



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.

09/04: Updated information for Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Malta, North Macedonia, Poland and Sweden.

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## 1. REOPENING PROCESS

### SUMMARY

The vast majority of cinemas across Europe were officially closed by Government order – unless specified otherwise in the table below – from mid-March, with the exception of Italy (with almost 50% closed from 23 February), Russia (all closed from 31 March), Sweden (only partly closed) and Belarus (never closed). Overall, less than 2% of the 42,000+ screens in Europe remained open from then until May, when cinemas started reopening. 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. Most European cinemas were again forced to close their doors in the following weeks, with potential reopening dates set for February or March 2021.

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

COUNTRY	STATUS AND CLOSURE DATES	TIMELINE
ALBANIA	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>23 March to 23 June 2020</b></p>	<p>Flower shops and clothing stores were the first businesses allowed to reopen from 27 April, with most businesses following on 1 June. Cinemas were allowed to reopen on 23 June but only effectively reopened in late October, due to the lack of content.</p> <p>Albania introduced a curfew from November 11, with all citizens required to stay at home from 10PM to 6AM. This curfew was extended indefinitely from January 2021.</p>
AUSTRIA	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>16 March to 29 May 2020</b></p> <p><b>3 Nov. 2020 to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>The gradual reopening process started with small shops on 14 April, larger stores on 1 May and restaurants on 15 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 29 May - originally planned for 1 July, the reopening date was brought forward. Most cinemas reopened by mid-June, with some chains waiting until early July.</p> <p>Austria entered a second lockdown from 3 November. Restaurants were also required to close but the retail and services sector could remain open. A curfew from 8PM was introduced. These measures were later extended and it was announced in mid-January that the lockdown would be extended to 7 February at least. Restrictions were eased from that date, with smaller shops allowed to reopen. But hotels, restaurants or cinemas remain shut – with no reopening timeline available. Contact services – such as hairdressers – allowed to reopen but subject to strict hygiene measures, such as FFP2 masks, maximum numbers of people per square metre, recording of contact details and the requirement for customers to show a negative coronavirus test which is less than 48 hours old.</p> <p>Austria postponed the reopening of cafe, restaurant and bar terraces planned for 27 March. The government is preparing for regions to adapt restrictions locally. One federal State,</p>

		Vorarlberg, has in late March allowed cultural institutions to reopen under strict regulations. This test starts from 27 March and includes cinemas.
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>14 March to 1 July 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>29 Oct. 2020 to May 2021</b></p>	<p>Shops selling gardening and building materials were the first 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.</p> <p>Social gatherings were restricted to groups of 4 people maximum starting from 9 October. From 19 October, bars and restaurants were required to close, while F&amp;B sales in cinema were banned. From 24 October, curfews were introduced across the country, as early as 10PM in some regions. 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. It was announced in mid-January that current restrictions would be extended until at least 1 March. The Belgian Government presented a reopening timeline on 5 March which would allow for the reopening of cinemas in May, depending on the evolution of the pandemic and the respect of sector-specific guidelines. It was announced that several businesses, including one major cinema located in Brussels, would take part in various tests to facilitate the reopening process in the coming weeks. On 24 March, it was announced that a new lockdown would be introduced for at least three weeks from 27 March, with most shops required to close and schools closing a week earlier than planned for the Easter break. Outdoor gatherings were reduced from 10 to 4 people.</p> <p>On 31 March, a Brussels court ruled that Belgium’s current coronavirus measures do not have a sufficient legal basis, and gave the State 30 days to provide that basis. The ruling does not comment on the content of the measures and whether or not they are effective. Interior Minister announced it would appeal against the verdict – but the ruling is expected to hold. The Government was already in the process of drafting a “pandemic law” and is hopeful to provide the necessary legal basis by the end of April 2021.</p>
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>13 March to 14 May 2020</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURES</b></p> <p>13 March 2021 to TBA 2021</p>	<p>Bosnian entities applied different restrictions. Republika Srpska reopened most businesses from 11 May. Federal authorities announced that cinemas and cultural institutions could reopen from 14 May. Some sites started reopening from the week of 18 May, while most followed suit in June. Sarajevo will be partially shut down from 13 March - only food shops, pharmacies and gas stations will stay open. Cinemas in Republika Srpska were required to close from 21 March until further notice. Cinemas remain open in the</p>

	(Sarajevo) 21 March to TBA 2021 (Republika Srpska)	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a curfew from 9PM still effective.
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<b>OPEN</b>  <b>13 March to 11 May 2020</b> <hr/> <b>30 Nov. 2020 to 31 Jan. 2021</b> <hr/> <b>22 March to 1 April 2021</b>	Cinemas were allowed to reopen immediately from 11 May, with most effectively reopening from mid-June. A 11.30PM curfew was introduced from 12 November for all businesses. Cinemas were ordered to shut on 30 November. Most businesses were slowly allowed to reopen from late January, including cinemas from 31 January. One of the major Bulgarian cinema chains announced it would reopen from 5 February. It was announced on 18 March that Bulgaria would close schools, restaurants and shopping malls for 10 days from March 22. Multiplexes in Bulgaria are mostly located in malls. It was later confirmed that cinemas across the country would be required to close from 22 to 31 March. On 30 March, the Bulgarian Minister of Health confirmed that restrictions would be eased from 1 April. From that date, cinemas and other venues will be allowed to reopen with a 30% occupancy limit. Restaurants and bars will be allowed to re-open their outdoor area, nightclubs will remain closed and so will shopping malls and large stores. At the same time, the 28 districts in Bulgaria were identified as COVID-19 “red zones” for the second consecutive week. Cinemas were effectively allowed to reopen from 1 April, between 6AM and 11PM. Those located in malls were also allowed to reopen but were banned from selling F&B (as indoor restaurants remained closed).
<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>OPEN</b>  <b>17 March to 20 August 2020</b>	Cultural institutions and the retail sector reopened from 27 April. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 18 May, while those located in shopping malls had to wait until 15 June. All exhibitors decided to reopen from 20 August. 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, a 10PM curfew was introduced. Public gatherings were limited to 25 people in December. Bars, restaurants, gyms and other facilities have been closed since November, and the Croatian Government decided to extend these measures to at least 1 March. Cinemas have remained open.
<b>CYPRUS</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>  <b>16 March to 17 Sept. 2020</b> <hr/> <b>11 Dec. 2020 to TBA 2021</b>	Retail businesses were the first allowed to reopen from 4 May. Hairdressers and restaurants reopened from 21 May. Cinemas were only allowed to reopen from 17 September. The Government announced a curfew on 4 November, from 11PM to 5AM. From 11 December, gatherings were limited to 2 people outside home, effectively closing cinemas. The curfew was reinforced, starting at 9PM. The government announced in late January the easing of several restrictions

		and cinemas were allowed to reopen from 8 February. The main local cinema chain has decided not to reopen because of the 9PM curfew and occupancy limit (50 per venue).
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>12 March to 11 May 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>12 Oct. 2020 to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>The Czech Government twice decided to speed up its reopening process, as cinemas were allowed to reopen from 11 May.</p> <p>Following a spike in local cases, the Czech Government announced the closure of cinemas from 12 October. A curfew was also introduced from 8PM, then 9PM from 27 December. Most businesses were also required to close on Sundays. Gatherings were limited to 2 people. Restrictions were slightly eased around Christmas, but were all brought back in January 2021. Local operators do not expect to reopen before April 2021. The country is currently under Tier 5 safety level, with cinemas allowed to reopen in Tier 3 with 25% capacity and a ban on F&amp;B sales. The Czech Government announced it would reopen all retail shops from 22 February, but this decision was dropped following a rise in local infections. It was announced on 26 February that the Government was laying out plans to “radically” tighten lockdown measures.</p>
<b>DENMARK</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>12 March to 21 May 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>16 Dec. 2020 to 6 May 2021</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURES</b> 6 November to 3 Dec. 2020 (North Jutland)</p>	<p>Danish cinema operators decided to close from 12 March 2020, before being forced to do so by the Government on 18 March.</p> <p>Hairdressers and other one-to-one businesses reopened from 20 April. Most shops reopened from 11 May, with cinemas allowed to reopen from 21 May – more than two weeks earlier than previously announced.</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, were required to close. The Government announced the closure of all social activities in 38 of the 98 Danish municipalities from 9 December – representing around half of the Danish population. All Danish cinemas were ordered to close from 16 December and could be allowed to reopen from 28 February 2021. Danish citizens have been protesting against plans for a digital vaccine “passport” which could potentially be used for sports and cultural events as well as restaurants. The reopening process is expected to take place on a regional basis, which could delay the reopening of major chains. Denmark’s Government hopes to agree by the end of March a definitive plan which will lay out how remaining coronavirus restrictions will be lifted. It was announced on 23 March that hairdressers, spas and other services could reopen and for more students to resume in-person classes from 6 April. Shopping malls can open on 21 April, while cinemas, music venues and restaurants will be</p>

		<p>allowed to reopen in early May. Many of the planned reopening schemes are contingent on the use of a so-called "corona-passport", which shows whether the holder has been vaccinated, has previously been infected or has taken a test within the last 72 hours. Denmark announced on 25 March a plan to ease lockdown over the coming weeks starting on 6 April. According to that plan, most indoor activities including cinemas will be allowed to reopen from 6 May. By the end of May, virtually all of Danish society is expected to be open, although the agreement suggests some questions remain over what to do about gatherings at major events and with nightclubs.</p> <p>On 6 April, Denmark was one of the first European country to introduce a COVID-19 passport scheme. The "coronapas" is available via a secure application or in paper format to people who have either been fully vaccinated, have tested positive for COVID-19 2 to 12 weeks previously or negative over the previous 72 hours. The pass will be required for citizens above 15 years old to enter certain businesses, including cinemas. Visitors will also be required to produce an ID to prove their identity, or risk being refused entrance.</p>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>12 March to 1 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>28 Dec. 2020 to February 2021</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>1 March 2021 to TBA 2021</b></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. New restrictions, including the closure of cinemas, were introduced in mid-December in some Estonian counties. From 28 December, these restrictions were extended to the capital of Tallinn. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from early February, but with a 50% capacity limit. These local closures have halted the whole Estonian cinema industry throughout January 2021, delaying local releases. The Estonian government announced on 25 February that cinemas across the country would be closing from 1 March 2021 for at least one month. On 30 March, Estonia extended all COVID-19 restrictions by two weeks until 25 April. All shops except those selling essential goods were required to close.</p>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>18 March to 1 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>December 2020 to June 2021</b></p>	<p>The Government declared a ban on gatherings of 10 persons from 18 March but specified that cinemas were not forced to close. All cinemas decided to close after the announcement. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June. Major chains decided to reopen between the last week of June and mid-July.</p> <p>From September, the Finnish Government introduced a localised strategy to fight COVID-19. Based on this system, cinemas across Finland were required to follow distancing rules and hygiene protocols. From 27 October, public events were limited to 10 in the region of Vaasa. From 20</p>

		<p>November, to 20 in the region of Helsinki. From late November to December (depending on the region), all public events and gatherings of more than 10 people were banned in 12 Finnish regions, representing 80% of the Finnish population. Most if not all cinemas in those regions decided to close, while a few continued to operate. In the rest of the country, 6 regions limited gatherings to 20 and the remaining 2 to 50 people. Those restrictions could be eased in February 2021, with different deadlines depending on the region. The Government has announced stricter measures across most of the country, including the closures of bars and restaurants from 8 to 28 March in what was described as a national shutdown. <b>On 9 April, the Government announced a draft plan for the gradual relaxing and removal of coronavirus restrictions. The plan would see primary school students return in April while bars and restaurants would be permitted to reopen with limited occupancy. In May, public spaces such as libraries and museums will be allowed to reopen. In June, restrictions on public gatherings will be relaxed and audience events will be allowed, with limits on attendance. All restrictions would be removed somewhere between July and August.</b></p>
<p><b>FRANCE</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>14 March to 22 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>30 Oct. 2020 to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>All shops reopened from 11 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 22 June. Most cinemas (97%) effectively reopened from that date.</p> <p>From 17 October, a curfew was introduced from 9PM to 6AM in several major French cities. This rule was extended to 2/3 of the French population from 24 October. The French Government announced a second national lockdown from 30 October, which resulted in the closure of all local cinemas. It was announced on 24 November that cinemas would be allowed to reopen on 15 December, but this decision was reversed following a spike in national cases. The French cinema federation FNCF challenged this decision at the French highest court (Conseil d'État). All French operators switched on the lights of their cinemas on 15 December as a show of protest and solidarity. Additional restrictions were introduced from mid-January across France, including a curfew from 6PM. On 26 February, the French prime minister warned that the Government would impose new measures, including weekend lockdowns in some cities and regions, from the start of March if signs of the coronavirus accelerating persist. It was announced on 5 March that Paris would not be put under weekend lockdowns. Nice and Dunkirk remain under weekend lockdown, which has been extended to the department around the Channel port. The FNCF issued an open letter on 12 March to the French President asking for an urgent</p>

		<p>reopening. It was announced on 18 March that a new 4-week lockdown would be introduced from 20 March across 16 French departments, including Paris and its region. In these departments, non-essential businesses will be required to close and people can only travel within 10km of their house (with a certificate). <a href="#">Detailed information can be found here</a>. On 25 March, the partial lockdown was extended to 3 additional departments.</p> <p>The Minister of Culture met representatives from the cinema sector in mid-March to discuss the reopening process. While no reopening date was mentioned, a potential process for easing down restrictions was outlined. This could in theory be made up of three consecutive steps, each 3-4 weeks long, with first 1/3 occupancy, 2/3 and a complete reopening as the final and third step. On 31 March, a third lockdown was announced for the whole country from 3 April – with the measures already in place in 19 departments extended to the rest of the nation. Most shops are closed and people are barred from travelling more than 10km from their homes. During the same announcement, it was mentioned that the cultural sector could start reopening from mid-May.</p>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>14-18 March to 15 May - 30 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>2 Nov. 2020 to 18 April</b></p>	<p>The decision to close cinemas was made by local State authorities, with different start and end dates applied across the country. The first reopening phase started on 20 April and was managed on a state basis, with reopening dates for local cinemas ranging from 15 May to 30 June.</p> <p>On 14 October, cities or regions where infection rates were rising rapidly had to impose an 11PM curfew for bars and restaurants. Additional restrictions based on local infection rates were also introduced. A national “lockdown-light” was announced on 28 October, resulting in the closure of all local cinemas from 2 November. The national lockdown was later extended until 14 February, with new rules making it mandatory to wear medical masks in shops and on public transport.</p> <p>The Schleswig-Holstein state government presented in late January a four-stage plan as a possible nationwide model for a gradual exit from lockdown. Cinemas would reopen last under this proposal. The German cinema association HDF Kino publicly criticized the suggestion and called on local politicians to modify and adapt the plan to make it more balanced. All the associations representing Germany cinema operators and distributors formally reached out on 8 February to Federal and state authorities, asking for a clear reopening framework and timeline, advocating for a coherent, nation-wide coordinated reopening around Easter 2021. The lockdown was extended by three weeks until 7</p>



		<p>March. Despite demands from the sector, there are no perspectives yet for the cultural sector and discussions about a potential reopening date have been postponed to 3 March. It was announced in early March that cinemas could in theory start reopening from 22 March, depending on infection rates in the coming weeks. These new rules are localised and can differ from state to state (and within states, from one region or city to another). The process involved was also extremely complex. It was for instance not clear what restrictions would apply to reopening sites and whether they could vary from one state to another. As a reminder, the German cinema association has advocated for a nation-wide, coordinated reopening process – which is not the case. Therefore, few cinemas were expected to be able to reopen as early as the end of March.</p> <p>It was announced on 23 March that Germany was extending the current lockdown to April 18. The country will enter an even stricter lockdown from April 1 to April 5 over the Easter holiday period, when shops, including grocery stores, will largely have to close. In a surprise U-turn, German Chancellor Angela Merkel cancelled this last plan just a day after the measures were announced. The country's partial lockdown, meanwhile, has been extended until at least 18 April. It was announced in late March that some German states would allow large parts of public life - including culture and cinema-going – to restart with the help of mass rapid tests from 18 April. Cinemas could in theory welcome guests if they can produce a negative corona rapid tests done in the last 24 hours. Saarland has indicated that it would be able to achieve this thanks to an efficient local test structure. Bavaria also indicated it would do this in 8 major cities, including Munich. On 29 March, Angela Merkel threatened to centralise Germany's pandemic response as several of the country's federal states refuse to implement an emergency brake mechanism on easing restrictions in spite of rapidly rising infection rates. <b>On 9 April, the German Health Minister said the country needed to implement nationwide measures to break the current wave of coronavirus infections as quickly as possible.</b></p>
<p><b>GREECE</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>12 March to 29 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>3 Nov. 2020 to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>Small retail shops and hairdressers 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.</p> <p>Greece imposed a curfew in areas most affected by COVID-19 from 24 October, including Athens, from 12.30AM to 5AM. Several new restrictions were introduced from 3 November in Athens and other major Greek cities, including a curfew from midnight to 5AM, mandatory use of face</p>

