



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. If you need additional help, please reach out!

Updates are included in red.

18/06: updated information for Austria, Ireland, Portugal, Ireland, Slovakia and the Netherlands.

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1. CLOSURE PROCESS

SUMMARY

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

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

MALTA	16 March	Official decision from the Government on 16 March. Most cinemas had closed from 13 March.
MONTENEGRO	13 March	Official decision from the Government.
NETHERLANDS	15 March	Official decision from the Government on 15 March.
NORTH MACEDONIA	10 March	Official decision from the Government.
NORWAY	12 March	Official decision from the Government on 12 March.
POLAND	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
PORTUGAL	16 March	Official decision from the Government.
ROMANIA	12 March	Official decision from the Government.
RUSSIA	26 March	Following an official Government decree on 25 March, Regional Governments effectively closed all cinemas.
SERBIA	18 March	Official decision from the Government.
SLOVAKIA	9 March	Official decision from the Government.
SLOVENIA	10 March	Official decision from the Government.
SPAIN	14 March	Official decision from the Government.
SWEDEN	Partly closed 18 March	Major operator closed its sites on 18 March due to official restrictions on social gatherings. A few independent cinemas remained open.
SWITZERLAND	17 March	Official decision from several Cantons initially on March 13, followed by a federal decision on March 17. Major operators decided to close from 16 March.
TURKEY	17 March	Official decision from the Government.
UKRAINE	17 March	Official decision from the Government. Cinemas were first officially closed in the capital from 12 March before an official decision from the Government on 17 March.
UNITED KINGDOM	17-20 March	On 16 March the Government advised that it was no longer safe to visit social venues. Most cinemas closed within 48 hours. On 20 March, the government told all cinemas to close.

2. REOPENING PROCESS

SUMMARY

As of the last week of May 2020, most European markets have indicated potential reopening dates for cinemas ranging from early May to early July. The territories for which a potential reopening date for cinemas has been announced are included in the table below – organised by reopening date. Please bear in mind that those timelines are official dates from national authorities, which are not only provisional but also subject to change and will not necessarily result in the effective reopening of cinemas.

COUNTRY	CLOSURE DATE	1st REOPENING PHASE	CINEMAS TBC REOPENING DATE
NORWAY	14 March	20 April	7 May
BULGARIA	13 March	13 May	11 May
CZECH REPUBLIC	12 March	7 April	11 May
LATVIA	14 March	12 May	12 May
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	13 March	11 May	14 May
GERMANY ¹	14-18 March	20 April	15 May - 30 June
CROATIA	17 March	27 April	18 May
SLOVENIA	10 March	20 April	18 May
SLOVAKIA	9 March	22 April	20 May
DENMARK	12 March	15 April	21 May
SPAIN ¹	14 March	28 April	25 May - 8 June
AUSTRIA	16 March	14 April	29 May
LITHUANIA	13 March	27 April	31 May
FINLAND	18 March	13 May	1 June
KOSOVO	12 March	4 May	1 June
NETHERLANDS	15 March	28 April	1 June
PORTUGAL	16 March	4 May	1 June
MALTA	16 March	4 May	5 June
POLAND	12 March	20 April	6 June
SWITZERLAND	17 March	27 April	6 June
ITALY ¹	23 Feb. - 8 March	14 April	15 June
LUXEMBOURG	16 March	20 April	17 June
FRANCE	14 March	11 May	22 June
GREECE	12 March	4 May	June TBC
BELGIUM	14 March	18 April	1 July
ESTONIA	12 March	11 May	1 July
TURKEY	17 March	11 May	1 July
SERBIA	18 March	27 April	1 July
UKRAINE	17 March	11 May	2 July
UK	17 March	11 May	4 July ²
ROMANIA	12 March	15 May	July TBC
HUNGARY	17 March	1 May	July TBC
RUSSIA	26 March	30 April	July TBC
IRELAND	16 March	5 May	20 July
CYPRUS	16 March	4 May	Early August

¹Closure and/or opening process is taking place on a local level (state, region or province).

²Only applies to England. Position on Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland still unclear.

COUNTRY	FIRST PHASE	CINEMA REOPENING	REOPENING PROCESS
ALBANIA	27 April	TBC	Flower shops as well as footwear and clothing stores reopened on 27 April. On 18 May, open-air cafes and restaurants, as well as museums, cultural centres and archaeological sites were allowed to open. Most shops and businesses were allowed to reopen on 1 June. Only public transport, sports and cultural activities remain closed.
AUSTRIA	14 April	29 May	The gradual reopening process started with small shops on 14 April, larger stores on 1 May, restaurants on 15 May, hotels, outdoor activities and indoor gatherings of 100 people from May 29. Cinemas will be allowed to reopen from May 29 – originally from 1 July, but the date was brought forward on 27 May. Most cinemas will reopen by mid-June, with some chains reporting they will wait until early July.
BELGIUM	18 April	1 July	Shops selling gardening and building materials/tools reopened on 18 April. Most shops reopened on 11 May. Museums and other businesses reopened from 18 May. Bars and restaurants are allowed to reopen from 8 June. Cinemas are allowed to reopen from 1 July.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	11 May	14 May	Bosnian Entities have applied different rules. In the mainly Serbian Republika Srpska Entity, restaurants and coffee bars, hairdressers, gyms and kindergartens all reopened from 11 May. Federal authorities announced on 14 May that cinemas and cultural institutions could reopen immediately. Some cinemas are expected to reopen effectively during the week of 18 May.
BULGARIA	13 May	11 May	Bulgaria's Health Minister Kiril Ananiev issued an order on May 11 allowing cinemas to reopen immediately. Health and safety rules have not been published yet.
CROATIA	27 April	18 May	Cultural institutions, libraries, museums and stores reopened from 27 April. From May 11, gatherings of up to 10 people have been allowed, as shopping centres reopened. Bars and restaurants have been allowed to serve customers in outdoor spaces. Cinemas have been allowed to reopen from 18 May, but those located in shopping malls will have to wait for 15 June.
CYPRUS	4 May	Early August	The construction industry, related sectors and retail businesses reopened from 4 May. Barber shops, hairdressers and restaurants could reopen

			from 21 May. Cinemas were initially expected to reopen in mid-July, which was then postponed to early August.
CZECH REPUBLIC	7 April	11 May	The Czech Government twice decided to speed up its reopening process. The process has been divided into 5 progressive steps, ending on 11 May with the reopening of all businesses, including cinemas. Gatherings will be limited to up to 100 people.
DENMARK	15 April	21 May	Schools reopened on 15 April, hairdressers and other one-to-one businesses reopened from 20 April. Most shops reopened from 11 May, followed by bars and restaurants from 18 May. Cinemas, along with museums, theatres and zoos have been allowed to reopen from 21 May – more than two weeks earlier than previously announced.
ESTONIA	11 May	1 July	Shopping malls reopened from 11 May. It was announced that large public events could take place again from 1 July, with a maximum of 1000 people for outdoor events and 500 for indoor events, at 50% capacity maximum – which applies to cinema.
FINLAND	13 May	1 June	Cinemas, along with a range of other shops and services, were allowed to reopen on 1 June. Indoor gatherings will be limited to 500 people. Major chains will only re-open between the last week of June and mid-July.
FRANCE	11 May	22 June	All shops will be able to reopen from 11 May, as gatherings are limited to 10 people. Cinemas will be allowed to reopen from 22 June.
GERMANY	20 April	15 May-30 June	Shops of 800 square meters or smaller reopened from 20 April. The reopening process has been managed on a state by state basis. 14 out of 16 German States have announced reopening dates for local cinemas: Hessen (346 screens in 2019) from 15 May, Saxony (247), Schleswig-Holstein (175) and Saarland (67) from May 18, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (141) from 25 May, Hamburg (87) and Rhineland-Palatinate (224) from 27 May, Sachsen-Anhalt (130) from 28 May, North Rhine-Westphalia (909) from 30 May, Baden-Württemberg (691) from 1 June, Brandenburg (152) from 6 June, Bremen (49) from 12 June, Thuringia (138) from 13 June, Bavaria (859) from 15 June, Lower Saxony (462) from 22 June and Berlin (284) from 30 June. German cinema chains and associations have

			expressed their concerns regarding these staggered reopening dates and have asked for a more coherent approach.
GREECE	4 May	June TBC	The lockdown ended on 4 May, from when small retail shops and hair salons reopened. All retail shops except those in shopping malls reopened on 11 May. Shopping malls reopened from 18 May, followed by restaurants and bars from 25 May. All other businesses – including cinemas – should be allowed to reopen in June.
HUNGARY	1 May	July TBC	With the exception of Budapest and its surroundings, shops, beaches and the open-air areas of cafes and restaurants reopened on 1 May. Small retail outlets reopened during the first week of May in the capital. Outdoor areas of restaurants and bars reopened on 18 May. Outdoor sporting and cultural events and indoor areas of restaurants and hotels were allowed to reopen on 29 May. The state of emergency could end on 16 June, allowing for cinemas to reopen a few days after according to local authorities. Local chains have expressed hope to re-open in early July.
IRELAND	5 May	20 July	The Irish Government outlined its exit strategy on 1 May. Cinemas were initially only allowed to reopen in the final phase, starting from 10 August, but the date was moved forward to 20 July.
ITALY	14 April	15 June	Bookshops and shops selling children's clothing have reopened from 14 April. From 27 April, wholesale businesses reopened. Bars and restaurants reopened for takeaway service from 4 May. They will reopen for dine-in service from 1 June. All shops reopened on 18 May along with museums and libraries. It was announced on 16 May that gyms and cinemas would be allowed to reopen from 15 June, limited to 200 people per room.
KOSOVO	4 May	1 June	The Government announced a three-step reopening plan, with cinemas expected to reopen starting from 1 June.
LATVIA	12 May	12 May	From 12 May, gatherings of 25 people have been allowed and all businesses have been allowed to reopen. They must close at midnight and indoor gatherings can last a maximum of 3 hours. Most cinemas have decided not to reopen, mostly due to the short notice given by local authorities. Some have announced partial reopening during the following weeks or in early June.

