

PROGRAM

Enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the Sisak-Moslavina County economy during the COVID-19 pandemic

Due to the COVID 19 virus pandemic, many entrepreneurs have been forced to suspend work, while others will certainly feel negative effects on their businesses. In order to retain jobs, competent institutions take various measures every day to assist entrepreneurs in maintaining their businesses. Below is some of the current measures.

1. Croatian Employment Service (CES)

Some active employment policy measures - Employment Aid, Training Aid, Self-Employment Aid, Education and Training and Public Work - have been suspended.

- Support for job retention in activities affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The objective of this measure is to preserve jobs for employers who have been disrupted by economic activity due to the special circumstances conditioned by the Coronavirus (COVID - 19), and through it employers can obtain:

- up to HRK 3,250 per worker for March 2020.
- up to HRK 4,000 per worker for April and May 2020.

More information on this measure at:

- [CES](#) official web site,
- Additional clarifications from the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts (HOK) for craftsmen.

➔ SIMORA Development Agency d.o.o. provides free counseling regarding the mentioned measures of the Croatian Employment Service. Considering the new situation, consultations are provided by telephone and e-mail.

2. Croatian Small Business, Innovation and Investment Agency (HAMAG-BICRO)

HAMAG-BICRO is implementing the following new measures for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises:

- Moratorium on all installments of ESIF Micro and Small Loans and Micro and Small Rural Development Loans by December 31, 2020 and the extended repayment / repayment term of the guaranteed loans,
- ESIF Micro loans for working capital intended for micro and small businesses - it is a loan of € 1,000-25,000, the grace period is 12 months, and the interest is 0.5% for businesses in the Sisak-Moslavina County
- Reduction of interest rates on investment loans of ESIF Micro and Small loans, from 30% share of working capital, to 0.1% - 0.25% - 0.5%.
- Increase of the maximum guarantee rate for ESIF individual guarantees for loans for working capital from 65% to 80% of the loan principal (guaranteed loans guarantee amount of EUR 150,000 - 1,000,000) through 17 financial institutions.
- COVID-19 working capital loans for small and medium-sized enterprises - companies will be directly granted loans for working capital for a wide range of industries at an interest rate of only 0.25%. The loan amount is a maximum of HRK 750,000.00 with a repayment period of up to 5 years, including a 12-month grace period, and only a debenture of the entity is sufficient as a security instrument.
- Micro loans for working capital for rural development - working capital under this program is intended for small business entities in the agricultural, processing and forestry sectors. The loan can be realized in the amount of € 1,000 to € 25,000, and the repayment period is up to 3 years with an interest rate of 0.5% and a grace period of up to 12 months. The measure offers the possibility of settling bills incurred up to 3 months before the loan application is received, with significantly less documentation and a prepared Business Plan form through 2-page questions.

Details and news regarding these measures are available on the [HAMAG-BICRO](#) website.

- ➔ SIMORA Development Agency d.o.o provides free consultation and free assistance in the preparation of documentation for applying for ESIF micro-working capital loans, COVID 19 loans and ESIF micro-working capital loans for rural development.

3. Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR)

To mitigate the adverse effects of the COVID - 19 pandemic, HBOR has implemented the following measures:

➤ **Moratorium on existing commitments**

HBOR will provide all its customers with a 3-month moratorium on liabilities due after February 29, 2020. If the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy lasts longer, there is a possibility of extending the duration of the moratorium period.

Clients will not be obliged to pay principal, interest and fees during the moratorium, and after the end of the moratorium, customers will be able to pay interest free of charge in 12 equal monthly installments. With customers whose loan repayment deadline ends within this period, the repayment method will be individually regulated.

➤ **Reprogramming of credit commitments**

All HBOR Loan Beneficiaries will be able to reprogram their existing loan commitments with the introduction of a grace period in repayment of the loan principal. Each client will individually negotiate a rescheduling of liabilities according to their repayment potential.

Clients will submit a rescheduling request to a commercial bank or HBOR, depending on how the existing loan is approved.

➤ **New liquidity loans**

HBOR will approve new liquidity loans to entrepreneurs in cooperation with commercial banks. The loans will be approved at a favorable interest rate, and the funds will be used to finance basic operating expenses (the so-called cold drive).

Entrepreneurs will be able to contact a commercial bank with requests for new liquidity loans in cooperation with HBOR.

➤ **Guarantees as collateral for credit approval**

HBOR will, on behalf and for the account of the Republic of Croatia, approve portfolio insurance policies (guarantees) to commercial banks and HBOR. Guarantees will be used as collateral for new liquidity loans granted to exporters, and HBOR has also enabled exporters from the tourism sector to use this benefit as a new measure. This method of insurance will soon be able to be used by intermediary exporters (exporting suppliers).

Guarantee policies will allow entrepreneurs to obtain new liquidity loans more easily and quickly, with fewer requirements for collateral.

➤ **Working capital of COVID-19 measures**

Loans from the Working Capital Program will be approved for up to 3 years according to the risk-sharing model with commercial banks - 50% of HBOR source interest at an interest rate of 0% in the first year of loan repayment and 2% in the second and third years with the possibility

that this interest rate will also be reduced in the coming years. The other half of the loan amount is approved from a commercial bank source.

Entrepreneurs with a request for these funds should contact one of the twelve banks with which HBOR has agreed to cooperate on this program.

More information on these measures is available on the [HBOR website](#).

- ➔ SIMORA Development Agency d.o.o. provides free advice on the measures in question and points to commercial banks.

