

Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long-term) unemployment

A summary of country
responses to
the OECD-EC
questionnaire



May 2021

Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long-term) unemployment

A summary of country responses to
the OECD-EC questionnaire

Updated on 12 May 2021

Introduction

In September 2020, the OECD and the European Commission (EC) sent a questionnaire entitled “Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long-term) unemployment” to all member countries of both institutions. In order to obtain a comprehensive overview of the discretionary active labour market policy (ALMP) measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the questionnaire asked countries to provide information on policies and programmes in place or planned over the course of 2021. This paper presents a compilation of the responses received from 46 countries and regions. For Belgium four sub-national responses were received.¹ The World Association of Public Employment Services (WAPES) supported the distribution of the questionnaire to Argentina. Responses from countries and regions were received between October and December 2020 and were updated by countries in April 2021.²

Overview of the information presented

Many countries responded swiftly to the current downturn, making adjustments to their ALMPs. While some of these adjustments did not require additional funding (e.g. reallocation of staff), most countries increased their funding of ALMPs over the course of 2020 and are planning further changes in 2021 both in the area of labour market services and active labour market measures. Table 1 provides an overview on countries’ adjustments to ALMP budgets in response to the crisis in 2020 and 2021, as well as changes to public employment service (PES) staffing levels.

The speed at which the pandemic unfolded and the impact of social distancing restrictions, brought an abrupt halt to face-to-face employment service delivery. Increased digitalisation of services helped PES mitigate the impact. Table 2 shows in which areas PES and related institutions changed the provision of services to online and remote services.

Countries have made extensive alterations across the suite of active labour market programmes, adjusting content to support the reallocation of labour from declining to growing sectors, changing delivery models and increasing the number of places available. Existing classroom-based training programmes have been moved online and additional courses added to both address the needs of social distancing and increase access to training. While suspensions or postponement of workplace training was widespread during periods of lockdowns, countries have also added new places to on the job training. Beyond measures to upskill or reskill jobseekers, countries also expanded existing measures (or introduced new ones) to foster job creation and increase the demand for labour, including targeted employment incentives, reductions in non-wage labour costs, public sector direct job creation programmes and targeted start up incentives. Table 3 shows at a glance in which areas countries made adjustments. Details on changes are provided in the subsequent tables: Table 4 on institutional and workplace training programmes, Table 5 on employment incentives and reductions in non-wage labour costs, and Table 6 on public sector job creation schemes, start-up incentives and other active labour market programmes.³

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

¹ The four questionnaire responses received from Belgium cover the three regions Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia, as well as a response from the German-speaking community of Belgium.

² OECD countries were asked to review the information through the OECD’s Working Party for Employment.

³ In Table 4, Table 5 and Table 6 the text “[Changed, but no details provided]” may appear. In this case countries reported the changes in Table 3, but no details were provided.

Additional information on active labour market policy measures

With the exception of “Reductions in non-wage labour costs” (Table 5), programmes reported in this paper are targeted at some narrowly defined groups including i) unemployed, ii) employed people who are at known risk of involuntary job loss, and iii) people who are inactive but would like to work. Some notes on all programme types:

- The labour market training programmes reported in Table 3 and Table 4 cover measures that aim to improve the employability of the target groups through training, which is financed by public bodies. The targeting criterion excludes training that is generally available to employed adults. It also excludes apprenticeship programmes that are generally available to young adults.
- Employment incentives in Table 3 and Table 5 cover measures that facilitate the recruitment of unemployed persons and other target groups, or help to ensure the continued employment of persons at risk of involuntary job loss. However, this category does not include short-time work and other job retention schemes. Such schemes are considered passive labour market programmes.⁴
- Reductions in non-wage labour costs in Table 3 and Table 5 include both universal measures available for all employers, as well as measures targeting some employers only (e.g. sectors, small and medium enterprises). The table distinguishes between reductions available for new and continuing workers, and those targeted at new hires.
- Public sector job creation schemes in Table 3 and Table 6 cover measures that create additional jobs, usually of community benefit or socially useful, in order to find employment for the long-term unemployed or persons otherwise difficult to place. These measures are subsidies for temporary, non-market jobs which would not exist or be created without public intervention.
- Start-up incentives in Table 3 and Table 6 promote entrepreneurship by encouraging the unemployed and other target groups to start their own business or to become self-employed. Not covered are generally available start-up incentives and programmes that supported existing self-employed businesses during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Other active labour market programmes in Table 3 and Table 6 cover programmes that do not fall in the other categories and, for example, include job finding incentives, youth measures and special support for displaced workers.

⁴ In the OECD Labour Market Programme database, short-time work and other job retention schemes are reported in Category 8.2 Partial unemployment benefits (<https://www.oecd.org/els/emp/Coverage-and-classification-of-OECD-data-2015.pdf>).

Table 1. Adjusting budgets for active labour market programmes in response to the COVID-19 crisis

	2020 Budget adjustments in comparison to pre-COVID-19 plans for 2020		2021 Budget allocation in comparison to 2020		Changes to Public Employment Service staffing levels in response to the COVID-19 crisis		
	Labour market services ¹	Active labour market measures ²	Labour market services ¹	Active labour market measures ²	Additional PES staff hired in 2020	PES staff reallocated during 2020	Staff increases planned in 2021
Argentina	..	Increase	Increase	Increase		✓	✓
Australia ³	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase			
Austria	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Belgium (Brussels)	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	
Belgium (Flanders)	Increase	..	Increase	..			
Belgium (German-speaking community)	No change	Not yet known	No change	Not yet known			
Belgium (Wallonia)	Not yet known	Not yet known	Not yet known	Not yet known			
Bulgaria	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase		✓	
Canada ⁴	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓		✓
Chile	No change	Increase	Increase	Increase			
Colombia	n/a	No change	n/a	Increase			
Costa Rica	No change	No change	No change	No change		✓	
Croatia	Increase	Not yet known	Under discussion	Under discussion		✓	
Cyprus*	..	..	..	Increase		✓	✓
Czech Republic	..	Increase	..	Under discussion		✓	
Denmark	Not yet known	Increase	Not yet known	Not yet known			
Estonia	..	Increase	..	Increase	✓		

* Note by Turkey: The information in this document with reference to “Cyprus” relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of the United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the “Cyprus issue”.

Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union: The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

	2020 Budget adjustments in comparison to pre-COVID-19 plans for 2020		2021 Budget allocation in comparison to 2020		Changes to Public Employment Service staffing levels in response to the COVID-19 crisis		
	Labour market services ¹	Active labour market measures ²	Labour market services ¹	Active labour market measures ²	Additional PES staff hired in 2020	PES staff reallocated during 2020	Staff increases planned in 2021
Finland	No change	Increase	No change	No change	✓	✓	
France	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Germany	Increase	Increase	Under discussion	Under discussion	✓	✓	
Greece	No change	Increase	No change	Under discussion			✓
Hungary	No change	Increase	No change	Decrease			
Iceland	Not yet known	Not yet known	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Ireland	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase		✓	✓
Israel	Increase	Increase	Increase	Under discussion	✓	✓	✓
Italy	No change	Increase	No change	Increase			
Japan	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	n/a
Korea	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Latvia	..	Increase	..	Increase			✓
Lithuania	Increase	Increase	Under discussion	Increase	✓	✓	
Luxembourg	No change	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Malta	No change	No change	Not yet known	Not yet known		✓	
Mexico	Decrease	Decrease	Under discussion	Under discussion			
Netherlands	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase			
New Zealand	Increase	Increase	Not yet known	Not yet known	✓	✓	
Norway	Increase	No change	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Poland	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease			
Portugal	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Not yet known	✓	✓	✓
Romania	No change	Increase	Not yet known	Not yet known		✓	
Slovak Republic	Increase	Increase	Not yet known	Decrease		✓	
Slovenia	Increase	No change	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Spain	Increase	Decrease ⁵	Increase	Increase	✓		
Sweden	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
Switzerland	Increase	Increase	Not yet known	Not yet known	✓	✓	
Turkey	No change	No change	Increase	Increase	✓	✓	✓
United Kingdom	Increase	Increase	Not yet known	Not yet known	✓	✓	✓

Note: “n/a” refers to Not applicable; “..” to No response and “✓” to Yes.

1. Labour market services includes public (or private, with public financing) provision of employment services and administration including counselling, financial assistance with the costs of job search, job brokerage and related services for employers, and administration of benefits.
2. Active labour market measures including training, employment incentives, sheltered and supported employment and rehabilitation, direct job creation, and start-up incentives, targeted on the unemployed, and closely-related groups such as inactive who would like to work, or employed who are at known risk of involuntary job loss.
3. In Australia all employment services are contracted out to private providers. Anecdotal feedback from the private employment services providers suggests that they have increased their staffing levels.
4. These replies reflect the Government of Canada’s Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities and do not reflect all possible programming.
5. In Spain, funding allocated to active labour market measures in 2020 could not be fully executed due to the COVID-19 crisis and was therefore re-allocated to employment protection policies.

Source: Responses to OECD/EC questionnaire “Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long-term) unemployment”.

Table 2. Labour market services available online or remotely

Country	Processing of short-time work or other job retention schemes	Claiming unemployment benefits	Registration as unemployed with PES	Job-search assistance	Counselling	Career guidance	Group sessions, job clubs	Job matching	Job fairs
Argentina	Post	Post	Post	Both	Post	Post	Post	Post	..
Australia	Post	..	Both	Both	Post	Both	Post	Both	Both
Austria	Post	Post	Both	Both	Post	Post	..	Both	Post
Belgium (Brussels)	n/a	n/a	Both	Both	Both	Both	Post	Both	Post
Belgium (Flanders)	Pre	n/a	n/a	Pre	Pre	Pre	..	Pre	Pre
Belgium (German-speaking community)	..	n/a	Post	Post	Post	..	..	..	..
Belgium (Wallonia)	..	n/a	Pre	Both	Both	Pre	Both	Both	Both
Bulgaria	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	..	Pre	..
Canada ¹	Both	Both	Both	Both	Post	Post	Post	Pre	Pre
Chile	Post	Pre	Pre	Pre	Post	Post	Post	Pre	Pre
Colombia	Post	n/a	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	..	Pre	Post
Costa Rica	Post	..	Post	Post	..	Post	..	Post	Post
Croatia	Post	Post	Post	Pre	..	Pre	..	Pre	..
Cyprus	Post	Post	Both	Post	Post	Post	Post	Post	..
Czech Republic	Post	Pre	Pre	Post	Post	Post	Post	Post	Post
Denmark	Pre	Pre	Pre	Post	Post	Post	Post	Post	Post
Estonia	Post	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Post	Pre	Pre
Finland	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both
France	Post	Post	Post	Post	Pre	Post	Post	Post	Post
Germany	Pre	Pre	Post	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre
Greece	Post	Pre	Post	Post	Post	Both	Pre	Post	..
Hungary	..	Pre	Pre	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iceland	Post	Pre	Pre	Both	Both	Both	Post	Pre	n/a
Ireland	Post	Both	Pre	Both	n/a	Both	Both	Both	Pre
Israel	Pre	Pre	Both	Post	Post	Post	Post	Both	Both
Italy	Both	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	..	Pre	..
Japan	Post	n/a	Both	Pre	Post	Post	n/a	Post	Post
Korea	Pre	Both	Pre	Pre	Both	Pre	Post	Both	Post

Country	Processing of short-time work or other job retention schemes	Claiming unemployment benefits	Registration as unemployed with PES	Job-search assistance	Counselling	Career guidance	Group sessions, job clubs	Job matching	Job fairs
Latvia	..	Pre	Both	Post	Post	Post	..	Post	Post
Lithuania	Post	Pre	Both	Pre	Pre	Pre	Both	Pre	Pre
Luxembourg	Post	Post	Both	Post	Post	Post	..	Pre	Both
Malta	Post	Both	Post	Pre	Post	Post	n/a	Pre	n/a
Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a	Pre	Pre	Pre	Post	Pre	Pre
Netherlands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Zealand	Post	Both	Both	Both	..	Pre	..	..	Pre
Norway	..	Both	Both	Both	Both	Both	Post	Both	Post
Poland	Pre	Pre	Both	Post	Pre	Both	..	Both	Both
Portugal	Both	Both	Both	Both	Pre	Pre	Both	Pre	Pre
Romania	..	Post	..	Pre	..	..	..	..	..
Slovak Republic	Post	Post	Post	Post	..	..	..	Pre	..
Slovenia	Post	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Post	Pre	Pre
Spain	Post	Both	Both	Both	Post	Post	Post	Post	Post
Sweden	Both	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre	Pre
Switzerland	Post	Post	Pre	Post	Post	Post	Post	Pre	..
Turkey	Post	Pre	Pre	Post	Post	Post	Post	Pre	Pre
United Kingdom	Post	Pre	Pre	Both	..	Pre	..	Pre	Both

Note: "Pre" refers to introduction before the COVID crisis, "Post" to the introduction or change since the start of the COVID crisis, "Both" to were available both pre- and post COVID, ".." to No response and "n/a" to Not applicable.

1. These replies reflect the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities and do not reflect all possible programming.

Source: Responses to OECD/EC questionnaire "Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long term) unemployment".