LITHUANIA	27 April	31 May	All shops have reopened in Lithuania starting from 27 April, as open-air restaurants, museums and hair salons were allowed to operate again. From May 31, indoor events – including cinemas – of under 30 people will be allowed. The first cinema to actually reopen did so from 5 June.
LUXEMBOURG	20 April	17 June	Construction sites, along with shops selling gardening/DIY tools and recycling centres reopened from 20 April. The Government announced that cinemas could reopen from 29 May. This decision was unexpected and cinema operators have decided to reopen in a coherent manner on 17 June.
MALTA	4 May	5 June	Various shops have been allowed to reopen from 4 May. Restaurants, bars and other non-essential businesses reopened on 22 May. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 5 June but, due to strict distancing measures, no cinemas reopened on that date. Most sites will reopen in the week of 22 June.
MONTENEGRO	4 May	TBC	Shops, fitness centres, barbers and beauty salons reopened from 4 May. All restaurants, cafes, hotels and beach bars reopened from 18 May.
NETHERLANDS	28 April	1 June	From 28 April, retailers have been allowed to reopen. It was announced on 6 May that restaurants and cinemas could reopen on 1 June, initially with a capacity limited to 30 visitors, to be increased to 100 from 1 July.
NORTH MACEDONIA	18 May	TBC	Most business have been allowed to reopen gradually from 18 or 25 May under strict social distancing measures. The nationwide curfew was lifted on 27 May, while restaurants, cafes and bars will reopen their outdoor spaces from 28 May.
NORWAY	20 April	7 May	Kindergartens and primary schools reopened from 20 April. Cinemas have been authorised to reopen from 7 May, with a capacity limited to 50 people per screening. It will be increased to 200 people from 15 June, if cases continue to drop.
POLAND	20 April	6 June	Restrictions were first lifted from 20 April. From 4 May, shopping malls, hotels and certain cultural institutions have reopened. Restaurants and bars have reopened from 18 May. In the fourth and final phase, which will start on 6 June, cinemas will be allowed to reopen and gatherings of 50 people will be authorised.
PORTUGAL	4 May	1 June	The Government announced a de-escalation strategy in three phases, starting on 4 May. On 18 May, schools and various shops will be allowed to

			reopen. Cinemas will be allowed to reopen on 1 June, with limited capacity.
ROMANIA	15 May	July TBC	From 15 May, hairdressers, barbershops, dentists and museum were allowed to reopen. Restaurants that serve their clients outdoors will reopen in Romania on June 1. Shopping malls can resume operations from 15 June 15, along with private, non-commercial events – under certain restrictions. Open air performances, including drive-ins, are allowed if there is a minimum 2m distance between seats and no more than 500 people (wearing masks) are in the audience. All indoor events are still prohibited. On 17 June, the state of alert was extended by another 30 days. Churches are now allowed to host ceremonies, while restaurants remain shut. Local chains have expressed hope to re-open in early July.
RUSSIA	30 April	July TBC	On 2 June, the Deputy Prime Minister announced on that Russia's movie theatres could re-open in mid-July. As was the case for closure, formal reopening decisions will be made by Regional Governors.
SERBIA	27 April	1 July	Beauty and fitness businesses in Serbia were allowed to reopen from 27 April. Cinemas will be allowed to reopen from 1 July.
SLOVAKIA	22 April	20 May	From 22 April, shops with sales areas of up to 300m ² , open-air markets and car dealers were allowed to reopen. From 6 May, all shops reopened. Cinemas were allowed to reopen from 20 May, however, strict health and safety rules have made it difficult for most to reopen. Most sites will reopen by mid-June.
SLOVENIA	20 April	18 May	Various shops reopened from 20 April. Hairdressers and beauty parlours reopened from 4 May. All shops and businesses were allowed to reopen from 18 May. It remains to be confirmed, but cinemas seem to be included.

SPAIN	28 April	25 May	A transition plan in four phases was announced on 28 April, starting with the reopening of small shops. Phase 2, starting on 25 May, could see the reopening of most businesses, including cinemas, under limited capacity. Phase 3, starting on 8 June, could see the reopening of all restaurants and large commercial spaces, as well an increase of the allowed capacity as set in Phase 2. Cinemas located in malls might only be able to reopen in Phase 3. This plan will have to be approved on a province level. Major cities like Barcelona and Madrid will not reopen their cinemas before 8 June, while some cinemas in the Canary Islands reopened as early as 18 May. Due to this staggered approach, few cinemas reopened in May. It is expected that most cinemas will have reopened by the final week of June.
SWITZERLAND	27 April	6 June	One-to-one services restarted from 27 April, followed by schools, all shops, restaurants, markets, museums and libraries from 11 May. Cinemas will be allowed to reopen from 6 June.
TURKEY	11 May	1 July	The Turkish government did not impose a strict lockdown. Instead, it has issued short-term weekend curfews covering some provinces, while banning at risk citizens from leaving their homes. On May 11, shopping centres, barbers and some shops were allowed to reopen with some restrictions. On 1 June, the national lockdown was lifted and restaurants and bars were allowed to reopen. Cinemas should be allowed to reopen on 1 July.
UKRAINE	11 May	2 July	The government outlined a five-step reopening plan, starting from 11 May. Cinemas could reopen as part of step 3, which could start from around 10 June. Cinema operators asked their local authorities to postpone reopening to 2 July, as they believe they would not be able to effectively operate before then. This approach was formally agreed on 11 June.
UNITED KINGDOM	11 May	4 July	The lockdown is effective until early May at least. The Government announced its exit strategy on 10 May, which indicated that cinemas could potentially reopen from 4 July in England. Shops, zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas were allowed to open on 15 June with safeguards in place. Reopening dates for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are yet to be announced.

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

National authorities are publishing health and safety guidelines which differ widely from one country to another – and will continue to evolve as restrictions are eased. For this reason, UNIC will not be able to publish official recommendations or set industry protocols.

Cinema operators and their national associations are also developing 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 below is subject to change as health and safety rules are regularly updated.

COUNTRY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
ALBANIA	National requirements	Albanians must register on an app for permission to shop for essentials and are currently allowed to leave their homes for up to two hours a day.
AUSTRIA	Cinema specific	Attendance is limited to 250 people per room, to be increased to 500 from 1 August. People must keep a 1m distance from each other if they do not come as a group or are from the same household. If that distance cannot be respected, mask wearing will become mandatory – unless another suitable solution is introduced. Mask wearing is mandatory when entering the cinema and waiting in line, but can be removed once seated. Detailed information is available here, in German.
BELGIUM	Cinema specific	Cinemas can welcome a maximum of 200 visitors per screening room and have to respect a distance of 1.5m between customers.
BULGARIA	Cinema specific	Physical distancing and all anti-epidemic measures must be respected, with occupancy limited to 30% until 15 June, from when it was increased to 50%. F&B sales are allowed as of 15 June. Additional rules are included below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disinfecting the screening room after each show; 2. People should not enter the screening room in groups, but one-by-one; 3. Hand disinfectant must be available customers to use freely; 4. Mask must be worn during the show; 5. The traffic flow of the customers must be in one direction – one entrance point and another exit point; 6. In a public place, the cinemas must visibly place warnings for people to keep social distancing and to not gather in groups of more than 2 or, if family, 4.
CZECH REPUBLIC	Cinema specific	Self-regulatory recommendations have been published, outlining a set of key recommendations for cinema operators. Rules related to mask wearing, occupancy and F&B sales have changed since the publication of these guidelines. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electronic ticket sale is encouraged; 2. 2m distance between staff and customer at box office;

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Limited seating: every second row can be occupied. Within the occupied row, a maximum of 2 people can sit next to each other; 4. Visitors must wear masks (this specific point is not mandatory anymore); 5. Maximum of 100 people per room (this specific point is not effective anymore); 6. Reduce/remove all seats in the foyer, while the corridor in the foyer will be used only for access to the halls; 7. Air renewal systems are encouraged; 8. Staff must wear masks; 9. If using gloves, they should be disposed of after every use. Staff should regularly disinfect and wash hands; 10. Disinfectant should be available at all times; 11. F&B sales are not allowed for the moment, as restaurants and bars cannot operate indoors (this specific point is not effective anymore); 12. An employee should be in charge of monitoring the respect of social distancing and preventing the accumulation of people; 13. Cleaning should be done using virucides, UV radiation and air ionization; 14. Areas and items that people come in regular contact with should be regularly disinfected; 15. Currently, the operation of locker rooms for spectators is not recommended; 16. 3D glasses should be disinfected; 17. Notices for visitors should be visible on the premises of the cinema. <p>Following the publication of these guidelines, the Czech Government announced that, from May 25, face masks will no longer be necessary in public except in shops and on public transport.</p>
DENMARK	Cinema specific	<p>Regulations for cinemas outlined by the Government make it possible for up to 500 people to be in the same auditorium, as long as a maximum of 10 people are sitting together. The key rules also include: people from the same household can sit together, otherwise every other seat must be empty or individuals should stay at least one meter away from the centre of each seat. Also, there must be a maximum of one person per two square meters of floor space in each auditorium, a limit raised to one person per four square meters for the cinema lobby.</p>
ESTONIA	National requirements	<p>The 2+2 rule must be followed: up to 2 people may move together in a public space and a distance of at least 2 metres must be kept from other people.</p>
FINLAND	Cinema specific	<p>Indoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 500 people per room, with capacity limited to 50% . Recommendations drafted by the Finnish cinema association include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage online and contactless ticketing;

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ensure social distance of 1m inside the screening room, with one empty seat between groups; 3. Ensure social distance of 1-2m outside of the screening room; 4. Regularly clean and disinfect contact areas. <p>Additional recommendations related to hygiene rules and sanitary precautions <u>are available here, in Finnish.</u></p>
FRANCE	Cinema specific	<p>The French cinema association has published official guidelines, approved by the French Government <u>and available online via this link (in French).</u> Those guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following key principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff members should be encouraged to take their temperature before coming to work; 2. Staff members should respect 1m/4m² social distancing at all times, which can be ensured by adapting working hours, for example; 3. Mask wearing is recommended for staff members, if it is not possible to respect social distancing at all times; 4. A staff member should be in charge of health and safety training/ensuring guidelines are respected; 5. Disinfectant gel should be available at all times across the cinema for both staff and customers; 6. 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; 7. Encourage online/contactless ticketing when possible; 8. Inform staff and customers about all the measures that have been introduced, including inside the screening room on the screen; 9. Ensure 1m/4m² social distancing at all time for cinema-goers; 10. Recommend mask wearing for cinema-goers; 11. Facilitate/improve audience flow in order to reduce traffic, for instance by giving enough time for people to leave/enter the room without crossing paths; 12. Stagger start/end time for shows to reduce traffic; 13. Limit screening room occupancy to 50%; 14. Have one empty seat between cinema-goers, unless they come together; 15. Ensure air circulation by keeping doors open between shows.
GERMANY	Cinema specific	<p>The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina has 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. <u>More information can be found here.</u></p> <p>Different distancing rules apply depending on the state. Schleswig-Holstein has set a limit of 50 visitors per room while North Rhine-Westphalia opted for 75. The national 1.5m safety distance rule might be applied across the country. German States all have</p>

		<p>different health and safety guidelines, available here (regularly updated). Moreover, the State of Bavaria and Rhineland-Palatinate have made mask-wearing for staff and customers mandatory in cinemas. Cinema-goers are allowed to briefly remove their masks in order to eat or drink.</p> <p>The German cinema association HDF Kino published official recommendations on health and safety requirements to be considered when reopening cinemas. The document, translated into English, is available here.</p> <p>The guidelines are divided into two categories:</p> <p>Protection of employees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing information on the virus; 2. Compliance with distance regulations; 3. Contactless ticket control; 4. Use of protective screens at the box office; 5. Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.; 6. Provide protective masks and gloves for employees; 7. Regularly clean/disinfect specific areas and surfaces; 8. Provide instruction in case of suspected infection (stay at home) and actively communicate with your staff. <p>Protection of visitors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share information on health and safety measures; 2. Compliance with 1.5m distance regulations in the lobby with markings on the floor, etc.; 3. Compliance with distance regulations in the screening room with fixed seat allocation, reduced capacity, etc.; 4. Compliance with distance regulations with staggered showtimes start/end times; 5. Minimise contact between visitors and staff; 6. Implement hygiene regulations, making hand sanitizer available across your cinema, etc.; 7. Regular ventilation of the lobby and screening rooms.
HUNGARY	National requirements	Everyone entering a business or restaurant must wear face protection.
ITALY	Cinema specific	<p>According to official Government rules, cinemas, theatres and concert halls can reopen from 15 June with pre-assigned seats, 1m minimum distance between patrons and a maximum of 200 people per room. A different date can be set by specific Regions, depending on the epidemiological situation. The official rules, which were adopted on 11 June and will be effective from reopening, include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make information available to customers on the safety measures that are taken; 2. Ensure a 1m safety distance at all times, with the exception of members of the same household or those living under the same roof. This could mean having one empty seat between groups and having a different exit and entrance;

