

		<h2>SOS grant</h2>
Country name:		Slovakia
Region:		East Slovakia region
City :		Prešov
Public organisation responsible for the initiative	National language	Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny Slovenskej republiky
	English	Ministry of labour, social affairs and family of the Slovak Republic Implemented by Labor office, social affairs and family in Prešov region
Department (if any)		n/a
Address:		Bratislava/Prešov region
Webpage:		https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/ministerstvo/poskytovanie-dotacii/archiv/2020/sos-dotacie.html https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/socialne-veci-a-rodina/sos-dotacia-dotacia-na-podporu-humanitarnej-pomoci-pre-fyzicku-osobu-podla-3-nariadenia-vlady-sr-c.-103-2020-z.-z.-o-niektorych-opatreniach-v-oblasti-dotacii-v-posobnosti-ministerstva-prace-socialnych-veci-a-rodiny-sr-v-case-mimori.html?page_id=1037747
Public organisation representative:		The case has been prepared with VIA Magna restaurant, Wine Museum and AG Gallery consultation.

Initiative description

Title:	SOS grant
Features of group/s of beneficiaries	<p><u>Directly:</u> Any person who, in a time of COVID-19 crisis (from 12.03.2020) ceased to carry out an activity that establishes the right to income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from dependent activity, • from the performance of personal assistance activities, • from business or other self-employed activity, <p>and has no other income from employment, entrepreneurship or other self-employed activity.</p>

	<p><u>Indirectly:</u> Micro, Small and Medium Companies on a local level, selling products and services to inhabitants.</p>
<p>Initiative / tool objective</p>	<p>The goal of the initiative is to secure the local economy in the time of crisis by grant supporting local companies. The expected positive effect on a local level is achieved by distributing funds to inhabitants: self – employed persons or employee’s during crisis which is the time of an emergency. This initiative is trusted to stimulate local consumption and keep the employment rates.</p>
<p>Steps / phases / stages of tool / initiative implementation and its activities description</p>	<p>The initiative’s grants were distributed by a local labour office. The main rules were following:</p> <p><u>Stage 1: March to August 2020</u> The Ministry has provided the subsidy of 105 EUR for March and 210 EUR for the following months for each applicants whose business activity was drastically limited (no income), until the end of the crisis.</p> <p><u>Stage 2: from October 2020</u> The Ministry increased the subsidy to 300 euros per month for one applicant. A grant could not exceed EUR 1 800 in any given financial year.</p> <p>Applications for the SOS subsidy have been accepted by the relevant labour offices since November (according to the applicant's registered address). In order to receive funds, applicant had to send the completed and signed application by post or electronically in the region of his registered address.</p> <p>From the local perspective, the funding was distributed to inhabitants by the criteria of local localisation and confirmed no income (or close to none). In fact, part of them was entrepreneurs, where the other were employees of the local companies. Taking into account spill over effect of the pandemic restrictions, the main beneficiary was (directly and indirectly) companies located in the cities, mostly from the gastronomy and art sectors. Despite the attempts, many businesses could not adapt to the on-line activity model and their activity could not be moved to the Internet. Consequently, the official restrictions related to conducting their businesses completely blocked their activity, forcing drastic cuts and staff reduction. The SOS grants many of applicants survived the crisis, ready to operate when the restrictions will be ceased. A few examples:</p> <p>VIA MAGNA Restaurant: the financial resources from the grant enabled the owner to keep the employees for the time of restrictions, where remote work cannot be applied. The salaries were paid from the SOS grant during the lockdowns. With the end of restrictions the restaurant was able to be fully operative with the experienced staff. The SOS Grant enabled the substitute funding during the periods where restaurant had to be temporarily closed.</p> <p>The same model was applied to the Wine Museum case, a small SME that had to be closed due to the restrictions. SOS grant enabled the Museum to wait out the time where it could not operate and back to their regular activity during safer period. The Museum staff was not forced to look for the other workplace. It is important to mention all the self-employed for whom the Grant played a key role in a financial stability, in this case local group of artists operating in the AG Gallery.</p>
<p>Expected result(s)</p>	<p><u>Initiative / tool organisation dimension (what kind of added-value the initiative / tool brings for the implementing organization?):</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Grant initiative supported getting worse social and economic situation on local level and help avoid basic problems with access to funds for living of local inhabitants. <p><u>Beneficiaries dimension (what kind of added-value the initiative / tool brings for the Target Group members?):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimalizing negative effect of decreasing consumption in the local level. The protection and keeping active job positions in local companies.
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Transferability

Transferability to the other countries (to be assessed by all Project Partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium – the initiative / tool can be transferred but with the use of additional funds from the public funding sources (EU)
Transferability on a country level (to be assessed by all Partners from the specific country)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium – the initiative / tool can be transferred with the fulfilment of some demanding requirements by adopting organization
Necessary resources	<p>Technical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Labour Office or other public institution with competences. Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective online registration system with application form. Evaluation mechanisms of formal criteria (income).
	<p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge about economic situation of local companies. Competences to communicate in a short time. Competences in organisation of application, evaluation and funding distribution processes. Competences to promote local consumption.
	<p>Types (categories) of costs to be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs of organisation and maintenance of the tool. Cost of SOS Grants (from the local budget or a regional/national sources – depending from companies situation).
Key success factors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good knowledge about current situation and future perspective of the local companies. Good organisational skills using knowledge of Local Labour Office as operator of the funding process.
Key challenges:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising funding, especially when there are a lot of companies facing problem with sales = staff reduction = no income. Good communication with entrepreneurs.
Impact on regional economy (general description)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the companies in the time of need helps to secure the workplaces and enhance the business ability to reopen after the pandemic. Stimulation of the local consumption and securing the regional value chains.