

COVID-19

PUBLIC FINANCE SUPPORT (STATE AID) GRANTED TO THE EVENTS AND MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT SECTORS

Member State	State aid Measure	EC decision
BELGIUM (differences exist between the regions)	<p>Federal measures specifically targeted at the entertainment sector, including event organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to temporarily not refund: if the same event is organized at a later date within a reasonable period (except if the consumer can prove that he/she cannot attend the event at the later date), the organization will be granted the right not to refund. • Extended reimbursement period: if the event cannot be organized at a later date, the organization will be granted a sufficient period of time for reimbursement so that reimbursements can be spread over time. 	No decision
	<p>Brussels region measures specifically targeted at the entertainment sector, including event organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to retain subsidies received from the Brussels region under certain conditions: events subsidized to promote “the image of Brussels” or “sport, equal opportunities and/or social cohesion,” have the right to retain full subsidy (or having grant assessed on basis previous subsidy request) if the event is delayed and right to use (part) of the subsidy to pay non-cancellable expenses if the event is cancelled. • Emergency credit in amounts between €15,000-100,000 for undertakings active in the “cultural and creative sector”. • €2,000 grant for all non-profit undertakings active in the “cultural and creative sector”. • €1,500 grant for individuals active in the “cultural and creative sector” without access to other support measures (€5 million). 	No decision
	<p>Note that the general measures taken by the federal and regional governments are also available for undertakings active in the event sector. Such measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarantee scheme for new credits; conditions differ for federal and regional level schemes • Lump sum allowances; amounts and conditions differ between the regions • Postponement of certain social charges and taxes • Loan schemes at Flemish and Walloon levels • Extended use of the “temporary unemployment” regime • Bankruptcy protection 	See overview of State Aid available for COVID-19
CROATIA	<p>HRK300 million (about €40 million) guarantee scheme on loans to support companies active in the field of culture and creative industries. The beneficiaries of the aid are SMEs active in culture and creative industries, including motion picture, video, and television program production activities.</p>	Approved 17 June 2020

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EVENTS (AS OF 20 JULY 2020)

Member State	State aid Measure	EC decision
	<p>The Commission found that the schemes were compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and met the conditions of the Temporary Framework.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202025/286460_2165880_38_2.pdf</p>	
CYPRUS	<p>€106,000 scheme to compensate press publishers, namely entities that own one newspaper title.</p> <p>The newspaper must meet the the following conditions to be eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is circulated nationwide on a daily or weekly basis. • It has been registered in the Press and Information Office. • It has on a permanent basis at least five qualified journalists, who are members of the Union of Cyprus Journalists. • Its content covers primary articles. • It is available for sale at all locations throughout Cyprus and distributed at all points of distribution in rural areas. It must have also been in circulation for the last three years or longer. <p>The Commission found that the schemes were compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202028/286759_2170316_57_2.pdf</p>	Approved 3 July 2020
CZECH REPUBLIC	<p>The Moravia-Silesia region has made a €2.6 million scheme available to companies active in various sectors, including the cultural sector. The aid will take the form of direct grants and the beneficiaries will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-enterprises in the manufacturing sector • Companies of all sizes that operate that operate technical, historical, cultural, or natural tourist attractions <p>The support granted will not exceed €800,000 per company.</p> <p>The Commission found that the scheme was in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework.</p>	Approved 26 June 2020
DENMARK	<p>DKK 1.1 billion (about €148 million) aid scheme compensates damages suffered by companies whose activities remain subject to restrictive COVID-19-related measures, including suppliers of goods and services for events that have been cancelled.</p> <p>The eligible beneficiaries are companies, which have registered a turnover decline of more than 35% because of the outbreak. The relevant period for the turnover assessment will be the period between 8 July to 31 August 2020 compared to a reference period before the outbreak. The beneficiaries will receive compensation in the form of a partial or full coverage of the fixed costs that they continue to bear. The maximum aid per beneficiary is DKK 60 million (about €8 million).</p> <p>The European Commission approved the measure under Article 107(2)(b) TFEU.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/case_details.cfm?proc_code=3_SA_57930</p>	Approved 13 July 2020
	DKK 2,310 million (about €310 million) aid scheme compensates private legal entities organizing public events in Denmark either with 350 participants and	Amendment of the initial