Table 3. Changes to active labour market measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis

	Adjustments to classroom-based training			Adjustments to on-the-job training		Employment incentives added or adjusted	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹		Public sector direct job creation/ public works	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
	Classroom training delivered online	Additional online training solutions offered	Additional places on training made available	Suspensions or postponement of on-the-job training	Additional places on training programmes made available		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires	Adjusted or new places added/ planned		
Argentina	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓
Austria		✓	✓								✓
Belgium (Brussels)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓
Belgium (Flanders)	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	
Belgium (German-speaking community)	✓			✓		✓					
Belgium (Wallonia)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Bulgaria	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Canada ²	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Chile	✓	✓				✓		✓			
Colombia		✓				✓					
Costa Rica	✓	✓		✓			✓				
Croatia				✓						✓	
Cyprus	✓										
Czech Republic		✓		✓	✓		✓				
Denmark	✓	✓		✓							
Estonia		✓				✓	✓			✓	
Finland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

	Adjustments to classroom-based training			Adjustments to on-the-job training		Employment incentives added or adjusted	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹		Public sector direct job creation/ public works	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
	Classroom training delivered online	Additional online training solutions offered	Additional places on training made available	Suspensions or postponement of on-the-job training	Additional places on training programmes made available		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires				Adjusted or new places added/ planned
France	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Germany	✓	✓		✓							
Greece	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Hungary						✓	✓		✓		
Iceland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Ireland	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Israel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Italy	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			
Japan	✓								✓		
Korea	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		
Latvia	✓			✓		✓			✓		✓
Lithuania	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	
Luxembourg	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	
Malta	✓	✓		✓		✓					
Mexico	✓			✓							
Netherlands		✓								✓	
New Zealand					✓	✓			✓		
Norway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Poland				✓			✓				
Portugal		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Romania	✓					✓					
Slovak Republic		✓		✓		✓				✓	
Slovenia	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓		
Spain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Sweden	✓					✓	✓			✓	

	Adjustments to classroom-based training			Adjustments to on-the-job training		Employment incentives added or adjusted	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹		Public sector direct job creation/ public works	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
	Classroom training delivered online	Additional online training solutions offered	Additional places on training made available	Suspensions or postponement of on-the-job training	Additional places on training programmes made available		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires				Adjusted or new places added/ planned
Switzerland	✓										
Turkey	✓			✓	✓						
United Kingdom	✓	✓			✓	✓					

Note:

1. Includes both universal measures available for all employers, as well as measures targeting some employers only (e.g. sectors, small and medium enterprises).
2. These replies reflect the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities and do not reflect all possible programming.

Source: Responses to OECD/EC questionnaire "Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long term) unemployment".

Table 4. Changes to labour market training programmes

Country	New or expanded institutional training programmes	Adjustments to workplace training programmes
Argentina	n/a	Apprenticeship program for young workers without work experience. Subsidies vary for firm size.
Australia	Employment services and training providers working together to offer more training online. Providing faster access to Transition to Work services and greater online support to young Australians looking for work. AUD 2 billion to help Australians to access new skills by retraining and upskilling them into sectors with job opportunities, via the JobTrainer Fund and the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy.	Placements - such as the National Work Experience Programme and <i>PaTH</i> internships - continued where it was safe to do so following a risk assessment. Work Experience (Other), Voluntary Work and Work for the Dole were suspended. Work for the Dole was paused but resumed from 28/09/20 where available and safe.
Austria	Please see Table 6 and details on "Other active labour market programmes".	n/a
Belgium (Brussels)	<i>Bruxelles Formation</i> : i) Increased supply of face-to-face and distance learning (e-learning) targeting displaced workers and other jobseekers; ii) Offering short training courses in professions/jobs in demand; iii) Delivering classroom training partially or fully online, depending on trainees' ability to follow online classes (IT equipment & literacy). Some trainees equipped with a laptop for duration of training programme; iv) Ensuring free distance learning for workers in STW schemes.	<i>Bruxelles Formation</i> : The internship <i>FPIE</i> (<i>Formation Professionnelle Individuelle en Entreprise</i>) that could be maintained (especially teleworking) during the confinement were maintained. <i>Actiris</i> : Suspension or postponement procedure relayed to training providers. Later allowed homeworking on the new demands of traineeship. Coaching for preparation for the traineeship and during it has been made possible through phone/video calls when useful.
Belgium (Flanders)	From March 2020 to August 2020 number of participants in online VDAB programmes doubled (compared to the previous year). In May 2020, an extra EUR 4 million funding: 72 new courses added, 104 courses were updated and completely renewed.	Jobseekers in vocational training (IBO) have received a premium when the training is discontinued (70% of IBO premium). Vulnerable groups, who have been active in the last six months, are compensated during the restrictions. Vocational training digital where possible. No practical modules during lock-down. Internships suspended A restart of a VDAB individual vocational training (IBO) after IBO termination due to force majeure is possible. Can re-start previous terminations.
Belgium (German-speaking community)	[Changed, but no details provided]	[Changed, but no details provided]
Belgium (Wallonia)	[Changed, but no details provided]	[Changed, but no details provided]
Bulgaria	[Changed, but no details provided]	All training were suspended during the period of restrictions due to the COVID-19 lockdown. E-training <i>Inclusion in adult education</i> for unemployed.
Canada	During COVID-19, many provinces/territories changed their service delivery models for Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) and Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) funded programming. Many literacy and essential skills pilot projects moved to online training. Provision of computers and internet access for some learners when needed so they can access the training.	Work experience and on the job training postponed during the pandemic. Some restarting as businesses re-open.
Chile	[Changed, but no details provided]	n/a
Colombia	Online learning platform introduced, qualified by instructors specialising in technical and	n/a