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Installing physical barriers (plexiglass) between audience groups can replace the 1m distance; 4. Customers must wear a mask when they enter the cinema but can remove it as soon as they sit inside the screening room; 5. Encourage advance reservations and keep a list of attendees' names for a period of 14 days; 6. Checking the temperature of staff and guests is allowed, as well as prohibiting them from entering the cinema if it is above 37.5°; 7. The box office and other workstations can be equipped with physical barriers; 8. Encourage electronic, contactless ticketing; 9. Hand sanitising units must be available across the cinema; 10. Ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of all areas and contact surfaces; 11. Ensure good air circulation inside the cinema; 12. For food and beverage sales and services, cinemas will have to follow rules that apply to the restaurant sector.
LATVIA	Cinema specific	Occupancy is limited to 25 people. Some of the cinemas that have reopened have announced that they would take visitors' temperature as they enter.
LITHUANIA	National requirements	Only a limited number of customers may shop simultaneously. In addition, face masks are mandatory in public. Attendance is limited to 30 people per room, as a 2-metre distances between cinema-goers must be ensured.
LUXEMBOURG	Cinema specific	Gatherings are limited to 20 people per screening. Seats must be reserved and pre-allocated, and a safety distance of 2m must be ensured. Customers must wear masks outside of the screening room (they can remove them when they are seated) while staff must wear masks at all times.
MALTA	Cinema specific	<p>Wearing protective masks indoors is mandatory for all businesses. Visible signage shall be affixed at the entrance of the premises, indicating the maximum number of patrons that the premises can hold at any one time. Additional rules include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check visitor's temperature at the entrance for the presence of fever (persons with 37.2° or higher will be denied entrance); 2. Provide adequate and easily accessible hand sanitisers across the cinema; 3. Regulate audience traffic; 4. Ensure a 2m safety distance at all times; 5. Record contact information (name and a phone number) of at least one person per party, to be kept for up to 28 days after the show/performance; 6. Except in the case of families with children and people from the same household, no more than 6 people should be allowed to sit together in a group;

		<p>7. The distribution of 3-D glasses to be reused by multiple patrons is not allowed;</p> <p>8. Ensure that staff and patrons wear masks or visors;</p> <p>9. Provide ongoing cleaning and disinfection operations of all the common areas inside the premises;</p> <p>10. Ensure that bar, restaurant or café facilities operate on the premises within the respective applicable guidelines.</p> <p><u>The detailed rules can be consulted here.</u></p>
MONTENEGRO	National requirements	Wearing protective masks indoors is mandatory for all businesses.
NETHERLANDS	Cinema specific	<p>From 1 June cinemas will be limited to 30 people per screening. From 1 July this will be increased to 100.</p> <p>The Dutch cinema association <u>has published guidelines</u> which were shared with local authorities. These include:</p> <p>General recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visitors should only arrive 15 minutes before the start of the screening; 2. A 1.5m safety distance in the room should be ensured by escorting visitors to their seats. Every other row should remain free and there should be an empty seat in between visitors. 3. The doors should be left open until the start of the screening and be reopened by employees at the end of the screening; 4. A maximum of 30 people per room, including employees, are allowed; 5. Screening times should be staggered in order to regulate incoming and outgoing visitors and respect the official 30 people limit; 6. When leaving the room, visitors need to be escorted by staff. <p>Ticketing and F&B recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cinema-goers should be encouraged to buy their tickets online and avoid public transport; 2. Visitors need to be made aware of the social distancing rules at the entrance of the cinema; 3. Ticket controls should only be done visually; 4. Every visitor should be asked about health issues in their household. When in doubt about the health situation of a visitor, the cinema could decide to deny access; 5. A maximum of two people or a household (a group of people living under the same roof) is allowed; 6. During F&B purchases, physical contact should be avoided. <p>Hygiene recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hand sanitizers should be available across the cinema; 2. Contact surfaces need to be cleaned multiple times a day; 3. Rooms should be closed during cleaning in between screenings and disinfectant should be used for contact surfaces;

		<p>4. A corona supervisor should be appointed in every cinema to check compliance with the rules and employees need to be trained to correctly execute the rules.</p> <p>The Dutch cinema association has published a Q&A for its members to better understand the guidelines above. The document is available here, in Dutch.</p>
NORTH MACEDONIA	National requirements	<p>People are not allowed to enter stores without wearing protective face masks.</p>
NORWAY	Cinema specific	<p>Cinemas have been authorised to reopen with a capacity limited to 50 people per screening. It will be increased to 200 people from 15 June, if cases continue to drop.</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform customers and staff about measures taken; 2. Train staff to efficiently implement those rules; 3. Ensure social distancing in common areas, also between staff members, and reduce physical interactions (plexiglass at box office, etc.); 4. Only card/contactless payment, no cash; 5. Encourage online sales; 6. 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.; 7. Ensure at least a 2 metre distance between each customer; 8. Adapt seating arrangements to respect official social distancing rules (depending on row distance/seats it will vary from room to room); 9. Staggered end/start times so as to avoid queues; 10. Minimum 30 minutes for cleaning/disinfection between performances; 11. Sick employees should stay at home; 12. Ensure good air ventilation. <p>Film&Kino also drafted a document outlining cinemas' reopening strategy. The document is available here, in Norwegian.</p> <p>Specifically related to the current situation, its recommendations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact local authorities for advice and guidance; 2. Practice/train staff to perform all new cleaning routines that must be introduced in advance; 3. Provide clean uniforms to all employees; 4. Buy latex work gloves; 5. Hand disinfection stations must always be accessible to everyone; 6. Thoroughly clean and disinfect all equipment and furnishings several times before reopening; 7. Regularly clean specific contact areas and surfaces at least 5 times a day once reopened;

		<p>8. Inform and communicate efficiently with staff and customers about the new measures that have been introduced.</p> <p>In addition to these health and safety guidelines, the reopening document also includes considerations related to rent payments, maintenance of equipment and building, finances and insurance, inventory, etc.</p>
POLAND	Cinema specific	<p>Capacity is limited to 50% and mask wearing is mandatory. Official guidelines and recommendations have been published online (Polish version available here) and include the following key principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customers and staff must be wearing a mask; 2. 50% occupancy inside the screening room, with one empty seat between viewers; 3. People living under the same roof, children and those with disabilities are not obliged to sit apart; 4. It is recommended to appoint a health coordinator; 5. If possible, it is recommended to regularly air/ventilate closed rooms; 6. Regularly clean and disinfect all public areas and contact surfaces, at increased frequency for toilets and concessions; 7. Make a hand washing and disinfectant unit available in the toilets and at the entrance and exit of the cinema; 8. Make instructions/measures visible across the cinema; 9. It is recommended that cinema-goers provide their contact details, to make tracing possible in case of contamination; 10. Ensure a 2m social distance when people are queuing; 11. For cinemas with one entrance - setting separate entry hours for screenings if possible; 12. Online ticketing should be encouraged.
PORTUGAL	Cinema specific	<p>A safety distance of 2m must be ensured outside of the screening room, reduced to 1.5m or inside the screening room. It is also necessary to deep clean the screening room before opening the cinema and between each show.</p> <p>The complete guidelines can be found here, in Portuguese.</p>
ROMANIA	National requirements	<p>Wearing protective masks is mandatory in all closed public spaces and on public transport.</p>
RUSSIA	Cinema specific	<p>The Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing has published health and safety recommendations for cinemas, drafted in collaboration with the Russian Association of Cinema Owners. These include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily temperature checks of employees; 2. Limit unnecessary contacts between employees; 3. Prohibit eating in the office, unless there is a specially designated room to eat; 4. Make hand disinfection stations available across the cinema;

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Provide staff with a supply of disposable masks and gloves and other sanitary material; 6. Ensure that staff use protective masks and gloves when interacting with customers; 7. Ensure 1.5m social distancing in the lobby and at least 1m once the audience is seated. This rule does not apply to customers that are from the same family or that live together; 8. Recommend, if possible, contact-less concession sales; 9. Dispose of used masks and gloves; 10. Enhanced hygiene and daily cleaning of working areas, including disinfection of contact surfaces every 2 hours; 11. Improve air circulation and ventilation of your cinema; 12. Inform staff and customers about the measures taken and the need to comply with them; 13. Recommend that visitors wear masks; 14. Set intervals of at least 30 minutes between shows to allow for efficient cleaning and reduce traffic; 15. Reduce traffic inside the cinema by allowing customers to enter the auditorium 15 minutes before the show starts; 16. Recommend contactless payment methods and avoid the use of cash if possible – also check tickets using contactless techniques. <p><u>Please find an English translation of the official document here.</u></p>
SERBIA	National requirements	All indoor commercial activities must be performed using protective equipment, including masks, gloves and disinfectant.
SLOVAKIA	Cinema specific	<p>Cinemas can operate with a capacity limit of 500 visitors per room from 15 June. Various sanitary principles (such as mask wearing, hand cleaning, regular disinfection, etc) are recommended but not mandatory.</p> <p>Cinemas were initially limited to 100 people per room, under strict hygiene conditions, which included but were not limited to the list below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2m distance between cinema-goers inside the screening room; 2. Remove seats in the lobby area; 3. Ensure 15m² per customers in the foyer; 4. One staff member must be in charge of ensuring respect of sanitary rules; 5. Disinfect toilets every hour; 6. Disinfect all contact surfaces before every show, which in theory means disinfecting the whole screening room before every show; 7. F&B sales are not allowed.
SPAIN	Cinema specific	Cinemas will have to respect two key requirements mentioned by the Government: pre-allocated seats and 30% maximum occupancy. If the situation evolves positively, the allowed occupancy can grow to 50% after two weeks. This decision is taken province-by-province. Because of this, some provinces have already agreed (as of mid-June) to allow 60% or 75% occupancy,

		<p>while others are still at 30% (Phase 2 of the official ‘return to normal’) or 50% (Phase 3).</p> <p>The Spanish Government made it mandatory for all citizens above 6 y/o to wear masks both indoors and out in public from 21 May, if social distancing is not possible.</p> <p>The Spanish cinema association FECE has drafted a safety protocol, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging online ticketing and contactless payments (up to €50); 2. Providing information (posters and online) explaining the safety measures; 3. Placing hydroalcoholic gel dispensers in the cinema for staff and customers; 4. Reinforcing the physical distance between workers and customers with transparent barriers; 5. Eliminating physical control of cinema tickets (to be replaced by digital or visual control); 6. Increasing cleaning and disinfection, with special attention to the most sensitive areas and surfaces; 7. Ensuring the respect of official distancing measures throughout the cinema-going journey; 8. Reducing the capacity of each screening room in accordance with local rules and reopening phase; 9. People living under the same roof will be seated together in accordance with local rules; 10. Staff will receive appropriate personal protective equipment for each activity they carry out, following recommendations of health authorities. All workers will receive special training on COVID19. <p><u>Detailed information available here, in Spanish.</u></p>
SWITZERLAND	Cinema specific	<p>Cinemas can welcome maximum 300 people per screening room, with at least 1 empty seat between people, which results in 60-65% capacity. Groups from the same family or living under the same roof can sit together. Additional rules include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obligation for cinema operators to trace customers by taking note of their name and phone number; 2. Abide by official hygiene rules: ensure social distancing in the lobby and at the box office, have a plexiglass panel at the box office, make hand sanitizer available across the cinema, regular cleaning, improved air circulation, etc. <p><u>The guidelines are available here, in French.</u></p>
UK	Cinema specific	<p>Guidance on cinemas is still under discussion.</p>

4. SUPPORT MECHANISMS

SUMMARY

National support measures have been introduced across most of Europe, with varying levels of detail and effective actions from authorities. Support schemes specific to the film, or even cultural, sector have been limited. And while crisis management or so-called emergency funds were introduced almost everywhere in Europe, as of late May 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 can be used for advocacy efforts.

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

4.1. SUPPORT FOR THE CULTURAL AND CINEMA SECTOR

SUMMARY

Support measures specifically targeting cinemas, or even the cultural sector, have been relatively limited across Europe – though it is worth pointing out that most of the broader measures described later in this research are of relevance to cinema operators and their partners from the film sector. Film sector bodies across Europe have accelerated payments of subsidies and delayed payments of levies, when existent. Collecting societies have, in several cases, made it possible for cinemas operators to defer payments.

