



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CINÉMAS
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CINEMAS

UNIC RESEARCH

The impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on the European cinema industry

UNIC is collecting detailed information on the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on the cinema industry across the 39 territories it represents.

15/04: Albania, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Spain.

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1. REOPENING PROCESS

SUMMARY

The vast majority of cinemas across Europe were officially closed by Government order – unless specified otherwise in the table below – from mid-March 2020, with the exception of 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 remained open from then until May-June 2020, when cinemas started reopening. Most European markets reopened by early July latest, with a few territories only reopening in September 2020. A second closure round followed in October 2020 following spikes in local cases, some of which were localised to specific cities or regions. Most European cinemas were again forced to close. A few territories reopened briefly in December-January or in the first quarter of 2021 – in some cases temporarily. Most territories started reopening between May and June, with all UNIC territories reopened by July 2021.

| COUNTRY | CLOSURE DATES | TIMELINE |
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| ALBANIA | 23 March to 23 June 2020 | Cinemas were allowed to reopen on 23 June 2020 but only effectively reopened in late October, due to the lack of content. Albania introduced a curfew from on 11 November 2020, from 10PM to 6AM. From June 2021, the curfew moved to 11PM. |
| AUSTRIA | 16 March to 29 May 2020 3 Nov. 2020 to 19 May 2021 22 Nov. 2021 to 13-17 Dec. 2021 | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 29 May - originally planned for 1 July, the reopening date was brought forward. Most cinemas reopened by mid-June, with some chains waiting until early July.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Austria entered a second lockdown from 3 November, resulting in the closure of cinemas. One federal State, Vorarlberg, allowed cultural institutions to reopen under strict regulations in late March 2021, including cinemas. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 19 May.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Austria became the first country in Western Europe to reimpose a full coronavirus lockdown from 22 November 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 (not applying to the unvaccinated). Cinemas reopened as of 17 December (in some parts even earlier, starting from 13 December).</p> |
| BELGIUM | 14 March to 1 July 2020 29 Oct. 2020 to 9 June 2021 26-29 December 2021 | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were required to close from 14 March and allowed to reopen from 1 July, after most other businesses.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES From 19 October 2020, bars and restaurants were required to close, while F&B sales in cinema were banned. From 24</p> |

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| | | <p>October, curfews were introduced across the country. The region of Brussels decided to close all cultural places, including cinemas, from 26 October. The Flemish Government took the same decision on 28 October, which was then extended to the whole country from 29 October. Cinemas reopened on 9 June 2021.</p> <p>On 26 November and again on 3 December, reinforced measures were announced but cinemas remained open with stricter safety requirements.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>It was announced on 23 December 2021 that the cultural sector, including cinemas, 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, as no other restrictions were applied to bars and restaurants for instance. 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. All had reopened by January 1st 2022.</p> |
| <p>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</p> | <p>13 March to 14 May 2020</p> <hr/> <p>March-May 2021</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Bosnian entities applied different restrictions. Republika Srpska reopened most businesses from 11 May 2020. Federal authorities announced that cinemas could reopen from 14 May. Some sites started reopening from the week of 18 May, while most followed in June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>In 2021, cinemas located in Sarajevo were required to close from 13 March and cinemas in Republika Srpska from 21 March. Cinemas were allowed to reopen in April 2021 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 10 May 2021 in Republika Srpska. All local cinemas had effectively reopened following the easing of restrictions across the country in late May.</p> |
| <p>BULGARIA</p> | <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</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen immediately from 11 May, with most effectively reopening from mid-June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were ordered to shut on 30 November. Most businesses were slowly allowed to reopen from late January, including cinemas from 31 January. One major Bulgarian cinema chains reopened from 5 February.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>It was announced on 18 March that Bulgaria would close shopping malls from March 22. Multiplexes in Bulgaria are mostly located in malls. It was later confirmed that cinemas across the country would be required to close from 22 to 31</p> |

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| | | March. From 1 April, cinemas and other venues were allowed to reopen. |
| CROATIA | 17 March to 20 August 2020 | Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 18 May, while those located in shopping malls had to wait until 15 June. All exhibitors decided to reopen from 20 August. |
| CYPRUS | 16 March to 17 Sept. 2020 11 Dec. 2020 to 10 May 2021 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were only allowed to reopen from 17 September, after most other businesses. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES From 11 December, gatherings were limited to 2 people outside home, effectively closing cinemas. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 8 February. The main local cinema chain decided not to reopen because of existing restrictions. A new lockdown was introduced from 26 April until 9 May. From 10 May, all businesses were allowed to reopen, including cinemas. The main cinema chain reopened on 27 May 2021. |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 12 March to 11 May 2020 12 Oct. 2020 to 24 May 2021 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES The Czech Government decided to speed up its reopening process, as cinemas were allowed to reopen from 11 May 2020. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Following a spike in local cases, the Czech Government announced the closure of cinemas from 12 October. It was announced on 19 May that Czech cinemas could reopen from 24 May. But because of a ban on F&B sales inside malls, most local multiplexes only reopened in June, following the announcement that the ban on F&B sales would be lifted from 31 May. Most independent cinemas located outside malls reopened from 24 May. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES The Czech Republic announced an effective lockdown for the unvaccinated from 22 November, with access to cinemas only allowed for vaccinated citizens or those who have had COVID-19 in the past 6 months. A 30-day state of emergency took effect 25 November midnight, resulting in heightened restrictions across the country, but not in the closure of cinemas. |
| 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 | 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, a regional shutdown was announced in seven municipalities in North Jutland. All Danish cinemas were ordered to close from 16 December. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 6 May. Denmark lifted all remaining |

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| | <p>3 Dec. 2020 (North Jutland)</p> | <p>coronavirus restrictions on 10 September, making it the first EU country to go completely back to pre-pandemic daily life.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES A third lockdown was introduced on 19 December 2021, resulting in the closure of local cinemas until at least 17 January 2022. It was confirmed on 12 January that most restrictions would be eased from 16 January, allowing the reopening of cinemas. On 26 January, Denmark became the first EU country to lift all remaining COVID-19 restrictions.</p> |
| <p>ESTONIA</p> | <p>12 March to 1 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>28 Dec. 2020 to February 2021</p> <hr/> <p>1 March 2021 to 24 May 2021</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas reopened from 1 June. Some sites reopened from mid-June, while others waited for early July.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES New restrictions, including the closure of cinemas, were introduced in mid-December in some Estonian counties. From 28 December, these restrictions were extended to the capital of Tallinn. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from early February.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES The Estonian government announced on 25 February that cinemas across the country would be closing from 1 March 2021 for at least one month. Existing restrictions were extended to at least 17 May. From 24 May, cinemas were allowed to reopen. It was announced on 26 October that Estonia was considering introducing new restrictions but planned to avoid a general lockdown.</p> |
| <p>FINLAND</p> | <p>18 March to 1 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>December 2020 to June 2021</p> <hr/> <p>22 December 2021 to mid- February 2022</p> | <p>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. Major chains decided to reopen between the last week of June and mid-July.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES From September, the Finnish Government introduced a localised strategy to fight COVID-19. The Government announced stricter measures across most of the country in March 2021 in what was described as a national shutdown. From 23 April, cinemas were allowed to operate across the country but with strict capacity limits. It was announced in late May that restrictions would be eased on gatherings and events. For indoor events the number of participants was still be limited to 10, meaning that most cinemas remained closed. From late June, all major chains had reopened their cinemas.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES 5 major regions have required cinemas to close in December 2021, starting with Varsinais-Suomi on 22</p> |

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| | | December and quickly followed by Uusimaa, Satakunta, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa and Pirkanmaa. These represent some of the most populated regions of the country. All other regions have a 10, 20, or 50 customer limit, significantly limiting cinema operations. As of early February, 2 Finnish regions were fully closed, with 3 others operating with a limited occupancy of 10 and all but one out of 19 operating under strict restriction heavily limiting operations. From mid-February 2022, Finnish cinemas were allowed to operate across the country, with significantly lowered restrictions. |
| FRANCE | <p>14 March to 22 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>30 Oct. 2020 to 19 May 2021</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES All shops reopened from 11 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 22 June. Most cinemas (97%) effectively reopened from that date.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES The French Government announced a second national lockdown from 30 October, which resulted in the closure of all local cinemas. On 29 April, it was announced that cinemas and other cultural venues could reopen from 19 May.</p> |
| GERMANY | <p>OPEN</p> <hr/> <p>14-18 March to 15 May - 30 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>2 Nov. 2020 to 10 May - 1 July 2021 (nation-wide)</p> <hr/> <p>Local closures Nov-Dec. 2021 to Dec. 2021 – 14 Jan. 2022</p> | <p>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. The first reopening phase started on 20 April, with reopening dates ranging from 15 May to 30 June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES A national “lockdown-light” was announced on 28 October, resulting in the closure of all local cinemas from 2 November. The Bavarian Prime Minister indicated on 3 May that cinemas would be allowed to reopen from 10 May. Almost all German cinemas effectively reopened from 1 July 2021.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES In Saxony cinemas have been required to close down until mid-December. In Bavaria the 2G+ rule was introduced (recovered or vaccinated and negative test), in addition to a 25% capacity limit. Baden Wuerttemberg is expected to follow the same rule, while Thuringia could opt for a full lockdown soon. In early December, Germany imposed a COVID-19 lockdown for unvaccinated people only – representing roughly 30% of the total population. Under the new measures, those who are not vaccinated will be banned from restaurants and bars, cinemas, gyms, non-essential shops, and Christmas markets. Several cinemas were allowed to reopen in late December in Bavaria, while other closed because of local incidence levels. Saxony confirmed the extension of its lockdown until at least 9 January 2022, resulting in the close of all cinemas in that state. It was later</p> |

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| | | announced that cinemas would be allowed to reopen in Saxony from 14 January. In Bavaria, the 2G Plus rule (certificate and test) was applied to the cultural sector, in addition to a 25% capacity limit, severely limiting the viability of cinema operations. The German cinema association HDF KINO has publicly criticised that decision, underlining that restaurants and bars only had to respect the standard 2G rule. |
| GREECE | 12 March to 29 June 2020 <hr/> 3 Nov. 2020 to 1 July 2021 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were only allowed to reopen from 29 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Most Greek cinemas closed from 3 November. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 July. |
| HUNGARY | 17 March to 18 June 2020 <hr/> 11 Nov. 2020 to 1 May 2021 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES With the exception of Budapest and its surrounding areas, most businesses were allowed to reopen from 1 May 2020. The state of emergency was lifted on 18 June, allowing cinemas to reopen immediately. Most cinemas decided to reopen from early July. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES A state of emergency was introduced again in Hungary from 4 November. Most cinemas decided to close from that date. Most businesses were allowed to reopen, including cinemas, from 1 May as the number of vaccinated people reached 4m. Various independent cinemas reopened immediately, while some major chains reopened in June or July. |
| IRELAND | 16 March to 29 June 2020 <hr/> 7 Oct. 2020 to 2 Dec. 2020 <hr/> 24 Dec. 2020 to 7 June 2021 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES National health authorities' guidance on social distancing (2m) effectively closed all cinemas from 16 March. Cinemas were allowed to re-open in the final official reopening phase, from 29 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Dublin cinemas were forced to close from 19 September. The Irish Government announced new nationwide restrictions from 7 October, including the closure of Irish cinemas. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 2 December. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Following a rise in local cases, cinemas were required to close again from 24 December. On 28 May 2021, the Irish Government confirmed that cinemas would be allowed to reopen from 7 June. FOURTH ROUND OF CLOSURES In December 2021, it was announced that cinemas as well as other venues including bars and restaurants would be required to close at 8PM from Monday 20 December. On 21 January, almost all restrictions were lifted in the country. |

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| ITALY | 23 Feb. - 8 Mar. to 15 June 2020 26 October to 26 April 2021 (yellow zones) May-June 2021 (localised reopening process) | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Regional bans from 23 February resulted in the closure of 48% of Italian cinemas. On 8 March, the National Government ordered all cinemas to close. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 15 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Following a rise in local cases, the Italian Government decided to close cinemas from 26 October. A few cinemas – mostly art-houses – reopened from 26 April, located in big cities in so-called yellow areas. In May 2021, between 10-15% of local sites had reopened. In June, approximately 50% of Italian cinemas had reopened, with different and evolving local restrictions. In early July, 55% of cinemas were opened. By Q4, over 92% had reopened. |
| KOSOVO | 12 March to 1 October 2020 | Due to a spike in COVID-19 cases, the reopening date for cinemas was postponed from 1 June to 1 October 2020. |
| LATVIA | 14 March to 12 May 2020 9 Nov. 2020 to 1 July 2021 21 October 2021 to 15 November 2021 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES From 12 May 2020, all businesses were allowed to reopen. Most cinemas decided to reopen from mid-June or early June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES A partial lockdown was announced from 9 November, resulting in the closure of all cinemas. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 15 June. Most local cinemas reopened from 1 July. THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Latvia announced a lockdown from October 21 until 15 November to try to slow a spike in infections. The order closes all non-essential businesses, including cinemas. The Latvian government decided to end its COVID-19 lockdown on November 15. |
| LITHUANIA | 13 March to 31 May 2020 7 Nov. 2020 to 19 April 2021 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Indoor events, including cinemas, were allowed to reopen from May 31. Most cinemas started reopening from mid-June to early July. On October 20, the Lithuanian Prime Minister called for a two-week “pause” in public life, asking people to avoid gatherings and strictly follow safety precautions – cinemas were not formally required to close. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Lithuania’s government announced on 4 November a three-week lockdown starting on 7 November until at least 29 November. Cinemas were 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 allowed to reopen immediately from 29 May. This decision was unexpected and cinema operators decided to reopen from 17 June. SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES |

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| | | <p>It was announced on 24 November that cinemas, theatres, restaurants and cafés would be required to close from 26 November. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 11 January, with the main local cinema chain reopening from 13 January 2021.</p> |
| MALTA | <p>16 March to 5 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>4 March to 7 June 2021</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 5 June, most reopened from the week of 22 June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Malta ordered on 4 March the closure of restaurants, clubs, bars and places of entertainment until April to contain the spread of COVID-19. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 7 June 2021.</p> |
| MONTENEGRO | <p>13 March to 1 July 2020</p> | <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June. Local operators decided to reopen from early July.</p> |
| NETHERLANDS | <p>15 March to 1 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>4-19 Nov. 2020</p> <hr/> <p>15 Dec. 2020 to 5 June 2021</p> <hr/> <p>19 Nov. 2021 to 25 Jan. 2022</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Retailers were allowed to reopen from 28 April. Restaurants and cinemas followed from 1 June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Following a spike in local cases, the Dutch Government placed six regions under increased restrictions from 18 September. These requirements were extended to an additional 8 regions from 27 September. The Netherlands introduced a "partial lockdown" from 14 October. It was announced on 4 November that cinemas would be required to close. They were allowed to reopen from 19 November, with other restrictions still in place.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES A third round of closure was announced in mid-December, with cinemas forced to close for a third time from 15 December. On 31 May, it was confirmed that cinemas would be allowed to reopen from 5 June. The Dutch government scrapped most of the remaining coronavirus regulations on September 25.</p> <p>FOURTH ROUND OF CLOSURES The Netherlands announced a three-week partial lockdown amid surging COVID-19 cases, starting 13 November, not resulting in the closure of cinemas. From 28 November, for at least three weeks, hospitality and cultural venues including cinemas were required to close by 5pm. The lockdown was extended on 19 November to include cinemas, which are to be closed until at least 14 January. Cultural venues, bars and restaurants were not allowed to reopen from that date, the lockdown was extended for another three weeks. Non-essential stores, hairdressers and gyms could open. Cinemas were allowed to reopen on 26 January.</p> |

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| NORTH MACEDONIA | 10 March to 24 Sept. 2020 6 April 2021 to 20 April 2021 | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were only allowed to reopen from 24 September.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Most cinemas were required to close again on 6 April 2021. The measures did not impose a direct ban on cinemas, but several decided to close due to the new nationwide curfew from 8PM. The biggest cinema in the country reopened from 20 April, while smaller independents remained closed. The curfew was eased in May, starting at midnight from 13 May, allowing for the reopening of all local cinemas from mid-May. From 26 June, cinemas were allowed to reopen without restrictions on opening hours or occupancy.</p> |
| NORWAY | 12 March to 7 May 2020 LOCAL CLOSURES 6 Nov. 2020 to 20 May 2021 (Oslo and other municipalities) | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 7 May 2020.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES It was announced on 6 November that cinemas would be closing in Oslo. It was announced in early May that cinemas would be allowed to reopen in Oslo from 20 May 2021.</p> |
| POLAND | 12 March to 6 June 2020 7 November to 12 February 2021 20 March to 21 May 2021 | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES In the fourth and final phase of easing, starting from 6 June, cinemas were allowed to reopen.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES The Polish government announced the closure of cinemas from 7 November following a rise in local COVID-19 cases. Cinemas were formally allowed to reopen from 12 February. Several major operators indicated they would reopen at a later stage, as the existing restrictions made it too challenging for them to do so. Over 180 independent reopened immediately.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES It was announced on 11 March that tougher restrictions would be introduced in Warsaw from 15 March following a rise in local cases. These tougher restrictions were extended to more regions in the following days, as most cinemas closed across the country. It was announced that Poland would return to a full lockdown from 20 March. Cinemas across the country were required to close – even if most did not reopen since November 2020 because of strict reopening restrictions. It was announced on 12 May that cinemas would be allowed to reopen from 21 May. Most cinemas reopened from that date, with some chains announcing that they would reopen on 28 May. <i>As from 28 March 2022, all restrictions were lifted.</i></p> |
| PORTUGAL | 16 March to | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES |

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| | <p>1 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>15 January to 19 April 2021</p> | <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Following a spike in local cases, cinemas were required to close again from 15 January 2021. Cinemas reopened from 19 April, in the third national reopening stage.</p> <p>Portugal lifted some COVID-19 restrictions, allowing full occupancy in restaurants and cultural venues from Oct. 1.</p> |
| ROMANIA | <p>12 March to 1 Sept. 2020</p> <hr/> <p>Oct. 2020 to January 2021</p> <hr/> <p>March-May 2021</p> <p>LOCAL CLOSURES</p> <p>7-15 October and 20 October to January 2021 (major cities)</p> <p>Late March to 27 May 2021 (local restrictions)</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 September. Most cinemas effectively reopened from 11 or 16 September.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were ordered to close again in several Romanian cities, including Bucharest, from 7 October – and allowed to reopen again from 15 October 2020. It was announced on 20 October that cinemas located in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Râmnicu Vâlcea would be required to close again. The main cinema chain in Romania closed all its local sites from 9 November. Sibiu was the first Romanian city to reopen its cinemas in 2021, from 3 January. Cinemas were allowed to reopen in Bucharest from 25 January 2021.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>From March, cinemas were required to close in towns where the rate of infections is higher than 3 cases for 1,000 persons. From late March 2021, most cinemas were closed across the country. On 3 May, cinemas were allowed to reopen in Bucharest. Multiplexes reopened across the country from 27 May, including the biggest local chain.</p> |
| RUSSIA | <p>PARTLY CLOSED</p> <p>26 March to 15 July 2020</p> <p>LOCAL CLOSURES</p> <p>17 October to 1 November 2020 (Sevastopol and other regions)</p> <p>June-July 2021 (Buryatia and Vologda regions)</p> <p>Additional local closures</p> <p>28 October – 7 November 2021 (Moscow)</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 15 July. But, as was the case for closure, formal reopening decisions were made by Regional Governors. At the beginning of 2021 about 97% of Russian cinema screens had reopened in 83 regions of 85. In June 2021, cinemas were opened in all 85 Russian regions. In late June, two regions - the Republic of Buryatia and the Vologda Region - closed cinemas for a month.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Some Russian regions closed cinemas momentarily between October and November 2020.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Moscow imposed a 10-day lockdown from 28 October until 7 November 2021, resulting in the closure of local cinemas. On 2 November, several Russian regions said they could impose additional restrictions or extend a workplace shutdown to fight a surge in COVID-19 cases that has already prompted Moscow to re-impose a partial lockdown nationwide, which did not result in the closure of cinemas but in limited operations. Localised closures have been reported. As of February 2022, 6 out of 49 Russian regions</p> |

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| | January – February 2022 (local) | had required cinemas to close. Other regions – including St Petersburg – introduced bans specifically targeting young citizens below 16 y/o, considerably limiting cinema operations. Following the start of the war in Ukraine, a growing number of Russian cinemas have closed down. These closures are not monitored as part of the UNIC research on the impact of COVID-19 on the European cinema industry. |
| SERBIA | 18 March to 24 August 2020 | Serbian cinemas were allowed to reopen from 24 August. Major cinema chains reopened from 1 September. |
| 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 Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 20 May. Most sites reopened by mid- to late June, when official restrictions were eased down.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Slovakia introduced a new state of emergency on 1 October. Cinemas were ordered to close again from 15 October. They were allowed to reopen from 16 November.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES It was announced on 17 December that Slovakia would close most shops and services and limit people’s movement from Saturday 19 December, resulting in the closure of all cinemas. Cinemas were allowed to reopen in Slovakia from 17 May, if the local epidemiological situation allowed. Due to the late notice, most operators reopened from the last week of May or first week of June.</p> <p>Slovakia announced that unvaccinated people would be under lockdown from 22 November, restricting access to cinemas only to vaccinated citizens or those who have recovered from COVID-19. These measures will be enforced for at least 3 weeks.</p> <p>Slovakia began a two-week lockdown on 25 November. Cinemas as well as other cultural institutions were required to close for at least two weeks. The Slovak government also imposed a new state of emergency for 90 days, which empowers it to impose curfews. This lockdown ended on 9 December. But cinema-going has been limited to vaccinated individuals, which forced major local chains to remain closed until at least January 2022. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 14 January.</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 All shops and businesses including cinemas were allowed to reopen from 18 May. Most cinemas reopened from 1 June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES On 16 October, the Slovenian Government announced that, for 7 of the country’s 12 regions, gatherings both indoors and in public places were banned. All local cinemas but 2</p> |

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| | | <p>were closed from that date, with major circuits shutting down completely.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 22 April until 2 May 2021 – for just 10 days – with a capacity limit of 10 people per screening room and other restrictions. Only one cinema decided to reopen under these conditions. Art house cinemas gradually reopened in the following weeks, while multiplex cinemas announced reopening dates for the week of 7 June.</p> |
| SPAIN | <p>26 March to 25 May 2020</p> <hr/> <p>October 2020 to March 2021</p> <p>LOCAL CLOSURES</p> <p>18 to 29 July (Barcelona)</p> <p>30 October to 23 November (Catalonia)</p> <p>28 October to 3 December (Asturia)</p> <p>10 November to 10 December (Andalucia)</p> <p>24 January to 15 February (Valencia)</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>Phase 2 of the national reopening plan, starting from 25 May, saw the reopening of most businesses, including cinemas. Cinemas located in malls were only allowed to reopen in Phase 3, starting from 8 June. This process has been managed on a provincial level, resulting in a staggered reopening process. Most cinemas reopened in late June. 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, allowing the opening of all cinemas in the province. In August 2020, 70% of Spanish cinemas had reopened.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>While theoretically allowed to operate, a large number of Spanish cinemas closed their doors from late 2020 due to the lack of content and evolving local restriction measures. Starting from 1 October, the Spanish Government ordered a partial lockdown in the capital Madrid and surrounding areas. Cinemas remained open. Cinemas were required to close in Catalonia from 30 October until 23 November. Increased restrictions were announced for Andalucia from 10 November to 10 December, as cinemas were forced to close. Cinemas were required to close in Asturia from 28 October to 3 December. Cinemas located in commercial centres in Castilla y Leon have been closed from 8 November. The city of Valencia introduced from 24 January strict distancing rules limiting gatherings to 2 people, effectively forcing the closure of local cinemas. In February-March 2021, only 40-45% of Spanish cinemas were effectively operating – most of them only on certain weekdays. In early April, the share of reopened cinemas rose to approximately 80%. Restrictions continue to vary widely from one community/city to another, with different rules on occupancy, F&B sales, operating hours. 90% had reopened in July and all Spanish cinemas were again operating in December 2021.</p> |
| SWEDEN | March-May 2020 | FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES |

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| | <p>27 November to 1 June 2021</p> | <p>The main Swedish operator closed its sites on 18 March due to official restrictions on social gatherings but many independent cinemas remained open, as there never was a formal obligation to close in the country. All Swedish cinemas were operating again from May-June 2020.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>On 16 November, local authorities introduced a ban on public events of more than eight people. Cinemas and other businesses were again not formally required to close but citizens were urged to stay home as much as possible, creating confusion as to whether cinemas – as well as other businesses – were allowed to operate or not. 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. Sweden lifted all COVID-19-related restrictions in the country on 29 September. Restrictions were again introduced in January 2021.</p> |
| <p>SWITZERLAND</p> | <p>17 March to 6 June 2020</p> <hr/> <p>12 Dec. 2020 to 19 April 2021</p> <p>LOCAL CLOSURES</p> <p>21 October (cantons of Valais and Bern)</p> <p>2-5 November (cantons of Geneva, Jura, Fribourg, Vaud and Neuchatel)</p> <p>4-7 December (Grisons and Schaffhausen)</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>The closure process has been managed at cantons level, with some forcing cinemas to close from 13 March, followed by a federal decision on 17 March. Major operators decided to close from 16 March. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 6 June.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>It was announced on 21 October that cinemas would have to close in the cantons of Valais and Berne. The Swiss federal Government announced on 28 October that cinemas could remain open but with a limited occupancy of 50 people per screenings, but cantons were allowed to introduce stricter rules. The canton of Geneva was under ‘semi-confinement’ from 2 November, resulting in the closure of local cinemas. All cinemas located in French-speaking Switzerland effectively closed in early November, roughly representing a third of the national market. The canton of Ticino introduced a ban on gatherings of more than 5 people from 10 November, later increased to 30 people, with local cinemas closing and reopening shortly after. The city of Basel announced a limited occupancy of 15 people in November, forcing all cinemas to close. The Cantons of Grisons and Schaffhausen decided to close cinemas from 4-7 December. It was finally announced on 12 December that all Swiss cinemas would be required to close their doors. Cinemas reopened on 19 April 2021.</p> |
| <p>TURKEY</p> | <p>17 March to 3 July 2020</p> <hr/> <p>17 November to 2 July 2021</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>On 1 June, the national lockdown was lifted and restaurants and bars were allowed to reopen. Cinemas were only</p> |

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| | | <p>allowed to reopen from 3 July. Only 60% of Turkish cinemas had effectively reopened in August.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were forced to close again from 17 November. From 1 June, cinemas were allowed to reopen but decided to remain closed, as some distributors postponed upcoming releases. Cinemas reopened from 1 July.</p> |
| UKRAINE | <p>CLOSED</p> <p>17 March to 2 July 2020</p> <hr/> <p>8 January to 24 January 2021</p> <hr/> <p>15 October to TBC 2021</p> <p>LOCAL CLOSURES 20 March 2021 to 9 April 2021 (Kiev)</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were initially allowed to reopen from 10 June. Cinema operators, following negotiations with local authorities, formally agreed to reopen from 2 July. A weekend curfew was introduced across Ukraine in November, resulting in the closure of all local cinemas on Saturdays and Sundays. Most cinemas decided to continue to operate during weekdays.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES Cinemas were closed from 8 January as a new nationwide lockdown took effect. Authorities effectively brought to an end lockdown measures from 24 January, allowing for most businesses to reopen. The cities of Kiev introduced a three-week lockdown from March 20 to April 9, with cinemas required to close. A similar lockdown was introduced in Lviv from March 19 to March 28.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES Five Ukrainian regions entered red quarantine zone from 15 October (Kherson, Zaporizhia, Odessa, Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions and in Lviv). In these areas cinemas are closed. Mass events and public institutions (including cinemas) may remain open if 100% of staff, visitors and organizers rely on a COVID-19 certificate, proving their vaccination, recovery or test status. Seven more regions of Ukraine may fall into the "red" quarantine zone soon. From 1 November, cinemas in Kiev were only allowed to operate if all staff were vaccinated and were prohibited from accepting visitors who do not have vaccination certificates or negative COVID tests. Major cinemas in Kiev were operating in late December 2021. Following the Russian invasion, most Ukrainian cinemas have closed down – with a few temporarily reopening in some parts of the country. These closures are not monitored as part of the UNIC research on the impact of COVID-19 on the European cinema industry.</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 17-24 May 2021</p> | <p>FIRST ROUND OF CLOSURES On 16 March 2020 the Government advised that it was no longer safe to visit social venues. Most cinemas closed within 48 hours. On 20 March, the Government told all cinemas to close. The Government announced its exit strategy on 10 May, which indicated that cinemas could reopen from 4 July 2020 in England. 42 cinemas reopened</p> |

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| | <p>LOCAL CLOSURES 16 October to 11 Dec. 2020</p> <hr/> <p>26 December to 24 May 2021 (Northern Ireland) 23 October to 9 November</p> <hr/> <p>20 December to 17 May 2021 (Wales) 2 November to 17 May 2021 (Scotland) 5 November to 2 Dec. 2020</p> <hr/> <p>4 January to 17 May 2021 (England)</p> | <p>from that day with wider reopening from the end of July. Northern Ireland announced that cinemas would be able to re-open from 10 July, while cinemas in Scotland would be able to re-open from 15 July and in Wales from 27 July. From 18 July, the Government’s focus shifted from a national lockdown to targeted local lockdowns.</p> <p>SECOND ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>A three-tier alert system was introduced on 12 October, allowing for the introduction of localised restrictions. Formally, cinemas were able to operate in all tiers. In Northern Ireland, gatherings were limited to 15 people maximum from 16 October, resulting in the closure of cinemas until 11 December. In Wales, a national coronavirus “fire-break” was introduced from 23 October until 9 November, with cinemas closed during that time. In Scotland, most towns and cities were put in ‘Level 3’ from 2 November, resulting in the closure of the vast majority of local cinemas. England announced on 31 October the introduction of a lockdown from 5 November to 2 December, resulting in the closure of all local cinemas. England returned to a ‘tier’ system from that date, with increasing restrictions across all three tiers.</p> <p>Whereas before lockdown cinemas were able to open in all three tiers, it was decided that those in Tier 3 (the VERY HIGH Alert Level) would remain closed. It was confirmed on 26 November that cinemas in London and Liverpool could reopen from December 2, with several restrictions, while those in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Bristol had to remain closed. Roughly a quarter of UK cinemas were operating in the first week of December.</p> <p>THIRD ROUND OF CLOSURES</p> <p>New restrictions announced on 13 December in London saw the closure of all cinemas from 15 December. Taken with other closures in the North of England, Scotland and much of Wales, around 20% of cinemas were operating across the country at the end of 2020. Following rises in cases across the country, new lockdowns were introduced in late December 2020 and early January 2021, formally closing all local cinemas. Wales introduced a new lockdown on 20 December. Northern Ireland followed on 26 December and England on 4 January 2021. Scotland introduced a similar lockdown. Cinemas in England were allowed to re-open from Monday 17 May. Scotland and Wales announced a similar timeline with the same reopening date for cinemas. It was announced that they would reopen slightly later in North-Ireland, from 24 May. It was announced on 14 January that the Welsh government would set out a two-week plan to ease coronavirus restrictions.</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 to be used in their daily operations for the foreseeable future, in collaboration with, or under the guidance of, relevant public authorities. At national level, these guidelines served as industry standards observed by all operators, ensuring consistency. The industry guidelines drafted in 2020 were broadly re-applied upon reopening in 2021 – taking of course into account evolving local rules. All of the information in this section is subject to change as local requirements are regularly updated.

Territories where a COVID-19 pass or vaccination certificate is necessary to enter a cinema have been **highlighted** in the table below.

| COUNTRY | DESCRIPTION |
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| ALBANIA | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy limit: 1/3 per room • Mandatory mask wearing at all times • Facemasks must be worn while indoors • The night-time curfew moved to 12am (midnight) until 6am |
| AUSTRIA | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory mask wearing <p>Additional details</p> <p>Occupancy limit was set at 250 people per room from reopening, increased to 500 from August 2020. Mask-wearing was made mandatory at all times but initially 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. Cinemas reopened with a 50% occupancy cap and an initial ban on F&B sales in 2021. From 1 July 2021, capacity limit and other restrictions were scrapped and replaced by a mandatory “green passport”, proving that cinemagoers were tested, recovered or vaccinated against COVID-19. New restrictions were applied from 15 September 2021 and specifically target population groups who refuse to get vaccinated.</p> <p>Despite Covid-19 rules in Vienna already being stricter than elsewhere in Austria, they were tightened further on October 1st. The restrictions include a 2-G rule for late night catering venues and gatherings of more than 500 people (indoor and outdoor), which means only vaccinated or recovered people are allowed access.</p> <p>From 1 November, employees who have physical contacts with other people in their workplace need proof that they are either vaccinated, recovered, or tested negative for COVID-19.</p> <p>Austrian authorities warned in late October that if the number of COVID patients in intensive-care units were to reach 500, or 25% of the country’s capacity,</p> |

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| | <p>entrance into businesses such as cinemas would be limited to those who were vaccinated or had recovered from the virus.</p> <p>The City of Vienna announced on 4 November that it was banning people not vaccinated against or recovered from COVID-19 from cafes, restaurants and events with more than 25 people. This so-called 2G rule was extended to the whole country from December 2021.</p> <p>The Austrian parliament voted on 20 January 2022 in favour of making vaccinations mandatory by February. Every Austrian resident above the age of 18 will be required to receive a jab from February onwards. Only those who are recovered, pregnant or can't be vaccinated due to health reasons are exempt from the new rule. The government announced it would fine those who refuse to comply with up to €3,600 from mid-March onwards.</p> <p>From 5 March masks were allowed to be removed in cinemas, and unvaccinated people were allowed to enter cinemas with a negative PCR-test result (except in Vienna, where the 2G-rule is still enforced).</p> <p>From 19 March, the requirement to wear FFP2 face mask indoors was reintroduced across the country.</p> |
| <p>BELGIUM</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details</p> <p>Cinemas were first allowed to welcome a maximum of 200 visitors per show and respect a distance of 1.5m between customers. The occupancy was temporarily reduced to 100 visitors from 29 July to 1 September. The safety distance was reduced to 1m from 1 September. From 19 October, F&B sales were banned in cinemas across the country. Cinemas reopened on 9 June 2021 with an occupancy limit of 200 per room – or 75% occupancy – and mandatory mask wearing at all times. From 1 July, the occupancy limit increased to 80% and is supposed to be 100% from 30 July. Most of the guidelines introduced in 2020 were renewed in 2021.</p> <p>From 13 August 2021, a Covid Safe Ticket (CST), the Belgian COVID-19 certificate, has been required to attend outdoor events welcoming over 1,500 attendees. Previously set at 200, the attendance limits was raised to 500 persons from October 1. The CST was enforced in cinemas located in Brussels from 15 October. Mask wearing and a safety distance of 1,5m remained mandatory in public areas. In Wallonia the Covid Safe Ticket was made compulsory in cinemas from 1 November. From 1 October, Flanders has taken a relaxed approach - no more compulsory masks in public venues, while there is no requirement to use the CST at the moment. Following a spike in infections, Federal authorities decided to extend the CST to the whole territory and re-introduce mandatory mask wearing in Flanders. Most Belgian cinemas will introduce the CST from 1 November, with visitors allowed to remove their masks once inside a cinema. The current rule still allows events welcoming less than 50 visitors indoors to avoid relying on the CST and simply require mandatory mask wearing. The CST has been mandatory in Brussels since 15 October.</p> <p>In the hospitality and entertainment industry, in addition to using a Covid Safe Ticket (CST), staff and customers must wear a mask when they're not seated.</p> |