Country	New or expanded institutional training programmes	Adjustments to workplace training programmes
	technological training. For use by training bodies attached to the labour sector, for example SENA (the national learning service). Alternative provision (such as pre-recorded classes, tutorial videos, groups on mobile messaging services, emails, video calls or phone calls, as well as physical guides) for equitable access.	
Costa Rica	Signed up to online training provider for provision of courses.	[Changed, but no details provided]
Croatia	Temporarily suspended but re-started later.	[Changed, but no details provided]
Cyprus	From March 26, 2020 promotion of e-learning on subsidised training programmes (applying to five separate training schemes). Removed face-to-face requirements. In June 2020, <i>Safety and Health Protocol</i> introduced for training providers to follow. Extended deadlines for subsidy payment from six to nine months after training completion. PES training referrals done online.	n/a
Czech Republic	The implementation of a project to support outplacement has been launched, which includes support for vocational training in order to facilitate the transition between the jobs of those who are at risk of losing their jobs.	For some programs supporting the training of employees, it was enabled to implement training in the form of distance learning (before necessary to attend in person).
Denmark	[Changed, but no details provided]	[Changed, but no details provided]
Estonia	Training providers moved to digital. Rapid scheme to recruit and e-train care home workers implemented. From August 2020 the Ministries of Social Affairs; Education and Research; Economic Affairs and Communications and the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund started offering free online courses online until the end of 2020.	n/a
Finland	[Changed, but no details provided]	1) joint purchases of labour market training (LMT) with the employer for duration under 10 days made possible for justifiable grounds; 2) LMT must be vocational training, the definition of vocational is now broader (like vocationally oriented or training promoting vocational skills); 3) in a transformation situation (e.g. change security case), the state can finance the LMT 100%.
France	Training times increased for young unemployed to allow for longer to get a job.	Aid for apprenticeship and professionalization contracts concluded between July 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021. For diploma or professional title up to level 7 (i.e. up to the master's degree). Paid for 12 months of execution and cannot be cumulated with the aid for hiring a young person.
Germany	[Changed, but no details provided]	More than 2/3 of training supported by PES were delivered in alternative format (digital/remote). Federal <i>Secure apprenticeships</i> programme introduced to protect apprenticeships.
Greece	Plans to address COVID-19 unemployment by increasing emphasis on digital skills connected with multiple occupations. Online solutions introduced for ICT skills trainings for NEETs and unemployed people aged 30-45. New training programmes for in-demand sectors, targeting young, low-skilled and those with little experience.	On-the-job training for young apprentices was suspended 11/03-18/05 2020. An additional period was provided for at the start of on-the-job training after completion of classroom training, not to exceed 22 days (a counselling session included). Training on advanced ICT skills of transversal nature (e.g. management of e-platforms) for NEET's up to age of 29 years.
Hungary	Classroom training was suspended during restrictions. Payments – applicable for the time spent in labour market trainings – for participants were made whilst the suspension was in place (at a reduced amount).	n/a
Iceland	[Changed, but no details provided]	[Changed, but no details provided]

Country	New or expanded institutional training programmes	Adjustments to workplace training programmes
Ireland	Training providers have moved to delivering online training where possible.	Additional places on 1) work placement and experience schemes for 6m+ unemployed 2) short-term skills training, 3) further and higher education, 4) the <i>Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme</i> . Retrofit Skills Training Initiative. Additional recruitment subsidies under the <i>JobsPlus</i> scheme. <i>Back to Work Enterprise Allowance</i> and <i>Back to Education Allowance</i> extended.
Israel	All technical training classrooms and outsourcing training are delivered online.	Practical training in the workplace was suspended. Additional programmes under consideration.
Italy	Planned national call for training tenders, co-financed by the ESF, for the implementation of active policies aimed at digital skills (reskilling and upskilling) among workers affected by the economic and social effects of the pandemic.	Internships carried out remotely where possible.
Japan	[Changed, but no details provided]	n/a
Korea	Switch to remote training when possible. Expanded infrastructure to support remote training, including Smart Training Education Platform (STEP) and supporting the rental of the online training management system (LMS). Vocational training institutions located in the Seoul metropolitan area were temporarily shut down due to COVID-19 related confinement. Expanded training projects for the unemployed (such as the <i>Nae-il-bae-um</i> Card System).	Guidance to switch to remote training for workplace group training and on-site training programmes. Workplace (on-the-job) training and work experience programmes.
Latvia	Classroom training delivered online. Legislation June 20, 2020 to supplement vocational training for the unemployed with study modules offered by universities, including, online courses. Massive Open Online Courses provided to the unemployed free of charge.	[Changed, but no details provided]
Lithuania	Some vocational training providers adapted their courses to online channels. Some created distance-learning modules for self-education.	Suspensions or postponements applied, when employers' operations were prohibited due to quarantine restrictions. Vocational training funds roughly doubled (for acquisition or improvement of qualification). Eligibility extended to individuals dismissed due to quarantine. Increased apprenticeship subsidies (70% of pay compared to 40% previously). Law amended to pay for costs of organising apprenticeship.
Luxembourg	A new training programme called <i>FutureSkills</i> was launched for recently laid off workers, entitled to unemployment benefits. It consists of a three months training focused on transversal skills, offered through virtual classrooms and e-learning modules. Then a six-month traineeship in a public sector institution.	Some practical training was postponed during lockdown.
Malta	Most of the courses administered by <i>Jobsplus</i> (Malta's PES) prior to COVID-19 pandemic, continued via online learning. Several other new courses were organised during the crisis and were also delivered through online systems or a blend of both online and physical. For courses that will be held physically at <i>Jobsplus</i> , arrangements will be made to ensure social distancing amongst trainees.	Initially workplace training has been suspended or postponed. Work experience programme applicants could still apply. Work experience which could be done fully remotely were also accepted. <i>Jobsplus</i> revised the Investing in <i>Skills Aid Scheme</i> (financed through the European Social Fund). New rates were introduced and the training subsidy is also offered for online training.
Mexico	The Training for Employability Subprogram operates at reduced levels because of a) a budget decrease; and b) due to the closure of sources of employment and suspension of operations in companies. Some online provision of face-to-face training.	Training for employability was suspended for those affected by COVID-19 restrictions.
Netherlands	Temporary funding to (re)orient individuals in the labour market including career development advice and online education. Labour market advice to participants with the guidance of a certified career counsellor. From August 2020, this advice can be requested by clients. It is followed by	n/a