		<p>masks in all public areas and the full closure of places of entertainment – including cinemas. Most Greek cinemas closed from that date. Greece went back into a national lockdown from 7 November. Hairdressers, bookstores and other retailers were allowed to reopen from 14 December. Schools, shops and other businesses were allowed to reopen from 11 February- but not cinemas. It was announced on 29 January that schools would after all not reopen following a rise in local cases. Greece extended its coronavirus lockdown to 16 March as it reported the highest number of new cases recorded so far in 2021. From 5 April, small retail shops will reopen. Consumers will need to make appointments and comply with a 3-hour limit for shopping.</p>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>17 March to 18 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>11 Nov. 2020 to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>With the exception of Budapest and its surrounding areas, most businesses were allowed to reopen from 1 May 2020. The state of emergency was lifted on 18 June, allowing cinemas to reopen immediately. Most cinemas decided to reopen from early July.</p> <p>A state of emergency was introduced again in Hungary from 4 November. As part of the new restrictions, a curfew was introduced from midnight to 5AM, only every third chair can be occupied at public event, and mask wearing became mandatory at all time. Most cinemas decided to close following these announcements. New restrictions were introduced from 11 November resulting in the formal closure of all cinemas. These restrictions were later extended to 1 March and then again to 15 March. Additional restrictions were announced on 8 March, including closing most stores for two weeks and kindergartens and primary schools until April 7. Hungary’s prime minister said on 23 March that the country would not reopen its economy before all citizens older than 65 who have registered for a Covid-19 vaccine are jabbed. He also stated there was a “realistic chance” of schools reopening from April 19, once teachers and staff have been vaccinated. As of 26 March, 71% of those aged above 65 years who have registered for a job have been vaccinated. <b>The decision to reopen schools was delayed by three weeks on 9 April.</b></p>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>16 March to 29 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>7 Oct. 2020 to 2 Dec. 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>24 Dec. 2020 to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>National health authorities’ guidance on social distancing (2m) effectively closed all cinemas from 16 March. The Irish Government ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses on 25 March. 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><b>LOCAL CLOSURES</b> 19 Sept. 2020 to TBA 2021(Dublin)</p>	<p>The Irish Government announced new nationwide restrictions from 7 October, including the closure of Irish cinemas. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 2 December. Following a rise in local cases, cinemas were required to close again from 24 December. A reopening date has yet to be announced. Cinemas are not expected to be able to reopen before March. Ireland's lockdown is set to be extended until April, according to a declaration from the Irish prime minister on 11 February. The Government suggested on 19 February that Ireland could be facing another nine weeks of strict restrictions. A reopening timeline was presented in late March, starting from 12 April with the full return to school for all Children. A further review of restrictions will take place on 4 May 2021. The reopening of cinemas is currently not mentioned in the timeline.</p>
<p><b>ITALY</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b> <b>23 Feb. - 8 Mar. to 15 June 2020</b> <b>26 October to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>Regional bans from 23 February resulted in the closure of 48% of Italian cinemas. On 8 March, the National Government ordered all cinemas to close. Bookshops and shops selling children's clothing were the first allowed to reopen from 14 April. Bars and restaurants reopened from 1 June and cinemas were allowed to reopen from 15 June.</p> <p>From 19 October, bars and restaurants had to close at midnight. Following a rise in local cases, the Italian Government decided to close cinemas from 26 October. Five coronavirus "red zones" in Italy returned to a full lockdown from 6 November, with all non-essential shops required to close. Cinemas are expected to remain closed throughout January and February 2021, as lockdown measures were extended to at least 5 March by the Italian Government. Leading health experts have publicly criticised the current tiered system of regional restrictions as "ineffective" and have urged ministers to follow the example of other European countries in implementing stricter measures. The Italian Government indicated that current restrictions would not be eased in March 2021 and that the tiered system would be maintained. Culture Minister Dario Franceschini has pushed for the new decree to allow the reopening of cinemas by 27 March and announced that the Government's technical scientific committee, which advises on public health measures, had given its green light. This date was chosen for its symbolic nature - World Theatre Day falls on 27 March. In theory, cinemas located in yellow zones could be allowed to reopen from that date with preassigned seats, a 1m safety distance, a 10PM curfew, a 25% capacity limit, a ban on F&amp;B sales, temperature checks at the entrance and mandatory mask wearing at all time. It remains to be seen how many regions will be qualified as</p>

		yellow zones by the end of the month. It was announced on 12 March that Italy's government was expected to announce the closure of schools, restaurants and shops across most of the country – Lombardy and Calabria will be qualified as red zones from 15 March, with several other regions moving to orange. Moreover, a nationwide lockdown was announced for the Easter weekend, from 3-5 April. On those days, Italians will be allowed to leave their homes only for work, health or emergency reasons. Anti-coronavirus lockdown measures in Italy were later extended to April 13.
<b>KOSOVO</b>	<b>OPEN</b> <b>12 March to 1 October 2020</b>	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>CLOSED</b> <b>14 March to 12 May 2020</b> <b>9 Nov. 2020 to TBA 2021</b>	From 12 May 2020, 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 most social activities. A partial lockdown was announced from 9 November, resulting in the closure of all cinemas. It was announced on 8 February that the current state of emergency would be extended until 6 April 2021 – cinemas are for the moment not allowed to reopen until that date. However, beginning on 8 February, smaller retail shops were allowed to reopen. Latvia's state of emergency ended on 6 April. Only a few restrictions will be eased from 7 April, including the reopening of retail stores. Private events and private gatherings remain banned. Cinemas remain closed.
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>CLOSED</b> <b>13 March to 31 May 2020</b> <b>7 Nov. 2020 to April 2021</b>	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 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. These measures were extended to 17 December. The Lithuanian government decided on 7 December to prolong its nation-wide quarantine until December 31. This lockdown was further extended to 31 January. The Lithuanian Government on 27 January extended the coronavirus lockdown and the ban on non-essential travel between municipalities until March. Lithuania's government extended the national lockdown to the end of March in late February.

<p><b>LUXEMBOURG</b></p>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>16 March to 17 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>26 November to 11 January 2021</b></p>	<p>Construction sites, along with shops selling gardening/DIY tools reopened from 20 April. Cinemas were allowed to reopen immediately from 29 May. This decision was unexpected and cinema operators decided to reopen from 17 June.</p> <p>From 28 October, a curfew was introduced from 11PM to 6AM, in addition to a ban on F&amp;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. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 11 January, with the main local cinema chain reopening from 13 January. Luxembourg announced on 25 March a partial reopening of its hospitality industry, with cafés and restaurants able to serve customers again in outdoor areas from 7 April.</p>
<p><b>MALTA</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>16 March to 5 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>4 March to 26 April 2021</b></p>	<p>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. Malta ordered in early March the closure of restaurants, clubs, bars and places of entertainment until April to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Maltese government ordered on 10 March non-essential shops and schools to close amid a surge in COVID-19 cases. On 28 March, Malta tightened its coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings outdoors from four to two. <b>Various restrictions were eased from 12 April, while non-essential businesses – including cinemas – were allowed to reopen from 26 April.</b></p>
<p><b>MONTENEGRO</b></p>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>13 March to 1 July 2020</b></p>	<p>Shops, fitness centres, barbers and beauty salons reopened from 4 May. Most businesses reopened from 18 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 1 June. Local operators decided to reopen from early July.</p>
<p><b>NETHERLANDS</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>15 March to 1 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>4-19 Nov. 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>15 December to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>Retailers were allowed to reopen from 28 April. Restaurants and cinemas followed from 1 June.</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. 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. Cinemas with a restaurant or cafe area were required to close it at 10PM and stop welcoming new customers from 9PM. The Netherlands introduced a "partial lockdown" from</p>

		<p>14 October. It was announced on 4 November that cinemas would be required to close. They were allowed to reopen from 19 November, with other restrictions still in place. A third round of closure was announced in mid-December, with cinemas forced to close for a third time from 15 December. The closure was later extended to 2 March 2021. The Dutch prime minister has called on the country to respect a night-time curfew, saying it was still needed to fight the pandemic despite a court ruling on 16 February that the 9PM until 4.30AM curfew amounted to an unwarranted limitation of personal freedom and lacked proper legal basis. The appeals court later said that the 9pm-4:30am curfew introduced on 23 January was a proportional measure to tackle the Covid-19 crisis. The Government later extended existing restrictions until at least 15 March. The Netherlands will extend its coronavirus curfew until March 31. The Dutch Prime Minister said on 17 March that cinemas could reopen "in the summer" – a statement which was publicly criticized by the Dutch cinema association. The Government is currently discussing the introduction of "COVID-19 test certificates" which would be mandatory in order to attend public events or enter certain businesses. The proposal has been submitted for consultation to the public and has been met with criticism by cinema operators. In late March, the Dutch cinema association <u>formally announced it would not take part in the pilot project</u>. The government will launch a limited number of test pilots in April. The pilots are small-scale, carried out by participating parties on a maximum of 3 consecutive days. Not participating in the pilots has no consequences for when the sector is allowed to reopen. From 31 March the start of the curfew will be pushed back to 10PM, after local authorities said daylight savings time would make it difficult for the police to enforce the original rule.</p>
<p><b>NORTH MACEDONIA</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>10 March to 24 Sept. 2020</b></p> <p><b>6 April 2021 to 20 April 2021</b></p>	<p>Most business have been allowed to reopen gradually from 18 or 25 May. Cinemas were only 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, as citizens were encouraged to stay home from 9PM. Cinemas have remained open at 30% capacity, with the main local chain only opened certain days of the week in late 2020. Local restrictions were eased in early 2021. <b>Most cinemas in North Macedonia were required to close again on 6 April 2021 following the Government's decision to impose additional restrictive measures until 20 April to curb COVID-19 infections. The measures do not</b></p>

		impose a direct ban on cinemas, but most decided to close due to the new nationwide curfew from 8PM.
<b>NORWAY</b>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>12 March to 7 May 2020</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 6 November to 2021 TBA (Oslo and other municipalities)</p>	<p>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. In the city of Bergen and Stavanger/Sandnes, maximum occupancy per room was reduced to 20 people.</p> <p>The Government recommended on 18 January that all cultural performances and shows should be cancelled or postponed for another two weeks – or respect a limit of 200 people per show. Cinemas in Oslo remained closed. It was announced on 1 February that restrictions would be eased in Oslo and several other municipalities from 3 February, which should allow most cinemas to reopen. But cinemas were still closed in Oslo and Bergen as of mid-March. The 200 people limit still applies to the rest of the country. Restrictions were reinforced in Oslo from mid-March, as non-essential shops remain closed.</p>
<b>POLAND</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>12 March to 6 June 2020</b></p> <p><b>7 November to 12 February 2021</b></p> <p><b>20 March to 18 April 2021</b></p>	<p>Restrictions were first lifted from 20 April. From 4 May, shopping malls, hotels and certain cultural institutions reopened. In the fourth and final phase starting from 6 June, cinemas were allowed to reopen.</p> <p>From August, occupancy limits varied for cinemas located in geographical zones that were considered “at risk” (between 50% and 25% occupancy limits). From early October, all cinemas had to abide by a 25% capacity limit. The Polish government announced the closure of cinemas from 7 November following a rise in local COVID-19 cases. From 1 February, some restrictions were relaxed. Cinemas were formally allowed to reopen from 12 February, with a 50% capacity limit and a ban on F&amp;B sales. Several major operators already indicated that they would not reopen from 12 February, as the existing restrictions made it too challenging for them to do so. Over 180 independent reopened immediately. It was announced on 19 February that Poland was recording the beginning of a third wave of coronavirus infections, with local authorities warning that eased restrictions might be rolled back soon. It was announced on 11 March that tougher restrictions would be introduced in Warsaw from 15 March following a rise in local cases. These tougher restrictions were extended to more regions in the following days, as most cinemas closed across the country. It was announced on 17 March that Poland would return to a full lockdown from 20 March until at least 9 April. Cinemas across the country were required to close – even if most did not reopen since November 2020</p>

		because of strict reopening restrictions. <b>On 7 April, restrictions were extended to at least 18 April.</b>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>16 March to 1 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>15 January to 19 April 2021</b></p>	<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, as businesses were required to close at 10PM and cinema occupancy was limited to 50%. From 28 November, a ban on F&amp;B sales was introduced across the country. Following a spike in local cases, cinemas were required to close again from 15 January 2021. The new measures will be effective for at least 4 weeks. Among other measures, retailers have to close by 20:00 during the week and 13:00 at weekends - with the exception of food retailers. Portugal has formally extended its nationwide lockdown on 12 February until 1 March. The lockdown was again extended until at least mid-March. It was announced that the Government would put together a plan to gradually lift the strict rules. On 11 March, a reopening plan was announced by the Government, starting from 15 March with some eased restrictions. Cinemas are currently expected to reopen from 19 April, in the third reopening stage of the presented plan. This date was confirmed again in late March, as infection rates continued to decrease. Several restrictions were eased on 5 April, as museums and outdoor terraces were reopened.</p>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<p><b>PARTLY CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>12 March to 1 Sept. 2020</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 7-15 October and 20 October to January 2021 (major cities)</p>	<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. Cinemas were ordered to close again in several Romanian cities, including Bucharest, from 7 October. 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 be required to close again. From 9 November all businesses were required to close at 9PM. The main cinema chain in Romania closed all its local sites from that date. Sibiu was the first Romanian city to reopen its cinemas in 2021, from 3 January. Cinemas were allowed to reopen in Bucharest from 25 January 2020 at 30% capacity and a 9PM curfew. The state of alert was extended in Romania on 14 March 2021. From that date, cinemas could operate at 50% capacity if the rate of infections within 14 days was inferior or equal to 1.5 cases for 1,000 persons, and at 30% if higher than 1.5 and lower or equal to 3 cases for 1,000 persons. Cinemas are required to close in towns where the</p>



		<p>rate of infections is higher than 3 cases for 1,000 persons. From late March 2021, most cinemas have been closed across the country. Cinemas are open at 30% to 50% capacity in regions that meet certain epidemiological criteria. On 26 March, Romania extended its curfew, as the movement of people will be restricted from 8PM onwards, and shops will be shut from 6PM Friday until Sunday in towns with more than 4 cases per 1,000 people. Movement will be restricted from 8PM in towns with more than 7.5 cases per 1,000 people.</p>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>26 March to 15 July 2020</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 17 October to 1 November (Sevastopol and other regions) Additional local temporary closures</p>	<p>Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 15 July. But, as was the case for closure, formal reopening decisions were made by Regional Governors. For instance, the regions of Sakhalin and Leningrad allowed cinemas to reopen in late June whom 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.</p> <p>In early October, some Russian regions forced cinemas to close again (one region required cinemas located in shopping malls to close during the weekend). From mid-October, following spikes in local cases, several regions and cities, including Sevastopol, have decided to temporarily close cinemas for 2 weeks. Others reduced occupancy from 50% to 25%. 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. These principles were enforced in Moscow, among other regions, while in St. Petersburg occupancy was temporarily reduced to 25% in December 2020. At the beginning of 2021 about 97% of Russian cinema screens had reopened in 83 regions of 85. There are still capacity restrictions (from 70% to 15%) in more than half of these.</p>
<b>SERBIA</b>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>18 March to 24 August 2020</b></p>	<p>Beauty and fitness businesses were allowed to reopen from 27 April. 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 were banned. Cinemas are excluded from this but must limit numbers of patrons to 1 per 4m<sup>2</sup> and limit capacity to 500 per room. Cinemas are not allowed to operate between 8PM and 5AM on weekdays and weekends.</p>
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>9 March to 20 May 2020</b></p> <p><b>15 October to</b></p>	<p>From 22 April, larger shops, open-air markets and car dealerships were allowed to reopen. From 6 May, all shops reopened. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 20 May. Most sites reopened by mid- to late June, when official restrictions were eased down.</p>

	<b>16 Nov. 2020</b> <b>19 December to TBA 2021</b>	<p>Slovakia introduced a new state of emergency on 1 October. Bars and restaurants were required to close at 10PM. Cinemas were ordered to close again from 15 October. They were allowed to reopen from 16 November with a 50% capacity limit.</p> <p>It was announced on 17 December that Slovakia would close most shops and services and limit people's movement from Saturday 19 December. The lockdown is expected to last until at least 7 February.</p>
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<b>CLOSED</b> <b>10 March to 18 May 2020</b> <b>16 October to TBA 2021</b>	<p>Various shops reopened from 20 April. 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. The Slovenian Government announced that restrictions would be eased from early February. Kindergartens, schools, museums, galleries and libraries were the first allowed to reopen. A decree determining which businesses may open next has not been released yet.</p>
<b>SPAIN</b>	<b>OPEN</b> <b>26 March to 25 May 2020</b> <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) 24 January to 15 February (Valencia)	<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. On 29 July, a court ruling suspended the ban, allowing the opening of all cinemas in the province.</p> <p>As of the first week of August, 70% of Spanish cinemas (in terms of box office market share) had reopened. Regions, provinces and cities have been adopting different local measures from October, with occupancy limits, distancing rules, etc. widely varying from one place to another. Starting from 1 October, the Spanish Government ordered a partial lockdown in the capital Madrid and surrounding areas. Under the restrictions, social gatherings were limited to six people. Cinemas remained open. From 24 October, all bars, restaurants, cinemas and theatre in Madrid had to close at midnight. The Catalan Government announced on 14 October a 50% capacity limit for cinemas, who were also required to close at 11PM. F&amp;B sales were banned from 16 October. The region of Aragon also banned F&amp;B sales, while the region of Navarra banned F&amp;B consumption and enforced a 30% capacity limit. From the</p>

