other businesses. This fund remained open until the end of 2020. It was announced in February 2021 that it would be again renewed for the month of January, with additional monthly extension expected. Detailed information available on the FNCF website, in French. FAQ created by French authorities, available here. - Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October <u>2020</u>, the French Government announced that the “solidarity fund” would be extended for all businesses that were forced to close. They were able to apply for monthly grants for November worth €10,000 maximum per month for companies with less than 50 employees. This aid was extended to December 2020, with an additional scheme for larger companies who could apply for a grant worth 20% of the difference between revenues made during the same month in 2019 (excluding VAT and with a ceiling of €200,000 per company). A detailed description of the scheme can be found on the FNCF website, in French. • The solidarity fund was extended throughout 2021 as cinemas remained closed. The support mechanism did not change between January and May 2021. For June to August 2021, the first months following the reopening of French cinemas, the solidarity fund was adapted to accompany companies in the recovery process. It was expected that 40% of losses would be covered for June (with a limit of 20% of revenue/a 200k€ ceiling), 30% in July and 20% in August. For instance, in July 2021, cinema operators had to prove a loss of more than 10% of their pre-pandemic turnover (July 2019 or monthly average of 2019) in order to qualify for the support. The total amount of aid was set at 200,000€ per company for July. • Support for the acquisition of sanitary equipment <p>The national health insurance s introduced from 18 May 2020 (until December 31) a “COVID prevention” scheme supporting businesses of less than 50 employees in their acquisition of sanitary and safety equipment necessary for their reopening.</p>

	<p>This subsidy could amount to 50% of the total investment (which has to be of at least €1,000) and was limited to €5,000 maximum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local support <p>It was announced in May 2021 that the law (<i>Loi Sueur</i>) limiting the amount of support that local “collectivités” could distribute to cinemas had been amended, going from a rate of 30% to 60% (to cover losses or investments).</p>
<p>GERMANY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridging aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In July 2020, a bridging aid was introduced for SMEs that were affected by corona-related closing and restrictions. Companies with up to 249 employees could receive up to €50,000 per month from June to December. To do this, it <u>had to be demonstrated</u> that sales in April and May plummeted by at least 60 percent compared to the same months in the previous year. Companies that already received emergency aid from the federal and state Governments were also able to apply for further support. <u>Additional information about this aid can be found here, in German.</u> - The bridging aid, initially covering the period of June to August, was extended to a second phase covering September to December 2020. For this second phase, the access conditions were simplified and the funding was expanded. For instance, all companies (whatever their number of employees) could now apply to the maximum amount of €50,000. And as much as 90% of the fixed costs (previously at 80%) was covered for companies that registered a drop in sales of more than 70%. <u>More information available here.</u> - Following the extension of the lockdown-light until 10 January, the Federal Government announced that this support scheme would be renewed for a third phase and expanded from November 2020 to June 2021. <u>A detailed FAQ on this third wave of support available here, in German.</u> Companies that made use of the November and December aid were only eligible to apply for the months from January to June 2021. The catalogue of eligible costs was expanded so that depreciation for fixed assets and structural measures for hygiene measures could also be applied. The bridging aid included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equity grants for companies that suffered a drop in sales of more than 50% in at least three months since November 2020. The equity contribution was up to 40% of the amount that a company was reimbursed for the eligible fixed costs. The equity grant was staggered and increases the longer companies suffered a drop in sales of at least 50 percent. The new equity grant was granted in addition to the regular funding of Bridging Aid III. - Increased fixed costs reimbursements to up to 100% for companies that suffered a drop in sales of more than 70%. Previously, up to 90% of the eligible fixed costs were reimbursed. However, this only applied to companies that receive the aid on the basis of the <i>deminimis</i> or federal small aid scheme. - Start-up aid for companies in the event and travel industry, in addition to the general flat rate for personnel costs, amounting to 20% of the wage bill that were incurred in the corresponding reference month of 2019 was introduced for each funding month. The maximum total funding amount for this start-up aid was €2m. - It was announced on 9 June that the Corona economic aid would be extended to September 30, 2021. The previous funding conditions were renewed in an instrument called "Bridging Aid III Plus", effective from 1 July. In order to be

	<p>eligible, cinema operators had to register from 15 June on the special fund portal before submitting their application.</p> <p>A new addition was a "restart bonus", with which companies could receive a higher subsidy for personnel costs. The Federal Government also announced it would be increasing the upper limit for funding under Bridging Aid III and Bridging Aid III Plus. In the future, companies that were directly or indirectly affected by government closure measures were able to claim up to €40m as compensation for damages. The basis for this was the "Federal Regulation for Compensation for Damages", which the European Commission approved at the request of the Federal Government. Together with the previously applicable upper limit of up to €12m, the maximum funding amount in Bridging Aid III and Bridging Aid III Plus was of €52m. <u>Additional details can be found here, in German.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From February 2022, voluntary closures due to access restrictions (3G, 2G, 2G Plus) exceptionally do not affect eligibility for funding. In addition, material and personnel costs for the implementation of access restrictions were also eligible. This applies regardless of whether these costs were incurred by the company's own staff or by commissioning a service provider. - As of early April 2022, German cinema operators were still allowed to maintain the right to apply for the special fund for cultural events by limiting capacity by 20%. - The Bridging Aid IV was extended until the end of June 2022. In order to continue to be eligible to apply, there had to be a COVID-related drop in sales of at least 30%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid ceiling and accumulation - Following the EU decision to increase the state aid ceilings, local authorities made it possible for companies to benefit from the new aid levels via various administrative means and regulations. In addition, a new aid directive was created with the compensation scheme. To give companies leeway in terms of the upper aid limits, the BMWi announced the right to choose the fundamentals of state aid law for bridging aid II and November and December aid. Additional details can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. The German association HDF Kino also <u>published a table</u> explaining in detail how grants could be accumulated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extraordinary economic aid - In November 2020, the Federal Government announced companies that were forced to close again could receive extraordinary economic aid to compensate their financial losses. It was announced that this support would represent up to 75% of the turnover for the same month last year (i.e. November 2019). The application process started on the last week of November and all companies that had to cease business operations on the basis of the closure ordinances issued by the federal states could apply. The support scheme did not offset other aids that were introduced in the past few months. <u>A detailed description of the scheme available here, in German.</u> - Following the extension of the lockdown-light until 10 January, the Federal Government announced that this support scheme would be renewed for December 2020. In January 2021, HDF-Kino publicly complained about delays in the promised payments to cinema operators for the month of November
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	<p>2020. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, in charge of the scheme, blamed the delays on a technical problem with the online application process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local schemes Each Bundesland had its own additional support mechanisms, in addition to local support schemes from cities. Please visit the HDF Kino website for more information on support schemes that were introduced locally. For instance, Baden-Württemberg and North Rhine-Westphalia introduced wage subsidies, Saxony offers financial support for cinemas with up to 6 screens whose performance was impaired as a result of the crisis, Bavaria offered grants for operating costs based on the number of visitors in 2019 and cinemas and other venues in Hessen could receive up to €18,000 for programming, marketing and construction measures. North Rhine-Westphalia set up a support programme for entrepreneurs that allows them to receive a one-off payment of €1,000 per month for up to three months, starting from July 2020. • Digital innovation grant Not directly related to the current crisis but nevertheless particularly relevant to cinema operators, the new funding program "Digital Now - Investment Funding for SMEs" from the BMWi offers financial subsidies to encourage SMEs to invest in digitisation. Funding takes the form of grants with rates of up to 60 percent. • Emergency aid An emergency aid, totalling €50b, was set up for the self-employed and small businesses: up to €9,000 was provided to the self-employed and companies of less than 5 employees, with up to €15,000 to companies of less than 10. The amount of support varies from Bundesland to Bundesland, who could decide how much could be applied for.
<p>IRELAND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Commission approved a €200 million scheme to support Irish companies affected by the outbreak. The support was accessible to companies employing 10 or more full-time employees that experience or expect to experience a decline in turnover of at least 15% compared to their revenue before the Coronavirus outbreak. The maximum aid amount was €800,000 per company. - A €250 million Restart Grant was introduced to provide direct grant aid to micro and small businesses to help with the costs associated with reopening and re-employing workers following COVID-19 closures. More information available here. - The Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) made a €2 billion fund - the Pandemic Stabilisation and Recovery Fund (PSRF) - to support medium and large enterprises in Ireland affected by COVID-19. The PSRF focused on investment in large and medium enterprises employing more than 250 employees or with annual turnover in excess of €50 million. ISIF could consider investing in enterprises below these levels if they were assessed to be of substantial scale and of significant importance at national or regional level. More information available here. - On 21 October 2020, the Irish Government replaced the Restart Grant and the Restart Grant Plus with the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS). Eligible businesses could make a claim to Revenue for a payment known as an Advance Credit for Trading Expenses (ACTE). An ACTE was payable for each week a business was affected by the restrictions. The ACTE was equal to 10%

