



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 38 territories it represents. Please contact us if you need additional support.

27/11: [New information for Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia and the UK.](#)

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## 1. CLOSURE PROCESS - MARCH 2020

### SUMMARY

The vast majority of cinemas across Europe were officially closed in mid-March, with the exception of Italy (with almost 50% closed from 23 February), Russia (all closed from 31 March), Sweden (only partly closed) and Belarus (not closed). Overall, less than 2% of the 42,000+ screens in Europe remained open from then until May, when cinemas started reopening.

COUNTRY	CLOSURE DATE	CLOSURE PROCESS
<b>ALBANIA</b>	11 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	16 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>BELGIUM</b>	14 March	Major chains decided to close their sites on 13 March. Official decision from the Government on 14 March.
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>	13 March	Major chains decided to close their sites on 9 March. Official decision from the Government on 13 March.
<b>BULGARIA</b>	13 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>CROATIA</b>	17 March	Official decision from the Government. It is worth noting that Croatia was hit by a significant earthquake on 22 March, adding to the health crisis.
<b>CYPRUS</b>	16 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>DENMARK</b>	12 March	The national cinema association, Danske Biografer, made a proposal to close on 12 March and all of its members closed on the same day. Official decision from the Government on 18 March.
<b>ESTONIA</b>	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>FINLAND</b>	18 March	The Government declared a ban on gatherings of 10 persons or more but specified that cinemas were not forced to close. All cinemas decided to close after the announcement.
<b>FRANCE</b>	14 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>GERMANY</b>	14-18 March	The decision to close cinemas was made by local State authorities, with different start and end dates applied across the country.
<b>GREECE</b>	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>HUNGARY</b>	17 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>IRELAND</b>	16 March	National health authorities' guidance on social distancing (2m) effectively closed all cinemas on 16 March. The Irish Government ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses on 25 March.
<b>ITALY</b>	23 February - 8 March	Regional bans from 23 February (48% of screens). On 8 March, the National Government ordered all cinemas to close.
<b>KOSOVO</b>	14 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>LATVIA</b>	14 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	13 March	Official decision from the Government on 13 March. Several cinemas had already closed from 11 March.
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	16 March	Official decision from the Government on 16 March. Most cinemas had closed from 14 March.
<b>MALTA</b>	16 March	Official decision from the Government on 16 March. Most cinemas had closed from 13 March.

<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	13 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	15 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>NORTH MACEDONIA</b>	10 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>NORWAY</b>	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>POLAND</b>	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	16 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>ROMANIA</b>	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>RUSSIA</b>	26 March	Following an official Government decree on 25 March, Regional Governments effectively closed all cinemas the following day.
<b>SERBIA</b>	18 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	9 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	10 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>SPAIN</b>	14 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Partly closed 18 March	The main operator closed its sites on 18 March due to official restrictions on social gatherings. A few independent cinemas remained open.
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	17 March	Official decision from several Cantons initially on 13 March, followed by a federal decision on 17 March. Major operators decided to close from 16 March.
<b>TURKEY</b>	17 March	Official decision from the Government.
<b>UKRAINE</b>	17 March	Official decision from the Government. Cinemas were first officially closed in the capital from 12 March before an official decision from the Government on 17 March.
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	17-20 March	On 16 March 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.

## 2. REOPENING PROCESS

### SUMMARY

Most European markets reopened their cinemas between early May and early July, with a few territories only reopening in September 2020. New closures were announced in October 2020 following spikes in local cases, some of which were localised to specific cities or regions.

Territories where most - if not all - cinemas are currently closed are highlighted in the table below.

COUNTRY	TIMELINE	REOPENING PROCESS
<b>ALBANIA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 23 March <b>REOPENING</b> 23 June	Flower shops as well as footwear and clothing stores were the first businesses allowed to reopen from 27 April. Most shops and businesses were allowed to reopen on 1 June. Cinemas, theatres, nightclubs, swimming pools, and mass gatherings reopened on 23 June. Cinemas effectively reopened in late October, due to the lack of content. Albania introduced a curfew from November 11, with all citizens required to stay at home from 10PM to 6AM.
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 16 March <b>REOPENING</b> 29 May <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 3 November <b>REOPENING</b> 1 December	The gradual reopening process started with small shops on 14 April, larger stores on 1 May, restaurants on 15 May and hotels, outdoor activities and indoor gatherings from 29 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 29 May - originally planned for 1 July, the reopening date was brought forward on 27 May. Most cinemas reopened by mid-June, with some chains waiting until early July. From 25 October, cultural events must take place with assigned seats. A 1-metre distance must be kept in public spaces, unless people come from the same household. Food and drink is banned at all events that run for less than three hours - and can only be served to people who are seated. All events with over 250 people require authorisation. Masks must be worn in all enclosed public spaces. Austria entered a second lockdown from 3 November, resulting in the closure of cinemas until at least 1 December. Restaurants were also required to close but the retail and services sector could remain open. A curfew from 8PM was introduced. <b>While they could be allowed to reopen from December, Austrian cinemas might wait to see if German cinemas reopen in order to have access to content.</b>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>1st CLOSURE</b> 14 March <b>REOPENING</b> 1 July <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 26 October (Brussels) 29 October	Shops selling gardening and building materials/tools were the first businesses allowed to reopen from 18 April. Most shops reopened on 11 May and bars and restaurants from 8 June. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 July. Bars were required to close from 11PM across the country and social gatherings were restricted to groups of 4 people maximum starting from 9 October. From 19 October, bars and restaurants were required to close for a month, while

	(nationwide) <b>REOPENING</b> 14 December TBC	F&B sales in cinema were banned. Sporting events are forbidden to welcome spectators from 23 October. From 24 October, a curfew was introduced across the country from midnight to 5AM. The region of Wallonia decided to extend this curfew from 10PM to 6AM. 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, resulting in the closure of all Belgian cinemas until mid-December. This decision will be reviewed in late November.
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 13 March <b>REOPENING</b> 14 May	Bosnian entities have applied different rules. In Republika Srpska, restaurants and coffee bars, hairdressers, gyms and kindergartens reopened from 11 May. On 14 May, Federal authorities announced that cinemas and cultural institutions could reopen immediately. Some sites started reopening from the week of 18 May, while most followed suit in June.
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 13 March <b>REOPENING</b> 11 May	Cinemas were allowed to reopen immediately from 11 May , with most effectively reopening from mid-June. From late October, health authorities made the wearing of masks obligatory, both indoors and outdoors. Some cities have closed nightclubs and bars. A curfew starting at 11.30PM was introduced from 12 November for all businesses across the country. Bars and nights clubs have been required to close completely until 30 November.
<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 17 March <b>REOPENING</b> 20 August	Cultural institutions, libraries, museums and stores reopened from 27 April. Shopping centres reopened from 11 May. 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 together at a later stage, from 20 August. Due to a new spike in cases, measures limiting gatherings to 100 participants were introduced on 10 July. On 14 October, gatherings of more than 50 people were banned. From 26 October, public gatherings must end at 10PM – it is not entirely clear if this decision represents a curfew on all public events. <b>Croatia will close cafes and restaurants and ban weddings until Christmas. Public gatherings have been limited to 25 people maximum.</b>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 16 March <b>REOPENING</b> 17 September	The construction industry, related sectors and retail businesses were the first allowed to reopen from 4 May. Barber shops, hairdressers and restaurants reopened from 21 May. Cinemas were initially allowed to reopen in mid-July, but the date was postponed. Local operators have been allowed to reopen again from 17 September.

		<p>The cities of Limassol and Paphos have introduced a curfew, which will be effective from 22 October to 9 November 2020. Cinemas must close by 22:30, as the curfew goes into effect at 23:00.</p> <p>The government announced a night-time curfew from 4 November, from 11PM to 5AM. Bars, cafés, restaurants and cultural venues have to shut at 10.30PM. The use of face masks is mandatory outdoors and in public indoor areas, at least until mid-January.</p>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 11 May <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 12 October <b>REOPENING</b> TBA</p>	<p>The Czech Government twice decided to speed up its reopening process. The process was divided into 5 progressive steps, starting on 7 April and ending on 11 May with the reopening of all businesses, including cinemas. Following a spike in local cases, the Czech Government announced the closure of cinemas for at least a two-week period starting from 12 October. Restaurants and bars have to respect an 8PM curfew. From Monday 26 October, the curfew was extended to retail shops. Most businesses are also required to close on Sundays. A nationwide curfew was introduced on 28 October, from 9PM to 5AM. A vast range of businesses have been required to close and free movement is restricted. Cinemas remain closed until at least 20 November. This deadline was extended, as gatherings of more than 2 people are still banned in the country as of 20 November.</p>
<b>DENMARK</b>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 21 May <b>LOCAL CLOSURES</b> 6 November to 3 December (North Jutland)</p>	<p>Schools reopened on 15 April, hairdressers and other one-to-one businesses reopened from 20 April. Most shops reopened from 11 May, followed by bars and restaurants from 18 May. Cinemas, along with museums, theatres and zoos were allowed to reopen from 21 May – more than two weeks earlier than previously announced.</p> <p>From 29 October, mask-wearing is mandatory in most public spaces, including cinemas.</p> <p>From 6 November, a regional shutdown was announced in seven municipalities in North Jutland affecting about 280,000 people. Most businesses, including cinemas, have been required to close in the region.</p>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 1 June</p>	<p>Shopping malls reopened from 11 May. Public events were allowed to take place again from 1 June, allowing for the reopening of cinemas. Some sites reopened from mid-June, while others waited for early July.</p>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 18 March <b>REOPENING</b> 1 June</p>	<p>Cinemas, along with a range of other shops and services, were allowed to reopen from 1 June. Major chains decided to reopen between the last week of June and mid-July. Since late September, bars and restaurants must close at 11 pm.</p> <p>From September, the Finnish Government introduced a localised strategy to fight COVID-19. The action plan divides</p>

		<p>the epidemic into three stages: base level, acceleration stage and spreading stage. Based on this system, cinemas across Finland are currently required to follow distancing rules and hygiene protocols. The region of Vaasa is the only one in the “spreading stage” as of 27 October, with public events limited to 10 people. It was announced on 20 November that public meetings of more than 20 people are banned in the Helsinki region.</p>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 14 March <b>REOPENING</b> 22 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 30 October <b>REOPENING</b> 15 December</p>	<p>All shops reopened from 11 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 22 June. Most cinemas (97%) were effectively operating since that date, with a few independent sites closing throughout the summer due to the lack of new releases.</p> <p>In the city of Rennes, cinemas were required to limit occupancy from 16 September following a spike in local cases. In the cities of Aix-en-Provence and Marseille, restaurants and bars were closed for 15 days on 27 September. Several other cities adopted similar rules in early October, such as Lyon, Saint-Etienne, Lille and Grenoble, with bars required to close and restaurants operating under new restrictions from 10 October. Cinemas are required to implement distancing rules (in addition to mask-wearing) in sites located in these cities.</p> <p>From 17 October, a curfew was introduced from 9PM to 6AM in several major French cities, including Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Lille and Toulouse. This rule was extended to additional French regions from 24 October, with 54 departments concerned, which represents approximately 2/3 of the French population.</p> <p>The French Government announced a national lockdown from 30 October, which resulted in the closure of all local cinemas. The lockdown will last at least four weeks. The French cinema federation FNCF has been advocating for a reopening in December which would allow for at least one screening starting at 8PM.</p> <p>It was announced on 24 November that cinemas would be allowed to reopen on 15 December. It was first reported that cinemas would be able to have a screening starting at 8PM, allowing cinema-goers to travel after the curfew starting at 9PM. But it was later announced that the last screening had to finish at 9PM at the latest. It was also confirmed that the existing health and safety guidelines would not be modified – limiting groups to 6 people maximum and requiring one empty seat between groups.</p>
<b>GERMANY</b>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 14-18 March <b>REOPENING</b></p>	<p>The first reopening phase started on 20 April and has since been managed on a state-by-state basis. German States announced reopening dates for local cinemas ranging from 15 May to 30 June.</p>

	<p>15 May - 22 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 2 November <b>REOPENING</b> 20 December TBC</p>	<p>Bars and restaurants were ordered to close from 11PM to 6AM in the city of Berlin from 10 to 31 October. On 16 October, a city court overturned the order - although a ban on the sale of alcohol after 11PM remained in place. On 14 October, a new rule was introduced whereby cities or regions where infection rates are rising rapidly will have to impose an 11pm curfew for bars and restaurants. New restrictions based on local infection rates, including mandatory mask wearing, reduced occupancy, curfew on F&amp;B sales were also introduced. The German cinema association has contacted local authorities to understand if and how those principles apply to cinemas. Berchtesgadener Land, bordering Austria, entered a lockdown on 20 October. Residents are only allowed to leave home for essential reasons for two weeks. One local cinema was closed. A “lockdown-light” was announced on 28 October, resulting in the closure of all local cinemas from 2 November for at least one month. <b>Those measures were extended to 20 December, as cinemas are not expected to reopen before January 2021.</b></p>
<p><b>GREECE</b></p>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 29 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 3 November <b>REOPENING</b> 7 December</p>	<p>Small retail shops and hair salons were the first allowed to reopen from 4 May. Shopping malls reopened from 18 May, followed by restaurants and bars from 25 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 29 June. Greece imposed a curfew in areas most affected by COVID-19 from 24 October, including Athens, between 12.30AM and 5AM. Mask-wearing is mandatory in all public spaces. Several new restriction were introduced from 3 November in Athens and other major Greek cities, including a curfew from midnight to 5AM, mandatory use of face masks in all public areas and the full closure of places of entertainment, culture and sports – including cinemas. These measures will be effective throughout the month of November. Most Greek cinemas have closed. Greece went back into lockdown from 7 November for three weeks. Under the new measures, Greeks can only leave their homes if they make an official request via mobile phone and then receive an authorisation. <b>Greece’s government announced a weeklong extension to the country’s current lockdown on 26 November, now running until 7 December.</b></p>
<p><b>HUNGARY</b></p>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 17 March <b>REOPENING</b> 18 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 11 November <b>REOPENING</b></p>	<p>With the exception of Budapest and its surrounding areas, shops, beaches and the open-air areas of cafes and restaurants reopened from 1 May. Outdoor events, restaurants and hotels were allowed to reopen from 29 May. The state of emergency was lifted on 18 June, allowing cinemas to reopen immediately. Most cinemas decided to reopen from early July.</p>



