



SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO ARE CHANGING THEIR FIELD OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY DUE TO COVID-19 CAN APPLY FOR FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES OF UP TO 7 000 EURO TO SUPPORT THE START OF THEIR NEW ACTIVITY (E.G., PURCHASE OF WORK EQUIPMENT).

Measure to support self-employment for those changing their economic activity

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Various fields for self-employed became at least temporarily unviable due to the impact of COVID-19, e.g., closure of hairdressers during lockdown, or could not be maintained, e.g., production of motion pictures. This measure addresses the challenge of supporting this group in finding new fields of activity and helping them to start a new business.

Name of the PES

Lithuanian Employment Service.

When was the practice implemented?

- Start of the practice – May 2020
- End of the practice – August 2020

We consider the deadline for applications to be submitted as the end of the practice. The implementation of the measure is monitored for the moment (new workplaces are being created, obligations set in agreements are being monitored).

Further implementation of the measure is under discussion. If additional budget is allocated, a new phase for submitting applications will be considered.

Nature of measure (ad-hoc measure or permanent change)

Ad-hoc measure.

Which organisation was involved in its implementation?

Only the Lithuanian PES.

Which groups were targeted by the practice?

Self-employed persons whose prior field of activity became economically unviable due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What were the practice's main objectives?

The measure aims at avoiding unemployment among the self-employed and facilitating their transition into other, more promising fields of activity.

What activities were carried out?

After deciding on the regulations and subsidies, a structure to digitally apply for the subsidy was set up, along with a process for checking and granting the applications and disbursing the corresponding benefits.

What resources and other relevant organisational aspects were involved?	Human resources – Employment support specialists of client services divisions are mainly involved in the implementation and administration of the measure. In addition, specialists of the Measures and Services supervision (head office) division were involved in the evaluation of the application processes. Platform for submitting applications – E-government gateway. Additional changes in the PES Information System.
What were the source(s) of funding?	Budget of the PES (national budget).
What were the outputs of the practice: people reached and products?	1 603 applications have been funded so far, amounting to a value of 10.4 m euro.
What (provisional) conclusions can be drawn regarding the implementation of the measure?	The measure turned to be very popular – much more in-demand than expected. It is important to set precise selection criteria instead of a “first come, first served” approach.



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