



**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
<p><b>European Commission</b></p> 	<p><b>Communication: Coordinated economic response to the COVID-19 Outbreak (13/03/2020)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjustment of EU budget and EU funds: Proposal for Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (€37 billion) + Proposal to extend the scope of EU Solidarity Fund to public health (up to €800 million) + all potential expenditures under structural funds should be eligible for the fight against COVID-19</li> <li>• Guidance on State Aid conformity of dedicated measures → decisions on state aid will be taken within days</li> <li>• Proposes to Council to make use of full flexibility within EU fiscal framework → applicability of “unusual events outside the control of government”-clause + readiness to activate the general escape clause</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and services (16/03/2020)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No restriction should exist on the circulation of goods in the Single Market</li> <li>• Professional travel to ensure transport of goods and services should be enabled</li> <li>• Control measures should not undermine the continuity of economic activity and should preserve the operation of supply chains</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>The European Commission adopts a State Aid Temporary Framework to complement existing possibilities (19/03/2020)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The new Temporary Framework will enable Member States to (i) set up schemes direct grants (or tax advantages) to a company, (ii) give subsidised State guarantees on bank loans, (iii) enable public and private loans with subsidised interest rates. Finally (iv), the new Temporary Framework will recognise the important role of the banking sector to deal with the economic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, namely to channel aid to final customers, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises. The Temporary Framework makes clear that such aid is direct aid to the banks' customers, not to the banks themselves. And it gives guidance on how to minimise any undue residual aid to the banks in line with EU rules.</i></li> </ul>	
	<p><b>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services (23/03/2020)</b></p>	
	<p><b>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION Guidelines concerning the exercise of the free movement of workers during COVID-19 outbreak (30/03/2020)</b></p>	
	<p><b>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION Guidance on using the public procurement framework in the emergency situation related to the COVID-19 crisis (01/04/2020) → <a href="#">document</a></b></p>	



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	<p>European Commission proposes COUNCIL REGULATION on the establishment of a European instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE) following the COVID-19 outbreak → <a href="#">document</a></p>	
	<p><a href="#">Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 as regards specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak (02/04/2020)</a> <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2020:138:FIN">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2020:138:FIN</a></p>	
<p>Council of the EU</p> 	<p><b>Eurogroup Statement on COVID-19 economic policy response (16/03/2020)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “determination to do whatever it takes”</li> </ul> <p><u>Implementation by public authorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate fiscal spending targeted at the containment and treatment of the disease</li> <li>• Liquidity to support companies (tax measures, public guarantees etc.)</li> <li>• Support of affected workers</li> </ul> <p><u>Stability and Growth Pact:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Waving of delay penalties in public procurement contracts</b></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicability of “unusual events outside the control of government”</li> <li>• Automatic stabilisers &amp; budgetary measures taken in response to COVID-19 will be excluded when assessing compliance with EU fiscal rules</li> </ul> <p><b>Council of the EU approves two legislative proposals without amendment (30/03):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (€37 billion)</li> <li>• Extension of the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund (up to 800 million)</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance Ministers approve the activation of the General Escape Clause of the EU Fiscal Framework allowing to depart from budgetary requirements (23/03/2020)</b></p>	
	<p><b>The Council of the EU agrees on three safety nets adding up to around €500 billion (09/04/2020)</b></p> <p>1) For workers and self-employed: Council welcomes Commission’s SURE which will channel up to €100 to the national systems facing the greatest pressures</p> <p>2) For businesses: Council welcomes EIB’s pan-European shield which aims to guarantee €200 billion of lending with a focus on SMEs</p> <p>3) For Member States: Council agrees to establish Pandemic Crisis Support close to €240 billion. Only requirement to access the credit line will be that the country would commit to using these funds to support domestic financing of direct and indirect healthcare, cure and prevention related costs.</p>	


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<p><b>European Parliament</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Development Committee triggers the urgent procedure to adopt the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (17/03/2020) → speeding up of legislative process → the Parliament will shortly announce the details of the urgent procedure</li> </ul> <p>On 26 March, the Parliament approved the proposals by the European Commission: Corona Response Investment Initiative &amp; Extension of the EU Solidarity Fund</p> <p>Parliament’s President and political group leaders (Conference of Presidents) held a remote meeting on Thursday morning and agreed to convene an <b>extraordinary plenary session on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April in Brussels.</b></p> <p>On the agenda will be a debate with Council and Commission and a vote on a resolution on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. The EP is also ready to vote on any legislative or budgetary proposals prepared in time by the European Commission to further address the current situation.</p>	
<p><b>AT - Austria</b></p> 	<p>Adoption of COVID-19 law (15/03/2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 law changes several laws, social and labour laws amongst others</li> <li>Key provision is an <b>interdiction to stay/move at public spaces</b> → <b>some exceptions</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bundesinnung Bau and Fachverband der Bauindustrie created a <u>Coronavirus Information page</u> on their website containing legal guides for companies <a href="https://www.wko.at/branchen/gewerbe-handwerk/bau/coronavirus-bauwirtschaft.html">https://www.wko.at/branchen/gewerbe-handwerk/bau/coronavirus-bauwirtschaft.html</a></li> </ul> <p>The federation issued letters interpreting the new law regarding the <b>conformity of working on construction sites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction sites aren’t public spaces as not everyone can have access to them</li> </ul>


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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, workers have to move through public spaces to get to the construction site which is forbidden in principle → application of two possible exceptions/justifications:</li> <li>1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgency measures → concerns few construction works essential for preservation of key infrastructure such as water pipes</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at the construction site (also during breaks and for arrivals and departures to/from the site), it must be ensured that there is a minimum distance of one meter between the persons</li> <li>• If the minimum distance can't be ensured, working is only permitted if "appropriate protection measures" are being taken (as of 20/03/2020) → no official guidance on these measures, but presumably protection masks, safety glasses and gloves</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The social partners in construction publish a <u>guide on health and safety at construction sites</u> (26/03/2020) → STRABAG gradually restarts work in Austria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide is declared binding by health ministry (29/03/2020)</li> <li>• Clarifications in addition to guide (29/03/2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WKÖ sales restricted quantity of masks → companies should only order the quantity of masks needed for 2-3 weeks</li> <li>- WKÖ provides companies with information on hotels that are open and can host construction workers (due to restriction in number of workers sleeping in one room)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Federation clarifies rules for transport to/from construction sites as guide by social partners only applies to construction site (03/04/2020)</li> </ul>

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		<p>STRABAG AG is closing all construction sites in Austria (18/03/2020) because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum distance between workers can't be ensured</li> <li>• Supply chains are disrupted</li> <li>• Projects of public interest will be continued upon approval of the client</li> </ul> <p><u>STRABAG gradually restarts work in Austria (31/03/2020)</u> Under the new agreement, the minimum distance between staff engaged on essential work need not be maintained, as long as the mouth and nose of all persons involved are protected and that no members of risk groups are working on the task. Other measures include regular disinfection of facilities and organisational measures such as staggering work over time.</p>
<p><b>BE - Belgium</b></p> 	<p>On 6<sup>th</sup> March, the federal government adopted the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employers can use temporary unemployment to force majeure. Concretely, this means that employees will receive 70% of their daily remuneration capped at 2,754.76€ per month;</li> <li>- Delays of payment for social security contributions, VAT and payroll tax for the first and second trimesters of 2020 can be allowed without any fine;</li> <li>- For self-employed, a payment scheme can be put into place according to the evolution of the financial situation. Besides, a compensation of between 1.266€ and 1.582€ can be granted in case of temporary termination of the activity due to COVID-19</li> </ul>	<p>On 19<sup>th</sup> March, the federal government announced that the suspension of construction sites related to the COVID-19 pandemic can be considered as "force majeure" - as requested by Confédération Construction - and that companies can benefit from temporary unemployment related to force majeure (employees will receive 70% of their daily remuneration capped at 2,754.76€ per month).</p> <p>The federal government also agreed to allow an additional compensation of 5,63€/ day to help compensate the decrease of revenues for employees.</p> <p>Construction activities may continue with the exception of non-urgent works inside occupied dwellings and provided that measures of protection and social distancing (1.5 m) are fully respected, including during transport.</p>

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	<p>-No penalty will be applied if delays occur in public procurement because of COVID-19. In addition, an “Economic Risk Management Group” has been set up under the patronage of the National Bank, in which social partners (intersectoral level) will participate. - Recommendations with regards to public contracts.</p> <p>Cross-border activities are allowed but border crossing is strictly checked and supporting documentation required. However, the conditions are not very clear. It is easier in the context of professional activities, provided that you are able to demonstrate what your situation and motive to cross are.</p>	<p>Constructiv, the Belgian paritarian fund for the construction sector, published an information document to avoid the propagation of COVID-19 on construction sites (in FR and NL): <a href="http://www.constructiv.be/Constructiv/media/News/Mesures-contre-la-propagation-du-coronavirus-sur-les-chantiers.pdf">http://www.constructiv.be/Constructiv/media/News/Mesures-contre-la-propagation-du-coronavirus-sur-les-chantiers.pdf</a> Together with the government and the Unions, the Belgian Federation is currently negotiating on a protocol on how to work safely in construction.</p> <p>During the first week of April, the Belgian Federation estimated that around 44% of all construction companies completely suspended their activities while the majority was still active or even fully active. A new survey was launched on 6 April in order to reevaluate the situation.</p> <p>At the beginning of April, the Federation estimates that if the current situation goes on for one month and if there wasn't a clawback effect, production in construction would decrease by 4,5% in 2020.</p>
<p><b>BG - Bulgaria</b></p> 	<p>On March 24, the Bulgarian government announced a package of economic measures that would be in force during the state of emergency. The government has prepared a program that provides</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BGN 4.5 bil ( EUR 2.3 bil) is earmarked for a program aiming at sustaining employment in companies. It is expected to help the affected sectors. <b>As of today construction has not been officially declared as an affected sector!</b> The program is intended to provide 60% for the payment of the workers' wages, but only if the employer would keep the employee on an employment contract.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bulgarian Construction Chamber, addressing in an open letter national and local authorities last Thursday, expressed its position that the construction should nevertheless proceed in line with the strong anti-epidemic measures. The sector is systemically important for the country's economy and employs more than 200,000 workers and employees. Suspending construction activities would mean they and their families would be unable to pay loans, bills and buy basic goods and medicine. As for the large EU infrastructure projects, the suspension may result in extension of project duration and financial corrections. In accordance with sanitary and epidemiological measures, anything necessary must be done to ensure that the economy continues to thrive. BCC calls on the administration institutions not to suspend their work, to ensure that documents, reports, certificates etc. are processed quickly.</li> </ul>