	12 December TBC	<p>A state of emergency was introduced again in Hungary from 4 November. As part of the new restrictions, a curfew has been imposed from midnight to 5AM. Cultural events, including film screenings, can go on but with limited attendance - only every third chair can be occupied, with all attendees required to be separated (groups or families cannot sit together). Use of masks will be mandatory without exceptions. Several cinemas have decided to close following these announcements.</p> <p>New restrictions were introduced from 11 November resulting in the closure of all local cinemas. There is no clear deadline to the current shutdown, but cinemas have announced they would close for at least 30 days.</p>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 16 March <b>REOPENING</b> 29 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 19 September (Dublin) 7 October (nationwide) <b>REOPENING</b> 2 December</p>	<p>Cinemas were initially only allowed to re-open in the final official reopening phase, starting from 10 August, but the date was moved forward to 20 July and then again to 29 June</p> <p>Dublin cinemas were forced to close from 19 September after being placed in Level 3 of the Irish Framework for Restrictive Measures in Response to COVID-19.</p> <p>The Irish Government announced new nationwide restrictions from Wednesday 7 October, including a ban on indoor gatherings, resulting in the closure of Irish cinemas. From 21 October, the whole country entered the highest level of COVID-19 restrictions and will remain in Level 5 for six weeks until 2 December.</p> <p><b>The decision on whether cinemas can reopen on 2nd December will be made on 27 November. In preparation for this announcement, the cinema exhibition and film distribution industries in Ireland have engaged for the last six weeks with the Government to finalise a 'Guidance document for the Safe Operations of Cinemas during COVID-19'.</b></p>
<b>ITALY</b>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 23 February - 8 March <b>REOPENING</b> 15 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 26 October <b>REOPENING</b> 3 December</p>	<p>Bookshops and shops selling children's clothing were the first allowed to reopen from 14 April. Bars and restaurants reopened from 1 June and all shops reopened on 18 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 15 June.</p> <p>From 19 October, bars and restaurants had to close at midnight, with only table service allowed from 6PM and a maximum 6 people per table.</p> <p>Following a rise in local cases, the Italian Government decided to close cinemas from 26 October until 24 November. Restaurants, bars and cafes must stop table service at 18.00 and offer only take-away until midnight.</p> <p>Five coronavirus "red zones" in Italy returned to a lockdown from 6 November, with all non-essential shops required to close. This decision has affected 16 million Italians.</p>

		The closure of Italian cinemas was later extended to at least 3 December. <b>It is expected that those measures will be extended to the month of December, with cinemas not reopening before 2021.</b>
<b>KOSOVO</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 1 October	The Government announced a three-step reopening plan, with cinemas first expected to reopen from 1 June. Due to a spike in COVID-19 cases, the reopening date for cinemas was postponed to 1 October.
<b>LATVIA</b>	<b>1st CLOSURE</b> 14 March <b>REOPENING</b> 12 May <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 9 November <b>REOPENING</b> 6 December	From 12 May, all businesses were allowed to reopen. Most cinemas decided to reopen from mid-June or early June. A curfew between midnight and 6.30AM was introduced on cultural, sporting, entertainment and religious activities, with the exception of open-air cinemas and catering establishments, which can operate until 2AM. From mid-October, mask-wearing is mandatory in all public spaces, including in cinemas. A partial lockdown was announced in Latvia from 9 November to 6 December, resulting in the closure of all cinemas.
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>1st CLOSURE</b> 13 March <b>REOPENING</b> 31 May <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 7 November <b>REOPENING</b> 17 December	All shops reopened from 27 April. 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. Mask-wearing is now mandatory in public spaces. Lithuania’s government has announced on 4 November a three-week lockdown starting on 7 November until at least 29 November. Mask-wearing is now mandatory in all public spaces. <b>These measures were extended to 17 December.</b>
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	<b>1st CLOSURE</b> 16 March <b>REOPENING</b> 17 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 26 November <b>REOPENING</b> 18 December	Construction sites, along with shops selling gardening/DIY tools and recycling centres reopened from 20 April. Cinemas were allowed to reopen immediately from 29 May. This decision was unexpected and all cinema operators decided to reopen from 17 June. From 28 October, a curfew was introduced from 11PM to 6AM, in addition to a ban on F&B sales and mandatory mask-wearing for gatherings of more than 10 people. It was announced on 24 November that cinemas, theatres, restaurants and cafés would be required to close from 26 November for at least three weeks. The decision will be formally confirmed on 25 November.
<b>MALTA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 16 March <b>REOPENING</b> 5 June	Various shops have been allowed to reopen from 4 May. Restaurants, bars and other non-essential businesses reopened on 22 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 5 June. Most reopened from the week of 22 June.
<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 13 March	Shops, fitness centres, barbers and beauty salons reopened from 4 May. Most businesses reopened from 18 May.

	<b>REOPENING</b> 1 July	Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June. Local operators decided to reopen from early July.
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>1st CLOSURE</b> 15 March <b>REOPENING</b> 1 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 4 November <b>REOPENING</b> 19 November	<p>Retailers have been allowed to reopen from 28 April. Restaurants and cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June. Most cinemas have been effectively operating since that date.</p> <p>Following a spike in local cases, the Dutch Government placed six regions under increased restrictions from 18 September, including bars being required to close at midnight. This requirement was extended to cinema from 21 September, with local operators in those six regions required to close between 1AM and 6AM – and not welcome new visitors after midnight. These requirements were extended to an additional 8 regions from 27 September. On 28 September, the Dutch Government announced reinforced measures for the whole country, limiting admissions to 30 people per screening room from Tuesday 29 September at 6PM, in addition to being required to close at 1AM latest. Cinemas with a restaurant or cafe area have been required to close it at 10PM and stop welcoming new customers from 9PM.</p> <p>The Netherlands has introduced a "partial lockdown" from 14 October. Bars and restaurants have been required to close and gatherings are limited to 30 people indoors. The measures will last at least four weeks, with a review of their impact after two weeks.</p> <p>It was announced on 4 November that cinemas would be required to close until at least 18 November. The current partial lockdown, including cafes and restaurant closures, will run until mid-December.</p> <p>The Dutch Government has suggested that cinemas might be allowed to reopen from 19 November. This was confirmed on 17 November, with local cinemas allowed to reopen with a maximum occupancy of 30 cinema-goers per room. A ban on F&amp;B sale and consumption is still effective.</p>
<b>NORTH MACEDONIA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 10 March <b>REOPENING</b> 24 September	<p>Most business have been allowed to reopen gradually from 18 or 25 May. Cinemas have been allowed to reopen from 24 September.</p> <p>North Macedonia's government announced a curfew from 4 November for bars and restaurants. From 10 November, a ban on gatherings of more than four people in all public spaces was introduced, which in theory should result in the closure of local cinemas. Citizens are encouraged to stay home from 9PM.</p> <p>North Macedonia's government decided to declare a state of emergency on the entire territory from 20 November, for a period of at least 30 days, with new restrictions to be announced shortly.</p>

<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 7 May <b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 6 November (Oslo)	<p>Kindergartens and primary schools reopened from 20 April. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 7 May.</p> <p>It was announced on 6 November that theatres, cinemas, training centres and swimming pools were closing in Oslo to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Under the new measures, bars and restaurants are no longer able to serve alcohol. In the city of Bergen, maximum occupancy per room was reduced to 20 people.</p>
<b>POLAND</b>	<b>1st CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 6 June <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 7 November <b>REOPENING</b> 27 December	<p>Restrictions were first lifted from 20 April. From 4 May, shopping malls, hotels and certain cultural institutions have reopened. Restaurants and bars reopened from 18 May. In the fourth and final phase starting from 6 June, cinemas were allowed to reopen.</p> <p>From August, occupancy limits can vary for cinema located in geographical zones that are considered “at risk”. Standard is 50% while red and yellow zones have to abide by a 25% cap. From early October, the whole country was designated as “yellow zone”, which meant that cinemas had to abide by a 25% capacity limit. The whole country went into the “red zone” from 24 October, meaning a 25% occupancy limit for cinemas and additional restrictions.</p> <p>The Polish government announced the closure of cinemas from 7 November until at least 29 November following a rise in local COVID-19 cases. <b>These measures were later extended to 27 December.</b></p>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 16 March <b>REOPENING</b> 1 June	<p>The Government announced a reopening strategy starting from 4 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June. From 4 November, stricter measures were introduced across Portugal. Mask wearing is now mandatory when out of home. Businesses must close at 10PM. Occupancy is limited to 50%. Most shops and businesses remain open, including cinemas.</p>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 12 March <b>REOPENING</b> 1 September <b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 7 October to 15 October and 20 October to 17 November (major cities)	<p>From 15 May, hairdressers, barbershops, dentists and museums were allowed to reopen. Shopping malls could resume operations from 15 June. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 September. Most cinemas effectively reopened from 11 or 16 September.</p> <p>Cinemas were ordered to close again in several Romanian cities, including Bucharest and Galati, from 7 October. It was announced that these local bans, affecting major Romanian cinemas, would be lifted when the incidence rate of COVID-19 cases per 1,000 inhabitants over 14 consecutive days dropped under 1.5 in the affected cities. But, on 14 October, the Romanian Committee for Emergency Situations (CNSU) decided to re-open indoor cinemas from 15 October 2020. It was announced on 20 October that cinemas located in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Râmnicu Vâlcea would close again for 14 days. These measures were extended for an</p>

		<p>additional two weeks on 3 November, with Satu Mare joining the list of major cities where cinemas have been required to close. Mask wearing is now mandatory in all closed public spaces, including cinemas.</p> <p>From 9 November all businesses are required to close at 9PM and people have to stay home between 11PM and 5AM. This curfew will be effective for 30 days.</p>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 26 March</p> <p><b>REOPENING</b> 15 July</p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 17 October to 1 November (Sevastopol and other regions)</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. The regions of Sakhalin and Leningrad allowed cinemas to reopen in late June. In Moscow, cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 August. As of mid-August, 30% of Russian cinemas had reopened. As of the first week of October, 80% of Russian cinemas had reopened. 5 of the 85 Russian regions have not reopened their cinemas since March.</p> <p>In early October, some Russian regions asked cinemas to close again (one region required cinemas located in shopping malls to close during the weekend).</p> <p>On 27 October, Russia's consumer health watchdog ordered public events to close between 11PM and 6AM, with a focus on bars and restaurants. Mask-wearing was also made mandatory in public spaces and crowded areas.</p> <p>Following spikes in local cases, several regions and cities, including Sevastopol, have decided to temporarily close cinemas from mid-October, for at least two weeks. Others have reduced occupancy from 50% to 30%. On 26 October, Federal authorities recommended the introduction of a curfew from 11PM to 6AM for businesses across the country, as well as making mask-wearing mandatory in public spaces. Local regions can decide how to implement these rules. Moscow announced that restaurants and nightclubs would be required to close between 11PM and 6AM from 13 November until mid-January. St. Petersburg ordered cinemas to reduce maximum occupancy to 25% from 1 December.</p>
<b>SERBIA</b>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 18 March</p> <p><b>REOPENING</b> 24 August</p>	<p>Beauty and fitness businesses in Serbia were allowed to reopen from 27 April. On 15 July, the Serbian Government announced a ban on public gatherings of more than 10 people. Serbian cinemas were allowed to reopen from 24 August. Major cinema chains reopened from 1 September. From 6 November, public gatherings of more than five people in indoor or outdoor areas have been banned. An exception to this rule are areas where each person has four square metres of space. Cinemas, theatres and other cultural events can still operate with a 500 people capacity limit in addition to the above mentioned distancing measure.</p>

<p><b>SLOVAKIA</b></p>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 9 March <b>REOPENING</b> 20 May <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 15 October <b>REOPENING</b> 16 November</p>	<p>From 22 April, shops with sales areas of up to 300m<sup>2</sup>, open-air markets and car dealerships were allowed to reopen. From 6 May, all shops reopened. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 20 May, but only 30% effectively reopened in late May. Most sites reopened by mid-June, when official restrictions were eased down, and 85% were reopened as of 18 June.</p> <p>Slovakia introduced a new state of emergency on 1 October to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Bars and restaurants were required to close at 10PM. Cinemas have been ordered to close again from 15 October. They were allowed to reopen from 16 November with a 50% capacity limit.</p>
<p><b>SLOVENIA</b></p>	<p><b>1st CLOSURE</b> 10 March <b>REOPENING</b> 18 May <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 16 October <b>REOPENING</b> 28 November</p>	<p>Various shops reopened from 20 April. Hairdressers and beauty parlours reopened from 4 May. All shops and businesses including cinemas were allowed to reopen from 18 May. Most cinemas reopened from 1 June.</p> <p>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 were closed from that date, with major circuits shutting down completely. These measures were extended by an additional two weeks from 30 October and from 13 November. All gatherings, except those of family or household members, are banned.</p>
<p><b>SPAIN</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 26 March <b>REOPENING</b> 25 May <b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 18 to 29 July (Barcelona) 30 October to 23 November (Catalonia) 28 October to 3 December (Asturia) 10 November to 10 December (Andalucia)</p>	<p>Small shops were allowed to reopen from 28 April. Phase 2 of the official reopening plan, starting from 25 May, saw the reopening of most businesses, including cinemas, under limited capacity. 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</p> <p>From 18 July, the Catalan Government declared the closure of all cinemas in Barcelona and its surrounding area for a period of two weeks. On 29 July, a court ruling from the TSJC (Tribunal Superior de Justicia de Cataluña) suspended the ban, allowing the opening of all cinemas in the province of Barcelona.</p> <p>As of the first week of August, 70% of Spanish cinemas (in terms of box office market share) had reopened.</p> <p>Starting from 1 October, the Spanish Government ordered a partial lockdown in the capital Madrid and surrounding areas. Under the restrictions, residents are not allowed to travel outside of the city and social gatherings are limited to six people, among other restrictions. Madrid's regional Government argued that the lockdown was not legally valid. Cinemas remained open. From 24 October, all bars, restaurants, cinemas and theatre in Madrid have to close at</p>

		<p>midnight, and only people who live together will be able to mix socially between midnight and 6 am.</p> <p>The Catalan Government announced on 14 October that bars and restaurants would have to close for 15 days. Cinemas could remain open but with a 50% capacity limit and had to close at 11PM, in addition to being required to track customers. F&amp;B sales were banned from 16 October for two weeks. The region of Aragon banned F&amp;B sales. The region of Navarra banned F&amp;B consumption inside cinemas and enforced a 30% capacity limit. These measures introduced on 12 October are effective for at least 14 days. On 27 October, La Rioja region ordered the closure of restaurants and bars in its two largest towns for a month.</p> <p>Several regional Governments asked the Spanish Government to apply a nationwide curfew.</p> <p>From the last week of October, a curfew is in place across the country, from 11PM to 6AM depending on the region, for at least 15 days. The federal Government allowed some flexibility, with regions able to start/finish the curfew one hour later or earlier. Regions, provinces and cities have been adopting different local measures from late October, with occupancy limits, distancing rules, etc. widely varying from one place to another.</p> <p>Cinemas were required to close in Catalonia from 30 October, for a period of at least two weeks until 13 November. On 19 November it was announced that Catalonian cinemas could reopen from Monday 23 November with a limited occupancy of 50% / 500 people maximum per room.</p> <p>Increased restrictions were announced for Andalucia from 10 November to 23 November, as businesses identified as “non-essential” were required to close and a curfew was introduced from 6PM, resulting in the closure of cinemas. This was extended to 10 December. Cinemas have been required to close in Asturia from 28 October to 18 November. This was extended to 3 December. Cinemas located in commercial centres in Castilla y Leon have been closed from 8 November. As of 13 November, there is a ban on F&amp;B consumption in 8 of the 17 Spanish autonomous communities and a curfew in all but one.</p>
<p><b>SWITZERLAND</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 17 March <b>REOPENING</b> 6 June <b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 21 October to TBC (cantons of Valais and Bern)</p>	<p>One-to-one services restarted from 27 April, followed by schools, all shops, restaurants, markets, museums and libraries from 11 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 6 June.</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</p>