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	<p>above or targeted at COVID-19 related risk groups, such as the elderly and vulnerable.</p> <p>The scheme provides compensation to organizers of events planned between 6 March and 31 August 2020, thus covering the summer season when many festivals and other large outdoor events were scheduled. The events must have been publicly opened for registration before 6 April 2020. In addition, the beneficiaries must be registered in the Danish Central Business Register. Claims for compensation must be introduced no later than three months after the date of the cancellation of the event.</p> <p>Organizers are to be compensated for lost income and additional costs due to cancellation, deferral, or change in the conditions of the event organization. In particular, compensation may be granted in relation to (a) the budget and the total account of the event, covering all direct expenditures relating to the event, a reasonable share of the organizer's current operating expenses, compensation for the fee of the artist, and alternatively (b) losses incurred by the reimbursement of tickets purchased in pre-sales.</p> <p>The European Commission assessed the measure under Article 107(2)(b) TFEU, which enables the Commission to approve State aid measures granted by Member States to compensate specific companies or specific sectors (in the form of schemes) for damage directly caused by exceptional occurrences.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202021/286031_2157780_38_2.pdf</p>	<p>scheme was approved on 18 May 2020</p> <p>(the initial scheme was approved on 12 March 2020)</p>
	<p>DKK 240 million (about €32 million) aid scheme partially compensates Danish media companies for the loss in advertising revenues suffered due to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The scheme will be open to all Danish media companies irrespective of the type of media outlet (print or broadcast media). More specifically, beneficiaries are all undertakings with entities active in the media sector that produce editorial content and are covered by the jurisdiction of the Danish Press Council.</p> <p>The aid will be granted in the form of direct grants covering up to 80% of the loss in advertising revenue incurred between 9 March until 8 July 2020. The loss in advertising revenues will be calculated based on a comparison between each company's 2020 advertising revenue and their average monthly advertising revenue in 2019 (<i>i.e.</i> net losses).</p> <p>The European Commission approved the scheme under Article 107(2)(b) TFEU.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202022/286094_2160098_108_2.pdf</p>	<p>Approved 27 May 2020</p>
<p>FINLAND</p>	<p>Press reports indicate that the Finnish government has proposed support of €69.4 million for the education and training, culture, and sports sectors. This scheme is likely to be covered by a €3 billion Framework Scheme approved by the Commission on 24 April 2020.</p> <p>An appropriation increase of more than €40 million is proposed for the arts and culture sector due to the loss of ticket revenue and other income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The additional appropriation would be used to support the activities of actors in the arts and culture sector until 31 May 2020. A total of €19 million would be allocated to professionals in the field of arts and culture, artists, self-employed persons, freelancers, and independent groups in the field of arts and culture, cultural events, and other cultural organizations.</p>	<p>No decision – the Finnish government may be granting the aid as part of the Framework Scheme (see below)</p>

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	<p><i>[Although not specific to the events sector, event organizers can benefit from a general scheme available to all sectors, provided the organizers were affected by “a sudden liquidity shortage”.]</i></p> <p>€3 billion Framework Scheme to compensate SMEs and large companies active in all sectors in Finland that have been affected by a sudden liquidity shortage as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The aid is granted in the form of direct grants, tax and payment advances, repayable advances, guarantees, loans, and equity. The aid may be granted no later than 31 December 2020.</p> <p>The Commission found that the scheme was compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and met the conditions of the Temporary Framework.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202018/285492_2151340_45_2.pdf</p>	Approved 24 April 2020
FRANCE	<p>The French government has adopted measures in order to support companies active in the events, sports, and culture sectors (as well as related sectors) that have experienced a significant decrease in business activity due to COVID-19.</p> <p>In order to benefit from these measures, companies must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be active in the hotel, catering, café, tourism, events, sports, or culture sectors and must have been subject to restrictions on their activity after 11 May 2020 • Be active in related sectors and have suffered at least an 80% loss of turnover during the period from 15 March to 15 May 2020 <p>The adopted measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partial activity allowance for non-worked hours is 100% covered until September for all companies in these sectors. (Other sectors have 85% coverage as of 1 June.) • The “solidarity fund” remains available for companies active in these sectors until the end of 2020. Additionally the solidarity fund is extended on 1 June making more companies eligible (companies in these sectors with up to 20 employees and a turnover of up to €2 million are eligible). The aid can amount up to €10,000 with no obligation to have a bank loan application refusal. • Companies in these sectors with fewer than 250 employees can benefit from an exemption from employer's contributions paid or deferred during the months of March to June 2020 (for the employment periods from February to May). In addition, aid for the payment of social security contributions equal to 20% of the exempted wage bill will be introduced. <p>More information is available here.</p>	No decision
	<p>Additionally, general measures apply to the events sector provided the following requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independents forced to shut down their undertakings placing their staff in temporary leave (chômage partiel) will be entirely compensated for the cost associated with this measure (84% of net wages) (€8.5 billion budget). • Scheme to support small and micro-enterprises, as well as self-employed people through a “solidarity fund” (estimated budget of €1.7 billion for March 2020 and €2.9 billion for April 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct grants to businesses (i) with up to 10 employees and (ii) 	See overview of State Aid available for COVID-19