		<p>last week of October, a curfew has been in place across the country, with exact timing depending on the region. Cinemas were required to close in Catalonia from 30 October until 23 November, with a limited occupancy of 50% and 500 people maximum per room from that date. Increased restrictions were announced for Andalucia from 10 November to 10 December, as cinemas were forced to close. Cinemas were required to close in Asturia from 28 October to 3 December. Cinemas located in commercial centres in Castilla y Leon have been closed from 8 November.</p> <p>Following a spike in local cases, the city of Valencia has introduced from 24 January strict distancing rules limiting gatherings to 2 people, effectively forcing the closure of local cinemas. These measures will be effective until at least 15 February.</p> <p>While theoretically allowed to operate, a large number of Spanish cinemas have closed their doors from late 2020 due to the lack of content and evolving local restriction measures. As of early February, it is estimated that only 40% of Spanish cinemas are effectively operating – most of them only on certain weekdays. In March 2021, the share of opened cinemas has remained stable at around 45%. A new law introduced on 30 March made mask wearing outdoors obligatory throughout Spain. The regulation, which has been in force in Catalonia since last July, is now being extended to the entire country.</p> <p>As of early April, the share of opened cinemas rose to approximately 80%. Restrictions continue to vary widely from one region to another, with different occupancy limit and minimum safety distance enforced. F&amp;B sales are entirely banned in 8 regions.</p>
<p><b>SWITZERLAND</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>17 March to 6 June 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>12 December to TBA 2021</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b></p> <p>21 October (cantons of Valais and Bern)</p> <p>2-5 November (cantons of Geneva, Jura, Fribourg, Vaud and Neuchatel)</p>	<p>The closure process has been managed at cantons level, with some forcing cinemas to close from 13 March, followed by a federal decision on 17 March. Major operators decided to close from 16 March.</p> <p>Schools, shops, restaurants reopened 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 screenings, but cantons were allowed to introduce stricter rules. From 28 October, an 11PM curfew was introduced for bars and restaurants, and events were limited to maximum 50 attendees. The canton of Geneva was under ‘semi-confinement’ from 2 November, resulting in the closure of local cinemas. Other cantons have introduced stricter</p>

	<p>4-7 December (Grisons and Schaffhausen)</p>	<p>measures in the following days. All cinemas located in French-speaking Switzerland effectively closed in early November, roughly representing a third of the national market. The canton of Ticino introduced a ban on gatherings of more than 5 people from 10 November, later increased to 30 people, with local cinemas closing and reopening shortly after. A ban on F&amp;B consumption was introduced across Romandy (French-speaking part of Switzerland). The city of Basel announced a limited occupancy of 15 people in November, forcing all cinemas to close. The Cantons of Grisons and Schaffhausen decided to close cinemas from 4-7 December. The Federal Government announced a 7PM curfew from 21 December, but regions less badly hit by the pandemic would still be allowed to have locations open until 11PM. It was finally announced on 12 December that all Swiss cinemas would be required to close their doors. There was a lot of confusion following the announcement, as the Swiss Minister of Culture initially announced that cinemas would be allowed to remain open. Restriction measures were later extended to February, with cinemas and other non-essential services not expected to reopen before March. It was announced in mid-February that non-essential shops, museums, libraries, zoos and botanical gardens will be allowed to reopen from 1 March. From 22 March, outdoor events with audiences of up to 150 people could be allowed, while indoor events - including cinemas - would be limited to 50 attendees. Mask wearing would be mandatory at all time, along with a 1.5m safety distance. It was decided on 19 March to postpone the reopening of cinemas and other businesses as the local epidemiological situation worsened. The next reopening evaluation will be on 14 April.</p>
<p><b>SWEDEN</b></p>	<p><b>PARTLY CLOSED</b>  <b>24 November to TBA 2021</b></p>	<p>The main Swedish operator closed its sites on 18 March due to official restrictions on social gatherings. A few independent cinemas remained open. The Swedish Government did not introduce a lockdown and many cinemas have remained open in the country throughout 2020. On 16 November, local authorities introduced a ban on public events of more than eight people. Cinemas and other businesses were again not formally required to close but citizens were urged to stay home as much as possible, creating confusion as to whether cinemas - as well as other businesses - were allowed to operate or not. The largest local chain - representing approximately 2/3 of the market - announced the closure of its cinemas from 24 November. A new pandemic law was introduced on 8 January giving the government power to close certain businesses or limit visitor numbers and opening hours, making new restrictions much more binding than those "recommended" in 2020.</p>

		In late March, Sweden's health agency asked the government to postpone a planned easing of some restrictions by nearly a month from 11 April to 3 May - provided that the infection situation improves."
<b>TURKEY</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>17 March to 3 July 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>17 November to 12 May 2021</b></p>	<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 only allowed to reopen from 3 July. Only 60% of Turkish cinemas had effectively reopened in August. From 4 November, restaurants, bars, hairdressers, barbers, cinemas and all other similar entertainment venues and businesses were required to close from 10PM. Cinemas were forced to close again from 17 November until at least 1 March. The Turkish Government has indicated in February 2021 that cinemas would only be allowed to reopen from 1 April. On 29 March, new restrictions were introduced across the country, to be effective during the month of Ramadan. Out of the country's 81 provinces, 58 were identified as "red" or "very high-risk" zone, representing 80% of the total population. Restaurants can only serve as delivery and take-out, and a nationwide curfew from 9M-5AM will continue. The reopening of cinemas and other venues has been postponed to at least 12 May.</p>
<b>UKRAINE</b>	<p><b>OPEN</b></p> <p><b>17 March to 2 July 2020</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>8 January to 24 January 2021</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b> 20 March 2021 to 9 April 2021 (Kyiv)</p>	<p>The Government outlined a five-step reopening plan, starting from 11 May. Cinemas were initially allowed to reopen from 10 June. Cinema operators, following negotiations with local authorities, formally agreed to reopen from 2 July. A weekend curfew was introduced across Ukraine in November, resulting in the closure of all local cinemas on Saturdays and Sundays. Most cinemas decided to continue to operate during weekdays. Schools, restaurants and gyms were closed from 8 January as a new nationwide lockdown took effect. The new measures also include the closure of entertainment centres – including cinemas – and a ban on mass gatherings until 24 January. Ukrainian authorities effectively brought to an end lockdown measures from 24 January, allowing for most businesses to reopen. Strict safety measures are still in place. Several local cinemas have effectively reopened from that date. A state of emergency, as well as a general quarantine, will remain in place until 28 February. The cities of Kyiv introduced a three-week lockdown from March 20 to April 9, with cinemas required to close. A similar lockdown was introduced in Lviv from March 19 to March 28.</p>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<p><b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>17 March to 4-27 July 2020</b></p>	<p>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.</p>

	<p><b>Nov.-Dec. 2020 to Ap.-May 2021</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL CLOSURE</b></p> <p>16 October to 11 Dec. 2020</p> <hr/> <p>26 December to April 2021 (Northern Ireland)</p> <p>23 October to 9 November</p> <hr/> <p>20 December to April 2021 (Wales)</p> <p>2 November to 17 May (Scotland)</p> <p>5 November to 2 Dec. 2020</p> <hr/> <p>4 January to 17 May (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. 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.</p> <p>From 18 July, the Government's focus shifted from a national lockdown to targeted local lockdowns.</p> <p>On Tuesday 22 September, new restrictions were announced for England, including that, from Thursday 24 September, pubs, restaurants, bars as well as cinemas will only be allowed to operate up until 10PM. Screenings which began before 10PM were able to continue to their conclusion.</p> <p>A three-tier alert system was introduced on 12 October, allowing for the introduction of localised restrictions. In Northern Ireland, gatherings were limited to 15 people maximum from 16 October, resulting in the closure of cinemas until 11 December. In London, households were not allowed to mix indoors, including in pubs and restaurants from 17 October. Lancashire and Liverpool 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 and most outdoor venues. Cinemas were able to operate in all tiers.</p> <p>In Wales, a national coronavirus "fire-break" was introduced from 23 October until 9 November, with cinemas closed during that time.</p> <p>In Scotland, most towns and cities were put in 'Level 3' from 2 November, resulting in the closure of the vast majority of local cinemas. Local pubs and restaurants have been allowed to remain open and remain subject to less exacting social distancing measures than do cinemas.</p> <p>England announced on 31 October the introduction of a lockdown from 5 November to 2 December, resulting in the closure of all local cinemas. England returned to a 'tier' system from that date, with increasing restrictions across all three tiers. Whereas before lockdown cinemas were able to open in all three tiers, it was decided that those in Tier 3 (the VERY HIGH Alert Level) would remain closed. It was confirmed on 26 November that cinemas in London and Liverpool could reopen from December 2, with several restrictions, while those in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Bristol had to remain closed. Roughly a quarter of UK cinemas were operating in the first week of December. New restrictions announced on 13 December in</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. Rules related to curfews are not included in the table below and can be found the previous section. For territories that are currently closed, the guidelines below were the last valid before closure.

COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
ALBANIA	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 1/3 per room</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul>
AUSTRIA	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 500 per room / groups of 4</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• F&amp;B sales restricted</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b>            Occupancy limit was set at 250 people per room from reopening, increased to 500 from August 2020. Mask-wearing was made mandatory at all times but initially could be removed once seated. F&amp;B sales were limited to inside the screening room and were banned for events running less than three hours</p>
BELGIUM	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 200</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• F&amp;B sales banned</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b>            Cinemas were first allowed to welcome a maximum of 200 visitors per show and respect a distance of 1.5m between customers. The occupancy was temporarily reduced to 100 visitors from 29 July to 1 September. The safety distance was reduced to 1m from 1 September. From 19 October, F&amp;B sales were banned in cinemas across the country.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b>            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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety measures must be clearly communicated to staff and customers;</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing of 1m must be respected at all times between people that do not come together as a group;</li> <li>• Online and contactless ticketing should be encouraged;</li> <li>• Maximum of 200 people per show / later reduced to 100;</li> <li>• Manage audience flow (entrance and exit);</li> <li>• Regular cleaning and disinfection of contact surfaces;</li> <li>• Information and staff training to implement the above measures.</li> </ul>
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul>
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50% and 100 people maximum per room</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b> Maximum occupancy was limited to 30% from reopening and increased to 50% from 15 June (with a limited capacity of 100 people maximum). F&amp;B sales were banned until 15 June.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disinfecting the screening room after each show;</li> <li>• People should enter the screening alone;</li> <li>• Hand disinfectant must be available for customers;</li> <li>• A mask must be worn during the show;</li> <li>• Traffic flow must be in one direction – separate entrance and exit;</li> <li>• Cinemas must communicate efficiently about the measures in place.</li> </ul>
<b>CROATIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b> From 15 July, face masks were made mandatory for 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 at all time. Cinema-goers can remove them once they are seated.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b> The cinema chain Blitz Cinestar – in cooperation with the Croatian institute of Public Health the Culture and Media Ministry – issued the recommendations below (<a href="#">available here, in Croatian</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage indicating existing measures in accordance with <u>recommendations from the Croatian Institute of Public Health</u>;</li> <li>• Enhanced personal hygiene &amp; hand disinfecting: Placement of hand sanitizers at the entrance and inside the complex;</li> <li>• Daily temperature checks for staff;</li> <li>• 2m physical distancing, selling tickets with enough space between seats between individual visitors or groups of visitors (groups can sit together);</li> <li>• Designated entrances/exits for visitors;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More time in between screenings to avoid visitors congregating in the common area of the multiplex;</li> <li>• Visitor records including basic data for ticket purchase, with online sales being enabled and encouraged;</li> <li>• Protective barriers and masks for cashiers, with more frequent hand sanitization;</li> <li>• The sale of food and beverages to be performed in accordance with <u>the Recommendations for the Prevention of Infection in catering facilities</u> ;</li> <li>• Monitoring and proper maintenance of air conditioning and ventilation filters;</li> <li>• Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and those used by a large number of people.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CYPRUS</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50%</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed to eat and drink</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b> Mask wearing was made mandatory at all times from late October 2020.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b> A national safety protocol was published on 11 September. <u>The document is available here.</u></p>
<p><b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 30% (every second row occupied and groups of 2)</li> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b> Rules such as mandatory mask wearing, occupancy limit and a ban on F&amp;B sales, introduced for the reopening of cinemas in May 2020, were scrapped in mid-June. From 1 September, mask wearing was made mandatory at all times if the number of participants exceeded 100 people. From 10 September, this rule was reinforced and cinema-goers had to wear a mask at all time.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b> Cinema operators drafted self-regulatory recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic ticket sale is encouraged;</li> <li>• 2m distance between staff and customer at box office;</li> <li>• 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>• Visitors must wear masks;</li> <li>• Reduce/remove all seats in the foyer and corridors;</li> <li>• Air renewal systems are encouraged;</li> <li>• Staff and customers must wear masks;</li> <li>• Staff should regularly disinfect, wash hands and regularly dispose of gloves;</li> <li>• Disinfectant should be available at all times;</li> <li>• An employee should be in charge of monitoring the respect of social distancing and preventing the accumulation of people;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning should be done using virucides, UV radiation and air ionization;</li> <li>• Regularly disinfected contact areas and objects;</li> <li>• Locker rooms for spectators are not recommended;</li> <li>• 3D glasses should be disinfected;</li> <li>• Notices for visitors should be visible on the premises of the cinema.</li> </ul>
<b>DENMARK</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 500 people and groups of 10 maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1-2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Every other seat must be empty or 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. From 29 October, staff and customers were required to wear masks. They could be removed by cinema-goers once seated in the screening room. The Danish Cinema Association, Danske Biografer has encouraged cinema-goers to download the “Infection App” from the Ministry of Health and the Elderly, to help track and trace COVID-19 infections.</p>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 750 people maximum</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <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. But distancing principles have to be respected (which effectively means a limited occupancy). Cinemas have to collect contact details of their customers. Masks were never required. Until 15 June, cinemas had to respect the national 2+2 rule: up to 2 people together in a public space and a distance of at least 2m from other groups.</p>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 10-50 people per room</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1-2m</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Indoor gatherings were limited to a maximum of 500 people per room with capacity limited to 50% until 1 August. National safety rules must be respected for events with 500+ attendees, while they were only recommended for smaller events. Mask-wearing has been recommended (but not mandatory) for staff and customers since late September. Cinemas and other event venues are encouraged to collect information on their customers for tracking and tracing purposes, but it is done on a voluntary basis. From October 2020, local restrictions have reduced occupancy to 10-50 per room depending on the region.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p>Recommendations drafted by the Finnish cinema association include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage online and contactless ticketing;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure social distance of 1m inside the screening room, with one empty seat between groups;</li> <li>• Ensure social distance of 1-2m outside of the screening room;</li> <li>• Regularly clean and disinfect contact areas.</li> </ul> <p>Additional recommendations related to hygiene rules and sanitary precautions are available <a href="#">here</a>, in Finnish.</p>
<p><b>FRANCE</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 1m / one seat between groups</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed to eat and drink</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Mask wearing was at first only mandatory for staff members in contact with customers and only recommended for cinema-goers. Masks became mandatory outside of the screening room from 17 July and mandatory at all times for staff and customers from 1 September. Between 17 July and 17 October, it was not mandatory to have one empty seat between customers if they were wearing a mask, apart from regions identified as “red zones” by the Government.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p>The French cinema association published official guidelines, approved by the French Government <a href="#">and available online via this link (in French) – last updated on 19 October 2020</a>. Those guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing for staff and cinema-goers;</li> <li>• Staff members should be encouraged to take their temperature before coming to work;</li> <li>• A staff member should be in charge of health and safety training/ensuring guidelines are respected;</li> <li>• Disinfectant gel should be available at all times across the cinema for both staff and customers;</li> <li>• 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>• Encourage online/contactless ticketing when possible;</li> <li>• Inform staff and customers about all the measures that have been introduced, including inside the screening room on the screen;</li> <li>• Staff members should respect 1m/4m<sup>2</sup> social distancing at all times, which can be ensured by adapting working hours, for example;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Facilitate/improve audience flow in order to reduce traffic;</li> <li>• Stagger start/end time for shows to reduce traffic;</li> <li>• Ensure air circulation by keeping doors open between shows.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>• Safety rules vary widely from one German state to another</li> <li>• Requirement to collect customer data</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>German states all have different health and safety guidelines. 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 was set at 250 per room while in North Rhine-Westphalia there was no capacity limit. 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 at different points in 2020. It is mandatory in all German states for cinema operators to collect customers data and share this with local authorities in case of an outbreak, for tracking and tracing purposes. 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.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p>The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina published a paper outlining three key measures to be implemented from reopening: (1) general use of mouth and nose protection, (2) short-term use of mobile phone data and (3) increase in testing capacities. <a href="#">More information can be found here.</a></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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing information on the virus;</li> <li>• Compliance with distance regulations;</li> <li>• Contactless ticket control;</li> <li>• Use of protective screens at the box office;</li> <li>• Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.;</li> <li>• Provide protective masks and gloves for employees;</li> <li>• Regularly clean/disinfect specific areas and surfaces;</li> <li>• Provide instruction in case of suspected infection (stay at home) and actively communicate with your staff.</li> </ul> <p><u>Protection of visitors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information on health and safety measures;</li> <li>• Compliance with 1.5m distance regulations in the lobby with markings on the floor, etc.;</li> <li>• Compliance with distance regulations in the screening room with fixed seat allocation, reduced capacity, etc.;</li> <li>• Compliance with distance regulations with staggered showtimes start/end times;</li> <li>• Minimise contact between visitors and staff;</li> <li>• Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.;</li> <li>• Regular ventilation of the lobby and screening rooms.</li> </ul>
<b>GREECE</b>	<b>Summary</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• Mandatory contact-less ticketing and F&amp;B sales</li> </ul>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Mask-wearing has been made mandatory in cinemas, theatres and social institutions across the country from mid-September.</p>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 100-200 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>From 29 June, a 2m minimum distance between patrons and a maximum of 50 people per room was enforced. The Irish Government postponed the increase to 100 people for indoor gatherings due to a rise in cases of COVID-19 during the summer. Since 10 August, face masks or coverings are mandatory in cinemas and other indoor public settings. On 15 September, the Irish Government launched a 5 Level <u>Framework for Restrictive Measures in Response to COVID-19</u>. 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.</p>
<b>ITALY</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 200 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be remove once seated</li> <li>• Requirement to collect customer data</li> </ul> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p>Regional authorities can enforce additional restrictions. Official guidelines include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make information available to customers on the safety measures;</li> <li>• 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>• Installing physical barriers (plexiglass) between audience groups can replace the 1m distance;</li> <li>• 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>• 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>• 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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The box office and other workstations can be equipped with physical barriers;</li> <li>• Encourage electronic, contactless ticketing;</li> <li>• Hand sanitising units must be available across the cinema;</li> <li>• Ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of all areas and contact surfaces;</li> <li>• Ensure good air circulation inside the cinema;</li> <li>• For food and beverage sales and services, cinemas will have to follow rules that apply to the restaurant sector.</li> </ul>
<b>KOSOVO</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Cinema-goers can come in groups of 5 people maximum. Staff members are required to wear masks and regularly check their temperature. <u><a href="#">Additional hygiene rules can be found here.</a></u></p>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50% / 300 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1-2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• Requirement to collect customer data</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <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 together, minimum 2m social distancing), before being replaced by 1m between customers inside the auditorium and 2m outside of the auditorium. From mid-October, mask-wearing was made mandatory in all public spaces, including in cinemas. From August 6, visitors had to register and provide their contact details.</p>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50% / 600 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• F&amp;B sales banned</li> <li>• Requirement to collect customer data</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>From reopening, attendance was limited to 30 people per room, as a 2-metre distance between cinema-goers had to be ensured from reopening. As of late October, cinemas must respect a 50% occupancy limit and can welcome 600 cinema-goers per auditorium. The safety distance was reduced to 1m and mask-wearing was made mandatory at all times. 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><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F&amp;B sales banned</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b> Occupancy initially limited at maximum 20 people per screening. Seats must be reserved and pre-allocated. From 28 October, mask wearing was made mandatory at all time and F&amp;B sales were banned. Customers could previously remove their masks once they were seated.</p>
MALTA	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• Requirement to collect customer data</li> </ul> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b> <u>The detailed rules can be consulted <a href="#">here</a>.</u> Official rules include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible signage shall be affixed at the entrance of the premises, indicating the maximum number of patrons that the premises can welcome;</li> <li>• Check visitor’s temperature at the entrance for the presence of fever (persons with 37.2° or higher will be denied entrance);</li> <li>• Provide adequate and easily accessible hand sanitisers across the cinema;</li> <li>• Regulate audience traffic;</li> <li>• Ensure a 2m safety distance at all times;</li> <li>• 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>• 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;</li> <li>• The distribution of 3-D glasses to be reused is not allowed;</li> <li>• Ensure that staff and patrons wear masks or visors;</li> <li>• Provide ongoing cleaning and disinfection operations of all the common areas inside the premises;</li> <li>• Ensure that bar, restaurant or café facilities operate on the premises within the respective applicable guidelines.</li> </ul>
MONTENEGRO	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul>
NETHERLANDS	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 30 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• F&amp;B sales banned</li> <li>• Requirement to collect customer data</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b> From 1 June cinemas were limited to 30 people per screening. From 1 July there was no occupancy limit but a safety distance of 1.5m had to be enforced at all times, which meant according to local authorities an empty seat behind and in front of a seated attendee. Only children aged up to 17 years old could sit together without maintaining a distance of 1.5m. Therefore, real occupancy</p>