Country	New or expanded institutional training programmes	Adjustments to workplace training programmes
	a temporary subsidy, that allows people to participate free of charge in online learning activities with several public and private educators. The government will earmark an additional social package of EUR 1 billion for retraining and upgrading existing skills and additional support for vulnerable citizens.	
New Zealand	n/a	Increased the number of places for many existing programmes: Māori Trades and Training Funding to fund projects that upskill Māori, support communities and provide meaningful opportunities into employment. Skills for industry provides individuals with funding and support to help with short-term pre-employment or in-work training requirements to get a job. Flexi wage help businesses to employ people who have been receiving the main benefit as provided through MSD. Employers can get help with the persons training costs, and other related work readiness supports to upskill the worker.
Norway	[Changed, but no details provided]	[Changed, but no details provided]
Poland	Initially the majority of training was suspended or postponed. Online delivery where possible. Local labour offices deal with each training programme case by case. After the initial suspension, the unemployed were sent back to internships /training. The number of unemployed referred to internships or training in 2020 was lower by 30% year-on-year.	Initially work experience programmes were suspended/postponed. Traineeships decreased in the period Jan-July 2020 by 39% compared to the same period in 2019. Local labour offices deal with each work experience programmes case by case.
Portugal	When it is not possible to deliver online the training courses were suspended or postponed.	<i>Estágios ATIVAR</i> .PT: New Traineeship Measure implemented on August 27, 2020. Financial support for young people or professional retraining of unemployed people.
Romania	[Changed, but no details provided]	n/a
Slovak Republic	The number of teaching hours that could be implemented in the form of distance learning within education increased from the original 50% to 100%.	[Changed, but no details provided]
Slovenia	Ministry of Education issued instructions how to conduct classroom education, including the possibility to combine it with online delivery. Formal education in ALMP in 2020 (January to August) only fell by 5.9% in comparison to same period in 2019.	Training was postponed for those that had already started, prior to restrictions and re-started afterwards. Due to fewer new places available offered, there was a drop of approx. 26% against participation in 2019 (in period January to August).
Spain	Resolution of April 15, 2020 established extraordinary measures to deal with the impact of COVID-19 on vocational training. This allows flexibility in training provision and allows workers in the STW scheme to participate.	Resolution of April 15, 2020, of the National Public Employment Service, established extraordinary measures to deal with the impact of COVID-19 on vocational training for employment in the field of work. Royal Decree Law 31/2020 on non-university education and "online job training". Resolution of the Ministry of Labor and Social Economy 1109/2020 on special measures for in-company training in the "virtual classroom" within the framework of Covid-19. Resolution of the Ministry of Labor and Social Economy on the SEPE/FUNDAE collaboration agreement for the regulation of on-the-job training, with reference to the Recovery Plan.
Sweden	<i>Customer choice Prepare and Match (KROM), Support and matching services (STOM), parts of Introduction to Work (INAB) can be provided remotely/online</i>	Activity stopped if affected by COVID-19 restrictions, replaced with online where possible.
Switzerland	Cantons asked to find alternative solutions to reduce face-to-face contact, including by re-	Job familiarisation subsidies; training subsidies; grants for commuters and weekly residents,

Country	New or expanded institutional training programmes	Adjustments to workplace training programmes
	evaluating programme duration; conducting programmes in alternating groups (or in half days) or carrying out tasks online or at home. If participation in a classroom-based course is not possible, a remote course might be assigned to job-seekers as an alternative.	continued to be paid during the crisis. Task Force <i>Perspektive Berufslehre 2020</i> formed aimed at ensuring that as many young people as possible find an apprenticeship by summer (autumn) 2020 despite COVID-19 restrictions.
Turkey	Concerning the ALPMs implemented by public employment services, necessary adjustments have been made in the regulations in accordance with measures taken during the COVID-19 crisis (i.e. suspension of the courses and programmes where required).	Remote methods employed where possible for on the job training. Concerning the on-the job training programmes implemented by the public employment services, the programmes which were initiated before the pandemic and being implemented in the risky workplaces were suspended in accordance with the measures taken during COVID-19. In addition, distance working was enabled for the several sectors and workplaces to ensure the continuity of the programmes.
United Kingdom	Development of interactive “classroom-based” training delivered digitally. Digital courses offered through local and national partnership organisations and training providers. Promotion of Department for Education’s Skills Toolkit which offers online learning opportunities.	<i>Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs)</i> continued by delivering training and work experience online where possible. July 2020 addition SWAP participant starts in 2020/21 announced to triple the number of associated vocational training placements. Focus on priority areas, e.g. such as construction, infrastructure and social care. A new <i>Youth Offer</i> supporting 18-24 year olds comprised of three elements, which includes referrals to apprenticeships and traineeships.

Note: “n/a” refers to Not applicable.

Source: Responses to OECD/EC questionnaire “Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long term) unemployment”.

Table 5. Changes to employment incentives and reductions in non-wage labour costs

Country	Employment incentives	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹	
		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires
Argentina	n/a	n/a	Considering a reduction in employer social security contributions from 2021 to encourage the hiring of workers in a registered manner.
Australia	In May and June 2020, as a temporary measure in response to COVID-19, jobactive providers received the Employment Fund credit for more job-ready job seekers (Stream A) immediately when job seekers commenced with a provider (instead of after 13 weeks). The Employment Fund is a pool of discretionary funds to assist job seekers to take up work opportunities, for example with training or work equipment, and to incentivise employers by offering wage subsidies.	n/a	n/a
Austria	n/a	n/a	n/a
Belgium (Brussels)	Extension of the period of validity of the <i>Activa Brussels</i> support measure (which is an employment support measure that encourages the recruitment of certain categories of jobseekers by private sector employers (as well as some public sector employers) via payment of an allowance directly to the worker and deduction of this allowance from the net pay by the employer). Support for the Social/Health sectors (including non-for profit organisations) by granting 100 new ACS (<i>Agent Contractuel Subventionné</i>) posts.	n/a	n/a
Belgium (Flanders)	Relaxation of eligibility criteria for recruitment incentives for long-term jobseekers aged between 25 and 55. Extra premium to recruit long-term unemployed (up to EUR 4 250). The Flemish PES supports the Department of Work and Social Economy with the transition premium via data exchange and promotes the transition premium to the target group via services (website, service line, intermediaries). Extra premium from employers hiring young people that did not obtain a secondary school qualification, jobseekers under 21 years with no or little experience and people with an occupational disability. Reduction in employers' contributions when hiring jobseekers 58 years or older.	n/a	n/a
Belgium (German-speaking community)	Wage subsidies for new recruitments under the <i>AktiF</i> and <i>AktiFPlus</i> schemes in the German speaking community in Belgium have been raised and prolonged.	n/a	n/a
Belgium (Wallonia)	A new incentive scheme to specifically target 24m+ unemployed. Public financial contribution of nearly EUR 12 000 per year, but will also include specific support for jobseekers who qualify for this measure.	<i>Impulse 55+</i> aimed at workers over 55 years of age employed in the retail sector reduces social security contributions. Reduction increases with the age of the	n/a

