



# Italian regional SME policy responses

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<sup>2</sup> Last updated: 8 April 2020 (new or updated sections compared to the issue of 1 April 2020 are highlighted in grey).  
For more information: [www.oecd.org/coronavirus](http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus).

The note provides a preliminary inventory of the policy responses adopted by the Italian regions to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chapter 1 focuses on the repercussions on the Italian economy. Chapter 2 provides an overview of national policy responses. Chapter 3 explains the role regions play within Italy's institutional setting regarding economic development, particularly SME policy. Chapter 4 provides a regional deep dive on the measures put in place by the regions to support SMEs during the pandemic. Chapter 5 provides a summary of the main findings. This working document will be periodically updated and enriched with further analytical insights in the coming weeks.

## 1. The repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Italian economy

The first cases of the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy were confirmed on 31 January 2020. In the following weeks, eleven municipalities in northern Italy were identified as the centres of the two main Italian clusters, located in Lombardy and Veneto respectively, and placed under quarantine. The majority of positive cases in the other regions trace back to these two clusters. On 8 March 2020, a Decree of the President of the Council of Minister expanded the quarantine to all of Lombardy and 14 other northern provinces, and on the following day to all of Italy, placing more than 60 million people in quarantine.<sup>3</sup>

The pandemic rapidly expanded across northern Italy, and then southwards across the whole country. On 8 April 2020, Italy had the third highest number of reported COVID-19 cases, and the first in terms of casualties.<sup>4</sup>

An early March survey of micro and small firms in Italy showed that 72% of the 6 000 firms were directly affected by the situation because of a drop in demand, problems along the supply chain, and/or transport/logistics. One third of respondents estimated a decrease in revenues above 15%, and an additional 18% of 5-15%. The most affected firms are those in transport (98.9%) due to the demand downfall, then tourism (89.9%), fashion (79.9%), and agro-food (77.7%).<sup>5</sup>

Many companies have reduced or halted production (e.g. plants of Ferrari, Fiat, Luxottica, Michelin have stopped production).<sup>6</sup> Following the decree-law of 22 March 2020, closing all non-core or strategic production activities, an estimated that 7.8 million workers became temporarily unemployed. More in detail, 6 out of 10 workers would be affected in manufacturing (59.6% of the workforce), while for services the ban would affect just over a quarter of workers (26.7%). Overall, out of 100 workers affected by the decree, 56 reside in the North (20.6% in Lombardy), 20 in the Centre and 24 in the South of Italy. The Marche region, which has a strong manufacturing vocation in many of the sectors concerned by the decree, is by far the region with the highest share of workers affected by the measure: 43%, compared to the Italian average of 34.8%. It is followed by Veneto (39.8%), Piedmont (37.8%), Lombardy (37.5%), to which the effect of regional lockdown ordinances should be added, and Emilia Romagna (37.4%).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/08/20A01522/sg>

<sup>4</sup> <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

<sup>5</sup> The survey was held for the Italian Confederation of Craft Trades and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (CNA): <https://www.cna.it/effetti-negativi-sul-72-delle-imprese-6-327-risposte-al-questionario-cna/>  
[https://www.cna.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CNA-\\_INDAGINE-\\_IMPATTO-CORONAVIRUS-SULLE-PICCOLE-IMPRESA.pdf](https://www.cna.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CNA-_INDAGINE-_IMPATTO-CORONAVIRUS-SULLE-PICCOLE-IMPRESA.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/flat-chrysler-volkswagen-halt-production-in-parts-of-europe-11584351826>

<sup>7</sup>

[http://www.consulentidellavoro.it/files/PDF/2020/AnalisiStatistiche/Impatto\\_DPCM\\_22marzo2020\\_mercato\\_lavoro.pdf](http://www.consulentidellavoro.it/files/PDF/2020/AnalisiStatistiche/Impatto_DPCM_22marzo2020_mercato_lavoro.pdf)

Between 12 and 13 March, the stock market index fell by 12% while the 10-year sovereign bond yields jumped by 60 basis points to 1.8%. On 16 March, the yields of Italian sovereign bond yields has kept rising and the 10-year yield breached the 2% threshold (the spread on the 10-year bunds rose to close to 260 basis points).<sup>8</sup>