	<p>was closer to 1/3 per room. From 6 August, cinemas (along with cafes, restaurants, etc.) must have a reservation system and register the contact details of all guests. From 29 September, the occupancy limit was brought back to 30 people per screening. Cinemas with a restaurant or cafe area had to close it at 10PM and not welcome new customers from 9PM – cinemas had to close at midnight. From 14 October, bars or restaurants located in cinemas had to close. Following consultation with relevant authorities, cinemas entirely stopped selling F&amp;B from 20 October. From 14 October, mask wearing was made mandatory in indoor spaces. Cinema-goers could remove their mask once seated in the screening room. From late November, mask wearing was made mandatory at all times.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b> The Dutch cinema association’s <a href="#">safety guidelines</a> (last updated in early October 2020) include: <u>General recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors should only arrive 15 minutes before the start of the screening;</li> <li>• A 1.5m safety distance in the room should be ensured by escorting visitors to their seats. <a href="#">Practical tips</a> for people with disabilities on keeping the 1.5 m distance have been issued.</li> <li>• The doors should be left open until the start of the screening and be reopened by employees at the end of the screening;</li> <li>• Screening times should be staggered in order to regulate incoming and outgoing visitors and respect the official occupancy limit;</li> <li>• When leaving the room, visitors need to be escorted by staff.</li> </ul> <p><u>Ticketing recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cinema-goers should be encouraged to buy their tickets online and avoid public transport;</li> <li>• Visitors need to be made aware of the social distancing rules at the entrance of the cinema;</li> <li>• Ticket controls should only be done visually;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• A maximum of two people or a household (a group of people living under the same roof) is allowed.</li> </ul> <p><u>Hygiene recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand sanitizers should be available across the cinema;</li> <li>• Contact surfaces need to be cleaned multiple times a day;</li> <li>• Rooms should be closed during cleaning in between screenings and disinfectant should be used for contact surfaces;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <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><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 200 people maximum</li> </ul>

- Safety distance: 1m
- Mandatory mask wearing at all times
- F&B sales banned
- Requirement to collect customer data

#### **Additional details**

Cinemas were authorised to reopen with a capacity limit of 50 people per screening, increased to 200 people from 15 June. From reopening on 7 May the social distance was defined as one meter from face to face. This allowed every second seat in an auditorium to be used with the exception of groups who could sit together. From 18 June the authorities redefined the metre from shoulder to shoulder. This allowed just every third seat to be used. From 12 October the meter was again defined as from face to face (every second seat), except for Oslo (every third seat).

#### **Industry guidelines**

The Norwegian cinema association Film&Kino published a set of key health and safety recommendations for cinema operators, which include, but are not limited to:

- Inform customers and staff about measures taken;
- Train staff to efficiently implement those rules;
- Ensure social distancing in common areas, also between staff members, and reduce physical interactions (plexiglass at box office, etc.);
- Only card/contactless payment, no cash;
- Encourage online sales;
- Extra hygiene measures to be taken across the cinema, for specific areas as well as F&B, have hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.;
- Ensure at least a 1 metre distance (previously 2 metre) between each customer outside of the auditorium;
- Adapt seating arrangements to respect official social distancing rules (depending on row distance/seats it will vary from room to room);
- Staggered end/start times so as to avoid queues;
- Minimum 30 minutes for cleaning/disinfection between performances;
- Sick employees should stay at home;
- Ensure good air ventilation;
- The cinema must inform customers that contact information is stored for two weeks after the time of payment for infection control reasons (new rule included on 15 July).

Film&Kino also drafted a document outlining cinemas' reopening strategy. The document is available here, in Norwegian. Specifically related to health and safety measures, its recommendations include:

- Contact local authorities for advice and guidance;
- Practice/train staff to perform all new cleaning routines that must be introduced in advance;
- Provide clean uniforms to all employees;
- Buy latex work gloves;
- Hand disinfection stations must always be accessible to everyone;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoroughly clean and disinfect all equipment and furnishings several times before reopening;</li> <li>• Regularly clean specific contact areas and surfaces at least 5 times a day once reopened;</li> <li>• Inform and communicate efficiently with staff and customers about the new measures that have been introduced.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these health and safety guidelines, the reopening document also includes considerations related to rent payments, maintenance of equipment and building, finances and insurance, inventory, etc.</p>
<p><b>NORTH MACEDONIA</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 30%</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul>
<p><b>POLAND</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50%</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• F&amp;B sales banned</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Capacity was initially limited to 50% and mask wearing has been mandatory from reopening. From 24 October, occupancy was limited to 25% across the country, cinema-goers allowed to come in groups of 5 people maximum and F&amp;B only available for takeaway. Occupancy limits varied depending on specific geographical zones defined by local authorities (standard was 50% while red and yellow zones had to abide by a 25% cap). From 12 February 2021, cinemas were allowed to reopen with a 50% occupancy limit, a ban on F&amp;B sales and mandatory mask wearing at all times.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p>Official guidelines and recommendations (<a href="#">Polish version available here</a>) include the following key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customers and staff must be wearing a mask;</li> <li>• 50% occupancy inside the screening room, with one empty seat between viewers;</li> <li>• People living under the same roof, children and those with disabilities are not obliged to sit apart;</li> <li>• It is recommended to appoint a health coordinator;</li> <li>• If possible, it is recommended to regularly air/ventilate closed rooms;</li> <li>• Regularly clean and disinfect all public areas and contact surfaces, at increased frequency for toilets and concessions;</li> <li>• Make a hand washing and disinfectant unit available in the toilets and at the entrance and exit of the cinema;</li> <li>• Make instructions/measures visible across the cinema;</li> <li>• It is recommended that cinema-goers provide their contact details, to make tracing possible in case of contamination;</li> <li>• Ensure a 2m social distance when people are queuing;</li> <li>• For cinemas with one entrance - setting separate entry hours for screenings if possible;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online ticketing should be encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50%</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5-2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• F&amp;B sales banned</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></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. From 4 November, mask wearing was made mandatory at all time for staff and customers and occupancy was limited to 50%. From 28 November, a ban on F&amp;B sales was introduced across the country.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">The complete guidelines can be found here, in Portuguese.</a></u></p>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 30%</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times for staff members</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Health and safety rules have been enforced at local regional level. As of mid-September 2020, most cinemas were operating with a 50% capacity limit. On 27 October, mask-wearing was made mandatory in public spaces – but this federal rule was not enforced across the country. Mask wearing has been generally limited to staff members.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</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. <u><a href="#">Please find an English translation of the official document here.</a></u> These recommendations include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily temperature checks of employees;</li> <li>• Limit unnecessary contacts between employees;</li> <li>• Prohibit eating in the office, unless there in a specially designated room;</li> <li>• Make hand disinfection stations available across the cinema;</li> <li>• Provide staff with a supply of disposable masks and gloves and other sanitary material;</li> <li>• Ensure that staff use protective masks and gloves when interacting with customers;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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>• Recommend, if possible, contact-less concession sales;</li> <li>• Dispose of used masks and gloves;</li> <li>• Enhanced hygiene and daily cleaning of working areas, including disinfection of contact surfaces every 2 hours;</li> <li>• Improve air circulation and ventilation of your cinema;</li> <li>• Inform staff and customers about the measures taken and the need to comply with them;</li> <li>• Recommend that visitors wear masks;</li> <li>• Set intervals of at least 30 minutes between shows to allow for efficient cleaning and reduce traffic;</li> <li>• Reduce traffic inside the cinema by allowing customers to enter the auditorium 15 minutes before the show starts;</li> <li>• Recommend contactless payment methods and avoid the use of cash if possible – also check tickets using contactless techniques.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SERBIA</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 500 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated</li> </ul>
<p><b>SLOVAKIA</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 1,000 people maximum</li> <li>• Safety distance: 2m</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• F&amp;B sales banned</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Cinemas were allowed to operate with a capacity limit of 100 visitors from reopening, 500 from 15 June, increased to 1,000 from 1 July. Mask wearing was made mandatory in all public spaces and F&amp;B sales were banned from October 2020.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p>Most of the official rules below were scrapped from mid-June but reintroduced in early October 2020 with several additional restrictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times for staff and customers;</li> <li>• Ensure 2m space between customers at all times;</li> <li>• Remove seats in the lobby area;</li> <li>• Ensure 15m<sup>2</sup> per customers in the foyer;</li> <li>• Encourage cash-less payments;</li> <li>• Check temperature of each employee when they arrive to work (not mandatory);</li> <li>• Disinfection stands available for staff and customers across the cinema;</li> <li>• No hand dryer machines;</li> <li>• Clean all washable surface areas once a day;</li> <li>• Keeping track of all cleanings and disinfection cleanings of the cinema.</li> <li>• One staff member must be in charge of ensuring respect of sanitary rules;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfect all contact surfaces before every show, which in theory means disinfecting the whole screening room before every show.</li> </ul>
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupancy limit: 10 people maximum</li> <li>Safety distance: 1.5m</li> <li>Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>From reopening, it was only mandatory to wear a mask when social distancing of 1.5m was impossible to implement. Before cinemas were required to close in most of the country from 16 October, public gatherings were limited to 10 people.</p>
<b>SPAIN</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupancy limit: 30-75%</li> <li>Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>F&amp;B sales banned in some regions</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>From reopening, cinemas were required to respect two key requirements: pre-allocated seats and 30% maximum occupancy. Depending on local epidemiological reports, the allowed occupancy could increase. This decision was taken province-by-province. Because of this, some provinces allowed for 60% or 75% occupancy from mid-June, while others were still at 30% (Phase 2 of the official 'return to normal') or 50% (Phase 3). These limits have continued to evolve at local level throughout 2020 and early 2021. 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 was not possible. Cinema-goers could remove their mask when eating and drinking. Several regions introduced a ban on F&amp;B sales in late 2020.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging online ticketing and contactless payments (up to €50);</li> <li>Providing information (posters and online) explaining the safety measures;</li> <li>Placing hydroalcoholic gel dispensers in the cinema for staff and customers;</li> <li>Reinforcing the physical distance between workers and customers with transparent barriers;</li> <li>Eliminating physical control of cinema tickets (to be replaced by digital or visual control);</li> <li>Increasing cleaning and disinfection, with special attention to the most sensitive areas and surfaces;</li> <li>Ensuring the respect of official distancing measures throughout the cinema-going journey;</li> <li>Reducing the capacity of each screening room in accordance with local rules and reopening phase;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living under the same roof will be seated together in accordance with local rules;</li> <li>• 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> </ul>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 8 people maximum</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>Cinemas had to limit occupancy to 50 people per screening room from reopening. The limit increased to 300 from 1 November, with a safety distance of 1m between cinema-goers, who could only attend in groups of 2 maximum. This was brought down to 8 people maximum from 16 November.</p>
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50 people maximum</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing at all times</li> <li>• Requirement to collect customer data</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p> <p>From reopening, cinemas could welcome a maximum of 300 people per screening room, with at least 1 empty seat between people. This was reduced to 50 people from 28 October following a rise in COVID-19 cases in the country. Rules vary widely from one canton to another. For example, in Lausanne, it was not possible to consume food and beverage in the cinema. In the Canton of Vaud, mask-wearing was mandatory in the screening room (before it became mandatory at federal level), while contact tracing and safety distances was not enforced. From 19 October, mask-wearing was made mandatory across all of Switzerland, including in cinemas when seated in the screening room.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p><u>The official guidelines are available here, in French.</u> Groups from the same family or living under the same roof can sit together. Additional rules include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obligation for cinema operators to trace customers by taking note of their name and phone number. That information must be kept for 14 days and then destroyed. Chains are encouraging customers to book tickets online to simplify the data collection process. The data can only be shared with local authorities if there has been an infection in the days following the customer's visit;</li> <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> </ul>
<b>UK</b>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety distance: 1-2m, depending on the region</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, depending on the region</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional details</b></p>

	<p>Social distancing measures were 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 maintained the 2m distance.</p> <p>From 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>. Guests were asked to wear face coverings in cinemas in England from 8 August, but were able to remove them once seated in the auditorium. In England, from 14 September, cinema-goers could only attend in groups of 6 maximum when attending with people not living under the same roof. A three-tier alert system was introduced on 12 October, allowing for the introduction of local restrictions, such as different occupancy limits, ban on alcohol sales, etc.</p> <p><b>Industry guidelines</b></p> <p>Guidance on cinemas was published on 25 June and <a href="#">is available here</a>. Guidance for cinemas in Scotland is also available <a href="#">here</a>, and for cinemas in Wales <a href="#">here</a>. The guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul 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> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UKRAINE</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy limit: 50%</li> <li>• Mandatory mask wearing, can be removed once seated</li> </ul>



## 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, few Governments have announced long-term recovery schemes.

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

In the sub-sections below, we have included measures that specifically target the cultural or cinema sector, as well as broader support mechanisms such as special loans, grants, employment support schemes, measures related to rent payments and taxation measures. For audience engagement initiatives, [please consult our regularly updated public database on the topic.](#)

### 1.1. 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reduced VAT on cinema tickets</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.</li> <li>• <b>Grants for event organisers</b> The European Commission approved in January 2021 a €300 million Austrian scheme to support organisers of events affected by the coronavirus outbreak. Under the scheme, economic assistance is provided to all undertakings that will organise events taking place in Austria between 1 February 2021 and 31 December 2022 and that will have to be cancelled or organised with significant restrictions. The public support will take the form of direct grants. It is not yet entirely clear if cinemas can apply.</li> <li>• <b>Local support scheme</b> A support scheme was introduced in the city of Vienna, with grants of €50,000 distributed to cinemas of less than 5 screens.</li> </ul>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b> 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></li> <li>• <b>Support from film funds and local entities</b> The Belgian cinema federation FCB estimates that cinema operators have lost roughly €4.3m of potential revenues per week of closure, excluding fixed costs.</li> </ul>