Country	Employment incentives	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹	
		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires
		worker.	
Bulgaria	<i>Employment for You</i> subsidy for hiring unemployed persons. Wages paid for six months, employers obliged to continue employment afterwards for 75% of employees for half of the period.	n/a	n/a
Canada	[Changed, but no details provided]	n/a	n/a
Chile	Contribution to the remuneration of new hired workers (introduced in Sept. 2020): this scheme includes in addition a higher salary contribution for women, young and people in incapacity situation.	n/a	Contribution to the remunerations of newly hired workers since September 2020.
Colombia	The programme administered by the PES for victims of the armed conflict was adjusted for the year 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. It aims to improve employment inclusion of the population victim of the armed conflict, contributing to the closing of gaps and the effective placement of 1 300 people. In addition, it allows providing a recovery and economic reactivation of the companies, which will receive an incentive that will boost their operation and ease their labour costs, for each contracted victim person.	n/a	n/a
Costa Rica	n/a	Minimum social contributions adjusted to allow employers to pay less for their social contributions.	n/a
Croatia	Higher employment subsidies for persons with no work experience are being considered.	n/a	n/a
Cyprus	n/a	n/a	n/a
Czech Republic	n/a	In June 2020 act adopted to waive social security premiums and contributions to the state paid by some employers in connection with extraordinary measures during the epidemic in 2020. Payments of employers' (fewer than 50 employees, did not reduce staff or salaries by more than 10%) social security contributions from June to August 2020 are waived by law.	n/a
Denmark	n/a	n/a	n/a
Estonia	Additional wage subsidy was added and implemented focussing on the agricultural sector to help struggling berry growers.	Advance social tax paid to sole proprietors in the first quarter of 2020 to help them cope with the economic difficulties of the crisis. If they had already paid it, they could use the amount to cover any tax liability, either immediately or in the future, or ask for the amount to be credited to their bank.	n/a
Finland	Restaurants were closed from April 4, 2020 to May 31, 2020. An employment incentive was available in the summer months of 2020 (June, July and August	n/a	n/a

Country	Employment incentives	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹	
		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires
	2020). Restaurants could apply for EUR 1 000 per employed person who received at least EUR 2 500 as a salary. The maximum amount of subsidy was limited to the number of workers employed before the crisis.		
France	Hiring subsidies have been put in place to support the employment of young people and disabled workers. Additional resources allocated to employment support measures in 2021: <i>Youth Guarantees</i> will be increased by 50% and an additional places in <i>Contractualised Employment and Autonomy Support Program (PACEA)</i> . The <i>Intensive Support for Young People (AIJ)</i> will be doubled in 2020 and again in 2021.	n/a	Youth employment premium.
Germany	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greece	The Greek PES introduced several changes to its employment promotion programmes: 1) maximum number of employees in an enterprise lifted; 2) sectoral coverage expanded; 3) application streamlined; 4) removal of condition to maintain subsidised staff after scheme end; 5) increased subsidy amount; 6) target groups augmented and increased subsidies for some (e.g. long-term unemployed, young people, and women); and 7) necessary registration time with the PES reduced. The new programme of 100 000 new subsidized jobs, which offers reductions in non-wage labour costs targeted at new hires offers an additional subsidy for long-term unemployed.	n/a	New programme of 100 000 new subsidized jobs; implemented Oct. 2020, valid until exhausted. Subsidy of all insurance contributions for six months for private sector employers. New jobs must be additional to the headcount. No salary limits. Additional subsidy for long-term unemployed.
Hungary	Employment incentive available from May 18 to August 31, 2020: Wage subsidy granted for 6 months for employers hiring jobseekers for a minimum of 9 months. As the programme progressed, the target group was narrowed to longer-term unemployed) and young jobseekers under 25. Employment incentive available from October, 2020: Wage subsidy, covering 50% of the wage and social contributions with a maximum amount of HUF 100 000 per month granted for 5 month in case of hiring low skilled jobseekers and young unemployed. Employment incentive available from January 2021: Wage subsidy of 40% in case of hiring jobseekers in the RDI sector for a period of three months.	Sectors that were severely hit by the pandemic were exempted from paying social security contributions.	n/a
Iceland	Wage subsidies adjusted. When national or individual unemployment exceeds 6%, certain conditions for recruitment support are waived (no previous lay-offs relaxed and reduced minimum jobseeker durations).	A temporary one-year reduction in 2021 in social security contribution that employers must pay. This applies for all employers for all staff.	n/a
Ireland	8 000 additional recruitment subsidies under the <i>JobsPlus</i> scheme. Subsidies of up to EUR 7 500 over two years will be available for employers to hire someone under the age of 30 who is on the Live Register or the Pandemic	n/a	n/a

Country	Employment incentives	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹	
		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires
	Unemployment Payment. Apprenticeship Incentive Scheme provides a EUR 2 000 payment to support employers to take on new apprenticeships in 2020.		
Israel	n/a	One of the two grants are offered: NIS 3 500-7 000 for every employee who comes back to work from unpaid-vacation in June-September. NIS 5 000 for every employee that remain at work or new hiring at July-October (planned).	n/a
Italy	n/a	In the <i>August Decree</i> a total exemption from social security contributions paid by employers for four months for those companies that restore their full activity after having benefitted from short-time work schemes.	In the "August Decree" a total exemption from social security contributions paid by employers for companies hiring new workers on a permanent basis, provided they increase their overall workforce; for three months for those companies hiring fixed-term and seasonal workers in the tourism sector; up to EUR 6 000 per year.
Japan	n/a	n/a	n/a
Korea	Employment incentive support program for young people and the unemployed for SMEs that hire an unemployed person who have left his/her previous work due to COVID-19.	Delayed payments of Employment Insurance premium and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance premium during March-May 2020 (three months of insurance premiums) for workplaces with fewer than 30 employees. 30% reduction in Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance premium, for workplaces with fewer than 30 employees, single-person self-employed, the dependent self-employed. From March to August 2020 (six months of premiums).	n/a
Latvia	Temporarily available employment subsidy (July-Dec. 2020): Eligible for unemployed who were with the employer in the previous two months and had not previously participated in subsidised employment with them. For private sector employers (except medical institutions and education establishments), self-employed persons, societies or foundations (except political parties). To cover 50% of the monthly wage (cannot exceed minimum wage) for four months. Employer must continue employment for at least for three months after subsidy period.	n/a	n/a
Lithuania	A wage subsidy for employers employing additionally supported unemployed persons sent by the Employment Service. Amount of subsidy: for 1-2 months: 100% of the calculated salary, for 3-4 months: 50%, and for 5-6 months: 30% (valid for 6 months until 31/12/2020) (Article 41 2(3) of Law on the	n/a	n/a