According to forecasts published by Il Sole 24 Ore (Italy's leading economic newspaper) on 22 March 2020, there are two main possible future scenarios on the impact of COVID-19 on Italian enterprises. In the first case, should the emergency end at the beginning of May and should the recover begin next year, enterprises would lose EUR 275 billion between 2020 and 2021. In the second and more pessimistic scenario, should the emergency end by December, the loss would amount to EUR 641 billion.<sup>9</sup> Other forecasts add that, should the situation not improve by the end of the year, one out of ten firms would risk to shut down.<sup>10</sup>

According to estimates published by Statista on 26 March 2020, the Italian GDP will drop by 3% by the end of the first quarter of 2020. In the second quarter, the drop will reach 5%.<sup>11</sup>

In a note published on 27 March 2020, the OECD estimates a potential drop in national GDP by more than 25%, and a potential reduction in private consumption induced by social distancing measures by more than 35%.<sup>12</sup>

Lombardy and Veneto alone, respectively the first and third most affected regions in terms of casualties to date, account for 31% of the Italian GDP. Consequently, a 10% decrease in their GDP would imply a 3% decrease of the whole economy.<sup>13</sup>

The joint research centre of the Chambers of Commerce of Veneto carried out a survey to monitor the economic impact of the pandemic on local manufacturing companies. They reported a sharp drop in sales, especially the textiles and electrical and industrial machinery industry.<sup>14</sup> The repercussions on the tourism sector in Veneto will be felt acutely, as is the top national destination for tourist arrivals.<sup>15</sup>

According to the Labour Market Observatory of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen, social distancing policies to contain the pandemic have radically and quickly changed the situation of the South Tyrolean labour market, particularly in the tourism sector. The 2020 winter season ended about a month before the natural deadline, leading to the termination of 17 751 employment contracts within a week. While there were still 21 000 people employed in the hotel sector at the end of February 2020, by 31 March this figure had fallen to just over 7 000. There has also been a significant drop in the catering sector: the number of people employed in this industry has fallen from 11 000 to 7 000.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_stock\\_market\\_crash#Black\\_Thursday\\_\(12\\_March\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_stock_market_crash#Black_Thursday_(12_March))

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.infodata.ilsole24ore.com/2020/03/22/quale-sara-limpatto-del-coronavirus-sulleconomia-mondiale-le-stime-gli-scenari-formulati-ad-adesso/>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.corriere.it/economia/aziende/cards/coronavirus-10percento-aziende-italiane-default-se-l-emergenza-non-si-ferma-entro-l-anno/crollo-pil\\_principale.shtml?refresh\\_ce-cp](https://www.corriere.it/economia/aziende/cards/coronavirus-10percento-aziende-italiane-default-se-l-emergenza-non-si-ferma-entro-l-anno/crollo-pil_principale.shtml?refresh_ce-cp)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1101019/forecasted-impact-of-coronavirus-covid-19-on-gdp-in-italy/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/oecd-updates-g20-summit-on-outlook-for-global-economy.htm>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.corriere.it/economia/aziende/cards/coronavirus-10percento-aziende-italiane-default-se-l-emergenza-non-si-ferma-entro-l-anno/crollo-pil\\_principale.shtml?refresh\\_ce-cp](https://www.corriere.it/economia/aziende/cards/coronavirus-10percento-aziende-italiane-default-se-l-emergenza-non-si-ferma-entro-l-anno/crollo-pil_principale.shtml?refresh_ce-cp)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.unioncamereveneto.it/schedaNews.asp?idNews=8060>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.unioncamereveneto.it/schedaNews.asp?idNews=8066>

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.provincia.bz.it/news/it/news.asp?news\\_action=4ews\\_article\\_id=637346#accept-cookies](http://www.provincia.bz.it/news/it/news.asp?news_action=4ews_article_id=637346#accept-cookies)

The above facts speak to one salient truth: cooperation between countries and regions is needed now more than ever. The OECD offers an international platform to provide policy makers across countries and regions with sound analytical support and foster the exchange of practices and mutual learning.

This case study provides insight into the policy responses adopted by the Italian regions, with the evidence stemming from this work potentially useful for other countries not yet as severely affected.