	<p>Belgian film support bodies have introduced more flexibility regarding administrative, reporting and other funding conditions until the end of 2020. Cultural policies are managed at local, community level, with different support initiatives announced for Belgian cinemas, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- On 25 May, the Brussels-Wallonia Federation announced a recovery plan of €6m to support the entire film value chain, including arthouse cinemas (as defined by the Federation), with three key measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covering all costs related to the acquisition of 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 dedicated to arthouse cinemas.</li> </ul> <a href="#">More information available here, in French.</a> </li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- In Brussels, a recovery plan was introduced in June 2020 to support the cultural, event and tourism sector, with a fund worth €5m in direct grants. The support scheme includes a fund for cinema operators related to investments in online ticketing (€10,000 maximum per company), sanitary measures/equipment (€10,000 maximum per company) and digital solutions (€30,000 maximum/50% of the total amount invested per company). <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> <li>- 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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>BULGARIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b></li> </ul> <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</p>

	through the Ministry of Culture and €1.1m will be allotted through the National Culture Fund.
<b>CROATIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Innovative project grants</b> 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. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></li> <li>• <b>Guaranteed loans for the cultural sector</b> A Guarantee Programme for loans to entrepreneurs active in the field of culture and creativity was approved by the European Commission on 17 June 2020. Entrepreneurs will be able to take out a loan from a bank of up to €800,000, for which the Croatian Government provides a 100% guarantee. The interest rate will be up to 2% and the repayment period includes a grace period of at least one year and a maximum of five years. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></li> </ul>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legal assistance</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Support from film fund</b> In mid-May 2020, the State Fund for Cinematography announced a special €50m fund for the promotion of films in cinemas. All cinema operators could apply. The main purpose of this scheme was to help cinemas cope with the very strict restrictions upon reopening. The Czech Film Fund has provided financial support worth a total of €1.5m to local cinema operators, first distributed in Spring 2020 via grants based on revenues made in 2019 – with received amounts varying between 1,000€ and 30,000€ per cinema – and in Autumn 2020 based on number of screens per company. This second support mechanism has not been delivered to cinemas as of February 2021.</li> <li>• <b>Reduced VAT on cinema tickets</b> The VAT on cinema ticket was exceptionally reduced from 15% to 10%.</li> <li>• <b>Grants for event organisers</b> The European Commission approved a €34 million (CZK 900 million) Czech scheme to support companies who had to cancel or postpone event(s) due to the restrictive measures that the Czech Republic had to implement to limit the spread of the coronavirus. The public support will take the form of direct grants and will cover up to 50% of eligible expenses, i.e. the expenses incurred by the operator to organise the event/s that was ultimately postponed or cancelled. In order to be eligible for support under the scheme, the relevant expenses must have been incurred between 1 October 2019 and 17 May 2020 for events which were to take place between 10 March 2020 and 31 August 2020.</li> </ul>

	<p>The Czech Government introduced a scheme in later 2020 for private venues like cinemas, with 1€ per seat per day of closure between 12 October and 31 December 2020 – with a ceiling of €1,090 per company.</p>
<p><b>DENMARK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for cultural events</b> The Danish Parliament presented a summer package in June supporting the cultural sector by financing half price tickets for various cultural activities, but the scheme did not apply to cinemas. The Government initially explained it would have been forbidden under EU state aid rules but tracked back in September 2020. The ministries of Culture and Commerce then introduced a joint “activity-supporting-package”, running from 1 September to 31 October, worth 300m DKK (app. €40m) for the whole cultural industry. The scheme was extended in October and will be running until January 2021.</li> <li>• <b>Support for organising events</b> A small aid package worth €2m specifically targeting cinemas was introduced in late October, covering the months of November, December 2020 and January 2021. Unfortunately, this support package only covers direct or indirect costs related to the organisation of film screenings that took place between 1 September and 31 December 2020. For instance, investment in sanitary equipment or in audience engagement, energy bills or rent, etc. The scheme does not support revenue losses incurred during closure. These restrictions – <u>and the complex nature of the application requirements, available here</u> – made it challenging for local cinemas to apply to the funding. The maximum amount available for applications is €40,300 – but the amount is also dependent on the number of total applications.</li> <li>• <b>Support for local audiovisual sector</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b> An online database of all the compensation schemes that can be applied for (via the Danish Ministry of Culture) is <u>available here</u>. A new Corona hotline has been created by the Ministry of Culture and the Danish National Palace and Culture Agency – <u>available here</u>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ESTONIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for cultural sector</b> 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. The Estonian government has announced in March 2021 a €42m support package for the struggling cultural sector. The film sector will receive €5.3m, of which €3.3m is earmarked for cinemas and film distributors.</li> <li>• <b>Support from local film fund</b> 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</li> </ul>

	<p>cinemas and companies whose production and distribution activities have been interrupted. The remaining €500k will go strictly to film production.</p>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support from local film fund</b> The Finnish Film Foundation received €1m from the Ministry of Education and Culture to help relieve the situation of cinemas and film festivals during the restrictions on public gatherings caused by the pandemic. €900,000 was allocated to cinemas. Cinema operators had to apply to benefit from this fund. The relief funds are available for small and medium-sized cinemas whose operations have ceased and for film festivals supported by The Finnish Film Foundation who have had to cancel or postpone their event from March 13 – May 31, 2020. <a href="#">More information available here.</a> A second support round worth €1.2m was later allocated to distributors and cinemas. As part of this scheme, cinemas were allocated over €800k in support, distributed between 108 cinemas.</li> <li>• <b>Support from cultural institutions</b> Funding totalling approximately €1.5m has been allocated via the Arts Promotion Centre (Taika). Different foundations will also grant significant sums in aid through their own channels.</li> </ul>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cinema sector</b> The Government, the French National Cinema Centre (CNC) and sector representatives introduced various support mechanisms for the film industry, including the following: <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 1,200 classified establishments;</li> <li>- Rapid adoption of a measure allowing exhibitors, distributors and producers to mobilise their support funds in advance.</li> </ul> <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, cinémathèques and film education workshops. An additional €11.5m has already been spent by the CNC to support the reopening of cinemas on 22 June 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On 23 September, the Minister of Culture announced in Deauville at the FNCF congress how the €105m would be divided and redistributed by the CNC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €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;</li> <li>- €2m will go to art house cinemas;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €1m to film education;</li> <li>- €500k to administrative expenses;</li> <li>- €800k to cover the Cinenum debt (related to digitization in the early 2010s);</li> <li>- 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></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In addition to this, cinema operators will be able to apply to a new compensation mechanism for losses incurred because of the crisis (after being allowed to reopen), worth €50 million. This support scheme will be running between 1 September and the end of 2020. It covers 50% of the losses for independent cinema operators (around €23m in total) and 40% for the large chains (around €27m in total). The exact amount will be calculated based on average admissions between 2017 and 2019 (so approximately €20-25 cents per ticket sold, or €20-25k per site that achieved 100,000 admissions per year). The payment will be divided in two payments, with €40m/80% at the end of October and the remaining €10m/20% in early 2021. The money will be transferred to all cinema operators who can benefit from it, without a need to apply for it. <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></li> <li>▪ On 22 October, the French Minister of Culture announced that an additional €30m fund would be allocated to support the cinema sector following the new curfew announcements across the country. The Government has publicly acknowledged that evening screenings – cancelled because of the curfew – represent roughly 50% of cinema operators’ revenues. This fund will be specifically dedicated to the release of films during the curfew period, as cinemas operators insisted that what they needed most was content in the coming weeks.</li> <li>▪ Following the extension of the second lockdown from 15 December to at least 7 January, the French culture minister Roselyne Bachelot has requested an extra €35m to help cultural venues that will not reopen as planned.</li> <li>▪ The CNC will redistribute a support fund worth €15m between French cinema operators, to cover for the second round of closure in late 2020. It remains to be announced how exactly this fund will be divided.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tax exemptions</b> Tax exemptions – including the payment of the French film levy to the CNC – and related support schemes already introduced have been formally extended to at least the end of 2020. This aid represents a total amount of around €36m for French cinema operators in 2020.</li> <li>• <b>Guaranteed loans</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b> Various support schemes have been introduced. <a href="#">Additional, detailed information can be found on the FNCF website or on the CNC website</a>, all in French. The FNCF has created a FAQ on social/employment questions, <a href="#">available here in French.</a> (This FAQ has not been updated since June 22).</li> <li>• <b>Support for employers in the cultural sector</b></li> </ul>
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	<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. This measure has been renewed under the same conditions for the period between September 1 (for companies affected by the curfew) or October 1 (for others) to November 30 and should be extended until January 30, 2021. Large businesses can benefit from a special scheme to support the payment of social charges for the same period. For businesses that are struggling to pay other social charges that were due by 30 June, the law allows for staggered payments and debt delays. <a href="#">A web portal</a> was created to explain in detail all the new rules that have been introduced.</p>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the audiovisual sector</b> On 27 March, federal and State sponsors launched an aid programme for the film and media industry worth €15m. The aid programme relates to projects jointly funded by various funding agencies and is intended to take effect where all other federal and state aid measures and funding programs taken in the context of the Coronavirus crisis cannot be used. When it comes to cinema exhibition, the programme is available only to small Arthouse Cinemas who have been awarded a <i>Kinoprogrammpreis</i>. The German cinema association, HDF Kino, highlighted that only 50% of Germany cinema operators could apply for the federal emergency aid.</li> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> A special programme to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on culture was formally approved on 17 June. €1b was made available for the cultural sector, with €165m going to the film industry, of which €75m specifically targeting cinema exhibition. Running from July, the programme, under the name NEUSTART KULTUR / Zukunftsprogramm Kino, targeted cinemas through the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pandemic-related investment in cultural institutions. This means investment in online ticketing systems, modernisation of ventilation systems, adaptation of visitor guidance, etc.;</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p>The support plan was regularly renewed throughout 2020 and 2021, with three programmes following each other under the NEUSTART KULTUR umbrella:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino I</u> was intended to strengthen cinemas throughout Germany, especially outside of metropolitan areas (cinemas with up to seven screens and meeting certain criteria can apply for funding). This involves an increase in the maximum amount of the federal share of grants, rising from 40% to 80% of eligible costs for 2020. Cinema operators can receive support via grants of €60,000 for one-screen cinemas and 45,000 € for two-screen cinemas. The programme, initially worth €5m, increased its budget to €22m and then again to €30m following high demand. The available budget was spent in its entirety by February 2021.</li> <li>▪ <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino II</u> – introduced on 15 July 2021 and building up on <u>Zukunftsprogramm Kino I</u>, addressing smaller cinemas - a funding programme worth €40m to support cinemas (that do not meet the application requirements for Zukunftsprogramm Kino I) in their resumption of operations following closure, particularly in the implementation of protective measures as a result of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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.

- [Zukunftsprogramm Kino III](#), announced in September 2020, supported cinemas by covering operating costs during the reopening phase with grants worth a total of €30m.

On 4 February, it was announced that an additional €1b fund will be dedicated to the cultural sector, with 60 sub-programmes targeting cinemas, museums, theatres and other venues as well as artists. The objective of this fund is to help the sector cover expenses and losses relate to the current crisis but also to stimulate investment in innovation and digitisation. More details about the programme and its exact distribution will be shared in the coming weeks. This scheme is a direct follow-up program to the NEUSTART KULTUR rescue and future program.

- **Support guidelines**

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

- **Support from film fund**

The FFA suspended film levies and loans until December 31, 2020. The sales generated by operating drive-in theatres are an exception. The distribution of the Film Fund's (FFA) money will be accelerated to provide more liquidity for cinemas in the short term, while reimbursements of loans and payment of levies will be deferred. Deferrals that have already been granted will also be automatically extended until 31 December 2020. More information is available [here](#). The FFA decided in December 2020 to further extend the moratorium on film levies and loans until June 30, 2021.

With a new version of guideline D.14, decided by the FFA Board of Directors on June 18, 2020, more flexible payment of the cinema reference funds is possible. Since the applications for the cinema reference funds for the 2019 calendar year had to be submitted by March 15, 2020, retroactive measures have been included in the new regulation. More information is available [here](#).

- **Reduced VAT on cinema tickets**

VAT on cinema tickets was reduced for a limited period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, from 7% to 5% for cinema tickets. [More information can be found here, in German.](#)

- **Deferred payments to collecting societies**

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

- **Support from local entities**

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



	<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. The amount that can be received by a cinema is based on the number of screens.</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 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>.</li> <li>- In Hesse, <a href="#">a scheme was introduced in July</a> 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> <li>- In Lower Saxony, the bridging aid will be increased by up to 50,000 euros for small and medium-sized cinemas. A total of €7m is available for cinemas.</li> <li>- The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (an association supporting the media industry in the Germany capital region) allocated €1.5m in Spring 2020 to support art-house cinemas, with 61 cinemas benefiting from the scheme. It was announced in March 2021 that the Medienboard would again award local cinemas with a €1.5m fund. The procedure to apply for the fund has been simplified in 2021.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GREECE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cinema industry</b></li> <li>- The Greek Film Centre has taken measures to support the sector, with a strict focus on film production.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The Greek Government has announced it would acquire over 5m vouchers worth 4€ a piece, to be distributed to citizens and valid for Greek and European movies over a period of 3 year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IRELAND</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b> Screen Ireland created <a href="#">an online FAQ</a> listing all the key support schemes that are currently available.</li> <li>• <b>Expert planning support</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Deferred payment to collecting societies</b> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ITALY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cinema industry</b> An Emergency Fund of €130m was provided for the Cinema, Audiovisual and Live Entertainment sectors. Following the approval of the “Relaunch” Law Decree on 13 May, this amount was increased to €245m, and then again to €259m on 19 May. It was gradually redistributed across the industry.</li> <li>- €40m has been allocated to cinema operators, with each site receiving a €10,000 grant (totalling €15m) as well as an extra amount calculated as a percentage of lost box office between 15 March and 15 June, compared to box office revenues for the same period in 2019 (totalling €25m). These grants were distributed after summer 2020;</li> <li>- Another €20m was added to the Emergency Fund for cinema operators in October 2020, derived from the 2020 allocation of the Extraordinary Fund for investment in cinemas (a 5-year fund created by the 2016 Cinema Law). Recipients of the first fund package could apply to the additional fund - divided according to the same criteria;</li> <li>- A separate €2m fund was provided for open-air cinemas.</li> </ul> <p>The Government issued a new law decree on 28 October, following the introduction of new restrictions, including the closure of cinemas. Cinemas, like the other categories who qualified for grants in May 2020, 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.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accelerated industry support</b> The Directorate General for Cinema is accelerating the payments of ordinary funding as per the Cinema Law. This involves tax credit measures (€18m for 2019, €60m for 2020), €100m to facilitate investments in new and renovated cinemas and €10m for art-house cinemas. A proposed amendment aims at creating a guarantee fund allowing the transferability of the tax credits of the exhibition sector. <a href="#">More information available here</a> and <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b> Relevant information and official documents can be found on the ANEC website, in <a href="#">Italian</a>.</li> <li>• <b>National refund initiative</b> 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>.</li> <li>• <b>Deferred payment to collecting societies</b> 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.</li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the audiovisual sector</b> 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>. €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.</li> <li>• <b>Support for event organisers</b> The European Commission approved in January 2021 a €5 million Latvian scheme to support organisers of cultural events who had to cancel announced public cultural events due to the restrictive measures that the Latvian government had to implement to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Under the scheme, the support will take the form of direct grants. Beneficiaries will receive up to 80% of the total amount of ticket money reimbursed to spectators and ticket reversal costs, such as bank or ticket sales network commission fees. It is not entirely clear if this scheme applies to cinemas.</li> </ul>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> The Lithuanian Government provided a total of €68.3m to the cultural sector. €43.3m is earmarked for the development and renewal of cultural infrastructure. €13m will be distributed through the Lithuanian Council for Culture for funding initiatives supporting cultural organisations, both public and private. An additional €1.4m will be administered by the Lithuanian Film Centre, providing support for film production and distribution, the recovery of cinemas, the development of new television and film productions and other activities.</li> <li>• <b>Support from film fund</b></li> </ul>