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	<p>2. BGN 200 mil (EUR 102 mil) is foreseen for non-interest consumer loans granted by commercial banks and backed by the state. Persons on unpaid leave but under an employment contract would be entitled up to BGN 1500 (EUR 767) per month non-interest consumer credit. Therefore, the government will raise the BDB's capital tomorrow. This refers to cases where the employer has temporarily ceased its activities and the employees were forced to take unpaid leave.</p> <p>3. Deferral of corporate tax until June 30.</p> <p>4. BGN 500 mil (EUR 256 mil) is earmarked for the increased salary payments in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior;</p> <p>5. BGN 50 mil (EUR 26 mil) are planned for the poorest as Easter allowances</p> <p>The Bulgarian Parliament voted a bill on state of emergency measures intended to restrict the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak by introducing strong anti-epidemic measures. The legislation amends many laws, including social code and labor laws. The bill shall enter into force on 24 March 2020.</p> <p>In addition to that Bulgarian authorities restrict movement between cities, closes parks, city gardens, playgrounds, sporting fields, public outdoor and indoor areas. However, there will be no restriction on transport lorries and trucks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In an interview for Bulgaria ON AIR BCC's President Iliyan Terziev warned that the losses for the construction sector due to the Covid-19 outbreak would be at dramatic level, especially for the small construction companies that would not be able to survive if appropriate measures had not been taken soon. Construction industry already suffers from the lack of enough skilled workers and the only way to retain them is to ensure their monthly payments. BCC's President suggested that the public authorities should not cancel tenders for public procurement where possible.</li> <li>• BCC circulated a guide of binding measures to prevent and restrict the spread of coronavirus in construction companies, construction sites, storage areas, office buildings, logistics centers, etc.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>CY - Cyprus</b></p> 	<p>The Federation of Building Contractors of Cyprus (OSEOK), welcomes the announced measures to safeguard public health and support the economy after our country declared itself in emergency.</p>	<p>OSEOK Recommendations for the Construction Sector / Impact of a coronoid pandemic (March 17, 2020)</p> <p>At the same time, however, OSEOK Notes that, in relation to the Cypriot construction sector, it is not possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of strict hygiene rules and safety distance of 8m<sup>2</sup> of living area per employee, as long as the work is in teams.</li> <li>• doing distance work (work from home)</li> <li>• ensuring the health of project contributors (project managers, forensics), who are either 60 years old or are in the vulnerable groups of the population, as well as younger craftsmen and their families</li> <li>• safeguarding workers' basic income in the event of compulsory redundancy or preventive self-restraint as long as workers in the industry are not placed under a compulsory suspension of their employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>In view of the above, OSEOK points out the need</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the adoption of specific measures for the construction sector, [as adopted in the tourism sector (hotels)] which make up for the inability to implement the already announced ones, or</li> <li>• integrating employees into a system of compulsory suspension of employment</li> <li>• ensuring the liquidity of contracting firms with additional credit from credit institutions in the event of delays in the issuance and / or payment of certificates of payment in public, wider public and private sector projects</li> <li>• Utilizing available unused funds from European Structural or Investment Funds or funds from the release of the 1.3 billion funds that will be used by systemic banks to help affected businesses and households benefit and / or support the Cypriot sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>For all the above reasons, OSEOK appeals to the State for immediate action in the Construction sector.</b></p>


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<p><b>CZ - Czech Republic</b></p> 	<p>Measures adopted by the Czech Government against coronavirus (summary up date to 31.3.) - Summary about current status of The Czech Republic from official web of our government at <a href="https://www.vlada.cz/en/media-centrum/aktualne/measures-adopted-by-the-czech-government-against-coronavirus-180545/">https://www.vlada.cz/en/media-centrum/aktualne/measures-adopted-by-the-czech-government-against-coronavirus-180545/</a> and / or <a href="https://www.vlada.cz/en/">https://www.vlada.cz/en/</a></p> <p>List of “the most significant” ones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 12 March, the State of emergency was declared.</li> <li>• As of 16 March, free movement is limited with the exception of travel to and from work and necessary travels to ensure basic human needs (e.g. foodstuffs, pharma shopping, helping older family members). It is forbidden to provide accommodating services. As of 27 March, accommodation services are allowed to accommodate guests, who need to be accommodated for the purposes of work or business.</li> <li>• As of 19 March, all persons need to be equipped with a face mask or other covering of the nose and mouth while outside of their residence.</li> </ul> <p>Measures concerning foreigners and border crossing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 14 March, temporary reintroduction of internal borders with Germany and Austria - lasting until 5 April 2020 with possible prolongation. Border crossing possible only at a limited selection of 11 land borders as well as the Prague International Airport and the Prague - Kbely airport. Additional 8 border crossings available for verified cross-border workers. Land borders with Slovakia (from 13 March) and Poland (from 15 March) were closed by local Governments</li> </ul>	<p><u>Note:</u> As we do not have Ministry of Construction ( we are only “covered” by one department at Ministry of Industry and Trade) - There are NO direct measures to construction sector in our country, only those mentioned in the left column are indirect general measures which would help / support construction industry (employers and employee, self-employed) also. Even for example no “Force majeure” event / status was introduced by our government in CZ for construction.</p> <p><i>Additional measures, impacting also the construction sector:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>As of 14 April, travelling abroad for "essential activities" will be allowed.</b> This will include business trips, assembly of a production facility, visit to a doctor or a relative. Each trip will be followed by 14 days of obligatory quarantine after arrival.</li> <li>• <b>Adoption of a program to support companies called “Antivirus” - final version of the Antivirus employment protection programme, in which the state will contribute to employers' salaries. Companies have to fulfil several conditions, for example they must strictly follow the Labour Code, employees must not be in probationary period and employer has to pay wages and all lawful contributions. They also have to prove that the liquidity problems are connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of state compensation paid to employers is derived from the average super-gross wage, including mandatory contributions (CZK 48,400), and depends on the reasons why they had to put employees on “a barrier to work”. Employers will be able to apply through Labour Office for a contribution in two regimes.</b></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 16 March, until 12 April, the access to CZ forbidden for all foreign nationals, with the exception of foreign nationals with permanent residence or temporary residence of over 90 days and foreign nationals whose entry is in the interest of CZ.</li> <li>• Each returnee to the Czech Republic has to undergo the mandatory 2 weeks quarantine.</li> <li>• CZ citizens are forbidden from departing the country (with possibility of exceptions e.g. cross-border workers).</li> <li>• Foreign nationals with permanent residence or temporary residence of over 90 days may depart the country without right to return for the duration of the state of emergency.</li> <li>• Granting of visas and temporary residence of over 90 days and the relevant procedures at CZ consular offices have been suspended with the exception of foreign nationals whose visa application is in the interest of CZ.</li> <li>• Citizens already legally present in CZ are allowed to stay for the duration of the state of emergency.</li> <li>• As of 21 March, all cross-border workers must submit a proof of foreign employment as well as all relevant documentation when crossing the national border. Documentation will be stamped on crossing.</li> <li>• New measure taken due to problems with cross-border workers. When returning to the Czech Republic, they will automatically have to submit to a fourteen-day quarantine. In practice, this will mean that if a cross-border worker does not want to be exposed to a risk of quarantine, he will be forced to find a temporary accommodation at his place of work for the necessary</li> </ul>	


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	<p>period. As of 26 March, the measure concerning cross-border workers has been modified. They are now divided into different categories according to the border crossing point and the type of work carried out abroad. For example, a book of a cross-border worker is not required, and no quarantine is required upon return for medical personnel.</p> <p>Economic measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To keep the employment rate, State will provide 100 billion CZK in direct support and 900 billion CZK in indirect in the form of guarantees.</li> <li><b>Preparation of state orders for transport infrastructure - for maintenance, repairs or new investments has been approved. Through the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure, the state will spend CZK 6.5 billion above the current budget. The contractual deadlines of these contracts were also extended.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>DE - Germany</b></p> 	<p>A protective shield for employees and companies (13/03/2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making reduced hours compensation benefits (Kurzarbeitergeld) more flexible</li> <li>Tax-related liquidity assistance for businesses</li> <li>A protective shield worth billions for businesses with focus on public promotional bank KfW</li> <li>The Federal Ministry of Justice is preparing a legal regulation to suspend the obligation to file for insolvency in order to protect companies that get into financial difficulties as a result of the corona epidemic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ZDB created an extranet webpage assembling all relevant information for companies: guide with general information about COVID-19 + guide regarding labour law and construction contracts + information on tax measures for companies in financial difficulties</li> <li>HDB puts comprehensive information on its website <a href="https://www.bauindustrie.de/themen/informationen-corona/">https://www.bauindustrie.de/themen/informationen-corona/</a></li> <li>HDB issued a guide (<a href="https://www.bauindustrie.de/media/documents/Corona_2020-03-13-FINAL.pdf">https://www.bauindustrie.de/media/documents/Corona_2020-03-13-FINAL.pdf</a>) regarding social, labour and contract law</li> <li>HDB reports that some contracting authorities are refusing to pay invoices pointing to the running support programs → HDB points out that</li> </ul>


