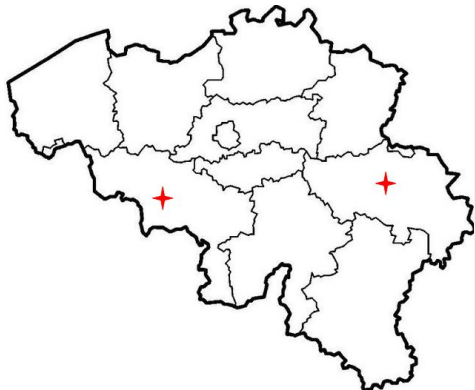


Makro Cash & Carry Belgium NV



Reference	EGF/2023/002 BE/ Makro	
Member State	Belgium	
Sector	Retail trade	
Submitted to European Commission	3 July 2023	
Total budget planned	EUR	3 327 322
EGF contribution	EUR	2 828 223
Intervention criterion	Article 4(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691	
Period of reference	10 January 2023 – 10 May 2023	
Redundancies during period of reference	1 431	
Active employment measures	<p>To be provided for 421 workers, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - job-search assistance and vocational guidance and outplacement assistance; - vocational training and re-training; - support for business creation and contribution to business start up; and - a variety of allowances (job-search and training; back to school; business creation) and bonus for improving IT and language skills. 	

BACKGROUND

- During the pandemic, the hospitality sector stopped activity for several months this affecting Makro's sales line for food and beverage services professionals. Makro's sales line for general customers was affected as well, because of mandatory closures of non-food stores and non-food aisles in supermarkets. Therefore, losses amounted to €44 million and the turnover to €714 million in 2019/2020. Sales fell once more to €646 million in 2020/2021.
- On 1 September 2022, Makro applied for judicial reorganisation. It was declared bankrupt, and 1,431 workers were made redundant on 10 January 2023.
- Belgium applied for EU co-financing to provide support to 421 former Makro workers living in Wallonia, whose labour market is disadvantaged. Unemployment rate rose from 8.5% to 8.8% in Wallonia and declined from 3.3% to 3.1% in Flanders, in Q1 2023, compared with Q4 2022.
- While low skilled workers and those aged 50+ are already disadvantaged on the regional labour market, two out of three former Makro workers are low educated and belong to the 50+ age group.
- The Walloon authorities consider that the workers living in the region will need additional personalised support to improve their chances to find new jobs. The Flemish regional authorities consider that there is no need to top-up the support available to former Makro workers in Flanders with co-financing from the EGF, given the situation on its regional labour market.