

collective bargaining

Issue 5/2020 | May

This newsletter presents up-to-date information on collective bargaining developments across Europe since February 2008. It aims to facilitate information exchange between trade unions and to support the work of the ETUC's collective bargaining committee.

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European sources

European Semester Spring Package

May 20, 2020

The European Commission has proposed country-specific recommendations (CSRs) providing policy guidance to all EU Member States in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, with a focus on the most urgent challenges. The recommendations cover areas such as preserving employment through income support for affected workers, investing in people and skills, and supporting the corporate sector (in particular, small and medium-sized enterprises).

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Report on social dialogue during the corona crisis

May 15, 2020

The workforce has become fragmented due to measures taken by European governments that eventually forced many employees to work at home. This fragmentation has made it more difficult for employee representatives to function as a bridge between the workforce and management. This report by six law firms gives an overview of the situation in six countries (England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain).

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Importance of the social dimension

May 7, 2020

The EU Vice President responsible for democracy and demography, and the Jobs and Social Rights Commissioner joined the EU employment and social affairs ministers via video conference for an Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council meeting. EU social partners also participated in the meeting. They discussed the national measures taken or foreseen to mitigate the negative consequences of the crisis on labour markets and the economy. Everybody agreed that it was extremely important during the recovery for Member States to prioritise supporting workers and their incomes, and to reinforce social protection measures.

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Austria

Over 300 jobs lost at LaudaMotion

May 23, 2020

Ryanair's Laudamotion airline, which has been hit hard by the coronavirus crisis, announced it would close its main base in Vienna after the transport union refused to accept pay cuts for employees. Vida, a trade union representing workers in the transport and service industries in Austria, refused to agree to a contract that stipulated reduced wages for Laudamotion employees.

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Implementation of corona short-time work

May 5, 2020

In the context of the crisis, the government has introduced special rules on short-time work ('Corona-Kurzarbeit'). The intention behind the short-time work scheme is a temporary reduction of normal working hours to avoid unemployment and support workers' wages while at the same time allowing companies to adapt working hours to a temporary drop in demand. If a company wishes to implement this scheme, it must first be discussed either with the works council or with affected employees. On 25 May, the social partners agreed to extend the 'Corona-Kurzarbeit' for a further three months and to change some of its provisions.

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Belgium

Employers' organisation calls for more night shifts

May 25, 2020

The chairman of the Flemish employers' organisation suggested in a newspaper column that employees should develop a more flexible attitude to working at night. He also proposed an increase in the number of voluntary overtime hours per employee. Finally, he called for employer social security contributions to be postponed or even abandoned and for tax payments to be withheld if a company is heavily affected by the corona crisis.

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Employees taking fewer sick days since the beginning of the crisis

May 23, 2020

The latest report by the Securex human resources agency shows that workers called in sick less often in April 2020 than in April 2019. The drop is a result of both widespread teleworking (employees working from home are less prone to apply for sick leave) and temporary unemployment (the fear of unemployment makes workers less likely to take sick leave). Only absences of over one month increased, which can be explained by the corona crisis.

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Bulgaria

Job retention scheme continued

May 13, 2020

The wage support scheme introduced by the government to cushion the impact of the coronavirus pandemic will most likely remain in force after June 30 for filing applications, the labour minister announced. Under the scheme, the government is financing 60% of wage costs, including employers' social security contributions, of undertakings that would otherwise lay off staff due to the coronavirus outbreak.

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Croatia

Rises in employment and unemployment

May 19, 2020

The national statistical office DZS announced that at the end of April, there were 1,527 million employed people in Croatia, or 0.8% more than in March, and the registered unemployment rate also rose by 0.8 percentage points to 9.4%. When the figures are broken down according to business activity, employment rose month on month in almost all activities, with the highest rise of 2.9% in accommodation and food service activities.

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Agreements for the digitisation of the Employment Service

May 12, 2020

Agreements for the digitisation of the Croatian Employment Service (HZZ), which should make the HZZ's activities simpler and more efficient, were signed at the Ministry of Labour and Pension Systems. This project will upgrade existing applications, create new ones and ensure new processes and network channels as well as provide 10 new services. The system will monitor the development of competencies and skills so that Croatia's labour market can be more competitive.

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Cyprus

Remote working

May 27, 2020

Remote working is possible as long as it is the result of social dialogue, preparation and a change of culture, the Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy announced. Remote working must be on a voluntary basis and all provisions relating to health and safety at work should be guaranteed.