	<p>of the average weekly turnover of the business in 2019 up to €20,000, plus 5% on turnover over €20,000. In the case of new businesses, the turnover was based on the average actual weekly turnover in 2020. The ACTE was subject to a maximum weekly payment of €5,000 per cinema. More information available here. The scheme was renewed in 2021, running until the end of January 2022.</p>
ITALY	<p>On 13 May 2020, tax credits and contributions for expenses and the purchase of devices and equipment to limit the spread of COVID-19 and sanitise workplaces were introduced.</p>
NETHERLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government announced an aid package for business worth €10b in total. A range of measures were adopted by the Dutch Government, including compensation scheme for impacted sectors. - On 20 May 2020, an allowance on fixed expenses for SMEs was introduced. It would allow SMEs most affected by the crisis (30% loss in turnover at least) to apply for a tax-free allowance to cover their fixed costs, for a maximum amount of €20,000. Companies could also apply for wage support; this scheme does not replace it. An extension of this allowance on fixed expenses was announced on 28 August. The scheme was be extended until 1 July 2021, in three consecutive phase of three months each.
POLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Polish Government made 100 billion złoty (€22b) available to businesses to enable them to maintain liquidity and keep employees on their payroll during the coronavirus crisis. The aid was directed at micro-enterprises, SMEs and big businesses that pay taxes in Poland, and which lost at least 25 percent of their revenue due to the crisis. 60% of aid would take the form of subsidies that don't need to be paid back. - Additional support schemes were introduced in December 2020 following the extension of various COVID-19 related restrictions. The schemes were intended to help sectors and industries that were most affected by the crisis, including cinemas. Available support depends on many criteria, including the industry, the status of the enterprise (small, medium, large), the loss amount and its period (e.g. from March 2020 to March 2021), etc. - Among these new schemes, subsidy for micro and small enterprises were introduced, in the form of a grant worth a maximum of PLN5,000 / €1,100.
ROMANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €1b in grants was made available to Romanian SMEs and microenterprises – with as much as €20,000 per company – under the future economic recovery package prepared by the Government and announced on 4 June. - A second grants package worth €100m was introduced in late June 2020, again targeting SMEs hit by the coronavirus pandemic. The grants' value was set according to turnover (a maximum amount equal to no more than 15% of the average turnover before the crisis), with grants ranging from €2,000 to €50,000. - The European Commission approved a €935m Romanian scheme to support companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak, taking the form of direct grants for working capital and productive investments, and was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The measure was accessible to SMEs and certain large companies related to the eligible SMEs, which were negatively impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The aim of the scheme was to provide liquidity to these companies, thus enabling them to continue their activities, start investments and maintain employment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The €100m support fund for the cultural sector introduced in November 2020 included grants for cinema operators. The grant value was based on 50% of the gross value of tickets sold in 2019. In order to benefit from this scheme, candidates had to be registered by 25 November 2020 in the Cultural Sector Register, the creative industries map launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2020.
<p>SWITZERLAND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government announced a CHF 42b rescue package for the economy, which included direct support for cultural and sport organisations. <u>More information can be found here</u>, in French, Italian and German. - An additional CHF 5b scheme was introduced in 2020 to support cultural businesses that were most affected by the pandemic, via grants to cover turnover losses. But this aid mechanism could not be combined with the one that was specific to the cinema sector, described earlier in this research, unless you distinguish different commercial activities (screenings, F&B sale, events, etc)..
<p>UK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UK Government introduced a number of support grants (ranging from £10,000-£25,000 per property) for many companies operating in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector. More details can be found on the <u>UKCA website</u>, the UK Government website (<u>here</u> and <u>here</u>) and the <u>BBC</u>. - General grants were introduced in October 2020 for businesses which were required to close by government or where other COVID restrictions significantly impacted on them following the introduction of a second lockdown. The amounts varied depending on the ‘rateable value’ of the business (how much it pays in local business taxes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ up to £3,000 every two weeks for businesses which were closed; and ▪ up to £1,500 every two weeks for businesses which were severely impacted by COVID restrictions. - In addition to the above, businesses with qualifying property with a rateable value of less than £51,000 were eligible for cash grants from local authorities. - The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) supported businesses that were not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding was needed. - Businesses that didn’t close but which were severely impacted due to local Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions could be eligible for Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG). Up to £2,100 per business per month.

3.4. EMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY

National authorities across Europe introduced measures to support jobs and livelihoods. Several territories offered to pay a significant share of employees' salaries as long as they were not permanently let go by their employers.

COUNTRY	DATA	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	Figures	Approx. 2,000 people employed in cinema exhibition.
	Measures	The Government grants described earlier in this document were meant to be used by employers to cover fixed costs, including employees' wages. It was possible to reduce working time to 10% while maintaining employees in an employment relationship with 80% wage compensation. The State reimbursed the employer for the costs of lost working hours on the basis of fixed and flat rates. Various work reduction systems were introduced. The scheme was valid for six months (March to August). This scheme did not apply to so called "mini job contracts" – covering many of those working in the cinema industry – but various operators decided to keep paying these wages.
BELGIUM	Figures	Approx. 1,200 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	Procedures for temporary leave due to <i>force majeure</i> were rendered more fluid. The State covered 70% of salaries, previously it was 65%. Average unemployment revenue was increased by €150 per month for those on temporary unemployment because of the virus. The measure was extended until the 31 December for worst affected sectors, and for companies that used it for at least 20% of days worked in the second quarter. It was again extended up until 31 March 2021 following the introduction of a second lockdown in October 2020. More information available here . Various already existing regional support mechanisms were made more flexible to benefit impacted employees.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Measures	A minimum salary contribution was covered by the Government, in the form of €120 per month, per employee.
BULGARIA	Measures	National authorities introduced legislation on compensating employers who had suspended operations because of the State of Emergency, voted by Parliament on March 13 and mentioned adding €1b to the unemployment fund. The Unemployment Fund covered 60% of salaries if employers refrain from lay-offs and cover the other 40%. The measure was restricted to undertakings active in the sectors most affected by the current public health crisis, such as retail, tourism, passenger transport, culture, sports activities, amusement and recreation activities and others. More information in Bulgarian available here.
CROATIA	Measures	The Government covered 100% of minimum net wages if employers did not lay off workers. That minimum wage was increased from €425 to approximately €525 starting from the month of April and was paid for March, April and May. The State also covered social and pension contributions.