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| | <p>The rule also applies to cinemas. The CST is required for events attended by at least 50 people indoors and at least 100 people outdoors from 22 November 2021. From 27 November, the CST was extended to all events (not considering a minimum occupancy), with mask wearing mandatory.</p> <p>Since 6 December, a maximum of 200 people can enter cinemas with a valid Covid Safe Ticket and face masks. The 1.5-metre rule between groups in cinemas has also returned.</p> <p>A coronavirus barometer was introduced on 28 January 2022. Guidelines will evolve depending on local infection rates. As of 28 January, Belgium was under the highest code red, which did not require the closure of cinemas. The occupancy rate for larger venues – which is not clearly defined but does not concern most cinemas – is 70% or up to 100% as long as the air quality is maintained below 900 ppm. From 1 March, a repeat dose (booster) was required to qualify as vaccinated. But this last change was made irrelevant from 7 March, as the vaccination pass requirement was lifted across the country alongside other existing restrictions such as occupancy limits and mask wearing.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>The Belgian Cinema Federation (FCB) published official guidelines, <u>which can be found here</u>. They include, but are 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. |
| <p>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety distance: 2m • Mandatory mask wearing at all times • 30% occupancy limit |
| <p>BULGARIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions (from 1 April 2022) <p>Additional details</p> <p>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. The same principles were applied in 2021, as cinemas first reopened with a 30% occupancy limit.</p> <p>From 14 October cultural and entertainment events (theaters, cinemas, stage events, concerts) can be held when the seats are occupied by up to 30% of their total indoor capacity, when the spectators are accommodated in at least one seat and at a distance of 1.5 m and mandatory wearing of mask.</p> <p>From 25 October, Bulgaria made a COVID-19 "Green Certificate" mandatory for indoor access to cinemas and other venues. Critics say the government introduced the requirement too quickly for people to prepare for it, giving businesses only a few days to adapt to the new rule. The Bulgarian</p> |

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| | <p>government removed all restrictions on 1 April, including the mandatory wearing of protective masks in closed public spaces, occupancy limits and the COVID pass requirement.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</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>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety distance: 2m • Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated <p>Additional details</p> <p>From 6 October 2020, wearing a mask is required in all public indoor settings where a minimum of 2m distance cannot be maintained at all time. Cinema-goers can remove them once they are seated. On 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. Occupancy was again briefly reduced to 50 in July-August 2021, but the 2m safety distance already had a direct consequence on occupancy limit in any case.</p> <p>Amid new record-high COVID-19 daily infections, Croatia decided on 5 November to tighten measures against the spreading of the disease, including introducing obligatory digital certificates for public sector employees. All public indoor gatherings must be limited to 50 people. This rule will not apply for gathering where all attendees have a valid COVID certificate. In any case, individuals must wear masks and maintain a distance. Outdoor public events and gatherings with more than 100 people could only take place if all attendees can present a valid COVID certificate. Beyond this, all gatherings must end by midnight, with the exception of film screenings that start at 11 pm. The COVID certificate requirement was extended to public institutions in December 2021.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</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 can sit together); • Designated entrances/exits for visitors; • More time in between screenings to avoid visitors congregating in the common area of the multiplex; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor records including basic data for ticket purchase, with online sales being enabled and encouraged; • Protective barriers and masks for cashiers, with more frequent hand sanitization; • The sale of food and beverages to be performed in accordance with <u>the Recommendations for the Prevention of Infection in catering facilities</u> ; • 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>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated • COVID-19 “Safe pass” or negative test • 75% capacity <p>Additional details</p> <p>Mask wearing was made mandatory at all times from late October 2020. Occupancy was initially limited to 50 per show, slowly increasing in 2021 until it was replaced by the mandatory use of a COVID-19 pass for cinema-goers from 19 July 2021. Several restrictions were eased in early March 2022, with the COVID pass not required anymore for several venues. Cinemas were also officially identified as low risk venues, resulting in slightly reduced requirements, allowing for instance to show a 72 hours negative test to enter a cinema. Local authorities have indicated that most remaining restrictions would be lifted in the following weeks. Cinemas will return to 100% capacity from April 18, 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>A national safety protocol was published on 11 September. <u>The document is available here.</u></p> |
| <p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 1000 occupancy • One seat between spectator/groups • Mandatory mask wearing at all times <p>Additional details</p> <p>Rules such as mandatory mask wearing, occupancy limit and a ban on F&B sales, introduced for the reopening of cinemas in May 2020, were scrapped in mid-June. From 1 September, mask wearing was made mandatory at all times if the number of participants exceeded 100 people. From 10 September, this rule was reinforced and cinema-goers had to wear a mask at all time. Since 24 May, Cinema guests must have proof of vaccination, a negative test, or proof of recovery from Covid-19 before going to the cinema. Occupancy has been limited to 2,000 per event, which does not impact cinemas.</p> <p>As of Nov 1, indoor places including cinemas will need to check whether customers have the required COVID-19 certificate confirming they have been vaccinated, tested negative or recovered from the virus. On 27 October, the Czech Government announced that it would not impose any restrictions on unvaccinated workers.</p> |

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| | <p>It was announced that from 22 November only vaccinated and those who have had COVID-19 in the last six months were allowed access to bars, restaurants and hotels as well as cinemas.</p> <p>A 30-day state of emergency took effect from 25 November midnight. Restaurants, bars and nightclubs had to enforce a 10PM curfew, while the public consumption of alcohol was prohibited and on-site consumption of food is banned in shopping centres.</p> <p>From 10 February 2022, a COVID pass was not mandatory anymore to attend a cinema screening. It was announced that most restrictions in Czech Republic would be lifted in March 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>Cinema operators drafted self-regulatory recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic ticket sale is encouraged; • Visitors must wear masks; • Reduce/remove all seats in the foyer and corridors; • Air renewal systems are encouraged; • Staff and customers must wear masks; • 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 are not recommended; • 3D glasses should be disinfected; • Notices for visitors should be visible on the premises of the cinema. |
| <p>DENMARK</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details</p> <p>On 6 April 2021, Denmark introduced a "coronapas" available via a secure application or in paper format to people who have either been fully vaccinated, have tested positive for COVID-19 2 to 12 weeks previously or negative over the previous 72 hours. The coronapas was mandatory to enter a cinema, along with the requirement of showing an ID. Additional distancing rules have resulted in 55-65% occupancy in most screening rooms. The pass was phased out entirely in cinemas from August 1.</p> <p>On 12 November the corona-passport was reintroduced. It has to be shown before entering a cultural event, e.g. cinemas, where more than 200 tickets have been set to sale. Several cinemas, most notably the two big chains Nordisk Film and CinemaxX, have decided to check all guests in their cinemas. New COVID-19 rules and guidelines, primarily relating to use of face masks and the coronapass health pass, could soon be introduced in Denmark.</p> <p>The coronapass was reintroduced in December in Denmark, before cinemas forced to close again. They were allowed to reopen on 16 January, with an occupancy limit of 500. All restrictions were scrapped in Denmark on 1 February, allowing for cinemas to operate without any restrictions. General</p> |

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| | <p>safety rules can still apply, but they are not obligatory. From 1 February 2022, all COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in Denmark. Mask wearing remained recommended, but not mandatory.</p> |
| <p>ESTONIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, Cinemas could initially welcome a maximum of 500 attendees per show, limited to 50% occupancy per room. This was increased to 100% and 750 attendees maximum. But distancing principles have to be respected (which effectively means a limited occupancy). Until 15 June, cinemas had to respect the national 2+2 rule: up to 2 people together in a public space and a distance of at least 2m from other groups. In 2021, cinemas reopened on 24 May with a 50% capacity limit. Mask wearing is compulsory.</p> <p>From 9 August 2021, a COVID-19 pass – showing proof of recovery, vaccination or negative test – was introduced in Estonia for citizens above the age of 18. From Estonia is considering introducing new Covid restrictions - in addition to those that came into effect yesterday - but plans to avoid a general lockdown, reports the Associated Press. From 25 October, only proof of vaccination or having recovered from COVID were accepted for virus certificates. Masks were also made mandatory in indoor public places until 10 January 2022.</p> <p>New coronavirus restrictions are in place across Estonia from November 1. Entertainment facilities – including cinemas- close at 11 p.m., minors must show covid passes, and certificates need to be checked against ID. The curfew was lifted in early January 2022. The Estonian government was considering lifting most restrictions in March 2022. From 14 February 2022, a COVID certificate was no longer required for cinema-goers aged 18 or below. From 15 March, most restrictions were scrapped in Estonia including the requirement to produce a COVID pass for cinema-goers. Mask wearing remained mandatory.</p> <p>As of 3 April 2022, Estonia removed all of its remaining COVID-19 restrictions.</p> |
| <p>FINLAND</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited occupancy varies from one region to another (50-75%) • Safety distance: 1-2m • Mask wearing is recommended <p>Additional details</p> <p>Indoor gatherings were limited to a maximum of 500 people per room with capacity limited to 50% until 1 August. National safety rules must be respected for events with 500+ attendees, while they were only recommended for smaller events. Mask-wearing has been recommended (but not mandatory) for staff and customers since late September. Cinemas and other event venues are encouraged to collect information on their customers for tracking and tracing purposes, but it is done on a voluntary basis. From October 2020 until May-June 2021, local restrictions have reduced occupancy to 10-50 per room depending on the region. From late November to December (depending on the region), all public events and gatherings of more than 10 people were banned</p> |

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| | <p>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, alongside the existing health and safety guidelines. Finland's Covid vaccination certificate was touched upon but not introduced. Bars and restaurants in Finland refusing to use COVID-19 certificates were required to stop selling alcohol after 5PM from November 2021, in a rule which in theory can also be extended to cinemas. 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. The COVID certificate, which was briefly introduced in the country at the end of 2021, was temporarily halted.</p> <p>As of early February 2022, 2 Finnish regions were fully closed, 3 operating with an occupancy limited to 10 cinema-goers, 7 limited to 20, 4 limited to 50 – including 2 of these with fixed seats – and 2 others with a 50% occupancy limit. Only one region had not limit whatsoever.</p> <p>In mid-February, most Finnish regions reopened their cinemas. Only 6 regions kept impactful restrictions, including limited occupancy rates (50-75%). The capital area saw most restrictions lifted.</p> <p>Industry guidelines Recommendations drafted by the Finnish cinema association include:</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 are available here, in Finnish.</p> |
| <p>FRANCE</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details Cinemas were allowed to reopen on 19 May 2021 with a 35% occupancy limit – which in effect meant two empty seats between groups of maximum six cinema-goers, with a limit of 800 people per room – and a 9PM curfew. From 9 June, cinemas were allowed to increase occupancy to 65% (or one seat between groups of visitors) with a 11PM curfew, and from 30 June to 100% occupancy (with sanitary rules to be respected) without a curfew. It was announced on 16 June that the curfew would end earlier than expected, from 20 June. The 65% occupancy limit ended on 30 June.</p> <p>It was announced that from 21 July audience members would have to use a “sanitary pass” to prove that they are either vaccinated, have tested negative or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months. The pass 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. 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 to staff members when entering a cinema was scrapped in the last</p> |

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| | <p>week of July. Also, mask wearing would not be mandatory anymore, unless specified by local authorities or the cinema operator.</p> <p>The health pass became compulsory for the under-18, including implementation starting from Thursday September 30, 2021 for teenagers between 12 and 17 years of age following approval from the Constitutional Council.</p> <p>France's lower house of parliament voted to approve extending the country's COVID-19 health pass measures until at least July 31, 2022.</p> <p>It was announced in early November that 65 years old and older will need to present proof of a COVID-19 booster shot from mid-December for their health pass to remain valid. The French Government indicated that the third jab might be mandatory for all citizens above 18 years old by mid-January 2022.</p> <p>The French Government announced in late December that it would shorten the gap between the second and third coronavirus vaccinations to four months and limit the COVID-19 certificate to vaccinated citizens.</p> <p>On 28 December it was announced that F&B sales would be banned in French cinemas from 3 January for a period of at least three weeks. This rule was later prolonged until 16 February. French authorities have indicated they planned to introduce stricter rule specifically targeting non-vaccinated citizens. From 24 January, the COVID certificate will only be valid for fully vaccinated individuals, with recovery or negative tests not accepted anymore. The vaccination requirement applies to cinema-goers aged 16 and above, while those aged 12 to 15 can still rely on the sanitary pass.</p> <p>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 was also not mandatory anymore.</p> |
| <p>GERMANY</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety rules vary widely from one German state to another – the existing rules are available here. <p>Additional details</p> <p>In 2020, Schleswig-Holstein initially set a limit of 50 visitors per room while North Rhine-Westphalia opted for 75. In August 2020, in Schleswig-Holstein the capacity limit was set at 250 per room while in North Rhine-Westphalia there was no capacity limit. The national 1.5m safety distance rule has been applied in most German states. This effectively resulted in most cases in a 20% occupancy limit. Rules related to mask-wearing have evolved over time, with only a few states making it temporarily mandatory at different points in 2020. It is 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.</p> <p>As in 2020, restrictions upon reopening varied widely from one state to another in 2021. In May, Bavarian cinemas reopened with mandatory mask wearing at all times and a ban on F&B sales. This ban was overturned from mid-June, allowing for the removal of masks when consuming F&B. Schleswig-Holstein allowed cinemas to reopen from 31 May, with a capacity limit of 125 per show. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania reopened its cinemas from 1 June, with mandatory mask wearing and COVID-19 test, while F&B sales were allowed.</p> |

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| | <p>It was announced that from 23 August 2021 the 3G requirement is applied to districts with a 7-day incidence of 35 COVID-19 infections per 100,000 people. German cinema operators formally expressed their concerns about this new rule, pointing out that states where the requirement already existed recorded a 50% drop in box office results compared to those where it did not. Cinema operators have advocated for the end of mandatory mask wearing and an occupancy limit of at least 50% or even full capacity to balance the impact of the introduction of a COVID-19 pass. The federal states implemented the 3G rule very differently. Requirements for minimum distance, mask wearing and contact data recording have also varied from state to state. While full occupancy was allowed in some state, in other states a distance of 1.5 meters between groups of visitors must still be maintained. More details available here, in German.</p> <p>From October 10, people who are unable to get vaccinated (for medical reasons) will be allowed into so-called 2G venues. Berlin allows the owners of cinemas and various other indoor venues to operate a 2G entry policy. Some federal states in Germany tightened measures to contain the pandemic. In Baden-Wuerttemberg, stricter rules apply from 3 November for people without a vaccination: anyone who has not been vaccinated or has recovered must show an expensive PCR test for numerous leisure activities in enclosed spaces - for example in restaurants, cinemas, swimming pools, museums or canteens. Tighter regulations are also planned in Bavaria and Saxony.</p> <p>The new measures, agreed in a crisis meeting with Germany's 16 state premiers, include restrictions in areas that pass a threshold of three people hospitalized with COVID-19 per 100,000 inhabitants. In areas that breach this limit, access to public spaces such as sporting and cultural venues or restaurants will be limited to people who are vaccinated against COVID, or have previously had the coronavirus and have recovered.</p> <p>In late December 2021, the health ministers of the federal states decided that people who have already received a booster vaccination are exempt from the obligation to test under the 2G+ rule. Some federal states had already implemented this regulation, which was from then applied nationwide.</p> <p>In some federal states, students have been required to deliver a negative test certificate during the 2021 Christmas holiday in order to be attend a cinema screenings. The German cinema association HDF Kino has contacted federal states and demanded that children under the age of 18 are exempted from this requirement.</p> <p>The 2G+ rule was introduced for Bavarian cinemas in January 2022, in addition to a 25% capacity limit. As of mid-January, the same rule has been applied to cinemas in 8 German states, with several others making it mandatory only when surpassing a certain capacity limit. A detailed summary of existing restrictions is available here.</p> <p>In February 2022, German states have gradually eased restrictions. In Bavaria, it was announced that from 9 February cinemas would be allowed to operate with a 75% occupancy limit - previously set at 50%. From February 16, most states, including Bavaria, lifted their 2G+ rule and re-introduced the 3G rule - vaccinated, recovered, or tested. Germany announced it would remove most COVID restrictions on 20 March. Following pressure from local States, this</p> |
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decision was postponed to 2 April. Several States advocated for an extension of existing measures for an additional 4 weeks, but the Federal government opposed that and brought down most restrictions from 2 April, including the requirement to wear masks indoor. At the same time, Federal authorities have encouraged citizens to continue to wear masks on a voluntary basis, creating confusion as to whether the restrictions had been in fact lifted or not. Restrictions were in effect lifted from 2 April in most federal States. Based on the new Infection Protection Act, conditions such as the obligation to wear masks, distance rules or test obligations are only possible if a region is declared a hot spot by the local State parliament. As of 1 April, only Hamburg and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania made use of this ability. In Hamburg, for example, there was still a mask requirement indoors, while Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania also retained the 3G rule for indoor events.

