Executive Summary

Tourism can play a significant role in the economy of many Regions of the Union. This is particularly true in peripheral Regions, such as the coastal or outermost Regions of the Union. The infrastructure put in place for tourism purposes contributes to local and regional development, and the jobs created or preserved can help stem industrial or rural decline.

The Atlantic Arc Regions benefit from a very dynamic tourism sector, as show Eurostats map (in annex).

Measures of confinement, border closures and other travel restrictions taken by the States to face COVID-19 pandemic, are having and will continue to have a tremendous impact on the sector. According to United Nations World Tourism Organization estimates, global international tourist arrivals could decline 20-30 % in 2020 as compared to 2019.

Member States and Regions have put in place measures to help the sector to cope with the impact of COVID19 on its activity. This note aims to provide an outlook on the different measures taken. In all Atlantic countries, governments have introduced general economic assistance packages that would also cover tourism sectors. Measures include tax moratoriums, extended deadlines for payments of social charges, and wage subsidies, loans and guarantees for workers. In many Atlantic regions, a coordination with stakeholders operating in the regional tourism and culture sectors has been put in place. Some of them developed specific support to the sector such as:

- Financial support from the Region for canceled events (Pays de la Loire, Bretagne);
- Creation of a support fund for associations, notably in the field of culture, making it possible to subsidize associations heavily impacted by the crisis (Nouvelle Aquitaine);
- New tourism promotion action plan after Covid-19 (Andalusia, Galicia);
- Digital campaign to continue promoting the image of the Region concerned as destination (Andalusia, Asturias);
- The maintain of the training offer to companies and professionals in the tourism sector during this period of inactivity (Andalusia);
- Analysis of the data collected through an online tool that measures the economic impact of Covid 19 in the tourism sector (Basque Country);
- Development of Info Points to advise the sector on State aid programs and other support schemes (Cantabria);
- Health Security Plan in the tourism field that will strengthen confidence in this sector once the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus health crisis are over (Galicia).
- Regions have also developed schemes to provide accommodation to working people who carry out certain tasks, in tourist establishments.

With this basis of information, further activities could be envisaged at EU level in cooperation with the Parliament’s Tourism Task Force, which called on 24 March for ‘a tourism rescue action plan, with concrete short and medium term measures’ (see letter to commissioners).
Table – Support to the Tourism sector in Atlantic regions

France

In France the measures adopted apply to all companies, whatever their field of activity, not for the tourism industry in particular.

According to the Ministry of Economy, the following measures have been foreseen:

- deferral of payment for social and/or fiscal taxes;
- in the most difficult situations, direct taxes rebates;
- deferral of payment of rents, water, gas and electricity bills for the smallest companies encountering difficulties;
- €1,500 for smaller businesses, self-employed and micro-enterprises of most affected sectors by the solidarity fund financed by the State and the regions;
- mobilization of the State to the tune of €300 billion to guarantee bank cash lines that businesses may need because of the epidemic;
- support from the State and the Banque de France to negotiate with banks a rescheduling of bank loans;
- maintenance and reinforcement of employment in enterprises by the simplified and reinforced partial unemployment scheme;
- support for the handling of a dispute with customers or suppliers by the companies.

Source: [https://www.economie.gouv.fr/coronavirus-soutien-entreprises](https://www.economie.gouv.fr/coronavirus-soutien-entreprises)

Bretagne

- Region - State - BPI task force
- Mobilization of the Region / BPI guarantee fund
- Participation in the national solidarity fund
- Freezing or revision of the timetable for regional repayable advances for impacted companies
- Support for companies wishing to relocate part of their activities or Purchases Public markets
- Cancellation of late payment penalties for impacted companies delegated to public contracts
- Maintaining financial support from the Region for canceled events (culture, sport, tourism) and working on a case-by-case basis on the sustainability of structures
- Maintenance of training grants

Sources: [http://regions-france.org](http://regions-france.org)

