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COVID-19 – the EU's SURE help programme – what is it?

Basically, the EU's SURE help programme consists of loans given to Member States to help them face the problems created at economic and social level through COVID-19. Companies have problems in keeping up their economic activities through the pandemic and see themselves obliged to put staff on temporary unemployment or even dismiss them.

The EU has installed the SURE programme, mainly with the aim of giving governments a tool to set up schemes for the preservation of employment (including self-employment). SURE stands for "temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency".

The European Commission speaks in the first place of short-time work schemes and similar measures that governments can take to bridge the difficult period until an end can be put to the corona pandemic. Examples of those measures can be the payment of temporary unemployment benefits, the payment of nuisance premiums to companies, shops, bars and restaurants, etc. which have to close down their business in a lockdown, the guarantee of an income to the self-employed, as well as health-related measures, in particular taken at the workplace, to ensure a safe return to normal economic activity.

The total sum that the European Commission would provide in this way is 100 billion euro. The member states have to repay their loan at a very favourable interest rate after 15 years. The European Commission gets itself the financial means for this programme on the international financial markets, at a favourable price due to a system of voluntary guarantees (up to 25 billion euro) given by the 27 Member States. Although every Member State participates in solidarity in this voluntary guarantee system, in accordance with their share in the Union's total gross national income, not all of them make use of the opportunity to get loans from the SURE programme. France and Germany for example don't, because they can get themselves favourable loans on the financial markets. Up till now, 18 Member States participate in the programme.

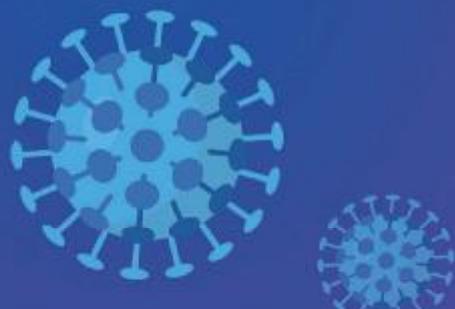
The SURE programme stands apart from the EU's 750 billion euro recovery plan that has also been designed (and, up to today, still waits for its approval) to repair the economic and social damage caused by the corona pandemic, although it operates on a larger and more varied scale.

**The SURE Factsheet offers a clear view of what the SURE programme is all about.
See next pages.**



SURE

Supporting Member States to help protect people in work and jobs



1 What is SURE?

The new instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) is designed to help protect people in work and jobs affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

This is a strong expression of solidarity between Member States through the EU to protect people's jobs



Targeted at protecting people's jobs



Temporary financial support



Fast deployment



Complements national efforts



Solidarity between Member States

2 How does it work?



It will provide financial assistance, in the form of loans granted on favourable terms from the EU to Member States, of up to €100 billion in total.



These loans will assist Member States to address sudden increases in public expenditure to preserve employment.



Specifically, these loans will help Member States to cover the costs directly related to the creation or extension of national short-time work schemes, and other similar measures they have put in place for the self-employed, as a response to the current crisis.



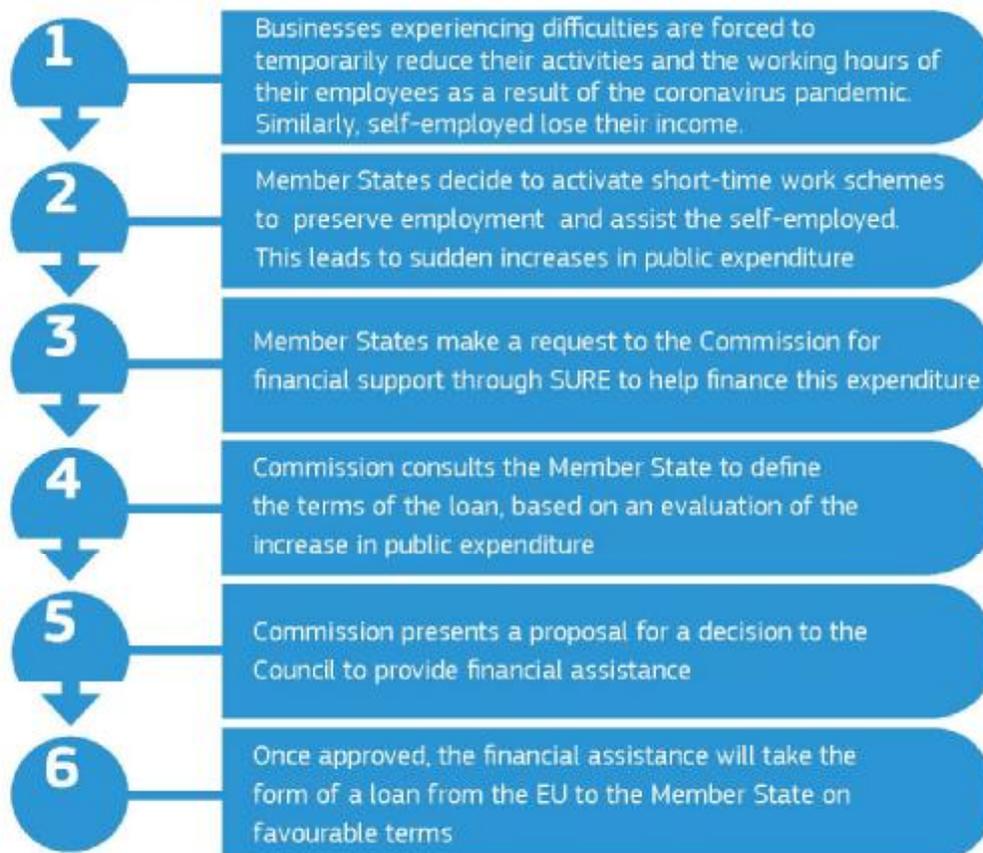
By avoiding wasteful redundancies, short-time work schemes can prevent a temporary shock from having more severe and long-lasting negative consequences on the economy and the labour market in Member States.



This helps to sustain families' incomes and preserve the productive capacity and human capital of enterprises and the economy as a whole.



3 How is it triggered?



4 How much money is available?



Up to

€100 billion of loans provided to Member States

backed by



€25 billion of guarantees voluntarily committed by Member States to the EU budget to leverage the financial power of SURE