4. Tax Administration

The Tax Administration has enabled the businesses that affect these circumstances to do business by filing a Payment Deferral Request due to special circumstances.

One Request shall be submitted for the postponement of all tax liabilities, which include other public contributions within the jurisdiction of the Tax Administration (contributions, membership fees, etc.).

The request can be submitted to the Tax Administration:

- e-Tax system - this system is a mandatory way for all e-Tax users, and the Tax Administration invites other taxpayers to use this system as it enables them to submit the said request through Level 3 security credentials (tokens, internet and mobile services of various banks).
- via the web form “Contact Us” - choosing the topic e-Tax - PPPU sub-topic Request for postponement of payment whereby it is possible to fill in and attach the form. If the form cannot be signed and attached, the forms without signature will be accepted with the contact information provided in the Request and if necessary in the mail.
- only exceptionally, flat-rate taxpayers who, for objective reasons, are unable to file a claim in the manner set out in items 1 and 2 may request an oral request by filing them directly.

On the day the application is submitted, the entrepreneur must be a taxpayer, which means that he or she must have all tax returns filed and all arrears paid. If the request is justified, any obligation due in time of special circumstances by 6/20/2020. years will be delayed by 3 months. The right to deferral of tax liabilities cannot be achieved for VAT for the 2nd month, which was submitted by 20.03 and which is due by 31.03.2020. years. Only entrepreneurs who have had revenues of up to HRK 7.5 million in the previous year have the right to defer VAT, provided they calculate taxes according to the issued invoices.

The Tax Administration will inform all relevant information through a special place on the website of the [Tax Administration - COVID-19](#).

- ➔ SIMORA Development Agency d.o.o. provides free consultation on the measures in question.

5.Exemptions and deferrals of membership fees, contributions and leases

Depending on the situation, decisions were made to terminate or suspend the following membership fees and contributions:

- HOK - Decision to Abolish Chamber Contribution - This is a temporary suspension of 3 months from April 1, 2020, which applies to all tradesmen.
- HGK - Decision on cancellation of membership fee HGK - refers to the cancellation of the obligation to pay membership fees to companies that are disabled.
- Ministry of Culture - Suspension of monumental rent for special circumstances.
- Ministry of Tourism - Postponement of payment of tourist membership dues for businesses and private renters.
- Government Real State - deferral of payment of rent and compensation for use of business premises owned by the Republic of Croatia - refers to tenants of commercial premises who have a lease agreement, installment agreement or are issued invoices for use fee, except for the fee or rent for garage. The period for which the payment of the rent is deferred may be 3 months relative to the payment period, beginning on 1 March 2020.
- State-owned real estate - write-off of accounts receivable for rent and use of premises for the month of April - the new measure will cover those entities that are eligible according to the decision of the competent authority, and entities that are not eligible for write-off will be able to use the measure of deferred payment of rent and fees.
- ZAMP - Reduction and Cancellation of Music License Fee - HDS ZAMP will reduce the business music users (for the first 14 days of March - 50% discount) and abolish (from March 15) the fee, and the decision applies to March and subsequent periods in which the facilities will be closed.

Additional explanations of the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts on current measures at the link: <https://www.hok.hr/gospodarstvo-i-savjetovanje/aktualne-mjere-upute-i-obraci-covid19>

- ➔ SIMORA Development Agency d.o.o. provides free consultation on the measures in question.

SI-MO-RA Development Agency d.o.o.

SI-MO-RA Development Agency d.o.o. provides free consultations through its website, which contains information on open tenders for entrepreneurship, financial instruments, etc. In addition, the agency is also present on social networks through which entrepreneurs can follow the news related to supporting their business in the wake of the pandemic. Free consultations are also provided by telephone and e-mail. Through these channels, the Agency provides information on all measures for the conservation of the economy, as well as information on the required documentation for the application and the review and preparation of documentation.

Through the project [Start, develop, grow](#) - a good entrepreneur for strong entrepreneurship in Sisak-Moslavina County, the agency will provide free information, consultations, workshops, etc. to start-ups and existing entrepreneurs in 18 months through 16 info workshops covering various topics. By opening a You Tube channel that will discuss entrepreneurial challenges, through an application on the website that will guide entrepreneurs through starting a company and through 11 events that will connect the entrepreneurship world with schools, local and regional government, support institutions, the scientific research community.

Contact us with confidence!

Development Agency of Sisak-Moslavina County, SI-MO-RA d.o.o.

Important telephone numbers and institutions of Sisak-Moslavina County in the current situation:

CES – district office SISAČK: +385 44/659-100

*CES office DVOR: 044/87 11 59

*CES office GVOZD: 044/88 10 32

*CES office GLINA: 044/88 07 10

*CES office HRVATSKA KOSTAJNICA: 044/85 12 52

*CES office PETRINJA: 044/81 53 38

*CES office TOPUSKO: 044/88 56 44

*CES office SUNJA: 044/83 34 08

- Chamber of Crafts of Sisak - Moslavina County (HOK): + 385 44 522-487
- Croatian Chamber of Economy - Sisak County Chamber (HGK): +385 44 522 583
- Tax administration, district office SISAČK: 044 554 603
- Tax administration office Petrinja: 044 815 055
- Tax administration office Kutina: 044 691 321
- Tax administration office Glina: 044 554 870
- Tax administration office Novska: 044 691 581
- Tax administration office Hrvatska Kostajnica: 044 525 330
- * Civil Protection Headquarters of Sisak-Moslavina County: <https://www.smz.hr/stozer>
- * City of Sisak: 044 510 110