Nouvelle-Aquitaine

- Weekly coordination unit with State services, BPI and consulars
- Establishment, in close collaboration with the Industrial Chamber of Commerce network and specialized associations, of a monitoring unit in order to support managers companies in difficulty.
- Increase in the level of advances paid to companies by the Region
- Maintenance of advances for road passenger transport companies
- Granting of a one-year moratorium for the repayment of the maturities of loans and repayable advances granted by the Region
- Creation of a support fund for associations, making it possible to subsidize associations heavily impacted by the crisis (culture, sport, social and solidarity economy)
- Reinforcement of loan granting capacities by the addition of the “Loan rebound” fund with Bpifrance, and direct intervention by the Region for companies not eligible for the scheme (difficulty in fulfilling the required conditions, non-eligible statutes, companies with more than 250 employees, Startups, etc.)
- Maintenance of the remuneration of trainees in vocational training
- Maintenance of health and social training grants (1 month)
- Participation in the national solidarity fund

Source: [http://regions-france.org](http://regions-france.org)

**Pays de la Loire**

- State-Region Task Force for monitoring the situation and solutions provided to companies.
- Implementation of the treasury support system (subsidy) "Pays de la Loire Urgence Solidarité"
- Carry-over of repayable loans and advances granted by the Region for the next 6 months
- New device "Pays de la Loire Emergency Fund Events" of €4,3M (for organizations organizing associative, sporting and cultural events)
- Mobilization of common law tools: advisory grant, treasury loan (Pays de la Loire Redeployment scheme), regional guarantee and regional loan SMEs operated by Bpifrance.
- Implementation of the “Rebound Loan” with Bpifrance
- Participation in the national solidarity fund
- Installation of a toll-free number dedicated to economic players;
- referral to contacts depending on the nature of the difficulty raised
- Dedicated Plenary Meeting with all network heads and professional federations (10/3/20) and with the entire banking network
- Maintenance of training grants
- Make available the laptops available to students in high schools to equip the 5% of students without computers

Source: [http://regions-france.org](http://regions-france.org)

**Ireland**

**Irish Government**

The government has announced a National COVID-19 Income Support Scheme. This provides financial support to Irish workers and businesses affected by the crisis.

COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme: The COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme enables employees, whose employers are affected by the pandemic, to receive significant supports directly from their employer through the payroll system. The scheme is operated by Revenue and is expected to last 12 weeks from 26 March 2020.

Pandemic Unemployment Payment: The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment is a payment of €350 per week. It is available to all employees and the self-employed who have lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MyWelfare.ie is the quickest and easiest way to apply for payments - all you need is your email address, PPSN and bank account details.
The **Credit Guarantee Scheme** supports loans up to €1 million for periods of up to 7 years. Applications can be made to AIB, Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank.

**Micro Finance Ireland**

Microenterprises can access COVID-19 Business Loans of up to €50,000 from Microfinance Ireland. The terms include a six months interest free and repayment free moratorium, with the loan to then be repaid over the remaining 30 months of the 36-month loan period. Loans are available at an interest rate of between 4.5% and 5.5%. Businesses can apply through their Local Enterprise Office or directly at [microfinanceireland.ie](http://microfinanceireland.ie). Eligibility criteria apply.

**Enterprise Ireland**

The new **Sustaining Enterprise Fund** of up to €180 million is specifically aimed at firms with 10 or more employees impacted by COVID-19 that are vulnerable but viable. The fund is operated by Enterprise Ireland, providing repayable advances of up to €800,000 as agreed with the EU under new State Aid rules.

**COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme:** A new **COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme** will be administered by Enterprise Ireland and will be open to retailers employing over 10 people. The total fund size will be up to €2 million under this competitive call. The objective of the Scheme is to support companies in the indigenous retail sector with a pre-existing online presence to respond to both the domestic and international consumer demand for a competitive online offer. Grants ranging from €10,000 to €40,000 will be awarded under the competitive scheme.

**COVID-19 Business Financial Planning Grant:** The **COVID-19 Business Financial Planning Grant**, worth up to €5,000, is designed to help companies to develop a robust financial plan, including the preparation of documentation required to support applications for external finance from banks and/or other finance providers. The grant is a new support for Enterprise Ireland clients and those manufacturing or internationally traded services companies that employ 10 or more full time employees.