Industry guidelines

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 is 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.](#)

The German cinema association HDF Kino published official recommendations on health and safety requirements to be considered when reopening cinemas. [The document, translated into English, is available here.](#)

The guidelines are divided into two categories:

Protection of employees

- 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.

Protection of visitors

- 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.;

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular ventilation of the lobby and screening rooms. |
| <p>GREECE</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety distance: 1.5m (resulting in occupancy limit – until 1 June 2022); • Mandatory mask wearing at all times (until 1 June 2022); • Mandatory vaccination, recovery or test certificate (until 1 May 2022); • Mandatory test for 4-17 years old (until 1 May 2022). <p>Additional details</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen in July 2021 with a 50% occupancy limit and a requirement for cinema-goers to provide a negative COVID-19 tests or proof of vaccination. Following a spike in local cases, the government announced on 12 July that only vaccinated people would be allowed indoors in bars, cinemas, theaters and enclosed spaces. Immunity-certificates holders are not required to wear masks, but it remains mandatory for staff members. Visitors under 18 years old must be accompanied by adult immunity-certificate holders.</p> <p>The Greek government announced in late August that all indoor -entertainment venues will be off limits for unvaccinated citizens from September.</p> <p>Entrance is allowed to the vaccinated, those with proof of recovery from Covid-19 and the unvaccinated that have a negative rapid antigen test performed within 48 hours prior. Theaters and cinemas have the option to operate as “Covid free” (vaccinated-only) and “mixed” spaces.</p> <p>Greece is tightening restrictions on the unvaccinated as virus cases spike. All unvaccinated workers — except those who work from home exclusively — must undergo two Covid-19 tests per week. Unvaccinated people will have to show a recent negative COVID-19 test to enter all indoor public areas and outdoor hospitality venues, as well as outdoor restaurants and cafes.</p> <p>Starting 22 November, COVID passes became mandatory for most activities including cinema-going. Initially focusing on vaccination, it later also allowed recovery and negative tests proofs. From early 2022, it became mandatory for cinema-goers aged 4-17 to show a negative test (with self-tests also allowed) before entering a cinema. Greek authorities started reducing COVID restrictions in March 2022, starting with the outdoor mask requirement. Most other requirements were expected to be lifted by the end of the month, however the Greek government decided against further relaxations.</p> <p>The Greek Health Minister announced the lifting of several restrictions from 1 May. It was reported that the COVID pass requirement would be lifted from 1 May, mask wearing would only be mandatory until 1 June and occupancy limits would be lifted on the same date. All measures would be reviewed on 1 September.</p> |
| <p>HUNGARY</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory mask wearing at all times; • Only vaccinated visitors allowed in 2021. Immunity-certificates holders not required to wear masks, but it remains mandatory for staff members. Visitors under 18 years old must be accompanied by adult immunity-certificate holders. • According to recent clarifications of existing rules a vaccination certificate is not mandatory to enter cinemas/theatres/other venues with a similar purpose. |

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| | <p>Additional details Mask-wearing has been made mandatory in cinemas, theatres and social institutions across the country from September 2020. From 4 November 2020, a curfew was introduced from midnight to 5AM. Most restrictions were lifted in May 2021, as vaccination became mandatory in order to enter most businesses. In cinemas and other similar venues masks became mandatory again from 20 November.</p> |
| <p>IRELAND</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details From 29 June 2020, a 2m minimum distance between patrons and a maximum of 50 people per room was enforced. Since 10 August, face masks or coverings are mandatory in cinemas and other indoor public settings. On 15 September, the Irish Government launched a <u>5 Level Framework for Restrictive Measures in Response to COVID-19</u>. Cinemas were listed under 'Organised Indoor Events' and permitted under Level 1 & 2 only, with Level 1 allowing up to 200 patrons for larger venues and Level 2 for 100 patrons both where strict 2 metre seated Social Distancing and one-way controls for entry and exit can be implemented. In June 2021, cinemas were allowed to reopen with a 50 people per screening room capacity limit. Basic hygiene and social distancing rules were also enforced, but mask wearing was not made mandatory. It was announced that fully vaccinated customers would be allowed to eat and drink inside restaurants from 26 July. A similar vaccination requirement is expected for the reopening of concert venues and nightclubs, but not for cinemas. Cinemas can operate at 60% capacity from 6 September. The Republic of Ireland delayed some of the measures that had been planned for the reopening of society on Friday 22 October. Capacity limits were for instance expected to be removed. The requirement for a COVID-19 pass (based on vaccination or recovery) will be extended to cinemas and theatres from December - which many are already applying to allow for greater capacity. Restrictions were reinforced in December 2021, with a curfew from 8PM and a 50% occupancy cap introduced from 20 December until at least 30 January. On 23 January 2022, almost all restrictions were lifted in Ireland, including the 8PM curfew and the 50% occupancy limit for cinemas.</p> |
| <p>ITALY</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory mask wearing, can be remove once seated; • Requirement to collect customer data; • COVID-19 “Super Green pass” necessary to enter cinemas, showing vaccination or recovery. <p>Additional details Cinemas that reopened in May 2021 had to enforce 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. On 17 May, the Italian Government agreed to put back the nationwide curfew to 11PM and eased</p> |

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| | <p>other curbs in the regions where infections were low. The curfew was moved to midnight from 7 June and abolished from 21 June in those areas. It was announced on 23 July that a COVID-19 “Green pass” would be necessary to enter restaurants, bars, museums as well as cinemas and a range of other businesses and events.</p> <p>As Italy's vaccination campaign slows down and Covid cases rise, the government reignited the debate on whether to make vaccines mandatory. The Italian “super green pass” took effect from 6 December and required people to prove they are vaccinated or recovered to access cinemas. From 10 March F&B sales were allowed again inside theatres.</p> <p>Italy announced in mid-March plans to gradually phase out COVID restrictions, including dropping out the requirement to show a health certificate to enter most public places, including cinemas. The state of emergency ended on 31 March, with only mask wearing remaining mandatory until 30 April 2022 at least. The COVID pass will also be mandatory for indoor spaces until that date.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>Regional authorities can enforce additional restrictions. Official guidelines include but are 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; • Installing physical barriers (plexiglass) between audience groups can replace the 1m distance; • Customers must wear a mask when they enter the cinema but can remove it as soon as they sit inside the screening room (NB: regions can make this rule stricter like in Lombardia where masks have 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 is allowed, as well as prohibiting them from entering the cinema if it is above 37.5°; • The box office and other workstations can 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 will have to follow rules that apply to the restaurant sector. |
| <p>KOSOVO</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% capacity limit • Safety distance: 2m • Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated • Mandatory COVID certificate |

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| | <p>Additional details Cinema-goers can come in groups of 5 people maximum. Staff members are required to wear masks and regularly check their temperature. <u>Additional hygiene rules can be found here.</u></p> <p>Kosovo's government has decided to start requiring evidence of Covid-19 immunity at food courts and other public places including malls, theatres, libraries and cinemas and sporting events. In early 2022, it was announced that cinemas would be required to operate at 30% capacity until at least 4 February. As of 7 March 2022, nightclubs were allowed to reopen and events were allowed with half the capacity of the venue.</p> |
| <p>LATVIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety distance: 2m <p>Additional details Occupancy was initially limited to 25 people, before being increased to 100 from 9 June and 250 from 1 August and then to 300 people and a 50% occupancy limit after the summer. 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, including in cinemas. It was announced on 14 June that cinemas could reopen from 15 June for people with a valid COVID-19 certificate is required upon entering a cinema. It is also necessary for visitors to present an ID. Mask wearing remains mandatory, along with a 2m social distancing at all time. Latvia declared a three-month state of emergency starting from 8 November. Masks are now obligatory in all buildings accessible by the general public and anyone employed in government must have a vaccine by 15 November at the latest. On 4 November, the Parliament allowed businesses to fire workers who refuse to either get a COVID-19 vaccine or transfer to remote work. From 1 April 2022, most restrictions were lifted in Latvia, with the exception of the 2m safety distance.</p> |
| <p>LITHUANIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% capacity if non-vaccinated people are in the auditorium – can jump to 100% if all are vaccinated; • Mandatory mask wearing at all times; <p>Additional details From reopening, attendance was limited to 30 people per room, as a 2-metre distances between cinema-goers had to be ensured from reopening. As of late October, cinemas must respect a 50% occupancy limit and can welcome 600 cinema-goers per auditorium. The safety distance was reduced to 1m and mask-wearing was made mandatory at all time. From late October, cinemas have been required to collect customers' contact details and F&B consumption inside of the auditorium has been banned. Rules enforced in Lithuanian cinemas in 2020 were still effective upon reopening in April 2021.</p> |

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| | <p>From July 2021, 75% capacity if non vaccinated people are in the auditorium – can jump to 100% if all are vaccinated. Proof of vaccine or PRC test is required. From 5 February 2022, the COVID pass requirement was lifted for cinemas.</p> |
| <p>LUXEMBOURG</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details</p> <p>Occupancy initially were limited at maximum 20 people per screening. From 28 October, mask wearing was made mandatory at all time and F&B sales were banned. Customers could previously remove their masks once they were seated. Rules enforced in 2020 were still effective upon reopening in January 2021. Several restrictions were eased in June 2021.</p> <p>It was announced in late July 2021 that visitors would be required to show a COVID-19 pass to enter a cinema. The COVIDCHECK pass is mandatory for cinema-goers above 6 years old and can prove vaccination, recovery or a negative COVID-19 test (PCR/72 hours or antigenic/48 hours). Until 15 September, testing was free of charge for Luxembourg citizens.</p> <p>MPs approved the new Covid law which entered into force on 1 November. For certain gatherings, the number of people allowed is increased from 300 to 2,000 people. This means that gatherings between 11 and 2,000 people can be held without mask wearing, social distancing, mandatory seating and that gatherings above 2,000 people will be possible under a health protocol with no maximum capacity. CovidCheck (3G rule) became mandatory in restaurants, cafés, night clubs and hotels, and can be introduced in businesses and administrations. From 25 December 2021, the 2G+ regime was introduced for cinemas, requiring a negative test in addition to a valid COVID-19 certificate. From early 2022, the 3G (vaccinated, recovered or tested) 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, all restrictions were lifted in the country. The COVID pass requirement as well as the mask wearing mandate were scrapped.</p> |
| <p>MALTA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>It was announced in January 2022 that from 14 February the obligation to present proof of vaccination would be lifted for cinemas. Most restrictions were gradually lifted in the following weeks.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p><u>The detailed rules can be consulted here.</u> Official rules include, but are 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 can welcome; • Check visitor’s temperature at the entrance for the presence of fever (persons with 37.2° or higher will be denied entrance); • Provide adequate and easily accessible hand sanitisers across the cinema; • Regulate audience traffic; • Ensure a 2m safety distance at all times; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 is 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>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy limit: 50 people maximum • Safety distance: 2m • Mandatory mask wearing at all times |
| NETHERLANDS | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details</p> <p>From 1 June cinemas were limited to 30 people per screening. From 1 July there was no occupancy limit but a safety distance of 1.5m had to be enforced at all times, which meant according to local authorities an empty seat behind and in front of a 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, cinemas (along with cafes, restaurants, etc.) must have a reservation system and register the contact details of all guests. From 29 September, the occupancy limit was brought back to 30 people per screening. Cinemas with a restaurant or cafe area had to close it at 10PM and not welcome new customers from 9PM – cinemas had to close at midnight. From 14 October, bars or restaurants located in cinemas had to close. Following consultation with relevant authorities, cinemas entirely stopped selling F&B from 20 October. From 14 October, mask wearing was made mandatory in indoor spaces. Cinema-goers could remove their mask once seated in the screening room. From late November, mask wearing was made mandatory at all times.</p> <p>On 31 May 2021, it was confirmed that cinemas would be allowed to reopen from 5 June with a 50-person limit, a 1.5m safety distance, mandatory mask wearing until seated and F&B sales allowed until 10PM.</p> <p>Following a surge in infection cases, new restrictions were introduced on 10 July. Among other rules, it was announced that foreign travellers wishing to attend an event or activity in the Netherlands such as a festival, bar, disco, cultural event or sports activity, could be required by the owner of the premises to show a valid European COVID Certificate.</p> <p>On 13 August, the Dutch government announced it was planning to introduce a “corona ticket” for events welcoming more than 75 people, including cinemas, from 20 September until 1 November. This requirement would be per site, not per screening room.. The Government also announced that the pass would not be mandatory anymore after 1 November, from when most restrictions would be scrapped. Dutch cinema operators have expressed their disarray and opposition against the potential introduction of such a pass and have been</p> |

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| | <p>advocating for a higher occupancy ceiling focusing on audience per screening room rather than per site.</p> <p>The Dutch government scrapped most of the remaining coronavirus regulations on September 25. The 1.5 meter provision was cancelled. Entering cinemas and theatres is only possible with the corona pass (for everyone from 13 years on). This applies to both indoors and outdoors, with and without a fixed seat. 100% of the seats can be used in cinemas.</p> <p>From 5 November, COVID passports are mandatory for sports venues and so-called high-flow spaces, such as amusement parks and museums, and compulsory use could soon be broadened to workplaces. Face coverings also become obligatory in indoor public spaces and for contact professions, and the government has urged people to work from home at least part-time. Social distancing will also come into effect again.</p> <p>From 13 November to 3 December, citizens 13 years old and older will have to show a COVID-19 pass to enter a cinema. For those above 14 years old, an ID will also be necessary. Capacity is limited to 1250 people per room, with fixed seats. Face masks and social distancing are not mandatory when the COVID-19 pass is enforced. Curfew at 5 pm.</p> <p>The Dutch government extended its coronavirus measures until January 14 2022. From 5 p.m. to 5 a.m, non-essential shops, restaurants, bars and cultural venues remained closed, with supermarkets allowed to stay open until 8 p.m. This was extended for three weeks on 14 January.</p> <p>The Dutch government announced that from February 18 cinemas would be allowed to stay open until 1AM and that the 1.5m distance would be lifted along with mandatory mask wearing. COVID certificates remained mandatory for 13 y/o and above; from the age of 14, cinema-goers' IDs also had to be checked. Cinemas were only required to have fixed seats in rooms with more than 500 seats. From 25 February all restrictions were lifted.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>The Dutch cinema association's safety guidelines (last updated in early October 2020) include:</p> <p><u>General recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 have been 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. <p><u>Ticketing recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) is allowed. <p><u>Hygiene recommendations:</u></p> <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 has published a Q&A for its members to better understand the guidelines above. <u>The document is available here, in Dutch.</u></p> |
| <p>NORTH MACEDONIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy limit: 75% • Safety distance: 1.5m • Mandatory mask wearing at all times <p>Additional details</p> <p>From October 2021, North Macedonia's government decided to relax some of its COVID-19 restrictions. Venues were allowed to operate to 50% capacity both indoors and outdoors – when it was set at 30% since the reopening of cinemas. From 6 April 2022, North Macedonia's cinemas were required to limit occupancy to 75%.</p> |
| <p>NORWAY</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details (2020)</p> <p>Cinemas were authorised to reopen with a capacity limit of 50 people per screening, increased to 200 people from 15 June. From reopening on 7 May the social distance was defined as one 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).</p> <p>In the city of Bergen and Stavanger/Sandnes, maximum occupancy per room was reduced to 20 people in late 2020. The Government recommended on 18 January 2021 that all cultural performances and shows across the country should be cancelled or postponed – or respect a limit of 200 people per show. It was announced in December that cinemas would be required to limit occupancy to 50 people only, which had a significant impact on cinema operations in the country. On 14 January, the occupancy limit was raised to 200. In addition, a complete ban on alcohol sales had been introduced in December and was replaced in January by nationwide 11pm alcohol sales curfew.</p> |

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| | <p>In February 2022, it was announced that all restrictions would be lifted in the country.</p> <p>Industry guidelines (2020)</p> <p>The Norwegian cinema association Film&Kino <u>published a set of key health and safety recommendations for cinema operators</u>, which include, but are 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; • 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 will 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 is 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. <u>The document is available here, in Norwegian</u>. Specifically related to health and safety measures, its recommendations include:</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 have been introduced. <p>In addition to these health and safety guidelines, the reopening document also includes considerations related to rent payments, maintenance of equipment and building, finances and insurance, inventory, etc.</p> |
| <p>POLAND</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions • Mandatory mask wearing |

Additional details

From August 2020, occupancy limits varied for cinemas located in geographical zones that were considered “at risk” (between 50% and 25% occupancy limits). From early October, all cinemas had to abide by a 25% capacity limit. 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.

Upon reopening in 2021, capacity was initially limited to 50% and mask wearing has been mandatory from reopening. 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. Occupancy limits varied depending on specific geographical zones defined by local authorities (standard was 50% while red and yellow zones had to abide by a 25% cap). From May 2021, cinemas were allowed to reopen with a 50% occupancy limit, a ban on F&B sales and mandatory mask wearing at all times.