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	<p>sales up to €1 million and (iii) which shut down on 15 March or after, or which suffered at least a 50% decrease in sales in March and/or April 2020 compared to March and/or April 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immediate €1,500 support on the basis of a simple declaration ○ Increased support available on a case-by-case basis to avoid bankruptcy (maximum of €8,000, initially €3,500) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deadline extended on payments of certain social charges and certain taxes; in most critical cases, tax breaks can be awarded (€32 billion budget) ● Suspension of rent and utility (water, electricity) bills for SMEs in difficulty ● Recognition of a state of force majeure with respect to public contracts; delay penalties do not apply in contracts with public bodies ● Various measures implemented through BPI, a State-owned financial institution, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State guarantees to provide access to liquidity (€300 billion budget): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BPI to provide State guarantees on commercial loans and credit lines for enterprises with up to 5,000 employees ▪ State guarantees to banks on portfolios of new loans for all types of companies ○ Extension of current BPI guarantees ○ BPI awarding credit lines ○ BPI borrowers allowed to suspend interest payments 	
<p>GERMANY</p>	<p>There are several general support measures that are also benefitting the entertainment and event sector. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grants for short-time work allowance (<i>Kurzarbeitergeld</i>) ● Tax-related liquidity assistance ● Shield for businesses' liquidity including loan programs (e.g. <i>KfW Sonderprogramm 2020</i> and <i>KfW Schnellkredit 2020</i>) and guarantee programs (<i>Bundesregelung Bürgschaften 2020</i>) <p>Aid package for small enterprises, self-employed persons, and independent professions (<i>Bundesregelung Kleinbeihilfen 2020</i>). The federal state governments agreed that this program will also be open to artists and cultural workers as freelancers.</p>	<p>See overview of State Aid available for COVID-19</p>
	<p>Specific measures benefitting the event and entertainment sector include:</p> <p>Simplified Access to Basic Social Security: For cultural and media professionals whose income or economic existence is being eroded as a result of the COVID-19 crises, access to basic security services will be simplified. The benefits of the basic income support comprise the regular requirements for personal subsistence. An adult single person currently receives €432. Children receive €250-€354, depending on their age.</p> <p>Artist's Social Insurance Scheme (<i>Künstlersozialversicherung</i>): For insured persons whose income forecast has changed, it is possible to report the changed income expectation to the so called "<i>Künstlersozialkasse</i>". The individual's required contributions will be adjusted to the changed circumstances. In the event of acute payment difficulties, individual payment relief can also be granted. In the case of enterprises subject to the levy, the monthly advance payments can be reduced. In the event of acute payment difficulties, individual payment relief can also be granted.</p>	<p>No decisions</p>