**Local Enterprise Office**

**Business Continuity Voucher:** The Local Enterprise Office **Business Continuity Voucher** is designed for businesses across every sector that employ up to 50 people. The voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Trading Online Voucher:** The Local Enterprise Office **Trading Online Voucher** is a government grant scheme, designed to assist small businesses with up to 10 employees. It offers financial assistance of up to €2,500 along with training and advice to help your business trade online. Businesses that have already received a Trading Online Voucher can now apply for a second voucher, where upgrades are required.

**Training and Mentoring:** The Local Enterprise Offices have moved training programmes, workshops and networking meet-ups online, covering areas such as cash management in a crisis, leading your business through COVID-19 and advice for employers impacted by the crisis.

**ITIC (Irish Tourism Industry Confederation)**

ITIC has outlined a 3-step plan that they have recommended to be adopted and actioned by the Irish Government. A cabinet Covid-19 sub-committee announced the following 3 step plan and recommended that it be implemented straight away. This is a recommendation only at this stage and measures have yet to be formally adopted and confirmed by Government.

**Step 1: Business Survival**

With cancellations of existing business, and no new bookings, Ireland’s tourism and hospitality industry simply has no revenue stream to sustain itself. Cash flow is the oxygen of business during this crisis and Government must ensure that the state takes no additional money out of business. Therefore, measures needed include:
• Vat and payroll tax forbearance with interest free terms
• Waiving local authority rates
• Interest-free debt moratoriums from pillar banks
• Deferment of water charges
• Keeping cash in businesses is the only way that job losses can be stemmed at this point.

Step 2: Liquidity Measures
Even when the Covid-19 crisis passes – as it will – tourism and hospitality businesses will require working capital and business development funding to continue trading. A rescue and recovery package needs to be put together for Ireland’s tourism industry and measures needed include:
• Interest free loans from the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland and pillar banks
• Relaxation of state aid rules
• EU supports specifically for the tourism and travel industry
• State guaranteed working capital and business continuity loans
• Commitment from the insurance industry including provision of business interruption cover
• Financial support to industry for cancellations of large events as a result of Covid-19
• Support for industry to sustain employment

Step 3: Demand stimulation
Demand and bookings will be very slow to recover from international markets even when the Covid-19 crisis passes. Therefore industry, Agencies and Government must deliver massive market intervention measures to kickstart business. Measures required include:
Tourism Vat rate to be set at 0% for the duration of the crisis and at 9% on a permanent basis once the recovery has taken place
Doubling investment in overseas marketing
Domestic marketing increases to drive home holidays
Restoration of VAT relief measure on VRT for tourism car rental
Support for airlines to maintain and renew key routes

Fáilte Ireland
To meet the changing needs of tourism and hospitality businesses during the crisis, Fáilte Ireland have launched an online support hub with new supports and expert webinars and guidance for those in the tourism industry.

In addition Fáilte Ireland have recognised the importance of looking after the mental health of those in the tourism industry at this time. Tourism business owners and those working in the industry face deep uncertainty about the future of their businesses and jobs. The anxiety and worry that COVID-19 is causing is immense so in response, Fáilte Ireland have launched new wellbeing supports, including free counselling and financial advice, to help tourism businesses and their employees, as well as those who have unfortunately lost their jobs, through this difficult period. Please see below for more information on the supports available.

The retention of staff during the crisis is critical so that businesses have their teams ready to go for recovery. We are encouraging as many businesses as possible to avail of the Government’s Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme and, in light of Minister Donohoe’s announcement of updates to the scheme yesterday, we have created a new quick guide to help businesses understand how it applies to them, which you will find in the Government Supports section of our online support hub.
IHF (Irish Hotel Federation)

The Irish Hotel Federation which represents hotels and guesthouses in Ireland are seeking the following measures from the Irish Government in response to the Covid-19 crisis. There are a total of 62,897 hotel and guesthouse bedrooms in Ireland (2019). Again these are recommendations at this stage and formal confirmation of measures adopted would have to be confirmed by Government.