		<u>Detailed information available here and here in Croatian.</u>
CYPRUS	Measures	<p>Support Plan for Small Businesses, amounting to €10m, for businesses employing up to 5 people, under the condition that they kept employing their employees and suffered losses bigger than 25% of their turnover. The employment support schemes covered 90% of the workforce of a company and 60% of the net salary up until 31 August 2020. The Government of Cyprus extended this scheme up until the 31 October 2020, supporting 60% of the salaries for 40% of the employees of a company. The scheme was again extended until March 2021, with the Government supporting 60% of the salaries for 50% of the employees of a company, provided that the company did not achieve 40% of its monthly turnover (calculated from past performances).</p> <p>The payment of overdue contributions of social insurance as well as the instalments for the months of March and April 2020 was suspended and the deadline for settlement was extended by two months.</p> <p>Following the introduction of a second lockdown in January 2021, eight support schemes worth a total of €130m were introduced. These primarily provide allowances to cover salary costs for companies with full and partial suspension of operation.</p>
CZECH REPUBLIC	Measures	<p>The State covered a significant share of the salary of the employees impacted by the crisis. In the event of ordered quarantine, the employee received a wage compensation amounting to 60% of the reduced average earnings. In the event of closure of business due to the Government order the employee received a wage compensation of 100% of the average earnings. Contribution to the employers was 80% of the wage compensation paid, including contributions, up to the amount of approx. €1400. <u>More information available here.</u></p> <p>A €97 million (CZK 260 million) scheme to support companies which were particularly affected by the coronavirus outbreak was introduced in August. This scheme includes support for jobs offered to previously unemployed people. The scheme was running until 31 December 2020. It was announced in January 2021 that this scheme would be extended up until 30 June 2021.</p> <p>In addition, a new €160m scheme provided a higher level of support to businesses who were prohibited or substantially restricted in carrying out economic activities due to the coronavirus outbreak. This new scheme, consisting in financing up to 100% of the employers' wage costs, was accessible to businesses of all sizes and covers the wages incurred between 1 October and 28 February 2021.</p>
DENMARK	Measures	<p>Staff expenses were covered: If the employer kept the employee hired, 75% of their wages covered. This agreement ran from 9 March to 9 June 2020 (three months).</p> <p>Following a second round of closure from 16 December, the scheme above was renewed.</p>
ESTONIA	Figures	Approx. 450 people employed in exhibition.

	Measures	Up to 70% from the employee's average salary was covered by the State, with a maximum amount of €1000. The employer had to pay at least €150. In order to apply, the employer had to demonstrate a 30% turnover decrease per month (compared to the same month in 2019). Detailed information available here, in Estonian. This scheme ended on 31 July 2020.
FINLAND	Measures	The Government compensation of layoff days varied between 0-30€/day to 30-70%/day or month depending on whether you belong to union/unemployment fund or not and depending on your salary level. Various changes were made to lay-off rules. Employee re-employment obligation were extended: the employer was obliged for a period of nine months, to re-employ those employees who were dismissed for financial or production-related reasons between 1 April and 30 June.
	Figures	Approx. 15,000 people employed in exhibition.
FRANCE	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partial activity covered 70% of salaries, which could rise to 100% for those on minimum wage and employees covered by an industry agreement to cover their salaries in full. The compensation paid by employers was entirely covered for companies in the film exhibition sector until September 30, 2020. The FNCF then requested an extension of these preferential conditions for partial activity until December 31, 2020 – which was approved by the French Government in late August 2020. This measure was extended in the following month, with support available from January to June 2021. Worst affected businesses (forced to close or that suffered a loss of 80% of revenues, which includes cinemas) could benefit from a higher support level. The French Government created an extensive online FAQ explaining this support system. - In order to support employers experiencing a lasting decline in activity, another long-term partial activity mechanism was made available requiring a corporate agreement. In return for employment commitments, employers were able to reduce working hours of the employees (up to 40% or 50% in certain cases) and obtain an increased allowance. Detailed information about partial activity available in this document, in French. - From 1 June 2020, the conditions for the partial activity salary compensation evolved to support companies in the economic recovery related to progressive de-containment. More information available here. - All the employment and related social support schemes introduced during the first lockdown were extended and reinforced during the second lockdown, as outlined in this official text in French. - The French Government also introduced several schemes to support employers in the payment of social charges – detailed information on the topic can be found here, in French.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October 2020, the French Government announced that employers would not be required to pay social charges. This measure only applies to companies with less than 250 employees that were forced to close. - The French Government also took various steps to facilitate and accelerate the procedure to receive unemployment support. <u>Detailed information available in this document</u>, in French. - From 5 July, employers couldn't ask for the postponement of "cotisations salariales" - only "cotisations patronales" could be deferred by filling in a special form. All measures to support employers can be found <u>here</u> (in French). This rule was only temporary. - Measures supporting employers with the payment of social charges, initially valid for 2020 only, were extended to the beginning of 2021 and fully cover businesses that were forced to close – such as cinemas. The possibility to defer/stagger the payment of charges was also extended. - Initially only effective during lockdown, a rule offering financial support to employees who were forced to stay at home to take care of their children because their school was closed/children tested positive to COVID-19 was re-introduced from 1 September. <u>More information available here, in French</u>. Another rule offering financial support to employees forced to stay at home because they were particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, parents of a child under 16 or of a disabled person subject to a measure of isolation were still available. - French authorities also provided for the payment of 10 days of paid leave between January 1 and 7 March 2021. The scheme allowed employers to plan for their employees to take 10 days of paid leave between these dates. The state covered 70% of the paid leave amount, with a ceiling set at 4.5 times the national minimum salary. The support mechanism was available for companies that were forced to close for at least 140 days in 2020 or that lost 90% of turnover during lockdown periods compared to the same periods in 2019. - On 16 July 2020, French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced a €100 billion recovery roadmap, including incentives for businesses hiring people under the age of 25. - In August 2021, it was confirmed that all businesses of less than 250 employees – including from the cinema sector – that were still either closed or had their occupancy limited to less than 50% could still benefit from the main employment support schemes previously introduced. Therefore, cinema operators benefitted of these schemes up until May 2021 included. - For June to August 2021, cinema companies employing less than 250 employees were able to apply to a support scheme covering social contributions/charges for a total amount worth 15% of their
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		<p>employees' salary. This scheme could be renewed up until 31 December 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional support mechanisms for employers in 2021 were described on the FNCF website. Support measures were still available after the reopening of cinemas in May 2021, supporting the recovery process.
GERMANY	Figures	Approx. 25,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Businesses could apply for “Kurzarbeitergeld” (short-time work allowance) to prevent job losses. The allowance covered a maximum of 67% of the employee’s monthly salary if their employer was forced to close because of a Government decree, such as cinemas. The rest had to be paid by the employer. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced in early 2022 that the special regulations for short-time allowance would be partially extended. The maximum period of entitlement would be extended from 24 to 28 months and simplified access would be granted until 30 June 2022. A detailed description of the scheme can be found on this page, in German. - Business who had to close because of the impact of the virus on their business – but were not forced by the State to do so – could not lay off their staff and had to pay 100% of their salaries. - Bridging aid schemes covering wage subsidies for small and medium-sized businesses, including cinemas, were introduced across Germany in a joint effort from the federal and state Governments. Cinemas could apply for bridging aid from the Federal Ministry of Economics (BMWi) and the Zukunftsprogramm (ZPK) of the State Minister for Culture and Media. - Access to basic social security benefits was made easier for cultural and media companies and child allowance was temporarily adjusted to the current situation. - It was announced in December 2020 that the statutory minimum wage would be increased twice in 2021. It would rise in January from €9.35 to €9.50 per hour and in July to €9.60. This also applied to so-called mini jobs (max. €450). <p>HDF Kino conducted a survey among exhibitors on their experience with these two aid programmes in order to further tailor their demands to the Government.</p>
GREECE	Measures	<p>Companies wishing to benefit from the National aid package could not lay off any of their staff. The measures included a benefit of €800 for each employee whose business was shut or was affected seriously by the virus, while the state also covered their social security contributions. The Easter financial bonus was paid in full to all employees. The state covered the cost of beneficiaries’ insurance, pension and health payments.</p>
HUNGARY	Measures	<p>The Government introduced targeted support in the form of wage subsidies (direct grants) for companies in sectors or regions that suffered most from the coronavirus outbreak and would otherwise</p>