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	<p>The Austrian Film Institute is working on requesting specific government funding to support the sector. Cultural institutions will benefit from deferred social security contributions.</p> <p>The VAT on cinema ticket will be reduced to 5% (from 13%) until the end of the year, in order to help the sector cope. This decision is effective for sales in the cultural sector.</p>
BELGIUM	<p>The Belgian cinema federation FCB estimates that cinema operators have lost €30 million in revenues between 13 March and 30 April (roughly €4.3m per week). This amount does not include fixed costs.</p> <p>Regions are looking into aid for cultural entities (including cinemas). Guidelines have been created specifically for the cultural sector, to explain available support mechanisms and the application process. See Flanders guidelines and FAQ here, in Flemish.</p> <p>Belgian film support bodies have introduced more flexibility regarding administrative, reporting and other funding conditions until the end of 2020.</p> <p>The Brussels-Wallonia Federation has introduced an emergency support fund of €50m specifically targeting those worst-hit by the crisis, in particular the cultural sector. The fund will be divided, with the first part, worth €8.5m and meant to cover losses endured between 14 March and 3 May, will go to the cultural sector,</p>

	<p>including the cinema and audiovisual sector. More information available here, in French. This initial support fund was split between 321 cultural institutions and businesses, with €1.6m going to the film sector, including cinema operators. Another €8.5m <u>in aid</u> has already been introduced, which will cover the period of 4 May to 5 July.</p> <p>On 25 May, the Federation announced a recovery plan of €6m to support the entire film value chain, including arthouse cinemas (as defined by the Federation), with three key measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covering all costs related to the acquisition of necessary sanitary equipment; - The purchase of 20,000 tickets, to be redistributed to cinema-goers; - Launching a reopening campaign specifically dedicated to arthouse cinemas. <p>More information available here, in French.</p>
BULGARIA	<p>The Bulgarian government will support the cultural sector with nearly €2.5m. €1.4m will be directed to freelance artists and independent cultural organisations through the Ministry of Culture and €1.1m will be allotted through the National Culture Fund.</p>
CROATIA	<p>The Ministry of culture established a crisis fund to provide support to the cultural sector. It will cover the fields of activity under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Croatian Audiovisual Center and the Culture New Foundation. Details to be published.</p>
CYPRUS	<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 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 while the first loans are expected to be approved by the beginning of May.</p>
CZECH REPUBLIC	<p>The Audiovisual Producers' Association and the Czech Film Fund are providing legal assistance to all film industry workers regarding support programs and national financial help available. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Fund is currently working on a plan of automatic support and an increase to its budget.</p> <p>In mid-May, the State Fund for Cinematography announced a special €50m fund for the promotion of films in cinemas. All operators can apply. The main purpose of this scheme is to help cinemas cope with the very strict restrictions upon reopening.</p>
DENMARK	<p>The creation of new Corona hotline by the Ministry of Culture and the Danish National Palace and Culture Agency – here.</p> <p>Online database of all the compensation schemes that can be applied for (via the Danish Ministry of Culture) available here.</p>
ESTONIA	<p>The Culture and Sport Crisis Package totals €25m, with the Ministry of Culture seeking to ensure the sustainability of cultural organisations. The package includes compensation for already incurred costs and unavoidable fixed costs related to the interruption of events and organisations in the fields of culture and sport.</p> <p>The Estonian Film Institute will distribute €1.3m as compensation measures to face the challenges in the film sector caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. €800k will go to film production, distribution and cinemas. This scheme can support arthouse cinemas and companies whose production (development, shooting, post-production) and distribution activities have been interrupted due to the emergency</p>

	<p>situation. The remaining €500k will go strictly to film production. The Estonian Film Institute hopes to announce a new call for additional funding for June 2020.</p>
FINLAND	<p>A number of large Finnish film and cultural sector bodies are working together to grant swift assistance to arts and cultural professionals who have been hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak. Funding totalling approximately €1.5m will be allocated in April via the Arts Promotion Centre (Taike). Foundations will also grant significant sums in aid through their own channels.</p> <p>The Finnish Film Foundation is working on support schemes for the film sector. The Finnish Film Foundation has received €1m from the Ministry of Education and Culture to help relieve the situation of cinemas and film festivals during the restrictions on public gatherings caused by the pandemic. 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 during March 13 – May 31, 2020. More information available here.</p>
FRANCE	<p>Discussions are ongoing between the Government, the French National Cinema Centre (CNC) and sector representatives regarding support mechanisms for the film industry – these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CNC has stopped requesting payments of film levies from cinema operators; - Cash flow measures for theatres and increased support for the sectors most affected, distribution and cinemas; - Assistance to cinemas to adopt the most proactive protection measures against the spread of the virus, by enforcing barrier measures; - Accelerated payment of the Art et Essai cinema grants from March, for the 1200 classified establishments; - Rapid adoption of a measure allowing exhibitors, distributors and producers to mobilise their support funds in advance. <p>Various support schemes have been introduced. Additional, detailed information can be found on the FNCF website or on the CNC website, daily updated, all in French.</p> <p>The French culture and audiovisual bank (IFCIC) will guarantee up to 70% of any loans granted in the context of COVID-19 and accept any requests from banks to prolong guarantees.</p> <p>Following the President’s address on 13 April, businesses that are forced to close beyond 10 May – including cinemas – will receive additional help.</p> <p>The FNCF has created a FAQ on social questions, available here in French.</p> <p>The national health insurance has introduced from 18 May a “Covid prevention” scheme supporting businesses of less than 50 employees in their acquisition of sanitary and safety equipment necessary for their reopening. This subsidy can amount to 50% of the total investment (which has to be of at least €1000) and is limited to €5000 maximum.</p>
GERMANY	<p>The figure of €17m per week – which equals the average weekly loss for cinema operators in the country - to support cinemas was shared with national authorities by the Federal Film Fund (FFA). The German exhibitors’ association’s main request is related to subsidies for fixed costs (staff, rental costs, etc.).</p> <p>On 27 March, federal and State sponsors launched an aid programme for the film and media industry worth €15m. The aid programme relates to projects jointly</p>

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 *Kinoprogrammpreis*.

The German cinema association HDF Kino has been publicly advocating for the introduction of a “stabilization fund” to support cinemas during this crisis, highlighting that only 50% of Germany cinema operators can currently apply for the federal emergency aid (which does only apply to sites of less than 7 screens).

HDF has drafted a list of key requirements from the industry:

- Rapid establishment of a stabilization fund;
- Extension of government grants to larger companies that are currently covered by the federal and state funding programs;
- Standardization of the federal patchwork of emergency aids;
- Short-time work benefits must urgently be expanded to include mini-jobbers and working students.

More information can be found here in German.

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

The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media (BKM) has facilitated the eligibility criteria of their “future cinema programme”, making it possible for cinema operators receive support via grants of €60,000 for one-screen cinemas and 45,000 € for two-screen cinemas. More information available here, in German.

A special programme to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on culture was presented on 3 June and formally approved on 17 June. €1b will be made available for the cultural sector, which will be administered by the BKM.

Running from July at the earliest, the programme, under the name NEUSTART KULTUR, is also aimed explicitly at cinemas through the following points:

- Pandemic-related investment in cultural institutions. This means investment in online ticketing systems, modernisation of ventilation systems, adaptation of visitor guidance, etc.
- Preservation and strengthening cultural infrastructure and emergency aid. The film sector is being helped with €120m to primarily support cinemas and finance additional needs for film production and distribution.

The FFA suspended film levies for a limited period. 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.

A database of relevant documents and guidelines can be found on the FFA website in German.

The Germany cinema association HDF Kino also created a page with all the relevant information for cinema operators related to the crisis, available here in German.

Bundeslands or local authorities have introduced additional support mechanisms. For instance, 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

	<p>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.</p>
GREECE	<p>Emergency financial aid has been introduced by the Government targeting independent cinema owners, under two conditions: cinemas of 1 or 2 screens only, which have screened at least 2 Greek/European films in 2019-2020. The exact amount of this package is not yet clear.</p> <p>The Greek Film Centre has taken measures to support the sector, with a strict focus on film production.</p>
IRELAND	<p>Screen Ireland has created an online FAQ listing all the key support schemes that are currently available.</p> <p>Screen Ireland has introduced a Strategy and Financial Planning Support for Companies experiencing financial stress in terms of cashflow, resourcing and future-proof planning, that will benefit from having 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 in €150,000 and the amount that any one company can apply for is €5,000.</p> <p>The Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO) commits to a moratorium on any payments due to IMRO before April 30 for any business that has been forced to close by the government due to the coronavirus.</p>
ITALY	<p>An Emergency Fund of €130 million has been 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, which could potentially be increased by an additional €50m by the end of the year. On 5 May, it was announced that €20m would be allocated to cinema operators, with each site receiving a €10,000 grant as well as an extra amount calculated as a percentage of lost box office. An amendment to a Law decree, currently in discussion in Parliament, could allow for another €20m derived from the 2020 allocation of the Extraordinary Fund for investment in cinemas (a 5-year fund created by the 2016 Cinema Law).</p> <p>The Directorate General for Cinema is accelerating the payments of ordinary funding as per the Cinema Law. This involves tax credit measures (€18m for 2019, €60m for 2020), €100m to facilitate investments in new and renovated cinemas and €10m for art-house cinemas.</p> <p>On 13 May, tax credits and contributions for expenses and the purchase of devices and equipment to limit the spread of Covid-19 and sanitize work places were also introduced.</p> <p>A proposed amendment aims at creating a guarantee fund allowing the transferability of the tax credits of the exhibition sector. More information available here and here.</p> <p>Relevant information and official documents can be found on the ANEC website, in Italian.</p> <p>A national initiative has been 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).</p>

	<p><u>More information available here, in Italian.</u></p> <p>The collecting society SIAE will neither collect debts nor sanction delayed payments (including musical rights) during the crisis, and the payment of the amount due for "foyer music" is postponed.</p>
LATVIA	<p>The Cabinet of Ministers' regulation No. 151 "Rules on sectors for which the financial situation has deteriorated significantly due to the spread of Covid-19" recognises several audiovisual and cinematographic activities as disrupted sectors, including cinemas, justifying their eligibility for several forms of government support funds including tax delays and compensation to employees. <u>More information available here.</u></p>
LITHUANIA	<p>The Lithuanian Government has provided a total of €68.3m to the cultural sector. €43.3m has been earmarked for the development and renewal of cultural infrastructure. €13.6 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.</p>
LUXEMBOURG	<p>The Ministry of Culture published an FAQ to address the cultural industries current issues along with hotline – <u>available here, in French.</u></p>
MONTENEGRO	<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>
NETHERLANDS	<p>The Government has entered into talks with the arts and culture sector in order to make sure that it benefits from the generic measures, as well as from potential sector-specific measures where necessary. <u>More information available here.</u></p> <p>The Minister of Education, Culture and Science met with representatives of the cultural sector to discuss subsidies and funds to support the sector, also through labour regulations, reducing employers' contributions, aid packages etc. Additional meetings and consultations have been scheduled. The Dutch cinema association will also meet local authorities (municipalities) to discuss support mechanisms for subsidised institutions.</p> <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 can be used for fixed costs.</p> <p>On 27 May 2020, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science announced that €3.5m would be made available for cinemas via the Netherlands Film Fund. More details to follow soon.</p> <p>The cabinet is making an additional €300m available for the cultural sector to support institutions that are essential for the sector as a whole. This includes €48.5m to support municipalities and provinces, including €3.5m for cinemas via the Film Fund – <u>more information available here, in Dutch.</u></p>
NORWAY	<p>The Government will support the cultural sector with NOK300m (€27m), including cinemas (see <u>here</u>). Cinemas with 60% public support or more will not be included.</p>