- Employees: Government should commit to paying 80% of the salary of workers if businesses keep them on their payroll. Similar to mortgage deferments, provide grants for employees who are renting.
- Cashflow / Finance: measures to assist with cashflow for businesses facing short term problems, including:
  - Interest free loans with deferred capital payment structures
  - Government supported and targeted bank support initiatives
  - 12-month payment deferment on Senior debt (Capital and Interest)
  - Government grants: business interruption grants to help businesses reopen and interest-free Capex grants that are repayable over time
  - Local Authority rates and water charges: to be waived for the duration of business interruption and initial recovery period due to Covid-19.
- Taxation: tourism VAT rates and employer’s PRSI to be reduced to zero until the industry has recovered.
- Insurance: grants to cover business’s public liability and property insurance for the duration of the crisis and for Government to require the insurance industry to be more flexible with charges in relation to businesses that are closed.

Culture:

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht recognises that COVID-19, and the public health measures necessary to slow the spread of the virus, have had an unprecedented effect on the cultural sector. The response of the Government has been to introduce measures to support workers and businesses affected by the COVID-19 that apply to all sectors of the economy, including those who work in the culture sector.

The measures introduced to date include:

- the COVID-19 Income Support Scheme, incorporating:
  - the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment;
  - the Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme;
- an Enhanced Illness Benefit payment;
- measures to assist with housing costs; and,
- measures to support businesses.

Within the cultural sector, measures taken to date to support the sector by the Department, the Arts Council and Screen Ireland have focused on:

- bringing forward the payment of grants awarded this year to ensure financial commitments can be met and waiving eligibility requirements which no longer apply due to the COVID-19 crisis; and,
- an initiative to support artistic and creative life during the COVID-19 crisis, details of which may be found

Travel protocols:
There are no entry restrictions to Ireland at present. To date, entry screening at ports and airports is not recommended by WHO or the ECDC. Effective public health protocols in place at ports and airports include:
- airline crews have been briefed by the HSE in recent weeks
- in the event of a suspected case, contact tracing forms will be distributed to all passengers and completed forms will be passed to HSE lead personnel at the incident site
- prior to disembarking, passengers will be advised to contact their GPs should they develop symptoms within the following 14 days
- the airline is instructed to decontaminate the aircraft in accordance with WHO aviation hygiene standards.

Sources: [https://www.chg.gov.ie](https://www.chg.gov.ie)  
[https://www.gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie)

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**Donegal**

The tourism industry supports in excess of 29,000 jobs in the NW region, attracting approximately 174,000 overseas visitors annually. In addition to this over 500,000 domestic visitors come to Donegal to enjoy our clean blue flag beaches, experience the cultural and heritage attractions all round the County.

**General Initiative:**

Donegal County Council invites applications for a programme which provides funding to support community & voluntary groups involved in the delivery of COVID-19 community response efforts - [https://bit.ly/2K6QE0F](https://bit.ly/2K6QE0F)

The Local Enterprise offices have implemented a wide range of practical steps to assist businesses, including a range of financial supports and free mentoring, training and webinars - [http://bit.ly](http://bit.ly)

**Donegal Tourism CLG/Donegal County Council**

Donegal Tourism CLG in association with Donegal County Council will assess over coming month from industry following direction from Government at the end of Lockdown.

- Plans will be formulated based on proposed reopening dates of hospitality premises.
- Donegal Tourism will agree on a joint marketing initiative for the domestic market and lead out on this across marketing platforms, along with an agreed paid for marketing campaign across other media platforms.
- We would then proceed to prepare a marketing initiative for our overseas markets as they start to reopen for 2021, both for Europe and US.
- Kicking off with a major ‘Céad Mile Fáilte’ campaign, plans are already underway to expand on this theme.
- We will be asking industry for offers and seeking to see how innovative they may be in coming forward with Green themed breaks. These could be in marine breaks or camping, clamping, etc.
- A new Tourism Strategy for 2020 – 2024 is currently in the early stages of development.

Donegal Tourism CLG has a strong positive relationship with the tourism trade and are always amazed by how the trade rises to a challenge and Covid-19 has indeed presented them with an almighty challenge, so Donegal Tourism CLG and Donegal County Council are determined to ensure that this one challenge that will be overcome.
### Covid-19 Emergency Fund

Donegal County Council are currently inviting applications for a programme which provides funding to support community and voluntary groups involved in the delivery of COVID 19 community response efforts. The COVID-19 Emergency Fund, will provide immediate and urgently needed funding totaling €2.5 million. This will be available to groups who are participating in the government’s “Community Call” initiative which is being led by the Local Authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Donegal County Council have been allocated €81,759 to award as grants under the scheme. It is intended that the majority of the funding that is allocated will be ring-fenced for grants of €1,000 or less.