From 26 June 2021, the occupancy limit was increased to 75% across Polish cinemas. But the limit did not apply to vaccinated customers, meaning that - in theory - once 75% of tickets were sold, the remaining 25% could only be sold to vaccinated customers. As a COVID-19 vaccination certificate was not introduced in Poland, this rule has proved impossible to implement by cinema operators, who decided to implement a 75% occupancy limit.

From December 15, the attendance cap was lowered to 30%, while F&B consumption was banned. 30% limit does not apply to vaccinated customers who can show proof of valid vaccination status. In practice, most of cinema operators ask their customers for “EU Covid passport/certificate” when checking their tickets. Not vaccinated children are “building” 30% limit. Masks are mandatory indoors.

From 1 March 2022, occupancy limit requirements were lifted in Polish cinemas and F&B sales were again allowed again. Mask wearing remained mandatory. From Monday, 28 March, face masks were not mandatory anymore.

Industry guidelines (2020)

Official guidelines and recommendations ([Polish version available here](#)) include the following key principles:

- Customers and staff must be wearing a mask;
- 30% occupancy inside the screening room for non-vaccinated customers
- Consumption is banned
- People living under the same roof, children and those with disabilities are not obliged to sit apart;
- It is recommended to appoint a health coordinator;
- If possible, it is 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 is recommended that cinema-goers provide their contact details, to make tracing possible in case of contamination;

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,5m social distance is recommended when people are 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>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory mask wearing at all times <p>Additional details</p> <p>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 across the country.</p> <p>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 but on 2 July, Portugal announced an 10.30pm curfew for cinemas in 45 municipalities, including Porto and Lisbon. Occupation remained limited to 50%, while the ban on F&B sales effective in 2020 was lifted.</p> <p>Since August 2021, a COVID-19 certificate or negative test is mandatory for indoor events welcoming more than 500 guests. PCR tests are valid for 72 hours, antigen test for 48 hours, rapid self-tests for 24 hours or on-the-spot (carried by the event organiser). The pass is not mandatory for accompanied children under 12 years old.</p> <p>Portugal lifted almost all remaining COVID-19 restrictions, allowing full occupancy in restaurants and cultural venues from Oct. 1.</p> <p>From December 2021, vaccine certificates are obligatory for entry into hotels, restaurants, gyms and cultural events; masks will again be required for indoor public spaces; visitors to care homes, hospitals, bars, dance halls and big sports and cultural events will have to show negative tests.</p> <p>On 17 February 2022, the Portuguese government announced that the capacity limit requirement would be ending, along with the mandatory COVID certificate. Only mask wearing remained mandatory.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>The complete guidelines can be found here, in Portuguese.</p> |
| <p>ROMANIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details</p> <p>In May 2021, cinemas were allowed to reopen in Bucharest with a 30% occupancy limit as the infection rate fell below 3 per 1,000. From 13 May, cultural events including cinema screenings were allowed at 50% capacity for pilot events approved by the National Council for Emergency Situations. Cinema-goers taking part were required to provide proof they have been vaccinated, tested in the last 72 hours or have had COVID-19 between 15 and 90 days before their visit. The occupancy limit was increased to 70% from 1 June 2021. A curfew starting at 9PM was introduced from 25 October. In addition, cinemas were required to operate at 30% capacity. These restrictions are expected to last until at least 25 November. In late October, the Romanian</p> |

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| | <p>Senate narrowly rejected a bill requiring medical staff, public sector workers and those of large privately-owned firms to hold a COVID-19 health pass, but parliament's lower house has the final say and could revive it.</p> <p>Romanian cinemas were allowed to function at 50% of their capacity from 9 December 2021. The curfew was also eased, moving to 10pm instead of 9pm. The curfew was scrapped in January 2022. The use of a COVID certificate became mandatory across the country from December.</p> <p>From 8 January 2022, cinemas had to abide by a 10PM curfew and operate at 50% or 30% capacity depending on the area's infection rate, severely limiting operations. 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. All restrictions were lifted from 9 March, including mandatory mask wearing, occupancy limits and the COVID pass requirement.</p> |
| <p>RUSSIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety distance: 1.5m • Mandatory mask wearing • Capacity between 50% and 75% • Some regions have introduced mandatory vaccination certificates for customers and/or staff members • St. Petersburg: 2AM Curfew <p>Additional details</p> <p>Health and safety rules have been enforced at local regional level. As of mid-September 2020, most cinemas were operating with a 50% capacity limit. In October 2020, mask-wearing was made mandatory in public spaces – but this federal rule was not enforced across the country. In St. Petersburg occupancy was temporary reduced to 25% in December 2020.</p> <p>In summer 2021, cinemas were opened in all 85 Russian regions, with most enforcing a 50-75% occupancy limit depending on local restrictions. Two regions - the Republic of Bashkortostan and the Nizhny Novgorod Region – have required cinema-goers to present a vaccination certificate. Buryatia plans adhered to the same principle from July. Other regions were reducing the occupancy limit to adapt to the epidemiological situation. 23 Russian regions (27%) have required mandatory vaccination of employees, including in the service sector and cinemas. Restrictive measures have tightened in Russia with 36 of 85 regions requiring a vaccination certificate or a negative test to attend cinemas – with staff in several cases also being required to prove their COVID-19 status in order to work.</p> <p>The Russian government has been considering a nationwide QR-code system, which would effectively require vaccination for many aspects of daily life. As of February 2022, 50% of Russian regions had restrictions specifically targeting those aged below 18 – including in major cities like St Petersburg. In 6 regions out of 49, cinemas were completely closed and in one partly closed. The capital, Moscow, had in February 2022 an occupancy rate of 50%. An 11PM curfew was enforced in St Petersburg. From December 2021, children were not allowed in cinemas of St. Petersburg & Moscow, but since 15 February, minors were allowed inside cinemas again. In February 2022, St. Petersburg relaxed the 11PM curfew for cinemas to 2AM.</p> |

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| | <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>The Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing has 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 include but are 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 is seated. This rule does not apply to customers that are 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>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy limit: 500 people maximum • Safety distance: 1.5m • Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated <p>Additional details</p> <p>From 6 November 2020, public gatherings of more than five people in indoor or outdoor areas were banned. Cinemas were only allowed to operate during weekdays and until 5pm during the weekend. A curfew was later extended during the week. Measures were eased from April 2021. Cinemas can now welcome up to 500 guests. Mandatory to maintain physical distance of at least 1.5m in all public spaces. Protective face masks are mandatory in all public spaces indoors.</p> <p>Serbia announced in October that it would introduce a COVID pass for bars and restaurants after 10PM only. On 28 October, the Serbian Government announced that this project was impossible to carry out efficiently. While the Prime Minister announced a pass would not be introduced after all, local health</p> |

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| | <p>figures have expressed their concern at the reversal. Mandatory COVID passes are required for entry into all indoor catering facilities (restaurants, bars, cafes) and betting shops after 8pm.</p> |
| <p>SLOVAKIA</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask mandatory <p>Additional details</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to operate with a capacity limit of 100 visitors from reopening, 500 from 15 June, increased to 1,000 from 1 July. Mask wearing was made mandatory in all public spaces and F&B sales were banned from October 2020.</p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen with a 50% capacity limit in May 2021. A negative COVID-19 test is required inside waterparks, during wedding celebrations, and at parties and similar events. There is a limit of 500 people in cultural venues (inside) and 1,000 (outside).</p> <p>New measures were introduced in January 2022, limiting occupancy to 50% and 100 people max for cinemas without F&B sales or 25% and 100 people max for cinemas selling F&B. These rules were later updated, allowing for 100 max occupancy, F&B consumption outside of the screening room and mandatory COVID-19 vaccination or recovery.</p> <p>The Slovak government loosened measures for the unvaccinated on 26 February and lifted the limit on crowds and extended opening hours. Most domestic restrictions were lifted in late March, with only mask wearing remaining mandatory in indoor spaces.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>Most of the official rules below were scrapped from mid-June but reintroduced in early October 2020 with several additional restrictions.</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>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory mask wearing at all times • 1.5m distancing • Occupancy limit: 50% • Requirement to show proof of vaccination, negative test or recovery to COVID-19 |

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| | <p>Additional details</p> <p>From reopening, it was only mandatory to wear a mask when social distancing of 1.5m was impossible to implement. Before cinemas were required to close in most of the country from 16 October, public gatherings were limited to 10 people. A COVID-19 certificate was introduced across the country from April 2021 and became mandatory to enter most businesses, including cinemas from May-June 2021.</p> <p>From 21 February 2022, most restrictions were lifted in Slovenia including the COVID pass requirement. Only mask wearing has remained mandatory in indoor venues, in addition to a safety distance of 1.5m.</p> |
| <p>SPAIN</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost no remaining restrictions <p>Additional details</p> <p>From reopening, cinemas were required to respect two key requirements: pre-allocated seats and 30% maximum occupancy. Depending on local epidemiological reports, the allowed occupancy could increase. This decision was taken province-by-province. Because of this, some provinces allowed for 60% or 75% occupancy from mid-June, while others were still at 30% (Phase 2 of the official 'return to normal') or 50% (Phase 3). These limits have continued to evolve at local level 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. The Spanish Government made it mandatory for all citizens above 6 y/o to wear masks both indoors and out in public from 21 May 2020, if social distancing was not possible. Cinema-goers could remove their mask when eating and drinking.</p> <p>The state of alarm in Spain ended on 9 May 2021, meaning that Spain's regions no longer have the authority to introduce restrictions without the formal authorization by local courts. Nevertheless, some local restrictions remained, such as a 10PM curfew for cultural activities in Basque Country or a 75% capacity limit in Madrid. In June 2021, F&B consumption was still entirely banned in 6 communities, while occupancy was limited to 50-75% depending on local epidemiological thresholds.</p> <p>In early July 2021, new restrictions were announced in Catalonia and Valencia, including the closure of most night-time venues, as well as limits on social gatherings. In Valencia, the regional government asked its court to authorize a curfew on towns with more than 5,000 inhabitants that are considered high-risk. In mid-August, a Spanish court lifted a 1AM-6AM curfew imposed on most of Catalonia, including the capital Barcelona.</p> <p>Madrid removes most of its pandemic restrictions, amid a general easing of Spain's lockdown rules after the country's coronavirus infection rate fell to its lowest level in more than a year. Restaurants and bars in Spain's capital region will be allowed to stay open as late as their licenses allow them to operate, while shopping malls, cinemas and theatres will no longer have to apply capacity limits. Most restrictions were lifted across the country in late February and early March. As of late February, only two regions enforced limited occupancy and only one had a ban on F&B sales (Ceuta). A COVID certificate was only required in the region of Valencia, to be lifted on 28 February. A few other restrictions remained, none of which were significantly impact operations.</p> |

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| | <p>In mid-March, the Spanish government signalled its intention to end the mandatory use of masks in interior spaces in the following weeks, with a formal decision expected for 6 April 2022. The requirement to wear face masks indoors - except on public transport and in hospitals and retirement homes - was formally lifted at national level from April 20, 2022.</p> <p>Industry guidelines The Spanish cinema association FECE has drafted a safety protocol, including the following rules. They have 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 will be seated together in accordance with local rules; • Staff will receive appropriate personal protective equipment for each activity they carry out, following recommendations of health authorities. All workers will receive special training on COVID19. |
| <p>SWEDEN</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details Occupancy was limited to 50 per show during most of 2020. From November 2020, occupancy was increased to 300 per screening. Occupancy was limited to 8 people per show from 16 November 2020. On 1 June 2021, it was increased to 50 people per screening room, with a 1m safety distance between groups of 4 maximum. The limit was increased to 300 from 1 July. The Swedish government plans to introduce a requirement for COVID-19 vaccine passes at indoor events when more than 100 people attend. From 12 January 2022, occupancy was again reduced to 50 people per screening maximum but only for events that did not ask for a COVID certificate. For events with a mandatory COVID certificate, fixed seats became mandatory and groups were limited to 8 people maximum. At the beginning of February 2022, Sweden scrapped all COVID restrictions.</p> |
| <p>SWITZERLAND</p> | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details 2020</p> |

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| | <p>From reopening, cinemas could welcome a maximum of 300 people per screening room, with at least 1 empty seat between people. This was reduced to 50 people from 28 October following a rise in COVID-19 cases in the country. Rules varied widely from one canton to another. From 19 October, mask-wearing was made mandatory across all of Switzerland, including in cinemas when seated in the screening room. The rules introduced in 2020 were again enforced in 2021 as cinemas reopened.</p> <p>Cinemas reopened on 19 April with a capacity limit of 50 people or 1/3 of the screening room, mandatory mask wearing, a ban on F&B sales and consumption and contact tracing – similar to the rules enforced in 2020. Capacity then increased to 100 people per screening (with social distancing), and allowing F&B sales. This was later increased to 1,000 with a maximum ceiling of 2/3 occupancy.</p> <p>On 8 September 2021, the Swiss government decided to extend the use of COVID-19 certificates. From Monday 13 September 2021, a certificate is required to enter cinemas. The COVID-19 certificate was introduced under the three G principles (vaccinated, tested or recovered). Children under 16 don't need to have a certificate, no masks required and full capacity.</p> <p>On 20 December 2021, COVID-19 certificate was limited to "2G" (vaccinated or recovered). Mask wearing was made mandatory, but eating/drinking while seated was allowed. Most COVID-restrictions were lifted From February 16. Customers were no longer required to show their COVID-certificate and the mask wearing mandate was lifted.</p> <p>Industry guidelines The official guidelines are available here, in French. Groups from the same family or living under the same roof can sit together. Additional rules include but are 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 are encouraging customers to book tickets online to simplify the data collection process. The data can only be shared with local authorities if there has been 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>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions <p>Additional details It was announced that from 6 September 2021, a PCR test requirement would be introduced for cinemas. People who have not been vaccinated are able to enter by showing a PCR test (valid for 48 hours). A COVID-19 certificate was already mandatory for visiting most shops and malls. In March 2022, it was announced that masks would not be mandatory indoors when there was enough ventilation and if the distance rule was respected. The COVID pass is</p> |

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| | not required for cinema-going, as unvaccinated citizens are not required to test to enter indoor venues. |
| UKRAINE | <p>See section 1 on opening status for more details.</p> <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupancy limit: 50% • COVID-19 certificate (in Kiev only, to be confirmed) <p>Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated</p> <p>Five Ukrainian regions entered red quarantine zone from 15 October (Kherson, Zaporizhia, Odessa, Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions and in Lviv). In these areas cafes, restaurants, theaters, cinemas, markets and fitness centers are not allowed/ closed. In the red zone mass events and public institutions (e.g. cinemas, museums) may remain open if staff, visitors and organizers prove their vaccination, recovery or test status via a COVID-19 certificate. Seven more regions of Ukraine may fall into the "red" quarantine zone soon. From 1 November, cinemas in Kiev were only allowed to operate if all staff were vaccinated and were prohibited from accepting visitors who do not have vaccination certificates or negative COVID tests.</p> |
| UK | <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost no restrictions • Mandatory mask wearing (in Scotland) <p>Additional details</p> <p>Social distancing measures were reduced from 4 July 2020, from 2m to '1m plus' – meaning a minimum of 1m with additional mitigations – in England. Wales and Scotland maintained the 2m distance.</p> <p>From 2 July, the UK Government established a 'trace and test' scheme with venues such as cinemas being asked to collect and keep customer information for a period of 21 days. This is, however, a request rather than an obligation – more information is 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 on 12 October, allowing for the introduction of local restrictions, such as different occupancy limits, ban on alcohol sales, etc.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>On 1 April 2021, the UK Cinema Association reiterated its opposition to any requirement that UK cinemas might be required to ask customers to 'prove' their COVID-free status when sites are allowed to re-open in the coming weeks. More information available here. Authorities have announced in late July that a proof of vaccination would be required in English nightclubs and other crowded venues from the end of September.</p> <p>It was confirmed early July that restrictions would be lifted on 19 July and that cinemas would operate at full capacity in England. Wales and Scotland have announced in early August that most remaining restrictions would be scrapped,</p> |

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| | <p>allowing for full restart of all businesses without occupancy limits. Masks will remain mandatory in shops and public transports in Wales.</p> <p>In September, the Scottish government proposed vaccine certificates for entry to nightclubs and large-scale indoor and outdoor events. The concept would not apply to cinemas. The UK government would introduce vaccine passports for nightclubs and other crowded indoor venues in England from the end of October.</p> <p>COVID passes were introduced in Wales from 15 November for cinemas. Anecdotal evidences have already been received of reduced admissions and revenues.</p> <p>COVID passes were introduced in Northern Ireland from 29 November, though their use was only enforced from 13 December.</p> <p>From 10 December mask wearing became mandatory in cinemas in England. 1m social distancing between groups will be re-introduced in cinemas in Scotland from 27 December for a period of at least three weeks.</p> <p>England removed all restrictions from the end of January 2022 and has returned to 'Plan A'. Also, during January, Scotland removed 1m social distancing and the requirement to collect customer details, but face coverings remain. Authorities announced plans to remove all restrictions by the end of February 2022 in England.</p> <p>It was announced that the requirement to carry COVID passes in Wales would be lifted on 18 February. Masks were not mandatory anymore in cinemas in Wales from Monday 28 February and COVID risk assessments would no longer be mandatory from Monday 28 March.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland all COVID-19 legal restrictions were lifted and replaced by guidance in February 15th.</p> <p>Industry guidelines</p> <p>Guidance on cinemas was published on 25 June and is available here. Guidance for cinemas in Scotland is also available here, and for cinemas in Wales here.</p> <p>The guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing - cinemas will do all they can to ensure social distancing during each visit to the cinema. • Guest hygiene - anti-bacterial gel stations will be made available in prominent locations throughout the cinema. • Cinema auditoriums – social distancing will be particularly important here. The capacity of each auditorium will be reduced to support this, and some auditoriums may remain closed. • Cleaning - enhanced cleaning regimes will be introduced throughout each cinema. Particular attention will be given to areas such as kiosks, guest thoroughfares, toilets and washrooms and auditoriums. • Ticketing - cinemas will encourage online booking and the use of e-tickets. Cinemas will encourage contactless payment for tickets as well as food and drink. • Personal Protection Equipment - Perspex screens and other physical safeguards will be introduced as appropriate at key customer points such as ticket offices and concessions desks. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Film scheduling - screenings in each auditorium will be scheduled so as to allow the safe entrance and exit of audiences, and sufficient time for thorough cleaning between each show.• Training - cinema staff will be 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 have been introduced across Europe, with varying levels of detail and effective actions from authorities. However, schemes specific to the film, or even cultural, sector have been relatively limited. And while crisis management or so-called emergency funds were introduced swiftly almost everywhere in Europe, few Governments have announced long-term recovery schemes.