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	<p>Planned “Voucher-Solution” (<i>Gutscheinlösung</i>): On 8 April 2020, the federal government adopted a draft law to help formulate a bill to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in event contract law. Organizers of music, cultural, sports, or other leisure events will be able to give holders of tickets purchased before 8 March 2020 a voucher instead of a refund of the ticket price, if the event could not or cannot take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this is not genuine State aid.</p> <p>Extensive Non-Recovery Waiver: In the event of premature termination of funded cultural projects and events, BKM (<i>Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien</i>) will examine on a case-by-case basis whether it is possible to waive the reclaiming of funds already spent.</p> <p>Reallocation of Resources and Increasing Program Flexibility: BKM will consistently sharpen existing funding programs so that the measures benefit cultural institutions as well as artists in need and other freelancers working in the cultural and creative industries.</p> <p>Film Funding: Together with the state funding agencies and the German Federal Film Board, an agreement was reached to increase the coverage of current funding (especially production and distribution). Among other measures, this increase is to be achieved by waiving reclaims if movie shooting is interrupted due to the pandemic or if films are not released, by assuming additional costs in the event of postponements and interruptions of subsidized projects, and by temporarily allowing for more flexible handling of blocking periods.</p> <p>Recognition of Media Companies as So-called “Critical Infrastructures”: In order to continue to ensure the basic supply of information to the population, the BKM has made a strong commitment within the federal government and to the federal states to exempt media companies, including their distribution as recognized critical infrastructures, from compulsory plant closures. The federal states have followed this recommendation. This is to ensure that media company workers can, for example, be provided with emergency care for their children.</p>	
	<p>Support on Federal State Level: Furthermore, numerous federal states have adopted specific aid programs and measures for the cultural and creative industries. These programs can be used in addition to federal aid as long as recipients are not overcompensated. In Hesse, Hamburg, and Baden-Wuerttemberg, for example, larger companies (with more than 10 employees) can also take advantage of the emergency aid. Some federal states have also set up aid programs for sports clubs.</p>	No decision
ITALY	<p>Specific and general measures benefitting the entertainment sector, including event organizations, are available.</p> <p>Specific measures available in the entertainment sector are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension of the terms relating to the payment of withholding tax, contributions, and premiums for compulsory insurance, as well as VAT, for: (i) managers of theatres, concert halls, discos, dance halls, nightclubs, and game rooms, including ticketing services and support activities for artistic performances; (ii) managers of rental services of facilities and equipment for events and shows; and (iii) organizers of courses of an artistic or cultural nature. The suspended payments shall be made, without the application of penalties and interest, in a single instalment by 16 September 2020 or by instalments up to a maximum of five equal monthly instalments as from September 2020. 	No decision