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Czechia

Layoffs due to corona crisis

May 26, 2020

The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis has especially been felt in the hospitality industry. Airlines, hotels, and restaurants have all experienced drops in their revenues. While some have been able to adapt by offering takeout food or special discount vouchers for future stays, others have had no choice but to lay off employees. The coronavirus crisis has significantly affected the labour market as a whole, with job offers handled by recruitment agencies cut by almost half.

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Unemployment steady in the first quarter of 2020

May 4, 2020

Unemployment stagnated at 2.0% in the first quarter of 2020. Both the numbers of employed and of unemployed dropped, and the number of economically inactive people increased, according to the Czech Statistical Office (ČSÚ). Total employment in the first three months of 2020 decreased by 28,100 persons, or 0.5%, compared to the same period in the previous year.

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Denmark

Online job postings show recovery

May 26, 2020

While the number of new job postings on the internet dropped dramatically as a result of the coronavirus crisis, in the weeks since early April the number has begun to increase. In February, 24,000 new job advertisements were posted online, dropping to 17,700 in March. Early April saw a further fall to 15,600, but based on weekly figures the number is on the rise again.

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Estonia

Restrictions for migrant workers

May 20, 2020

Several measures imposed on migrant labour by the government amid the coronavirus outbreak in March and April remain in force and unchangeable even after the emergency situation in the country due to the pandemic came to an end.

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Part-time employment increases

May 15, 2020

The number of part-time employees rose, year on year, in the first quarter of 2020 according to state agency statistics. Unemployment rose slightly during the same period. The first quarter figures do not fully reflect the effects of the coronavirus emergency situation. The labour force participation rate was 71.7%, the employment rate was 68.1%, and the unemployment rate stood at 5%.

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Finland

Municipal workers reach new collective agreement

May 28, 2020

Thousands of workers in the municipal sector, including teachers, nurses and other healthcare workers, will be covered by a new collective agreement after unions and employers struck a deal. The agreement comes after long negotiations and means that staff, some of whom have been on the front line of the coronavirus epidemic, will see a pay increase of 3.04% in total over the course of a 23-month contract period, broadly in line with other public service employees.

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Labour shortage

May 15, 2020

As unemployment rises, many farmers worry how they will get hold of foreign seasonal workers. The hardest hit are gardens, strawberry farms and other agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has already appealed to young Finns and others who will not have a job this summer. There are tens of thousands of available jobs in agriculture.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Universal basic income seems to improve employment

May 6, 2020

A study of universal basic income has concluded that it boosts recipients' mental and financial well-being, as well as modestly improving employment. Finland ran a two-year universal basic income study in 2017 and 2018, during which the government gave 2,000 unemployed people aged between 25 and 58 monthly payments with no strings attached. The study compared the employment and well-being of basic income recipients against a control group of 173,000 people who were on unemployment benefits.

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France

Renault cuts 15,000 jobs

May 29, 2020

Renault has presented its restructuring programme. Among other things, savings will be made in personnel. Specifically, 4,600 jobs are to be cut in France and more than 10,000 jobs in the rest of the world, but Renault wants to avoid layoffs for operational reasons. This is to be achieved through retraining, internal mobility and voluntary redundancies.

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Unemployment rises to 4.5 million

May 28, 2020

There are now 4.5 million people out of work in France, the highest number seen since 1996. French job centres reported that an extra 1,065,200 people registered as category A job-seekers - people who have no employment at all - in April.

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€8 billion rescue package for car industry

May 27, 2020

The government has set out an €8 billion bailout for its ailing car industry, which has been hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak. As part of the plan, €1 billion has been put aside to give grants of up to €7,000 to help people buy electric vehicles. The car industry in France comprises 4,000 businesses and 900,000 employees overall.

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Pay raise for health workers

May 17, 2020

The Health Ministry is working on a new support plan for hospitals and healthcare workers, including pay raises and revised working hours and conditions for those on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. The new support plan is to include a pay raise for essential health workers in addition to recent bonuses they have already received.

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Germany

Railway alliance

May 26, 2020

The government, German Rail (DB), and the Railway and Transport Union (EVG) have formed a 'railway alliance' to agree a financial rescue package for DB in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The objective is to cope with the economic and social consequences of the crisis for DB, so that DB's Strong Rail strategy and associated expansion and modernisation programme, as well as recruitment and training, can continue.