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 have been introduced across the region.

In the sub-sections below, we have included measures that specifically target 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. For audience engagement initiatives, [please consult our regularly updated public database on the topic](#).

3.1. SUPPORT FOR THE CULTURAL AND CINEMA SECTOR

SUMMARY

Support measures specifically targeting cinemas, or even the cultural sector, have been relatively limited across Europe – though it is worth pointing out that most of the broader measures described later in this research are of relevance to cinema operators and their partners from the film sector.

| COUNTRY | DETAILS |
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| 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 the year, in order to help the sector cope. This decision has been 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 is provided to all undertakings that will organise events taking place in Austria between 1 February 2021 and 31 December 2022 and that will have to be cancelled or organised with significant restrictions. The public support will take the form of direct grants. It is not yet entirely clear if cinemas can apply. • 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 have been 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 |

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| | <p>The Belgian cinema federation FCB estimates that cinema operators have lost roughly €4.3m of potential revenues per week of closure, excluding fixed costs. Belgian film support bodies have introduced more flexibility regarding administrative, reporting and other funding conditions until the end of 2020. Cultural policies are managed at local, community level, with different support initiatives announced for Belgian cinemas, including the following:</p> <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 covers 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 goes to local authorities. They can use this to support local culture, youth and sports associations. €65m will be 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 currently unable to benefit from the various federal and/or regional compensation measures, but have nevertheless suffered damage from the corona crisis, can 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 includes 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 has included cinemas in its recovery plan and made a budget of €645,000 available for around 40 independent cinemas. The amounts awarded will depend 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. |
| BULGARIA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector |

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| | <p>The Bulgarian Government will support the cultural sector with nearly €2.5m. €1.4m will be directed to freelance artists and independent cultural organisations through the Ministry of Culture and €1.1m will be allotted through the National Culture Fund.</p> |
| <p>CROATIA</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector The Ministry of Culture established a crisis fund to provide support to the cultural sector. It will cover the fields of activity under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Croatian Audiovisual Center and the Culture New Foundation. • Innovative project grants The Ministry of Culture launched a public call to encourage entrepreneurship in the cultural and creative sectors for 2020. The call is 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 are granted up to 85% of the eligible costs of the proposed project. More information is 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 will be 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 will be up to 2% and the repayment period includes a grace period of at least one year and a maximum of five years. More information is 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 has 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. This second support mechanism has not been delivered to cinemas as of February 2021. • 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 will take the form of direct grants and will cover 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 must have been |

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| | <p>incurred between 1 October 2019 and 17 May 2020 for events which were to take place between 10 March 2020 and 31 August 2020.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The European Commission has 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> |
| <p>DENMARK</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for cultural events The Danish Parliament presented a summer package in June 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 would have been 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 will be running until January 2021. • Support for organising events 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 covers 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 does 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 is €40,300 – but the amount is also dependent on the number of total applications. • Support for local audiovisual sector 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 will be 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. • Support guidelines An online database of all the compensation schemes that can be applied for (via the Danish Ministry of Culture) is <u>available here</u>. A new Corona hotline has been created by the Ministry of Culture and the Danish National Palace and Culture Agency – <u>available here</u>. |
| <p>ESTONIA</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for cultural sector The Culture and Sport Crisis Package totals €25m, with the Ministry of Culture seeking to ensure the sustainability of cultural organisations. The package includes compensation for already incurred costs and unavoidable fixed costs related to the interruption of events and organisations in the fields of culture and sport. |

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| | <p>The Estonian government has announced in March 2021 a €42m support package for the struggling cultural sector. The film sector will receive €5.3m, of which €3.3m is earmarked for cinemas and film distributors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from local film fund <p>The Estonian Film Institute will distribute €1.3m as compensation measures to face the challenges in the film sector caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. €800k will go to film production, distribution and cinemas. This scheme can support arthouse cinemas and companies whose production and distribution activities have been interrupted. The remaining €500k will go strictly to film production.</p> <p>The European Commission has 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. Under the scheme, support will take the form of direct grants of up to €700,000 per beneficiary.</p> |
| <p>FINLAND</p> | <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 are available for small and medium-sized cinemas whose operations have ceased and for film festivals supported by The Finnish Film Foundation who have 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 has been allocated via the Arts Promotion Centre (Taika). Different foundations will also grant significant sums in aid through their own channels.</p> |
| <p>FRANCE</p> | <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, 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. As part of this fund, €165m will go to the French Cinema Centre (CNC) to relaunch the cinema sector. The CNC announced that €60m will be used to support the Centre specifically (and balance its significant financial losses during the crisis – which are estimated at €113-121m by the</p> |

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| | <p>French Government). The remaining €105m will be invested in a plan entitled “export and attractivity”, which will include targeted projects and a reinforced support of cinemas, festivals, cinematheques and film education workshops. An additional €11.5m has already been 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 will go directly to cinema operators, with €30m to be deposited on their automatic support account. This amounts to a full year of CNC support for an independent cinema owner and for 9 months of support for a large circuit; - €2m will go to art house cinemas; - €1m to film education; - €500k to administrative expenses; - €800k to cover the Cinenum debt (related to digitization in the early 2010s); - In addition, €17.7m will be allocated to distribution and €12.2m will be allocated to production of theatrical films. More details available here. ▪ In addition to this, cinema operators will be 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 will be running between 1 September and the end of 2020. It covers 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 will be 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 will be divided in two payments, with €40m/80% at the end of October and the remaining €10m/20% in early 2021. The money will be transferred to all cinema operators who can 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, 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 has publicly acknowledged that evening screenings – cancelled because of the curfew – represent roughly 50% of cinema operators’ revenues. This fund will be 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 has requested an extra €35m to help cultural venues that will not reopen as planned. ▪ The CNC will redistribute a support fund worth €15m between French cinema operators, to cover for the second round of closure in late 2020. Cinemas can now apply to this fund and is based on market share. More information here. ▪ On 19 May, 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, |
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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 will be divided in:

- 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 have 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
Under the CNC scheme, producers will receive €16.7m and will also get a 25% bonus on existing subsidies if they release 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 will go 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 cinephilia for young people (15-25 years).

- In November 2021 the CNC announced a "cross-sectoral compensation aid" of 27 million euros intended to compensate for losses due to the drop in attendance during the implementation of the Health Pass. All cinemas can apply for this aid, regardless of their status. The measure is 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 can 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 over the entire period of restriction caused by the ban on F&B sales. The €14m fund would be distributed between the film and performing arts sectors, with at least half expected to cover cinemas.

- **Tax exemptions**

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

- **Guaranteed loans**

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

- **Support guidelines**

Various support schemes have been introduced. [Additional, detailed information can be found on the FNCF website](#) or on [the CNC website](#), all in French. The FNCF

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| | <p>has created a FAQ on social/employment questions, available here in French. (This FAQ has not been updated since June 22).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for employers in the cultural sector On 30 July, a new law was introduced to support worst-hit sectors, including the cultural sector. As part of this law, SMEs (less than 250 employees) can be fully exonerated of certain social charges related to salaries due for the period between February 1 and May 31. This measure has been 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 should be extended until January 30, 2021. Large businesses can benefit from a special scheme to support the payment of social charges for the same period. For businesses that are struggling to pay other social charges that were due by 30 June, the law allows for staggered payments and debt delays. A web portal was created to explain in detail all the new rules that have been introduced. • 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 can 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 relates to projects jointly funded by various funding agencies and is intended to take effect where all other federal and state aid measures and funding programs taken in the context of the Coronavirus crisis cannot be used. When it comes to cinema exhibition, the programme is available only to small Arthouse Cinemas who have been 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. There would be no jury this time, as only arthouse cinemas that have received the award in the last two years would be eligible to apply. The prizes will be 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. €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 is being helped with €120m to primarily support cinemas and finance additional needs for film production and distribution. |

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| | <p>The support plan was regularly renewed throughout 2020 and 2021, with three programmes following each other under the NEUSTART KULTUR umbrella:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino I</u> was intended to strengthen cinemas throughout Germany, especially outside of metropolitan areas (cinemas with up to seven screens and meeting certain criteria can apply for funding). This involves an increase in the maximum amount of the federal share of grants, rising from 40% to 80% of eligible costs for 2020. Cinema operators can 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 available budget was spent in its entirety by February 2021. It was announced in Spring 2021 that the Zukunftsprogramm Kino I would be extended to 2022 with another €15m. ▪ <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino II</u> – introduced on 15 July 2021 and building up on <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino I</u>, 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 will support future-oriented investments to strengthen the attractiveness of cinemas. Applications could be submitted from 1 August 2020 and more information is available here. HDF Kino members have 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 has been extended until 30 June 2022, with the proof of use submitted by 30 September 2022 at the latest. ▪ <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino III</u>, announced in September 2020, is 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, replacing Zukunftsprogramm Kino III, 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 will be launched on 1 July 2021. <p>On 4 February, it was announced that an additional €1b fund will be 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 is to help the sector cover expenses and losses relate to the current crisis but also to stimulate investment in innovation and digitisation. This scheme is 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 is subject to the supplementary budget coming into force in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for cultural events |
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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 targets the restart of cultural events, including concerts, theater performances and cinema screenings. Since the restart of cultural life is still associated with local restrictions, the fund is 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 can or cannot 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 are an exception. The distribution of the Film Fund's (FFA) money will be accelerated to provide more liquidity for cinemas in the short term, while reimbursements of loans and payment of levies will be deferred. Deferrals that have already been granted will also be automatically extended until 31 December 2020. More information is available [here](#). The FFA decided in December 2020 to further extend the moratorium on film levies and loans until June 30, 2021.

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 is possible. Since the applications for the cinema reference funds for the 2019 calendar year had to be submitted by March 15, 2020, retroactive measures have been included in the new regulation. More information is available [here](#).

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.

- **Reduced VAT on cinema tickets**

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](#).

- **Deferred payments to collecting societies**

Payments to GEMA, the German collecting society, deferred until further notice.

- **Support from local entities**

Bundeslands or local authorities have introduced additional support mechanisms targeting the cultural sector, some of which are more specific to cinemas. Please find below a list of several of these local initiatives:

- As of early July, 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 can be received by a cinema is based on the number of screens.
- In February 2022, Bavaria announced a €12,3m fund for the cultural sector, including cinemas, to be launched in April 2022.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Hamburg Senate has approved a series of measures that should provide "quick and unbureaucratic" assistance to artists and creative industries companies. The grants are up to €5,000 for companies with fewer than 10 employees. The city also provides 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 is €150,000. - Hessen introduced a support fund to which cinemas can apply, for a maximum amount of €18,000 per businesses. <u>More information can be found here, in German.</u> - Sachsen State has launched a grant scheme for cinema operators who are faced with restrictions as a result of official measures taken during the corona pandemic, which have impacted their economic performance. The funding will cover commercial rent, expenses for telecommunications and insurance, leasing instalments and interest and principal payments for existing company bank loans. More information is available <u>here.</u> - In Hessen, a scheme was introduced in July and is aimed specifically at all cinema forms. Cinemas can 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 will be awarded. - In late September, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate has 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 comes from the Federal Government's Zukunftsprogramm Kino programme. - It was announced on 6 November that North Rhine-Westphalia would support its cinemas with a €15m aid program, intended to benefit all cinemas in the state. The aid program will start from 1 January 2021. This support will take 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 will be increased by up to 50,000 euros for small and medium-sized cinemas. A total of €7m is 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 has been 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 so-called "Hessen Bonus" closes the gap that arises because the federal program starts later than |
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| | <p>originally expected for the month of June. The aid is awarded according to the same criteria as the funds from the federal special fund, which starts on July 1: For events with up to 500 guests under pandemic conditions, the income from the tickets sold is doubled; for events reduced to less than 25 percent of the possible capacity, income will be tripled. The compensation is capped at the level of the event costs plus an organization fee of 10 percent.</p> |
| <p>GREECE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cinema industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Greek Film Centre has taken measures to support the sector, with a strict focus on film production. - The Greek Ministry of Finance announced in late October 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 have screened at least 2 Greek/European films in 2019-2020. The exact amount of this package is not yet clear. - The Greek Government has 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 can submit applications for financial aid which takes the form of financial coverage for the loss in ticket sales for the year of 2021. (Application via stirizoumetonpolitismo.services.gov.gr) Application for cinemas for the months of January-November 2021 is 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). Application for film distribution companies (distributing in cinemas) for the months of January-December 2021 is possible when there was at least a 20% decrease in turnover in 2020 compared to 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 are 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 will provide access to strategy or financial planning consultants who can assist in developing a short- to medium-term plan and assist companies to strategise out of the pandemic. Total amount of the fund is €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 has been 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 has been 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.

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, will again receive a contribution that will be double the amount previously received. The Emergency Fund for Cinema and Live Entertainment was refinanced with an additional €100m. National authorities are considering another round of funding support for the beginning of 2021 as well as doubling the general compensation for all businesses.

In late May 2021, the Culture Minister introduced a law decree pledging 40m€ to cinemas. This fund brings the total sum of extraordinary resources allocated to cinemas to over 275m€. 25m€ will be allocated to compensate for box-office losses between 1 December 2020 and 28 February 2021 compared to the same period in 2019-2020. 5m€ will cover 2020 cinema rental expenses. 5m€ will support cinemas that have been opened at least three days a week since 26 April 2021 and another 5m€ to those that reopened from 1 June 2021.

- **Accelerated industry support**

The Directorate General for Cinema is accelerating the payments of ordinary funding as per the Cinema Law. This involves 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 aims 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 months 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.

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| KOSOVO | The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports allocated €5m in funds to support cultural and athletic activities affected by the crisis. |
| 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. €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. • 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 will take the form of direct grants. Beneficiaries will receive 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. It is not entirely clear if this scheme applies to cinemas. |
| 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 is earmarked for the development and renewal of cultural infrastructure. €13m will be distributed through the Lithuanian Council for Culture for funding initiatives supporting cultural organisations, both public and private. An additional €1.4m will be administered by the Lithuanian Film Centre, providing support for film production and distribution, the recovery of cinemas, the development of new television and film productions and other activities. • Support from film fund 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. |
| LUXEMBOURG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support guidelines The Ministry of Culture published an FAQ to address the cultural industries current issues along with hotline – available here, in French. |
| MONTENEGRO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector 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 have been suspended due to the coronavirus. It is open to film production companies, cinemas and individuals, as well as other actors in the creative sector. |
| NETHERLANDS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector On 27 May 2020, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science announced a €300m fund available for the cultural sector to support institutions that are essential for the sector as a whole. This includes €48.5m to support municipalities |

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| | <p>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 will be allocated to cultural institutions which are crucial to the national infrastructure, €15m will be allocated to film production and €150m will go 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 have helped the Dutch economy during the COVID-19 crisis over the past 18 months will cease. The NOW, TVL, Tozo, TONK and various tax measures – all included in this report - will not be extended from that date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for fixed costs 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. • Support for local content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Minister of Education, Culture and Science has 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 has of course reduced that contribution. With this support 5 to 8 large Dutch productions can be supported. - 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 is entitled Full Circle Screening Scheme. Under the scheme, cinema operators can qualify for a screening fee of €1 per paying visitor to a Dutch feature film, full-length animation film or documentary that has been made with a regular realization and/or Incentive contribution from the Dutch Film Fund. The total contribution per film is a maximum of €100k. Applications can be submitted until September 1, 2021 and targets productions released between June 5 to December 31, 2021. Based on registered visitor numbers to Dutch films in 2019, an applicant can request an advance payment as soon as possible after approval by the Film Fund. |
| <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 is 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. More information available here, in Norwegian. It is expected that this scheme will be renewed in 2021. - The Cultural Department will launch a new scheme to stimulate innovation, but so far no details have come out and there is a lot of skepticism towards this. - The Government will not seek repayment of public subsidies paid for cultural and voluntary purposes. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 is available here. • Reduced VAT on cinema tickets The Government has declared that the VAT rate on cinema tickets will be further reduced from 12% to 6%, effective from 20 March to 31 October. 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. • Support guidelines Arts Council Norway has created a web page including a range of initiatives targeting the cultural sector – available here, in English. |
| <p>POLAND</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector The Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage is working on a package of support for cultural institutions as well as filmmakers and artists who have suffered losses due to the cancellation of artistic and entertainment events. More information in Polish available here. - 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 will transfer these funds to the Polish Film Institute. Smaller cinemas (micro entrepreneurs) can apply to the fund, with €8.8m specifically dedicated to these businesses. To receive the support, they must reopen in the week following the lifting of coronavirus restrictions in the country and show at least 50% of local titles. This programme ends 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 will provide support to companies of all sizes operating in several sectors affected by the coronavirus outbreak, including 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. It's not clear if cinemas will benefit. • 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 allows 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, has prepared a programme of bank loans available for cinemas to stabilise their payment gridlocks. |