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two funds, both aimed at supporting the entertainment sector are available: (i) fund of current account, and (ii) fund of capital account (including capital for film and audiovisual), with a budget of €145 million and €100 million for 2020, respectively. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage has allocated the funds to beneficiaries operating cinemas, theatres, circuses, and open-air cinemas. • A tax credit of 60% of the expenses incurred in 2020 for the sanitation of environments and tools used, as well as for the purchase of personal protective equipment and other devices to ensure the health of workers and users. The credit up to a maximum of €60,000 is available per beneficiary, within a total budget of €200 million for 2020. <p>The European Commission found that the measure was compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU. https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202028/286776_2171491_94_2.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowance of €600 for performing art workers for the months of March, April, and May. The beneficiaries must be enrolled in the Pension Fund for Performing Arts Workers, with at least 30 daily contributions paid in 2019, with an income not exceeding €50,000 and must not be pensioners, or with seven daily contributions paid in 2019 and with an income not exceeding €35,000. • 10% of the fees collected by the main Italian copyright collecting society (Italian Society of Authors and Publishers or SIAE) in 2019, which would normally be devolved to “private copying”, will be devolved to support authors, performers, and self-employed individuals performing collection of copyright royalties on the basis of a mandate contract with the bodies of copyright collecting societies (instead of initiatives to promote the creativity of young authors). • Establishment of a fund by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage in order to support bookshops, the publishing industry, museums, and other cultural institutions and places. The fund (of around €171.5 million) is also intended to restore the losses resulting from the cancellation, following the epidemiological emergency, of shows, fairs, and exhibitions. The fund is also intended to provide compensation for losses resulting from the cancellation, following the epidemiological emergency by COVID-19, of shows, fairs, congresses, and exhibitions. • Authorization of expenditure of €100 million for 2020, in order to ensure the functioning of museums and places of culture, taking into account the loss of revenue caused by the emergency. • For the year 2020, bodies financed from the Single Fund for Performing Arts (<i>Fondo Unico per lo Spettacolo</i>) for the three-year period 2018-2020, other than opera-symphonic foundations, will receive an advance of the contribution equal to 80% of the amount recognized for 2019. • For theatres, cinemas, associations, and cultural foundations with a turnover of up to €5 million, there is a tax credit of 60% of the costs of renting the buildings in which the activities take place. This credit is reserved for people who have had a loss of turnover of 50% or more. 	<p>Approved 26 June 2020</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a fund (<i>Fondo Cultura</i>) aimed at the promotion, investments, and other interventions for the protection, enhancement, and digitization of cultural heritage. (€50 million for 2020). 	
	<p>General measures applicable in the entertainment sector support employees and self-employed workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-off tax-free contribution of €600, for March and April 2020 to freelance workers, seasonal workers, farm workers, and entertainment workers, upon request. Establishment of a special fund to provide income support to employees and self-employed workers who, as a result of the epidemiological emergency, have ceased, reduced, or suspended their activity or employment relationship, of an allowance, up to a limit of €1.15 billion for 2020. 	See overview of State Aid available for COVID-19
IRELAND	<p><i>[Although not directly specific to the events sector, the scheme applies to internationally traded services sectors, which include entertainment and leisure services. Organizers of events in the entertainment sector may thus be able to benefit from the scheme.]</i></p> <p>€200 million scheme to compensate companies operating in the manufacturing and internationally traded services in Ireland affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The support is granted in the form of direct grants, repayable advances, loans, and equity and the support may be awarded until 31 December 2020. The maximum aid amount available per undertaking is capped at €800,000.</p> <p>The European Commission found that the schemes were compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and met the conditions of the Temporary Framework.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202017/285558_2150261_31_2.pdf</p>	Approved 21 April 2020
LITHUANIA	<p>€10 million scheme to support cultural and art institutions and organizations affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The support is granted in the form of direct grants, and it is intended to support the creation of new products and/or services by cultural and art institutions and organizations in the period between 19 March and 31 December 2020.</p> <p>The European Commission found that the scheme was compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and met the conditions of the Temporary Framework.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/case_details.cfm?proc_code=3_SA_57342</p>	Approved 25 May 2020
LUXEMBOURG	<p>€10 million scheme to support audiovisual production companies affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The support will take the form of direct grants of up to €10,000 and repayable advances of up to €250,000 per business. The support will help the companies concerned to relaunch ongoing production projects and to start the production of new audiovisual works in the context of the gradual easing of the restrictions.</p> <p>The Commission found that the scheme was compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and met the conditions of the Temporary Framework.</p>	Approved 19 June 2020
NETHERLANDS	Specific measures targeted at the entertainment sector, including event organization:	No decision

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Member State	State aid Measure	EC decision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event organizers are allowed to offer a voucher instead of a refund through a scheme set up by the sector and approved by the consumer authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tickets remain valid for 13 months after the initial planned event. ▪ If the event is cancelled or the consumer cannot attend the rescheduled event, a voucher can be offered. The voucher shall have a minimum validity of one year. If the voucher is not used, a refund will be issued. ▪ If the consumer does not agree, a refund will still be required. In case of cancellation, a refund must be issued within three months after the date on which the event was supposed to take place. In case of a rescheduling, a refund must be issued within one month after the date of the rescheduled event. • Subsidy package of €300 million for the cultural sector. The package includes one measure relevant for private undertakings: support of €153 million for institutions that have been subsidized for multiple years (including movie producers and festivals). • The Dutch government explicitly referred to the hospitality sector (including event organizations) when it adopted a subsidy measure to cover the fixed costs of small- and middle-sized undertakings. The measure enables small- and middle-sized undertakings — employing up to 250 employees, with a turnover drop of at least 30% — to apply for a subsidy of up to €50,000 to cover their fixed costs. <p>The general measures taken by the government are also available for undertakings active in the event sector. Such measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guarantee scheme for new credits. • A lump sum allowance of €4,000 for SMEs that are obliged to close and meet certain conditions. • A subsidized loan scheme for SMEs. • Compensation of wage costs for undertakings expecting a loss of turnover. • Postponement of certain social charges and taxes. 	See overview of State Aid available for COVID-19
NORWAY	<p>The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) has approved two Norwegian compensation schemes for organizers in the culture, sports, and volunteer sector in Norway. Both schemes were approved under Article 61(2)(b) of the EEA Agreement, taking into account the European Commission's conclusion that that the COVID-19 outbreak qualifies as an exceptional occurrence for the purpose of the parallel Article 107(2)(b) TFEU</p> <p>The first scheme of NOK300 million (approximately €26.64 million) aims to compensate for the losses and additional costs suffered by organizers due to the cancellation or postponement of cultural events in the period from 5 March to 30 April 2020. The measure is foreseen to last from 14 April until 31 May 2020. It provides compensation for (a) lost ticket revenues caused by the event being cancelled; (b) lost participation fees caused by the event being cancelled; and (c) additional costs caused by the event being cancelled or postponed.</p> <p>The eligible beneficiaries are companies in the culture sector, which (i) are registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities</p>	3 April 2020