		have had to lay off personnel. This scheme was effective until 31 August 2020
IRELAND	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in Ireland (ROI) introduced a plan whereby companies keep staff that would have otherwise been laid off and pay them a Jobseekers welfare payment and the company would claim it back from the Government. For companies that had liquidity issues, the Government and banks would supply short term, low cost loans. - The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment was increased from €203 to €350 for employees who lost their jobs due to COVID-19. - Also a Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme was set up by the Government whereby the state provided employers, who experienced significant economic disruption, with a subsidy payment based on either 85% of the wage (for those earning below €1,785 per month), a flat €1,517 (for those between €1,786 and €2,170 per month) or 70% of the wage (for those between €2,171 and €2,539 per month - subject to a cap of €1,777 per month). <u>More information can be found here.</u> On 1 September the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS). Level of subsidy the employer would receive per employee: Less than €151.50 gross wages per week – nil subsidy; From €151.50 to €202.99 gross wages per week - €151.50 subsidy; More than € 203 and less than € 1,462 gross wages per week - €203 subsidy; More than € 1.462 gross wages per week - nil subsidy. Income tax would not be applied to the subsidy payment. - The new <u>Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)</u>, provided a flat-rate subsidy to qualifying employers based on the numbers of eligible employees on the employer’s payroll. The EWSS, operated by Revenue, replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme and ran until 31 March 2021.
	Figures	Approx. 8,000 people employed in exhibition.
ITALY	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The COVID-19 emergency measures extended ordinary unemployment benefits to companies of 5+ employees for a maximum period of 9 weeks: the social welfare covered 80% of the salary due. This measure was extended for another 9 weeks following an official decision on 13 May. The benefit was extended to companies with less than 5 employees with a separate procedure, involving Regional Governments. - A compensation of €600 was provided for collaboration contracts, with reference to the month of March. - A postponement of social security payments for the months of April and May was approved. <u>Additional information in Italian available here.</u> - The Government issued a new law decree on 28 October 2020, following the introduction of new restrictions, including the closure of cinemas. The work support scheme (related to

		emergency layoffs) was extended for another 6 weeks, from 16 November 2020 to 31 January 2021. The terms relating to the payments of social security and welfare contributions and compulsory insurance premiums due for November 2020 were suspended.
KOSOVO	Measures	The Government decided to pay laid-off workers three months' worth of the minimum wage (€170 per month) plus pension contributions. Likewise, firms received €206 for each new employee hired on a minimum one-year contract during the crisis.
LATVIA	Figures	Approx. 250 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	75% of average gross salary (based on the last 6 months) was covered by the State, but not exceeding €700. This scheme ended on 30 June 2020. Detailed information available here.
LITHUANIA	Measures	Post quarantine support (6-months programme): companies which were impacted by the lockdown could apply for support after quarantine. This scheme ran until 16 December 2020. 1st -2nd month (July and August 2020) - a company could get 100% subsidy, but not more than €607 for full-time employees; 3rd - 4th month – max. €303.5 for full-time employees; 5th - 6th month – €182.1 for full-time employees.
LUXEMBOURG	Figures	Approx. 100 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	The procedure for applying to and obtaining temporary leave was accelerated and modified. In order to avoid permanent layoffs, the State encouraged temporary unemployment for reason of <i>force majeure</i> . From 16 March 2020 this possibility was granted automatically for companies that were forced by the authorities to close. The State covered 80% of the employee's salary, the reimbursed amount was limited to 250% of the minimum average salary. The employers still had to cover social charges and actual working hours. More information available in French.
MALTA	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government offered compensation of €800 per person for remaining employed and businesses had to top up to €1200. Part timers got €500 per month. Quarantine leave compensation of €350 per week. The unemployed received €800 per month. Additional information can be found here. - Employers who had a member of their staff (including themselves) on mandatory quarantine leave in accordance with the directives of the Superintendent of Public Health were entitled to a one-off lump sum grant of €350. - Employees who had their full-time employment terminated as of 9 March 2020, including those who were self-employed, were eligible for the Contributory Unemployment Benefit and would receive a direct weekly payment of €166.15 if work was in full-time or €103.85 if work was part-time before becoming unemployed.
MONTENEGRO	Measures	The Government subsidised 70% of the minimum wage for employees in sectors that were forced to close/50% of the minimum wage for employees in at risk sectors. It subsidised 70% of the gross

		minimum wage of newly employed workers in SMEs for six months, if these workers were registered as unemployed.
NETHERLANDS	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NOW 1.0 - From March 2020, employers had to pay 100% of their employees' salaries, while receiving State compensation of up to 90% of the wage sum (up to a certain maximum) from the Dutch Labour Authority. The compensation applied to employees with permanent and flexible contracts. In order to qualify for the compensation, the employer had to demonstrate that it expected at least 20% loss of turnover for a consecutive period of three months. So for instance, loss in turnover of 100% = 90% compensation of the employer's wage sum; 50% = 45%; 25% = 22.5%. Detailed information available here. - NOW 2.0 - From June 2020, an entrepreneur registering at least 20% expected revenue loss from July 6, 2020 could apply for a 90% contribution towards wage costs for June to September. The extended regime used the same system of compensation, with some additions. Detailed information for the extended regime available here. - NOW 3.0 – From October 2020, employment support was extended until 1 July 2021. It was confirmed in December 2020 that the rates applied for NOW 2.0 would be extended for NOW 3.0 following the introduction of second lockdown in the Netherlands. Additional rules/support measures related to employment were also been introduced, with more information available here, in Dutch. - NOW 4.0 –NOW was extended for the third quarter oin 2021 if a company could report a loss in turnover of 80%. - NOW 5.0 and NOW 6- were extend again. - The Government announced in October 2020 that it would increase tax-free expenses in the Work-related Expense Scheme (vrije ruimte in de Werkkostenregeling in Dutch) to 3% of the first €400,000 of an employee's wage bill. This increase was temporary and only in effect for 2020. - NOW 8.0 – From January 2022, employment support was extended until March 2022. Additional support measures related to employment were introduced. Further information can be found here, in Dutch. - As of 1 January 2022, the minimum wage was adjusted. The amounts can be found on the website of the Government, in Dutch. Furthermore, measures related to protecting flexible employment contracts that were suspended due to COVID-restrictions (which required a higher reliance on flexible contracts), were re-introduced.
NORTH MACEDONIA	Measures	Employers had to pay 70% of the salary of workers on paid leave. The Government provided minimum monthly salaries of €240 for people in hardship in the private sector.
NORWAY	Figures	Approx. 1600 people employed in exhibition.

	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the event of redundancy, cinemas had to pay the first two days' salaries (previously at 15 days before the crisis). Thereafter the Government covered 18 days of full payment (100% of the employee salary was covered). After the first 20 days, 80% of the salary (for those earning between NOK 75,000-300,000 yearly) or 62,4% (for those earning between NOK 300,000 and approx. NOK 600,000 yearly). Before one had to earn NOK 150.000 in the last 12 months to get cover at all, the limit was down to NOK75.000 in the last 12 months, which helped student workers. - There was also a reduced employer period in the event of coronary-related sickness absence. The employer period was reduced from 16 to 3 days. The Government payed for the rest. - Payment of employer's tax contribution was postponed from 15 May to 15 August 2020. It was also cut by 4% in the same period.
POLAND	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subsidies to the wages for the employees who were forced to stop work. It could either be granted on economic downtime in the workplace or reduction of working time (to be decided by the employer and could be both). The subsidies were for a total period of 3 months from the date of submission of the application for this co-financing. The State funding was 50% of the minimum wage. The condition to get this subsidy was proving a decrease (a certain %) in economic turnover following the occurrence of COVID-19. Employees covered by these subsidies could not be dismissed. In the event of decreasing economic turnover as a result of COVID-19 by at least 15%, the employer had the possibility of reducing the number of employees' working hours up to 20% (but not more than 0.5 full-time working time). The salary could not be lower than the minimum salary. - Workers were allowed to delay their social security payments. - Employees who worked on contract of mandate basis and were put off because of the occurrence of COVID-19 were entitled to one-time benefit (application had to be submitted by the employer). - Additional support schemes were introduced in December 2020 following the extension of various COVID-19 related restrictions. Among these new schemes, businesses could be exempted from paying their social charges due for the months from July 2020 until certain public help limit was achieved but not later than April 2021. Cinemas were intended as recipients of this aid.. - Employers could also apply to a one-off additional closure benefit, valid for October and November 2020. The closure benefit was equivalent to 80% of the minimum wage applicable in 2020, (PLN2,080 / €470). - The State also co-financed employees' salaries in the amount of PLN2,000 per employee, for a period of 3 months, to avoid layoffs. This last measure was later extended to early 2021.
PORTUGAL	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each employee entitled to family support, to 2/3 of the basic remuneration and supported by the employer and the Portuguese