	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b></li> </ul> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b></li> </ul> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b></li> </ul> <p>On 27 May 2020, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science announced a €300m fund available for the cultural sector to support institutions that are essential for the sector as a whole. This includes €48.5m to support municipalities and provinces and €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.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for fixed costs</b></li> </ul> <p>The Government announced a one-off contribution of €4,000 for cinemas and other businesses included in the Education, Culture and Science category, which could be used for fixed costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for local content</b></li> </ul> <p>The Minister of Education, Culture and Science has announced it would make an additional €5m available for the Abraham Tuschinsky Fund to support Dutch film productions. Dutch cinemas usually contribute to this fund for each ticket sold – but the closure of cinemas in 2020 has of course reduced that contribution. With this support 5 to 8 large Dutch productions can be supported.</p>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b></li> </ul> <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> It is expected that this scheme will be renewed in 2021.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The Government will not seek repayment of public subsidies paid for cultural and voluntary purposes.</li> <li>- A draft new regulation, upon adoption, could provide compensation opportunities to companies (including cinemas) registered in the Volunteer Register, covering lost revenues from events and for lost ticket revenues or rental income from other specified activities. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reduced VAT on cinema tickets</b></li> </ul> <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. This was later extended to the rest of the year and early 2021 as cinemas remained closed. The previous reduction had been set to 8% and was effective from 1 January 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b></li> </ul> <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><b>POLAND</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b></li> </ul> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It was announced in December 2020 that the Polish Government would give an additional €27m from the COVID-19 Counteracting Fund to specifically help the cinema industry. The Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport will transfer these funds to the Polish Film Institute. Smaller cinemas (micro entrepreneurs) can apply to the fund, with €8.8m specifically dedicated to these businesses. To receive the support, they must reopen in the week following the lifting of coronavirus restrictions in the country and show at least 50% of local titles.</li> <li>- The European Commission approved a €1.9 billion (PLN 8.6 billion) Polish scheme to support companies operating in certain sectors affected by the coronavirus-outbreak. It will provide support to companies of all sizes operating in several sectors affected by the coronavirus outbreak, including gastronomy, fitness, fairs, stage, film, entertainment and recreation, photography and physiotherapy. These companies could not provide services due to the measures introduced by the Polish government to limit the spread of the virus, or had to bear costs related to sanitary restrictions resulting in a decrease in attendance. It's not clear if cinemas will benefit.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deferred payment to collecting societies</b></li> </ul> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support from film fund</b></li> </ul> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> An Emergency Support Line for the Arts of €1m, financed through the Cultural Development Fund of the Ministry of Culture, is intended to support artistic entities and artists that had to stop working because of the crisis. In May 2020, a €30m fund was created to support cultural programming at municipality level.</li> <li>• <b>Support from film fund</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b> 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></li> </ul>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support from film fund</b> All financial support from the National Cinema Centre CNC (including to cinema exhibition) were postponed until the end of the state of emergency.</li> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> The Romanian Ministry of Culture announced in November 2020 a €100m aid scheme to support organisations working in the cultural sector whose activities have been suspended to stop the spread of the COVID -19. Eligible beneficiaries include both SMEs and large enterprises that have carried out activities in the last 2 years. In order to benefit from it, all candidates have to be registered by 25 November 2020 in the Cultural Sector Register, the creative industries map launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the film sector</b> In a Russian Government resolution listing the economic sectors most affected by the epidemic, the culture, leisure, entertainment and film exhibition sectors were included. Cinemas are still waiting to receive support funds from the national Government, while the Russian Association of Cinema Owners has asked for a 3.5b rubles support fund for cinema exhibition. This amount is equivalent to 10% of the industry's losses from the forced coronavirus downtime. The Russian Government announced various schemes during 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In July, the Federal Fund for social and economic support of Russian cinematography launched development measures to support the Russian film industry in three directions: financial, tax measures and non-financial organisational assistance, including questions on the return of people to the cinema, repertoire policy and medium-term strategy for the film industry for the next three years;</li> <li>- In August, the Federal Fund for social and economic support of Russian cinematography started accepting applications from cinematography organizations to receive a subsidy of up to 10m rubles for distributing national films. Support will also be given to the first titles released after the reopening of cinemas. This subsidy is 100% refundable;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In December 2020, 4.2b rubles (approx. €45m) were allocated to support organizations in the Russian cinema industry affected by the negative economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on encouraging the production, distribution and promotion of national content. 50% of the fund was allocated to cinema exhibitors as incentives to show national titles and the other 50% to Russian film producers and distributors. The amount of the subsidy to cinemas depends on the share of national films shown in the period before the March 2020 lockdown. The allocated funds can be spent on activities related to screenings, maintenance of the cinema building, maintenance and development of cinema equipment, as well as repayment of debts incurred between March 2020 and the application to the fund.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SLOVAKIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cinema sector</b> 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>. In addition to the above, the Slovak Audiovisual Fund introduced several measures to support cinemas and the film sector in general, including (on a case by case basis) increased the subsidy granted or provided specific short-term loans to small cinemas. <a href="#">More information available here</a>. The Audiovisual Fund, for instance, supported expenses for film festivals or screenings directly affected by the crisis. It has also postponed the payment of the contribution to the fund for cinema operators who are suffering temporary insolvency and will be providing short-term interest-free loans to cover necessary operating costs, in particular for smaller cinemas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPAIN</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> 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: <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> <li>- Advertising space for promotion and trailers of Spanish cinema, as well as institutional campaigns.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The grants were redistributed by the ICAA. Cinema operators who wish to access these grants must comply with the screen quota of cinematographic works from Member States of the European Union established in article 18 of Law 55/2007, on Cinema. However, said obligation will be considered fulfilled when works of this</p>

	<p>nature are scheduled in a percentage of at least 30 percent in the year immediately after receiving the aid (2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support guidelines</b> 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>.</li> <li>• <b>Support from local entities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The regional Government of Madrid has injected €1m into the Guarantee Society Crea SGR to guarantee that SMEs in the cultural sector have access to funding. Crea SGR will promote lines of financing aimed at companies in the cultural sector for a total amount of €20m. Support per company will range from €20k to €100k. In addition to this, the City Council in Madrid presented the Aid Plan for cinemas in Madrid to cover the costs of supplies and rent from March to September 2020;</li> <li>- 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>;</li> <li>- 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);</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- In Andalusia, extraordinary measures were officially approved to, among others, reactivate the cultural sector. Line 2 of the official law includes a new emergency fund for cinema owners: €3,000 per screen with 75 seats or more, and a maximum grant of €90,000 (30 screens). Applications opened in June 2020. Cinema operators received the support towards the end of 2020.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>SWEDEN</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support from film fund</b> The Swedish Film Institute has confirmed the implementation of various provisions, including faster payments of subsidies to smaller exhibitors, contributing a total of €1.8m (SEK 20m) to the cinema industry. The Institute forwarded SEK 20 (€1.90) per sold ticket for Swedish movies in 2019 to cinema operators. This measure applies to markets under 25,000 inhabitants and certain arthouse cinemas in bigger markets. Every cinema received SEK 30 (€2.90) per non-sold ticket between 12 March and 31 May 2020 – by comparing results with the same period in 2019. The maximum being SEK 10m (approx. €950k) per company, which was later increased to SEK 20m for the last round of support in 2020. On 5 October, the Swedish Government announced a SEK 375m support fund for the AV sector as part of an overall SEK 1.5b recovery programme for the cultural sector. The Swedish Film Institute is handling the Government’s rescue package to</li> </ul>



	<p>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>On 1 April, the Swedish Film Institute redistributed grants worth at total of SEK125m (€12.3m) covering losses incurred by cinema operators between 1 January and 30 April 2020. The grants were delivered on a company basis, with a ceiling of SEK40m (€3.9m).</p> <p>As part of a national aid package worth SEK1.3b, the Swedish Film Institute received SEK211m (€20.7m) in April 2021. This fund will have to be redistributed between distributors, producers and cinema operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> Additional funding has been allocated (SEK 500m/€46m) to businesses in the cultural sector that lose revenue as a result of the restriction of public events. <a href="#">More information available here in Swedish.</a></li> <li>• <b>Deferred payments to collecting societies</b> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SWITZERLAND</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b> CHF 280m (€260m) has been allocated to support culture in general. An additional fund of CHF 130m was added to the scheme later in 2020. Cultural enterprises and artists may claim compensation from the cantons for financial loss caused in particular by the cancellation or postponement of events or the closure of establishments, up to a maximum of 80% of the damage; the Confederation will pay half of the compensation granted by the cantons. As of late 2020, cinemas haven't received money from this aid package yet due to administrative challenges. <a href="#">More information can be found here, in French.</a> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UKRAINE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cinema sector</b> For a long period of time, there was no legislation in support of the creative industries in Ukraine, but a law was passed on 16 June 2020. However, cinemas are not mentioned in the law, which is mostly focused on film production. The Ministry of Finances intended to reduce the Governmental support for the cultural sector. This included €25m to the Ukrainian State Film Agency. Following protests, the Prime Minister of Ukraine said that support of culture and education is going to be "preserved as much as possible". It remains to be seen whether this will be the case.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support from film fund</b> On 9 April, the BFI announced a programme of support worth £4.6m (€5.3m) to aid the UK film sector. <a href="#">More information available here.</a> This fund includes, but is not limited to, the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The BFI announced the establishment of an emergency relief fund with the support of The Film and TV Charity and Netflix, worth £500,000. This fund will</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>primarily support freelance workers in film production, rather than other parts of the film/cinema ecology.</p> <p>The BFI announced the launch of its “Culture Recovery Fund for independent cinemas” on 10 August. This fund consists of two sets of grants: safety grants to help cinemas purchase and implement any new safety measures required to be compliant with new Government/UKCA guidance &amp; business sustainability awards which are designed to support cinema’s long-term survival, through the coming weeks and months. More information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>It was announced in December 2020 that the BFI had already awarded £750,000 to UK exhibitors to support diverse film programming. More than 140 independent cinemas have benefitted from the support scheme. More than 200 independent cinemas across England received in December 2020 grants totalling £16m to help see them through the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The grants are ranging from £7,000 to £564,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for the cultural sector</b></li> </ul> <p>The UK Government has unveiled a £1.6bn support package to help protect the futures of UK theatres, galleries, museums and other cultural venues. Independent cinemas are also eligible. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The BFI introduced a £30m recovery fund specifically targeting independent cinemas as part of the above package. From August 10 until October 30, venues were allowed to apply to two pots of funding: £3m for safety grants to enable cinemas (up to £10,000 per cinema) to put the necessary measures in place to ensure the safety of their workforce and the public; £27m business sustainability grants (up to £200,000 per organisation) to support independent cinemas to operate viably under the restricted conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is open to all building-based venues that have a year-round program, therefore not for film festivals or touring operators. The first grants were expected to be given out at the end of August. Cinemas applying to the fund for business sustainability grants were required to demonstrate a commitment to increasing their organisational diversity and the diversity of their audiences. They were also be expected to demonstrate commitments to reducing negative impacts on the environment and increasing educational outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support from local entities</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> <li>- 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 <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Charity initiative</b></li> </ul>
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	<p>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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></p>
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## 1.2. 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>	<p>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.</p>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Federal Government will guarantee loans for a total amount of €50b. At regional level, €233m has been set aside to support businesses in Wallonia, €150m in Flanders and €100m in Brussels. All regions and communes have also introduced regional loan guarantees, lower interest rates on certain loans, accelerated payments of subsidies etc.</li> <li>- 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></li> <li>- 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%. <a href="#">More information here.</a></li> </ul>
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €25m has been provided as a guarantee for loans, ranging from €2,500 to €250,000, which can be obtained through commercial banks.</li> <li>- All borrowers from the Investment and Development Bank of RS were granted a three-month repayment moratorium.</li> <li>- The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Raiffeisen Bank (RBBH) signed a guarantee agreement allowing the bank to increase its lending capacity to offer €12m of new financing with improved terms and conditions to SMEs. The EIF's guarantee to RBBH is provided under the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility, as part of its coronavirus economic support package.</li> </ul>
<b>CROATIA</b>	<p>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></p>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	<p>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</p>

	<p>state guarantees worth €2b to banks, in a bid to boost liquidity in the economy amid the ongoing crisis. The guarantee scheme began in early April. The main condition in securing a loan guarantee from the Government is that employers keep their staff employed at least until 30 September.</p>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government announced an indirect aid package of €32.7b in loans for businesses, with a focus on SMEs and self-employed.</li> <li>- Loan repayments have been delayed.</li> </ul>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<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>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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></li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- It was announced in mid-January 2021 that all businesses would be allowed to ask for an additional one-year postponement (from 2021 to 2022) to start repaying the State guaranteed loans they had received. Banks have been required by the State to show leniency with these companies.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>

	<p>instruments in enterprises affected by the coronavirus outbreak in Bavaria. Under the scheme, the support will take the form of (I) guarantees (that are expected to mobilise €26 billion), as well as (II) subsidised debt instruments in form of subordinated loans, and (III) recapitalisation instruments (in total up to €20b), in particular equity instruments (acquisition of newly issued ordinary and preferred shares or other forms of shareholding) and hybrid capital instruments (namely convertible bonds and silent participations).</p>
<b>GREECE</b>	<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>	<p>Deferral of payment for loans, credit agreements or financial leasing agreement, in certain sectors including entertainment and the film industry.</p>
<b>ITALY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government approved an aid package of up to €25 billion for families and companies, mobilising additional resources of up to €350 billion. Among the measures taken as part of this plan, the State has been supporting enterprises' liquidity through guaranteed bank loans.</li> <li>- 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></li> </ul>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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></li> <li>- 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></li> <li>- 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></li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>

	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.
<b>KOSOVO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €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.</li> <li>- The Kosovo Central Bank temporarily suspended loan repayments for firms.</li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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></li> <li>- 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></li> </ul>
<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	A new Investment Development Fund (IRF) was created, with credit lines to improve entrepreneurs' liquidity.
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (GO) for bank loans between €1.5m-€50m provides a 50% guarantee for SMEs.</li> <li>- The SME Credit Guarantee (BMKB) provides Guarantee for SME loans. The amount of the BMKB surety loan has been increased from 50% to 75%.</li> <li>- 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%.</li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poland's Prime Minister announced a PLN 212b (€47b) fiscal package, which includes loan guarantees.</li> </ul>

	- 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A crisis fund of approx. €3.5b was established. State banks Sberbank and VTB has provided loans with up to 0% rates supported by the Central Bank of Russia to pay salaries. Those loans had to be paid back before the end of 2020. Approximately 15-20% of Russian cinema operators were able to benefit from these loans.</li> <li>- All small and medium size businesses could benefit from a 6 month payments standstill for bank loans.</li> </ul>
<b>SERBIA</b>	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.
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	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.
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government announced a €2b stimulus package to support local businesses and citizens during the crisis, including via loans supporting the liquidity of businesses.</li> <li>- The Slovenian government adopted a new €1b stimulus package in early November aimed at mitigating and eliminating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the country's economy, labour market, and social and healthcare systems. The new package extends some of the previously introduced economic stimulus measures, as well as introduces new ones. The new package includes state guaranteed loans and the extension of the moratorium on the repayment of bank loans.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>SPAIN</b>	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> .
<b>SWEDEN</b>	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.
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	The Government announced a CHF 42b rescue package for the economy, which includes short-term loans to businesses. One of the first urgent

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



### 1.3. 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A €2b emergency fund for very small businesses was introduced - applications to the fund were opened in March 2020. The first grant is up to €1,000. In a second phase, up to €2,000 per month should be paid for a maximum of three months, for a total of €6,000 per person. <a href="#">Detailed information can be found here, via an FAQ in German.</a></li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Following the introduction of a second lockdown in October 2020, a lockdown turnover compensation was introduced whereby worst-affected businesses could apply to a grant worth a maximum of €800,000. This scheme has been running from 3 November to 6 December.</li> </ul>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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></li> <li>- 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></li> </ul>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	Self-employed people who prove that they have been economically damaged by the Government's exceptional measures or other consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and meet other conditions could receive a one-off payment of €930.
<b>FINLAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>

	<p>in effect for 6 months. Entrepreneurs may be entitled to this support as well as extended unemployment security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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></li> <li>- The Finnish State Treasury introduced a Business cost support, intended to cover the costs of businesses that have experienced a marked decrease in turnover due to the coronavirus and have costs (such as salaries or other necessary expenses) that are difficult to adjust. According to the act, the support granted to the company must exceed €2,000. The maximum amount of support is €500,000 per company. There has been two support rounds so far, covering costs for March to October 2020. Local cinemas have received close to €2m in support via this scheme. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>FRANCE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Solidarity fund</b></li> <li>- A “solidarity fund” was introduced to support small business (with less than 20 employees and €2m turnover), the total amount of the fund continues to increase as the crisis is lasting. They will receive financial aid of €1,500, with an additional €2,000 under certain conditions. This amount was increased to €3,500 for businesses with €200k-600k turnover and can reach as much as €10,000 for all other businesses. This fund will remain open until the end of 2020. It was announced in February 2021 that it would be again renewed for the month of January, with additional monthly extension expected. <a href="#">Detailed information available on the FNCF website, in French. FAQ created by French authorities, available here.</a></li> <li>- Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October, the French Government has announced that the “solidarity fund” would be extended for all businesses that were forced to close. They will be able to apply for monthly grants for November worth €10,000 maximum per month for companies with less than 50 employees. This aid was extended to December 2020, with an additional scheme for larger companies who can apply for a grant worth 20% of the difference between revenues made during the same month in 2019 (excluding VAT and with a ceiling of €200,000 per company). <a href="#">A detailed description of the scheme can be found on the FNCF website, in French.</a></li> <li>• <b>Support for the acquisition of sanitary equipment</b></li> </ul> <p>The national health insurance has introduced from 18 May (until December 31) a “COVID prevention” scheme supporting businesses of less than 50 employees in 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><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bridging aid</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In July 2020, a bridging aid was introduced for SMEs that are affected by corona-related closing and restrictions. Companies with up to 249 employees can receive up to €50,000 per month from June to December. To do this, it must be demonstrated that sales in April and May plummeted by at least 60 percent compared to the same months in the previous year. Companies that have already received emergency aid from the federal and state Governments are also able to apply for further support. <a href="#">Additional information about this aid can be found here, in German.</a></li> <li>- The bridging aid, initially covering the period of June to August, was extended to a second phase covering September to December 2020. For this second phase, the access conditions have been simplified and the funding was expanded. For instance, all companies (whatever their number of employees) can now apply to the maximum amount of €50,000. And as much as 90% of the fixed costs (previously at 80%) will be covered for companies that registered a drop in sales of more than 70%. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> <li>- Following the extension of the lockdown-light until 10 January, the Federal Government announced that this support scheme would be renewed for a third phase and expanded from November 2020 to June 2021. <a href="#">A detailed FAQ on this third wave of support is available here, in German.</a> Companies that have made use of the November and December aid are only eligible to apply for the months from January to June 2021. The catalogue of eligible costs has been expanded so that depreciation for fixed assets and structural measures for hygiene measures can also be applied. <b>The bridging aid includes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equity grants for companies that have suffered a drop in sales of more than 50% in at least three months since November 2020. The equity contribution will be up to 40% of the amount that a company is reimbursed for the eligible fixed costs. The equity grant is staggered and increases the longer companies have suffered a drop in sales of at least 50 percent. The new equity grant will be granted in addition to the regular funding of Bridging Aid III.</li> <li>- Increased fixed costs reimbursements to up to 100% for companies that suffer a drop in sales of more than 70%. Previously, up to 90% of the eligible fixed costs were reimbursed. However, this only applies to companies that receive the aid on the basis of the deminimis or federal small aid scheme.</li> <li>- Start-up aid for companies in the event and travel industry, in addition to the general flat rate for personnel costs, amounting to 20% of the wage bill that would have been incurred in the corresponding reference month of 2019 will be introduced for each funding month. The maximum total funding amount for this start-up aid is €2m.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Aid ceiling and accumulation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Following the EU decision to increase the aid ceilings, local authorities have made it possible for companies to benefit from the new aid levels via various administrative means and regulations. In addition, a new aid directive was created with the compensation scheme. To give companies leeway in terms of the upper aid limits, the BMWi has announced the right to choose the fundamentals of state aid law for bridging aid II and November and December aid. Additional details can be found <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a>. The German association HDF Kino also <a href="#">published a table</a> explaining in detail how grants can be accumulated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extraordinary economic aid</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In November 2020, the Federal Government announced companies that were forced to close again should receive extraordinary economic aid to compensate their financial losses. It was announced that this support would represent up to 75% of the turnover for the same month last year (i.e. November 2019). The application process started on the last week of November and all companies that had to cease business operations on the basis of the closure ordinances issued by the federal states can apply. The support scheme did not offset other aids that were introduced in the past few months. <u><a href="#">A detailed description of the scheme is available here, in German.</a></u></li> <li>- Following the extension of the lockdown-light until 10 January, the Federal Government announced that this support scheme would be renewed for December 2020. In January 2021, HDF-Kino publicly complained about delays in the promised payments to cinema operators for the month of November 2020. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, in charge of the scheme, blamed the delays on a technical problem with the online application process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Local schemes</b> <p>Each Bundesland has its own additional support mechanisms, in addition to local support schemes from cities. Please visit the <u><a href="#">HDF Kino website</a></u> for more information on support schemes that have been introduced locally. For instance, Baden-Württemberg and North Rhine-Westphalia introduced wage subsidies, Saxony offers financial support for cinemas with up to 6 screens whose performance has been impaired as a result of the crisis, Bavaria offers grants for operating costs based on the number of visitors in 2019 and cinemas and other venues in Hessen can receive up to €18,000 for programming, marketing and construction measures. North Rhine-Westphalia set up a support programme for entrepreneurs that allows them to receive a one-off payment of €1,000 per month for up to three months, starting from July 2020.</p> </li> <li>• <b>Digital innovation grant</b> <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> </li> <li>• <b>Emergency aid</b> <p>An emergency aid, totalling €50b, was set up for the self-employed and small businesses: up to €9,000 will be provided to the self-employed and companies of less than 5 employees, with up to €15,000 to companies of less than 10. The amount of support varies from Bundesland to Bundesland, who can decide how much can be applied for.</p> </li> </ul>
<p><b>IRELAND</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>

