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Eidgenössisches Departement für Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung WBF

Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO

Direktion für Arbeit
Arbeitsbedingungen

Measures to fight against pandemic

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Measures against spread of the virus

28th of February 2020

Federal Council bans large-scale events (more than 1000 people)

6th of March 2020

Reinforced protection of particularly vulnerable persons

13th of March 2020

Banning of large-scale events (more than 100 persons), not more than 50 persons in restaurants and bars, closing of schools

16th of March 2020

Federal Council declares 'extraordinary situation' and introduces more stringent measures

All shops, restaurants, bars and entertainment and leisure facilities will remain closed until 19 April (now 26 April). Not affected by the new ruling are food stores and healthcare institutions.



Economic measures

13th of march 2020

Short-time working compensation: the federal council decides 8 billions of Swiss francs on this compensation

This compensation is now one of the central economic measures. Definition of this compensation:

Unemployment insurance (UI) covers employers affected by short-time working for a proportion of their salary costs for a certain period. The aim is to prevent dismissals being announced as a result of unavoidable, short-term work stoppages.

In contrast to unemployment benefits, the benefits are paid to the employer. The benefits are 80% of the wage.

In the meantime **every person who has paid contributions** to the unemployment insurances has a right to get the short time working compensation



Actual economic measures

Replacement of wages

every person who paid contributions: Short-time working compensation

every person who didn't pay contributions: loss of earnings compensation (in Switzerland so called EO, normally compensates the loss of earnings arising from the performance of military, civil protection or alternative civilian service and is also the Swiss system of maternity insurance)

So the EO compensates now also the loss of earnings due to the measures decided by the Federal Council.

Safeguarding enterprises liquidity

Interim credits with monetary bond of the Confederation (State of Switzerland): 40 billions of francs



How to get the money

Replacement of wages

Short-time working compensation: there is a system of the unemployment insurance in Switzerland which will manage the payments of the compensation

loss of earnings compensation: also here there is a system which will manage these payments

Safeguarding of enterprises liquidity

In 4 days (13 until 17 march) we have built a system to provide the money to the enterprises. Every swiss bank is involved in this system, so that every one can go to his house-bank to get the money.

Interest rate: 0% up to 500'000 francs, the 0.5% up to 20 millions



Smart solution of disbursement

Safeguarding of enterprises liquidity

- Federal Council Maurer said on Friday 20 march: “Next Thursday you’ll go to the bank and get the money”
 - On the internet page covid19.easygov.swiss there is a form that everyone can use.
 - You can fill in this form and send it to the bank of your choice.
 - On this internet page there is also all the information needed
 - If needed, there is also a phone number for EasyGov Service Desk
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- All this was built within 4 days, the system is working perfectly
 - And until the 14th of April credits were given at an amount of 15.9 billions of francs.



Other economic measures / forgotten?

- 280 millions of francs in the cultural sector
- 100 millions of francs for sports organizations
- many other assistance focusing on several economic sectors

Safety and health at work

The usual institutions working on safety and health have now also the duty to ensure covid-19 hygiene measures at the work place.

Are there persons which we have forgotten at this stage?

Unfortunately Yes!

Every independent entrepreneur who didn't pay contributions to the unemployment insurance and who hasn't a ban to work by the Federal Council.

=) for example Taxi drivers, they can work but don't have any clients



SECO's work

The Federal Council governs with emergency provisions, all this articles have to be prepared, written and implemented

- Constantly Analyzing
- Writing
- Coordinating
- Implementing
- Informing the population
 - Phone hotline and email hotline with 220 persons working
 - 5000 emails in the first 5 days
 - Between 1000 and 2000 phone calls per day
 - Informing and training the 220 persons on issues they didn't know before



Thank you for you attention