Country	Employment incentives	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹	
		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires
	Employment).		
Luxembourg	The target groups for two employment incentives have been adapted. The professionalisation internship (<i>stage de professionalisation</i>) is now also open for jobseekers under 30 years and the employment re-integration contract (<i>contrat de réinsertion emploi</i>) is now open for jobseekers from the age of 30 onwards (before 45 years onwards).	n/a	n/a
Malta	Revision of the <i>Access to Employment</i> scheme to include more target groups. Financial assistance is prolonged to assist further the businesses and SMEs.	n/a	n/a
Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	n/a
New Zealand	<i>Mana in Mahi (Strength in Work)</i> support, with wage subsidy and payments to individuals, to recruit people and put through an industry training pathway. <i>Apprenticeship Boost Initiative</i> introduced August 5, 2020 to help employers with the costs of keeping their current apprentices or hiring new ones for their first 24 months of their programme of study.	n/a	n/a
Norway	n/a	Introduced temporary reductions in social security contributions applying to all employers (reduced by 4 percentage points in May and June 2020).	n/a
Poland	n/a	Employers could get exemptions of payment of social contributions for three months.	n/a
Portugal	New hiring support measure August 27, 2020 (for <i>Incentive ACTIVAR.PT</i>). Financial support for employers recruiting unemployed people registered with the IEFP, with the obligation of providing professional training to the hired workers.	Waiver of social security contributions for employers benefitting from the job retention scheme and SMEs.	n/a
Romania	Subsidies for unemployed aged over 50, young aged 16-29, expatriates returning from terminated employments abroad (50% of wages, with the obligation to keep the employee for another 12 months).	n/a	n/a
Slovak Republic	New project launched in August 2020 to support the hiring of young jobseekers (NEETs) under the age of 29.	n/a	n/a
Slovenia	Subvention scheme <i>Employ.me</i> was amended to include also those unemployed over 30 years old that lost the job due to epidemic.	COVID-19 measures increased coverage of costs for reduced social security contributions in areas of high unemployment.	n/a
Spain	n/a	Exemptions and moratoriums on the payment of social security contributions regulated in the Short Time Working Schemes (or ERTes in Spanish) procedures	n/a

Country	Employment incentives	Reductions in non-wage labour costs ¹	
		for new and continuing workers	targeted at new hires
		related to Covid-19, which can be extended to employees and self-employed workers.	
Sweden	Following the expected increase of unemployment due to COVID-19, the Government has in Dec. 2020 approved a lengthening of the maximum period for the subsidized employment forms introductory jobs and extra jobs. The new maximum period is 36 months instead of 24 months. These initiatives aim to create more jobs for newly arrived and long-term unemployed, which in the long run will lead to strengthening their position in the labour market.	Central government responsibility for sick pay costs has been extended and adjusted during COVID-19.	n/a
Switzerland	n/a	n/a	n/a
Turkey	n/a	n/a	n/a
United Kingdom	<i>Kickstart Scheme</i> (launched 02/09/2020): six-month work placements for those aged 16-24 targeted at unemployed at risk of long-term unemployment. It is anticipated that the scheme will remain open until Dec. 2021. Employers from all industries across the private, public and voluntary sectors eligible.	n/a	n/a

Note: "n/a" refers to Not applicable.

1. Includes both universal measures available for all employers, as well as measures targeting some employers only (e.g. sectors, small and medium enterprises). The country descriptions provide details.

Source: Responses to OECD/EC questionnaire "Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long term) unemployment".

Table 6. Changes to public sector job creation schemes, start-up incentives and other active labour market programmes

Country	Public sector job creation schemes	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
Argentina	n/a	n/a	n/a
Australia	n/a	<p>New Business Assistance with NEIS (<i>New Enterprise Incentive Scheme</i>) helps people to start a small business. NEIS offers free accredited small business training, business plan development, business mentoring, and if eligible, NEIS Allowance.</p> <p>Entrepreneurship Facilitators offer a free service to help Australian start and run their own business. They provide information and advice, personalised mentoring and support, and referrals to other supports services.</p>	<p>Extending programme trials: The Regional Employment Trials have been extended by a further 12 months to allow existing projects affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to be completed.</p> <p>Youth measures: <i>Transition to Work</i> and <i>Youth Jobs PaTH</i> programmes adjusted in four key areas: i) altered job seeker servicing; ii) enhancements to referral processes and iii) working with industry to create pathways into jobs in demand. Extra funding for the National Careers Institute to provide dedicated advice to school-leavers and jobseekers about the training options suited to their needs to succeed in jobs of the future.</p>
Austria	n/a	n/a	<p>The <i>Corona Job Offensive</i> aims at using the Corona crisis as an opportunity to train further during the crisis, to complete an education and to find a way back into the world of work. The programme focuses on electronics/digitalisation, care/social services/care, sustainable jobs/environmental technology and metal professions.</p> <p>Instruments: qualification, employment promotion, support and education bonus.</p> <p>Target groups: Unemployed persons or persons at risk of unemployment, employees (also in short-time work), young people, women, people with disabilities.</p>
Belgium (Brussels)	n/a	<p>Support for the creation of an independent activity: allocation support for job seekers setting up a self-employed activity has been boosted.</p>	<p>Support for displaced workers through <i>Le Fonds Rebond</i>: support for workers who are victim of bankruptcy. Brussels' worker dismissed in the context of a bankruptcy can benefit from a boosted support to get back to work. This consists in proposing a professional, individual and/or collective redeployment path and targeted social support.</p> <p>Job finding incentives <i>Post Covid-19 Relaunch support</i>: targeted and time limited job finding incentive to make a rapid return to work attractive and prevent long-term unemployment. It is accessible to unemployed registering with the Brussels' PES between April and December 2020, with a maximum of secondary school education level. The schemes is accessible since January 2021; this enables targeting at those who have still</p>

Country	Public sector job creation schemes	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
			not found a job and, hence, avoid deadweight.
Belgium (Flanders)	n/a	Support premium for the self-employed with a work-limiting disability relaxed: Usually self-employed persons with disabilities must demonstrate that their net business income is sufficiently high on an annual basis. The COVID-19 crisis makes this impossible for many. Since March 2020 this income test can be dropped during the crisis months so that self-employed can continue to obtain this premium. Relaxing transition premium: All unemployed aged at least 45 who want to become self-employed can, under certain conditions, receive a transition premium /bonus from the Flemish government. The premium provides financial security while they start their own business.	n/a
Belgium (German-speaking community)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Belgium (Wallonia)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bulgaria	Additional funding made available for the project <i>New opportunity for youth employment</i> using both national budget under the Youth Employment Initiative and European Social Fund (ESF) funding. Extension of the <i>Career Start</i> programme funding additional places until the end of 2021 and extending the duration from nine to 12 months. The programme offers young people up to 29 years with higher education work experience in public administration.	n/a	Extending programme trials by a further six or 12 months to allow existing projects affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to be completed.
Canada	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chile	n/a	n/a	n/a
Colombia	n/a	n/a	n/a
Costa Rica	n/a	n/a	n/a
Croatia	n/a	There were some smaller changes regarding start-up incentives. Plans for 2021 are under discussion.	N/A
Cyprus	n/a	n/a	n/a
Czech Republic	n/a	n/a	n/a
Denmark	n/a	n/a	n/a
Estonia	n/a	The business start-up subsidy is increased from EUR 4 474 to	n/a