		<p>Social Security. The employer paid 33 percent and Social Security covered the remaining 33 percent. The two thirds mentioned above could not be less than €635 (guaranteed minimum monthly wage) and could not exceed €1,905 (which corresponds to three month's minimum wages).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Payment of social contributions by employers were delayed for companies of less than 50 employees or businesses that had recorded a 20% drop in turnover. More information available here.
ROMANIA	Measures	<p>The Government established that, during the state of emergency, salaries of those on temporary leave would be covered by the State's unemployment insurance budget. The level of the allowance was at least 75% of the basic salary corresponding to the job occupied, but not more than 75% of the country's average gross wage. More information available here.</p>
SERBIA	Measures	<p>The State covered minimum wages for micro and small businesses for three months. Large enterprises received similar support, through 50% of the minimum wage for each employee for three months.</p>
SLOVAKIA	Measures	<p>The State paid 80% percent of an employee's salary in companies that were closed down. This scheme stopped as soon as cinemas were allowed to reopen. More information available here in Slovak. For companies that didn't close, the compensation was based on the loss in turnover as per below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 20 % - €180 - More than 40 % - €300 - More than 60 % - €420 - More than 80 % - €540
SLOVENIA	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Until the end of May 2020, the Government co-financed the salaries and social contributions of all workers who were sent home, awaiting to resume work, with an option to extend this period if the current state of affairs persists. Workers who lost their jobs automatically started receiving unemployment benefits. Self-employed workers who were unable to do their business in the current situation were eligible to receive up to 70% of Slovenia's minimum net monthly salary, with the Government also taking over the payment of their health and pension contributions. More information available here. - The new support package introduced in November 2020 reactivated the distribution of subsidies to companies whose employees were temporarily out of work. Moreover, the subsidising of part-time work was prolonged.
SPAIN	Figures	Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>The Spanish Government forbade employers to lay off employees during the pandemic. A global mechanism called ERTE (expediente de regulacion temporal de empleo – temporary employment regulation file) was introduced, whereby the Government covered up to 70% of the salary and reduced employer's charges. The scheme was initially running until 31 January 2021 and was later extended to 31 May</p>

		<p>2021. The ERTE mechanism was running until February 28th 2022 and was not expected to be prolonged.</p> <p>More information 1 (in Spanish)</p> <p>More information 2 (in Spanish)</p>
SWEDEN	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employers could furlough staff so they could work 15-16 hours a week with 50% costs and employee receiving 90% of their pay (with a cap) with Government support from mid-March and onwards. From May, employers could reduce the cost and hours to 20% (8 hours per week) and the staff still got 90% of their base salary (with a cap). The furlough programme was later extended until summer 2021. - The State covered full costs for sick leave from companies through the months of April and May.
SWITZERLAND	Measures	<p>The national program of “reduced work” (part/technical unemployment) applied to all employees when businesses were forced to close. It was simplified and extended to temporary employees as well and paid 80% of wages. The idea was to allow companies to keep their employees until the end of the crisis. Because the temporary furlough scheme described above did not apply to independents and business owners (employers), a special support was briefly introduced for March and April 2020. The amounts received were very low. It was renewed in some Swiss cantons in September 2020.</p>
TURKEY	Figures	Approx. 7,500 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	The Government paid salaries (up to 60%) from Governmental funds for 3 months.
UKRAINE	Measures	<p>On 22 April 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers issued a normative act on support related to partial unemployment during the quarantine. The scheme required employers to request this help for their employees, and then the employer to provide information about the employees eligible for this support on a monthly basis. The support was paid for every hour of work that was lost because of the quarantine and was calculated as 75% of the employee’s salary per hour, but not more than the minimum wage (4723 UAH/145 EUR) per month.</p>
UK	Figures	Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UK Government introduced a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) which covered 80% of the wages of staff who would otherwise be laid off or ‘furloughed’, for up to £2,500 per month per individual and paid through HMRC. Employers were invited to top up the remaining 20%. The scheme was made available to large and small businesses, and the charity and voluntary sector. The so-called furlough scheme was expected to stop in November 2020, when it was meant to be replaced by the Job Support Scheme described below. It was announced in November 2020 that the CJRS (also known as the furlough scheme) would remain open until 31 March 2021. - On 24 September, a new Jobs Support Scheme was introduced to cover the pay of employees working fewer than normal hours due

		<p>to lower demand arising from COVID-19. This scheme was withdrawn following the extension of the CJRS. The scheme was meant to apply to staff who could work at least a third of their usual hours. Employers had to pay staff for the hours they worked and for those they didn't (compared to 'normal' hours), the Government and the employer each covering one third of the lost pay. The Government payments were capped at £697.92 per month per employee. The scheme was meant to run for six months from 1 November and be open to employers across the UK even if they had not previously used the furlough scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Self-Employment Income Support Scheme supported self-employed individuals whose income was negatively affected by COVID-19 by providing a grant worth 80% of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. - All small and medium-sized businesses and employers were able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay, paid to workers for absence due to illness related to COVID-19. - On 8 July, as part of <u>recovery plan</u> the UK Government announced the Job Retention Bonus, a £1,000 one-off taxable payment to the employer, for each eligible employee that was furloughed and kept continuously employed until 31 January 2021.
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3.5. RENT AND RELATED EXPENSES

SUMMARY

Across Europe, with a few exceptions included below, exhibitors were asked to pay rent and service charges by landlords, despite their properties being closed to the public during most of 2020 and in the first half of 2021. A growing number of Governments – or local, relevant authorities – introduced in 2020 measures to delay rent payments for businesses during the crisis, most of which were renewed in 2021. Larger operators in particular had to renegotiate property contracts with their landlord to adapt to the crisis and its impact on the business.

COUNTRY	DATA	DETAILS
ALBANIA	Measures	A Government decree delayed monthly rents for small businesses,
AUSTRIA	Measures	All businesses that were forced to close by the Government could benefit from fixed cost compensation. This covered a period running from 16 March to 15 June. The share of fixed costs covered depended on the level of revenue loss, with a maximum of 75% compensated for companies that experienced at least an 80% loss in turnover. In addition, businesses could benefit from a reduced corporate tax, which could cover approximately 6.5% of your fixed costs. This support scheme was renewed following the announcement of a second lockdown in Austria, with a ceiling of €3m per company – strictly covering fixed costs such as rent or energy bills.
BELGIUM	Measures	In the commune of Brussels City, the payment of rents for businesses was delayed. Similar schemes were introduced at local level (region or city).
BULGARIA	Measures	The concept of force majeure did not apply to rent in Bulgaria, cinemas were therefore still obliged to pay rent.
CYPRUS	Figures	Approx. €1m for April, May in June in fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords. Following the introduction of a second lockdown in January 2021, the Government announced state sponsorship to cover rents, and other operating expenses of companies and the self-employed, amounting to €200m.
DENMARK	Measures	If companies were forced by law to close down, all expenditure including rent was fully covered by the State. Following a second round of closure from 16 December, the scheme was renewed. Following the announcement of a lockdown in North Jutland from 6 November, the Danish government announced that businesses that were forced to close in the region would receive support covering all fixed costs.
ESTONIA	Measures	The Estonian Government supported businesses who were forced to close because of the coronavirus emergency – by contributing up to 25% of their rental expenses for a month. Landlords were encouraged to contribute by the Government.
FINLAND	Measures	The Finnish Government introduced a fixed costs compensation scheme covering April and May.