	<p>The government will not seek repayment of public subsidies paid for cultural and voluntary purposes.</p> <p>Arts Council Norway has created a web page including a range of initiatives targeting the cultural sector – available here, in English.</p>
POLAND	<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. More information in Polish available here.</p> <p>The Polish Government introduced an exemption from the payment of royalties to collective management organizations for entrepreneurs performing public reproduction and display – including cinemas. More information available here.</p> <p>The Polish Film Institute, together with government, is preparing the programme of bank loans available for cinemas to stabilise their payment gridlocks. Available amount will be on a per screen basis, equal for all operators.</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. More information available here.</p>
PORTUGAL	<p>The Portuguese film fund ICA will maintain and, where possible, speed up the grant procedures of cinema and audiovisual support. The ICA will suspend until further notice, and including the month of March, the 7.5% film levy.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture created a website that is constantly updated with all relevant information for professionals in the cultural sector. The platform will inform about forthcoming extraordinary support measures. Available here, in Portuguese.</p> <p>An Emergency Support Line for the Arts, to the value of €1m, financed through the Cultural Development Fund of the Ministry of Culture, is intended to support artistic entities and artists in the areas of performing arts, visual arts and disciplinary crossovers that had to stop operating/working because of the crisis.</p>
ROMANIA	<p>National Cinematography Center (CNC) Decision no. 61 issued on 26 March 2020. Non-reimbursable financial support: all financial support (including to distribution and exploitation of the films; the operation of art cinemas) is postponed until the end of the state of emergency.</p>
RUSSIA	<p>In a Russian government resolution listing the economic sectors most affected by the epidemic, the culture, leisure, entertainment and film exhibition sectors were included.</p>
SLOVAKIA	<p>For cinemas/events and distributors that were forced to close/cancel/suspend their activities by the State, horizontal measures have been prepared such as possible exemption from social and health care contributions for employees affected; reimbursement of certain expenses even when an event is cancelled or moved; postponement of payments for loans or levies; specific short-term loans to small cinemas, etc. The Slovak Audiovisual Fund considers (on a case by case basis) the possibility of increasing the subsidy granted or providing specific short-term loans to small cinemas. More information available here.</p>
SPAIN	<p>The Spanish Government announced it would allocate €76.4m to support the cultural sector. Of that, €13.2m will be allocated to cinema operators specifically, potentially ranging from €8,000 (for single screen operators) to €32,000 (for 8 screens multiplex or bigger) per site. The grants can be used for various purposes, including:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incidental expenses generated as a consequence of the sanitary measures adopted. Among others, implementation of a risk prevention plan for workers and the public; - Campaigns aimed at reopening cinemas; - Actions to increase the programming of school campaigns; - Advertising space for promotion and trailers of Spanish cinema, as well as institutional campaigns. <p>The grants will be redistributed by the ICAA. Cinema operators who wish to access these grants must comply with the screen quota of cinematographic works from Member States of the European Union established in article 18 of Law 55/2007, on Cinema. However, said obligation will be considered fulfilled when works of this nature are scheduled in a percentage of at least 30 percent in the year immediately after receiving the aid (2021). More information to follow.</p> <p>The ICAA has published a Good Practice Guide on Special Measures for Audiovisual Productions in the Face of the COVID Pandemic, available here.</p> <p>The regional Government of Madrid has injected €1m into the Guarantee Society Crea SGR to guarantee that SMEs in the cultural sector have access to funding. Crea SGR will promote lines of financing aimed at companies in the cultural sector for a total amount of €20m. Support per company will range from €20k to €100k.</p> <p>The DG for Culture of the Canary Islands has launched a package of measures to support the cultural sector, with a budget of €2.6m, which includes the creation of 2 calls for creative projects in the field of culture. More information available here.</p> <p>The Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies (ICEC) will open an extraordinary grant line in June, endowed with €8m, 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). It was officially published on May 21st.</p> <p>The Catalan Financial institute (ICF) and ICEC have created the ICF Cultura Liquiditat credit line, endowed with €10m. This line allows 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. However, this credit line has already been exhausted.</p> <p>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 will open in June 2020.</p>
<p>SWEDEN</p>	<p>The Swedish Film Institute has confirmed the implementation of various provisions, including faster payments of subsidies to smaller exhibitors, contributing a total of €1.8m (SEK20m) to the industry. The Institute forwarded 20SEK per sold ticket for Swedish movies in 2019 to cinema operators. This measure applies to markets under 25,000 inhabitants and certain arthouse cinemas in bigger markets. Every cinema will receive 30SEK per non-sold ticket between 12 March and 31 May 2020 – by comparing results with the same period</p>

	<p>in 2019. The maximum being 10mSEK (approx. €950k) per company. Cinema operators have already received this support.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated (SEK500m / €46m) to businesses in the cultural sector that lose revenue as a result of the restriction of public events. More information available here in Swedish. How this budget will be redistributed in the sector will be confirmed in the coming days.</p> <p>A new package has been announced for the period of 15 March to 30 April, whereby business that have lost more than 30% turnover can be compensated for fixed costs but not labour costs. Details are still being worked out.</p> <p>The 1% of box office payment to collecting societies that is due for 2019 has been split into 4 instalments to be spread out during 2020 to help cinemas with cashflow.</p>
SWITZERLAND	<p>CHF280m has been allocated to support culture in general.</p> <p>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. More information can be found here, in French.</p> <p>On top of that, usual support funds for playing Swiss movies and diversified programming still apply and will be paid earlier this year. Swiss Movies will get an additional CHF0.6m to be distributed.</p>
TURKEY	<p>The Government indicated it would provide support to the sector, but nothing was announced formally.</p>
UKRAINE	<p>The Ministry of Finances intended to reduce the governmental support for the cultural sector. This included €25m to the Ukrainian State Film Agency. Following the protests, the Prime Minister of Ukraine said that support of culture and education is going to be “preserved as much as possible”. It remains to be seen whether this will be the case.</p>
UK	<p>On 9 April, the BFI announced a programme of support worth £4.6m (€5.3m) to aid the UK film sector. The £1.3m BFI FAN Covid-19 Resilience Fund has repurposed funds from the BFI Film Audience Network’s (FAN) National Lottery activity funding to offer relief to exhibitors and other FAN members across the UK. From 15 April, applications can be submitted to local Film Hubs. More information available here.</p> <p>The BFI also announced the establishment of an emergency relief fund with the support of The Film and TV Charity and Netflix. This fund will primarily support freelance workers in film production, rather than other parts of the film/cinema ecology.</p> <p>In Wales, a support package for the creative industries, culture and sport sectors totalling GBP 18m has been introduced to help support these sectors in safeguarding their businesses and jobs. More information available here.</p> <p>In England, the Arts Council England has set up a support fund totalling GBP 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 GBP 2500 per person.</p>

4.2. LOANS

SUMMARY

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

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	For large businesses, special loans have been introduced, with 90% covered by the State at an interest rate of 0.5%. The remaining 10% will be at an interest rate of 1%. Those loans will have to be reimbursed in 3, 4 or 5 months. The process to apply for this loan is extremely lengthy and complex. A similar scheme is in place for SMEs.
BELGIUM	The Federal Government will guarantee loans for a total amount of €50b, which equals 10% of Belgium's GDP. It also introduced measures related to temporary unemployment, and delayed tax payments and social contributions. At regional level, €233m has been set aside to support businesses in Wallonia, €150m in Flanders and €100m in Brussels. In the French-speaking community, the ST'ART fund for SMEs in the cultural and creative sector has introduced short-term loans of €20,000-100,000 with fixed rate of 2%. This fund specifically targets businesses that have been worst-hit by the crisis. More information here.
CROATIA	The Government announced an aid package worth €3.9b. This includes interest-free loans to municipalities, cities and counties as well as to the country's health and pension insurance institutes, freezing and delaying loan repayments and the provision of financing for working capital and for restructuring of existing loans. More information available here.
CYPRUS	The Government approved a bill suspending the repayment of loans for nine months (until December 31) and a stimulus plan for low-interest loans via state guarantees worth €2b to banks, in a bid to boost liquidity in the economy amid the ongoing crisis. The guarantee scheme began in early April while the first loans are expected to be approved by the beginning of May.
CZECH REPUBLIC	The Government announced an indirect aid package of €32.7b in loans for businesses, with a focus on SMEs and self-employed. Loan repayments have been delayed.
ESTONIA	The European Commission has approved two Estonian State aid schemes to support the Estonian economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The €1.75b schemes will enable the provision of public guarantees on loans and loans to be granted under favourable terms. State funds will be used 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.
FINLAND	The State will guarantee bank loans to companies. Such guarantees can cover up to 80% of the bank loan in question and can be fast-tracked.

<p>FRANCE</p>	<p>The French Government will support French businesses loans (90%, current and upcoming), delay payments and facilitate agreements with banks. More information available here in French. The French culture and audiovisual bank (IFCIC) will guarantee up to 70% of any loans granted in the context of COVID-19 and accept any requests from banks to prolong guarantees.</p>
<p>GERMANY</p>	<p>The State will guarantee certain loans up to 90% for businesses of all sizes, for amounts that could go as high as €1b per business. The German state-owned development bank KfW will support companies in coping with the Coronavirus crisis by facilitating short-term loans. The deferral of loan repayments is planned from the cut-off date of 1 March 2020. Procedures that address late repayments of loans will not be pursued for the time being. More information available here, in German. Each States have their own additional support mechanisms. Here is an online database of all the different support schemes that have been introduced locally.</p>
<p>GREECE</p>	<p>The Greek government has announced various measures worth €10b to mitigate the effects of the Coronavirus on the country's economy, including by providing liquidity to small and medium-sized enterprises that have been severely affected.</p>
<p>HUNGARY</p>	<p>Deferral of payment for loans, credit agreements or financial leasing agreement, in certain sectors including entertainment and the film industry.</p>
<p>ITALY</p>	<p>The Government approved an aid package of up to €25 billion for families and companies, which will mobilise additional resources of up to €350 billion. Among the measures taken, the State will support enterprises' liquidity through guaranteed bank loans. A new Law Decree, n. 23 of April 8th, provides measures to safeguard Italian enterprises against the liquidity crisis due to the suspension of activity. More extended State guarantees will be provided to banks until December 31st 2020 for a maximum amount of €200b (at least €30b will go to SMEs and the self-employed). Guarantees concern loans with a maximum amount of 25% of the enterprise's annual revenue or double the annual costs for staff. Loans can be guaranteed for a percentage varying from 70-90% of the financing, with a simplified procedure. More information available here, in Italian.</p>
<p>LATVIA</p>	<p>The Latvian government announced a €2b aid package, with €1bn set aside for measures such as loans to businesses.</p>
<p>LITHUANIA</p>	<p>€5b, amounting to 10% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), will be allocated for the implementation of all measures related to the Covid-19 crisis, including immediate tax loans, deferred loan payments or payment in instalments without interest. Detailed information available here.</p>
<p>LUXEMBOURG</p>	<p>The national rescue package will provide up to €2.5b of loan guarantees for companies.</p>
<p>MALTA</p>	<p>The Central Bank has mandated the suspension (moratoria) on all interest and capital on loan repayments (except credit cards) for 6 months for individuals or businesses. Said 6 months will be added on to the end of the current loan. Here is the FAQs from the Maltese Central Bank. The MDB COVID-19 Guarantee Scheme (CGS) provides guarantees to commercial banks in order to enhance access to bank financing for the</p>