## 2. SME policies responses of the Italian government at a glance

Since the beginning of March 2020, the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) has been gathering the national policy responses towards SMEs in the context of the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

The note discusses the channels – both on the supply (reduction in the supply of labour, interruption of the supply chains) and the demand side (drop in spending and consumption) – by which SMEs are likely to be affected by the current coronavirus pandemic. It also reports on early evidence or estimations about impact and provides a preliminary inventory of country responses to foster SME resilience. Given the rapid pace of developments, the overview of country responses is not comprehensive and includes in some cases intended policy responses that are still work in progress, or simply at the stage of public announcements. The overview will be updated periodically.<sup>17</sup>

In all OECD countries, SMEs account for the vast majority of companies, value added and force.<sup>18</sup> In some regions and sectors that have been particularly affected by the situation, the prevalence of SMEs is even higher. Compared to larger companies, SMEs may have less resilience and flexibility in dealing with the costs these shocks entail. In addition, given the fewer resources of SMEs and existing obstacles in accessing capital, the period over which SMEs can survive the shock may be more limited than for larger firms. As the OECD Interim Outlook signals, there is a risk that otherwise solvent firms, particularly SMEs, could go bankrupt while containment measures are in force.<sup>19</sup>

The relative importance of SMEs is even higher in Italy, where they generate 66.9% of overall value added in the national “non-financial business economy”, exceeding the EU average of 56.4%. The share of employment generated by SMEs is also greater, at 78.1%, compared to the EU average of 66.6%. Micro firms are particularly important, providing 44.9% of employment compared to the EU average of 29.7%. The observation of the policy responses adopted by the Italian government and regions should account for this.<sup>20</sup>

On 16 March, the Italian government announced details of a EUR 25 billion (1.4% of GDP) bill. Decree-law no. 18 of 17 March 2020 (known as “Cura Italia”), which entered into force on the same day, consists of an extensive (127 articles) package of measures aimed at strengthening the healthcare system and

<sup>17</sup> [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=119\\_119680-di6h3qgj4x&title=Covid-19\\_SME\\_Policy\\_Responses](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=119_119680-di6h3qgj4x&title=Covid-19_SME_Policy_Responses)

<sup>18</sup> OECD SME and Entrepreneurship 2019: <https://www.oecd.org/industry/oecd-sme-and-entrepreneurship-outlook-2019-34907e9c-en.htm>

<sup>19</sup> OECD Interim Economic Assessment, 2 March 2020: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/7969896b-en.pdf?expires=1584796350&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=D295E0CC421CB026568481F1B97B0DF8>. See page 13: “*In the short term, the provision of adequate liquidity in the financial system is also a key policy, allowing banks to provide help to companies with cash-flow problems, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, and ensuring that otherwise solvent firms do not go bankrupt whilst containment measures are in force*”.

<sup>20</sup> European Commission, SBA Fact Sheet Italy 2019: <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/38662/attachments/16/translations/en/renditions/native>

providing economic support to households, workers and businesses.<sup>21</sup> Policy responses addressing employees and self-employed include:

- Parents with children younger than 12, who are employed in the private sectors or self-employed, can benefit from a parental leave for a continuous or split period up to 15 days, with an allowance equal to 50% of their salary. The age limit does not apply in the case of children with disabilities.
- In addition, private sector dependent parents with minor children between 12 and 16 years of age have the right to unpaid leave during the school closing period, with a prohibition on dismissal and right to job retention.
- As an alternative to leave, parents can opt for a voucher of EUR 600 (EUR 1 000 if they work in the health sector) for costs incurred to pay a babysitter.
- Postponement of payments for social security and welfare contributions for domestic workers.
- EUR 100 tax-free bonus for employees who continue working in their workplace in March 2020, provided that their annual income is below EUR 40 000.
- Temporary suspension of mortgage payments for first-time homebuyers, including self-employed who have lost more than one-third of their turnover during the last quarter.
- A fund for last resort income support (appropriation of EUR 300 million for 2020) is established for employees and self-employed workers who ceased, reduced or suspended their employment relationship or business due to the pandemic.
- Self-employed workers (spanning from freelance professionals to collaborators with contractual forms other than employment) will receive a tax-free one-time allowance of EUR 600 for March 2020.
- The same type of benefit will be provided to seasonal workers and workers operating in the most affected sectors, such as tourism, agriculture and entertainment.
- Deadlines for applications to get unemployment benefits have been extended to make it easier for employees and collaborators (as defined above). Special provisions apply to workers in agriculture.
- Self-employed, freelance professionals and businesses with revenues lower than EUR 2 million can defer tax payments, including annual/monthly VAT and social security and insurance. Payments are deferred to 31 May and they can be paid in a single solution or in up to five monthly instalments.