### Portugal

Turismo de Portugal, the national tourism board integrated within the Ministry of Economy of the Portuguese Republic, informs that, to help enterprises affected by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following mechanisms are available:

**Creation of a COVID-19 help line for the Treasury of microenterprises in the tourism sector**

This is a new credit line, with a budget of €60 million, created for microenterprises unable to overcome economically the reduction in the demand that we have experienced.

**Requirements:** Turismo de Portugal has now suspended the reimbursement of credits that were given using its budget. It is helping enterprises cope with additional expenditures that might have occurred due to rescheduling or cancelation of events planned for 2020.

**Turismo de Portugal Schools - Supporting enterprises operational areas**

Turismo de Portugal created a specialized online support centre, handled by a team of 60 teachers from their Hospitality and Tourism Schools, to help companies find the appropriate measures for each business area and verify their implementation, thus reducing the negative impact of COVID-19 Contingency Plans.

**Government measures that also apply for the tourism sector**

The national Government approved several credits, available through the banking system and guaranteed by the Portuguese Republic, for enterprises of the hardest hit activities, such as:

- Restaurants, bars and others alike | €600 million – €270 million exclusively for micro or small enterprises.
- Travel agencies; tourism entertainment companies; event producers and related | €200 million – €75 million only for micro or small enterprises.
- Tourist housing and resorts | €900 million – €300 million dedicated to micro and small enterprises.
- The abovementioned credits have a payment deadline of 4 years.

**Fiscal policies**

All the delays are now postponed, and payments can be fractioned (flexible payment regime).

**Credit moratorium**

The Portuguese Government implemented a credit moratorium lasting for 6 months, until September, for loans essential for normal activities of enterprises and on housing credits for citizens.

**Employment and activity**

The Portuguese Government approved a simplified lay-off plan.
Easier access to lay-off

Enterprises forced to shut down by public authorities; closed due to lack of demand or those that, despite maintaining their production, had a significant reduction of their revenue and thus had to adapt their operations to this new reality are all eligible for COVID-19 special economic measures. These enterprises are guaranteed access to social security benefits for their workers during the implementation of national Contingency Plans to contain the outbreak of COVID-19 disease. This is a special financial support given to enterprises, and calculated per employee, to help them pay for their workers’ salaries during periods of temporary reduction of working hours or the suspension of employment contracts.

OpenRooms.Portugal.com

This online platform comprises several hotels, all over the country, that will provide, free of charge, rooms for health care professionals who need them during this crisis. Turismo de Portugal joined this program offering health care professionals 23 rooms in the School of Hospitality and Tourism of Setubal, 12 in the Algarve, 7 in Lamego and 1 in Coimbra.

TRAVELBI

Updated market information, gathered by our teams abroad, is available once a week for all sectorial institutions and companies.

VisitPortugal

Turismo de Portugal adapted and simplified the VisitPortugal website information to new reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, transforming this page in a Portugal Tourism Response for tourists considering a trip to Portugal and those already in Portugal.

Actions taken by the Turismo de Portugal Training Department to reduce the negative impact of the COVID-19 Contingency Plans and to guarantee the same learning conditions for all students:

1. All students have virtual classes using Office 365 tools, such as Teams, or any other analogous software selected by the teachers.
2. Lessons are synchronised, like in a standard classroom, with everyone online at the same time or separate, the teacher gives students homework, challenges, tests and each one of them does it alone and then reports back to the professor. Classes, on average, last 5 hours per day.
3. Most virtual courses are theoretical but there are few practical classes like PE (Physical Education).
4. Students with difficult or no access to computers and/or internet connection will have a teacher designated to help them overcome this situation and to give them the same classes by other means.
5. Schools are developing new curricular activities meant to help in an environment of social isolation and uncertainty:
   a) Technical support to take more advantage of the new virtual learning tools
   b) Educational and psychological assistance for students during this crisis
   c) Complementary sessions and bonuses, such as: Hospitality&Tourism online talks, sharing educational material, newsletters with ideas of physical exercises, family activities, etc.
6. During online classes the school insurance upholds the same conditions as before.
7. Schools will stop all virtual classes for Easter holidays (from April 4th to April 14th).
8. The Turismo de Portugal Training Department will guarantee that students with mandatory exams to be held during this period can pass them remotely;
9. During the implementation of COVID-19 Contingency Plans in the country, the Turismo de Portugal Training Department will put in place measures to ease the financial pressure students deal with, such as:
a) The immediate exemption of tuitions for all students; those who already paid tuitions for the month of March will be reimbursed later on.