		<p>The City of Helsinki decided to temporarily waive rental payments on commercial premises and terraces (more info).</p> <p>Municipalities support (described in the support scheme section of this document) could be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs such as rents.</p>
FRANCE	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The companies that could benefit from the solidarity fund to support small business (described in the support scheme section of this document) were able to delay payments of rent and related expenses. Larger companies had to negotiate on a case-by-case basis with landlords. More information on the FNCF website, in French. - The Minister of Economy introduced an incentive of three months cancelled rent payments for very small businesses (less than 10 employees/€2m annual revenues). There was no obligation for landlords to apply it, but they were encouraged to do so. The FNCF provided detailed information on the topic to its members, including a draft letter which could be sent to landlords asking for a postponement or cancelation of rent. Additional information available here, in French. - Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October, the French Government announced that it would financially incentivise landlords to cancel the rent due for November and possibly December if the lockdown was extended. The French Government decided to limit this scheme to November 2020 following the introduction of an extended solidarity fund (allowing all companies to apply for a one-off grant) for the month of December. This incentive <u>took the shape</u> of a tax credit, with the state effectively covering 50% of the rent if the landlord accepts to cancel it. This measure <u>applied</u> to companies of less than 250 employees. For bigger companies, the support only covered a maximum of 2/3 of the rent due for November. - The French Government also introduced a rule whereby businesses that were forced to close – including cinemas – could not be penalised/fined for delays in the payment of energy bills during and two months after the period of closure. Same for the payment of rent - It was announced in mid-January 2021 that all businesses with a monthly turnover of over €1m and more than 50 employees which were required to close by the Government <u>could benefit from a</u> support fund specifically targeting fixed costs. The fund covered maximum 70% of fixed costs for a total amount of maximum €3m per company from January to June 2021. This aid could be combined with the already existing solidarity fund. Details of this programme was announced later in January or February 2021.
GERMANY	Figures	Approx. €17m in weekly fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The federal Government agreed to delay payments of rents until 30 June 2020, to be repaid by June 2022, if the business owner

		<p>couldn't pay rent due to the coronavirus crisis. More information available here, in German.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Federal Government introduced a support mechanism specifically targeting fixed costs in 2020. This scheme was valid for the period between April 2020 and June 2021. A description of the aid and application requirements were available here, in German. The aid received was proportional to the loss incurred, with 90% of fixed costs covered for businesses that suffered a 70% decrease in turnover and only 40% for those that experienced a loss between 30-50% of turnover.
GREECE	Measures	A 40% decrease on rent was applied by the State for any company/enterprise that was obliged to suspend their activities by the Governmental order.
HUNGARY	Measures	A moratorium on all loan repayments for individuals and companies until 31 December 2020.
IRELAND	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
ITALY	Figures	Approx. €15m per month in rent.
	Measures	No rent payments were delayed. The only measure in the Law Decree concerned the March rent for shops forced to close (a 60% tax credit). The Italian cinema association ANEC advocated to have cinemas included, but this proposal was struck down. The Government issued a new law decree on 28 October, following the introduction of new restrictions, including the closure of cinemas. Tax credit for rents was confirmed for October, November and December (if the decrease in turnover was at least 50%).
KOSOVO	Measures	The Government subsidised up to 50% of rent costs for SMEs during April and May.
LITHUANIA	Measures	Depended on agreements with landlords but most did not treat the quarantine as a <i>force majeure</i> , cinemas had to prove it.
LUXEMBOURG	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
MALTA	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords. On 16 July, the EU approved a €108 million Maltese scheme to support companies, by which direct grants was open to companies of all sizes active in all sectors, except the financial sector. Under the scheme, businesses were granted up to €7,500 per company to cover rental costs, and up to €7,500 per company to cover electricity bills. The measure was expected to benefit 20,000 companies.
NETHERLANDS	Measures	SMEs directly affected by Government measures to contain the coronavirus could apply for the Allowance for Fixed Costs SMEs (TVL). Entrepreneurs could receive compensation for their fixed costs per period of 3 months, depending on the size of the company, the level of the fixed costs and the degree of loss of turnover. Companies could apply 3 times to the scheme, valid for periods of 3 months, from 1 June 2020 to 30 June 2021 (4 periods in total, Q3/4 2020 and Q1/2 2021). In order to apply, fixed costs must amount to at least €3,000 in 3 months (that amount was at €4,000 between 1 June and 30 September 2020). Businesses could receive a grant of maximum €90,000 per period of 3 months (previously €50,000). In January

		<p>2021, this maximum amount was increased to €330,000 per quarter for SMEs and to €400,000 for larger companies. In February 2021, it was further increased to €550k for SMEs and €600k for larger companies. Entrepreneurs could be reimbursed 85% of their fixed costs if they suffer a turnover loss of more than 30%. Businesses had to submit a new application each time. More information available here, in Dutch.</p> <p>It was announced in March 2021 that companies that had to (partially) close due to COVID-19 related restriction would receive a higher TVL in the second quarter of 2021. It was decided to increase the subsidy percentage to 100%. Entrepreneurs could use the TVL if they suffer more than 30% loss of turnover.</p> <p>It was announced in May 2021 that the TVL would be opened to large companies from Monday 10 May – when it was previously limited to SMEs. The TVL Q1 2021 remained open for large companies until June 10, 2021. The TVL Q2 2021 was expected to open in the second half of June 2021. The Dutch government was planning to extend the support package for jobs and the economy in the third quarter of 2021. The Fixed Charges Allowance (TVL) was part of this package and would take therefore be extended in Q3 2021. The conditions for TVL Q3 2021 were the same as TVL Q2 2021.</p> <p>A special TVL scheme for starting entrepreneurs was made available in June 2021. The scheme provided an allowance for the Q1 2020 fixed costs of entrepreneurs in that opened their business between 1 October 2019 and June 2020. The scheme was almost the same as the normal allowance for fixed costs (TVL). To be eligible, applicants required at least a 30% drop in turnover in Q1 2021 compared to Q3 2020 and a minimum loss of €1,500 in fixed costs.</p> <p>This also applied for Q2 2021. More information available here.</p>
NORWAY	Measures	<p>A general compensation scheme was introduced whereby the State covered a share of the fixed costs for companies that had a significant decline in turnover as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was easy to use and was designed for fast application and payment. Cinemas, distributors and suppliers were all able to apply.</p> <p>More information available here. Another compensation scheme was introduced to cover businesses that had to close a second time in late 2020 / early 2021. Only private companies were able to apply.</p>
POLAND	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lease contracts for commercial facilities with a sales area over 2000m² that were forced to close were suspended. When the ban was lifted, the tenant had to submit an offer to extend the contract for the period the lease was suspended plus additional 6 months. Cinemas that rented their space from local Governments were also exempt from rent payments. All cinemas located in malls had their lease agreements suspended during closure. The same support mechanism was extended for the second Polish lockdown in November 2020.