A second set of measures provided by the 17 March package aim to support businesses. In most cases, policies aims specifically at SMEs. They include:

- Micro-enterprises and SMEs of all types, including freelancers and sole proprietorships, can benefit from a moratorium on a total volume of loans estimated at around EUR 220 billion. Current account credit lines, loans for advances on securities, short-term loan maturities and instalments of loans due are frozen until 30 September. Part of these is made up of sums already disbursed which should have been repaid, representing in practice a new loan from the bank until 30 September, whereas the other part is made up of new financing which the company can obtain by using the credit line which is frozen. Banks or other lending institutions can activate a public guarantee covering 33% of the lent amount.
- EUR 1.5 billion increase in the appropriation of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs (Italy's main national credit guarantee facility), including for the purpose of renegotiating existing loans. Adding together existing and new loans, the objective is to allow guarantees for more than EUR 100 billion in total financing to businesses from the National Guarantee Fund.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/17/20G00034/sg>

- In addition to increasing the financial endowment of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs, standard regulations on the functioning of the Fund have been temporarily modified as follows:
  - Ceilings for guarantees to be provided for a single company have been raised from EUR 2.5 million to EUR 5 million;
  - Guarantees are provided for free, fees otherwise due to the fund are suspended;
  - Debt rescheduling operations are eligible for the public guarantee;
  - Automatic extension of the guarantee in the event of a moratorium or suspension of funding because of the coronavirus emergency, and;
  - Extension to private entities of the faculty to contribute to increasing the endowment of the fund (previously limited to banks, regions and other public bodies);
- Incentive for banking and industrial companies to sell their substandard or impaired loans by converting their Deferred Tax Assets into Tax Credits. The intervention frees up new liquid resources for companies and allows banks to grant new credit for an estimated amount of up to EUR 10 billion.
- EUR 200 million in measures to support the troubled airline, Alitalia, and Air Italy.
- Redundancies for “justified objective reasons” banned for the next two months.
- Redundancy fund boosted by EUR 5 billion to provide nine weeks’ salary for workers not covered by other social safety nets. Administrative processes are simplified.

Confindustria, the main business association at national level, commented on the “Cura Italia” decree positively. Nevertheless, on 20 March 2020 it published a note titled “Let’s face the emergency for the protection of employment – Proposals for an immediate reaction”, containing a package of additional proposals including modifications to the European and national regulatory framework and urgent interventions for the financial support of all companies.<sup>22</sup>

On 22 March 2020, a decree of the president of the council of the ministers suspended all non-essential or strategic production activities, guaranteeing the continued opening of grocery stores, pharmacies, other shops for basic needs and the maintenance of essential services. On 25 March, the previous decree was amended to clarify which activities qualify as non-essential.<sup>23</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Council of Ministers approved the so-called “Liquidity Decree”, disclosing its main components pending publication in the Official Gazette:<sup>24</sup>

- State guarantees through SACE: public guarantees amounting to EUR 200 billion will be granted by SACE (a public company specialising in the export insurance-financing sector) on bank loans to companies of all sizes. The guarantee will cover between 70% and 90% of the amount financed, depending on the size of the company, and is subject to a number of conditions such as no dividends paid by the beneficiary company for the following twelve months. Specifically, Italian companies with less than 5 000 employees and a turnover of less than EUR 1.5 billion are eligible for a 90% loan coverage and a simplified procedure of access to the guarantee. The coverage falls to 80% for companies with more than 5 000 employees and a turnover over EUR 1.5 billion but less than EUR 5 billion, and to 70% for companies with a turnover of more than EUR 5 billion. The amount of the guarantee may not exceed 25% of the turnover in 2019 or twice the personnel costs incurred by the company. EUR 30 billion are reserved for SMEs, including sole proprietorships and freelancers, and access to the guarantee issued by SACE will be subject to the condition that

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.confindustria.it/notizie/dettaglio-notizie/Affrontiamo-emergenza-per-la-tutela-del-lavoro-Proposte-per-una-reazione-immediata>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/26/20A01877/sg>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Gualtieri-Un-bazooka-di-liquidita/>

businesses have exhausted their capacity to use the credit issued by the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs.