	2-5 November to TBC (cantons of Geneva, Jura, Fribourg, Vaud and Neuchatel) 10 November to TBC (Ticino)	<p>screenings, while cantons are allowed to introduce stricter rules.</p> <p>From 28 October, mask wearing has been made mandatory outdoors in all areas where "the concentration of people does not allow the necessary distances to be respected", an 11PM curfew was introduced for bars and restaurants, and events have been limited to maximum 50 attendees.</p> <p>The canton of Geneva has been under 'semi-confinement' from 2 November, resulting in the closure of local cinemas. Other cantons have introduced stricter measures in recent days. Cinemas closed in the canton of Jura from 2 November for at least two weeks. Fribourg, Vaud followed suit from 4 November, Neuchatel from 5 November. All cinemas located in French-speaking Switzerland are effectively closing from 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, which forced local cinemas to close.</p>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>PARTLY CLOSED</b> 24 November to 22 December	<p>The Swedish Government did not introduce a lockdown and most cinemas have remained open in the country throughout the year. On 16 November, local authorities introduced a ban on public events of more than eight people. Cinemas and other businesses were 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. It was then announced that gatherings would be limited to a maximum of 8 people, effectively forcing many cinemas to close. The largest local chain – representing approximately 2/3 of the market – announced it would close its doors from 24 November to 22 December. Several companies took the same decision, but others decided to remain open.</p>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 17 March <b>REOPENING</b> 3 July <b>2nd CLOSURE</b> 17 November <b>REOPENING</b> 31 December	<p>On May 11, shopping centres, barbers and some shops were allowed to reopen. On 1 June, the national lockdown was lifted and restaurants and bars were allowed to reopen. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 3 July, with some major chains signalling their intention to reopen from mid-July. As of mid-August, 60% of Turkish cinemas had effectively reopened.</p> <p>From 4 November, restaurants, bars, hairdressers, barbers, cinemas and all other similar entertainment venues and businesses across Turkey have to close at 10PM. It was announced on 17 November that all cinemas would be required to close immediately, until 31 December.</p>
<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>CLOSURE</b> 17 March	<p>The Government outlined a five-step reopening plan, starting from 11 May. Cinemas were initially allowed to reopen from</p>



	<p><b>REOPENING</b> 2 July</p>	<p>10 June. Cinema operators, following negotiations with local authorities, formally agreed to reopen from 2 July.</p>
<p><b>UNITED KINGDOM</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSURE</b> 17 March <b>REOPENING</b> 4-27 July <b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 16 October to 11 December (Northern Ireland) 23 October to 9 November (Wales) 2 November to TBC (Scotland) 5 November to 2 December (England)</p>	<p>The Government announced its exit strategy on 10 May, which indicated that cinemas could reopen from 4 July in England. 42 cinemas reopened on 4 July with wider reopening scheduled for the end of July. On 9 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. On Tuesday 22 September, new restrictions were announced for England in an effort to curb further spread of the coronavirus, including that, from Thursday 24 September, pubs, restaurants, bars and other hospitality venues will only be allowed to operate up until 10pm at night. The curfew applies to cinemas, but screenings which begin before 10pm will be able to continue to their conclusion. No alcohol can be served after 10pm. In Scotland, pubs and restaurants in the central belt – which includes the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow – had to close from 9 October until at least 25 October. A three-tier alert system was introduced on 12 October, allowing for the introduction of localised restrictions. In Northern Ireland, gatherings are limited to 15 people maximum from 16 October, resulting in the closure of cinemas for four weeks until 12 November – later extended to 27 November. It was announced on 19 November that Northern Ireland Executive had decided to extend the closure of all leisure and hospitality venues for at least another two weeks until 11 December. In London, households will not be allowed to mix indoors, including in pubs and restaurants from 17 October. Lancashire and Liverpool have moved into Tier 3 - the top level of England's COVID restrictions - from 17 and 14 October respectively. The measures include pub closures and bans on household mixing indoors, in private gardens and most outdoor venues. There are currently discussions to introduce the same level of alert in the city of Manchester. Cinemas are currently able to operate in all tiers. In Wales, a national coronavirus "fire-break" was introduced on 16 October. The fire-break started at 6pm on Friday 23 October and will end on Monday 9 November. Cinemas are closed during that period. In Scotland, most towns and cities were put in 'Level 3' from Monday 2 November, resulting in the closure of the vast majority of local cinemas. Local pubs and restaurants have</p>

		<p>been allowed to remain open and remain subject to less exacting social distancing measures than do 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. The UK Government confirmed on 23 November that the national lockdown in England would end on 2 December. They will then return to a ‘tier’ system, with increasing restrictions across all three tiers according to the current level of the virus. 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) will remain closed. <b>It was confirmed on 26 November that cinemas in London and Liverpool could reopen from December 2, while those in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Bristol had to remain closed. London and Liverpool are among 70 regions in tier two – ‘high alert’ – which allows cinemas to stay open until 11pm; and beyond that for any performance that starts before 10pm.</b></p>
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### 3. HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

#### SUMMARY

National authorities have published health and safety guidelines which differ widely from one country to another – and evolve as restrictions are eased or tightened. For this reason, UNIC has not published official recommendations or set industry protocols.

Cinema operators and their national associations have developed guidelines to be used in their daily operations for the foreseeable future, in collaboration with, or under the guidance of, relevant public authorities. Ideally, at national level, these guidelines should serve as industry standards to be observed by all operators, to ensure consistency throughout each territory. All of the information in this section is subject to change as health and safety rules are regularly updated.

The table below provides an overview of the main restrictions affecting cinema-going at national level. The exact details of national and local rules are described in the table on the following page.

COUNTRY	CLOSURES	CURFEW	F&B BAN	MASK-WEARING	OCCUPANCY LIMIT
ALBANIA	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
AUSTRIA	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
BELGIUM	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
BULGARIA	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
CROATIA	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
CYPRUS	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
CZECH REPUBLIC	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
DENMARK	LOCAL	NO	NO	LOBBY ONLY	YES
ESTONIA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
FINLAND	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
FRANCE	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
GERMANY	YES	LOCAL	NO	LOCAL	YES
GREECE	YES	LOCAL	NO	YES	YES
HUNGARY	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
IRELAND	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
ITALY	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
KOSOVO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
LATVIA	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
LITHUANIA	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
LUXEMBOURG	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
MALTA	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
MONTENEGRO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
NETHERLANDS	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
NORTH MACEDONIA	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
NORWAY	LOCAL	NO	NO	NO	YES
POLAND	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES

<b>PORTUGAL</b>	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
<b>ROMANIA</b>	LOCAL	YES	NO	YES	YES
<b>RUSSIA</b>	LOCAL	LOCAL	NO	YES	YES
<b>SERBIA</b>	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	LOCAL	NO	NO	NO	YES
<b>SPAIN</b>	LOCAL	YES	LOCAL	YES	YES
<b>SWEDEN</b>	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	LOCAL	LOCAL	LOCAL	LOCAL	YES
<b>TURKEY</b>	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
<b>UKRAINE</b>	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	YES	LOCAL	NO	LOCAL	YES

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>ALBANIA</b>	Occupancy is limited to 1/3 of the screening room. Mask-wearing is mandatory at all times. Tickets must be bought online.
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Attendance was limited to 250 people per room from reopening and was increased to 500 from 1 August. From 25 October, cultural events must take place with assigned seats. Up to 4 people who do not live in the same household can sit next to each other. All events over 250 people require a special authorisation. People must keep a 1m distance from each other if they do not come as a group or are not from the same household. Masks must be worn at all times. Previously, mask wearing was mandatory when entering the cinema and waiting in line, but could be removed once seated. Food and drink is banned at all events that run less than three hours and can only be served to people who are seated.
<b>BELGIUM</b>	From 24 October, a curfew was introduced across the country, from midnight to 6AM – extended to 10PM to 6AM in Wallonia. From 26 October, cinemas have been closed in the region of Brussels. From 29 October, cinemas were required to close across the country. The guidelines were valid during reopening. Cinemas can welcome a maximum of 200 visitors per show and have to respect a distance of 1.5m between customers. The occupancy was 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 have been banned in cinemas across the country. The Belgian Cinema Federation (FCB) has published official guidelines, <a href="#">which can be found here</a> . They include, but are not limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safety measures must be clearly communicated at the entrance of the cinema;</li> <li>2. Social distancing of 1m must be respected at all times between people that do not come together as a group;</li> <li>3. Online and contactless ticketing should be encouraged;</li> <li>4. Maximum of 200 people per show;</li> <li>5. Manage audience flow (entrance and exit) which could be achieved by staggered showtimes;</li> </ol>

	<p>6. Regular cleaning and disinfection of contact surfaces; 7. Information and staff training to implement the above measures.</p>
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>	<p>A 2m distance between groups of cinema-goers must be enforced at all times. Mask-wearing is mandatory for staff and customers, also inside screening rooms.</p>
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<p>Masks are mandatory in cinemas. Physical distancing and all anti-epidemic measures must be respected, with occupancy limited to 30% from reopening, 50% from 15 June (with a limited capacity of 100 people maximum). F&amp;B sales were allowed from 15 June. Additional rules are included below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disinfecting the screening room after each show;</li> <li>2. People should enter the screening alone;</li> <li>3. Hand disinfectant must be available for customers;</li> <li>4. A mask must be worn during the show;</li> <li>5. Traffic flow must be in one direction – separate entrance and exit;</li> <li>6. Cinemas must communicate efficiently about the measures in place.</li> </ol>
<b>CROATIA</b>	<p>As of 15 July, face masks are mandatory for all employees that work directly with customers. From 6 October, wearing a mask is required in all public indoor settings where a minimum of 2m distance cannot be maintained. Cinema-goers can remove them once they are seated.</p> <p>On 10 August, Blitz Cinestar – in cooperation with the Croatian institute of Public Health the Culture and Media Ministry – issued recommendations on protecting the health of employees and visitors upon the reopening of multiplex cinemas in shopping centres (<a href="#">available here, in Croatian</a>). They include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signage indicating obligations to comply with general hygiene and distancing measures in accordance with <a href="#">recommendations from the Croatian Institute of Public Health</a>;</li> <li>2. Enhanced personal hygiene &amp; hand disinfecting: Placement of hand sanitizers at the entrance and inside the complex;</li> <li>3. Daily temperature checks for staff;</li> <li>4. 2m physical distancing (previously 1.5m), selling tickets with enough space between seats between individual visitors or groups of visitors (groups can sit together but one seat away from other groups) ;</li> <li>5. Designated entrances/exits for visitors;</li> <li>6. More time in between screenings to avoid visitors congregating in the common area of the multiplex;</li> <li>7. Visitor records including basic data for ticket purchase, with online sales being enabled and encouraged;</li> <li>8. Protective barriers and masks for cashiers, with more frequent hand sanitization;</li> <li>9. The sale of food and beverages to be performed in accordance with <a href="#">the Recommendations for the Prevention of Infection in catering facilities</a>.</li> <li>10. Monitoring and proper maintenance of air conditioning and ventilation filters;</li> <li>11. Frequent cleaning and dis-infecting of frequently touched surfaces and those used by a large number of people (at the beginning and end of each screening, at least twice a day).</li> </ol>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	<p>It was announced on 22 October that masks will be mandatory both indoors and outdoors. Cinema-goers must wear masks in the auditoriums but can remove them to drink and eat.</p>

	<p>A revised safety protocol was published on 11 September, following the decision to allow local cinemas to reopen from 17 September. <a href="#">The document is available here</a>. The protocol includes but is not limited to the following rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Occupancy rate is 50% for auditoriums;</li> <li>2. Social distancing in auditoriums is now one 1 metre, i.e. one empty seat between cinema-goers or groups;</li> <li>3. Mask wearing is mandatory inside the cinema, <del>but cinema-goers can take off their masks once seated</del>. (mandatory at all time since 22 October).</li> </ol> <p>The cities of Limassol and Paphos have introduced a curfew, which will be effective from 22 October to 9 November 2020. Cinemas must close by 22:30, as the curfew goes into effect at 23:00.</p>
<p><b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b></p>	<p>Cinemas in Czech Republic were required to close from 12 October. The guidelines below were valid during reopening.</p> <p>Self-regulatory recommendations outline a set of key recommendations for cinema operators. Rules related to mask wearing, occupancy and F&amp;B sales were scrapped in mid-June. Due to a surge in positive cases in late August, mask wearing was made mandatory in most indoor locations. From 1 September, cinema-goers were required to wear a mask, but only if the number of participants exceeded 100 people. At events with less than 100 people, no mask was required. From 10 September, this rule was reinforced and cinema-goers had to wear a mask at all time.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electronic ticket sale is encouraged;</li> <li>2. 2m distance between staff and customer at box office;</li> <li>3. Limited seating: every second row can be occupied. Within the occupied row, a maximum of 2 people can sit next to each other;</li> <li>4. Visitors must wear masks (from early September);</li> <li>5. <del>Maximum of 100 people per room</del> (there is no occupancy limit anymore);</li> <li>6. Reduce/remove all seats in the foyer, while the corridor in the foyer will be used only for access to the halls;</li> <li>7. Air renewal systems are encouraged;</li> <li>8. Staff must wear masks;</li> <li>9. If using gloves, they should be disposed of after every use. Staff should regularly disinfect and wash hands;</li> <li>10. Disinfectant should be available at all times;</li> <li>11. <del>F&amp;B sales are not allowed</del> (F&amp;B sales are allowed from mid-June);</li> <li>12. An employee should be in charge of monitoring the respect of social distancing and preventing the accumulation of people;</li> <li>13. Cleaning should be done using virucides, UV radiation and air ionization;</li> <li>14. Areas and items that people come in regular contact with should be regularly disinfected;</li> <li>15. Currently, the operation of locker rooms for spectators is not recommended;</li> <li>16. 3D glasses should be disinfected;</li> <li>17. Notices for visitors should be visible on the premises of the cinema.</li> </ol>
<p><b>DENMARK</b></p>	<p>Regulations for cinemas outlined by the Government make it possible for up to 500 people to be in the same auditorium, as long as a maximum of 10 people are sitting together. The key rules also include: people from the same household can sit together, otherwise every other seat must be empty or</p>