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	<p>The Bundestag suspends the debt brake (25/03/2020)</p>	<p>contracting authorities should continue paying in order to ensure companies' cash flows + support programs target those companies which don't have orders anymore but don't replace contractually agreed payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 17/03, HDB sent a <u>letter to all German Federal Ministers asking for the following points:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- disruptions due to COVID-19 should be declared as “force majeure”</li> <li>- construction period should be prolonged in such cases</li> <li>- simplified and rapid payments by public authorities for completed works</li> <li>- continuous planning of projects and calls for tenders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• HDB sent a letter to the German Ministry for Economy on 23/03 pointing to the restrictions of the free movement of workers within the Single Market</li> <li>• Berufsgenossenschaft Bau publishes guidelines on health and safety measures for construction companies on 23/03</li> <li>• HDB sent a letter to German MEPs on 25/03 pointing to the restrictions of the free movement of workers within the Single Market</li> <li>• German Infrastructure Ministry issues an enactment on the continuation of infrastructure construction (25/03/2020) → <a href="https://www.bauindustrie.de/media/documents/gemPM_200325_HDB_ZDB_BVMB_Spitzengespraech_Scheuer.pdf">press release HDB</a> <a href="https://www.bauindustrie.de/media/documents/gemPM_200325_HDB_ZDB_BVMB_Spitzengespraech_Scheuer.pdf">https://www.bauindustrie.de/media/documents/gemPM_200325_HDB_ZDB_BVMB_Spitzengespraech_Scheuer.pdf</a></li> <li>• On 1 April, HDB points to the necessity of one single set of rules for health and safety on construction sites as some regional authorities issue guidelines which come in addition to those published on 23/03. HDB points out that different guidelines within a country lead to confusion.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 30/03. HDB and ZDB together with the union, publish a common statement:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how to ensure safety and health at construction sites</li> <li>- request to continue planning of public projects</li> <li>- disruptions need to be qualified as occurring due to force majeure</li> </ul> </li> <li>HDB calls for rules ensuring the free movement of workers and companies (concerns mostly Eastern Europe) after Easter in order to prevent construction activities coming to a halt due to lack of labour (09/04/2020)</li> </ul>
<p><b>DK - Denmark</b></p> 	<p>All public places are closed, no gatherings over 10 people – does not affect business/construction. All malls are closed and all shops where you have close contact with customer, hairdresser, restaurants etc. Until 30<sup>th</sup> March but could be extended until Easter.</p> <p>A lot of initiatives have been taken to ensure financial stimuli.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All public employees have been sent home on full payment (doesn't affect hospitals etc)</li> <li>All businesses over 10 employees cannot fire people at short notice and are covered 75% of salary by government</li> <li>The rules in the collective agreements are no longer in effect when it comes to hire/fire</li> <li>Special packages expected for one-man company/self-employed.</li> <li>A number of municipalities have decided on quicker payment (so not late-payment but quick-payment)</li> <li>The budget ceiling municipalities have to apply to due to government and EU rules has been cancelled.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public buyers have been encouraged to initiate any maintenance or new construction as soon as possible.</li> <li>Dansk Byggeri website updated daily to help members.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.danskbyggeri.dk/nyheder-og-presse/nyheder/aktuelt-for-medlemmer/2020/coronavirus-spoergsmaal-og-svar/">https://www.danskbyggeri.dk/nyheder-og-presse/nyheder/aktuelt-for-medlemmer/2020/coronavirus-spoergsmaal-og-svar/</a></p>

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<p><b>EE - Estonia</b></p>  <p><i>(google translation – news published on the website of our member on 15 March)</i></p>		<p>The Estonian Association of Construction Entrepreneurs has submitted proposals to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications to mitigate the economic impact caused by the spread of coronavirus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full coverage of sickness benefit from the state budget. To pay sickness benefit from the first day of illness until the end of the sick leave, and to fully cover the sickness benefit from the state budget. This motivates employees to stay home immediately when symptoms of illness occur and relieves employers of the financial burden.</li> <li>2. Maintaining average wages for quarantined workers from Unemployment Insurance Fund resources and other measures to alleviate liquidity problems for entrepreneurs. In a situation where workers are not sick but have to be quarantined, they are not paid sickness benefit, but the employer has to pay average wages under § 35 TLS. The situation is particularly problematic in sectors where teleworking is not possible or predominant, including in the construction sector. The proposal is to use the Unemployment Insurance Fund's resources to pay quarantined workers an average wage to keep their wages at the same time alleviating the financial burden on employers.</li> <li>3. Other measures to alleviate liquidity problems for traders. In addition to what is stated in paragraph 2 of the letter, provide for other measures to alleviate liquidity problems for companies that suffer losses due to decisions to prevent the widespread spread of the virus (for example, to provide credit, support, rescheduling tax arrears, etc.).</li> <li>4. Extension of the duration of building contracts as a result of force majeure. The public sector (state, local governments, state-owned companies) to treat the problems caused by the spread of the virus</li> </ol>



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Country	General measures	Measures for construction
		<p>(supply difficulties, labor shortages, suspension or closure of construction sites) as force majeure and extend the deadlines agreed in public procurement contracts without recourse. Where possible, treat the same issues as force majeure in the private sector.</p> <p>5. Countercyclical approach. Take a countercyclical approach, ie increase domestic investment (including infrastructure) in times of economic downturn in order to stabilize the market and reduce the effects of the negative economic cycle.</p>
<p><b>ES - SPAIN</b></p> 	<p>On 12 March, the <i>Real Decreto-ley 7/2020</i> was approved. It contained the first measures to respond to the economic impact caused by Covid-19. Among other provisions, there are measures related to the postponement of deadlines to pay taxes by companies with volume of operations below € 6,010,121. Repayments of State loans granted to SMEs and industrial projects were also postponed. For public procurements in cases related to the COVID 19 crisis, emergency procedures are allowed.</p> <p>On 14 March the Government declared the “<i>estado de alarma</i>” due to the situation as a consequence of Covid-19 (<i>Real Decreto 463/2020</i>). Among other aspects, this means that mobility of people is strongly limited, only possible individually in situations of essential needs and as well possible to go to the workplace. Different business activities have been suspended (bars, restaurants, shops except for food, museums, theatres, cinemas,</p>	<p>On 17 March, the <i>Real Decreto-ley 8/2020</i> was approved. It contains a series of urgent measures to face the social and economic impact of Covid-19. In the area of public procurement, it gives the contractor the possibility of asking for the suspension of a public works contract when the situation due to Covid-19 or the measures adopted by the Public Administration to combat it, lead to the impossibility of continuing with the development of the contract; but it is the Public Administration who decides about the suspension or not. If the Public Administration does not respond within five days, the request of suspension must be considered as refused. There are also measures in the area of concession contracts, aimed at re-establishing the economic equilibrium of the contracts. The <i>Real Decreto-ley</i> contains other measures of economic character and socio-labour character. The Ministry of Labour has published a guide about these labour measures: <i>Guía sobre medidas laborales excepcionales contra el Covid-19 aprobadas por el Real Decreto-ley 8/2020</i>). Among the fiscal measures, it’s worth noting the extension of deadlines for payment of fiscal debts. There are also flexibility measures applicable to legal entities governed by private law.</p>


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	<p>etc.) but not the construction activity at that moment when the construction activity was permitted but extra health/safety requirements were requested and problems arisen because of difficulties in the supply of materials, shortages of personnel, and in addition the criteria that labour authorities were applying in their respective territories were not homogeneous.</p> <p>Deadlines in administrative procedures in Public Administration have been interrupted. Basic essential services and their supply are guaranteed.</p> <p>On 17 March, the <i>Orden INT/239/2020</i> was approved. It states strict limitations regarding the entrance in national territory by road which is only possible to nationals, residents in Spain, frontier workers or cases of force majeure or need proved with documents.</p> <p>There are in force strict rules regarding circulation by car, only possible individually as a general rule.</p> <p>On 27 March, the Real Decreto-ley 9/2020 introduced complementary measures of labour character to diminish the impact on employment issues because of Covid-19 pandemia.</p>	<p>On 29 March, the Real Decreto-ley 10/2020 restricts the mobility of workers to go to work from their homes unless they work in an activity considered by this piece of legislation as essential and construction sector is not considered as essential (except some maintenance and urgent works to fix breakdowns and work related to supply of water and sewerage).</p> <p>This basically means that construction worksites are paralysed nowadays and this will last until 9 April. CNC has informed the Ministries in charge about the problems reported by our members since the announcement of the State of Alarm, so that authorities can give solutions which enable companies, from Monday 13 April, to work as soon as possible. CNC has also asked the Ministries in charge to carry out some legislative reforms and to undertake initiatives which may help to mitigate the severe impact caused by the health and economic crisis.</p>
<p><b>FI - Finland</b></p> 	<p>The Government has prepared an extensive package of approximately EUR 15 billion to support companies and to alleviate the negative effects of the coronavirus epidemic.</p> <p>The Government will make additional domestic financing of EUR 10 billion available to businesses, primarily in the form of Finnvera guarantees.</p>	<p>Despite the corona epidemic and restrictions related to it, work in the construction industry has continued quite normally. Demand is expected to be weakening because of market uncertainty, but there are no significant signs of that yet. Renovation and repair sites are in a slightly more challenging position due to restrictions.</p>

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	<p>Temporary changes affecting companies and employees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The notice period for lay-offs is shortened: employers will be required to inform employees of the lay-off no later than five days before the lay-off begins.</li> <li>• The duration of co-operation negotiations on lay-offs is shortened: the duration of the negotiations will be at least five days.</li> <li>• Employees on a fixed-term contract may be laid off: employers will have the right to lay off an employee in a fixed-term employment relationship under the same conditions as an employee with an employment contract of unspecified duration.</li> <li>• Termination of employment during trial period permitted: the employer may terminate the employment contract during the trial period for financial or production-related reasons.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>Legislative amendment extends employees' right to unemployment benefit during lay-off and provides easier and quicker access to unemployment benefit</p> <p>Finland has restricted all cross-border traffic. Discussions are ongoing that which cross-border traffic is necessary.</p>	<p>The majority of foreign labor in Finland comes from or through Estonia. Almost all cross-border traffic has been restricted now for two weeks. So far most foreign labor in construction business has remained in Finland. A large part of the foreign labor force is directly employed by Finnish companies.</p> <p>Confederation of Construction Industry in Finland RT conducted a survey for its member companies 2.-7.4. According to the survey the majority of Finnish construction companies expect the slowdown and at least postponement of planned projects to be quite likely. Nearly 70 percent of respondents estimate that access to working capital and project financing will become more difficult as the crisis go on. Lay-offs are probable in many companies, but one third did not see them coming yet.</p> <p><b>Confederation of Construction Industry in Finland RT's messages for the Finnish Government</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Financing of ongoing projects and housing production must be secured</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>State guarantee programs must include construction sector</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Governmental aid packages are needed especially for infrastructure sector</b></li> <li>3. <b>Government needs to ensure necessary cross-border traffic for labor and materials</b></li> </ol>