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Member State	State aid Measure	EC decision
	<p>(<i>Enhetsregisteret</i>), and (ii) have sustained total losses and/or total additional costs exceeding NOK25 000.</p> <p>http://www.eftasurv.int/da/DocumentDirectAction/outputDocument?docId=5323</p> <p>The second scheme of NOK700 million (approximately €62.5 million) compensates for the cancellation or postponement of sports or volunteer events in the period from 5 March to 30 April 2020.</p> <p>Beneficiaries must: (i) be registered in the Register of Non-Profit Organizations (<i>Frivillighetsregisteret</i>), (ii) be involved in organizing sports or cultural events or events to benefit the objective of the volunteer organization, and (iii) have sustained total losses and/or total additional costs exceeding NOK25,000.</p> <p>http://www.eftasurv.int/da/DocumentDirectAction/outputDocument?docId=5324</p>	3 April 2020
PORTUGAL	<p>€3 billion aid provided in the form of four guarantee schemes, including aid to travel agencies, touristic animation, and event organization. The scheme “Aid to Travel Agencies, Touristic Animation and Event Organisation and similar companies in the form of guarantees” will provide guarantees for credit lines up to €200 million, of which €75 million will target micro and small enterprises, €120.5 million will target medium companies and small midcaps and €4.5 million will target regular midcaps. The companies that can benefit from the scheme (i) must be established in Portugal, and (ii) were not in difficulty on 31 December 2019. The aid is to be granted through the Portuguese mutual guarantee system. The aid is capped per company at €50,000 (for micro companies), €500,000 (for small companies), and €1.5 million (for medium, small mid cap and mid cap companies).</p> <p>The European Commission found that the scheme was compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and met the conditions of the Temporary Framework, Directive 2014/59/EU on bank recovery and resolution and of Regulation 806/2014 on the Single Resolution Mechanism.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases/1/202013/285147_2142383_70_2.pdf</p>	Approved 22 March 2020
	<p><i>[Although not specific to the events sector, event organizers can benefit from a general direct grant scheme and loan guarantee scheme available to all the sectors.]</i></p> <p>The European Commission has approved a €13 billion loan guarantee scheme and a direct grant scheme of €1.6 billion. Any companies active in Portugal may take advantage of the scheme irrespective of their size and the sector they are active in (with the exception of the financial and insurance sectors). The support is available until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>The loan guarantee scheme is capped at (a) double the annual wage bill of the beneficiary for 2019, or (b) 25% of total turnover of the beneficiary in 2019, or (c) with appropriate justification, the amount of the loan may be increased to cover the liquidity needs from the moment of granting for the coming 18 months for SMEs, and for the coming 12 months for large enterprises. The maximum duration of the guarantee is six years.</p> <p>The European Commission found that the schemes were compliant with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and met the conditions of the Temporary Framework.</p>	Approved 4 April 2020