	<p>individuals should stay at least 1m away from the centre of each seat. Also, there must be a maximum of one person per 2m<sup>2</sup> of floor space in each auditorium, a limit raised to one person per 4m<sup>2</sup> for the cinema lobby. On 7 September, the Secretary of Health announced that 17 Danish cities, including the whole capital-area and the third-biggest city, Odense, will have new, stricter regulations until 22 September. Gatherings of more than 50 people will be forbidden and bars must close no later than at midnight. Cinemas are, for the moment, exempt from these regulations, but it might soon change. From 29 October, staff and customers are required to wear masks. They can be removed by cinema-goers once they are seated in the screening room. The Danish Cinema Association, Danske Biografer, is encouraging all cinema-goers to download the “Infection App” (“smitte-app”) from the Ministry of Health and the Elderly, to help track and trace COVID-19 infections – available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<p>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. The 50% capacity requirement indoors does not apply to cinemas as long as there are fixed seats available for the entire audience and that distancing principles are respected (which effectively means a limited occupancy). Cinemas must also collect contact details of their customers. Masks are not required. There are breaks between screenings to allow for ventilation and cleaning of the auditorium.</p> <p>Until 15 June, cinemas had to respect the 2+2 rule must be followed: up to 2 people may move together in a public space and a distance of at least 2m must be kept from other people.</p>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<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 it is only recommended to respect them for events with less than 500 attendees.</p> <p>Mask-wearing has been recommended (but not mandatory) for staff and customers since late September.</p> <p>Recommendations drafted by the Finnish cinema association include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage online and contactless ticketing;</li> <li>2. Ensure social distance of 1m inside the screening room, with one empty seat between groups;</li> <li>3. Ensure social distance of 1-2m outside of the screening room;</li> <li>4. Regularly clean and disinfect contact areas.</li> </ol> <p>Additional recommendations related to hygiene rules and sanitary precautions <a href="#">are available here, in Finnish</a>.</p> <p>Cinemas and other event venues are encouraged to collect information on their customers for tracking and tracing purposes, but there is no strict rule or guideline related to this, so it is done on a voluntary basis.</p>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<p>From 30 October, all cinemas were ordered to close again for four weeks as a national lockdown was introduced. The guidelines below were valid during reopening.</p> <p>Following a rise in cases across the country, a curfew was introduced from 9PM to 6AM in several major French cities in October 2020. Cinemas had to close at 9PM but staff members could leave after 9PM.</p>

	<p>The French cinema association has published official guidelines, approved by the French Government <u>and available online via this link (in French) – last updated on 19 October 2020</u>. Those guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following key principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. From 1 September, mask wearing was made mandatory for cinema-goers at all times apart from while eating. Masks were only recommended until 17 July, when they became mandatory outside of the screening room (but not inside initially). As soon as this rule was introduced it was not mandatory anymore to have one empty seat between customers apart from in regions identified as “red zones” by the Government. This social distancing principle was reintroduced from 17 October across the country;</li> <li>2. Staff members should be encouraged to take their temperature before coming to work;</li> <li>3. Staff members should respect 1m/4m<sup>2</sup> social distancing at all times, which can be ensured by adapting working hours, for example; (this rule was replaced on 24 June by the one below, only to be reintroduced from 17 October, with mask wearing remaining mandatory for staff members)</li> <li><del>4. Mask wearing is mandatory for staff members if it is not possible to respect 1m social distancing (this rule was replaced on 1 September by the one below);</del></li> <li>5. Mask wearing is mandatory at all times for staff members;</li> <li>6. A staff member should be in charge of health and safety training/ensuring guidelines are respected;</li> <li>7. Disinfectant gel should be available at all times across the cinema for both staff and customers;</li> <li>8. Regular and reinforced cleaning of all public and working areas in the cinema should take place at least twice a day for regular contact surfaces;</li> <li>9. Encourage online/contactless ticketing when possible;</li> <li>10. Inform staff and customers about all the measures that have been introduced, including inside the screening room on the screen;</li> <li>11. Ensure 1m/4m<sup>2</sup> social distancing at all time for cinema-goers, which is interpreted as one empty seat between groups of 6 people maximum inside the screening room (this rule was reintroduced on 17 October);</li> <li>12. Facilitate/improve audience flow in order to reduce traffic, for instance by giving enough time for people to leave/enter the room without crossing paths;</li> <li>13. Stagger start/end time for shows to reduce traffic;</li> <li><del>14. Limit screening room occupancy to 50%; (this rule was scrapped on 21 June);</del></li> <li><del>15. Have one empty seat between cinema-goers, unless they come together (groups of less than 10) (this rule was scrapped on 26 August, replaced by mandatory mask wearing at all time);</del></li> <li>16. Ensure air circulation by keeping doors open between shows;</li> </ol>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<p>Cinemas in Germany were required to close from 2 November for a month at least. The guidelines below were valid during reopening. The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina has published a paper outlining three key measures to be implemented from reopening: (1) general</p>



	<p>use of mouth and nose protection, (2) short-term use of mobile phone data and (3) increase in testing capacities. <a href="#">More information can be found here.</a> Different distancing rules apply depending on the state and evolve over time. For example, Schleswig-Holstein initially set a limit of 50 visitors per room while North Rhine-Westphalia opted for 75. As of early August, in Schleswig-Holstein the capacity limit has been set at 250 per room while in North Rhine-Westphalia there is no capacity limit.</p> <p>German states all have different health and safety guidelines, <a href="#">available here in German (regularly updated)</a>. <a href="#">This table from the German cinema association HDF Kino</a> provides an update on the states where mask-wearing is mandatory once seated (second column) and where F&amp;B sales is forbidden (third column). The national 1.5m safety distance rule is applied in most German states. This can effectively result 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 from reopening. From 18 October, mandatory for cinema-goers to wear a mask inside the screening room in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and North-Rhine Westphalia.</p> <p>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. The exact information that must be collected (name, email, address, phone number, etc.) and for how long it must be kept (between 4 and 6 weeks) varies from state to state. Guests who give false information are to be fined at least 50€ by local authorities.</p> <p>The states of Bavaria and Lower Saxony have made mask-wearing for staff and customers mandatory in the foyer area, but not once seated inside the screening room (it was initially mandatory at all time).</p> <p>The German cinema association HDF Kino published official recommendations on health and safety requirements to be considered when reopening cinemas. <a href="#">The document, translated into English, is available here.</a></p> <p>The guidelines are divided into two categories:</p> <p><u>Protection of employees</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sharing information on the virus;</li> <li>2. Compliance with distance regulations;</li> <li>3. Contactless ticket control;</li> <li>4. Use of protective screens at the box office;</li> <li>5. Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.;</li> <li>6. Provide protective masks and gloves for employees;</li> <li>7. Regularly clean/disinfect specific areas and surfaces;</li> <li>8. Provide instruction in case of suspected infection (stay at home) and actively communicate with your staff.</li> </ol> <p><u>Protection of visitors</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share information on health and safety measures;</li> <li>2. Compliance with 1.5m distance regulations in the lobby with markings on the floor, etc.;</li> <li>3. Compliance with distance regulations in the screening room with fixed seat allocation, reduced capacity, etc.;</li> </ol>
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	<p>4. Compliance with distance regulations with staggered showtimes start/end times;</p> <p>5. Minimise contact between visitors and staff;</p> <p>6. Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.;</p> <p>7. Regular ventilation of the lobby and screening rooms.</p> <p>HDF Kino has commissioned a study which has found that the concentration of aerosols – and thus the risk of spreading or contracting COVID-19 – is comparatively low during a cinema visit. The key reasons for this are cinemagoing etiquette, and more importantly, the predominant method of air conditioning. <a href="#">More information available here, in German.</a></p> <p>In an open letter to the Minister of Culture, the representatives of 68 middle-sized German exhibitors representing 1300 screens asked for a moderate relaxation of the social distancing rules and capacity limitations for cinemas. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p>
<b>GREECE</b>	<p>A safety distance of 1.5m must be enforced at all times.</p> <p>From 13 October, mask-wearing is mandatory for staff and customers in all Greek cinemas. Tickets and F&amp;B can only be purchased electronically/cashless.</p>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<p>The rules under which cinemas are allowed to operate are not quite clear. Mask-wearing has been made mandatory in cinemas, theatres and social institutions across the country from mid-September.</p>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<p>Cinemas in Ireland were required to close from 16 October. The guidelines below were valid during reopening.</p> <p>According to official Government rules, cinemas can reopen from 29 June with a 2m minimum distance between patrons and a maximum of 50 people per room, raised to 100 people from 20 July. It was announced on 9 August that cinemas – along with pubs and restaurants - in Kildare, Laois and Offaly had to shut down due to a surge in cases. The Irish Government postponed the increase to 100 people for indoor gatherings due to a rise in cases of COVID-19. On 18 August 2020 it was announced that cinemas can have up to 50 people in attendance, but must make sure that physical distance measures are in place. In September, the Since 10 August, face masks or coverings are mandatory in cinemas and other indoor public settings. The measures, introduced to slow the spread of COVID-19, applies to everyone over the age of 13, unless a person has a reasonable excuse or is a worker separated from others by a screen or is able to keep a two metre distance from others.</p> <p>On 15 September, the Irish Government launched a 5 Level <a href="#">Framework for Restrictive Measures in Response to COVID-19</a>. Cinemas were listed under 'Organised Indoor Events' and permitted under Level 1 &amp; 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. Dublin city was placed in Level 3 from 19 September to 10 October, before all cinemas were forced to close from 7 October.</p>
<b>ITALY</b>	<p>Cinemas in Italy were required to close from 26 October. The guidelines below were valid during reopening.</p>

	<p>According to official Government rules, cinemas can reopen from 15 June with pre-assigned seats, 1m minimum distance between patrons and a maximum of 200 people per room. A different date can be set by specific Regions, depending on the epidemiological situation. The official rules include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make information available to customers on the safety measures that are taken;</li> <li>2. Ensure a 1m safety distance at all times, with the exception of members of the same household or those living under the same roof;</li> <li>3. Installing physical barriers (plexiglass) between audience groups can replace the 1m distance;</li> <li>4. 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)</li> <li>5. 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;</li> <li>6. Checking the temperature of staff and guests is allowed, as well as prohibiting them from entering the cinema if it is above 37.5°;</li> <li>7. The box office and other workstations can be equipped with physical barriers;</li> <li>8. Encourage electronic, contactless ticketing;</li> <li>9. Hand sanitising units must be available across the cinema;</li> <li>10. Ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of all areas and contact surfaces;</li> <li>11. Ensure good air circulation inside the cinema;</li> </ol> <p>For food and beverage sales and services, cinemas will have to follow rules that apply to the restaurant sector.</p>
<b>KOSOVO</b>	<p>Cinemas must enforce a safety distance of 2m between groups of customers. Cinema-goers can come in groups of 5 people maximum. Staff members are required to wear masks and regularly check their temperature. Mask-wearing for cinema-goers is only mandatory in the foyer, they can remove it once they are seated in the screening room. <u><a href="#">Additional hygiene rules can be found here.</a></u></p>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<p>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 congregating in public, minimum 2m social distancing), before being replaced by 1m between customers inside the auditorium and 2m outside of the auditorium. Some of the cinemas that have reopened have announced that they would take visitors' temperature as they enter. From mid-October, mask-wearing was made mandatory in all public spaces, including in cinemas. From August 6, visitors have to register and provide their contact details to the cinema operator. Cinemas must close at midnight.</p>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<p>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</p>

	<p>auditorium. The safety distance has been reduced to 1m. Mask-wearing has been made mandatory at all time. From late October, cinemas have been required to collect customers' contact details and F&amp;B consumption inside of the auditorium has been banned.</p>
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	<p>Maximum 20 people per screening. Seats must be reserved and pre-allocated, and a safety distance of 2m must be ensured.</p> <p>From 28 October, cinemas have to respect a curfew from 11PM to 6AM, mandatory mask-wearing at all time and a ban on F&amp;B sales. Customers could previously remove their masks once they were seated.</p>
<b>MALTA</b>	<p>Wearing protective masks indoors is mandatory for all businesses. Visible signage shall be affixed at the entrance of the premises, indicating the maximum number of patrons that the premises can hold at any one time. Additional rules include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Check visitor's temperature at the entrance for the presence of fever (persons with 37.2° or higher will be denied entrance);</li> <li>2. Provide adequate and easily accessible hand sanitisers across the cinema;</li> <li>3. Regulate audience traffic;</li> <li>4. Ensure a 2m safety distance at all times;</li> <li>5. 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;</li> <li>6. 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 in a group;</li> <li>7. The distribution of 3-D glasses to be reused by multiple patrons is not allowed;</li> <li>8. Ensure that staff and patrons wear masks or visors;</li> <li>9. Provide ongoing cleaning and disinfection operations of all the common areas inside the premises;</li> <li>10. Ensure that bar, restaurant or café facilities operate on the premises within the respective applicable guidelines.</li> </ol> <p><u>The detailed rules can be consulted here.</u></p>
<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	<p>Wearing protective masks indoors is mandatory for all businesses, including cinemas. A minimum safety distance of 2m must be respected at all times.</p> <p>From 10 August, public gatherings are allowed up to 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors.</p>
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<p>From 1 June cinemas were limited to 30 people per screening. From 1 July there is no occupancy limit but a safety distance of 1.5m must be enforced at all times, which means according to local authorities an empty seat also behind and in front of a seated attendee. Only children aged up to 17 years old can sit together without maintaining a distance of 1.5m. Therefore, real occupancy is closer to 1/3 per room.</p> <p>From 29 September, the occupancy limit was brought back to 30 people per screening. Cinemas must close at 1AM latest and not welcome new visitors from midnight. The Dutch cinema association has published a <a href="#">press release</a> to ask for an increase to 50 people. Cinemas with a restaurant or cafe area must close it at 10PM and not welcome new customers from 9PM. An exemption can be issued by the Safety Region or the Municipality, on a case by case</p>

basis. Some cinemas have been able to receive such an exception, but they still have to respect national guidelines.

From 14 October, bars or restaurants located in cinemas must close. From 23 October, F&B sales are allowed in the region of North-Holland North (NHN), but alcohol is banned and F&B can only be consumed inside the auditorium.

Takeaway and delivery functions will remain possible, with the exception of alcohol between 8:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Following consultation with relevant authorities, cinemas stopped selling F&B from 20 October.

From 14 October, mask wearing is mandatory in indoor spaces for people above 13 years old. Cinema-goers can remove their mask once they are seated in the screening room.

The Dutch cinema association's [safety guidelines](#) (last updated in early October 2020) include:

General recommendations:

1. Visitors should only arrive 15 minutes before the start of the screening;
2. 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.
3. The doors should be left open until the start of the screening and be reopened by employees at the end of the screening;
4. ~~A maximum of 30 people per room, including employees, are allowed~~ (no maximum number of people, but 1.5 m distance must be respected);
5. Screening times should be staggered in order to regulate incoming and outgoing visitors and respect the official 30 people limit;
6. When leaving the room, visitors need to be escorted by staff.

Ticketing and F&B recommendations:

1. Cinema-goers should be encouraged to buy their tickets online and avoid public transport;
2. Visitors need to be made aware of the social distancing rules at the entrance of the cinema;
3. Ticket controls should only be done visually;
4. 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;
5. A maximum of two people or a household (a group of people living under the same roof) is allowed;
6. During F&B purchases, physical contact should be avoided.

Hygiene recommendations:

1. Hand sanitizers should be available across the cinema;
2. Contact surfaces need to be cleaned multiple times a day;
3. Rooms should be closed during cleaning in between screenings and disinfectant should be used for contact surfaces;
4. 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.

From 6 August, cinemas (along with cafes, restaurants, etc.) have to have a reservation system and register the contact details of all guests.