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<p><b>FR - France</b></p> 	<p>The French government is putting in place different measures to support business (incl. construction) :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deadlines for the payment of social and/or fiscal deadlines (URSSAF: network of private organizations whose main task is to collect employee and employer social security contributions that finance the general account of France's social security system ; taxes).</li> <li>2) In the most difficult situations, direct tax rebates may be decided on the basis of an individualised examination of the applications.</li> <li>3) €1,500 aid for all small companies, the self-employed, and micro-enterprises through the Solidarity Fund.</li> <li>4) The mobilization of the State to the tune of 300 billion euros and of Bpifrance to guarantee bank lines of credit that companies may need because of the epidemic.</li> <li>5) Support from the State and the Banque de France (credit mediation) to negotiate with his bank a rescheduling of bank loans.</li> <li>6) Maintaining employment in companies through the simplified and reinforced short-time working system.</li> <li>7) Support for the handling of a conflict with customers or suppliers by the Médiateur des entreprises (French companies Ombudsman).</li> <li>8) The recognition by the State and local authorities of the Coronavirus as a case of force majeure for their public contracts. Consequently, for all State and local government procurement contracts, penalties for delays will not be applied.</li> </ol>	<p>On 17<sup>th</sup> March, joint appeal from construction industry (FFB, FNTP, CAPEB) to the Government to suspend construction works for about 10 days in order to be able to get organised regarding H&amp;S measures to be put in place on construction sites; and solve supply chain difficulties.</p> <p>After tough negotiations with the Government, representatives of construction companies (FFB, FNTP, CAPEB) and the Government agreed on several principles that will make it possible to strengthen, in the coming days, the continuity of the sector's activity and the continuation of the construction sites.</p> <p>In order to specify all the applicable measures and procedures and to support professionals in construction, the professional organisations of building and public works companies will in the next few days disseminate a guide of goods practices, previously validated by the Ministries of Labour and Solidarity and Health (validation still pending on March 27).</p> <p>In parallel, the Government invites the clients not to seek contractual liability from companies, their subcontractors or suppliers who, when the conditions of execution no longer made it possible to guarantee the health and safety of their employees, had to suspend their activity.</p> <p><a href="https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/covid-19-continuite-de-l-activite-pour-les-entreprises-du-batiment-et-des">https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/covid-19-continuite-de-l-activite-pour-les-entreprises-du-batiment-et-des</a></p>

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Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p><a href="https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/files/PDF/2020/Coronavirus-MINEFI-10032020.pdf">https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/files/PDF/2020/Coronavirus-MINEFI-10032020.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/files/directions_services/daj/fiche-passation-marches-situation-crise-sanitaire.pdf">https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/files/directions_services/daj/fiche-passation-marches-situation-crise-sanitaire.pdf</a></p>	<p>Besides, both FFB and FNTP provide dedicated information to their members concerning all the aspects of their activity affected by the pandemic and the restrictive measures.</p> <p>On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, the construction industry (OPPBTP, FNTP, FFB, CAPEB) published a H&amp;S guide – validated by the Government – to advise companies on how to resume work under COVID-19 circumstances:  <a href="https://www.preventionbtp.fr/Documentation/Explorer-par-produit/Information/Ouvrages/Guide-de-preconisations-de-securite-sanitaire-pour-la-continuite-des-activites-de-la-construction-Covid-19#.XoY1Zi6mvd4.twitter">https://www.preventionbtp.fr/Documentation/Explorer-par-produit/Information/Ouvrages/Guide-de-preconisations-de-securite-sanitaire-pour-la-continuite-des-activites-de-la-construction-Covid-19#.XoY1Zi6mvd4.twitter</a></p> <p>On 23 March, FNTP launched a survey among its member companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% of companies are in total shutdown</li> <li>• The problem of supply of materials/equipment concerns 90% of companies, and for all types of materials/equipment. It mainly results from the closure of supplier, industrial or distributor sites.</li> <li>• Protective measures cannot be complied with due to insufficient supply of protective equipment</li> </ul> <p>On 26 March FFB launched a survey among its member companies of which the results were published on 2 April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 91% of the activities in the building sector came to a halt</li> <li>• 93% of the companies had to suspend their works, entirely or partly → reasons: for, 63% the lack of protective equipment; for 61%, supply chain disruptions; for 58%, decision of the client; for 54%, decision of the company itself</li> <li>• under certain conditions (supply of protective equipment and supply of construction material) 26% of the companies estimate that they could resume their activities</li> </ul>

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<p><b>GR – Greece</b></p> 	<p><u>&lt;extracts from information sent by our Member PEDMEDE&gt;</u></p> <p><u>Measures supporting economy</u></p> <p>In an attempt to keep the economy afloat in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis, the Greek government announced on Monday 6 April, additional support measures for some 800,000 businesses, 1.7 million private-sector employees and 700,000 self-employed and small business owners.</p> <p>“We are implementing policies to keep the economy alive,” said Finance Minister Mr. Christos Staikouras of the March-April aid package amounting to 6.8 billion euros – or 3.5 percent of GDP – and including a 800-euro benefit for 1.7 million private-sector employees (81 percent of the impacted private-sector workforce) that have been suspended from their employment contracts and a freeze on their value added tax and debt payments to the state for four months.</p> <p>The aid is meant to buffer some 800,000 affected businesses on the condition that there are no layoffs. Additionally VAT and tax debt payments of businesses had been suspended for April. However, if payments are made on time, there will be a 25% discount.</p> <p>The measures also foresee the extension of financial aid for some 700,000 self-employed and small business owners.</p> <p>Analysts expect growth to contract by 3 percent in 2020 due the Covid-19 crisis, which comes shortly after Greece began to recover from a decade-long debt crisis.</p>	<p>The Greek federation PEDMEDE launched instructions to all its members asking to strictly respect :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing</li> <li>• Personal hygiene measures</li> <li>• Avoiding gathering and organising virtual meetings as much as possible.</li> </ul> <p>Most of construction worksites remain open for the moment but new restrictive measures could be announced by the Government.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed red;"/> <p><u>Labour contractual issues &lt;extracts&gt;:</u></p> <p>Concerning the Labour issues the most important are summarized below:</p> <p>1. Businesses that have been negatively affected by the situation could be categorized as following:</p> <p>a) <u>Businesses that have ceased their operations with a State decision.</u> In this case the employees are not entitled to their salary, for the period the business is closed due to the Sate decision, since this is considered a force majeure event.</p> <p>b) <u>Businesses that have been substantially affected by the situation.</u> Greek authorities have created a list of the latter based on the Code of Business Activity (KAΔ) as this has been declared to the Tax Authorities. The list is updated regularly.</p> <p>In this case the employer is entitled with the right to suspend the employment contracts of their employees, and this can be decided within one month from the date of March 21st 2020 (up until the 20th of April). This measure can be extended by a decision of the competent Greek authorities, however no further information is available at this moment in time.</p>

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	<p>Additionally the government reiterated that the annual Easter benefit will be paid by all businesses in full to all employees.</p> <p>The Minister went on to add that a supplementary budget is in place to address the coronavirus fallout earmarking 5.1 billion euros in additional spending for March and April.</p> <p>From the part of the Ministry of Development was announced that the government will provide 1 billion euros in guarantees for loans to struggling businesses and would bear the interest costs of all up-to-date business loans for April, May and June – a measure which may be extended for an additional two months.</p> <p><b><u>TAX PROVISIONS</u></b></p> <p><u>1. Extension of deadlines for submission of the following returns:</u></p> <p>Extension for two months from their expiration, where applicable, of the deadlines for the submission of stamp duty and capital duty, having a new deadline in the end of March and April 2020.</p> <p>Extension until 30/6/2020 instead of 30/4/2020 for the deadline of the submission of the environmental plastic bags duty, for the first quarter of 2020.</p> <p>Extension until 29/5/2020 instead of 31/3/2020 for the deadline of submission of accommodation tax for invoices issued in February.</p> <p>Extension until 30/6/2020 instead of 30/4/2020 for the deadline of submission of accommodation tax for invoices issued in March.</p> <p>Extension until 29/5/2020 for the deadline of submission of inheritance tax and gambling tax returns that expire in the end of March and April. The same applies to donation and parental tax returns for which a notarial document is not drawn up.</p>	<p>The Government has now issued new clarifications on the issue of suspension of employment contracts, as follows:</p> <p>In case (a) the employees are entitled to a special purpose compensation of € 800 paid by the State. The relevant amount is free of tax and covers the period until 30th of April 2020.</p> <p>It is important to mention that the above businesses are not allowed to terminate the employment contracts of their employees and such terminations, starting from 18.03.2020 will be considered void. Unpaid leave applications that have been filed before the employer ceased operations are considered to have been revoked and the employees qualify for the special purpose compensation of € 800.</p>

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	<p><u>2. Measures related to rental payments</u> Businesses who compulsorily discontinue their operation due to the spread of coronavirus or whose Code of Activity (KAD) is included in the list of the Ministry of Finance, are entitled to a 40% reduction in their rent for the months of March and April. Even if the employer/company paid the full rent of March, they have the right to offset the rent of April by paying 20% of it without any legal consequences. The same applies for the employees of affected businesses' who have already paid the rent of March.</p> <p><u>3. Handling of commercial cheques</u> Suspension for 75 days of expiration and payment deadlines of commercial cheques for businesses whose Code of Business Activity (KAD) is already or will be included in April in the list of affected KAD. The measure applies to all securities / cheques that will be submitted electronically by their issuers to banks within three (3) days of the issuance of the Legislative Content Act, through a specific application of the Greek Credit Profile Database (Tyresias system), regardless of whether the business is currently listed in the list of affected companies or will be included in the near future.</p> <p><u>4. Payment of Social Security contributions</u> The deadline for payment of installments related to restructurings which are active and fall due by 31/3/2020 and the deadline for all related subsequent monthly installments is extended for three (3) months without additional fees and late payment surcharges.</p>	



