

PES Mutual Learning Webinar 'PES support to SMEs and the self-employed'

Agenda

Date: 29 October 2020

Time: from 10:00 to 11:30 CET

SESSION	MAIN CONTENT	SPEAKER	TIMING
Opening of the webinar	Opening, greetings Webinar 'rules of engagement' - good conduct Chat and polls; invitation to engage with fellow participants	Thecla Schreuders Moderator	10.00-10.05
Introduction	Overview of the structure and content of the webinar and presentations Intro to speakers with their credentials	Thecla Schreuders and Eamonn Davern Moderators	10.05-10.10
Presentation from the Portuguese PES	The presentation will focus on measures designed for employers during and after the crisis, such as training initiatives for employees of enterprises experiencing a situation of business crisis and extraordinary financial support to normalise their business activity.	Ms Teresa Bento (Senior Officer at VET department, IEFP – PES PT) Ms Beatriz Antunes (Senior Officer at Employment Department, IEFP – PES PT)	10.10-10.40
Presentation from the Lithuanian PES	The presentation will focus on measures to support the self-employed in changing career after the COVID crisis, by supporting the purchase of equipment needed to start a new economic activity.	Ms Vaiva Slipikovienė (Coordinator for Jobseekers' Services, UZT - PES LT)	
Presentation from the Slovak PES	The presentation will focus on the "First Aid" project, a financial support measure designed to support employers that were forced to suspend their activities or have seen their revenues fall due to the COVID crisis.	Ing. Štefan Ďurajka (Chief State Adviser, Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic – PES SK)	
Discussion Q&A	Audience responses, discussion and questions on presentations		10.40-10.55

PES - employer experience: France (Réunion)	A representative from Pôle emploi will present the framework for support to employers in France. After this, Ms Surjoo will present her experience and difficulties in hiring driving instructors for AF Conduite, a driving school in La Réunion.	Ms Piarama Surjoo (Director of AF Conduite, FR - La Réunion)	10.55-11.15
PES – self-employed experience: Lithuania	Ms Kilmanaitė will present her experience in temporarily changing career with the help of the Lithuanian employment services to overcome difficulties in her primary economic activity due to the COVID-19 crisis.	Ms Stefanija Kilmanaitė (Video editor with over 6 years of experience, Lithuania)	
Final Q&A	Participants respond with any final thoughts and questions to follow up		11.15-11.25
Sum up and close of the webinar Thanks	Wrap up key issues Outcomes of the webinar Finding more information Invitation to keep in touch with peers	Thecla Schreuders and Eamonn Davern Moderators	11.25-11.30

Context

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Europe, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the self-employed were expected to be particularly affected by the crisis. They have experienced subsequent reductions in demand for their services, and a sudden loss of revenue which has severely affected their ability to function. Once initial lockdowns ended and even whilst several sectors were still on hold, many employers started to look for new employees whilst having to adapt to new working conditions (rules related to hygiene, distancing, smart-working, etc.).

SMEs comprise over 95% of employers in the EU; however, this is not reflected in the proportion of vacancies placed with PES. In the post-COVID period it is especially important that PES adapt their systems to the new situation, in order to deliver relevant services to SMEs and self-employed people. Many different national policies (Short Term Work schemes, loans, reallocation of EU funds, deferment of the payment of taxes, dedicated PES staff, etc.) have been implemented across the EU to support SMEs, but considerable untapped potential remains for PES to provide HR and other support to assist these employers.

The webinar will explore how PES can assist recovery from the crisis. PES will present their strategies, measures and tools for providing support services with a focus on SMEs and the self-employed.

Additional information

The webinar will take place via the Zoom webinar platform and will be recorded. Recordings will be made available on the internet in order to accumulate knowledge and to disseminate it also to those who could not attend the webinar.

During the webinar, participants will be invited to take part in short polls, asking for feedback or comments that will then feed into the discussion. Participants are advised to download the Zoom Client app to access all webinar functionalities. The app can be downloaded [here](#).