	<p>The Dutch cinema association has published a Q&amp;A for its members to better understand the guidelines above. <a href="#">The document is available here, in Dutch.</a></p>
<p><b>NORWAY</b></p>	<p>Cinemas have been authorised to reopen with a capacity limit of 50 people per screening, increased to 200 people from 15 June.</p> <p>From the 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, where there has been a local higher outbreak of infection (still every third seat).</p> <p>On 7 August, the cinemas received word from the Government that their capacity could not be increased and that distancing rules remained the same. The Norwegian cinema association Film&amp;Kino <a href="#">published a set of key health and safety recommendations for cinema operators</a>, which include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inform customers and staff about measures taken;</li> <li>2. Train staff to efficiently implement those rules;</li> <li>3. Ensure social distancing in common areas, also between staff members, and reduce physical interactions (plexiglass at box office, etc.);</li> <li>4. Only card/contactless payment, no cash;</li> <li>5. Encourage online sales;</li> <li>6. Extra hygiene measures to be taken across the cinema, for specific areas as well as F&amp;B, have hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.;</li> <li>7. Ensure at least a 1 metre distance (previously 2 metre) between each customer outside of the auditorium;</li> <li>8. Adapt seating arrangements to respect official social distancing rules (depending on row distance/seats it will vary from room to room);</li> <li>9. Staggered end/start times so as to avoid queues;</li> <li>10. Minimum 30 minutes for cleaning/disinfection between performances;</li> <li>11. Sick employees should stay at home;</li> <li>12. Ensure good air ventilation;</li> <li>13. 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).</li> </ol> <p>Film&amp;Kino also drafted a document outlining cinemas' reopening strategy. <a href="#">The document is available here, in Norwegian.</a> Specifically related to the current situation, its recommendations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact local authorities for advice and guidance;</li> <li>2. Practice/train staff to perform all new cleaning routines that must be introduced in advance;</li> <li>3. Provide clean uniforms to all employees;</li> <li>4. Buy latex work gloves;</li> <li>5. Hand disinfection stations must always be accessible to everyone;</li> <li>6. Thoroughly clean and disinfect all equipment and furnishings several times before reopening;</li> <li>7. Regularly clean specific contact areas and surfaces at least 5 times a day once reopened;</li> </ol>

	<p>8. Inform and communicate efficiently with staff and customers about the new measures that have been introduced.</p> <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>
<b>NORTH MACEDONIA</b>	<p>According to the local safety protocol, occupancy is limited to 30% per room and mask wearing is mandatory, in addition to enforcing a 1.5m safety distance at all time.</p>
<b>POLAND</b>	<p>Capacity was initially limited to 50% and mask wearing has been mandatory from reopening. From 24 October, occupancy is limited to 25% across the country, cinema-goers can only attend in groups of 5 people maximum and F&amp;B is only available for takeaway.</p> <p>Occupancy limits can vary depending on specific geographical zones that are regularly defined by local authorities (standard is 50% while red and yellow zones have to abide by a 25% cap). More information to follow. Official guidelines and recommendations (<a href="#">Polish version available here</a>) include the following key principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Customers and staff must be wearing a mask;</li> <li>2. 50% occupancy inside the screening room, with one empty seat between viewers;</li> <li>3. People living under the same roof, children and those with disabilities are not obliged to sit apart;</li> <li>4. It is recommended to appoint a health coordinator;</li> <li>5. If possible, it is recommended to regularly air/ventilate closed rooms;</li> <li>6. Regularly clean and disinfect all public areas and contact surfaces, at increased frequency for toilets and concessions;</li> <li>7. Make a hand washing and disinfectant unit available in the toilets and at the entrance and exit of the cinema;</li> <li>8. Make instructions/measures visible across the cinema;</li> <li>9. It is recommended that cinema-goers provide their contact details, to make tracing possible in case of contamination;</li> <li>10. Ensure a 2m social distance when people are queuing;</li> <li>11. For cinemas with one entrance - setting separate entry hours for screenings if possible;</li> </ol> <p>Online ticketing should be encouraged.</p>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<p>From 4 November, mask wearing has been made mandatory at all time for staff and customers. Cinemas must close at 10PM and must limit occupancy to 50%.</p> <p>A safety distance of 2m between people must be ensured outside of the screening room, reduced to 1.5m inside the screening room. It is also necessary to deep clean the screening room before opening the cinema and between each show.</p> <p><u><a href="#">The complete guidelines can be found here, in Portuguese.</a></u></p> <p>From 15 October, gatherings were limited to 5 people, which applies to all businesses including cinemas (people can come in groups of 5 maximum).</p>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 September, with an occupancy limit of 50% and a two metres distance between seats.</p>

<p><b>RUSSIA</b></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. These include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daily temperature checks of employees;</li> <li>2. Limit unnecessary contacts between employees;</li> <li>3. Prohibit eating in the office, unless there is a specially designated room to eat;</li> <li>4. Make hand disinfection stations available across the cinema;</li> <li>5. Provide staff with a supply of disposable masks and gloves and other sanitary material;</li> <li>6. Ensure that staff use protective masks and gloves when interacting with customers;</li> <li>7. 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;</li> <li>8. Recommend, if possible, contact-less concession sales;</li> <li>9. Dispose of used masks and gloves;</li> <li>10. Enhanced hygiene and daily cleaning of working areas, including disinfection of contact surfaces every 2 hours;</li> <li>11. Improve air circulation and ventilation of your cinema;</li> <li>12. Inform staff and customers about the measures taken and the need to comply with them;</li> <li>13. Recommend that visitors wear masks;</li> <li>14. Set intervals of at least 30 minutes between shows to allow for efficient cleaning and reduce traffic;</li> <li>15. Reduce traffic inside the cinema by allowing customers to enter the auditorium 15 minutes before the show starts;</li> <li>16. Recommend contactless payment methods and avoid the use of cash if possible – also check tickets using contactless techniques.</li> </ol> <p><u><a href="#">Please find an English translation of the official document here.</a></u></p> <p>The major Russian cinema operators have united to create “unified cinema safety standards”, <u><a href="#">available online</a></u>, to efficiently communicate with the customers on all the measures they are taking to ensure their safe return. As of mid-September, most cinemas are operating with a 50% capacity limit. On 27 October, Russia’s consumer health watchdog ordered public events to close between 11PM and 6AM. Mask-wearing was also made mandatory in public spaces. Regions can decide whether or not to implement these federal rules, so it remains to be seen how exactly these will affect cinemas across the country.</p>
<p><b>SERBIA</b></p>	<p>From 24 August, cinemas were allowed to reopen with an occupancy limit of 500 people per room, mandatory mask wearing for staff and one empty seat or 1.5m between customers inside the screening room. Cinema-goers can attend and sit together in groups of a maximum 6 people. Mask-wearing for audience is mandatory in the lobby, toilets and screening rooms but they can be removed to eat and drink.</p>
<p><b>SLOVAKIA</b></p>	<p>Cinemas in Slovakia were required to close from 15 October. The guidelines below were valid during reopening.</p>



	<p>Before being forced to close again on 15 October, cinemas were allowed to operate with a capacity limit of 500 visitors per room from 15 June, increased to 1,000 from 1 July. Hygiene recommendations and requirements for cinemas included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employees must wear masks and disposable gloves when handling food;</li> <li>2. Customers must wear a mask at the box office;</li> <li>3. Ensure 2m space between customers;</li> <li>4. Encourage cash-less payments;</li> <li>5. Check temperature of each employee when they arrive to work (not mandatory);</li> <li>6. Disinfection stands available for staff and customers across the cinema;</li> <li>7. No hand dryer machines;</li> <li>8. Clean all washable surface areas once a day;</li> <li>9. Disinfect all contact surfaces once an hour;</li> <li>10. In between screenings disinfect the entrance and contact surfaces;</li> <li>11. Big cleaning of the cinema once a week;</li> <li>12. Keeping track of all cleanings and disinfection cleanings of the cinema.</li> </ol> <p>Cinemas were initially limited to 100 people per room, under strict hygiene conditions, which included, but were not limited to, the list below. These official rules were scrapped from mid-June but reintroduced in early October 2020 with some changes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2m distance between cinema-goers inside the screening room;</li> <li>2. Remove seats in the lobby area;</li> <li>3. Ensure 15m<sup>2</sup> per customers in the foyer;</li> <li>4. One staff member must be in charge of ensuring respect of sanitary rules;</li> <li>5. Disinfect toilets every hour;</li> <li>6. Disinfect all contact surfaces before every show, which in theory means disinfecting the whole screening room before every show;</li> <li>7. F&amp;B sales are not allowed. It is actually permitted to sell F&amp;B but not to consume them in the cinema, which in effect means no F&amp;B sales at all.</li> </ol>
<p><b>SLOVENIA</b></p>	<p>Cinemas in Slovenia were required to close from 16 October. The guidelines below were valid during reopening.</p> <p>Mask wearing has been made mandatory at all times when inside cinemas. The initial rule, valid from reopening, only made it 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 have been limited to 10 people, with an exception of up to 50 people if the host knows the attendees and they can be contacted.</p>
<p><b>SPAIN</b></p>	<p>From the last week of October, a curfew has been in place in the country, from 11PM to 6AM depending on the region, effective for 15 days at least. The federal Government allowed for some flexibility, with regions able to start/finish the curfew one hour later or earlier. Cinemas in Catalonia were required to close from 30 October.</p> <p>Cinemas have been required to respect two key requirements: pre-allocated seats and 30% maximum occupancy. Depending on local epidemiological reports, the allowed occupancy can grow to 50% after two weeks. This decision is taken province-by-province. Because of this, some provinces allowed for</p>

	<p>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).</p> <p>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, if social distancing is not possible. Cinema-goers can remove their mask when eating and drinking. <a href="#">Here is a trailer from FECE on mask wearing in cinemas.</a></p> <p>The Spanish cinema association FECE has drafted a safety protocol, including the following rules. They have also <a href="#">published an online video</a> highlighting the key principles below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encouraging online ticketing and contactless payments (up to €50);</li> <li>2. Providing information (posters and online) explaining the safety measures;</li> <li>3. Placing hydroalcoholic gel dispensers in the cinema for staff and customers;</li> <li>4. Reinforcing the physical distance between workers and customers with transparent barriers;</li> <li>5. Eliminating physical control of cinema tickets (to be replaced by digital or visual control);</li> <li>6. Increasing cleaning and disinfection, with special attention to the most sensitive areas and surfaces;</li> <li>7. Ensuring the respect of official distancing measures throughout the cinema-going journey;</li> <li>8. Reducing the capacity of each screening room in accordance with local rules and reopening phase;</li> <li>9. People living under the same roof will be seated together in accordance with local rules;</li> <li>10. 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.</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">Detailed information available here, in Spanish.</a></p> <p>As of 8 July, everyone over the age of 5 in Catalonia must wear a mask in public or face a €100 fine, indoor and outdoor. As of 15 July, masks are mandatory in all indoor and outdoor places in Andalucía as well, even if social distancing can be guaranteed.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture has launched a new campaign, "Cinema is a safe place", using the spot created by FECE and showing it via Town Halls' networks and television channels.</p>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<p>Cinemas had to limit occupancy to 50 people per screening room from reopening. Limit increased to 300 from 1 November, with a safety distance of 1m between cinema-goers, who can only attend in groups of 2 maximum.</p>
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<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.</p> <p>Groups from the same family or living under the same roof can sit together. Additional rules include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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</li> </ol>

	<p>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;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p><u>The guidelines are available here, in French.</u></p> <p>On 12 August, the Government announced that mass events (1000+ people) would be prohibited until the end of September.</p> <p>In Lausanne, it is not possible to consume food and beverage in the cinema. In the Canton of Vaud, mask-wearing is mandatory in the screening room, while contact tracing and safety distances must not be enforced. It was initially only permitted to sell F&amp;B to be consumed seated, but not permitted to eat without your mask in the screening room, which effectively meant a ban on F&amp;B sales. This decision was reversed on 25 September.</p> <p>From 19 October, mask-wearing is mandatory across all of Switzerland, including in cinemas when seated in the screening room. It is not entirely clear if this rule replaces social distancing and the need to have one empty seat between groups of attendees. One canton has confirmed that it does, while others have confirmed the opposite.</p>
<p><b>UK</b></p>	<p>Social distancing measures have been reduced from 4 July, from 2m to '1m plus' – meaning a minimum of 1m with additional mitigations – in England and Northern Ireland. Wales and Scotland are maintaining the 2m distance.</p> <p>In England, from 14 September, cinema-goers can only attend in groups of 6 maximum when attending with people not living under the same roof.</p> <p>Guidance on cinemas was published on 25 June and <u>is available here</u>. The guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social distancing - cinemas will do all they can to ensure social distancing during each visit to the cinema.</li> <li>Guest hygiene - anti-bacterial gel stations will be made available in prominent locations throughout the cinema.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

	<p>8. 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.</p> <p>On 2 July, the UK Government established a ‘trace and test’ scheme to track people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and find those they have been in contact with, 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 <a href="#">here</a>. Please note that, upon reopening, cinemas in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will follow the same guidelines with some additional provisions for each country. Guidance for cinemas in Scotland is also available <a href="#">here</a>, and for cinemas in Wales <a href="#">here</a>. Guests were asked to wear face coverings in cinemas in England from 8 August, but are able to remove them once seated in the auditorium in order to enjoy food and drink.</p> <p>A three-tier alert system was introduced on 12 October, allowing for the introduction of local restrictions. In Northern Ireland, gatherings have been limited to 15 people maximum from 16 October, resulting in the closure of cinemas for four weeks until 12 November. Cinemas are currently able to operate in all tiers, but must abide by the rules below depending on the alert level:</p> <p>MEDIUM Alert Level – people cannot ordinarily gather indoors in groups of more than six (so usually only groups of six allowed to sit together in the auditorium).</p> <p>HIGH Alert Level – households cannot gather indoors (so usually only households allowed to sit together in the auditorium).</p> <p>VERY HIGH Alert Level – as above, plus no sales of alcohol.</p>
<p><b>UKRAINE</b></p>	<p>Occupancy is limited to 50% with one seat between customers, with couples allowed to sit together. In the capital Kiev, cinemas had to close at 10PM in the weeks following national reopening. Mask wearing is mandatory for staff and they should also pass a temperature check before starting their shift. Customers should wear masks until seated.</p> <p>Food and beverages can be sold and eaten during screenings. All surfaces in the screening room must be cleaned before each screening. Disinfectant gel must be made available across the cinema.</p>

## 4. 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, as of late June 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.