- Enhancement of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs: new loans for a maximum duration of 6 years to SMEs and freelancers, for a maximum amount of EUR 25 000 and in any case not exceeding 25% of the beneficiary's income, are guaranteed by the Fund with 100% coverage and without a credit merit evaluation. The loan payments start no earlier than 18 months after the disbursement of the loan. The Fund may now also grant guarantees free of charge up to a maximum amount of EUR 5 million to enterprises with fewer than 499 employees. The guarantee from the Fund itself is 90% of the amount. Finally, for enterprises with revenue of up to EUR 3.2 million, the 90% guarantee granted by the Fund may be combined with another guarantee from a third party to obtain loans with a 100% coverage on loans of up to EUR 800 000 (but not exceeding 25% of the beneficiary's revenue).
- Export support: the Decree also introduces a co-insurance system under which 90% of the commitments deriving from SACE's insurance activity are assumed by the State and the remaining 10% by the company itself, thus freeing up to a further EUR 200 billion of resources to be allocated to the strengthening of exports. The aim is to enable SACE to meet the growing demand to insure operations deemed to be of strategic interest to the national economy, which the company would otherwise not have the financial capacity to cover.

While waiting for more details on the "Liquidity Decree" described above, in an attempt to provide a complete overview, it is necessary to look at regional policy responses. Within the Italian decentralised institutional setting, regions play a major role in economic development matters and SME policies. Through examining their actions it is possible to obtain a broader perspective on SME measures taken at all levels of governance, beyond the central government.

### 3. A look at the Italian regional setting

#### *A decentralised institutional setting*

Italy has a three-tier system of subnational governments: regions, provinces and municipalities. Italy is often referred to as a "regionalised country", particularly since the constitutional reform of 2001 and a 2009 law on "fiscal federalism" granted greater autonomy to the regions. Furthermore, Italy has an asymmetric decentralisation with fifteen regions with ordinary statute and five regions with special statute enjoying even more legislative and financial autonomy (Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sardinia, Sicily and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol).<sup>25</sup> The final region listed has two provinces, each with its own special statute, and a high degree of autonomy in a number of matters, including fiscal.<sup>26</sup>

#### *Regions' main responsibilities*

Regions have played an increasingly important role since the 2001 Constitutional reform, which provided them with exclusive legislative power with respect to any matter not expressly reserved to the central government. This means they have the freedom to determine policy in a wide range of fields (including healthcare, transport, social services and housing, economic development, environmental protection, culture, agriculture, education, etc.); however, some of these areas are managed jointly with the central government.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/profile-Italy.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> [http://www.giunta.provincia.tn.it/binary/pat\\_giunta/statuti/stat\\_ing.1123837756.pdf](http://www.giunta.provincia.tn.it/binary/pat_giunta/statuti/stat_ing.1123837756.pdf)

### ***Financial aspects***

The 2001 Constitutional reform and law No. 42 of 2009 on fiscal federalism set a milestone for Italy in its gradual move towards decentralisation, implying a strong increase in subnational government expenditure and revenue. Subnational government tax revenue comprises both shared and own taxes, including a regional tax for corporate income (IRAP) and a surtax on personal income (IRPEF).<sup>27</sup> In this context, regions can count on large financial endowments to fund businesses and provide them with fiscal incentives.<sup>28</sup> Indeed, the number of regional programmes for start-ups, SMEs – and business in general – is considerable.<sup>29</sup>

### ***The major role played by European funds***

In addition to regional funds, a number of European instruments are available for enterprises. EU Structural Funds (and national co-financing) together with the national Fund for Development and Cohesion (Fondo Sviluppo e Coesione) are part of a unitary planning approach to support regional development in all areas of the country and, in particular, in regions that are lagging behind. Overall, financial resources for the 2014-2020 programming period amount to EUR 140.6 billion, of which EUR 44.6 billion is from European Structural and Investment Funds.