	working capital requirements of businesses in Malta facing a sudden acute liquidity shortage as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. More information can be found here.
NETHERLANDS	<p>The Government announced an aid package for business worth €10b in total. A range of measures have been 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.</p> <p>The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (GO) for bank loans between €1.5m-€50m provides a 50% guarantee for SMEs.</p> <p>The SME Credit Guarantee (BMKB) provides Guarantee for SME loans. The amount of the surety loan in the BMKB has been increased from 50% to 75%.</p> <p>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%.</p>
NORTH MACEDONIA	<p>The Government has taken a range of measures to support businesses and citizens during the crisis, including deferment of loans, reduction of the instalment and reprogramming of loans to financial companies and leasing companies, additional interest-free loans for companies (€8m in total) and low-interest loans from the Development Bank of the Republic of Northern Macedonia placed through commercial banks to protect the liquidity of companies (€50m in total). More information available here.</p>
POLAND	<p>Poland's Prime Minister announced a Z212b (€47b) fiscal package, which includes loan guarantees. The Polish Government Bank (BGK) will be able to issue guarantees for commercial bank loans (up to 80%).</p>
PORTUGAL	<p>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 will be spread among restaurants, travel agencies, events organizers etc., with a particular focus on small companies.</p>
ROMANIA	<p>The Government of Romania announced an aid package of €15b. It will implement a multiannual program 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.</p>
RUSSIA	<p>A crisis fund of approx. €3.5b has been established. State banks Sberbank and VTB will provide loans with up to 0% rates supported by the Central Bank of Russia to pay salaries.</p> <p>All small and medium size businesses can benefit from a 6 months payments standstill for bank loans.</p>
SLOVAKIA	<p>The Government announced monthly bank guarantees of €500m to enable banks to refinance entrepreneurs and reimbursements to the self-employed and employees of businesses that have suffered losses in revenue.</p>
SLOVENIA	<p>The Government announced a €2b stimulus package to support local businesses and citizens during the crisis, including via loans supporting the liquidity of businesses. It was announced on 14 May that all support measures would cease by the end of May, as an official end to the pandemic in Slovenia was declared.</p>

SPAIN	The Spanish government announced a €200b spending package. The main mechanism of support is that the state will guarantee financial loans up to 80% for small business and 70% for large business, for a total amount of €100b and with a limit of €100,000 per company. More information available here (in Spanish).
SWEDEN	The Swedish government announced a package of measures worth more than SEK300b (€27b). The aid package for SMEs will guarantee 70% of new loans banks provide to companies that are experiencing financial difficulty due to the virus.
SWITZERLAND	The government announced a CHF42b rescue package for the economy, which includes short-term loans to businesses. One of the first urgent measures is to allow any business to, very quickly and without any bureaucracy, access a loan up to CHF500,000, to be paid back within 5 years and with 0% interest. Bigger loans for bigger companies are also possible, with a more bureaucracy and 0.5% interest. More information can be found here, in French, Italian and German.
UK	<p>The British government will guarantee £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), will now be interest free for 12 rather than 6 months. Detailed information can be found on the UK Cinema Association website.</p> <p>The UK government have introduced a number of measures to support businesses, employers and employees, as well as the self-employed, including a Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support small and medium-sized businesses with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years. The scheme is open to businesses with a turnover of no more than £45m.</p> <p>More details can be found on the UKCA website, the UK Government website (here and here) and the BBC.</p>

4.3. GRANTS

SUMMARY

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

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	<p>A €2b emergency fund for very small businesses was introduced - applications to the fund have been open since March 27, 2020. The first grant is up to €1,000 euros. In a second phase, up to € 2,000 per month should be paid for a maximum of three months, for a total of € 6,000 per person. Detailed information can be found here, via an FAQ in German.</p> <p>A one-off grant of up to €4,500 may be awarded to an applicant in financial distress due to the consequences of the coronavirus.</p>
BELGIUM	<p>Regional authorities announced one-off contributions to support businesses. In Wallonia, they amount to €5,000 for businesses forced to close/€2,500 to those partly impacted. In Flanders, they amount to €4,000 to businesses forced to close/€2,000 plus to those partly impacted. In addition, they will receive 160€/day if the measures last more than 21 days (which is already the case). In Brussels, they amount to €4,000 for businesses forced to close. All regions and communes have also introduced regional loan guarantees, lower interest rates on certain loans, accelerated payments of subsidies etc.</p>
CZECH REPUBLIC	<p>Self-employed people who prove that they have been economically damaged by the government's exceptional measures or other consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and meet other conditions will receive a one-off payment of €930.</p>
DENMARK	<p>The Danish government has announced 3 compensation programmes – they are not specifically earmarked for the AV sector, but the film value chain/entertainment sector is included. For those forced to shut down, all expenditure will be refunded if there is no income. The payment of housing, power, water etc. will be fully reimbursed.</p>
FINLAND	<p>The Government allocated €1 billion for direct business subsidies. SMEs that employ less than 250 people will be supported, as well as those with 250+ employees but with an annual turnover of less than €300m.</p> <p>Businesses will be able to apply for financing from municipalities to address difficulties caused by the coronavirus. The State will allocate €100m of the 2020 budget to providing this support in full. Businesses that were profitable before the coronavirus-induced interruption will be eligible for support, consisting of a fixed sum that could be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs. The support scheme would run for a fixed term and be in effect for 6 months. Entrepreneurs may be entitled to this support as well as extended unemployment security.</p> <p>Business Finland has provided funding for SMEs and midcap companies (6-250 employees with a maximum turnover of €300m) whose business is affected by the coronavirus outbreak. This funding is specifically targeted, among others, at the creative sector. It includes preliminary funding of a</p>

	<p>maximum €10,000 for companies during business disruptions and development funding for companies during business disruptions of a maximum of €100,000. More information available here.</p>
FRANCE	<p>A solidarity fund of has been 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. Detailed information available on the FNCF website, in French. FAQ created by French authorities, available here.</p>
GERMANY	<p>Emergency aid, totalling €50b, has been set up for the self-employed and small businesses: up to €9,000 will be provided to the self-employed and companies of less than 5 employees, with up to €15,000 to companies of less than 10. The amount of support varies from Bundesland to Bundesland, who can decide how much can be applied for.</p> <p>In late May, The Minister of Economics, Peter Altmaier, promised the introduction of a bridging aid for medium-sized companies that are affected by corona-related closing and restrictions. Companies with up to 249 employees could receive up to €50,000 per month from June to December. To do this, it 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 should also be able to apply for further support. This decision should be confirmed by mid-June.</p> <p>Bridging aid for small and medium-sized enterprises were introduced on 3 June. They will support SMEs whose sales have declined by at least 60% in April and May 2020, compared to April and May 2019, and whose decline in sales continues from June to August 2020 by at least 50%, due to the Coronavirus. The maximum reimbursement amount is €150,000 for three months.</p> <p>Each Bundesland has its own additional support mechanisms. Here is an online database of all the different support schemes that have been introduced locally.</p>
IRELAND	<p>The European Commission approved a €200 million scheme to support Irish companies affected by the outbreak. The support will be accessible to companies employing 10 or more full-time employees that experience or expect to experience a decline in turnover of at least 15% compared to their revenue before the Coronavirus outbreak. The maximum aid amount is €800,000 per company.</p>
NETHERLANDS	<p>The Government announced an aid package for business worth €10b in total. A range of measures have been adopted by the Dutch government, including compensation scheme for impacted sectors.</p> <p>On 20 May, an allowance on fixed expenses for SMEs was introduced. It will allow SMEs most affected by the crisis (30% loss in turnover at least) to apply for a tax-free allowance to cover their fixed costs, for a maximum amount of €20,000. Companies can also apply for wage support; this scheme does not replace it.</p>

POLAND	The Polish government made 100 billion zloty (€22b) available to businesses to enable them to maintain liquidity and keep employees on their payroll during the coronavirus crisis. The aid will be directed at micro-enterprises, SMEs and big businesses that pay taxes in Poland, and which have lost at least 25 percent of their revenue due to the crisis. Sixty percent of aid will take the form of subsidies that don't need to be paid back.
ROMANIA	Romanian SMEs and microenterprises will get €1b in grants – with as much as €20,000 per company – under the future economic recovery package prepared by the Government and announced on 4 June.
SWITZERLAND	The government announced a CHF42b rescue package for the economy, which includes direct support for cultural and sport organizations. More information can be found here , in French, Italian and German.
UK	The UK government have introduced a number of measures to support businesses, employers and employees, as well as the self-employed, including a number of support grants (ranging from £10,000-£25,000 per property) for many companies operating in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector. More details can be found on the UKCA website , the UK Government website (here and here) and the BBC .

4.4. EMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY

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

COUNTRY	DATA	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	Figures	Approx. 2,000 people employed in cinema exhibition.
	Measures	<p>The Government grants described earlier in this document are meant to be used by employers to cover fixed costs, including employees' wages.</p> <p>It is now possible to reduce working time to 10% while maintaining employees in an employment relationship with 80% wage compensation. The State will reimburse the employer for the costs of lost working hours on the basis of fixed and flat rates. Various work reduction systems have been introduced. The current scheme is valid for three months (March, April and May) and can be renewed for an additional three. This scheme does not apply to so called "mini job contracts" – for many of those working in the cinema industry – but various operators have decided to keep paying those wages.</p>
BELGIUM	Figures	<p>Approx. 1200 people employed in exhibition.</p> <p>Approx. 1100 on temporary leave.</p>
	Measures	<p>Procedures for temporary leave due to <i>force majeure</i> have been rendered more fluid. Compensation has been introduced for employees that are on temporary leave. Average unemployment revenue has been increased by €150 per month for those on temporary unemployment because of the virus. Energy bills will be paid in Flanders, various already existing regional support mechanisms have been made more flexible to benefit impacted employees.</p> <p>There is no need to justify temporary leave. The State will cover 70% of salaries, previously it was 65%.</p>
BULGARIA	Measures	<p>National authorities introduced legislation on compensating employers who had suspended operations because of the State of Emergency, voted by Parliament on March 13 and have mentioned adding €1b to the unemployment fund. The Unemployment Fund will cover 60% of salaries if employers refrain from lay-offs and cover the other 40%. The measure is restricted to undertakings active in the sectors most affected by the current public health crisis, such as retail, tourism, passenger transport, culture, sports activities, amusement and recreation activities and others.</p> <p><u>More information in Bulgarian available here.</u></p>
CROATIA	Measures	The Government will cover 100% of minimum net wages if employers do not lay off workers. That minimum wage will be increased from

		<p>€425 to approximately €525 starting from the month of April and will be paid for March, April and May. The State will also cover social and pension contributions.</p> <p>Detailed information available here and here in Croatian.</p>
CYPRUS	Figures	An estimated 100 people working in exhibition will be supported by the Social Insurance fund during the crisis.
	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 Plan foresees a subsidy of 70% of the workers' salary.</p> <p>The main condition in securing a loan guarantee from the Government is that employers keep their staff employed at least until September 30. The payment of overdue contributions of social insurance as well as the instalments for the months of March and April 2020 has been suspended and the deadline for settlement is extended by two months.</p>
CZECH REPUBLIC	Measures	<p>The State will cover a significant share of the salary of the employees impacted by the crisis. In the event of ordered quarantine, the employee receives 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 receives a wage compensation of 100% of the average earnings. Contribution to the employers will be 80% of the wage compensation paid, including contributions, up to the amount of approx. €1400. More information available here.</p>
DENMARK	Measures	<p>Staff expenses are covered: If the employer keeps the employee hired, he/she will get up to 75% of their wages covered. This agreement is running from 9 March to 9 June (three months).</p>
ESTONIA	Figures	Approx. 450 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>Up to 70% from the employee's average salary is covered by the State, with a maximum amount of €1000. The employer must pay at least €150. In order to apply, the employer must demonstrate a 30% turnover decrease per month (compared to the same month in 2019). Detailed information available here, in Estonian.</p>
FINLAND	Measures	<p>The notice period for lay-offs and the duration of co-operation negotiations on lay-offs is shortened. Various changes to lay-off rules. Employee re-employment obligation extended: the employer will be obligated, for a period of nine months, to re-employ those employees who were dismissed for financial or production-related reasons between 1 April and 30 June.</p> <p>In response to the above, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is currently preparing a government proposal to safeguard the livelihoods of employees, among other things.</p>
FRANCE	Figures	Approx. 15,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	<p>The Government has announced various measures to limit lay-offs as much as possible. It will cover at least 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 French</p>