### 4.1. 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
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	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.
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<p>The Belgian cinema federation FCB estimates that cinema operators lost €30 million in revenues between 13 March and 30 April alone (roughly €4.3m per week), excluding fixed costs.</p> <p>Guidelines have been created specifically for the cultural sector, to explain available support mechanisms and the application process. <a href="#">See Flanders guidelines and FAQ here, in Flemish.</a></p> <p>Belgian film support bodies have introduced more flexibility regarding administrative, reporting and other funding conditions until the end of 2020.</p> <p>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. <a href="#">More information available here, in French.</a> 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.</p>

	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Covering all costs related to the acquisition of necessary sanitary equipment;</li> <li>- 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).</li> <li>- Launching a reopening campaign specifically dedicated to arthouse cinemas.</li> </ul> <p><u>More information available here, in French.</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 several funds, with the most relevant ones 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).</p> <p><u>More information available here.</u></p> <p>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 is available <u>here</u>.</p>
<p><b>BULGARIA</b></p>	<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><b>CROATIA</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. <u>More information is available here.</u></p> <p>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 EUR 800,000,</p>

	<p>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. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>In mid-May, 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.</p> <p>The VAT on cinema ticket was exceptionally reduced from 15% to 10%.</p> <p>The European Commission approved a €34 million (CZK 900 million) Czech scheme to support operators, who had to cancel or postpone their cultural 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 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>
<b>DENMARK</b>	<p>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 and admitted that they had made a mistake. 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.</p> <p>It was announced on 30 October that the European Commission had approved an approximately €99.4 million (DKK 740 million) Danish scheme to support cafés, restaurants, nightclubs, discotheques and venues that are restricted on their opening hours, as well as their suppliers, in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. Beneficiaries will receive an amount aid equivalent to a percentage of their fixed costs in proportion to the decline in turnover experienced between 1 September 2020 and 31 December 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. Beneficiaries can apply for compensation until 30 April 2021. It remains to be seen if this support package applies to cinemas.</p> <p>A small aid package worth €2m specifically targeting cinemas was introduced in late October, covering the months of November, December 2020 and January 2021. <b>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 – <a href="#">and the complex nature of the application requirements, available here</a> – make 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.</b></p>

	<p>In mid-November, the Danish Ministry of Culture earmarked €12 million to offset the impact of the coronavirus on the country's audiovisual industry, with a focus on production of local content. Of this, €2.3 million 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.</p> <p>A new Corona hotline has been created by the Ministry of Culture and the Danish National Palace and Culture Agency – available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>An online database of all the compensation schemes that can be applied for (via the Danish Ministry of Culture) is <a href="#">available here</a>.</p>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<p>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.</p> <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>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<p>A number of large Finnish film and cultural sector bodies are working together to grant swift assistance to arts and cultural professionals. Funding totalling approximately €1.5m has been allocated via the Arts Promotion Centre (Taike). Different foundations will also grant significant sums in aid through their own channels.</p> <p>The Finnish Film Foundation has 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. <a href="#">More information available here</a>.</p>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<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"> <li>- The CNC stopped requesting payments of film levies from cinema operators;</li> <li>- Cash flow measures for theatres and increased support for the sectors most affected, distribution and cinemas;</li> <li>- Assistance to cinemas to adopt the most proactive protection measures against the spread of the virus, by enforcing barrier measures;</li> <li>- Accelerated payment of the Art et Essai cinema grants from March, for the 1200 classified establishments;</li> <li>- Rapid adoption of a measure allowing exhibitors, distributors and producers to mobilise their support funds in advance.</li> </ul> <p>Various support schemes have been introduced. <a href="#">Additional, detailed information can be found on the FNCF website or on the CNC website</a>, daily updated, all in French.</p>



<p>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.</p> <p>Businesses that were forced to close beyond 10 May – including cinemas – have received additional help.</p> <p>The FNCF has created a FAQ on social/employment questions, <a href="#">available here in French</a>.</p> <p>The national health insurance has introduced from 18 May a “COVID prevention” scheme supporting businesses of less than 50 employees in 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> <p>The French cinema association (FNCF) published on 27 July a letter to public authorities asking for the introduction of a strong and ambitious refinancing plan to support French cinema operators, including extending measures that were introduced during closure but also specific measures aimed at relaunching the industry. <a href="#">The letter, in French, is available here</a>.</p> <p>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. 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 href="#">A web portal</a> was created to explain in detail all the new rules that have been introduced.</p> <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 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, cinemathèques and film education workshops. An additional €11.5m has already been spent by the CNC to support the reopening of cinemas on 22 June. 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. €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 and €800k to cover the Cinenum debt (related to a support to digitization in early the 2010s). In addition, €17.7m will be allocated to distribution and €12.2m will be allocated to production of theatrical films. <a href="#">More details available here</a>.</p> <p>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</p>
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	<p>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. <a href="#">More information available here, in French</a>. The CNC created a page to share information on the schemes introduced by the Centre to support cinema operators, <a href="#">available here</a>.</p> <p>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 encourage the release of films during the curfew period, as cinemas operators insisted that what they needed most was content in the coming weeks.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<p>Weekly losses for German cinema operators amounted to €17m during closure, according to the Federal Film Fund (FFA).</p> <p>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, advocated for the introduction of a “stabilization fund” to support cinemas during this crisis, highlighting that only 50% of Germany cinema operators could apply for the federal emergency aid. HDF drafted a list of key requirements from the industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rapid establishment of a stabilization fund;</li> <li>- Extension of Government grants to larger companies that are currently covered by the federal and state funding programs;</li> <li>- Standardization of the federal patchwork of emergency aids;</li> <li>- Short-time work benefits must urgently be expanded to include mini-jobbers and working students.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">More information can be found here in German.</a></p> <p>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, is targeting cinemas through the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pandemic-related investment in cultural institutions. This means investment in online ticketing systems, modernisation of ventilation systems, adaptation of visitor guidance, etc.;</li> </ul>

- 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.

Zukunftsprogramm Kino I is 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, has increased this year's budget to €22m following high demand. HDF KINO will work with BKM to ensure that more funds are made available this year and to ask for an extension of the current funding principles, with an amount up to 80 percent.

On 15 July, the German Minister of Culture announced the Zukunftsprogramm Kino II - part of the NEUSTART KULTUR programme which builds on Kino 1, 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.

Announced in September, the Zukunftsprogramm Kino III will support cinemas to cover operating costs during the reopening phase with grants worth a total of €30m. This programme is scheduled to start from October and can support specific cinema sites (not companies). In total, €75m of Federal funds has been made available to cinema exhibition in the country since the start of the crisis. [A detailed summary of the implemented measures can be found in this article, in German.](#)

It was announced on 24 September that the Zukunftsprogramm Kino programme will support cinemas in 2021 with a budget of €15m. HDF Kino has publicly expressed its concern that this amount is currently too low and is encouraging federal authorities to renew 2020 support schemes in 2021.

Following the announcement of a new lockdown from 2 November, resulting in the closure of local cinemas for at least a month, the Federal Government announced that affected companies - such as cinemas - 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 will start 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 does not offset other aids that were introduced in the past few months. [A detailed description of the scheme is available here, in German.](#)

It was also confirmed in November that cumulative subsidies / support aid can amount to a total of 800,000€ per company in 2020 (the maximum amount pre-

	<p>COVID was set at 200,000€ over three consecutive calendar years). Short-time work benefits do not fall under any of these regulations and do not have to be cumulated with other subsidies. HDF-Kino created <a href="#">a document</a> – in German – listing the subsidies / support aids that are concerned by this “cumulation” principle.</p> <p>The FFA has 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 <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>With a new version of guideline D.14, decided by the FFA Board of Directors on June 18, 2020, more flexible payment of the cinema reference funds 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 <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The next meeting on FFA cinema funding will take place on 16 March 2021. Applications for the fund can be submitted from 1 November to 11 December 2020.</p> <p>VAT on cinema tickets was reduced for a limited period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, from 7% to 5% for cinema tickets. <a href="#">More information can be found here, in German.</a></p> <p>Payments to GEMA, the German collecting society, have been deferred until further notice.</p> <p>A database of relevant documents and guidelines can be found <a href="#">on the FFA website in German.</a></p> <p>HDF Kino also created a page with all the relevant information for cinema operators related to the crisis, <a href="#">available here in German.</a></p> <p>Bundeslands or local authorities have introduced additional support mechanisms targeting the cultural sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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. <a href="#">Detailed information can be found here, in German.</a> It was announced in October that this aid for Bavarian cinemas would be extended until June 30, 2021 and increased by €12m.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Hessen introduced a support fund to which cinemas can apply, for a maximum amount of €18,000 per businesses. <a href="#">More information can be found here, in German.</a></li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>
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	<p>cover commercial rent, expenses for telecommunications and insurance, leasing instalments and interest and principal payments for existing company bank loans. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Hesse, a <u>scheme was introduced in July</u> 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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).</li> </ul>
<p><b>GREECE</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Greek Film Centre has taken measures to support the sector, with a strict focus on film production.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>IRELAND</b></p>	<p>Screen Ireland created <u>an online FAQ</u> listing all the key support schemes that are currently available.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
<p><b>ITALY</b></p>	<p>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. €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).</p> <p>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). While the first €40m</p>

	<p>was granted at the end of August and is currently being paid, the same recipients will receive the additional fund - divided according to the same criteria - at a later stage. A separate €2m fund was provided for open-air cinemas.</p> <p>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.</p> <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 also introduced.</p> <p>A proposed amendment aims at creating a guarantee fund allowing the transferability of the tax credits of the exhibition sector. <a href="#">More information available here and here.</a></p> <p><u>Relevant information and official documents can be found on the ANEC website, in Italian.</u></p> <p>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). <a href="#">More information available here, in Italian.</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>On Friday 7 August, the Italian Government announced that another €3bn would be made available for tourism and culture.</p> <p>The Government issued a new law decree on 28 October, following the introduction of new restrictions, including the closure of cinemas. Cinemas, like the other categories who qualified for a grant last May, 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. More information to follow.</p>
<b>KOSOVO</b>	<p>The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports allocated €5m in funds to support cultural and athletic activities affected by the crisis.</p>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<p>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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></p> <p>€32.1m was allocated to the stabilisation plan for the cultural sector, with €10.6m to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19, €10.4m to promote modernisation and for the creation of new cultural content and €11m for cultural infrastructure.</p>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<p>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</p>

	<p>film production and distribution, the recovery of cinemas, the development of new television and film productions and other activities.</p> <p>It was announced in early October that the Lithuanian Film Centre had granted €2.8m in support for cinemas and film distributors to compensate for losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In all, 18 cinemas, operating 71 screens in Lithuania, received €2.24m.</p>
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	<p>The Ministry of Culture published an FAQ to address the cultural industries current issues along with hotline – <a href="#">available here, in French.</a></p>
<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	<p>The Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Montenegro Film Centre, launched an emergency assistance of €500,000 for co-financing activities in the cultural and artistic sector that serve the public interest and the protection of the socio-economic interests of unemployed artists and cultural professionals, cultural entrepreneurs, self-employed artists and cinemas/enterprises whose activities 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.</p>
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<p>The Government announced a one-off contribution of €4,000 for cinemas and other businesses included in the Education, Culture and Science category, which could be used for fixed costs.</p> <p>On 27 May 2020, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science announced that €3.5m has been made available for cinemas via the Netherlands Film Fund. The cabinet is making an additional €300m available for the cultural sector to support institutions that are essential for the sector as a whole. This includes €48.5m to support municipalities and provinces, including €3.5m for cinemas via the Film Fund – <a href="#">more information available here, in Dutch.</a></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. More details to follow.</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>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<p>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. <a href="#">More information available here, in Norwegian.</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Government will not seek repayment of public subsidies paid for cultural and voluntary purposes.</p> <p>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. The Norwegian cinema association is fighting alongside other organisations to extend this reduced rate at least until the end of the year. The previous reduction had been set to 8% and was effective from 1 January 2020.</p> <p>Arts Council Norway has created a web page including a range of initiatives targeting the cultural sector – <a href="#">available here, in English.</a></p>

	<p>A draft new regulation, upon adoption, would provide compensation opportunities to companies (including cinemas) registered in the Volunteer Register. Compensation would be possible for lost revenues from events and for lost ticket revenues or rental income from other specified activities. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>POLAND</b>	<p>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. <a href="#">More information in Polish available here</a>.</p> <p>The Polish Government introduced an exemption from the payment of royalties to collective management organizations for entrepreneurs performing public reproduction and display – including cinemas. <a href="#">More information available here</a>.</p> <p>The Polish Film Institute, together with the Government, has prepared a programme of bank loans available for cinemas to stabilise their payment gridlocks.</p> <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. <a href="#">More information available here</a>.</p>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. <a href="#">Available here, in Portuguese</a>.</p> <p>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 operating/working because of the crisis. In May, a €30m fund was created to support cultural programming at municipality level.</p>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<p>All financial support from the National Cinema Centre CNC (including to cinema exhibition) were postponed until the end of the state of emergency.</p> <p>The Romanian Ministry of Culture announced in November 2020 a €100m aid scheme to support <b>organisations</b> 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.</p>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<p>In a Russian Government resolution listing the economic sectors most affected by the epidemic, the culture, leisure, entertainment and film exhibition sectors were included.</p> <p>Most cinema operators are still waiting to receive some of the support funds from the national Government, while the Russian cinema exhibition sector, through the Russian Association of Cinema Owners, has asked the Government for a subsidy of 3.5 billion rubles to support cinema exhibition (the process is under negotiation). This amount is equivalent to 10% of the industry's losses from the forced coronavirus downtime.</p>



	<p>In July, the Federal Fund for social and economic support of Russian cinematography made a decision to launch the 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.</p> <p>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 10 million rubles for distribution of a national film. Support, in particular, will be given to films that will be the first released after the reopening of cinemas. This subsidy is 100% refundable.</p> <p>It was announced in early November that the Russian cinema sector would be receiving financial support from the national government. 4.2 billion rubles (approx. €45m) are expected to be allocated by the end of 2020 to support the sector. More details to follow soon.</p>
<p><b>SLOVAKIA</b></p>	<p>For cinemas/events and distributors that were forced to close/cancel/suspend their activities by the State, horizontal measures have been prepared such as possible exemption from social and health care contributions for employees affected; reimbursement of certain expenses even when an event is cancelled or moved; postponement of payments for loans or levies; specific short-term loans to small cinemas, etc. The Slovak Audiovisual Fund considers (on a case by case basis) the possibility of increasing the subsidy granted or providing specific short-term loans to small cinemas. <a href="#">More information available here.</a> The Audiovisual Fund will, for instance, support expenses for supported 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>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 – <a href="#">more information available here.</a></p>
<p><b>SPAIN</b></p>	<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"> <li>- Incidental expenses generated as a consequence of the sanitary measures adopted. Among others, implementation of a risk prevention plan for workers and the public;</li> <li>- Campaigns aimed at reopening cinemas;</li> <li>- Actions to increase the programming of school campaigns;</li> </ul>

	<p>- Advertising space for promotion and trailers of Spanish cinema, as well as institutional campaigns.</p> <p>The grants will be 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 immediately after receiving the aid (2021).</p> <p>The ICAA has published a Good Practice Guide on Special Measures for Audiovisual Productions in the Face of the COVID Pandemic, <a href="#">available here</a>.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. <a href="#">More information available here</a>.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 are expected to receive the support money towards the end of November.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture and Sports launched on 10 October the #CulturaSegura campaign, aimed at supporting the cultural sector and encourage the return of audiences to cultural events. <a href="#">More information available here</a>.</p>
<p><b>SWEDEN</b></p>	<p>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 will receive SEK 30 (€2.90) per non-sold ticket between 12 March and 31 May 2020 – by comparing results with the same period in 2019. The maximum being SEK 10m (approx. €950k) per company. Cinema operators have already received this support. A new proposal to extend the scheme was made in September, covering the June to December period. More information to follow soon.</p>

	<p>On 5 October, the Swedish Government announced a SEK 375m support fund for the AV sector as part of an overall SEK 1.5 billion 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 &amp; TV production. This scheme will cover the period between 1 June and 31 December 2020.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u><a href="#">More information available here in Swedish.</a></u></p> <p>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 to help cinemas with cashflow.</p>
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<p>CHF 280m (€260m) has been allocated to support culture in general. 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 October, cinemas haven't received money from this aid package yet due to administrative challenges. <u><a href="#">More information can be found here, in French.</a></u></p> <p>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.</p>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<p>The Government indicated it would provide support to the sector, but nothing was announced formally.</p>
<b>UKRAINE</b>	<p>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> <p>For a long period of time, there was no legislation in support of the creative industries in Ukraine, but a law was passed on 16 June 2020. However, cinemas are not mentioned in the law, which is mostly focused on production rather than distribution or exhibition.</p>
<b>UK</b>	<p>On 9 April, the BFI announced a programme of support worth £4.6m (€5.3m) to aid the UK film sector. 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. <u><a href="#">More information available here.</a></u></p> <p>The BFI announced the establishment of an emergency relief fund with the support of The Film and TV Charity and Netflix. This fund will primarily support freelance workers in film production, rather than other parts of the film/cinema ecology.</p> <p>The BFI introduced a £30m recovery fund specifically targeting independent cinemas. From August 10 until October 30, venues will be 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</p>

organisation) to support independent cinemas to operate viably under the restricted conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund will be administered by the BFI as part of the UK Government’s \$1.6BN support packages for British arts and culture. 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 are expected to be given out at the end of August. Cinemas applying to the fund for business sustainability grants will be required to demonstrate a commitment to increasing their organisational diversity and the diversity of their audiences. They will also be expected to demonstrate commitments to reducing negative impacts on the environment and increasing educational outreach.