b) Reimbursement of public transportation used during the month of March.

c) Help students with economic woes pay for their accommodation, just like it was already done before the crisis.

d) Payment of food allowances to students receiving social welfares; A daily food allowance for every online school day will be paid.

10. For some students without computer, the school loaned one during this period.

11. Schools negotiate with operators free Wi-Fi for isolated students.

Source: [http://www.turismodeportugal.pt](http://www.turismodeportugal.pt)

### Spain

Spain has adopted several measures with the aim of alleviating the impact of the coronavirus crisis. In particular, three comprehensive packages of fiscal/economic measures have been approved (on March 12, March 17 and March 31):

- First package: €18.225 billion (including liquidity measures);
- Second package: €5 billion in additional public expenditure, and up to €100 billion in public guarantees, estimated to mobilise up to €200 billion in liquidity for companies and SMEs.

As for tourism, the Government has enabled an ICO (Official Credit Institute) line of loans €400 million to help companies in the tourism, transport and accommodation sector. According to the conditions of the financing line, companies may request up to €500,000 to overcome the economic effects unleashed by the crisis and have sufficient liquidity to continue operating. For the moment, the following banks have adhered to this plan: Santander, BBVA, CaixaBank, Cajamar, Bankinter, Caja Rural de Teruel and Liberbank.

The maximum rate of these loans has been set at 1.5% including commissions and the repayment period ranges from one to four years, with the possibility of non-payment of twelve months for the amount of the principal. The guarantee has been placed at 50%, which is the percentage that the Government intends to set in its guarantee package for up to €100,000 million for SMEs and the self-employed who have been affected by the coronavirus.


### Andalucía

The Ministry of Tourism of Andalusia has developed three possible scenarios on the development of tourism in the future months, given to the COVID19 pandemic and it is currently working on a new tourism promotion action plan after Covid-19, with the intention of helping to reactivate the Andalusian tourist activity and relaunching its position as destination in the national and international markets as soon as possible. In this sense, the Public Company for the Management of Tourism and Sports of Andalusia is studying new measures to be developed to support the tourism sector and employment, as well as to attract clients from the main markets.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism has launched digital campaign to continue promoting the image of Andalusia as destination during the confinement, stressing that the community will get back to a regular situation once the emergency will be over.

In its social networks’ profile, further actions will be carried out, aimed at the main foreign markets, such as the UK, Germany, France and Italy.
As to professionals working in the sector, specific content will be made available, in particular in relation to teleworking tools/techniques as well as updates on the current information, in addition to offering help and assistance to Andalusian businessmen. In this context, Andalucía Lab, the tourism innovation centre of the Region has launched a series of initiatives to continue its **consulting and training offer to companies and professionals in the sector** during this period of inactivity. More than a thousand applications have been received to participate in these online activities that take place between until 30 April 2020.

Source: [https://www.hosteltur.com](https://www.hosteltur.com)
[https://www.horajaen.com](https://www.horajaen.com)

### Asturias

The Government of Asturias signs an agreement with six banks to advance unemployment benefits to workers who have had their employment suspended or their working hours reduced due to the health crisis.

The Government of Asturias will make available to SMEs and self-employed workers, starting tomorrow, Friday April 17, a financing line of 10 million, in collaboration with the main banking entities that operate in the community. The cost of the guarantee will be subsidized by the Principality through Idepa, and will guarantee that the loans have a maximum interest rate of 1.5%. The loans will range from 5,000 to 100,000 euros, with a specific line for self-employed workers of up to 20,000. The line is intended to alleviate the difficulties derived from the COVID-19 crisis that companies face and is multi-sectoral in nature, so that sectors that are highly affected by the health emergency, such as **those linked to tourism** and trade, will be accommodated.