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<p><b>HU - Hungary</b></p> 	<p>- Government Decree 61/2020. (III. 23.) on the immediate measures required to mitigate the effects of the coronary pandemic on the national economy (III. 18.) on public charges and certain new measures</p> <p>- Government Decree 47/2020. (III. 18.) on Immediate Measures to Mitigate the National Economy Impact of the Coronary Epidemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes several laws, social and labour laws amongst others</li> <li>• Key provision is an interdiction to stay/move at public spaces → some exceptions</li> </ul>	<p>ÉVOSZ published information on its website (<a href="http://www.evosz.hu">www.evosz.hu</a>) recommendation for its members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A package of suggestions to help the construction industry</li> <li>• Summary of the impact of COVID-19 on the construction industry</li> <li>• Government measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic</li> <li>• A recommendation to construction companies to reduce the health and business risks of the coronavirus epidemic</li> <li>• Economic stabilization package of MKIK - Hungarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce</li> </ul>
<p><b>HR - Croatia</b></p> 	<p><b>Measures for the preservation of jobs in the sectors affected by coronavirus (COVID – 19)</b></p> <p><b>Measures target</b> Preserving jobs with employers who have been disrupted by economic activity due to a special circumstance caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).</p> <p><b>Target groups of employers</b></p> <p>Sector Employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accommodation, preparation and service of food and beverage,</li> <li>• transportation and storage,</li> <li>• labor-intensive activities within the manufacturing industry - textiles, clothing, footwear, leather, wood and furniture,</li> </ul>	


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employers who are unable to carry out their activities in accordance with the decisions of the Headquarters of Civil Protection (national, county, local government)</li> <li>• other employers who can demonstrate the impact of special circumstances.</li> </ul> <p>The sectors and employers listed above constitute Eligible Sectors and Employers.</p> <p><b>Target groups of workers</b></p> <p>Workers employed by employers from Eligible sector and employers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not include owners, co-owners, founders, board members, directors, procurators, etc., with the exception of employers employing up to 10 workers and owners of trades.</li> </ul> <p><b>Period and duration</b> From 1 March 2020 onwards and up to 3 months maximum.</p> <p><b>The amount of the subsidy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- from HRK 3,250.00 per month for a full-time employee</li> <li>- up to HRK 1,625.00 per month per part-time employee</li> <li>- Proportional part of the amount of HRK 3,250.00 or HRK 1,625.00 per employee for the time they did not work according to the decision of the Civil Protection Headquarters.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>Important:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This support does not have the characteristics of de minimis state aid, as it is an integral part of the Government's economic measures which include preserving jobs in the most vulnerable sectors. It is aimed at companies with their economic activity (companies, crafts and independent professions).</li> <li><b>The measure does not apply to business entities founded by the Republic of Croatia, counties and local self-government units with a holding of 25% or more, with the exception of employers in Sector C: Manufacturing and Sector I: Accommodation, preparation and service of food and beverage.</b></li> <li>Employers using measures of HZZ and other providers, being justified in the cost of salary cost, cannot use both measures at the same time. <b>Prohibition of cumulation of justified expense of the same intention by different measures.</b></li> </ul> <p>Employers may choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspension of contractual obligations under active contracts of HZZ and APZ measures, involving the cost of salary cost and use of this measure.</li> <li>After the expiry of the period of Application of this measure, they continue to use the measure of the APZ which they originally put to suspension during the remaining period, <b>being regulated by the Appendix to the contract.</b></li> <li>Employers who are granted support for job preservation are not allowed to import foreign labor or employ new workers</li> </ul>	


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	<p>during the period of application of these measure. Employers who have registered a business entity for the past 12 months and who use self-employment funds cannot benefit from the measure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Employers who experienced a decline in the number of employees from 1 March to 20 March 2020, may be granted support.</b></li> <li>• <b>An employer may not be granted support if there has been a decrease in the number of employees in the period from 20 March 2020 until the date of submission of the Application, if the percentage of employment decline is greater:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from 40% of employers employing up to 10 workers,</li> <li>• from 20% for Small-sized companies,</li> <li>• from 15% for Medium-sized companies,</li> <li>• from 10% for Large companies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>It does not include the expiry of a temporary employment contract, the retirement of workers and the termination of contract due to employee's conduct.</b></p>	
<p><b>IE - Ireland</b></p> 	<p>From CIF website :</p> <p>The government has decided that everyone, until 12 April 2020, can only travel to and from work or for the purposes of work only where the work is an essential health, social care or other essential service and cannot be done from home.</p>	<p>CIF has set up a dedicated webpage to assist its members: <a href="https://cif.ie/coronavirus/">https://cif.ie/coronavirus/</a></p> <p><u>Non essential services</u> If you are not engaged in the provision of essential services, then you are not permitted to travel to and from work until 12 April 2020.</p>

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	<p>Government has on 28 March published its list of essential services as outlined in the attached document. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to employers and employees as to what constitutes an essential service where workers cannot work from home and have no option but to travel to work.</p> <p>The government also recognises that many companies in Ireland are critical to global supply chains that are responding to the COVID-19 crisis, and many companies also perform critical global roles in other aspects of medicine, as well as security, cyber, cloud and data centre infrastructure. It is intended that these essential global roles are encompassed within this national guidance.</p> <p><b>What employers should do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refer to this guidance to decide whether your organisation is providing an essential service; it is not necessary to seek official authorisation</li> <li>• if you are providing an essential service, you should identify those employees (including sub-contractors and so on) who are essential to the provision of that service and notify them. This can be done by category of employee or by individual; it could include all employees of the organisation</li> <li>• if you are providing an essential service, latest public health guidance should be followed at all times</li> </ul>	<p>There will be a grace period until 6pm on Monday 30 March for people who need to make necessary arrangements to wind down their activities in an orderly way. This should however be done in a way that minimises travel and personal interaction as much as possible.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, it is accepted that some extra time will be needed for a wind down of activity, or necessary for a site to continue to operate at a reduced level of activity, for example in complex manufacturing processes or very large construction projects.</p> <p><b>Essential Services</b></p> <p>Construction services provided under the following headings are considered to be essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• essential health and related projects relevant to the COVID-19 crisis, and supplies necessary for such projects</li> <li>• repair/construction of critical road and utility infrastructure</li> <li>• delivery of emergency services to businesses and homes on an emergency call-out basis in areas such as electrical, plumbing, glazing and roofing</li> </ul> <p>All contractors contracted by Government Departments or Public Bodies will be advised as to whether a project is deemed essential or not.</p> <p>Further details on CIF website</p>


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*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
<p><b>IT - Italy</b></p> 	<p>Deferral of payments and tax obligations;</p> <p>Tax credit for workplace sanitization/hygiene expenses;</p> <p>Increase of the resources of the SME Guarantee Fund;</p> <p>Possibility of suspending the payment of the instalments of loans for the purchase of the first house;</p> <p>Measures of financial support to enterprises and SMEs in particular;</p> <p>Support for companies' liquidity through guarantee mechanisms;</p> <p>Increase in Advance payments from the Development and Cohesion Fund;</p> <p>Suspension of the capital share of local authority loans and loans to Regions;</p> <p>Additional protective measures in favour of workers and the community;</p> <p>Special rules on the ordinary salary integration and ordinary allowance;</p> <p>Leave and indemnities for employees in the private;</p> <p>Contributions to companies for the security and strengthening of health care facilities;</p> <p>Extension of terms for payments related to social security and welfare contributions and compulsory insurance premiums;</p> <p>Property requisition for health purposes;</p> <p>Extension of vehicle revision deadline;</p>	<p><b>5<sup>TH</sup> UPDATE OF THE ANCE OPERATIONAL GUIDE FOR THE ITALIAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES TO DEAL WITH THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY</b></p> <p>Ance has elaborated a new update of the operational guidelines for companies. The document has changed significantly in the light of the Dpcm of 22 March with which non-essential production activities are suspended.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ance.it/docs/docDownload.aspx?id=54455">http://www.ance.it/docs/docDownload.aspx?id=54455</a></p> <p><b>PROTOCOL ON HEALTH &amp; SAFETY OF THE WORKERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR SHARED BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS (24.03.2020)</b></p> <p>On 24 March, the social partners in the construction industry signed a regulatory protocol to combat and contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the workplace, containing guidelines to ensure the protection of workers' health and safety for the entire construction sector.</p> <p>This protocol follows the Protocol of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport shared with ANCE, Anas (the Road Contracting Authority), RFI (the Railway Company), and Feneal Uil, Filca - CISL and Fillea CGIL (the building sector unions).</p> <p><a href="http://www.ance.it/docs/competenze.aspx?id=20&amp;pid=11&amp;pcid=13&amp;docId=39126">http://www.ance.it/docs/competenze.aspx?id=20&amp;pid=11&amp;pcid=13&amp;docId=39126</a></p> <p><b>SHARED REGULATION PROTOCOL FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF COVID-19 DIFFUSION ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (19.03.2020).</b></p>

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>Extension of validity of identity documents; Urgent measures for the restoration of the functionality of prisons; Provisions on delays or breach of contract resulting from containment measures; Advance payment for public contracts; Suspension of time limits in administrative proceedings and effects of expiring administrative acts; Special Commissioner for the implementation and coordination of health measures to contain and combat the epidemiological emergency Covid -19. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, YOU CAN CONSULT THE FULL DOCUMENT ON THE FIEC INTRANET</p>	<p>The Ministry for infrastructures and transports (MIT) has developed an ad hoc protocol for the construction sector to combat and contain the spread of the COVID 19 virus in the workplace.</p> <p>The document has been shared with ANCE, Anas (the Contracting authority for Roads) , RFI (the Railway company), and Feneal Uil, Filca – CISL e Fillea CGIL (the Trade Unions of the construction sector).</p> <p>These safety measures concern the owners of the site, all subcontractors and sub-suppliers present on the site. Although the MIT measure is a concrete step forward with regard to activities on construction sites, a clear and unequivocal national measure would be needed, which would state that the health emergency linked to the COVID-19 virus is a cause of force majeure.</p> <p>The final part of the Protocol presents, by way of example, a non-exhaustive list of cases involving the suspension of works. The recurrence of such hypotheses must be certified by the Safety Coordinator in the execution of the work.</p> <p><a href="http://www.mit.gov.it/sites/default/files/media/notizia/2020-03/Linee%20Guida%20Cantieri%20Edili.pdf">http://www.mit.gov.it/sites/default/files/media/notizia/2020-03/Linee%20Guida%20Cantieri%20Edili.pdf</a></p> <p><b>DECREE 22 MARCH</b> (DPCM of 22.03.2020)</p> <p>The decree suspends all industrial and commercial production activities not included in the list in the annex of the decree.</p> <p>The activities not suspended include those referred to in ATECO Code 42 (Civil engineering), 43.2 (Installation of electrical and plumbing systems and other construction and installation work) and 94 (Activities of membership organisations).</p>