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.](#)

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.

The UK Government has unveiled a £1.57bn 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.](#)

The BFI has 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.](#)

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.](#)

Amazon Prime Video will donate an initial \$1.3 million (approx. €1.1 million) to enable the UK’s Film and TV Charity to create a new grants scheme to help the sector recover. More information is available [here.](#)

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.](#)

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.](#)

## 4.2. 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
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	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.
<b>BELGIUM</b>	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. 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. <a href="#">More information here.</a> To meet the urgent cash flow needs of companies, 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 is available <a href="#">here.</a>
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>	€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 Bosna i Hercegovina (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 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EIF's guarantee to RBBH is provided under the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility, as part of its coronavirus economic support package.
<b>CROATIA</b>	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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	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.
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	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.

<p><b>ESTONIA</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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>
<p><b>FINLAND</b></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><b>FRANCE</b></p>	<p>The French Government has been supporting French business loans (90%, current and upcoming), delayed payments and facilitated agreements with banks. <a href="#">More information available here in French.</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. <a href="#">More information available here</a>, in German.</p> <p>Each States have their own additional support mechanisms. <a href="#">Here is an online database</a> of all the different support schemes that have been introduced locally.</p> <p>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 €20 billion), 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).</p>
<p><b>GREECE</b></p>	<p>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.</p>

<b>HUNGARY</b>	Deferral of payment for loans, credit agreements or financial leasing agreement, in certain sectors including entertainment and the film industry.
<b>ITALY</b>	<p>The Government approved an aid package of up to €25 billion for families and companies, mobilising additional resources of up to €350 billion.</p> <p>Among the measures taken, the State has been supporting enterprises' liquidity through guaranteed bank loans.</p> <p>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. <a href="#">More information available here, in Italian.</a></p>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<p>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. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p> <p>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). <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p> <p>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. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p> <p>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.</p>
<b>KOSOVO</b>	€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.
<b>LATVIA</b>	The Latvian Government announced a €2b aid package, with €1bn set aside for measures such as loans to businesses.
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	€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. <a href="#">Detailed information available here.</a>
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	The national rescue package provided up to €2.5b of loan guarantees for companies.
<b>MALTA</b>	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. <a href="#">Here is the FAQs from the Maltese Central Bank.</a> 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. <a href="#">More information can be found here.</a>
<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	A new Investment Development Fund (IRF) was created, with credit lines to improve entrepreneurs' liquidity.
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	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 surety loan in the BMKB 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%.
<b>NORTH MACEDONIA</b>	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). <a href="#">More information available here.</a>
<b>POLAND</b>	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%).
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	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.
<b>ROMANIA</b>	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.
<b>RUSSIA</b>	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



	<p>Russia to pay salaries. Those loans will have to be paid back before the end of 2020. Approximately 15-20% of Russian cinema operators were able to benefit from these loans.</p> <p>All small and medium size businesses could benefit from a 6 month payments standstill for bank loans.</p>
<b>SERBIA</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<p>The Government announced a €2b stimulus package to support local businesses and citizens during the crisis, including via loans supporting the liquidity of businesses. It was announced on 14 May that all support measures would cease by the end of May, as an official end to the pandemic in Slovenia was declared.</p> <p>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 the extension of the moratorium on the repayment of bank loans.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<b>SPAIN</b>	<p>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. <a href="#">More information available here (in Spanish).</a></p>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<p>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 banks provide to companies that experienced financial difficulty due to the virus.</p>
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<p>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. <a href="#">More information can be found here, in French, Italian and German.</a></p>
<b>UK</b>	<p>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</p>

	<p>rather than 6 months. <u>Detailed information can be found on the UK Cinema Association website.</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>.</p> <p>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 is now 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.</p>
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### 4.3. 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
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<p>A €2b emergency fund for very small businesses was introduced - applications to the fund have been open since 27 March 27. 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. <a href="#">Detailed information can be found here, via an FAQ in German.</a></p> <p>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.</p>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<p>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. All regions and communes have also introduced regional loan guarantees, lower interest rates on certain loans, accelerated payments of subsidies etc.</p> <p><b>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. <a href="#">Additional information can be found here, in French.</a></b></p> <p><b>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. <a href="#">Additional information can be found here, in Flemish.</a></b></p>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<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 will receive a one-off payment of €930.</p>
<b>DENMARK</b>	<p>The Danish Government has announced 3 compensation programmes – they are not specifically earmarked for the AV sector, but the film value chain/entertainment sector is included. For those forced to shut down, all expenditure will be refunded if there is no income. The payment of housing, power, water etc. will be fully reimbursed.</p> <p>The European Commission has approved a DKK 1.1 billion (approximately €148 million) Danish scheme to compensate damages suffered by companies whose activities are still subject to the restrictive measures implemented by the Danish Government to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Under the scheme, such companies with a documented decline in turnover of more than</p>

	<p>35% because of the coronavirus outbreak, will be entitled to compensation for the damage they suffer. The scheme applies to the period of 8 July - 31 August 2020. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. <a href="#">More information available here</a>.</p> <p>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 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. <a href="#">More information available here</a>.</p>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<p>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. <a href="#">Detailed information available on the FNCF website, in French. FAQ created by French authorities, available here</a>.</p> <p>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 a grant worth €10,000 maximum per month for companies with less than 50 employees.</p>

<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<p>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> <p>In early July, 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 be able to apply for further support. <a href="#">Additional information about this aid can be found here, in German.</a> This bridging aid, initially covering the period of June to August, has been extended to a second phase covering September to December 2020. It was announced that this support mechanism might be extended to June 2021, but this information has to be confirmed officially. 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%. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></p> <p>Each Bundesland has its own additional support mechanisms, in addition to local support schemes from cities. 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.</p> <p>Please visit the <a href="#">HDF Kino website</a> for more information on support schemes that have been introduced locally.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>IRELAND</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>and re-employing workers following COVID-19 closures. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p> <p>It was recently announced that the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) will make a new €2 billion fund available - 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. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p> <p>On 21 October, the Irish Government replaced the Restart Grant and the Restart Grant Plus with the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS). <b>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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></b></p>
<p><b>NETHERLANDS</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 will be extended until 1 July 2021, in three consecutive phase of three months each. The allowance will be gradually phased out during that period, so businesses have time to adapt.</p>
<p><b>POLAND</b></p>	<p>The Polish Government made 100 billion zloty (€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. Sixty percent of aid will take the form of subsidies that don't need to be paid back.</p>
<p><b>ROMANIA</b></p>	<p>€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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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-</p>

	<p>financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The measure 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. 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>
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<p>The Government announced a CHF 42b rescue package for the economy, which includes direct support for cultural and sport organisations. <u><a href="#">More information can be found here, in French, Italian and German.</a></u></p>
<b>UK</b>	<p>The UK Government introduced a number of measures to support businesses, employers and employees, as well as the self-employed, including 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><a href="#">UKCA website</a></u>, the UK Government website (<u><a href="#">here</a></u> and <u><a href="#">here</a></u>) and the <u><a href="#">BBC</a></u>.</p> <p>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):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to £3,000 every two weeks for businesses which are closed; and</li> <li>- up to £1,500 every two weeks for businesses which are severely impacted by COVID restrictions.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4. 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
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 current scheme was valid for three months (March, April and May) and could be renewed for an additional three. This scheme does 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	<p>Approx. 1200 people employed in exhibition.</p> <p>Approx. 1100 on temporary leave.</p>
	Measures	<p>Procedures for temporary leave due to <i>force majeure</i> have been rendered more fluid. Compensation has been introduced for employees that are on temporary leave. Average unemployment revenue has been increased by €150 per month for those on temporary unemployment because of the virus. Energy bills were paid in Flanders, various already existing regional support mechanisms have been made more flexible to benefit impacted employees.</p> <p>There is no need to justify temporary leave. The State will cover 70% of salaries, previously it was 65%.</p> <p>The "corona temporary unemployment scheme" will be extended until the 31 December for the hospitality, travel, events and other affected sectors, and for companies that have used it for at least 20% of days worked in the second quarter. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>All the measures above were extended up until 31 March 2021 following the introduction of a second lockdown in October 2020.</b></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	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



		<p>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><u>More information in Bulgarian available here.</u></p>
<b>CROATIA</b>	Measures	<p>The Government covered 100% of minimum net wages if employers did not lay off workers. That minimum wage was increased from €425 to approximately €525 starting from the month of April and 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>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Figures	<p>An estimated 100 people working in exhibition were supported by the Social Insurance fund during the crisis.</p>
	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 main condition in securing a loan guarantee from the Government is that employers keep their staff employed at least until 30 September.</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>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	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.</p>

<b>DENMARK</b>	Measures	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).
<b>ESTONIA</b>	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). <a href="#">Detailed information available here, in Estonian.</a>
<b>FINLAND</b>	Measures	The notice period for lay-offs and the duration of co-operation negotiations on lay-offs was shortened. Various changes to lay-off rules. Employee re-employment obligation 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.
<b>FRANCE</b>	Figures	Approx. 15,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>The Government announced various measures to limit lay-offs as much as possible. 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. The extension must be formally confirmed on a monthly basis, but was officially announced by the relevant Minister on 30 September.</p> <p>In order to support employers experiencing a lasting decline in activity, another long-term partial activity mechanism would be available requiring a corporate agreement. In return for employment commitments, employers should be able to reduce working hours of the employees (up to 40%) and obtain an increased allowance. <a href="#">Detailed information about partial activity is available in this document</a>, in French.</p> <p>The French Government also took various steps to facilitate and accelerate the procedure to receive unemployment support. <a href="#">Detailed information is available in this document</a>, in French.</p> <p>From 1 June, 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 <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>From 5 July, employers cannot ask for postponement of "cotisations salariales" - only "cotisations patronales" can be deferred by filling in a special form. All measures to support employers can be found <a href="#">here</a> (in French).</p> <p>Initially only effective during lockdown, a rule offering financial support to employees who are forced to stay at home to take care of</p>

		<p>their children because their school was closed/children test positive to COVID-19 was re-introduced from 1 September. <a href="#">More information available here, in French.</a></p> <p>The French Government also introduced several schemes to support employers in the payment of social charges – detailed information on the topic <a href="#">can be found here, in French.</a></p> <p>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 50 employees that have been forced to close. All the employment and related social support schemes introduced during the first lockdown have been extended and reinforced, <a href="#">as outlined in this official text in French.</a> French authorities have also allowed for the “monetisation” of days off, allowing employers to compensate for their employees potential loss of remuneration.</p>
<b>GERMANY</b>	Figures	Approx. 25,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>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. <a href="#">A detailed description of the scheme can be found on this page, in German.</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HDF Kino is conducting <a href="#">a survey</a> among exhibitors on their experience with these two aid programmes in order to further tailor their demands to the Government.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>GREECE</b>	Measures	<p>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. Another €800 was provided to freelancers affected by the virus. The Easter financial bonus was paid in full to all employees. The state covered the cost of beneficiaries’ insurance, pension and health payments.</p>

<b>HUNGARY</b>	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.
<b>IRELAND</b>	Measures	<p>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.</p> <p>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). <a href="#">More information can be found here.</a> 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:</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>The new <a href="#">Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)</a>, 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.</b></p>
<b>ITALY</b>	Figures	<p>Approx. 8,000 people employed in exhibition. Approx. 7,600 were put on temporary leave.</p>
	Measures	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. A compensation of €600 has been provided for collaboration contracts, with reference to the month of March.