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Cabin crew demands that Lufthansa safeguard jobs

May 22, 2020

The airline cabin crew union UFO wants the government to include measures to safeguard jobs in the bailout package for airline Lufthansa. The trade union is willing to accept hardship, but workers' rights should be ensured when taxpayers' money is used to safeguard the company.

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Calls to clean up the meat industry after coronavirus outbreaks

May 20, 2020

Several slaughterhouses were hit with coronavirus outbreaks. To stop this string of infections the government banned the use of subcontractors who employ mainly migrant workers. These workers are often

from Bulgaria and Romania, living in conditions that make the outbreaks almost inevitable. From January 1, 2021, abattoirs and meat-processing plants will have to employ their workers directly.

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Collective agreement on short-time work in the banking sector

May 12, 2020

The Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di) and the employers' federation for private banks (AGV Banken) have agreed on a sectoral collective agreement on short-time work for employees at private banking institutions. Depending on the employee's income, the statutory short-time work allowance of 60% of the net wage will be increased to 75-95%.

Read on: [in German ...](#)

Greece

Support for air transport sector

May 29, 2020

The government announced a package of measures amounting to €115 million to support the country's air transport sector, hit hard by the lockdown to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The government will also replace the income tax on pilot, cabin crew and technical staff pay with a permanent 15% tax rate, which will lower the wage cost for companies in the sector by about €7.7 million annually.

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Seasonal tourism employees covered by new bill

May 29, 2020

Seasonal employees in tourism and transport, who were forced out of a job due to COVID-19, will have the right to be re-hired for the current period, according to a revised bill presented by the Greek labour ministry. Under the new legislation, seasonal operations will be able to suspend contracts for their employees between June 1 and September 9, 2020. Their wages will be covered by the government's subsidy programme on the condition that they are re-hired. Employees in the programme will be entitled to a benefit of €534 and insurance contributions will be covered by the state.

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Hungary

Unemployment rises

May 27, 2020

According to the Central Statistical Office (KSH), the unemployment rate rose slightly to an average of 3.8% in the February-April period, up from 3.7% in January-March. The number of newly jobless in April increased by 73,000, 54,000 of which are considered inactive as they are yet to formally begin their job search.

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Jobs and wages to be maintained at Mercedes

May 7, 2020

Wages of workers will be maintained during the COVID-19 lockdown thanks to an agreement reached in negotiations led by metal workers union VASAS and the management of Mercedes. The agreement includes the following key points: basic wages are to be maintained despite a production stop of several weeks; job stability is guaranteed; and the 24-month working time frame permitted by governmental decree will not be applied.

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Iceland

Collective agreement at Icelandair Group

May 22, 2020

The members of the Icelandic Airline Pilots Association (FIA) have approved a new collective agreement with the Icelandair Group which will be valid until 31 September 2025.

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Collective agreement for municipalities

May 11, 2020

The strike of members of the trade union Efling at the municipalities of Seltjarnarnes, Kópavogur, Mosfellsbær, Hveragerði and Ölfus came to an end with the conclusion of a collective agreement. The workers, mostly women employed in a caregiver capacity, will, according to the agreement, receive wages on a par with their colleagues who work for the City of Reykjavík. This entails a 90,000 ISK (€596) pay rise over the duration of the contract, shorter working hours, and more.

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Ireland

Plea for a 'just transition' approach

May 28, 2020

An opinion article in the *Irish Times* advocates a 'just transition' approach – one that is equitable, fair, inclusive and sustainable in terms of its social, economic and ecological impact. This approach needs to be firmly embedded within government policy. According to the article, a just transition approach would afford all citizens access to the many opportunities that lie ahead in our increasingly innovative world.

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Emergency measures to support employment

May 4, 2020

Figures released for March show that unemployment rates have risen from 5.4% to 16.5% when adjusted to take account of those who have become unemployed as a result of the crisis. The recently published government draft stability programme is predicting a peak of 22% unemployment in the second quarter of the year, before gradually reducing as containment measures are eased. The government has responded by introducing three key payment schemes: the COVID-19 pandemic unemployment payment, the temporary wage subsidy scheme and the short-time work support, the latter of which is available to those who continue to work but who are working reduced hours because of the crisis.

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Italy

Agreement on COVID-19 production protocols in the film and TV industry

May 27, 2020

Italy's main film and TV industry organisations and trade unions have agreed on a set of production guidelines for filming as the country lifts coronavirus restrictions. The Italian sanitary security measures include: having a trained coronavirus safety specialist and doctor on set; social distancing in catering activities; and individual costumes for each performer, no matter how big their role is, as well as individual hair, makeup and microphone equipment.

