



# SK Legal Alert

9 July 2021

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### Continuation of state subsidies in connection with the coronavirus pandemic and current conditions of entry to Slovakia

In the previous legal alerts, we informed you about several forms of state support related to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the pandemic develops, forms of state support change. In this edition, we will inform you about the latest changes.

### Continuation in the First Aid project and its connection with the Covid automat

The First Aid ++ project, which followed on from First Aid +, brought simplification of administration and an increase in aid for entrepreneurs (for a more detailed description, please see PHASE 3). Due to the continuing negative economic impacts on the labor market, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic extended the period for providing financial assistance to employers and self-employed persons. However, with regard to the gradual relaxation of measures and economic recovery, the provision of assistance is linked to the so-called Covid automat<sup>1</sup> from 1 July 2021.

Aid provision according to the levels of warning of the nationwide Covid automat is as follows:

#### PHASE 3 – unfavourable epidemiological situation (warning levels III and IV)

- Payment of aid according to the rules of First Aid ++,
- Employers who will be able to keep the jobs will receive a 100% contribution to reimburse the wage costs of the total labour price,

- Self-employed persons and employers may apply for a lump sum contribution of up to EUR 870,
- Self-employed persons without health and pension insurance and limited liability companies consisting of one person may apply for a contribution of EUR 360;

#### PHASE 2 – Improving epidemiological situation (warning levels I and II)

- Payment of aid according to the rules of First Aid +,
- Employers who will be able to keep the jobs will receive an 80% contribution to reimburse the wage costs of the total labour price,
- Self-employed persons may apply for a contribution of up to EUR 810,
- Self-employed persons without health and pension insurance and limited liability companies consisting of one person may apply for a contribution of EUR 315;

#### PHASE 1 – Favourable epidemiological development (a nationwide Covid automat is not declared at level I, II, III or IV and there are at most 39 districts in the monitoring level)

- Payment of aid according to the rules of First Aid +,
- Employers will receive a contribution to reimburse wage costs in the amount of 80% of gross wage,
- Self-employed persons may draw aid up to EUR 540,
- Self-employed persons without health and pension insurance and limited liability companies consisting of one person may apply for a contribution of EUR 210;

#### PHASE 0 – None of the districts is in the warning level I, II, III or IV and there are at least 40 districts at the monitoring level

- The scheme does not apply.

Even though the Covid automat is being updated on a weekly basis,

<sup>1</sup> Alert system for monitoring the development of the epidemic and adopting anti-epidemic measures depending on the intensity of the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19), i. e. monitoring and signaling system created by the Ministry

of Health of the Slovak Republic which serves for predictable setting of measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is available at <https://automat.gov.sk/>.



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the aid scheme will be set for a whole calendar month. A number of days in the given level will be decisive for the determination of the phase.

It will be possible to apply for the above-mentioned aid until the end of 2021 when the new Act on Support during Short-time Working (so called Kurzarbeit), which aim is to secure a part of employee's salary for the time he cannot be assigned work by the employer in the agreed extent, maintenance of jobs and competitiveness of the employers, enters into the force (for more detailed information please see our June alert).

## Large Scheme of Financial Support for Tourism

On 25 June 2021, the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic launched a scheme of state subsidy for tourism, for which the Government set aside EUR 35.25 million. The so-called Large Scheme, which is based on de minimis scheme, will allow entrepreneurs who exceed the drawing of EUR 200,000 to apply for a higher financial contribution in order to save their business. However, it will be possible to draw the support only under de minimis scheme or State Aid Scheme (so called Large Scheme) for the same period.

Large companies will be able to apply for a contribution of up to 70% of uncovered financial costs within the framework of the Large Scheme, while small businesses will be able to apply for a contribution of up to 90%. However, according to the government's decision, the upper limit of the aid will be EUR 1 million.

The eligible period, and thus the period covered by the State aid, is the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The aid application can be submitted from 26 June 2021 to 31 November 2021. The application is submitted via the web page [www.slovensko.sk](http://www.slovensko.sk).