Country	Public sector job creation schemes	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
		EUR 6 000 from 2021.	
Finland	n/a	n/a	n/a
France	Additional supported contracts in the public or associative sector through <i>Parcours emploi compétence (PEC)</i> and <i>Contrats Initiative Emploi (CIE)</i> are made available both in 2020 and 2021. The intensive support for young people (<i>L'accompagnement Intensif Jeunes (AIJ)</i>) programme set up by the PES is doubled in 2020 and 2021 and 3 000 places will be offered in the <i>SESAME</i> scheme (tailor-made support for sports and entertainment professions).	n/a	Youth measures: As part of Plan #1 <i>jeune 1 solution</i> , more than 300 000 integration paths will help support young people who are far from employment.
Germany	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greece	The Employment Programme for long-term unemployed persons aged 55-67 now includes 8 500 jobs in legal entities of public law, public enterprises, as well as municipal and regional undertakings, for a period of 12 months, which can be extended for a further period of 12 months. The subsidy was raised from 50% to 75% of the monthly wage and non-wage cost; the monthly maximum, from EUR 600 to EUR 750.	n/a	n/a
Hungary	The budget and the number of people that can be involved in the public work scheme have been increased. A further relief could be applied during the state of emergency as a broader group could be involved in the scheme (also those who can find a job in the labour market by themselves or those with VET qualification).	n/a	n/a
Iceland	The government plans to increase investments in public works in order to support the economy and increase the number of jobs.	n/a	n/a
Ireland	3 000 additional places funded on Community Employment and Tús.	n/a	n/a
Israel	n/a	n/a	n/a
Italy	n/a	n/a	n/a
Japan	Some local governments created new jobs for the unemployed or other target groups, e.g. Tokyo prefecture, City of Yokohama.	n/a	n/a
Korea	Provided temporary and fixed-term positions for jobseekers facing labour market disadvantages such as young people, people from low-income families, and low-skilled workers: Non-contact based digital jobs in government agencies (115 000)	n/a	n/a

Country	Public sector job creation schemes	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
	person); jobs for young people and vulnerable groups in areas such as building digital infrastructures and strengthening contactless administrative services. <i>Job Hope for the Vulnerable</i> (300 000 persons): provided jobs in the public sector for the vulnerable groups such as people from low-income families and senior citizens through regional governments.		
Latvia	In order to provide broader support to unemployed impacted by COVID-19, all unemployed persons who do not receive unemployment benefits may participate in public work measures regardless of unemployment period until end-2020.	n/a	Youth measure: for students – in order to develop skills required in the labour market for unemployed full-time students of higher education institutions aged 18-29 from 2 to 6 months a new measure provides a stipend of EUR 10 per day which is paid for activities performed in the respective higher education institution including supporting research activities and other.
Lithuania	n/a	Support for self-employment (subsidy for job creation) for the self-employed, willing to change their economic activity: Self-employed who benefited from the special self-employed benefit and are willing to change their economic activity, are also entitled to support for self-employment (subsidy for job creation). A person needs to submit an application to the PES.	n/a
Luxembourg	The <i>FutureSkills</i> scheme offers traineeships in the public sector. These traineeships are handled via the compensated temporary occupation (OTI) scheme. The OTI is an already existing public works scheme aimed at unemployment benefit recipients.	n/a	n/a
Malta	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a
Netherlands	n/a	As of January 2021, the next phase of the support for self-employed started to prepare - where necessary - for a new future, either as an independent entrepreneur or as an employee. Municipalities will work with independent entrepreneurs to identify whether and what support the self-employed person needs. This can include coaching, advice, further training or retraining and reorientation.	n/a
New Zealand	The Provincial Growth Fund has allocated NZD 600 million to support regional economies as they recover from COVID-19. The investment was about creating short-term jobs for immediate redeployment and new employment opportunities for people looking for short-term roles.	n/a	n/a

Country	Public sector job creation schemes	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
Norway	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poland	n/a	n/a	n/a
Portugal	The Portuguese PES foresees a traineeship programme in the central or local government of the state, for young unemployed people or unemployed seeking their first job.	<i>Empreender2020</i> : a national competition for projects to create one's own jobs and entrepreneurial projects for young and unemployed in the logic of (re)entering the labour market for young and unemployed, with monitoring during the first year, advice; technical support, enhancing the experience and capacity installed. <i>STARTUP Portugal</i> : Introduction of a quota for entrepreneurial projects submitted by women is planned, as well as an increase in the financial support available when these projects fall into highly asymmetrical sectors from a gender point of view.	Job finding incentive: The Interior Work Programme (<i>Trabalhar no Interior</i>) provides a set of measures to stimulate job creation and the settlement of workers and their families in the territories of the interior of the country. The measure <i>Inland Employment PLUS (Emprego Interior MAIS)</i> is intended for families who wish to live and work in inland/low-density councils and move from the coast to work inland.
Romania	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slovak Republic	n/a	We just started new national project <i>Work, change your life</i> . Activity n°1 is providing a financial contribution (EUR 5 600) for self-employment.	n/a
Slovenia	As of early October 2020, the public works programme was not adjusted, but there is a possibility that the scheme could be updated because of COVID-19 crisis. For 2020 implementation, the inclusions were stopped in April, but the programme later received additional funding of EUR 6 million, allowing for new inclusions.	n/a	n/a
Spain	Through collaboration agreements between the central and regional governments and local non-profit bodies to carry out works and services of general interest.	n/a	Various measures to support SMEs and to guarantee the financial liquidity of companies were adopted during the pandemic, the latest being the Royal Decree Law 5/2021 to support business solvency.
Sweden	n/a	The target group for subsidized employment are long-term unemployed and a newcomer to Sweden. The target group for support for start-up cost for business activities are unemployed who are in a good position to be able to run a business.	n/a
Switzerland	n/a	n/a	n/a
Turkey	n/a	n/a	n/a
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	Expansion of the Work and Health Programme to offer new support to those who lose their job as a result of COVID-19 – expanding the scope of the Work and Health Programme in England and Wales introducing additional voluntary support for those on benefits that have been unemployed for more than

Country	Public sector job creation schemes	Start-up incentives	Other active labour market programmes
			<p>three months. Equivalent provision will also be put in place in Scotland.</p> <p>Support for displaced workers: Flexible Support Fund (<i>FSF</i>) increased by GBP 150 million, including to increase the capacity of the <i>Rapid Response Service (RRS)</i>, which supports those facing redundancy. New Youth Offer: Intensive support offered by DWP in Great Britain to young jobseekers aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit via a new Youth Employment Programme. For those with additional skills needs further support is available through referral to a Youth Hub or a Youth Employment Coach if there are multiple complex needs.</p>

Source: Responses to OECD/EC questionnaire “Active labour market policy measures to mitigate the rise in (long term) unemployment”.