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| | <p>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 | <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, is 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 will maintain and, where possible, speed up the grant procedures of cinema and audio-visual support. The ICA will suspend, including the month of March, the 7.5% film levy until further notice. • Support guidelines The Ministry of Culture created a website that is constantly updated with all relevant information for professionals in the cultural sector. The platform will inform about forthcoming extraordinary support measures. Available here, in Portuguese. |
| ROMANIA | <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 have been suspended to stop the spread of the COVID -19. Eligible beneficiaries include both SMEs and large enterprises that have carried out activities in the last 2 years. In order to benefit from it, all candidates have to be registered by 25 November 2020 in the Cultural Sector Register, the creative industries map launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2020. |
| RUSSIA | <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. Cinemas are still waiting to receive support funds from the national Government, while the Russian Association of Cinema Owners has asked for a 3.5b rubles support fund for cinema exhibition. This amount is 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 will also be given to the first titles released after the reopening of cinemas. This subsidy is 100% refundable; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 depends on the share of national films shown in the period before the March 2020 lockdown. The allocated funds can 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 has decided to allot this amount from the €700k support it received from Ministry of Culture. This fund will be redistributed between 176 cinema sites, representing 80% of the sector. Single screen cinemas will receive between €2,500 and €3,400 in grants, while chains/multiplexes will receive 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 has also postponed the payment of the contribution to the fund for cinema operators who are suffering temporary insolvency and will be 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 will be 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 are expected to be received from October. The grants can 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 wish to access these grants must 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 will be considered fulfilled when works of this nature are scheduled in a percentage of at least 30 percent in the year</p> |

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| | <p>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 will receive 17 million euros. More information here. • Support guidelines The ICAA has 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 has injected €1m into the Guarantee Society Crea SGR to guarantee that SMEs in the cultural sector have access to funding. Crea SGR will promote lines of financing aimed at companies in the cultural sector for a total amount of €20m. Support per company will range 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 has launched a package of measures to support the cultural sector, with a budget of €2.6m, which includes 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 have 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 have 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 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</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from film fund The Swedish Film Institute has 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 applies 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). |

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| | <p>€950k) per company, which was later increased to SEK 20m for the last round of support in 2020.</p> <p>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 is handling the Government's rescue package to be earmarked for cinemas, distribution, festivals and for the first time, for film & TV production. This scheme will cover the period between 1 June and 31 December 2020.</p> <p>On 1 April, the Swedish Film Institute redistributed grants worth at 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).</p> <p>As part of a national aid package worth SEK1.3b, the Swedish Film Institute received SEK211m (€20.7m) in April 2021. This fund will have to be redistributed between distributors, producers and cinema operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector Additional funding has been 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 has been split into 4 instalments to be spread out over 2020. |
| <p>SWITZERLAND</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cultural sector CHF 280m (€260m) has been allocated to support culture in general. An additional fund of CHF 130m was added to the scheme later in 2020. Cultural enterprises and artists may 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 will pay half of the compensation granted by the cantons. As of late 2020, cinemas haven't received money from this aid package yet due to administrative challenges. 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 will be paid earlier this year. Swiss Movies will get an additional CHF 0.6m to be distributed. Support for the cultural sector was extended to 2021, and also now to 2022. |
| <p>UKRAINE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the cinema sector 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 are not mentioned in the law, which is 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 is going to be "preserved as much as possible". It remains to be seen whether this will be the case. |
| <p>UK</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from film fund On 9 April, the BFI announced a programme of support worth £4.6m (€5.3m) to aid the UK film sector. More information available here. This fund includes, but is not limited to, the following initiatives: |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The £1.3m BFI FAN COVID-19 Resilience Fund has 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 can 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 will primarily support 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 consists 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 are 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 have 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 are 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 has unveiled a £1.6bn support package to help protect the futures of UK theatres, galleries, museums and other cultural venues. Independent cinemas are also eligible. More information is 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, 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 is open to all building-based venues that have a year-round program, therefore not for film festivals or touring operators. The first grants were expected to be given out at the end of August. Cinemas applying to the fund for business sustainability grants were required to demonstrate a commitment to increasing their organisational diversity and the diversity of their audiences. They were also expected to demonstrate commitments to reducing negative impacts on the environment and increasing educational outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from local entities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Wales, a support package for the creative industries, culture and sport sectors totalling £18m has been introduced to help support these sectors in safeguarding their businesses and jobs. More information available here. |
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- 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 has set up a support fund totalling £20m for people working in the cultural sector, including artists, creative practitioners and the self-employed, which takes the form of individual grants of up to £2500 per person.
- On 28 August, 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 has set up a COVID-19 Recovery Fund that will distribute up to £2m to UK film, TV and cinema workers that have been hit hardest, with support for up to 6 months, starting on 23 September. The Film + TV Charity provides 24/7 help to people in all corners of the industry. This happens 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 have been 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 |
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| AUSTRIA | For large businesses, special loans were introduced, with 90% covered by the State at an interest rate of 0.5%. The remaining 10% will be at an interest rate of 1%. Those loans will have to be reimbursed in 3, 4 or 5 months. The process to apply for this loan is extremely lengthy and complex. A similar scheme is in place for SMEs. |
| BELGIUM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Federal Government will guarantee loans for a total amount of €50b. At regional level, €233m has been set aside to support businesses in Wallonia, €150m in Flanders and €100m in Brussels. All regions and communes have 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 targets businesses that have been worst-hit by the crisis. More information here. - SOGEPa and Wallonie Santé offer 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 has been provided as a guarantee for loans, ranging from €2,500 to €250,000, which can 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 is 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 includes 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 December 31) 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. The main condition in securing a loan guarantee from the Government is 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 have been delayed. |

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| <p>ESTONIA</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Commission has approved two Estonian State aid schemes to support the Estonian economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The €1.75b schemes will enable 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 can cover up to 80% of the bank loan in question and can be fast-tracked.</p> |
| <p>FRANCE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The French Government has been supporting 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) will guarantee 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 will also offer 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 have been required by the State to show leniency with these companies. |
| <p>GERMANY</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The State has guaranteed certain loans up to 90% for businesses of all sizes, for amounts that can go as high as €1b per business. The German state-owned development bank KfW has been supporting companies in coping with the Coronavirus crisis by facilitating short-term loans. - The deferral of loan repayments is planned from the cut-off date of 1 March 2020. Procedures that address late repayments of loans will not be pursued. More information available here, in German. - Each States have their own additional support mechanisms. Here is an online database of all the different support schemes that have been introduced locally. - The European Commission has 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 will take the form of (I) guarantees (that are 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). |

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| GREECE | The Greek Government has 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 have been 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 has been supporting 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 will be provided to banks until December 31st, 2020 for a maximum amount of €200b (at least €30b will go 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 can 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 can approach a participating lender - currently, Ulster Bank, Bank of Ireland and AIB are participating in the Scheme. More information is available here. - The COVID-19 Business Loan from Microfinance Ireland is a Government initiative to support microenterprises through the current period of uncertainty that are or may be impacted by the coronavirus in Ireland. It includes business loans up to €50,000 for eligible micro-enterprises (businesses with less than 10 employees and up to €2m annual turnover). More information is available here. - Eligible applications for the COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme are now being accepted through the SBCI website at sbci.gov.ie. Working capital is a measure of the short-term liquidity of a business and finances the day-to-day running of a business. This includes cashflow for operational purposes. Loans ranging from €25,000 up to €1.5 million can be applied for under the scheme. More information is 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 will take 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 will not be 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 can apply for credit guarantees up to €10,000. - The Kosovo Central Bank temporarily suspended loan repayments for firms. |

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| 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 will be added on to the end of the current loan. Here is the FAQs from the Maltese Central Bank. - The MDB COVID-19 Guarantee Scheme (CGS) provides 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) provides Guarantee for SME loans. The amount of the BMKB surety loan has been 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 will be provided by the banks and have an interest of up to 4%. - In May 2021, 200m€ was made available for loans to SMEs affected by the crisis. They can qualify for a loan of up to 100k€, under favourable conditions. Entrepreneurs can 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 include 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) has issued guarantees for commercial bank loans (up to 80%). |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurs can obtain a loan from the Polish Development Fund (PFR). The amount of the loan depends on the actual damage caused by the pandemic and may be subject to partial amortisation (the amount of amortisation is PFR's discretionary decision but cannot 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 has been 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 has been 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 have 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 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 extends 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) has reported that the yearly grant it receives from the Ministry of Culture for co-financing of arthouse programmes has been cut in half in 2020, from a total of €77,793 in 2019 to €37,766 in 2020. On average around 15 local cinemas have been supported by the grant in the past. |
| SPAIN | The Spanish Government announced a €200b spending package. The main support mechanisms are 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 has guaranteed 70% of new loans |

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| | banks provide 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 is 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 are 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 is 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' will be extended from six years to 10, cutting monthly repayments by nearly half. Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme lenders will 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 can choose to make interest only payments for six months and those "in real trouble" can 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 have made it possible for businesses to apply for special grants – which can only be received once in most cases – to address fixed costs and other emergency expenses. Those direct subsidies are less common throughout Europe than the loan guarantees described above.

| COUNTRY | DETAILS |
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| 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 is up to €1,000. In a second phase, up to €2,000 per month should 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 may 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 has been 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 amount to €5,000 for businesses forced to close/€2,500 to those partly impacted. In Flanders, they amount to €4,000 to businesses forced to close/€2,000 plus to those partly impacted. In addition, they will receive €160/day if the measures last more than 21 days (which is already the case). In Brussels, they amount 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 have suffered a loss of at least 60% of their usual turnover. The support grants amount 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 prove that they have been 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 employ less than 250 people will be supported, as well as those with 250+ employees but with an annual turnover of less than €300m. - Businesses will be able to apply for financing from municipalities to address difficulties caused by the coronavirus. The State will allocate €100m of the 2020 budget to providing this support in full. Businesses that were profitable before the coronavirus-induced interruption will be eligible for support, consisting of a fixed sum that could be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs. The support scheme would run for a fixed term and be in effect for 6 months. Entrepreneurs may be entitled to this support as well as extended unemployment security. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Finland has provided funding for SMEs and midcap companies (6-250 employees with a maximum turnover of €300m) whose business is affected by the coronavirus outbreak. This funding is specifically targeted, among others, at the creative sector. It includes 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 have experienced a marked decrease in turnover due to the coronavirus and have costs (such as salaries or other necessary expenses) that are difficult to adjust. According to the act, the support granted to the company must exceed €2,000. The maximum amount of support is €500,000 per company. There has been two support rounds so far, covering costs for March to October 2020. Local cinemas have 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), the total amount of the fund continues to increase as the crisis is lasting. They will receive 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 can reach as much as €10,000 for all other businesses. This fund will remain 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, the French Government has announced that the “solidarity fund” would be extended for all businesses that were forced to close. They will be 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 can 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 is 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 has introduced from 18 May (until December 31) a “COVID prevention” scheme supporting businesses of less than 50 employees in</p> |

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| | <p>their acquisition of sanitary and safety equipment necessary for their reopening. This subsidy can amount to 50% of the total investment (which has to be of at least €1,000) and is 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 are affected by corona-related closing and restrictions. Companies with up to 249 employees can receive up to €50,000 per month from June to December. To do this, it must be demonstrated that sales in April and May plummeted by at least 60 percent compared to the same months in the previous year. Companies that have already received emergency aid from the federal and state Governments are 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 have been simplified and the funding was expanded. For instance, all companies (whatever their number of employees) can now apply to the maximum amount of €50,000. And as much as 90% of the fixed costs (previously at 80%) will be 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 is available here, in German.</u> Companies that have made use of the November and December aid are only eligible to apply for the months from January to June 2021. The catalogue of eligible costs has been expanded so that depreciation for fixed assets and structural measures for hygiene measures can also be applied. The bridging aid includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equity grants for companies that have suffered a drop in sales of more than 50% in at least three months since November 2020. The equity contribution will be up to 40% of the amount that a company is reimbursed for the eligible fixed costs. The equity grant is staggered and increases the longer companies have suffered a drop in sales of at least 50 percent. The new equity grant will be granted in addition to the regular funding of Bridging Aid III. - Increased fixed costs reimbursements to up to 100% for companies that suffer a drop in sales of more than 70%. Previously, up to 90% of the eligible fixed costs were reimbursed. However, this only applies 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 would have been incurred in the corresponding reference month of 2019 will be introduced for each funding month. The maximum total funding amount for this start-up aid is €2m. - It was announced on 9 June that the Corona economic aid would be extended to September 30, 2021. The previous funding conditions would be renewed in |

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| | <p>an instrument called "Bridging Aid III Plus", effective from 1 July. In order to be eligible, cinema operators must register from 15 June on the special fund portal before submitting their application.</p> <p>A new addition is a "restart bonus", with which companies can 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 are directly or indirectly affected by government closure measures will be able to claim up to €40m as compensation for damages. The basis for this is 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 will be 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 are 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 must be a COVID-related drop in sales of at least 30%. The FAQs on the extension were published in April 2022. The Ministry of Economic Affairs informed cinema operators that ongoing losses in sales would be considered "corona-related" even after most COVID restrictions had been lifted across the country. <p>Aid ceiling and accumulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following the EU decision to increase the aid ceilings, local authorities have 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 has 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 can 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 should 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 can apply. The support scheme did not offset other aids that were introduced in the past few months. <u>A detailed description of the scheme is available here, in German.</u> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 2020. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, in charge of the scheme, blamed the delays on a technical problem with the online application process. • Local schemes Each Bundesland has 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 have been 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 has been impaired as a result of the crisis, Bavaria offers grants for operating costs based on the number of visitors in 2019 and cinemas and other venues in Hessen can 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 will be 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 can decide how much can 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 will be 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 is €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 is 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 will focus on investment in large and medium enterprises employing more than 250 employees or with annual turnover in excess of €50 million. ISIF may consider investing in enterprises below these levels if they are assessed to be of substantial scale and of significant importance at national or regional level. More information is available here. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On 21 October, the Irish Government replaced the Restart Grant and the Restart Grant Plus with the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS). Eligible businesses can make a claim to Revenue for a payment known as an Advance Credit for Trading Expenses (ACTE). An ACTE is payable for each week a business is affected by the restrictions. The ACTE is equal to 10% 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 is based on the average actual weekly turnover in 2020. The ACTE is subject to a maximum weekly payment of €5,000 per cinema. More information available here. |
| ITALY | <p>On 13 May, 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, an allowance on fixed expenses for SMEs was introduced. It will 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 can 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 will be directed at micro-enterprises, SMEs and big businesses that pay taxes in Poland, and which have lost at least 25 percent of their revenue due to the crisis. 60% of aid will 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 are intended to help sectors and industries that are 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, again targeting SMEs hit by the coronavirus pandemic. The grants' value will be 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 has 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 will be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The measure |

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| | <p>will be accessible to SMEs and certain large companies related to the eligible SMEs, which have been negatively impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The aim of the scheme is to provide liquidity to these companies, thus enabling them to continue their activities, start investments and maintain employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The €100m support fund for the cultural sector introduced in November 2020 includes grants for cinema operators. The grant value will be based on 50% of the gross value of tickets sold in 2019. In order to benefit from this scheme, candidates have 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 includes 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 cannot be combined with the one that is specific to the cinema sector, described earlier in this research, unless you distinguish different commercial activities (screenings, F&B sale, events, etc). Cinema owners do not know yet if they will be allowed to apply to this scheme. |
| <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 have significantly impacted on them following the introduction of a second lockdown. The amounts vary 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 are closed; and ▪ up to £1,500 every two weeks for businesses which are severely impacted by COVID restrictions. - In addition to the above, businesses with qualifying property with a rateable value of less than £51,000 are eligible for cash grants from local authorities. - The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) supports businesses that are not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding is needed. - Businesses that have not had to close but which have been severely impacted due to local Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions may be eligible for Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB). Up to £2,100 per business per month. |

3.4. EMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY

National authorities across Europe are slowly introducing measures to support jobs and livelihoods. Several territories have offered to pay a significant share of employees' salaries as long as they were not permanently let go by their employers. A range of support and compensation mechanisms have been introduced and continue to be updated daily as distancing measures continue.

| COUNTRY | DATA | DETAILS |
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| AUSTRIA | Figures | Approx. 2,000 people employed in cinema exhibition. |
| | Measures | <p>The Government grants described earlier in this document are meant to be used by employers to cover fixed costs, including employees' wages.</p> <p>It is now possible to reduce working time to 10% while maintaining employees in an employment relationship with 80% wage compensation. The State will reimburse the employer for the costs of lost working hours on the basis of fixed and flat rates. Various work reduction systems have been 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 have decided to keep paying these wages.</p> |
| BELGIUM | Figures | Approx. 1,200 people employed in exhibition. |
| | Measures | <p>Procedures for temporary leave due to <i>force majeure</i> have been rendered more fluid. The State will cover 70% of salaries, previously it was 65%. Average unemployment revenue has been 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 have 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 is available here. Various already existing regional support mechanisms have been made more flexible to benefit impacted employees.</p> |
| BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA | Measures | A minimum salary contribution is covered by the Government, in the form of €120 per month, per employee. |
| BULGARIA | Measures | <p>National authorities introduced legislation on compensating employers who had suspended operations because of the State of Emergency, voted by Parliament on March 13 and have 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.</p> <p>More information in Bulgarian available here.</p> |
| CROATIA | Measures | The Government covered 100% of minimum net wages if employers did not lay off workers. That minimum wage was increased from €425 |