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*


Country	General measures	Measures for construction
		<p>Non-suspended activities also include those related to waste collection, treatment and disposal, including construction activities (included in ATECO Code 38).</p> <p>However, it remains necessary to comply with the regulatory protocol for the containment of the spread of Covid - 19 on construction sites shared Thursday evening between ANCE, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Anas S.p.A., RFI, Feneal Uil, Filca - CISL and Fillea CGIL (See above).</p> <p><a href="http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/coronavirus-firmato-il-dpcm-22-marzo-2020/14363">http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/coronavirus-firmato-il-dpcm-22-marzo-2020/14363</a></p>
<p><b>LT - Lithuania</b></p> 	<p><b>General business support measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The revised Labor Law simplifies the procedure by making it easier for an employer to let workers for a downtime</li> <li>2. The Economic and Financial Action Plan provides for EUR 500 million for preservation of jobs and income.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following support for downtime and partial downtime will be made available: employee allowance no less than a minimum monthly wage (MMW), State funds will account for 60% but no more than one MMW.</li> <li>• In the case of quarantine in educational institutions or social care and employment centres, a provision is made to receive sickness benefits for the care of children and the disabled.</li> <li>• It is also planned to allocate funds for the self-employed who have paid social security contributions: to pay EUR 257 a month for up to 3 months when they are unable to carry out</li> </ul>	




**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>their activities due to quarantine, and to provide a state guarantee to extend the deferred period from 3 to 6 months for mortgage payments (excluding interest) for those who have lost their jobs.</p> <p>3. The Economic and Financial Action Plan provides for immediate tax loans, deferred payments or payment in instalments by the agreed schedule without interest; stopping recovery actions based on criteria of reasonableness; possibility to defer payment of personal income tax; to increase the guarantee limit for the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Fund and INVEGA by EUR 500 million and to extend the terms of the guarantee provision; to allow businesses deferment or payment in instalments of payments for the electricity and natural gas consumed. It is also recommended that municipalities exempt businesses from the commercial real estate and land taxes, and recommended that municipalities be allowed to defer or schedule instalment payments for utilities and heating energy.</p> <p>4. The Economic and Financial Action Plan provides for accelerating investment programmes by accelerating payments and increasing the intensity of funding. Also, it plans to reallocate EU investment funds to health, employment and business, accelerate the use of public budget funds for running costs, to use all funds from the Climate Change and Road Maintenance and Development Programs and to accelerate renovation of apartment buildings. Also, it is planned to recommend the Bank of</p>	

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>Lithuania to take the following measures to increase the lending potential of banks by EUR 2.5 billion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduction of capital adequacy requirements for credit institutions;</li> <li>2) Reduction of liquidity reserves;</li> <li>3) Reduction of other supervisory measures.</li> </ol> <p>5. State will be more flexible in different situations, eg.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Competition Council of The Republic of Lithuania will not treat agreements among competitors as cartel agreements if it is not necessary, to ensure the stability of existing contracts enforcement</li> <li>• The Public Procurement Office will be more flexible about changes to existing procurement contracts;</li> <li>• Facilitating the implementation of EU projects</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LU - Luxem- bourg</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government issued a summary of information and recommendations for companies.</li> <li>• Advance on the reimbursement of Extraordinary Family Related Leave</li> <li>• Support to companies and the self-employed by offering them greater flexibility in their management of the payment of social security contributions</li> <li>• French/German/Belgian cross-border workers: exceptional measures have been adopted with the respective countries.</li> </ul>	<p>Following the Prime Minister announcement, construction sites have close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 17.00. There are some exceptions (urgent works, health care infrastructure...).</p> <p><a href="https://gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers.gouv_msan+fr+dossiers+2020+corona-virus.html">https://gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers.gouv_msan+fr+dossiers+2020+corona-virus.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://meco.gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers/2020/coronoavirus-entreprises.html">https://meco.gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers/2020/coronoavirus-entreprises.html</a></p>


**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government put in place simplified measures for companies applying for coronavirus-related short-time work: accelerated procedure for companies directly affected by a government decision; online system will be available soon; "force majeure / coronavirus" short-time working scheme whose form can be downloaded electronically.</li> <li>• Tax advance facilities and payment deadlines will be granted to companies and self-employed persons. In addition, these same persons may apply for a four-month payment deadline for taxes due after 29 February 2020.</li> <li>• Economic stabilisation programme adopted on 25 March (up to 8.8 billion Euros = about 14% GDP): immediat expenses for unemployment etc.; postponed collection of social security contributions; and State aid to the economy.</li> <li>• Series of measures to combat COVID-19: limitation of a series of non-essential economic activities</li> <li>• Series of measures in support of companies by insurance company ODL: e.g. softened conditions and extended coverage.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LV - Latvia</b></p> 	<p>On 12<sup>th</sup> March, Cabinet of Ministers issued the Cabinet Order No. 103 On the Declaration of Emergency Situation (consolidated redaction available in English: <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313191-on-declaration-of-the-emergency-situation">https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313191-on-declaration-of-the-emergency-situation</a>). Thus declaring emergency situation throughout the national territory until 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020, to restrict the spread of COVID-19.</p>	<p>In order to reduce the risk of further spread of Covid-19, the government has expanded the range of precautionary measures. Changes pertain to incoming travelers, public gatherings, as well as the work of education institutions. Furthermore, significant support measures for industries, <b>including construction</b>, are adopted.</p> <p>The main support measures, among others, are as follows:</p>


## Covid-19 – Construction observatory (Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>On 20<sup>th</sup> March, The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia has adopted and the President has proclaimed the following law On Measures for the Prevention and Suppression of Threat to the State and Its Consequences Due to the Spread of COVID-19 (available in English: <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313373-on-measures-for-the-prevention-and-suppression-of-threat-to-the-state-and-its-consequences-due-to-the-spread-of-covid-19#_ftn1&amp;pd=1">https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313373-on-measures-for-the-prevention-and-suppression-of-threat-to-the-state-and-its-consequences-due-to-the-spread-of-covid-19#_ftn1&amp;pd=1</a>).</p> <p>Government decides on aid to businesses and expands precautions to restrict spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>On 26<sup>th</sup> March, Cabinet of Ministers adopted Regulation No. 165 Regulations Regarding the Employers Affected by the Crisis Caused by COVID-19, which are Eligible for the Allowance for Idle Time and Division of the Payment for Late Tax Payments in Instalments or Deferral Thereof for up to Three Years (available in English: <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313514-regulations-regarding-the-employers-affected-by-the-crisis-caused-by-covid-19-which-are-eligible-for-the-allowance-for-idle-time-and-division-of-the-payment-for-late-tax-payments-in-instalments-or-deferral-thereof-for-up-to-three-years">https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313514-regulations-regarding-the-employers-affected-by-the-crisis-caused-by-covid-19-which-are-eligible-for-the-allowance-for-idle-time-and-division-of-the-payment-for-late-tax-payments-in-instalments-or-deferral-thereof-for-up-to-three-years</a>).</p> <p>All legislative acts adopted following the Cabinet Order No. 103 are available: <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/tema/covid-19">https://likumi.lv/ta/tema/covid-19</a>. Additionally, all information (f. e. health recommendations, information for businesses, travelers, etc.) regarding the COVID-19, compiled by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Latvia and is available (only in Latvian and Russian): <a href="https://covid19.gov.lv/">https://covid19.gov.lv/</a>.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Downtime allowance for companies, which meet specific criteria, f.e. – significant decrees of income in comparison to previous year. The downtime allowance is paid in the amount of 75% of the average monthly gross salary for the previous six-month period, but not more than 700 euros per calendar month.</li> <li>2) Tax payment deadline extensions.</li> <li>3) Extension of the deadline for submission of annual reports.</li> <li>4) Deferral of advance payments of personal income tax.</li> <li>5) Refund of the overpaid Value Added Tax.</li> <li>6) State and municipal capital companies temporarily exempt affected companies from rent or decide on a reduction in rent.</li> <li>7) For companies that have experienced objective difficulties in making loan payments to banks due to the spread of Covid-19, the financial institution offers a credit guarantee that will allow the bank to defer the payment of the principal amount. Altum is a state-owned development finance institution, which offers state aid for various target groups with the help of financial tools. For more information regarding the aid for businesses please see the webpage of Ministry of Economics (<a href="https://em.gov.lv/en/news/27672-mechanisms-for-entrepreneurs-and-employees-to-support-them-during-the-state-of-emergency-regarding-covid-19">https://em.gov.lv/en/news/27672-mechanisms-for-entrepreneurs-and-employees-to-support-them-during-the-state-of-emergency-regarding-covid-19</a>).</li> </ol> <p>To mitigate the damages brought by this crisis, the social partners and NGO's are taking an active part in finding and communicating the possible solutions. F. e. the state of emergency also affects the field of public procurement not only at the procurement stage, but also in the performance of concluded procurement contracts. Partnership of Latvian Contractors are taking an active part in communication to the government having a great understanding and representation of Latvian construction industry.</p>