On April 16, Berta Piñán announces the constitution of sectorial tables with broad representation of professionals, which will converge in the creation of the **Cultural Council of Asturias**, similar to **the working group created to reactivate tourism** in the Principality once the health emergency is overcome.

**Working group on Tourism:**

This body, promoted by the Vice-Ministry of Tourism, is made up of five representatives from the sector on behalf of the eight most representative associations in the region, which number more than 2,300 companies. The working group has established three priority lines of action for the sector: the analysis and implementation of joint tourism promotion strategies, support for the creation of a tourist product to promote the commercialization of Asturias as a destination, and possible direct aid to the business sector. Complementarily, Asturias will launch of a video and media campaign to share photos of regions touristic assets.

### Cantabria

**Culture:**

The vice president has announced the development of the Strategic Plan for Culture, which sets the long-term objectives of the sector to enhance its weight in the Cantabrian economy.

To address all these measures and transfer Cantabria's commitment to the State Pact for Culture, the vice-president will launch the extraordinary convocation of the Culture Council of Cantabria, which integrates the administration, municipalities, University of Cantabria and parties politicians, with the aim of "articulating measures through dialogue" that guarantee that this health crisis does not lead to a profound crisis for the culture of Cantabria.

The vice president has also announced that a specific office is active from next Monday, to which professionals in the sector can contact, by phone at 942243451 and by email atencioncultur@srecd.es, to receive advice on State aid programs and from the Autonomous Community.
**Tourism:**
The Ministry of Tourism organizes a bag of accommodation to pay attention to basic necessity cases

**Sources:** [https://www.cantabria.es](https://www.cantabria.es)  
[https://www.cantabria.es/web/gobierno](https://www.cantabria.es/web/gobierno)

**Galicia**

The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Román Rodríguez, asked the Central Government to extend until 2022 the tax reliefs planned for Xacobeo 2021 as an event of exceptional public interest, a measure which until now covers only 30 September 2021.

Galicia developed a package of measures in fiscal and financial matters, labor or of promotion of the consumption, and also transferred the specific needs of the cultural sector of the Community, thanks to a round of meetings with representatives of the audiovisual, theater, dance or book sector, among others, in addition to permanent contacts with different agents and with the main cultural institutions of the country, among them the Council of Galician Culture (CCG), the Royal Galician Academy (RAG) or the Royal Galician Academy of Fine Arts.

**On tourism:**
The Councilor for Culture and Tourism, Román Rodríguez, announced the development of a Health Security Plan in the tourism field that will strengthen confidence in this sector once the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus health crisis are over. Tourism accounts today for 10.4% of Galician GDP and 11% of jobs.

Galicia is working on the implementation of a plan of reactivation of the cultural and tourism sector, with an investment of more than 25 million euros, that will include actions of promotion, direct aids to the sector or the creation of specific products. Galicia also urged the activation of a specific state-wide fund aiming at maintaining and reviving tourism.

Galicia uses the Galician Tourism Council as a way to coordinate the sector.
This body is a participatory forum of public and private agents who carry out their daily work in the field of tourism or in matters of clear incidence in this key sector for the Galician economy. Its functions include proposing lines of research and study on issues of interest to Galicia’s tourism, as well as making suggestions to the Public Administrations regarding the suitability of the sector to tourism demand and social reality, among others.

**Source:** [https://www.xunta.gal](https://www.xunta.gal)  
[https://www.xunta.gal/notas-de-prensa](https://www.xunta.gal/notas-de-prensa)

**Navarra**

To date, there are no sectoral measures. However, there are transversal measures that may apply to Tourism.
- Decree Law 8/2020, of March 17. Package of extraordinary measures for own-account workers, companies and salaried workers affected by the declaration of the state of alarm before the pandemic by COVID-19.
- Decree-Law 2/2020, of March 25, approving urgent measures to respond to the impact generated by the coronavirus health crisis (COVID-19). Among others, the postponement of payments of personal income tax, certain tax debts of self-employed and SMEs are suspended or extended.
- Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of March 31, which adopts urgent complementary measures in the social and economic field to deal with COVID-19. It approves, among others, complementary measures to support the self-employed (anticipation of moratoriums of payment, suspension of bills for electricity, natural gas and petroleum products ...)