		<p>- In July 2021 the legislation changed in a way that lease contractors could withdraw their offer(s) to extend the contract for the period of closure plus 6 months and would be still entitled to rent exemption for the period of closures. A new support scheme was introduced in January 2021, worth a total of approximately €2.9b. It was specifically targeting micro, small and medium-sized companies. As part of this programme, companies could apply for support covering a maximum of 70% of the fixed costs incurred during the period from 1 November 2020 until 31 March 2021, for a maximum amount of €780k per company.</p>
ROMANIA	Measures	<p>Small and medium-sized companies, as defined by Law no. 346/2004, who had totally or partially interrupted their activity based on the decisions issued by public authorities during the period of emergency and having been granted a certificate for emergency situations issued by the Ministry of Economy, benefitted from deferred payment of utilities, electricity, natural gas, water, telephone and internet services, as well as the deferred payment of the rent for the building/s destined for registered offices and secondary offices.</p>
RUSSIA	Measures	<p>Rent payments for state and municipal property delayed.</p>
SERBIA	Measures	<p>The city of Belgrade decided not to charge rent for office and business spaces.</p>
SLOVAKIA	Measures	<p>A €200m rent compensation scheme was introduced to support companies whose activities were limited or stopped because of the crisis, following a Government order. This call was valid from 23 June to 30 November 2020. Businesses could get 50% of their rent reimbursed by the State.</p>
SLOVENIA	Measures	<p>A support package introduced in November 2020 included a deferral of rent payment for office buildings and business spaces, and partial compensation of fixed costs for affected businesses.</p>
SPAIN	Figures	<p>Approx. €12.9m in monthly fixed costs for cinema operators.</p>
	Measures	<p>Spanish authorities approved a ruling implementing a moratorium on rent payments, making it possible to delay payments over 2 years (depending on various parameters). Cinema operators were disappointed by this decision, which legally binded them to repay rents in spite of the impact of the crisis on their business. <u>More information available here, in Spanish.</u></p>
SWEDEN	Measures	<p>Valid for the period running from April to December 2020, if a landlord and a tenant agreed on a rebate on the rent, the Swedish state would cover a part of the rebate. The State compensation could represent 50% of the rebate, however not more than 25% of the ordinary rent amount. Tenants could not obtain an advantage of more than €800,000 and the scheme expires on 31 December 2020. In an amended budget, the Government has allocated SEK 5b (approximately €453m) for the rent rebate scheme.</p>
SWITZERLAND	Measures	<p>The Federal Government refused a plan to support businesses with their rent.</p>
TURKEY	Measures	<p>Turkey's Shopping Centres and Retailers Federation announced that no rent was received from the businesses located in malls that were</p>

		closed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Close to 70% of cinemas in Turkey were located in malls.
UKRAINE	Measures	Cinemas still paid rent, but mainly a reduced amount. negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
UK	Measures	In England, Northern Ireland and Wales, there was a moratorium on enforcement action by commercial landlords initially for a period of three months from March.

3.6. TAXATION

SUMMARY

In 2020, national authorities across Europe were quick to delay payments of various taxes for individuals and businesses, including VAT in several cases. Most of the schemes related to taxation were discontinued by 2021. Additional schemes related to the payment of social contributions were included in the “employment” section of this research.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	Tax deferrals, reduction of tax prepayments etc. was introduced for a total amount of €10b. VAT on cinema tickets was reduced (see cultural sector support in section 4.1 of this research). More information available in German online.
BELGIUM	A 3 month delay was introduced for tax payments at national level. City tax (in Brussels) was suspended as well as other local commune taxes across the country.
BULGARIA	The Bulgarian tax authorities extended VAT filings deadlines until further notice to help businesses through the coronavirus epidemic.
CROATIA	Businesses with revenues of less than €1m (93% of all companies in the country) and had recorded a drop of more than 50% in revenue due to the coronavirus crisis were not required to pay profit tax, income tax or contributions. It was also possible to postpone the payment of VAT until they receive payment of issued invoices. Businesses with a drop of 20% or more of revenue applies for a deferral of payments, valid for March and April returns.
CYPRUS	Temporary suspension of the obligation to pay VAT for reasons of business liquidity, without the imposition of any penalties and interest for the periods ending 29 February 2020, 31 March 2020 and 30 April 2020, until 10 November 2020, provided that the relevant VAT returns were submitted within the prescribed deadlines. The Collection of Taxes and Assessments Law was amended to give the Minister of Finance the power to extend the deadline for submission of tax returns as well as the deadline for settlement of tax liabilities.
CZECH REPUBLIC	Income tax deadline extended. Delay of tax return and VAT tax declaration until July 2020. VAT on cinema tickets reduced (see cultural sector support in section 4.1 of this research).
DENMARK	Tax authorities made it possible to postpone tax and VAT for the industry this spring.
ESTONIA	Companies which were affected could be supported by differing taxes. VAT payment were delayed until 1 May 2020.
FINLAND	Businesses experiencing payment difficulties could request an extension to a tax return’s filing deadline, and late-filing penalties were be imposed for a justified special reason. They could apply for a tax settlement on new, easier terms, and a withholding tax adjustment if business results appear to be lower than estimated. VAT refund processing were also be stepped up. The first repayment of delayed VAT was postponed to 30 November 2020, with a reduced interest of 4%. Finland offered VAT loans during the coronavirus crises at an interest rate of 3%. This enabled businesses to apply for a temporary refund of VAT payments they made on their returns in 2020. More information available in Finnish online.

<p>FRANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very small, and small to medium business were exonerated from social charges from March to June. Larger businesses could delay payments and benefit from reduced rates. - On 16 July, French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced a €100 billion recovery roadmap, including tax cuts for French businesses. French companies saw business taxes cut by €20 billion over the next two years. - An exemption of the special tax on cinemas TSA (10,72% of the ticket price) to the French national cinema centre CNC was voted by the French parliament at the end of 2020, worth over €37m in taxes that would be exempted or given back to cinemas. - An exemption for property tax was granted to all land owners that were forced to close their businesses by the Government. - Most of the support schemes above were extended following the second lockdown and ensuing closure of French cinemas from 30 October 2020. The French cinema federation created a dedicated page on their website including all the tax exemptions and related measures that cinema operators could apply for. - The landlord tax (“taxe foncière” in French) could be reimbursed for landlords of businesses that were closed for at least 3 months in 2020.
<p>GERMANY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A deferral of tax was confirmed from the cut-off date of 1 March 2020. There were no strict requirements for granting the deferral, businesses simply had to demonstrate they were affected by the crisis, without evidence of the value of the damage incurred. Enforcement measures were suspended. - Businesses could reclaim incurred advance tax payments as early as this year. Income taxes could also be reclaimed under certain conditions, in 2021 after filing a tax return to the tax office. If losses in 2020 were less serious than expected, tax authorities could reclaim those taxes back. - According to the social security treatment, grants for short-time work allowance were tax exempt for up to 80 percent of the difference between the target salary and the actual salary. This regulation also supported cinema companies that had increased the short-time work allowance for their employees. - VAT was reduced for a limited period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, from 7% to 5% for cinema tickets. More information can be found here, in German. Ordinary VAT was also reduced from 19% to 16% from July to December 2020. It was confirmed in December 2020 that, as of January 1, 2021, the normal VAT rates of 19% and 7% would apply again. - The Federal Ministry of Finance decided that, for around 90% of wage and income taxpayers, the previously paid solidarity surcharge would no longer apply from January 2021. This also relieved individual entrepreneurs in small and medium-sized companies. More information available here. - The submission deadline for tax returns for 2020 was extended to 31 August 2021, provided that the participation of a tax advisor was guaranteed; - The due date of the advance VAT payment for 2021 was suspended upon request. In this case, amounts already paid were refunded;