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Half a million jobs expected to be lost

May 26, 2020

Anpal, the National Agency for Active Labour Policies, estimates that half a million jobs will be lost in the country this year. Anpal's 'optimistic forecast' predicts a slow recovery, with a return to pre-crisis levels only in 2023.

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Temporary changes to migrant work permits

May 13, 2020

Following several weeks of negotiations, the governing coalition parties have agreed to introduce changes to employment permits for migrants. The four coalition parties hope the measures will benefit migrants as well as help sectors hit by the coronavirus.

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Latvia

Short-term seasonal jobs

May 28, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic the government made a number of decisions to help create more flexible ways of entering the labour market. This includes amendments to the 'Support for Unemployed Persons and Persons Seeking Employment Law' which extended the period of time unemployed persons are allowed to work short-term seasonal jobs without losing their status.

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Wage increases

May 27, 2020

In the first quarter of 2020, average gross wages and salaries for full-time work increased by 6.6% (or €68) and stood at €1,100. In January, the average monthly gross wages and salaries grew by 7.0% compared to the corresponding period of 2019, in February by 7.8% and in March by 5.0%, according to the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia.

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Liechtenstein

Wages grow by 1.1% between 2016 and 2018

May 19, 2020

The national statistical agency (Amt für Statistik) published data on the development of wages between 2016 and 2018. The median gross wage increased by 1.1% during that period. Women on average earned 14.7% less than men, but the gender pay gap decreased by 0.5 percentage points.

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Lithuania

Borders opened for Polish employees

May 6, 2020

From May 11, Lithuania is allowing entry for Polish employees, research staff and business travellers without imposing quarantine requirements. The government stated the strategic partnership with Poland has remained unimpaired by the recent restrictions connected with the coronavirus epidemic.

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Luxembourg

Aviation industry has highest employment rate in the EU

May 25, 2020

According to a report by Eurostat, around 1% of Luxembourg's workforce is employed in the aviation industry. With the highest rate of employment in aviation in the EU, Luxembourg is vulnerable to the havoc caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Number of jobseekers increases by 31%

May 20, 2020

The number of jobseekers increased by 4,800 people in one year (+31.1%) and stood at 20,253 on April 30. The increase is mainly the result of a smaller outflow into employment, rather than a growth in new registrations. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 6.9%.

Read on: [in English ...](#) Read the press release: [in French ...](#)

Unions defend tripartite model

May 15, 2020

The government did not consult trade unions when drafting the so-called 'pandemic law'. Therefore, the unions jointly sent a letter to the prime minister. The trade unions argue that the only effective way to face a crisis like the COVID-19 outbreak is through dialogue between government, trade unions and employers. The letter prompted the government to schedule meetings with trade unions and employers.

Read on: [in English ...](#) Read the letter: [in French ...](#)

Malta

Air Malta reaches agreement with the Union of Cabin Crew

May 28, 2020

Air Malta has reached an agreement with the Union of Cabin Crew (UCC) which will see all cabin crew members retained by the company, including those with a temporary contract. The agreement envisages that cabin crew members maintain the same salary rate, but that they will have to sacrifice a number of hours and be paid only for the hours worked.

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Young workers hit hardest

May 28, 2020

The coronavirus pandemic is particularly impacting youth employment, National Statistic Office figures reveal. Around 10.8% of people aged under 25 were out of work in April, compared to 8.5% the previous year – an increase of 2.3 percentage points.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Netherlands

Duration of support package extended

May 28, 2020

The duration of the next package of measures to help companies get through the coronavirus crisis has been extended to four months to give more breathing space to negotiations on what should happen next. It is 'crucial' that employers and unions work together in the next phase. This is why the expiry date for the second support round has been extended by one month to October 1. Firms which get government support to help pay wages and then go on to dismiss at least 20 employees will have to pay a fine.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Hundreds of abattoir workers test positively for coronavirus

May 29, 2020

After two earlier cases of corona outbreaks in meat-processing plants, new tests forced authorities to close down another plant. This time, 21 out of 130 workers in a random trial tested positively. Some 80% of workers in the meat industry are from eastern Europe and are employed via staffing agencies on minimum wages. They often depend on their employer for accommodation, which is frequently overcrowded.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Norway