		Government has also taken various steps to facilitate and accelerate the procedure to receive unemployment support. Detailed information is available in this document , in French.
GERMANY	Figures	Approx. 25,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	Businesses can apply for “Kurarbeitergeld” covering a maximum of 67% of the monthly salary if they were forced to close because of a Government decree, such as cinemas. The rest has to be paid by the employer. 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. 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.
GREECE	Measures	Companies wishing to benefit from the National aid package cannot lay off any of their staff. The measures include a benefit of €800 for each employee whose business was shut or was affected seriously by the virus, while the state will also cover their social security contributions. Another €800 will be provided to freelancers affected by the virus. The Easter financial bonus will be paid in full to all employees. The state will also cover the cost of beneficiaries’ insurance, pension and health payments.
HUNGARY	Measures	The Government introduced targeted support in the form of wage subsidies (direct grants) for companies in sectors or regions that have suffered most from the coronavirus outbreak, and would otherwise have had to lay off personnel. This scheme will be effective until 31 August.
IRELAND	Measures	The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in Ireland (ROI) have introduced a plan whereby companies keep staff that would have otherwise been laid off and pay them a Jobseekers welfare payment and the company would claim it back from the Government. For companies that have liquidity issues, the Government and banks will supply short term, low cost loans. The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment has been increased from €203 to €350 for employees who lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Also a Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme has been set up by the Government whereby the state will provide Employers, who experience 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). More information can be found here . Income tax will not be applied to the subsidy payment.
ITALY	Figures	Approx. 8,000 people employed in exhibition. Approx. 7,600 were put on temporary leave.

	Measures	Cinema employees do not have access to ordinary unemployment benefits, therefore in 2016 a Salary Integration Fund (FIS) was created with monthly contributions. The Covid-19 emergency measures extend ordinary unemployment benefits to FIS-related enterprises (5+ employees) for a maximum period of 9 weeks: the social welfare covers 80% of the salary due. This measure was extended for another 9 weeks following an official decision on 13 May. The benefit was extended to companies with less than 5 employees with a separate procedure, involving Regional governments. A compensation of €600 has been provided for collaboration contracts, with reference to the month of March. A postponement of social security payments for the months of April and May has also been approved. Additional information in Italian available here.
KOSOVO	Measures	The Government decided to pay laid-off workers two months' worth of the minimum wage (€170) plus pension contributions.
LATVIA	Figures	Approx. 250 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	75% of average gross salary (based on the last 6 months) will be covered by the State, but not exceeding €700. Detailed information available here.
LITHUANIA	Measures	The Government has promised to cover 60% of salaries if owners pay the remaining 40% for employees during the closure – but the amount reimbursed by the State cannot be higher than the minimum monthly wage (€546).
LUXEMBOURG	Figures	Approx. 100 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	The procedure for applying to and obtaining temporary leave has been accelerated and modified. In order to avoid permanent lay offs, the State encourages temporary unemployment for reason of <i>force majeure</i> . From 16 March this possibility will be granted automatically for companies that were forced by the authorities to close. The State will cover 80% of the employee's salary, which is the share of total salary that employers will be obliged to pay to employees. The reimbursed amount is limited to 250% of the minimum average salary. The employers still have to cover social charges and actual working hours. More information available in French.
MALTA	Measures	Not differentiation between SMEs or large operators. The Government is offering compensation of €800 per person for remaining employed and businesses have to top up to €1200. Part timers get €500 per month. Quarantine leave compensation of €350 per week. The unemployed to receive €800 per month. Additional information can be found here. In addition, employers who have or had a member of their staff (including themselves) on mandatory quarantine leave in accordance with the directives of the Superintendent of Public Health are entitled to a one-off lump sum grant of €350. Employees who had their full-time employment terminated as of 9 March 2020, including those who were self-employed, will 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.
NETHERLANDS	Measures	Employers must continue to pay 100% of their employees salaries, while receiving a State compensation of up to 90% of the wage sum (up to a certain maximum) from the Dutch Labour Authority. The compensation applies to employees with permanent and flexible contracts. In order to qualify for the compensation, the employer must demonstrate that it expects at least 20% loss of turnover for a consecutive period of three months. So for instance, loss in turnover of 100% = 90% compensation of the employer's wage sum; 50% = 45%; 25% = 22.5%. Detailed information available here. An entrepreneur registering at least 20% expected revenue loss from July 6, 2020 can apply for a contribution towards wage costs for June, July and August. The extended regime uses the same system of compensation, with some additions. Detailed information for the extended regime available here.
NORTH MACEDONIA	Measures	Employers have to pay 70% of the salary of workers on paid leave. The government will provide minimum monthly salaries of €240 for people in hardship in the private sector.
NORWAY	Figures	Approx. 1600 people employed in exhibition. 850 have been put on temporary leave because of the crisis.
	Measures	The cinemas have to pay the first two days' salaries. Thereafter the government cover 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 NOK75,000-300,000 yearly) or 62,4% (for those earning between NOK300,000 and approx. NOK600,000 yearly). Before one had to earn NOK150.000 in the last 12 months to get cover at all, now the limit is down to NOK75.000 in the last 12 month, which will help students who often are among the employees of the cinemas.
POLAND	Measures	Subsidies to the wages for the employees who were forced to stop worked. It can either be grounded on economic downtime in the workplace or reduction of working time (to be decided by employer and can be both). The subsidies are for a total period of 3 months from the date of submission of the application for this co-financing. The State funding is 50% of the minimum wage. The condition to get this subsidy is proving a decrease (a certain %) in economic turnover following the occurrence of COVID-19. Employees covered by these subsidies cannot be dismissed. In the event of decreasing economic turnover as a result of COVID-19 by at least 15%, the employer has 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 cannot be lower than the minimum salary. Workers will also be allowed to delay their social security payments. Employees who work on contract of mandate basis and were put off because of the occurrence of COVID-19 are entitled to one-time benefit (application must be submitted by the employer).

PORTUGAL	Measures	<p>Each employee will be entitled to a family support, which will correspond to 2/3 of the basic remuneration and which will be supported by the employer and the Portuguese Social Security. The employer will pay 33 percent and the Social Security the remaining 33 percent to the employee. The two thirds mentioned above cannot be less than €635 (guaranteed minimum monthly wage), and cannot exceed €1905 (which corresponds to three month's minimum wages).</p> <p>Payment of social contributions by employers have been delayed for companies of less than 50 employees or businesses that have recorded a 20% drop in turnover.</p> <p>More information available here.</p>
ROMANIA	Measures	<p>The Government has established that during the state of emergency, salaries of those on temporary leave will be covered by the State's unemployment insurance budget. The level of the allowance will be at least 75% of the basic salary corresponding to the job occupied, but not more than 75% of the country's average gross wage. More information available here.</p>
SERBIA	Measures	<p>The State will cover minimum wages for micro and small businesses for three months. This decision should be confirmed officially soon.</p>
SLOVAKIA	Measures	<p>The State will pay 80% percent of an employee's salary in companies that have been or are being closed down. More information available here in Slovak.</p> <p>For companies that didn't close, the compensation will be based on the loss in turnover as per below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 20 % - €180 - More than 40 % - €300 - More than 60 % - €420 - More than 80 % - €540
SLOVENIA	Measures	<p>Until the end of May, the Government will co-finance the salaries and social contributions of all workers who have been sent home, awaiting to resume work, with an option to extend this period if the current state of affairs persists. Workers who lost their jobs will automatically start receiving unemployment benefits. Self-employed workers who are unable to do their business in the current situation will be 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.</p> <p>More information available here.</p>
SPAIN	Figures	<p>Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition. 11,500 have been put on temporary leave because of the crisis.</p>
	Measures	<p>It is forbidden to lay off someone during the pandemic. There is a global mechanism called ERTE (expediente de regulacion temporal de empleo – temporary employment regulation file) and during this period, the Government will cover up to 70% of the salary and reduce the employer's charges.</p> <p>More information 1 (in Spanish) More information 2 (in Spanish)</p>

SWEDEN	Figures	Approx. 2,500 have been put on temporary leave.
	Measures	Employers can furlough staff so they can work 15-16 hours a week with 50% cost and employees gets 90% of their pay (with a cap) with government support from mid-March and onwards. From May, employers can reduce the cost and hours to 20% (8 hours per week) and the staff still gets 90% of their base salary (with a cap). The State will cover full costs for sick leave from companies through the months of April and May.
SWITZERLAND	Measures	The national program of “reduced work” (part/technical unemployment) applies to all employees when the business is forced to close. It was simplified and extended to temporary employees as well. It pays 80% of the wages. The idea is to allow companies to keep their employees until the end of the crisis.
TURKEY	Figures	Approx. 7500 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	The government will be paying salaries (up to 60%) from governmental funds for the next 3 months, but it is not clear if this applies to all type of businesses.
UKRAINE	Measures	The union of cinema operators officially addressed the Prime Minister of Ukraine with the offer of providing 0% interest rate credit for cinemas to pay salaries to their employees because the government promised it would be possible. The Government announced limited social measures, including creating additional jobs for after the crisis.
UK	Figures	Approx. 20,000 people employed in exhibition.
	Measures	The UK government introduced a 'Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme' which covered 80 per cent of the wages of staff who would otherwise be laid off or 'furloughed', for up to £2,500 per month per individual and paid through HMRC. Employers were invited to top up the remaining 20 per cent. The scheme was made available to large and small businesses, and the charity and voluntary sector. A Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will support self-employed individuals whose income has been negatively affected by COVID-19 by providing a grant worth 80 per cent of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. At the beginning of June, it was announced that the scheme would be gradually 'tapered' with employers expected to make an increasing contribution from August to a point where the scheme would cease at the end of October. 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.

4.5. RENT AND RELATED EXPENSES

SUMMARY

Across Europe, with a few exceptions included below, exhibitors are currently still being asked to pay rent and service charges by landlords, despite their properties being closed to the public. A growing number of Governments – or local, relevant authorities – are introducing measures to delay rent payments for businesses during the crisis.