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Member State	State aid Measure	EC decision
	https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202015/285326_2145493_24_2.pdf	
SPAIN	<p>The ICO Tourism Sector Line and related activities (including amusement parks, museums, and performance venues) COVID 19 / Thomas Cook is no longer available. The line has exhausted the funds.</p> <p>Companies in the events sector in need of liquidity can still apply to the Line of Guarantees from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation approved by the Royal Decree 8/2020 and pursuant to the Council of Ministers Agreements of March 24 and April 10. More information on the Line of Guarantees is available here.</p> <p>Companies within the tourism sector that continue to generate activity from the months February to June 2020 and keep their fixed seasonal workforce can benefit from a 50% reduction to the employer's Social Security contributions for general contingencies as well as for the amounts paid for unemployment, FOGASA, and professional training from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Through Royal Decree Law 17/2020 the government has adopted a €76.4 million scheme to support the cultural sector, including the following industries: music, cinema, theater, dance, circus, book, video games, and audiovisual. The government has approved the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cash injection of €20 million to CREA SGR, a nonprofit financial entity that guarantees loans undertaken by SMEs active in this sector (including digital culture and video games) • Access to unemployment subsidies available to workers in these sectors • An injection of €23.7 million to the National Institute of Performing Arts and Music (INAEM) that will grant direct aid to entities active in the music, dance, circus, and theater industries <p>Companies within the tourism sector benefit from an automatic suspension for a period of one year (without request and penalty) from the payment of interest and amortizations for loans granted by the Secretary of State for Tourism within the framework of the Emprendetur Programmes (R+D+i, Young Entrepreneurs and Internationalization).</p>	<p>See overview of State Aid available for COVID-19</p> <p>No decision</p> <p>No decision published yet – aid may be covered by the Commission's decision of 24 April 2020</p> <p>No decision published yet – aid may be approved by 24 April 2020 Decision</p>
SWEDEN	<p>A SEK420 million (approximately €38 million) scheme will compensate operators active in the organization of cultural events for cancelled or postponed cultural events in Sweden.</p> <p>The scheme applies to organizers of concerns, performing arts performance, cinema performance, exhibition, lecture, or other similar cultural events. The scheme further applies to the following sectors: motion picture, video and television program production, sound recording and music publishing activities; creative, arts, and entertainment activities; and libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural activities.</p> <p>The scheme will take the form of direct grants covering 75% of the operators' loss of revenue or additional costs up to SEK1 million (approx. €90,600), and 50% for the part of the losses above SEK1 million. Aid may be granted up to a maximum amount of SEK10 million (approx. €906,000) per beneficiary. The support may be granted to compensate for damage in the form of lost revenue</p>	<p>Approved 22 April 2020</p>

PUBLIC FINANCE SUPPORT FOR EVENTS (AS OF 20 JULY 2020)

Member State	State aid Measure	EC decision
	<p>resulting from the cancellation of an event or additional costs incurred due to the postponement of an event.</p> <p>The compensation is foreseen for events scheduled between 12 March 2020 and 31 May 2020, which had to be cancelled or postponed.</p> <p>The European Commission found that the Swedish measure is in line with the conditions set out in Article 107(2)(b) TFEU. In particular: (i) the coronavirus outbreak qualifies as an exceptional occurrence, (ii) the Swedish scheme will compensate damages directly linked to the coronavirus outbreak, and (iii) the measure is proportionate as it does not exceed what is necessary to make good the damage.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_723</p>	
<p>UK</p>	<p>Business rates relief is available to a number of events venues that are eligible to benefit from the measure, including live music venues, sport grounds, clubs, and public halls. The list of eligible venues is not exhaustive. The government has encouraged local authorities to apply the relief to all eligible properties.</p> <p>For further details on business rates and expanded retail discount, including the method of calculation, see expanded guidance from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to Local Authorities administering these business rates relief.</p> <p>General cross-sector aid measures that may assist businesses in the events sector are also available, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General measures available to all companies meeting the applicable criteria, such as support with the payment of wages and the deferral of VAT payments • Business rates relief for businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors • A loan scheme targeted at SMEs (the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)) • A loan scheme targeted at large businesses (the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme or the Covid-19 Corporate Financing Facility) • A convertible loan scheme to innovative companies that are facing financing difficulties due to the coronavirus outbreak (aimed at businesses that rely on equity investment and are unable to access the CBILS) <p>An overview of measures available from the UK government is available here.</p>	<p>The UK government decided that the measure is not a State aid.</p> <p>The CBILS was approved on 25 March 2020. Certain other schemes offered by the UK were approved in an “umbrella” approval decision issued on 6 April 2020. Not all UK financial support packages have been subject to EC clearance.</p>
<p>* °</p>	<p>The Commission has put forward the Corona Response Investment Initiative (CRII), the temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE), and the Temporary Framework for State Aid measures. The Commission encourages Member States to use these instruments for the cultural and creative sectors.</p>	<p>N/A</p>