	<p>- The obligation to file for insolvency was suspended until 30 April 2021. But the conditions under which this option applied had to be checked by a tax advisor or lawyer if possible.</p>
GREECE	<p>Suspension, for four months until August 2020, of tax and social security obligations of corporations that were ordered to close, with the sole condition that they didn't dismiss any workers. Instalments of confirmed debts of March-April. 25% discount for March-April instalment payments if paid in due time. VAT payers who did not lay off staff could withhold 25% of their VAT due for April 2020</p>
HUNGARY	<p>Tax authorities exempted 81,480 SMEs from the flat-rate tax liability until June 2020 and delay tax debts already incurred before March 2020 until after the end of the state of emergency.</p>
IRELAND	<p>Deferment of Commercial Property Rates and VAT. VAT liabilities enforcement activities were suspended. There was automatic no late interest or payment penalties for January-April VAT payments for small businesses below €3m annual turnover.</p> <p>A six-month reduction in the standard rate of VAT from 23% to 21% was effective from 1 September 2020 (applies to cinema concessions).</p> <p>A VAT rate reduction from 13.5% to 9% applies from 1 November 2020 in recognition of the unprecedented challenges facing the hospitality and tourism sector (applied to cinema tickets).</p>
ITALY	<p>Fiscal and welfare payments and compulsory insurance premiums were suspended until 16 September 2020 (previously until 30 April). Support to enterprises' liquidity available through State-guaranteed bank loans, as well as tax credits for costs related to sanitizing of workplaces. The worst affected sectors didn't meet their tax obligations and tax relief was offered to companies that donate sums of money to combat the pandemic.</p> <p>It was officially announced on 13 May that the June payments of IRAP (the regional tax on net production value) would be cancelled - both the 2019 balance and the 2020 deposit - if total revenues do not exceed €250m.</p> <p>VAT payments could be delayed to 16 September on certain VAT liabilities: small businesses (less than €50m turnover) which had a 33% cut in revenue between March-April compared to same period in 2019. For larger businesses above €50m turnover, the reduction was 50% or more.</p>
LATVIA	<p>Companies were supported by deferring taxes, including VAT.</p>
LITHUANIA	<p>VAT payments were delayed by up to one year if cinemas prove they were harmed by the crisis. There were no charges for late payments or interest on outstanding VAT. Cinemas were not part of the first list of harmed businesses and were forced to prove they were harmed by the quarantine.</p> <p>The European Commission approved in January 2021 a €156 million Lithuanian aid scheme which took the form of tax deferrals and tax-related liquidity measures (payment in instalments of tax arrears, interest free periods, as well as the suspension of tax debt recovery). The scheme was open to businesses affected by the containment measures imposed by the Lithuanian government to limit the spread of the coronavirus.</p>
LUXEMBOURG	<p>There were possibilities to delay tax payments & advances. There was a suspension of VAT penalties for late returns until 15 May.</p>

MALTA	All taxes and VAT payments for March and April were deferred to June, to improve liquidity by €700 million. This measure applies to businesses that could prove an estimated 25% or more decrease in sales registered (on the basis of a 3 month period in 2020 compared with the same period of 2019).
NETHERLANDS	<p>Companies and self-employed people in the Dutch cultural/creative sector could make a special request for an extension of the 3-month payment deadline for all income tax, corporation tax, wage tax and turnover tax (VAT) contributions. The interest on overdue tax, normally levied after the term of payment expires, was temporarily lowered from 4% to nearly 0%. The rate for interest on tax was temporarily lowered to practically 0% as well. This reduction applied to all types of tax that were subject to interest.</p> <p>The period during which affected businesses could apply for tax deferral was extended until 1 October 2020. Businesses using the scheme had to pay those taxes by 1 January 2021 at the latest. There would also be a 3-year repayment scheme to repay the accrued tax debt (previously at 2-year). This was extended to 1 October 2021. Entrepreneurs who had not previously applied for a postponement or extension could still do so. For entrepreneurs who had already received an extension earlier this year, the postponement automatically applied until October 1, 2021. The date on which entrepreneurs would start paying back again moved earlier to October 1, 2022, and there was five years for this. However, entrepreneurs were expected to start paying tax again from 1 October 2021. More details available here, in Dutch.</p>
NORWAY	<p>The Government declared that its reduced VAT rate was further reduced from 12% to 6%, effective from 20 March to 31 October. The previous reduction had been set to 8% and was effective from 1 January 2020. It was confirmed in October that the reduction would last for the rest of the year.</p> <p>The association tried to convince the Government to skip the special cinema tax of 2.5% on total revenues, also from 1 January 2020.</p> <p>The deadline for payment of the first VAT term was postponed from 14 April to 10 June 2020.</p> <p>Owners of companies that run a loss were able to postpone the payment of corporation tax. The scheme means that the taxpayer could apply for a one-year deferred payment of wealth tax for the income year 2020 when it falls due for payment in 2021. If it was probable that the business would run a loss in 2020, you could apply for exemption from withholding tax / tax on business wealth in 2020.</p>
POLAND	Businesses could postpone their payments of social charges. Tax payments, due for 30 April, were postponed to 30 May. Deadlines for submitting declarations and tax documents were extended (e.g. deadlines for annual financial report from June 30 to September 30). Businesses with a year-on-year decrease in revenue by at least 50%, were exempted from reporting for taxation liabilities that were overdue by more than 90 days.
PORTUGAL	<p>Postponement of the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) from 31 March to 30 June 2020. Extension of the deadline for submission of the CIT. Additional taxes also delayed.</p> <p>Regarding VAT and withholding taxes for the second quarter of 2020, the Government decided to make tax payments more flexible for both companies and the self-employed. More information here.</p>

ROMANIA	Various measures including suspension of forced execution of budgetary debts, VAT refunds during March for all settled settlements, suspension of fiscal control actions. More information here.
RUSSIA	For all small and medium size businesses, a 6 month tax break for all duties except VAT, insurance premiums and loan payments to small and medium-sized enterprises.
SERBIA	Deadlines for tax payments postponed. The payment of payroll taxes and contributions deferred during the period of the state of emergency, while the payment of corporate income tax for the second quarter was delayed.
SLOVENIA	Slovenia offered businesses affected by the COVID-19 outbreak the opportunity to apply for a deferral of their VAT payments, without any penalties or interest charges. Other tax returns were delayed by two months. Slovenia ended the VAT reliefs on 31 May 2020 as they declared an end to the state of emergency and the pandemic in the country.
SLOVAKIA	VAT payments and other tax rules were relaxed for February, March and April payments. No interest or penalties on late filings.
SPAIN	A VAT and other tax payment holiday was introduced for small businesses who applied for relief for the coronavirus COVID outbreak. The scheme was not available for large businesses (above €6m turnover) or if the VAT due was above €30m.
SWEDEN	As part of a SEK 300b support package, companies could delay VAT payments and other tax settlements for up to 12 months, with a 6% interest. The measure was backdated to January 2020. You could also get repayment for VAT as a loan with an annual interest of 3.1%.
SWITZERLAND	Both local and federal initiatives. Payment of taxes at federal level postponed without interest.
TURKEY	The Government agreed to: delay taxes for 3 months (April, May and June) to be paid after November in 6 instalments; delay all credit payments for 3 months without interest; use Governmental funds to support for long term and low rate credits for affected SMEs.
UKRAINE	Cinemas exempt from paying VAT until 2023, but this was already the case before the outbreak.
UK	The next VAT payment deferred for three months until the end of June and not be fully payable until the end of the financial year. It was announced on 24 September that those who took advantage of the earlier VAT payment deferral would now be able to pay this back in 11 smaller interest-free instalments. A business rates holiday was introduced for all companies operating in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector. On 8 July, the Government announced a reduction of VAT for “attractions” – including cinemas – from 20% to 5%, effective from 15 July 2020 until 12 January 2021. It was announced on 24 September that the reduction was extended from January 2021 to 31 March 2021.

4. BOX OFFICE PERFORMANCES IN 2020 AND 2021

2020

European cinemas saw a 70.6% drop in box office in 2020, accounting for a total decrease of €6.2 billion in revenues compared to 2019. A similar 69.0% reduction could be observed in the European Union, resulting in a €4.0 billion drop in revenues.

Detailed figure for all UNIC territories can be found in the UNIC Annual Report 2021.

2021

European cinema admissions increased by an estimated 36.4 per cent in 2021, with almost 590 million visits across the region. Box office reached €3.7 billion, an increase of 40.8 per cent on the previous year. At EU level – including the UK – close to 400 million tickets were sold in cinemas, worth an estimated €3.0 billion at the box office – an increase of 31.1 per cent and 38.4 per cent respectively. All this when most screens across the region were shut for the first six months of the year and operating for the remainder under limited occupancy and/or additional restrictions.

Additional details can be found here.

The UNIC Annual Report 2022 can be downloaded here.