**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
		<p>For example, we are calling the government to adopt guidelines for public procurement and EU funded projects due to the effect on the timely or full performance of the obligations under the contracts, etc.</p> <p><b>The Latvian Construction Council calls on the Government to involve the construction sector more actively in planning a medium-term stimulus measure for the Latvian economy.</b></p> <p>Furthermore, Partnership has developed public safety guidelines and <b>recommendations for construction sites</b>, which are available for the public. In addition, the Procurement Monitoring Bureau has published explanations that will help customers and suppliers during the emergency.</p>
<p><b>NL - Netherlands</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dutch government presented a package of € 20 billion for all companies ranging from delayed tax payment to support and guarantee of the payment of wages.</li> </ul> <p><b>Relaxation of tax deferrals and reduction of fines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon written request, the Dutch tax authorities can grant a deferral of the payment of income tax, corporate income tax, turnover tax and payroll tax. Any request should mention that Covid-19 has resulted in financial difficulties for the tax payer. On receipt of a request the tax authorities will put the collection of taxes on hold. At a later stage, the validity of the request may be reconsidered by the tax authorities.</li> <li>Until further notice, no penalties will be payable if a taxpayer fails to pay its taxes on time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main message of Bouwend Nederland is that construction works should continue and that clients should not stop planning for future construction projects.</li> <li>A great concern is what happens after summer and next year when the sanitary crisis is over → <b>as of April 5 the Dutch Economical Construction Institute (independent from Bouwend Nederland) predicts a 15% decrease of construction turnover and 40.000 job losses for the next two years due to this Corona crisis</b></li> <li>BNL continues to lobby (at national, regional and local level) for new projects and tenders so that works in the near future are ensured</li> <li>Stricter confinement since 23/03 but construction works can continue</li> <li>The construction of new buildings and houses continues. Renovation works are causing problems as inhabitants don't want workers to come to their houses and workers don't want to go there either.</li> <li>Personnel problems are moderate (due to sickness or Poles returning to Poland)</li> </ul>


**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest rates for the late filing of returns and payment of taxes have been temporarily reduced to 0.01%.</li> <li>Many taxpayers pay taxes on the basis of a preliminary tax assessment. In many cases, this preliminary tax assessment will prove to have been too high if, as is expected, Covid-19 has a significant impact on the economy. A taxpayer can file a request to reduce their preliminary tax assessment, taking into account the effects of the crisis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNL checks the governments' package with regard to construction. A first conclusion is that a "cash flow fund" would be needed for the construction sector.</li> <li>BNL developed 'Corona Clauses' for new contracts (see intranet)</li> <li>Together with the Unions and the Dutch government, BNL set up a protocol on 'how to work safely in construction'</li> <li>BNL put up a crisis team having a daily videoconference</li> <li>There is a <a href="#">Q&amp;A for companies on the federation's website</a></li> <li>A daily newsletter is sent out covering the crisis and new developments.</li> <li>Every colleague doing home office has been instructed to call 10 member companies per day asking them about the problems they face.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NO - Norway</b></p> 	<p>After the first week of panic the situation has calmed down a bit. The biggest issue through this weekend has been the local quarantine rules the municipalities have applied. Two weeks quarantine to if you travel from Oslo to Tromsø.</p> <p>The unemploymentrate has risen from 3,8 to 11,4. But still that is among the lowest in the private sector. In total 10,4 is unemployed in Norway.</p> <p>The interest rate has been cut from 1,5 to 0,25. The lowest ever in Norway.</p>	<p>The construction sector is encouraged to stay in production, if it is possible and safe.</p> <p>Some problems for construction workers who have returned from abroad – in quarantine for 14 days.</p> <p>Among our members this is the situation:</p> <p>36% have temporary laid off employees (permittering) 19% of the businesses respond that they lack money to pay bills because of the virus 41% have problems delivering goods and services</p>

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>You can find all the governments initiatives and other information here: <a href="https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/koronavirus-covid-19/id2692388/">https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/koronavirus-covid-19/id2692388/</a></p>	<p>63% have been notified of delays or cancellations of deliveries by suppliers 73% is experiencing lower demand 71% reports that layoffs may be needed shortly 10% have plans for layoffs 3% have already laid off employees</p>
<p><b>PT - Portugal</b></p> 	<p>Since 13/3 exceptional and temporary measures have been introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extraordinary measures have been taken to support companies in the payment of remunerations, in which is included the creation of a simplified layoff, all those measures with the temporary exemption from employer contribution payments</li> <li>• social security allowances are taken for workers in the event of illness or prophylactic isolation and in family assistance</li> <li>• it has been created a special regime of absences from work</li> <li>• extension of vehicle revision deadline</li> <li>• extension of validity of identity documents</li> <li>• deadlines in administrative procedures in Public Administration have been suspended</li> <li>• exceptional rules for Public Procurement aimed at the Health Sector: direct awarding of contracts is generally authorised, and the threshold for simplified direct awarding of contracts is raised to €20.000,00, with derogations on the repeated direct awarding to a specific supplier</li> </ul>	<p>The construction sector is not expressly included in the list of facilities and establishments closed due to the declaration of a state of emergency – Decree No. 2-A/2020 of 20 March</p> <p>On 26 March 2020 FEPICOP requested to the Government an action plan with specific measures for the Sector.</p> <p>On 18 March 2020 the Portuguese federation FEPICOP asked the national authorities to implement for construction companies the following emergency measures :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast and easy access to emergency financing through dedicated credit lines and to “lay-off” regimes;</li> <li>• Temporary suspension of all tax and social contribution obligations;</li> <li>• Large scale moratorium of debt repayments;</li> <li>• Immediate payment of invoices and credits of public procurement, regardless of the contractual terms established;</li> <li>• Upfront payment of the totality of works not carried out, in accordance with the approved work plan, resulting from the suspension of public works due to the current crisis and the possibility of accessing a factoring instrument, for awarded contracts, not yet executed.</li> </ul>

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*


Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deadline extension and phased payments for social security contributions, phased payments of VAT, Personal Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax for the second trimester of 2020 can be allowed without penalties</li> <li>• deadline extension for communication of 2019 results in Corporate Income Tax, without penalties</li> <li>• flexibility in communication of VAT of February 2020, without penalties, and permission to accept PDF invoices for VAT</li> <li>• granted a credit moratorium to companies and families until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, without penalties</li> <li>• financial support with credit loan facilities to enterprises, in particularly SME's.</li> </ul> <p>For further information please see <a href="https://dre.pt/legislacao-covid-19-por-areas-tematicas">https://dre.pt/legislacao-covid-19-por-areas-tematicas</a></p>	
<p><b>RO - Romania</b></p> 	<p>News from our Romanian member ARACO (24 March): The developments over here are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emergency state has been declared 2 weeks ago.</li> <li>2. Two military ordinances are in place regarding lock downs for unnecessary business, restrictions for getting outside (no more than 3 individuals) with very specific exceptions.</li> <li>3. During the night it is prohibited to get outside.</li> <li>4. The Govt has taken last week a decision (in Official Journal since 21.03.20) about economic and social measures mainly for SME, HORECA and transport.</li> </ol>	<p>ARACO have sent on 17.03.20 a letter of requests for the construction sector. <i>(original RO – English = google translation)</i></p> <p><b>Proposals for social - economic measures needed for the construction sector in the context Covid pandemic – 19</b></p> <p>The pandemic generated by Covid -19 will negatively impact the construction sector in Romania in the short and medium term, given the effects already generated or expected to manifest in the next period, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Companies already face problems arising from the need to protect health and safety in work of own staff.</li> <li>b) Anxiety of employees in the construction sector generated by the uncertainties anchored in the dynamics Covid epidemic - 19.</li> </ol>



**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>5. Technical unemployment is supported by the state for the businesses closed by COVID-19 and by Govt decision. For the rest you have to prove a decrease for the total turnover of 25%. Payments to be done in 30 days.</p> <p>6. Payments back for VAT and medical holidays are to be made asap.</p> <p><b>7. Some municipalities (Bucharest, Craiova) have decided to lock down their construction sites.</b></p> <p>8. Loans for businesses at zero interest rate guaranteed by the state have been decided by Govt decision.</p> <p>9. The Govt is preparing for this week a new additional decision for social and economic measures.</p>	<p>c) Companies are facing major problems related to supply chains with materials and yard equipment.</p> <p>d) There were logistical problems regarding the transport of labor force.</p> <p>e) There are potential risks for certain sites to be suspended as a result of the authorities decision central / local or as a result of the problems generated by the impossibility of using the labor force.</p> <p>f) Companies are facing problems in ensuring financial liquidity, which will be escalated under unpredictable conditions of the effects of the Covid-19.</p> <p>g) The impact of the epidemic will be severe in the construction sector, generating major delays and interruptions/ suspensions of activities on site.</p> <p>ARACO proposes to urgently promote a first set of social-economic measures that will limit the predicted damages, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emergency payment of outstanding (late payment) invoices to construction companies (including VAT) reimbursed, medical leave, etc.).</li> <li>2. The cancellation of the ANAP Instruction no.1 / 2019 and the return to ANAP Instruction no.2 / 2018 and its application under the conditions of the contracts during the period affected by the epidemic thus allowing a correct process of dynamic adjustment of prices.</li> <li>3. Promote emergency measures that allow the suspension of activity on certain sites without prejudice to critical infrastructure.</li> <li>4. Clarification and fluidization of the procedure for activating the force majeure clause.</li> </ol>

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
		<p>5. Promoting the emergency measures necessary to finance the conservation / security of the sites where the activity will be temporarily interrupted / suspended.</p> <p>6. Extension of the execution terms for the ongoing contracts for both public and private projects with a period at least equal to that of the Covid pandemic</p> <p>7. Ensuring the financial resources for the payment of the technical unemployment (75% of the monthly net salary) for the next 3 - 6 months for the personnel who temporarily suspend their activity in the context of the Covid pandemic - 19.</p> <p>8. The granting of loans with zero interest, guaranteed by the state, in order to ensure the minimum liquidity necessary for the activity of companies in the construction sector.</p> <p>9. Temporarily suspend the payment of taxes for the next 3 to 6 months.</p> <p>10. Promote measures to allow the full or partial release of the guarantees of good execution - GBE, constituted by the construction companies.</p> <p>11. Promote a clear mechanism for clearing mutual debts between the economic agent and the state.</p> <p>12. Ensuring the financing of the projects for the ongoing contracts and the firm confirmation of the support of the public investment policies in Romania.</p>
<p><b>SE - Sweden</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary leave introduced to lower wage cost for the companies (the state accounts for a larger part of the wage cost)</li> <li>• The state is taking over the sick pay responsibility for two months (April and May)</li> </ul>	