COUNTRY	DATA	DETAILS
ALBANIA	Measures	A Government decree will delay monthly rents for small businesses, but this has to be confirmed formally.
AUSTRIA	Measures	All businesses that were forced to close by the Government can benefit from fixed cost compensation. This would cover a period running from 16 March to 15 June. The share of fixed costs covered will depend on the level of revenue loss, with a maximum of 75% compensated. It is not yet clear when this payment will be made, as it will be necessary for the State to verify submitted loss estimates. In addition, businesses can benefit from a reduced corporate tax, which can cover approximately 6.5% of your fixed costs.
BELGIUM	Measures	Discussions are ongoing related to rent payments nation-wide. In the commune of Brussels City, the payment of rents for businesses has been delayed.
BULGARIA	Measures	The concept of force majeure does not apply to rent in Bulgaria, cinemas are therefore still obliged to pay rent.
CYPRUS	Figures	Approx. €1m for April, May in June in fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
DENMARK	Measures	If companies been forced by law to close down, all expenditure including rent will be fully covered by the State.
ESTONIA	Measures	The Estonian Government will support businesses who were forced to close because of the coronavirus emergency – by contributing up to 25% of their rental expenses for a month. Landlords have been encouraged to contribute by the Government.
FINLAND	Measures	The City of Helsinki has decided to temporarily waive rental payments on commercial premises and terraces (more info). Municipalities support (described in the support scheme section of this document) can be used for any business expenses, particularly fixed costs such as rents.
FRANCE	Measures	The companies that can benefit from the solidarity fund to support small business (described in the support scheme section of this document) will be able to delay payments of rent and related expenses. Larger companies must negotiate on a case by case basis with landlords. More information on the FNCF website, in French . The Minister of Economy has introduced an incentive to a three months cancellation of rent payments for very small businesses (less

		<p>than 10 employees / €2m annual revenues). There is no obligation for landlords to apply it, but they will be encouraged to do so.</p> <p>The French cinema association, the FNCF, provides detailed information on the topic to its members, including a draft letter which can be sent to landlords asking for a postponement or cancelation of rent. Additional information available here, in French.</p>
GERMANY	Figures	Approx. €17m in weekly fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	So far, the federal government agreed to delay payments of rents until 30.06.2020, if the business owner can't pay rent due to the corona crisis. More information available here, in German.
GREECE	Measures	A 40% decrease on rent has been applied by the State for any company/enterprise that was obliged to suspend their activities by the governmental order.
HUNGARY	Measures	A moratorium on all loan repayments for individuals and companies until 31 December 2020.
IRELAND	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
ITALY	Figures	Approx. €15m per month in rent.
	Measures	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. The extension to cinemas to the tax credit measures on rents will be proposed in the new Law Decree that the Government should approve by the end of April.
LITHUANIA	Measures	Depends on agreements with landlords but most do not treat the quarantine as a <i>force majeure</i> , cinemas will have to prove it.
LUXEMBOURG	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
MALTA	Measures	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords.
NORWAY	Measures	A few cinemas are in shopping malls and still have to pay rent, though sometimes reduced or delayed.
POLAND	Measures	Lease contracts for commercial facilities with a sales area over 2000m ² that were forced to close, are suspended. When the ban is lifted, the tenant must then submit an offer to extend the contract for the period the lease was suspended. It also exempts cinemas that rent their space from local governments from rent payments. All cinemas located in malls have their lease agreements suspended.
ROMANIA	Measures	Small and medium-sized companies, as defined by Law no. 346/2004, who have 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, benefit 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.
RUSSIA	Measures	Rent payments for state and municipal property delayed.
SLOVAKIA	Measures	A €200m rent compensation scheme was introduced to support companies whose activities were limited or stopped because of the crisis following a Government order. It remains to be seen if this also applies to cinemas.

SPAIN	Figures	Approx. €12.9m in monthly fixed costs for cinema operators.
	Measures	Spanish authorities have approved a ruling implementing a moratorium on rent payments, making it possible to delay payments over 2 years (depending on various parameters). Cinema operators have been disappointed by this decision, which legally binds them to repay rents in spite of the impact of the crisis on their business. <u>More information available here, in Spanish.</u>
SWEDEN	Measures	A rent rescue package has been introduced whereby renters pay 50% to landlords, landlords offer a 25% discount and the State pays an additional 25% of the rent. The measure applies to Q2 2020. This has to be negotiated directly with landlords. If they agree to the 50% payment for Q2, they will receive another 25% from the government. No tenant can receive more than €900,000 for this program.
TURKEY	Measures	Turkey's Shopping Centres and Retailers Federation has announced that no rent will be received from the stores located in malls that have been closed due to the corona virus outbreak. Close to 70% of cinemas in Turkey are located in malls.
UKRAINE	Measures	Cinemas still pay rent, but mainly a reduced amount. There is no universal regulation of this matter, it is negotiated on a case-by-case basis with landlords. A project law could make it illegal to penalize untimely payments of utility bills.
UK	Measures	In England, Northern Ireland and Wales, there was a moratorium on enforcement action by commercial landlords initially for a period of three months from March.

4.6. TAXATION

SUMMARY

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

COUNTRY	DETAILS
AUSTRIA	Tax deferrals, reduction of tax prepayments etc. have been introduced for a total amount of €10b. <u>More information available in German online.</u>
BELGIUM	A 3 month delay has been introduced for tax payments at national level. City tax (in Brussels) has been suspended as well as other local commune taxes across the country.
CROATIA	Businesses with revenues of less than €1m (93% of all companies in the country) and have recorded a drop of more than 50% in revenue due to the coronavirus crisis will not be required to pay profit tax, income tax or contributions. It will also be possible to postpone the payment of VAT until they receive payment of issued invoices.
CYPRUS	Temporary suspension of the obligation to pay VAT for reasons of business liquidity, without the imposition of any penalties and interest for the periods ending 29 February 2020, 31 March 2020 and 30 April 2020, until 10 November 2020, provided that the relevant VAT returns are submitted within the prescribed deadlines. The Collection of Taxes and Assessments Law has been amended to give the Minister of Finance the power to extend the deadline for submission of tax returns as well as the deadline for settlement of tax liabilities.
CZECH REPUBLIC	Income tax deadline extended. Delay of tax return and VAT tax declaration until July 2020.
DENMARK	Tax authorities have made it possible to postpone tax and VAT for the industry this spring.
ESTONIA	Companies which are affected can be supported by differing taxes.
FINLAND	Businesses experiencing payment difficulties can request an extension to a tax return's filing deadline, and late-filing penalties may not be imposed for a justified special reason. They can apply for a tax settlement on new, easier terms, and a withholding tax adjustment if business results appear to be lower than estimated. In this exceptional situation, the tax administration will support businesses by stepping up the handling of the above issues. VAT refund processing will also be stepped up. <u>More information available in Finnish online.</u>
FRANCE	Very small, and Small to medium business will be exonerated from social charges from March to June. Larger businesses can delay payments and benefit from reduced rates.
GERMANY	A deferral of tax has been confirmed from the cut-off date of 1 March 2020. There are 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 have been suspended.

	<p>Businesses can reclaim incurred advance tax payments as early as this year. Income taxes can also be reclaimed under certain conditions, in 2021 after filing a tax return to the tax office. If losses in 2020 are less serious than expected, tax authorities can reclaim those taxes back.</p> <p>According to the social security treatment, grants for short-time work allowance are tax exempt for up to 80 percent of the difference between the target salary and the actual salary. This regulation also supports cinema companies that have increased the short-time work allowance for their employees.</p> <p>VAT will be reduced for a limited period from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, from 19% to 16% or from 7% to 5%.</p>
GREECE	<p>Suspension, for four months until August 2020, of tax and social security obligations of corporations that were ordered to close, with the sole condition that they do not dismiss any workers. Instalments of confirmed debts of March-April. 25% discount for March-April instalment payments if paid in due time.</p>
HUNGARY	<p>Tax authorities are to exempt 81,480 SMEs from the flat-rate tax liability until June 30 and delay tax debts already incurred before 1 March until after the end of the state of emergency.</p>
IRELAND	<p>Deferment of Commercial Property Rates and VAT. Government still considering relief measures.</p>
ITALY	<p>Fiscal and welfare payments and compulsory insurance premiums have been 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.</p> <p>The worst affected sectors (to be defined) will 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>
LATVIA	<p>Companies which are affected can be supported by differing taxes.</p>
LITHUANIA	<p>VAT delayed if cinemas prove they are harmed by the crisis. Cinemas are not announced in the first list of harmed businesses and are forced to prove they are harmed by the quarantine.</p>
LUXEMBOURG	<p>There are possibilities to delay tax payments & advances.</p>
MALTA	<p>All taxes are deferred to June, so far, although expected to be moved further along. These deferrals are estimated to improve liquidity by €700 million. After these two months, the Government will be studying possible extensions of this measure depending on the prevailing economic conditions. This measure applies to businesses that can 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).</p>
NETHERLANDS	<p>Companies and self-employed people in the Dutch cultural/creative sector can make a special request for an extension of the 3-month payment deadline for all income tax, corporation tax, wage tax and turnover tax (VAT) contributions. The interest on overdue tax normally levied after the term of payment has expired will be temporarily lowered from 4% to nearly 0%. The rate for interest on tax will be temporarily lowered to practically 0% as well. This reduction will apply to all types of tax that are subject to interest on tax. The government will</p>

	lower the interest rate as soon as possible. The period during which affected businesses can apply for tax deferment has been extended until 1 September 2020. More details available here, in Dutch.
NORWAY	The government has declared that VAT will be 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. 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.
POLAND	Businesses can delay their payments of social charges. Tax payments, due for 30 April, have been postponed to 30 May.
PORTUGAL	Postponement of the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) from 31 March to 30 June 2020. Extension of the deadline for submission of the CIT. Additional taxes also delayed. Regarding VAT and withholding taxes for the second quarter of 2020, the government has decided to make tax payments more flexible for both companies and the self-employed. More information here.
ROMANIA	Various measures including suspension of forced execution of budgetary debts, VAT refunds during March for all settled settlements, suspension of fiscal control actions. More information here.
RUSSIA	For all small and medium size businesses, a 6 months tax break for all duties except VAT, insurance premiums and loan payments to small and medium-sized enterprises.
SERBIA	Deadlines for tax payments will be postponed. This decision should be confirmed officially soon.
SWEDEN	Tax delays are allowed in rescue package for a year, with a 6% interest. You can also get repayment for VAT as a loan with an annual interest of 3.1%.
SWITZERLAND	Both local and federal initiatives. Payment of taxes at federal level can be postponed without interest.
TURKEY	The Government has agreed to: delay taxes for 3 months and they will 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 SME's.
UKRAINE	Cinemas are exempt from paying VAT until 2023, but this was already the case before the outbreak.
UK	The next VAT payment will be deferred for three months until the end of June and will not be fully payable until the end of the financial year. A business rates holiday has been introduced for all companies operating in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector.

5. BOX OFFICE PERFORMANCES

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

COUNTRY	MARCH		APRIL				
	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17
AUSTRIA	n/d	-13%	-18%	-23%	-28%	-32%	-39%
FRANCE	n/d	-32%	-35%	-39%	-43%	-45%	-50%
GERMANY	-10%	-14%	-18%	-22%	-26%	-30%	-37%
ITALY*	-6%	-11%	-16%	-22%	-21%	-30%	-38%
NETHERLANDS	+4%	+1%	-4%	-9%	-12%	-16%	-23%
PORTUGAL	n/d	-9%	-14%	-19%	-28%	-35%	-41%
RUSSIA	+8.2%	+5%	-1%	-6%	-11%	-14%	-17%
SPAIN	-4%	-12%	-19%	-26%	-31%	-39%	-44%
TURKEY	+18%	n/d	n/d	n/d	+1%	n/d	-13%
UK	+9%	+2%	-5%	-12%	-19%	-23%	-34%

COUNTRY	MAY			JUNE			
	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24
AUSTRIA	-45%	-48%	-50%	-52%	-53%	-55%	-56%
FRANCE	-53%	-55%	-56%	-58%	-59%	-60%	-62%
GERMANY	-42%	-44%	-46%	-47%	-49%	-50%	-51%
ITALY*	-42%	-46%	-48%	-49%	-51%	-52%	-56%
NETHERLANDS	-30%	-33%	-36%	-39%	-41%	-43%	-44%
PORTUGAL	-47%	-49%	-51%	-53%	-54%	-56%	n/d
RUSSIA	-25%	-29%	-31%	-34%	-35%	-37%	-42%
SPAIN	-50%	-52%	-54%	-57%	-57%	-59%	n/d
TURKEY	n/d	-18%	n/d	n/d	-27%	n/d	-28%
UK	-39%	-42%	-44%	-47%	-51%	-53%	-55%