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*Image credit:* [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)
Besides, Navarra has developed a list of tourist establishments which are declared as essential services. These establishments must (and undertake) to:

- Be closed to the general public
- Provide accommodation to working people who carry out certain tasks, as well as others who are in some cases for which they must move or who may need to ensure timely accommodation urgently.
- Provide catering services and any other necessary for the correct provision of the service, if they are enabled to do so by their hosted clients only.
- They may give access to cleaning and catering facilities and services to transporters even if they are not accommodated

Source: [https://www.navarra.es](https://www.navarra.es)
### The UK

**General Information:**
- a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- deferring VAT and Self-Assessment payments
- Self-employment Income Support Scheme statutory sick pay relief package for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- a 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- **grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000**
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support long-term viable businesses who may need to respond to cash-flow pressures by seeking additional finance
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme to help with tax

**On tourism:**
Destination Management Organisations at risk of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic will receive financial support thanks to a new £1.3 million scheme launched by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The funding, which is available to any at-risk DMO in England which usually receives at least 50% of its income from commercial sources, will be used to cover operating costs and the cost of employees that cannot be furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme because they provide crucial business support services.

DMOs provide expert advice and guidance to local businesses and are a crucial part of developing and promoting English tourism. As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, a number of DMOs are currently facing cash flow issues and loss of commercial income. This funding will ensure that DMOs can continue to provide critical business support and start to prepare for recovery.

Source: [https://www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

### Wales

**Tourism**
Tourism is big business in Wales. Tourists spend around £17 million a day whilst in Wales, amounting to around £6.3 billion a year.

Guidelines for operators of holiday accommodation businesses in Wales relating to the regulations on Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 have been published by the Welsh Government. The guidelines state that all accommodation businesses should already be closed and must remain closed until further notice.

Source: [https://www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
General support

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak the Welsh Government has announced almost £2bn of support for businesses in Wales, in addition to the support provided by the UK Government.

The Welsh Government has launched the second call for application to the Economic Resilience Fund (£500). The call specifically targets micro-companies and SMEs.

Business Wales is providing businesses with tailored support and advice about dealing with coronavirus, from financial and supply chain planning to advice on staffing issues.

https://businesswales.gov.wales
ANNEX 1 – Importance of Tourism in Atlantic Regions

Nights spent in tourist accommodation, 2017 (million nights spent by residents and non-residents in tourist accommodation, by NUTS 2 regions)

Source: Eurostats
Annex 2 : EU Support to tourism

The EU Treaties give the EU limited competences with regard to the tourism sector; that is, the EU can only support, coordinate or supplement Member States’ actions in this area. Applying this in practice, the Commission has been in constant contact with ministries responsible for tourism, specialised international organisations and the EU tourism industry. The Commission has also provided legal analysis and is setting up a network of European tourism and travel industry associations.

- General support to regions

The Commission has proposed earmarking €37 billion for addressing the crisis under its Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative aimed, among other things, at providing liquidity for businesses and support to people who have lost their jobs. Those in the tourism sector who have been laid off could also get support from sources such as the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.

The Commission also published a "Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak", to give the possibility to Member States to further support their economy.

- Support to the tourism sector

As regards specific tourism-related sectors, the Commission has proposed to suspend the rules obliging airlines to use their allocated slots at EU airports. The Commission has also given guidelines on EU passenger rights and border checks. Those related to border checks include a recommendation to the Member States to impose a restriction on non-essential travel to the EU for 30 days. Furthermore, the Commission has helped to repatriate EU travellers.

In a letter dated 24 March and addressed to several European Commissioners, Parliament’s Tourism Task Force called for ‘a tourism rescue action plan, with concrete short and medium term measures’.

The Atlantic Arc Commission is one of the six Geographical Commissions in the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, and its action, although specific to the requirements of its member Regions, is part of a more general framework.

The Atlantic Arc Commission was established in 1989 in Faro (Algarve, Portugal). It covers five states (Ireland, United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal) in a territory spreading from Andalucia to Scoland. With some 60 million inhabitants, it represents 12% of the European population. The presidency of the Atlantic Arc Commission is currently held by the Pays de la Loire Region (France).

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