**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different measures to enhance liquidity in the companies</li> <li>• Swedish Riksbank lent 500 bn sek to banks for re-lending to companies</li> <li>• Swedish Riksbank is buying housing and municipality bonds up to 300 bn sek</li> <li>• Sweden's financial supervisory authority has lowered the countercyclical buffer rate to zero</li> <li>• A central government loan guarantee has been proposed to make it easier for companies to access financing.</li> <li>• The proposal means that the central government will guarantee 70 percent of new loans banks provide to companies that are experiencing financial difficulty due to the COVID-19 virus but that are otherwise robust. The guarantee will be issued to banks, which in turn will provide guaranteed loans to companies. Each company be allowed to loan up to SEK 75 million, although exceptions can be made.</li> <li>• Temporary reduction of employers' social security contributions and individual contributions.</li> <li>• Temporary discount for rental costs in vulnerable sectors.</li> <li>• To reduce costs for companies with considerable difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 virus – in sectors such as durable consumer goods, hotels, restaurants and certain other activities – the Government proposes providing support that aims to facilitate and speed up renegotiation of rents. The approach is that central government will cover 50 per cent of the rental reduction up to 50 per cent of the fixed rent.</li> </ul>	

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A future proposal is that the rules for tax allocation reserves will be temporarily changed so that sole proprietors severely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak will receive tax cuts. The new rules mean that 100 per cent of the taxable profits for 2019, up to SEK 1 million, can be set aside in the tax allocation reserve, which can then be set off against possible future losses.</li> <li>• New opportunities to defer tax payments will be expanded. This means that value added tax reported annually from 27 December 2019 until 17 January 2021 will also be covered by the above proposal.</li> <li>• Banks may grant all mortgagors amortisation exemption</li> <li>• The exemption will be in force until the end of June 2021.</li> <li>• Further additional funding to municipalities and regions</li> <li>• It is proposed that municipalities and regions receive an additional SEK 20 billion in general government grants this year, rather than the SEK 5 billion previously announced by the Government. This new additional funding of SEK 15 billion for 2020 is being provided to strengthen the ability of the local government sector to maintain essential services such as health care, education, social services and public transport.</li> <li>• Of the total increase of SEK 20 billion, SEK 12.5 billion is a permanent increase in appropriations; in other words, this is money that municipalities and regions will also have at their disposal in the years ahead.</li> </ul>	


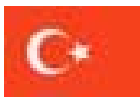
**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
*(Summary of measures/restrictions introduced)*

Country	General measures	Measures for construction
<p><b>SI - Slovenia</b></p> 	<p><b>SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA WITH REGARD TO CORONAVIRUS</b></p> <p>On 24 March 2020 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia presented guidelines with a set of measures to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on citizens and the economy. On the basis of the measures set out in these guidelines, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia plans to come up with intervention COVID-19 legislation on 27 March 2020. Below is the summary of the guidelines:</p> <p><b>Measures to safeguard jobs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All contributions for healthcare and pension insurance schemes for temporarily laid-off employees until 31 May 2020 will be covered by the state. The country further co-finances 20% of the net compensation for temporarily laid-off employees.</li> <li>Sick pay for all workers during the epidemic from the first day onwards will be covered by the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, not the employer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Measures to keep business in operation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All pension insurance contributions for employees in economy who remain in the workplace during the crisis period will be paid by the Government for both employers and employees.</li> </ul>	

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
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Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p><b>Measures to improve the liquidity of businesses and to provide support for scientific research projects to fight the epidemic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state shall provide sufficient funds through capital increase or performance guarantees for the purchase of trade debt from Slovenian businesses.</li> <li>• The prepayment of corporate income tax and the payment of self-employment income tax will be suspended.</li> <li>• The imposition of contractual penalties for delays in the provision of supplies and services under contracts with the public sector will be suspended.</li> <li>• Payment deadlines for payments to private suppliers from public funds are reduced to 8 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Procurement Measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The threshold values for the application of the Public Procurement Act in the case of goods and services should be increased from EUR 20,000 to EUR 40,000, <b>and in the case of construction services</b>, from EUR 40,000 to EUR 80,000.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SK - Slovakia</b></p>	<p>As of 12 March 2020, the Government of the Slovak Republic declared an „emergency situation“ for the risk of spreading COVID-19. It does not affect or limit any rights of citizens. An emergency situation has been declared for the needs of state authorities, and public forces.</p>	<p>The Slovak Association of Construction Entrepreneurs (ZSPS) treats the problems caused by the spread of the virus and governmental measures: supply difficulties and break-outs, labour shortages (closed state borders for foreign workers, closed hostels for commuters), suspension or closure of construction in touch with the public.</p>

**Covid-19 – Construction observatory**  
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Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>Current Restrictive measures of the Slovak Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperature will be measured in all hospitals, factories and shops.</li> <li>• Ban on walking and moving in public without covering the nose and mouth.</li> <li>• 14 days quarantine for all persons coming from abroad</li> <li>• Closed accommodation facilities including dormitories for workers</li> <li>• Stopped international passenger transport by air, rail, road, ship</li> <li>• Ban of business and working trips abroad.</li> <li>• Recommendation - using the home office as much as possible, especially for employees whose work is not dependent on physical presence in the workplace, reduce personal communication and meetings with employees from other branches, partners</li> </ul>	<p>ZSPS communicates with the Slovak construction sector intensively via web site <a href="http://www.zsps.sk">www.zsps.sk</a> and public media – share information and safety recommendations for construction work</p> <p>ZSPS negotiates (jointly with industrial employers' associations) with the Ministry of Economy on general measures in the area of taxes, employment, financial support, etc. to stabilize entrepreneurs.</p> <p>ZSPS requested to negotiate with the Ministry of Transport Construction specific measures for the construction sector to minimize negative impacts as force majeure and extend the deadlines agreed in public procurement contracts without recourse and treat the same issues as force majeure in the private sector, to agree a special regime for works on publicly accessible construction sites, etc.</p>
<p><b>TR – Turkey</b></p> 	<p><b>Economic Stability Shield Programme</b> The Turkish government has announced a TRY 100 billion Economic Stability Shield Program as part of its stimulus plan.</p> <p><b>Credit Supports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal and interest rate payments of companies having cash flow problems is postponed for a minimum 3 months and additional financial support will be available if needed.</li> <li>• Inventory financing support will be available for exporters in order to protect capacity utilization rates.</li> </ul>	<p>Turkish Contractors Association (TCA) prepared and circulated in electronic medium a guide, providing general information on the economic measures announced by the Government within the context of Covid-19; as well as information on pandemic related labour law, tax law and construction contract issues.</p>

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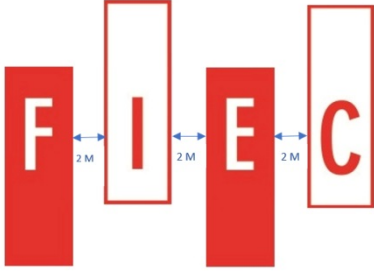
Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal and interest rate payments of artisans and craftsmen to Halkbank for April, May and June 2020 is postponed for 3 months free of interest.</li> <li>• The Credit Guarantee Fund limit is increased from TRY 25 billion to TRY 50 billion. Loan priority will be channelled to companies and SMEs that are in need of liquidity and that are showing a collateral deficit as they are negatively affected by recent developments.</li> <li>• Social credit packages will be incentivized under the most favourable and advantageous conditions for citizens.</li> <li>• Companies that may default in April, May or June due to the measures taken against the spread of the virus will have a “force majeure” note on their credit record.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Labour Incentives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum wage support will continue.</li> <li>• Flexible and remote working models, stipulated in the legislation, will be ensured to allow for operations to continue efficiently.</li> <li>• The lowest pension wage will be increased to TRY 1,500.</li> <li>• The EID payment for the retired will be paid at the beginning of April.</li> <li>• Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services will provide financial support of TRY 2 billion for needy families.</li> <li>• 2 months compensation working period will be increased to 4 months to provide sustainability in employment.</li> </ul>	<p>TCA also circulated informative notes of information on the measures introduced recently by the authorities on labour and tax laws targeting companies in financial difficulty.</p> <p>The national authority, so far, did not signal any decisions on shutdown of the construction sites among the measures against Covid-19.</p> <p>TCA meanwhile submitted proposals to the government to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic specifically on the construction sector that can be summarized under following topics;</p> <p>Emergency financing facilities,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A tax deferral for 6 months (for taxes and social security contribution obligations)</li> <li>• Flawless payments from the employer public administrations</li> <li>• Fulfilment of extension of duration requests as needed,</li> <li>• Introduction of flexible working models and allowances from the Unemployment Fund.</li> <li>• Introduction of temporary regulatory measures for housing sector,</li> <li>• Assisting the construction companies and personnel operating in foreign countries.</li> </ul> <p>The government has announced that the mortgage amount for houses under TRY 500,000 would be raised from 80% to 90%, meaning the minimum down payment has been reduced to 10%.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up programmes including social services and homecare periodical visits will be initiated for the elderly who are above 80 years old and live alone.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Tax Incentives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax declaration, VAT discount and social security payments for April, May and June is postponed for 6 months in retail, shopping mall, iron and steel, automotive, logistics, transportation, cinemas-theatres, accommodation, food and beverages, textile and event organization sectors.</li> <li>• Tax declarations containing payments stemming from deductions such as withholding is postponed for a period of 3 months.</li> <li>• The easement rights and revenue share payments related to hotel rentals for April, May and June have been postponed for 6 months.</li> <li>• VAT is lowered to 1% from 18% for 3 months in domestic flights.</li> </ul> <p>Accommodation tax will be delayed until November.</p>	
<p><b>UA – Ukraine</b></p> 		<p>&lt;no information available&gt;</p>

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Country	General measures	Measures for construction
<p><b>FIEC</b> <b>Actions</b></p> 	 <p>Social Distancing Saves Lives</p>	<p><a href="#">2020-03-23 - Covid19 FIEC Message to EU Commission to support the Construction sector</a></p> <p><a href="#">2020-03-27 - Covid19 crisis - Joint Statement of the main Stakeholders of the Construction Sector</a></p> <p><a href="#">2020-04-01 Covid19 - FIEC calls for preserving free movement of services and workers in construction</a></p>