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| | | <p>to approximately €525 starting from the month of April and will be paid for March, April and May. The State also covered social and pension contributions.</p> <p><u>Detailed information available here and here in Croatian.</u></p> |
| CYPRUS | Measures | <p>Support Plan for Small Businesses, amounting to €10m, for businesses employing up to 5 people, under the condition that they keep employing their employees and have 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 has 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 have been particularly affected by the coronavirus outbreak was introduced in August. This scheme includes support for jobs offered to previously unemployed people. The scheme is 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 will provide 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, is 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, he/she would have up to 75% of their wages covered. This agreement ran from 9 March to 9 June (three months).</p> |

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| | | Following a second round of closure from 16 December, the scheme above has been renewed. |
| 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 must pay at least €150. In order to apply, the employer must 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 varies 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 will be obligated, 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. |
| FRANCE | Figures | Approx. 15,000 people employed in exhibition. |
| | Measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partial activity covers 70% of salaries, which can 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) can 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 should be 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 is 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 is 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. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October, 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 have been forced to close. - The French Government also took various steps to facilitate and accelerate the procedure to receive unemployment support. Detailed information is available in this document, in French. - From 5 July, employers couldn't ask for the postponement of "cotisations salariales" - only "cotisations patronales" can be deferred by filling in a special form. All measures to support employers can be found here (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 are forced to stay at home to take care of their children because their school was closed/children test positive to COVID-19 was re-introduced from 1 September. More information available here, in French. Another rule offering financial support to employees forced to stay at home because they are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, parents of a child under 16 or of a disabled person subject to a measure of isolation are still available. - French authorities have also provided for the payment of 10 days of paid leave between January 1 and 7 March 2021. The scheme will allow employers to plan for their employees to take 10 days of paid leave between these dates. The state will cover 70% of the paid leave amount, with a ceiling set at 4.5 times the national minimum salary. The support mechanism is 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% should still benefit from the main employment support schemes previously introduced. Therefore, cinema operators have benefitted of these schemes up until May 2021 included. |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 employees' salary. This scheme could be renewed up until 31 December 2021. - Additional support mechanisms for employers in 2021 are 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 can apply for “Kurzarbeitergeld” (short-time work allowance) to prevent job losses. The allowance covers 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 has to be paid by the employer. This scheme is expected to last until the end of 2021. 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 – cannot lay off their staff and must 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 can apply for bridging aid from the Federal Ministry of Economics (BMWi) and the Zukunftsprogramm (ZPK) of the State Minister for Culture and Media. This aid, currently valid for the months of June, July and August, are expected to be extended until the end of 2020. - Access to basic social security benefits will be made easier for cultural and media companies and child allowance is temporarily adjusted to the current situation. - It was announced in December 2020 that the statutory minimum wage would be increased twice in 2021. It will rise in January from €9.35 to €9.50 per hour and in July to €9.60. This also applies to so-called mini jobs (max. €450). <p>HDF Kino has 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 | Companies wishing to benefit from the National aid package cannot 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 |

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| | | employees. The state covered the cost of beneficiaries' insurance, pension and health payments. |
| HUNGARY | Measures | The Government introduced targeted support in the form of wage subsidies (direct grants) for companies in sectors or regions that have suffered most from the coronavirus outbreak and would otherwise have had to lay off personnel. This scheme was effective until 31 August. |
| 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 have liquidity issues, the Government and banks will 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 will 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 will not be applied to the subsidy payment. - The new <u>Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)</u>, provides a flat-rate subsidy to qualifying employers based on the numbers of eligible employees on the employer's payroll. The EWSS, operated by Revenue, has replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme and will run until 31 March 2021. |
| | Figures | Approx. 8,000 people employed in exhibition. |
| ITALY | Measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cinema employees do not have access to ordinary unemployment benefits, therefore in 2016 a Salary Integration Fund (FIS) was created with monthly contributions. The COVID-19 emergency measures extend ordinary unemployment benefits to FIS-related enterprises (5+ employees) for a maximum period of 9 weeks: the social welfare covers 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. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A compensation of €600 has been 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. Additional information in Italian available here. - The Government issued a new law decree on 28 October, 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 are 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 will receive €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 can apply for support after quarantine. This scheme is currently running until 16 December 2020. 1st -2nd month (July and August 2020) - a company can 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 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 have to top up to €1200. Part timers got €500 per month. Quarantine leave compensation of €350 per week. The unemployed to receive €800 per month. Additional information can be found here. - Employers who have or 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. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employees who had their full-time employment terminated as of 9 March 2020, including those who were self-employed, were be eligible for the Contributory Unemployment Benefit and will 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 | <p>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.</p> |
| 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 applies to employees with permanent and flexible contracts. In order to qualify for the compensation, the employer must demonstrate that it expects 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 can apply for a 90% contribution towards wage costs for June to September. The extended regime uses 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 have also been introduced, with more information available here, in Dutch. - NOW 4.0 –NOW will be extended for the third quarter on 2021 if a company can report a loss in turnover of 80%. - NOW 5.0 and NOW 6- were extend again. - The Government has 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 |

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| | | 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 have to pay the first two days' salaries (previously at 15 days before the crisis). Thereafter the Government covers 18 days of full payment (100% of the employee salary is 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, now the limit is down to NOK75.000 in the last 12 months, which will help student workers. - There is also a reduced employer period in the event of coronary-related sickness absence. The employer period has been reduced from 16 to 3 days. The Government pays 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 can either be grounded on economic downtime in the workplace or reduction of working time (to be decided by the employer and can 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 work on contract of mandate basis and were put off because of the occurrence of COVID-19 were entitled to one-time benefit (application must 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 are intended as recipients of this aid.. - Employers can also apply to a one-off additional closure benefit, valid for October and November 2020. The closure benefit is |

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| | | <p>equivalent to 80% of the minimum wage applicable in 2020, (PLN2,080 / €470).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The State will also co-finance 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 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). - 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 reactivates the distribution of subsidies to companies whose employees have been temporarily out of work. Moreover, the subsidising of part-time work will be prolonged. |
| SPAIN | Figures | Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition. |

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| | 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 2021. The ERTE mechanism will be running until February 28th 2022 and is not expected to be prolonged.</p> <p>More information 1 (in Spanish) 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 does 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, 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 |

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| | | <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On 24 September, a new Jobs Support Scheme was introduced to cover the pay of employees working fewer than normal hours due 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 can work at least a third of their usual hours. Employers would have 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 would have been 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 have not previously used the furlough scheme. - A Self-Employment Income Support Scheme supported self-employed individuals whose income has been negatively affected by COVID-19 by providing a grant worth 80% of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. Job supp - All small and medium-sized businesses and employers will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay, paid to workers for absence due to illness related to COVID-19. - On 8 July, as part of recovery plan 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 are currently still being asked to pay rent and service charges by landlords, despite their properties being closed to the public. A growing number of Governments – or local, relevant authorities – are introducing measures to delay rent payments for businesses during the crisis.

| COUNTRY | DATA | DETAILS |
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| 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 would cover a period running from 16 March to 15 June. The share of fixed costs covered would depend 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 can benefit from a reduced corporate tax, which can 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. This mechanism has not been renewed. |

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| | | <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 can 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 must 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 provides detailed information on the topic to its members, including a draft letter which can 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 has announced that it would financially incentivise landlords to cancel the rent due for November and possibly December if the lockdown is 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 will take the shape of a tax credit, with the state effectively covering 50% of the rent if the landlord accepts to cancel it. This measure will apply to companies of less than 250 employees. For bigger companies, the support will only cover 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 remains to be seen if this rule applies to all businesses or only those with less than x employees. - It was announced in mid-January 2021 that all businesses with a monthly turnover of over €1m and more than 50 employees which have been required to close by the Government will benefit from a support fund specifically targeting fixed costs. The fund will cover maximum 70% of fixed costs for a total amount of maximum €3m per company from January to June 2021. This aid can be combined with the already existing solidarity fund. Details of this programme will be 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 can't |

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| | | <p>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 has been valid for the period between April 2020 and June 2021. A description of the aid and application requirements are available here, in German. The aid received is 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 been 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 | <p>No rent payments have been delayed. The only measure in the Law Decree concerns the March rent for shops forced to close (a 60% tax credit). The Italian cinema association ANEC has been advocating to have cinemas included, but this proposal was struck down.</p> <p>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 has been confirmed for October, November and December (if the decrease in turnover is at least 50%).</p> |
| KOSOVO | Measures | The Government subsidised up to 50% of rent costs for SMEs during April and May. |
| LITHUANIA | Measures | Depends 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 will be open to companies of all sizes active in all sectors, except the financial sector. Under the scheme, businesses will be granted up to €7,500 per company to cover rental costs, and up to €7,500 per company to cover electricity bills. The measure is expected to benefit 20,000 companies. |
| NETHERLANDS | Measures | <p>SMEs directly affected by Government measures to contain the coronavirus can 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 can 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 can receive a grant of maximum €90,000 per period of 3 months (previously €50,000). In January</p> |

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| | | <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 can be reimbursed 85% of their fixed costs if they suffer a turnover loss of more than 30%. Businesses must 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 can use the TVL if they suffer more than 30% loss of turnover. The TVL scheme for the second quarter is expected to open from mid-May 2021.</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 will remain open for large companies until June 10, 2021. For SMEs, the Q1 2021 will be closed on May 18. The TVL Q2 2021 is expected to open in the second half of June 2021.</p> <p>The Dutch government is planning to extend the support package for jobs and the economy in the third quarter of 2021. The Fixed Charges Allowance (TVL) is part of this package and will therefore be extended in Q3 2021. The conditions for TVL Q3 2021 are the same as TVL Q2 2021.</p> <p>A special TVL scheme for starting entrepreneurs was made available in June 2021. The scheme provides an allowance for the Q1 2021 fixed costs of entrepreneurs in that opened their business between 1 October 2019 and June 2020. The scheme is almost the same as the normal allowance for fixed costs (TVL). To be eligible, applicants must have had at least a 30% drop in turnover in Q1 2021 compared to Q3 2020 and a minimum loss of €1,500 in fixed costs. This will also apply for Q2 2021. More information available here.</p> |
| NORWAY | Measures | <p>A general compensation scheme was introduced whereby the State covers a share of the fixed costs for companies that have a significant decline in turnover as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme is easy to use and was designed for fast application and payment. Cinemas, distributors and suppliers were all able to apply. More information available here. Another compensation scheme will be introduced to cover businesses that had to close a second time in late 2020 / early 2021. Only private companies will be 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 must then submit an offer to extend the contract for the period the lease was suspended plus additional 6 months. Cinemas that rent their space from local Governments would also be 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. |

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| | | <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. For the future closures different mechanism is planned – for closure period the tenant would pay 20% of rent and then, after reopening, 50% of rent for 3 month (from the day of reopening).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new support scheme was introduced in January 2021, worth a total of approximately €2.9b. It is specifically targeting micro, small and medium-sized companies. As part of this programme, companies can 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. |
| 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 | Rent payments for state and municipal property delayed. |
| SERBIA | Measures | The city of Belgrade decided not to charge rent for office and business spaces. |
| SLOVAKIA | Measures | 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 is valid from 23 June to 30 November 2020. Businesses can get 50% of their rent reimbursed by the State. |
| SLOVENIA | Measures | A support package introduced in November 2020 includes a deferral of rent payment for office buildings and business spaces, and partial compensation of fixed costs for affected businesses. |
| SPAIN | Figures | Approx. €12.9m in monthly fixed costs for cinema operators. |
| | 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 binds them to repay rents in spite of the impact of the crisis on their business.</p> <p><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 agree on a rebate on the rent, the Swedish state will cover a part of the rebate. The State compensation may represent 50% of the rebate, however not more than 25% of the ordinary rent amount. Tenants cannot 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> |

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| SWITZERLAND | Measures | The Federal Government has refused a plan to support businesses with their rent. |
| TURKEY | Measures | Turkey's Shopping Centres and Retailers Federation announced that no rent will be received from the businesses located in malls that have been closed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Close to 70% of cinemas in Turkey are 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

National authorities across Europe have been quick to delay payments of various taxes for individuals and businesses, including VAT in several cases. Additional schemes related to the payment of social contributions are included in the “employment” section of this research.

| COUNTRY | DETAILS |
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| AUSTRIA | Tax deferrals, reduction of tax prepayments etc. was introduced for a total amount of €10b. VAT on cinema tickets has been 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 have 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 are submitted within the prescribed deadlines. The Collection of Taxes and Assessments Law has been 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 can 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 will also be stepped up. The first repayment of delayed VAT has been 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. |

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| <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. - France continues not to provide a VAT filing or payment deferment, setting it aside from most other European countries. However, it offered a discount on VAT payments for April-May returns for businesses in difficulties. - 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 has been voted by the French parliament at the end of 2020, worth over €37m in taxes that will be exempted or given back to cinemas. - An exemption for property tax has been 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 has created a dedicated page on their website including all the tax exemptions and related measures that cinema operators can apply for. - The landlord tax (“taxe foncière” in French) can 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 must simply demonstrate they have been 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 can also be reclaimed under certain conditions, in 2021 after filing a tax return to the tax office. If losses in 2020 are less serious than expected, tax authorities can reclaim those taxes back. - According to the social security treatment, grants for short-time work allowance are tax exempt for up to 80 percent of the difference between the target salary and the actual salary. This regulation also supports cinema companies that have increased the short-time work allowance for their employees. - VAT will be 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 has also been 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% will apply again. - The Federal Ministry of Finance has decided that, for around 90% of wage and income taxpayers, the previously paid solidarity surcharge will no longer apply from January 2021. This also relieves 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 is guaranteed; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The due date of the advance VAT payment for 2021 will be suspended upon request. In this case, amounts already paid will be refunded; - The obligation to file for insolvency has been suspended until 30 April 2021. But the conditions under which this option applies should be checked by a tax advisor or lawyer if possible. |
| 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 do not 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 do not lay off staff may withhold 25% of their VAT due for April.</p> |
| HUNGARY | <p>Tax authorities exempted 81,480 SMEs from the flat-rate tax liability until June 30 and delay tax debts already incurred before 1 March 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% has been 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 (applies to cinema tickets).</p> |
| ITALY | <p>Fiscal and welfare payments and compulsory insurance premiums were suspended until 16 September (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 do not have to meet their tax obligations and tax relief will be 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 may be delayed to 16 September on certain VAT liabilities: small businesses (less than €50m turnover) which have had a 33% cut in revenue between March-April compared to same period in 2019. For larger businesses above €50m turnover, the reduction must be 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 are harmed by the crisis. There will be no charges for late payments or interest on outstanding VAT. Cinemas are not part of the first list of harmed businesses and are forced to prove they are harmed by the quarantine.</p> <p>The European Commission has approved in January 2021 a €156 million Lithuanian aid scheme which will take 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 will be open to businesses affected by the containment measures imposed by the Lithuanian government to limit the spread of the coronavirus.</p> |

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| LUXEMBOURG | There are possibilities to delay tax payments & advances. There was a suspension of VAT penalties for late returns until 15 May. |
| 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 can 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, has been temporarily lowered from 4% to nearly 0%. The rate for interest on tax has been temporarily lowered to practically 0% as well. This reduction applied to all types of tax that are subject to interest.</p> <p>The period during which affected businesses can apply for tax deferment was extended until 1 October 2020. Businesses using the scheme must pay those taxes by 1 January 2021 at the latest. There will 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 have not previously applied for a postponement or extension can still do so. For entrepreneurs who had already received an extension earlier this year, the postponement now automatically applies until October 1, 2021. The date on which entrepreneurs will start paying back again moved earlier to October 1, 2022, and there is five years for this. However, entrepreneurs are expected to start paying tax again from 1 October 2021. More details available here, in Dutch.</p> |
| NORWAY | <p>The Government has declared that its reduced VAT rate will be 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 will last for the rest of the year.</p> <p>The association is trying 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 will be able to postpone the payment of corporation tax. The scheme means that the taxpayer can 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 is probable that the business will run a loss in 2020, you can 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 have been 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 | 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. |

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| | 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. |
| 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 is above €30m. |
| SWEDEN | As part of a SEK 300b support package, companies may delay VAT payments and other tax settlements for up to 12 months, with a 6% interest. The measure will be backdated to January 2020. You can 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 will now be able to pay this back in 11 smaller interest-free instalments. A business rates holiday has been 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 will be extended from January 2021 to 31 March 2021. |

4. BOX OFFICE PERFORMANCES

2021

European cinema admissions increased by an estimated 38 per cent in 2021, with over 590 million visits across the region. Box office reached an estimated €3.7 billion, an increase of 42 per cent on the previous year. At EU level – including the UK – over 400 million tickets were sold in cinemas, worth an estimated €2.9 billion at the box office.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the European cinema industry remains significant. Compared to results for Europe in 2019, a particularly successful year for the sector, 2021 admissions were still lagging 56 per cent behind, while box office was down by an estimated 57 per cent. Comparing results for the second half of 2019 with the same period in 2021, box office revenues for the territories where data is available were on average 35 per cent below pre-pandemic levels.

[Additional details can be found here.](#)

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.](#)