Study of the corona epidemic's effect on workers

May 15, 2020

The Work Research Institute has issued a study looking at how workers view their job situation. This year, a range of questions also explored how workers have been affected by anti-corona measures. A large majority of the respondents, 69%, say they now work in a different manner than before the corona epidemic. 31% say they have less to do, while 36% say they have more. 16% have cut their working hours and 10% have experienced a loss in income. 11% of the respondents have been furloughed.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Poland

Homeworking triples

May 27, 2020

At the end of March 2020, 14.2% of the working population was working from home, compared to 4.3% at the end of December 2019.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

€2.2 billion loan scheme for large enterprises

May 25, 2020

The European Commission has approved a Polish subsidised loan scheme to support large enterprises in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. Under the scheme, public support will take the form of subsidised loans at favourable interest rates.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Portugal

Call centre workers strike

May 13, 2020

Call centre workers forced to come to work during the pandemic demanded to switch to teleworking without loss of pay. Some workers refused to go to work, some took sick leave, some asked for vacation days, and others appeared at the call centres but refused to log in.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Undocumented workers unable to access social assistance

May 6, 2020

Many undocumented workers, migrants among them, are unable to access social assistance because of their lack of a legal work contract. These people are falling deeper into poverty as the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are felt.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Romania

Government covers 45% of wages for employees returning to work

May 29, 2020

The government will cover 45% of the gross wages for employees who return to work from technical unemployment, starting June 1. The facility will be available for three months. The government adopted this measure through an emergency ordinance in its meeting on May 28. Under the same emergency ordinance, the government will offer incentives for the employers who, from June 1 until the end of the year, hire people within specific age brackets who lost their jobs during the state of emergency or state of alert.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

350,000 jobs lost

May 14, 2020

The number of employment contracts terminated since the state of emergency came into force on March 16 reached nearly 350,000 on May 13, according to data from the Labour Inspectorate. Another 350,000 Romanians were actively seeking a job at the end of February. On top of these, some 350,000 Romanians who have returned from abroad are expected to look for employment at home, according to the government.

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Serbia

Job losses during pandemic

May 15, 2020

An analysis made by the SeConS Group and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation has shown that 200,000 workers lost their jobs during the pandemic and the state of emergency. The research is based on a sample of 1,600 people who were still working in February of this year. Half of them were dismissed because their company's activities came to a halt and one quarter because they were not offered a new contract after the expiry of the previous one.

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Government starts paying compensations

May 7, 2020

The government plans to start the payment of three minimum monthly salaries to employees of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises as part of its economic support package designed to cushion the impact of the coronavirus crisis. The government has received applications from about 237,000 employers.

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Slovakia

Unemployment jumps to 6.6%

May 20, 2020

According to data published by the national labour office the unemployment rate rose from 5.2% in March to 6.6% in April. The corona crisis hit the demand and supply chains of some factories especially hard.

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State-guaranteed loans to support companies

May 14, 2020

All types of companies will be able to ask for state-guaranteed financial assistance during the coronavirus crisis. This stems from the draft law on some exceptional measures in the financial area related to the spread of COVID-19, adopted by parliament on May 13. It will be possible to forgive the guarantee fee for a bank loan only if the company maintains employment during the period set in the agreement.

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Slovenia

Cultural workers protest

May 27, 2020

At least 500 cultural workers gathered to protest against the alleged lack of responsiveness on the part of the Ministry of Culture amid the coronavirus lockdown. Cultural workers are suffering from the shutdown of all private venues, and thus a loss of income from cinemas, concert halls, theatres and so on, as well as the ending of coronavirus aid for the self-employed, while those who usually receive support from the state – publishers, performers and the like – are also under increasing financial pressure.

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Stimulus package: tourism, wage subsidies and liquidity loans

May 21, 2020

The government adopted a new economic stimulus package, featuring subsidies for shortened working time, vouchers for citizens to be spent in tourism facilities around the country, and favourable liquidity loans. Subsidies will be available to employers who cannot secure at least 90% of the usual workload for at least 10% of their employees, which the state would subsidise up to 20 hours weekly.

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Spain

Basic income for citizens

May 27, 2020

The government will be spending about €3 billion every year to support poorer citizens. It is introducing a basic income that is meant to reach 850,000 households and 2.5 million citizens. Households will receive financial help based on their income and the number of children/dependents. Government officials have said the minimum amount an adult will receive will be about half the minimum wage, which is €1,108 per month. The final details are being ironed out this week in parliament.