Other conditions for provision of support and eligibility of applicants are similar to the conditions of De minimis Aid Scheme and are published on the website <https://www.mindop.sk/schema-pomoci/schema-statnej-pomoci-tzv-velka-schema>.

## vesmirpodpory.sk

The Ministry of Economic of the Slovak Republic launched a new website (<https://vesmirpodpory.sk/>) in connection with the search of appropriate business support related not only to coronavirus crisis support, but also to other supports for entrepreneurs. The aim of the website is to allow entrepreneurs to find all approachable options and forms of support.

## Conditions for Entry into Slovakia Valid from 9 July 2021

On 30 June 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved a proposal to update the travel traffic light. On its basis different conditions for fully vaccinated persons and for other persons will apply when entering Slovakia.

### FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS

For the purposes of a new traffic light, a fully vaccinated person means:

- In case of a vaccine with a two-dose schedule, a person 14 days after the second dose of the vaccine was given;
- In case of a vaccine with a single dose schedule, a person 21 days after the vaccine was given;
- A person after overcoming COVID-19 14 days after receiving the first dose of vaccine within 180 days after overcoming the disease,
- Any person following the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine with a single or double dose schedule, no later than until 8 August 2021.

These persons are obliged to prove their vaccination certificate (so-called GreenPass, or National Vaccination Certificate with QR code) when crossing the border.

### OTHER PERSONS

When crossing the border, other persons are obliged to register in the eHranica (eBorder) system and subsequently undergo a manda-



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tory 14-day quarantine. However, these persons will have the opportunity to undergo the RT-PCR test on the fifth day of quarantine. In the event of a negative result, they will be able to leave the quarantine as soon as they receive the report of the negative result.

**Exceptions** to the above measures are set out in Section 5 of the Decree of the Public Health Office of the Slovak Republic no. 226, the current wording of which can be found at [https://www.uvzsr.sk/docs/info/ut/vyhlaska\\_226.pdf](https://www.uvzsr.sk/docs/info/ut/vyhlaska_226.pdf) and include e.g. crew members of freight transport, bus transport or air personnel, persons in transit, so-called pendlers<sup>2</sup>, etc.

### TRANSITION PERIOD FOR PENDLERS

There will be a transitional period for pendlers from 9 July to 31 August 2021, during which they will be able to use the pendler institute under the conditions of a regular RT-PCR test, which is not older than 7 days. However, from 1 September 2021, all pendlers, without exception, will have to fully comply with the above-described regime for fully vaccinated and other persons.

We continue to carefully watch the state activities for support of entrepreneurs affected by the government measures for prevention of spread of COVID-19. Upon disclosure of further information in this respect we will inform you forthwith.

The information contained in this bulletin is presented to the best of our knowledge and belief at the time of going to press. However, specific information related to the topics covered in this bulletin should be consulted before any decision is made. The information contained in this bulletin should not be construed as an exhaustive description of the relevant issues and any possible consequences, and should not be fully relied on in any decision-making processes or treated as a substitute for specific legal advice, which would be relevant to particular circumstances. Neither Weinhold Legal, v.o.s. advokátní kancelář nor any individual lawyer listed as an author of the information accepts any responsibility for any detriment which may arise from reliance on information published here. Furthermore, it should be noted that there may be various legal opinions on some of the issues raised in this bulletin due to the ambiguity of the relevant provisions and an interpretation other than the one we give us may prevail in the future.

For further information, please contact the partner / manager you are usually connected to.



Tomáš Čermák  
Managing Associate  
[tomas.cermak@weinholdlegal.com](mailto:tomas.cermak@weinholdlegal.com)



Karin Konečná  
Attorney at Law  
[karin.konecna@weinholdlegal.com](mailto:karin.konecna@weinholdlegal.com)

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<sup>2</sup> This means e.g. persons residing in the EU and other designated countries with employment relationship or place of work in Slovakia, or citizens of the Slovak Republic with permanent or temporary residence in the border areas of

a neighboring state within 100 km from an open border crossing to the Slovak Republic.