	<p>and re-employing workers following COVID-19 closures. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) made a €2 billion fund - the Pandemic Stabilisation and Recovery Fund (PSRF) - to support medium and large enterprises in Ireland affected by COVID-19. The PSRF will focus on investment in large and medium enterprises employing more than 250 employees or with annual turnover in excess of €50 million. ISIF may consider investing in enterprises below these levels if they are assessed to be of substantial scale and of significant importance at national or regional level. <a href="#">More information is available here.</a></li> <li>- On 21 October, the Irish Government replaced the Restart Grant and the Restart Grant Plus with the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS). Eligible businesses can make a claim to Revenue for a payment known as an Advance Credit for Trading Expenses (ACTE). An ACTE is payable for each week a business is affected by the restrictions. The ACTE is equal to 10% of the average weekly turnover of the business in 2019 up to €20,000, plus 5% on turnover over €20,000. In the case of new businesses, the turnover is based on the average actual weekly turnover in 2020. The ACTE is subject to a maximum weekly payment of €5,000 per cinema. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> </ul>
<b>ITALY</b>	<p>On 13 May, tax credits and contributions for expenses and the purchase of devices and equipment to limit the spread of COVID-19 and sanitise workplaces were introduced.</p>
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>POLAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Polish Government made 100 billion złoty (€22b) available to businesses to enable them to maintain liquidity and keep employees on their payroll during the coronavirus crisis. The aid will be directed at micro-enterprises, SMEs and big businesses that pay taxes in Poland, and which have lost at least 25 percent of their revenue due to the crisis. 60% of aid will take the form of subsidies that don't need to be paid back.</li> <li>- Additional support schemes were introduced in December 2020 following the extension of various COVID-19 related restrictions. The schemes are intended to help sectors and industries that are most affected by the crisis, including cinemas. Available support depends on many criteria, including the industry, the status of the enterprise (small, medium, large), the loss amount and its period (e.g. from March 2020 to March 2021), etc.</li> <li>- Among these new schemes, subsidy for micro and small enterprises were introduced, in the form of a grant worth a maximum of PLN5,000 / €1,100.</li> </ul>

<p><b>ROMANIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The European Commission has approved a €935m Romanian scheme to support companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak, taking the form of direct grants for working capital and productive investments, and will be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The measure 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SWITZERLAND</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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></li> <li>- An additional CHF 5b scheme was introduced in 2020 to support cultural businesses that were most affected by the pandemic, via grants to cover turnover losses. But this aid mechanism cannot be combined with the one that is specific to the cinema sector, described earlier in this research, unless you distinguish different commercial activities (screenings, F&amp;B sale, events, etc). Cinema owners do not know yet if they will be allowed to apply to this scheme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UK Government introduced a number of support grants (ranging from £10,000-£25,000 per property) for many companies operating in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector. More details can be found on the <u><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>.</li> <li>- General grants were introduced in October 2020 for businesses which were required to close by government or where other COVID restrictions have significantly impacted on them following the introduction of a second lockdown. The amounts vary depending on the 'rateable value' of the business (how much it pays in local business taxes):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </li> <li>- In addition to the above, businesses with qualifying property with a rateable value of less than £51,000 are eligible for cash grants from local authorities.</li> <li>- The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) supports businesses that are not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding is needed.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Businesses that have not had to close but which have been severely impacted due to local Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions may be eligible for Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB). Up to £2,100 per business per month.</li></ul>
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## 1.4. 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	The Government grants described earlier in this document are meant to be used by employers to cover fixed costs, including employees' wages. It is now possible to reduce working time to 10% while maintaining employees in an employment relationship with 80% wage compensation. The State will reimburse the employer for the costs of lost working hours on the basis of fixed and flat rates. Various work reduction systems have been introduced. The scheme was valid for six months (March to August). This scheme did not apply to so called "mini job contracts" – covering many of those working in the cinema industry – but various operators have decided to keep paying these wages.
BELGIUM	Figures	Approx. 1,200 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	Procedures for temporary leave due to <i>force majeure</i> have been rendered more fluid. The State will cover 70% of salaries, previously it was 65%. Average unemployment revenue has been increased by €150 per month for those on temporary unemployment because of the virus. The measure was extended until the 31 December for worst affected sectors, and for companies that have used it for at least 20% of days worked in the second quarter. It was again extended up until 31 March 2021 following the introduction of a second lockdown in October 2020. More information is available <a href="#">here</a> . Various already existing regional support mechanisms have been made more flexible to benefit impacted employees.
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 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. <a href="#">More information in Bulgarian available here.</a>
CROATIA	Measures	The Government covered 100% of minimum net wages if employers did not lay off workers. That minimum wage was increased from €425



		to approximately €525 starting from the month of April and will be paid for March, April and May. The State also covered social and pension contributions. <u>Detailed information available <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here in Croatian</a>.</u>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Measures	<p>Support Plan for Small Businesses, amounting to €10m, for businesses employing up to 5 people, under the condition that they keep employing their employees and have suffered losses bigger than 25% of their turnover. The employment support schemes covered 90% of the workforce of a company and 60% of the net salary up until 31 August 2020. The Government of Cyprus has extended this scheme up until the 31 October 2020, supporting 60% of the salaries for 40% of the employees of a company. The scheme was again extended until March 2021, with the Government supporting 60% of the salaries for 50% of the employees of a company, provided that the company did not achieve 40% of its monthly turnover (calculated from past performances).</p> <p>The payment of overdue contributions of social insurance as well as the instalments for the months of March and April 2020 was suspended and the deadline for settlement was extended by two months.</p> <p>Following the introduction of a second lockdown in January 2021, eight support schemes worth a total of €130m were introduced. These primarily provide allowances to cover salary costs for companies with full and partial suspension of operation.</p>
<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 <a href="#">here</a>.</u></p> <p>A €97 million (CZK 260 million) scheme to support companies which have been particularly affected by the coronavirus outbreak was introduced in August. This scheme includes support for jobs offered to previously unemployed people. The scheme is running until 31 December 2020. It was announced in January 2021 that this scheme would be extended up until 30 June 2021.</p> <p>In addition, a new €160m scheme will provide a higher level of support to businesses who were prohibited or substantially restricted in carrying out economic activities due to the coronavirus outbreak. This new scheme, consisting in financing up to 100% of the employers' wage costs, is accessible to businesses of all sizes and covers the wages incurred between 1 October and 28 February 2021.</p>
<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).

		Following a second round of closure from 16 December, the scheme above has been renewed.
<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> This scheme ended on 31 July 2020.
<b>FINLAND</b>	Measures	The Government compensation of layoff days varies between 0-30€/day to 30-70%/day or month depending on whether you belong to union/unemployment fund or not and depending on your salary level. Various changes were made to lay-off rules. Employee re-employment obligation were extended: the employer will be obligated, for a period of nine months, to re-employ those employees who were dismissed for financial or production-related reasons between 1 April and 30 June.
<b>FRANCE</b>	Figures	Approx. 15,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partial activity covers 70% of salaries, which can rise to 100% for those on minimum wage and employees covered by an industry agreement to cover their salaries in full. The compensation paid by employers was entirely covered for companies in the film exhibition sector until September 30, 2020. The FNCF then requested an extension of these preferential conditions for partial activity until December 31, 2020 – which was approved by the French Government in late August 2020. This measure was again extended until 31 March 2021. The French Government created an <a href="#">extensive online FAQ</a> explaining this support system.</li> <li>- In order to support employers experiencing a lasting decline in activity, another long-term partial activity mechanism was made available requiring a corporate agreement. In return for employment commitments, employers should be able to reduce working hours of the employees (up to 40% or 50% in certain cases) and obtain an increased allowance. Detailed information about partial activity is available <a href="#">in this document</a>, in French.</li> <li>- From 1 June 2020, the conditions for the partial activity salary compensation evolved to support companies in the economic recovery related to progressive de-containment. More information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>- All the employment and related social support schemes introduced during the first lockdown were extended and reinforced during the second lockdown, <a href="#">as outlined in this official text in French</a>.</li> <li>- 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>.</li> <li>- Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October, the French Government announced that employers would not be</li> </ul>

		<p>required to pay social charges. This measure only applies to companies with less than 50 employees that have been forced to close.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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).</li> <li>- Initially only effective during lockdown, a rule offering financial support to employees who are forced to stay at home to take care of their children because their school was closed/children test positive to COVID-19 was re-introduced from 1 September. <a href="#">More information available here, in French</a>. Another rule offering financial support to employees forced to stay at home because they are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, parents of a child under 16 or of a disabled person subject to a measure of isolation are still available.</li> <li>- French authorities have also provided for the payment of 10 days of paid leave between January 1 and 7 March 2021. The scheme will allow employers to plan for their employees to take 10 days of paid leave between these dates. The state will cover 70% of the paid leave amount, with a ceiling set at 4.5 times the national minimum salary. The support mechanism is available for companies that were forced to close for at least 140 days in 2020 or that lost 90% of turnover during lockdown periods compared to the same periods in 2019.</li> <li>- On 16 July 2020, French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced a €100 billion recovery roadmap, including incentives for businesses hiring people under the age of 25.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY</b>	Figures	Approx. 25,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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>.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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,</li> </ul>

		<p>currently valid for the months of June, July and August, are expected to be extended until the end of 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- It was announced in December 2020 that the statutory minimum wage would be increased twice in 2021. It will rise in January from €9.35 to €9.50 per hour and in July to €9.60. This also applies to so-called mini jobs (max. €450).</li> </ul> <p>HDF Kino has conducted a <u>survey</u> among exhibitors on their experience with these two aid programmes in order to further tailor their demands to the Government.</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. 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	<p>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.</p>
<b>IRELAND</b>	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment was increased from €203 to €350 for employees who lost their jobs due to COVID-19.</li> <li>- Also a Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme was set up by the Government whereby the state provided employers, who experienced significant economic disruption, with a subsidy payment based on either 85% of the wage (for those earning below €1,785 per month), a flat €1,517 (for those between €1,786 and €2,170 per month) or 70% of the wage (for those between €2,171 and €2,539 per month - subject to a cap of €1,777 per month). <u>More information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</u> On 1 September the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS). Level of subsidy the employer will receive per employee: Less than €151.50 gross wages per week – nil subsidy; From €151.50 to €202.99 gross wages per week - €151.50 subsidy; More than € 203 and less than € 1,462 gross wages per week - €203</li> </ul>

		<p>subsidy; More than € 1.462 gross wages per week - nil subsidy. Income tax will not be applied to the subsidy payment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new <b>Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)</b>, 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.</li> </ul>
<b>ITALY</b>	Figures	Approx. 8,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- A compensation of €600 has been provided for collaboration contracts, with reference to the month of March.</li> <li>- A postponement of social security payments for the months of April and May was approved. <a href="#">Additional information in Italian available here.</a></li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<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. This scheme ended on 30 June 2020. <a href="#">Detailed information available here.</a></p>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	Measures	<p>Post quarantine support (6-months programme): companies which were impacted by the lockdown can apply for support after quarantine. This scheme is currently running until 16 December 2020.</p> <p>1st - 2nd month (July and August 2020) - a company can get 100% subsidy, but not more than €607 for full-time employees;</p> <p>3rd - 4th month – max. €303.5 for full-time employees;</p> <p>5th - 6th month – €182.1 for full-time employees.</p>
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	Figures	Approx. 100 people employed in exhibition.

	Measures	The procedure for applying to and obtaining temporary leave was accelerated and modified. In order to avoid permanent layoffs, the State encouraged temporary unemployment for reason of <i>force majeure</i> . From 16 March this possibility was granted automatically for companies that were forced by the authorities to close. The State covered 80% of the employee's salary, the reimbursed amount was limited to 250% of the minimum average salary. The employers still had to cover social charges and actual working hours. <u><a href="#">More information available in French.</a></u>
<b>MALTA</b>	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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. <u><a href="#">Additional information can be found here.</a></u></li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NOW 1.0 - From March 2020, employers had to pay 100% of their employees' salaries, while receiving State compensation of up to 90% of the wage sum (up to a certain maximum) from the Dutch Labour Authority. The compensation applies to employees with permanent and flexible contracts. In order to qualify for the compensation, the employer must demonstrate that it expects at least 20% loss of turnover for a consecutive period of three months. So for instance, loss in turnover of 100% = 90% compensation of the employer's wage sum; 50% = 45%; 25% = 22.5%. <u><a href="#">Detailed information available here.</a></u></li> <li>- NOW 2.0 - From June 2020, an entrepreneur registering at least 20% expected revenue loss from July 6, 2020 can apply for a 90% contribution towards wage costs for June to September. The extended regime uses the same system of compensation, with some additions. <u><a href="#">Detailed information for the extended regime available here.</a></u></li> <li>- NOW 3.0 – From October 2020, employment support was extended until 1 July 2021. It was confirmed in December 2020 that the rates applied for NOW 2.0 would be extended for NOW</li> </ul>

		<p>3.0 following the introduction of second lockdown in the Netherlands. From January 2021, there must be a drop in turnover of at least 20% for a wage compensation of 90% maximum. Additional rules/support measures related to employment have also been introduced, <a href="#">with more information available here, in Dutch.</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government has announced in October 2020 that it would increase tax-free expenses in the Work-related Expense Scheme (vrije ruimte in de Werkkostenregeling in Dutch) to 3% of the first €400,000 of an employee's wage bill. This increase was temporary and only in effect for 2020.</li> </ul>
<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.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the event of redundancy, cinemas have to pay the first two days' salaries (previously at 15 days before the crisis). Thereafter the Government covers 18 days of full payment (100% of the employee salary is covered). After the first 20 days, 80% of the salary (for those earning between NOK 75,000-300,000 yearly) or 62,4% (for those earning between NOK 300,000 and approx. NOK 600,000 yearly). Before one had to earn NOK 150.000 in the last 12 months to get cover at all, now the limit is down to NOK75.000 in the last 12 months, which will help student workers.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>POLAND</b>	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Workers were allowed to delay their social security payments.</li> <li>- 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).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional support schemes were introduced in December 2020 following the extension of various COVID-19 related restrictions. Among these new schemes, businesses will be exempted from paying their social charges due for the month of November 2020, which could be extended to additional months if the Government decides to do so. Cinemas are intended as recipients of this aid. But applications for this scheme were supposed to be submitted until 30 November and the act itself was passed on 9 December, making it impossible for anyone to apply.</li> <li>- Employers can also apply to a one-off additional closure benefit, valid for October and November 2020. The closure benefit is equivalent to 80% of the minimum wage applicable in 2020, (PLN2,080 / €470).</li> <li>- The State will also co-finance employees' salaries in the amount of PLN2,000 per employee, for a period of 3 months, to avoid layoffs. This last measure was later extended to early 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each employee entitled to family support, to 2/3 of the basic remuneration and supported by the employer and the Portuguese Social Security. The employer paid 33 percent and Social Security covered the remaining 33 percent. The two thirds mentioned above could not be less than €635 (guaranteed minimum monthly wage) and could not exceed €1,905 (which corresponds to three month's minimum wages).</li> <li>- 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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> </ul>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	Measures	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. <a href="#">More information available here.</a>
<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Until the end of May 2020, the Government co-financed the salaries and social contributions of all workers who were sent home, awaiting to resume work, with an option to extend this period if the current state of affairs persists. Workers who lost</li> </ul>