		<p>A postponement of social security payments for the months of April and May was approved. <a href="#">Additional information in Italian available here.</a></p> <p>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.</p>
<b>KOSOVO</b>	Measures	<p>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.</p>
<b>LATVIA</b>	Figures	Approx. 250 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>75% of average gross salary (based on the last 6 months) was covered by the State, but not exceeding €700.</p> <p><a href="#">Detailed information available here.</a></p>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	Measures	<p>The Government promised to cover 60% of salaries if owners paid the remaining 40% for employees during the closure – but the amount reimbursed by the State could not be higher than the minimum monthly wage (€546).</p>
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	Figures	Approx. 100 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>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. <a href="#">More information available in French.</a></p>
<b>MALTA</b>	Measures	<p>No differentiation between SMEs or large operators. 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. <a href="#">Additional information can be found here.</a></p> <p>In addition, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	Measures	The Government subsidised 70% of the minimum wage for employees in sectors that were forced to close/50% of the minimum wage for employees in at risk sectors. It subsidised 70% of the gross minimum wage of newly employed workers in SMEs for six months, if these workers were registered as unemployed.
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Measures	<p>NOW 1.0 - From March to May, 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%. <a href="#">Detailed information available here.</a></p> <p>NOW 2.0 - From June, 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. <a href="#">Detailed information for the extended regime available here.</a></p> <p>NOW 3.0 – Employment support will be extended from October for 3 periods of 3 months, running until 1 July 2021. In the first period, companies with a decrease in turnover of at least 20% are eligible for a grant of €90,000 maximum per company (this one-off grant is meant to support the company during the 3 months concerned) which can amount to a maximum of 80% contribution towards wage costs. From January 2021 there must be a drop in turnover of at least 30% / for a wage compensation of 70% maximum. From April there must be a drop of turnover of at least 40% / for a wage compensation of 60% maximum. Additional rules/support measures related to employment have also been introduced, <a href="#">with more information available here, in Dutch.</a> <b>The Dutch cinema association as well as other Dutch trade bodies have advocated for an extension and improvement of the NOW scheme in 2021 (higher than 60% compensation maximum).</b></p> <p>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 one-time increase is temporary and only in effect for 2020, as written by state secretary Vijlbrief of the Ministry of Finance in a letter to the Dutch lower house.</p>
<b>NORTH MACEDONIA</b>	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.
<b>NORWAY</b>	Figures	Approx. 1600 people employed in exhibition. 850 have been put on temporary leave because of the crisis.
	Measures	In the event of redundancy, cinemas have to pay the first two days' salaries (previously at 15 days before the crisis). Thereafter the

		<p>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 students who often are among cinemas' employees.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>POLAND</b>	Measures	<p>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).</p>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	Measures	<p>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 €1905 (which corresponds to three month's minimum wages).</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u><a href="#">More information available here.</a></u></p>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	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. <u><a href="#">More information available here.</a></u></p>

<b>SERBIA</b>	Measures	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.
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	Measures	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. <a href="#">More information available here in Slovak.</a> For companies that didn't close, the compensation was based on the loss in turnover as per below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More than 20 % - €180</li> <li>- More than 40 % - €300</li> <li>- More than 60 % - €420</li> <li>- More than 80 % - €540</li> </ul>
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	Measures	Until the end of May, 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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a> 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.
<b>SPAIN</b>	Figures	Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition. 11,500 have been put on temporary leave because of the crisis.
	Measures	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. <a href="#">More information 1 (in Spanish)</a> <a href="#">More information 2 (in Spanish)</a>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Figures	Approx. 2,500 have been put on temporary leave.
	Measures	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 State covered full costs for sick leave from companies through the months of April and May.
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Measures	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.
<b>TURKEY</b>	Figures	Approx. 7500 people employed in exhibition.



	Measures	The Government paid salaries (up to 60%) from Governmental funds for 3 months.
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Measures	<p>The union of cinema operators officially addressed the Prime Minister of Ukraine with the offer of providing 0% interest rate credit for cinemas to pay salaries to their employees because the Government promised it would be possible.</p> <p>The Government announced limited social measures, including creating additional jobs for after the crisis.</p> <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>
<b>UK</b>	Figures	Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>The UK Government introduced a 'Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme' which covered 80 per cent 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 per cent. The scheme was made available to large and small businesses, and the charity and voluntary sector. The so-called furlough scheme is running until 1 November, when it is replaced by the Job Support Scheme described below.</p> <p>On 24 September, a new Jobs Support Scheme was introduced. It will see Government subsidise the pay of employees who are working fewer than normal hours due to lower demand arising from COVID-19. This will apply to staff who can work at least a third of their usual hours. Employers will pay staff for the hours they do work and for those they can't (compared to 'normal' hours), the Government and the employer will each cover one third of the lost pay. So if any employee is working 33 per cent of hours, then the employer will pay (33 + 22 per cent = ) 55 per cent of pay and the Government 22 per cent. Government payments will be capped at £697.92 per month per employee. All small and medium sized businesses will be eligible for the scheme as will larger businesses where turnover has fallen during COVID-19. The scheme will run for six months from 1 November (so pick up when the furlough scheme was supposed to end) and be open to employers across the UK even if they have not previously used the furlough scheme. Companies cannot make someone on the scheme redundant. The grant for the self-employed people is being extended on similar terms.</p> <p>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 per cent of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month.</p>

	<p>At the beginning of June, it was announced that the scheme would be gradually ‘tapered’ with employers expected to make an increasing contribution from August to a point where the scheme would cease at the end of October.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>On 8 July, as part of a <u>£30b package to save jobs</u>, the UK Government announced plans to pay companies a bonus of £1,000 for every staff member kept on for three months when the furlough scheme ends in October – applying across the UK to workers earning over £520 per month.</p> <p>The CJRS (also known as the furlough scheme) will remain open until 31 March 2021. For claim periods running to January 2021, employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. The £2,500 cap is proportional to the hours not worked</p>
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#### 4.5. 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
<b>ALBANIA</b>	Measures	A Government decree delayed monthly rents for small businesses,
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	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. It is not yet clear when this payment will be made, as it will be necessary for the State to verify submitted loss estimates. In addition, businesses can benefit from a reduced corporate tax, which can cover approximately 6.5% of your fixed costs.
<b>BELGIUM</b>	Measures	In the commune of Brussels City, the payment of rents for businesses was delayed.
<b>BULGARIA</b>	Measures	The concept of force majeure did not apply to rent in Bulgaria, cinemas were therefore still obliged to pay rent.
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Figures	Approx. €1m for April, May in June in fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
<b>DENMARK</b>	Measures	If companies were forced by law to close down, all expenditure including rent was fully covered by the State. 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.
<b>ESTONIA</b>	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.
<b>FINLAND</b>	Measures	The City of Helsinki decided to temporarily waive rental payments on commercial premises and terraces ( <a href="#">more info</a> ). Municipalities support (described in the support scheme section of this document) could be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs such as rents.
<b>FRANCE</b>	Measures	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. <a href="#">More information on the FNCF website, in French.</a>

		<p>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.</p> <p>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. <a href="#">Additional information available here, in French.</a></p> <p>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. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>GERMANY</b>	Figures	Approx. €17m in weekly fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	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 pay rent due to the coronavirus crisis. <a href="#">More information available here, in German.</a>
<b>GREECE</b>	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.
<b>HUNGARY</b>	Measures	A moratorium on all loan repayments for individuals and companies until 31 December 2020.
<b>IRELAND</b>	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
<b>ITALY</b>	Figures	Approx. €15m per month in rent.
	Measures	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. 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%).
<b>KOSOVO</b>	Measures	The Government subsidised up to 50% of rent costs for SMEs during April and May.
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	Measures	Depends on agreements with landlords but most did not treat the quarantine as a <i>force majeure</i> , cinemas had to prove it.
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.

<b>MALTA</b>	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.
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Measures	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). Businesses must submit a new application each time. <a href="#">More information available here, in Dutch.</a>
<b>NORWAY</b>	Measures	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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a>
<b>POLAND</b>	Measures	Lease contracts for commercial facilities with a sales area over 2000m <sup>2</sup> 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. 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.
<b>ROMANIA</b>	Measures	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.
<b>RUSSIA</b>	Measures	Rent payments for state and municipal property delayed.
<b>SERBIA</b>	Measures	The city of Belgrade decided not to charge rent for office and business spaces.
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	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.
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	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.
<b>SPAIN</b>	Figures	Approx. €12.9m in monthly fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	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. <u>More information available here, in Spanish.</u>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Measures	If a landlord and a tenant agree on a rebate on the rent for the period between 1 April and 30 June (Q2), 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. A support package was announced for the period of 15 March to 30 April, whereby business that have lost more than 30% turnover can be compensated for fixed costs but not labour costs.
<b>TURKEY</b>	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.
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Measures	Cinemas still paid rent, but mainly a reduced amount. negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
<b>UK</b>	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.

## 4.6. TAXATION

### SUMMARY

National authorities across Europe have been quick to delay payments of various taxes for individuals and businesses, including VAT in several cases.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	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). <a href="#">More information available in German online.</a>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	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.
<b>BULGARIA</b>	The Bulgarian tax authorities extended VAT filings deadlines until further notice to help businesses through the coronavirus epidemic.
<b>CROATIA</b>	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.
<b>CYPRUS</b>	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.
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	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).
<b>DENMARK</b>	Tax authorities made it possible to postpone tax and VAT for the industry this spring.
<b>ESTONIA</b>	Companies which were affected can be supported by differing taxes. VAT payment were delayed until 1 May 2020.
<b>FINLAND</b>	Businesses experiencing payment difficulties could request an extension to a tax return's filing deadline, and late-filing penalties were not 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. <a href="#">More information available in Finnish online.</a>

<p><b>FRANCE</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The June amendment of Finance Bill No. 3074 (Article 18) includes different support for SMEs and enterprises, including: exemption from employers' contributions, assistance with the payment of contributions, debt forgiveness and clearance plans for companies affected by the coronavirus crisis. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>On 16 July, French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced a €100 billion recovery roadmap, including tax cuts for French businesses. €40 billion would be used to support domestic industry and services, while French companies will also see their business taxes cut by €20 billion over the next two years and businesses hiring people under the age of 25 would receive support.</p> <p>For the period of activity ranging from February 1 to May 31 2020, companies with fewer than 250 employees particularly affected by crisis should obtain a total exemption from "cotisations patronales" and aid for the payment of contributions. They also could get debt supply and remission plan concluded with the collection agencies, without penalty and overdue increases. This decision should be confirmed shortly.</p> <p>Most of these support schemes were extended following the second lockdown and ensuing closure of French cinemas from 30 October 2020. The French cinema federation has created <a href="#">a dedicated page on their website</a> including all the tax exemptions and related measures that cinema operators can apply for.</p>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>VAT will be reduced for a limited period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, from 7% to 5% for cinema tickets. <a href="#">More information can be found here, in German.</a></p>
<p><b>GREECE</b></p>	<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.</p> <p>VAT payers who do not lay off staff may withhold 25% of their VAT due for April.</p>



<b>HUNGARY</b>	Tax authorities were to exempt 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.
<b>IRELAND</b>	<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>
<b>ITALY</b>	<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>
<b>LATVIA</b>	Companies which are affected can be supported by differing taxes, including VAT.
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	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.
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	There are possibilities to delay tax payments & advances. There was a suspension of VAT penalties for late returns until 15 May.
<b>MALTA</b>	All taxes and VAT payments for March and April were deferred to June, to improve liquidity by €700 million. This measure applied 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).
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<p>Companies and self-employed people in the Dutch cultural/creative sector could make a special request for an extension of the 3-month payment deadline for all income tax, corporation tax, wage tax and turnover tax (VAT) contributions.</p> <p>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 has been extended until 1 October. Businesses using the scheme must pay those taxes by 1 January 2021 at the latest. There will also be a 3-year repayment</p>

	<p>scheme to repay the accrued tax debt (previously at 2-year). <a href="#">More details available here, in Dutch.</a></p>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<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>
<b>POLAND</b>	<p>Businesses could postpone their payments of social charges. Tax payments, due for 30 April, were postponed to 30 May.</p>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<p>Postponement of the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) from 31 March to 30 June 2020. Extension of the deadline for submission of the CIT. Additional taxes also delayed.</p> <p>Regarding VAT and withholding taxes for the second quarter of 2020, the Government decided to make tax payments more flexible for both companies and the self-employed. <a href="#">More information here.</a></p>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<p>Various measures including suspension of forced execution of budgetary debts, VAT refunds during March for all settled settlements, suspension of fiscal control actions. <a href="#">More information here.</a></p>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>SERBIA</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	<p>VAT payments and other tax rules were relaxed for February, March and April payments. No interest or penalties on late filings.</p>
<b>SPAIN</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<p>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%.</p>

<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Both local and federal initiatives. Payment of taxes at federal level postponed without interest.
<b>TURKEY</b>	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.
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Cinemas exempt from paying VAT until 2023, but this was already the case before the outbreak.
<b>UK</b>	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.

## 5. BOX OFFICE PERFORMANCES

The box office figures below have been kindly shared by our colleagues at Comscore. As a reminder, most cinemas were forced to close from Week 11-12 (9-22 March), with the exception of Italy, where many sites had to close slightly earlier (from Week 8). More information on the closure process is available in the first section of this document.

### Box office year-to-date

COUNTRY	W11	W12	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47
AUSTRIA	n/d	-13%	-64%	-64%	-64%	-64%	-64%	-65%	n/d	n/d	-67%
FRANCE (adm.)	n/d	-32%	-63%	-63%	-63%	-63%	-62%	-62%	-63%	-64%	-65%
GERMANY	-10%	-14%	-60%	-60%	-61%	-61%	-61%	-62%	n/d	n/d	-65%
ITALY*	-6%	-11%	-62%	-62%	-63%	-63%	-64%	-65%	-66%	-67%	n/d
NETHERLANDS	+4%	+1%	-51%	-51%	-51%	-51%	-52%	-52%	n/d	n/d	-54%
PORTUGAL	n/d	-9%	-71%	-71%	-71%	-72%	-72%	-73%	-73%	-73%	-73%
RUSSIA	+8%	+5%	n/d	-56%	-56%	-57%	-58%	-58%	-59%	-58%	-58%
SPAIN	-4%	-12%	-68%	-68%	-68%	-69%	-69%	-70%	-70%	-71%	-71%
TURKEY	+18%	n/d	-47%	-50%	n/d	-56%	n/d	-59%	n/d	n/d	-65%
UK & IRELAND	+9%	+2%	-69%	-70%	-70%	-71%	-71%	-72%	-72%	n/d	n/d

### BO current weekend vs. previous weekend

COUNTRY	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47
AUSTRIA	+56%	-13%	+16%	-3%	-28%	-76%	n/d	n/d	n/d
FRANCE (adm.)	+19%	-3%	-10%	+20%	+74%	+62%	n/d	n/d	n/d
GERMANY	+26%	+11%	-1%	+1%	-16%	+42%	n/d	n/d	n/d
ITALY	+54%	-8%	+3%	-18%	-11%	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d
NETHERLANDS	+28%	-15%	+50%	+9%	+18%	-38%	n/d	n/d	n/d
PORTUGAL	-17%	+16%	-31%	-18%	+38%	-32%	+3%	-75%	+10%
RUSSIA	n/d	-21%	-11%	-18%	-3%	+36%	-18%	+64%	-35%
SPAIN	-9%	+3%	-11%	-32%	+18%	-32%	-16%	-29%	-26%
UK & IRELAND	-11%	+25%	-43%	-20%	+26%	+18%	n/d	n/d	n/d

### BO current weekend vs. same weekend in 2019

COUNTRY	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47
AUSTRIA	-52%	-62%	-67%	-69%	-73%	+38%	n/d	n/d	n/d
FRANCE (adm.)	-52%	-54%	-67%	-64%	-49%	-81%	n/d	n/d	n/d
GERMANY	-61%	-68%	-71%	-73%	-71%	-77%	n/d	n/d	n/d
ITALY	-64%	-80%	-78%	-81%	-78%	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d
NETHERLANDS	-48%	-68%	-57%	-59%	-48%	-68%	n/d	n/d	-66%
PORTUGAL	-71%	-81%	-87%	-89%	-80%	-90%	-81%	-95%	-96%
RUSSIA	n/d	-75%	-74%	-81%	-78%	-77%	-68%	-42%	-59%
SPAIN	-61%	-72%	-79%	-86%	-79%	-90%	-85%	-90%	-94%
UK & IRELAND	-80%	-86%	-91%	-92%	-90%	-86%	n/d	n/d	n/d