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Young people hit by the crisis

May 18, 2020

Half of all job losses since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak have happened to adults under the age of 35, who experts say will face the brunt of the economic fallout from the pandemic. This generation, which represents 14.2% of the population according to Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE), is facing its second global economic crisis in only 12 years since the economic downturn of 2008.

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Sweden

Unemployment up to 8.2%

May 25, 2020

Last month, there were 5,005,000 employed persons in Sweden, a decrease of 99,000 persons. The number of unemployed persons in Sweden increased by 80,000 to 449,000. The unemployment rate increased by

1.4% to 8.2%. Seasonally adjusted figures show a decrease in employment and an increase in unemployment. The average number of hours worked amounted to 143.6 million hours per week, which corresponds to a decrease of 11.2%.

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Permanent jobs for care workers

May 13, 2020

Swedish authorities and trade unions have agreed to permanently hire up to 10,000 nursing assistants and care workers to help plug gaps in elderly care exposed by the coronavirus outbreak. The boost in staff is the result of an agreement between the government, Sweden's largest union Kommunal, and the country's municipalities which are tasked with managing elderly care.

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Switzerland

After COVID-19, working from home will continue on a limited scale

May 25, 2020

After the introduction of the lockdown, many employers introduced teleworking, some for the first time. In 2019, almost a quarter of the workforce worked from home at least occasionally, a proportion that more than doubled during the actual crisis. Expectations are that remote working will not fall back to pre-crisis levels. It is likely that the already existing trend of growing teleworking will continue.

Read on: [in English ...](#) Data accessible from: [the Federal Statistical Office ...](#)

Nurses: stressed out

May 12, 2020

Even outside of the difficult times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, hospital work can be exhausting. The nurses' association (Schweizer Berufsverband der Pflegefachfrauen und Pflegefachmänner - SBK) has published a document on hundreds of cases where labour law has been neglected. One of the reasons for these problematic working conditions is the shortage of staff. To address this shortage, according to the SBK the profession should be made more attractive. This viewpoint is supported by an academic study that concludes that increasing the number of nurses in hospitals would prevent hundreds of deaths, apart from saving money.

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Turkey

Clothing and textile sector worst-hit

May 20, 2020

The clothing and textile sector, a vital source of employment and revenues, has become the worst-hit industry in the coronavirus crisis. Industrial production data, released by the Turkish Statistical Institute last week, shows that clothing and textile production in March, when the coronavirus officially reached Turkey, shrank respectively by 20% and 14% from February. The industry employs some 1.3 million people in the manufacturing field, including unregistered workers, but an equally large labour force works in distribution and marketing.

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Women demand more space in unions

May 13, 2020

A study revealed the need for more space for women in the membership and leadership of unions. The IndustriALL Turkey Women's Network agreed to conduct a study to better understand and articulate women's representation in union structures to help determine strategies. The mapping study was finalised with inputs from women representatives and affiliates. It profiled the conditions of women in the unions and shared trade union success stories and achievements.

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United Kingdom

Rolls-Royce job losses

May 30, 2020

Rolls-Royce confirmed plans to shed thousands of jobs across its global workforce due to a downturn in the aviation industry caused by the coronavirus crisis. The company announced that it was looking to cut 9,000 positions from its global workforce of 52,000.

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Trade union membership rises

May 27, 2020

New figures released by the business department show the number of workers who are members of trade unions rose by a net 91,000 in 2019, the third consecutive year in which the number of union members has grown after years of decline. 6.44 million people are now members of trade unions, up from a record low of 6.23 million in 2016, covering 23.5% of the workforce – also slightly up on previous years.

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Companies to pay 20-30% of furloughed employees' wages

May 23, 2020

The government has drawn up plans to require employers to cover 20% to 30% of furloughed employees' wages from August to reduce the vast burden of the coronavirus crisis on government finances. The job retention scheme was extended by four months on May 12, but employers were told they would have to help to meet its cost from August.

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For more information, please contact Paul de Beer, Oana Ciuca or Sjaak van der Velden, De Burcht (Scientific Bureau for the Dutch Trade Union Movement) p.t.debeer@uva.nl or the Head of communications at the ETUI, Mehmet Koksall mkoksall@etui.org. For previous full issues of the *Collective bargaining newsletter* please visit <https://www.etui.org/Newsletters/Collective-bargaining-newsletter> or consult the archive with all articles in our database at www.cbnarchive.eu.

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