		<p>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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>SPAIN</b>	Figures	Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>The Spanish Government forbade employers to lay off employees during the pandemic. A global mechanism called ERTE (expediente de regulacion temporal de empleo – temporary employment regulation file) was introduced, whereby the Government covered up to 70% of the salary and reduced employer's charges. The scheme was initially running until 31 January 2021 and was later extended to 31 May 2021. <a href="#">More information 1 (in Spanish)</a></p> <p><a href="#">More information 2 (in Spanish)</a></p>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employers could furlough staff so they could work 15-16 hours a week with 50% costs and employee receiving 90% of their pay (with a cap) with Government support from mid-March and onwards. From May, employers could reduce the cost and hours to 20% (8 hours per week) and the staff still got 90% of their base salary (with a cap). The furlough programme was later extended until summer 2021.</li> <li>- The State covered full costs for sick leave from companies through the months of April and May.</li> </ul>
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Measures	<p>The national program of “reduced work” (part/technical unemployment) applied to all employees when businesses were forced to close. It was simplified and extended to temporary employees as well and paid 80% of wages. The idea was to allow companies to keep their employees until the end of the crisis. Because the temporary furlough scheme described above does not apply to independents and business owners (employers), a special support was briefly introduced for March and April 2020. The amounts received were very low. It was renewed in some Swiss cantons in September 2020.</p>
<b>TURKEY</b>	Figures	Approx. 7,500 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	The Government paid salaries (up to 60%) from Governmental funds for 3 months.
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Measures	<p>On 22 April, the Cabinet of Ministers issued a normative act on support related to partial unemployment during the quarantine. The scheme required employers to request this help for their employees, and then the employer to provide information about the employees eligible for this support on a monthly basis. The support was paid for every hour of work that was lost because of the quarantine and was</p>

		calculated as 75% of the employee's salary per hour, but not more than the minimum wage (4723 UAH/145 EUR) per month.
	Figures	Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition.
UK	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UK Government introduced a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) which covered 80% of the wages of staff who would otherwise be laid off or 'furloughed', for up to £2,500 per month per individual and paid through HMRC. Employers were invited to top up the remaining 20%. The scheme was made available to large and small businesses, and the charity and voluntary sector. The so-called furlough scheme was expected to stop in November 2020, when it was meant to be replaced by the Job Support Scheme described below. It was announced in November 2020 that the CJRS (also known as the furlough scheme) would remain open until 31 March 2021.</li> <li>- On 24 September, a new Jobs Support Scheme was introduced to cover the pay of employees working fewer than normal hours due to lower demand arising from COVID-19. This scheme was withdrawn following the extension of the CJRS. The scheme was meant to apply to staff who can work at least a third of their usual hours. Employers would have had to pay staff for the hours they worked and for those they didn't (compared to 'normal' hours), the Government and the employer each covering one third of the lost pay. The Government payments would have been capped at £697.92 per month per employee. The scheme was meant to run for six months from 1 November and be open to employers across the UK even if they have not previously used the furlough scheme.</li> <li>- A Self-Employment Income Support Scheme supported self-employed individuals whose income has been negatively affected by COVID-19 by providing a grant worth 80% of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. Job supp</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- On 8 July, as part of a <u>£30b package to save jobs</u>, the UK Government announced the Job Retention Bonus, a £1,000 one-off taxable payment to the employer, for each eligible employee that was furloughed and kept continuously employed until 31 January 2021.</li> </ul>

## 1.5. 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 for companies that experienced at least an 80% loss in turnover. In addition, businesses can benefit from a reduced corporate tax, which can cover approximately 6.5% of your fixed costs. This support scheme was renewed following the announcement of a second lockdown in Austria, with a ceiling of €3m per company – strictly covering fixed costs such as rent or energy bills.
<b>BELGIUM</b>	Measures	In the commune of Brussels City, the payment of rents for businesses was delayed. Similar schemes were introduced at local level (region or city).
<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. Following the introduction of a second lockdown in January 2021, the Government announced state sponsorship to cover rents, and other operating expenses of companies and the self-employed, amounting to €200m.
<b>DENMARK</b>	Measures	If companies were forced by law to close down, all expenditure including rent was fully covered by the State. Following a second round of closure from 16 December, the scheme was renewed. Following the announcement of a lockdown in North Jutland from 6 November, the Danish government announced that businesses that were forced to close in the region would receive support covering all fixed costs.
<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 Finnish Government introduced a fixed costs compensation scheme covering April and May. This mechanism has not been renewed.

		<p>The City of Helsinki decided to temporarily waive rental payments on commercial premises and terraces (<a href="#">more info</a>).</p> <p>Municipalities support (described in the support scheme section of this document) could be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs such as rents.</p>
<b>FRANCE</b>	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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></li> <li>- The Minister of Economy introduced an incentive of three months cancelled rent payments for very small businesses (less than 10 employees/€2m annual revenues). There was no obligation for landlords to apply it, but they were encouraged to do so. The FNCF provides detailed information on the topic to its members, including a draft letter which can be sent to landlords asking for a postponement or cancelation of rent. <a href="#">Additional information available here, in French.</a></li> <li>- Following the introduction of a new lockdown from 30 October, the French Government has announced that it would financially incentivise landlords to cancel the rent due for November and possibly December if the lockdown is extended. The French Government decided to limit this scheme to November 2020 following the introduction of an extended solidarity fund (allowing all companies to apply for a one-off grant) for the month of December. This incentive will take the shape of a tax credit, with the state effectively covering 50% of the rent if the landlord accepts to cancel it. This measure will apply to companies of less than 250 employees. For bigger companies, the support will only cover a maximum of 2/3 of the rent due for November.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- It was announced in mid-January 2021 that all businesses with a monthly turnover of over €1m and more than 50 employees which have been required to close by the Government will benefit from a support fund specifically targeting fixed costs. The fund will cover maximum 70% of fixed costs for a total amount of maximum €3m per company from January to June 2021. This aid can be combined with the already existing solidarity fund. Details of this programme will be announced later in January or February 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>GERMANY</b>	Figures	Approx. €17m in weekly fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> </ul>

		<p>pay rent due to the coronavirus crisis. <a href="#">More information available here, in German.</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Federal Government introduced a support mechanism specifically targeting fixed costs in 2020. This scheme has been valid for the period between April 2020 and June 2021. <a href="#">A description of the aid and application requirements are available here, in German.</a> The aid received is proportional to the loss incurred, with 90% of fixed costs covered for businesses that suffered a 70% decrease in turnover and only 40% for those that experienced a loss between 30-50% of turnover.</li> </ul>
<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	<p>No rent payments have been delayed. The only measure in the Law Decree concerns the March rent for shops forced to close (a 60% tax credit). The Italian cinema association ANEC has been advocating to have cinemas included, but this proposal was struck down.</p> <p>The Government issued a new law decree on 28 October, following the introduction of new restrictions, including the closure of cinemas. Tax credit for rents has been confirmed for October, November and December (if the decrease in turnover is at least 50%).</p>
<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	<p>SMEs directly affected by Government measures to contain the coronavirus can apply for the Allowance for Fixed Costs SMEs (TVL). Entrepreneurs could receive compensation for their fixed costs per period of 3 months, depending on the size of the company, the level of the fixed costs and the degree of loss of turnover. Companies can apply 3 times to the scheme, valid for periods of 3 months, from 1 June 2020 to 30 June 2021 (4 periods in total, Q3/4 2020 and Q1/2 2021). In order to apply, fixed costs must amount to at least €3,000 in 3 months (that amount was at €4,000 between 1 June and 30 September 2020). Businesses can receive a grant of maximum €90,000 per period of 3 months (previously €50,000). In January</p>

		<p>2021, this maximum amount was increased to €330,000 per quarter for SMEs and to €400,000 for larger companies. In February 2021, it was further increased to €550k for SMEs and €600k for larger companies. Entrepreneurs can be reimbursed 85% of their fixed costs if they suffer a turnover loss of more than 30%. Businesses must submit a new application each time. <a href="#">More information available here, in Dutch.</a></p> <p>It was announced in March 2021 that companies that had to (partially) close due to COVID-19 related restriction would receive a higher TVL in the second quarter of 2021. It was decided to increase the subsidy percentage to 100%. Entrepreneurs can use the TVL if they suffer more than 30% loss of turnover. The TVL scheme for the second quarter is expected to open from mid-May 2021.</p>
<b>NORWAY</b>	Measures	<p>A general compensation scheme was introduced whereby the State covers a share of the fixed costs for companies that have a significant decline in turnover as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme is easy to use and was designed for fast application and payment. Cinemas, distributors and suppliers were all able to apply. <a href="#">More information available here.</a> Another compensation scheme will be introduced to cover businesses that had to close a second time in late 2020 / early 2021. Only private companies will be able to apply.</p>
<b>POLAND</b>	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- A new support scheme was introduced in January 2021, worth a total of approximately €2.9b. It is specifically targeting micro, small and medium-sized companies. As part of this programme, companies can apply for support covering a maximum of 70% of the fixed costs incurred during the period from 1 November 2020 until 31 March 2021, for a maximum amount of €780k per company.</li> </ul>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	Measures	<p>Small and medium-sized companies, as defined by Law no. 346/2004, who had totally or partially interrupted their activity based on the decisions issued by public authorities during the period of emergency and having been granted a certificate for emergency situations issued by the Ministry of Economy, benefitted from deferred payment of utilities, electricity, natural gas, water, telephone and internet services, as well as the deferred payment of the rent for the building/s destined for registered offices and secondary offices.</p>
<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><a href="#">More information available here, in Spanish.</a></u>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Measures	Valid for the period running from April to December 2020, if a landlord and a tenant agree on a rebate on the rent, the Swedish state will cover a part of the rebate. The State compensation may represent 50% of the rebate, however not more than 25% of the ordinary rent amount. Tenants cannot obtain an advantage of more than €800,000 and the scheme expires on 31 December 2020. In an amended budget, the Government has allocated SEK 5b (approximately €453m) for the rent rebate scheme.
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Measures	The Federal Government has refused a plan to support businesses with their rent.
<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.

## 1.6. TAXATION

### SUMMARY

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

COUNTRY	DETAILS
<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 be imposed for a justified special reason. They could apply for a tax settlement on new, easier terms, and a withholding tax adjustment if business results appear to be lower than estimated. VAT refund processing will also be stepped up. The first repayment of delayed VAT has been postponed to 30 November 2020, with a reduced interest of 4%. Finland offered VAT loans during the coronavirus crises at an interest rate of 3%. This enabled businesses to apply for a temporary refund of VAT payments they made on their returns in 2020. <a href="#">More information available in Finnish online.</a>



<p><b>FRANCE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- On 16 July, French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced a €100 billion recovery roadmap, including tax cuts for French businesses. French companies saw business taxes cut by €20 billion over the next two years.</li> <li>- An exemption of the special tax on cinemas TSA (10,72% of the ticket price) to the French national cinema centre CNC has been voted by the French parliament at the end of 2020, worth over €37m in taxes that will be exempted or given back to cinemas.</li> <li>- An exemption for property tax has been granted to all land owners that were forced to close their businesses by the Government.</li> <li>- Most of the support schemes above were extended following the second lockdown and ensuing closure of French cinemas from 30 October 2020. The French cinema federation has created <a href="#">a dedicated page on their website</a> including all the tax exemptions and related measures that cinema operators can apply for.</li> <li>- The landlord tax (“taxe foncière” in French) can be reimbursed for landlords of businesses that were closed for at least 3 months in 2020.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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> Ordinary VAT has also been reduced from 19% to 16% from July to December 2020. It was confirmed in December 2020 that, as of January 1, 2021, the normal VAT rates of 19% and 7% will apply again.</li> <li>- The Federal Ministry of Finance has decided that, for around 90% of wage and income taxpayers, the previously paid solidarity surcharge will no longer apply from January 2021. This also relieves individual entrepreneurs in small and medium-sized companies. <a href="#">More information available here.</a></li> <li>- The submission deadline for tax returns for 2020 was extended to 31 August 2021, provided that the participation of a tax advisor is guaranteed;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The due date of the advance VAT payment for 2021 will be suspended upon request. In this case, amounts already paid will be refunded;</li> <li>- The obligation to file for insolvency has been suspended until 30 April 2021. But the conditions under which this option applies should be checked by a tax advisor or lawyer if possible.</li> </ul>
<b>GREECE</b>	<p>Suspension, for four months until August 2020, of tax and social security obligations of corporations that were ordered to close, with the sole condition that they do not dismiss any workers. Instalments of confirmed debts of March-April. 25% discount for March-April instalment payments if paid in due time. VAT payers who do not lay off staff may withhold 25% of their VAT due for April.</p>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<p>Tax authorities exempted 81,480 SMEs from the flat-rate tax liability until June 30 and delay tax debts already incurred before 1 March until after the end of the state of emergency.</p>
<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>	<p>Companies were supported by deferring taxes, including VAT.</p>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<p>VAT payments were delayed by up to one year if cinemas prove they are harmed by the crisis. There will be no charges for late payments or interest on outstanding VAT. Cinemas are not part of the first list of harmed businesses and are forced to prove they are harmed by the quarantine.</p> <p>The European Commission has approved in January 2021 a €156 million Lithuanian aid scheme which will take the form of tax deferrals and tax-related liquidity measures (payment in instalments of tax arrears, interest free periods, as well as the suspension of tax debt recovery). The scheme will be open to businesses affected by the containment measures imposed by the Lithuanian government to limit the spread of the coronavirus.</p>

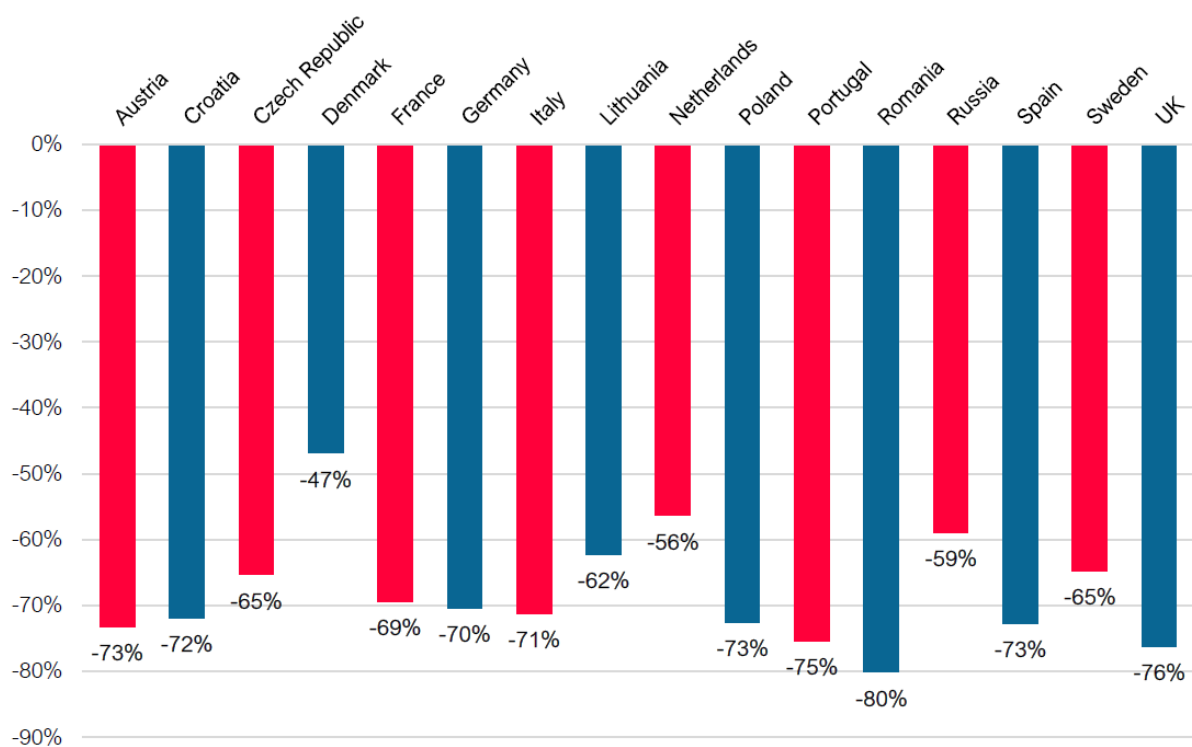
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	There are possibilities to delay tax payments & advances. There was a suspension of VAT penalties for late returns until 15 May.
<b>MALTA</b>	All taxes and VAT payments for March and April were deferred to June, to improve liquidity by €700 million. This measure applies to businesses that could prove an estimated 25% or more decrease in sales registered (on the basis of a 3 month period in 2020 compared with the same period of 2019).
<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. 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 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>	Businesses could postpone their payments of social charges. Tax payments, due for 30 April, were postponed to 30 May.
<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>	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>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	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.
<b>SERBIA</b>	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.

<b>SLOVENIA</b>	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.
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	VAT payments and other tax rules were relaxed for February, March and April payments. No interest or penalties on late filings.
<b>SPAIN</b>	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.
<b>SWEDEN</b>	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%.
<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.

## 2. BOX OFFICE PERFORMANCES IN 2020

European cinemas saw a 70.6% drop in box office in 2020, accounting for a total decrease of €6.2 billion in revenues compared to 2019. A similar 69.0% reduction could be observed in the European Union, resulting in a €4.0 billion drop in revenues. These figures come after a very successful 2019, when European cinemas grossed over €8.8 billion at the box office and attracted more than 1.34 billion cinema-goers. In the European Union, cinemas had recorded their best results for 15 years, with admissions reaching the 1 billion mark for the first time since 2004.

### REDUCTION IN 2020 BOX OFFICE ACROSS A SELECTION OF EUROPEAN TERRITORIES (based on admissions for France)



[Detailed figure for all UNIC territories can be found via this link.](#)