At the institutional level, Italy's Agency for Territorial Cohesion provides technical support to central, regional and local administrations in the implementation of regional policy programmes and investment projects.<sup>30</sup>

### ***Economic trends in regions***

Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Piedmont, the most affected regions in terms of casualties to date, account for 48.2% of Italy's GDP. Lombardy alone accounts for more than one fifth of Italy's GDP (22%). It also hosts 15.7% of Italy's firms and is by far the most populated Italian region.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/profile-Italy.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> [https://www.camera.it/application/xmanager/projects/leg17/attachments/infografica/pdfs/000/000/017/TITOLO\\_V\\_W EB\\_V1.pdf](https://www.camera.it/application/xmanager/projects/leg17/attachments/infografica/pdfs/000/000/017/TITOLO_V_W EB_V1.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> See, for instance: <http://www.finanziamentistartup.eu/agevolazioni/>

<sup>30</sup> OECD Regional Outlook 2019, Italy: [https://www.oecd.org/cfe/\\_Italy.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/cfe/_Italy.pdf)

**Table 1. Distribution of Italian regions by GDP (per capita), number of firms, residents and reported COVID cases**

Region	GDP (M EUR)	GDP per capita (EUR)	No. of firms	Resident population	Reported COVID cases
Lombardy	388 124	38 844	954 672	10 060 574	28 343
Lazio	197 548	33 584	662 514	5 879 082	3 365
Veneto	162 866	33 267	484 083	4 905 854	9 965
Emilia-Romagna	161 505	36 288	451 976	4 459 477	13 048
Piedmont	137 338	31 489	428 457	4 356 406	10 704
Tuscany	117 537	31 540	412 820	3 729 641	5 427
Campania	108 053	18 587	597 208	5 801 692	2 765
Sicily	89 004	17 677	467 750	4 999 891	1 859
Apulia	76 914	18 653	381 313	4 029 053	2 137
Liguria	49 900	32 249	162 368	1 550 640	3 212
Marche	43,305	28 076	168 396	1 525 271	3 738
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	38 021	31 364	101 839	1 215 220	1 379
Sardinia	34 913	21 012	170 067	1 639 591	821
Abruzzo	33 864	25 579	148 712	1 311 580	1 491
Calabria	33 256	16 980	187 107	1 947 131	733
Bolzano/Bozen	24 921	47 041	59 239	531 178	1 301
Umbria	22 468	25 289	94 323	882 015	846
Trento	20 539	38 124	50 846	541 098	1 890
Basilicata	12 571	21 873	60 493	562 869	265
Molise	6 429	20 651	35 470	305 617	185
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	4 895	38 936	12 318	125 666	593
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 763 971</b>	<b>28 910</b>	<b>6 091 971</b>	<b>60 359 546</b>	<b>94 067</b>

Source: Regional GDP: Eurostat 2018; Regional GDP per capita: ISTAT 2018; No. of firms: InfoCamere 2019; No. of residents: ISTAT 2019; Reported COVID-19 cases (current positive): Protezione Civile, 08/04/2020.

Cross-regional differences in economic performance should be considered during the analysis of the policy responses. From a dynamic perspective, the already large regional economic disparities in Italy have slightly increased over the last sixteen years. In the province of Bolzano-Bozen the level of GDP per capita was two and a half times higher than in Calabria in 2016. With a productivity growth of 0.2% per year over the period 2000-16, Bolzano-Bozen experienced the highest productivity growth among Italian regions, much below the OECD average of 1.1% in the same period. With a negative productivity growth of -1% per year in Molise, the gap with Bolzano-Bozen has widened further, especially since 2010. Notwithstanding a small improvement in recent years, youth unemployment rate in Calabria is still among the highest in the OECD area, with over 55% of youths unemployed. Youth unemployment rates above 50% are also observed in Apulia, Campania and Sicilia, while the province of Bolzano-Bozen shows the

lowest rate in the country (10% in 2017). Finally, Italy has the largest regional disparities among OECD countries in terms of unemployment rate.<sup>31</sup>

## 4. Italian regions on the frontline of the policy response

### **General trends in regional SME policy responses**

Given the rapid pace of developments, the overview of regional responses is not comprehensive and in some cases includes intended policy responses that are still work in progress, or simply at the stage of public announcements. Periodic updates will be provided in the coming weeks.

As of 8 April 2020, all regions and autonomous provinces have launched at least one SME measure. In total, there were 229 measures on that day, 55 more compared to 1 April 2020. This trend was consistent with the increase of 60 in the week prior. The very first measure was the Lombardy's call for the adoption of smart working business plans by SMEs dating back to 20 February 2020.

Although two thirds of the measures on record do not imply any cost for regional finance, it is estimated that the regional policies launched so far involve a total budget of EUR 1.39 billion (with a weekly increase of EUR 410 million).

This section provides a preliminary classification of the reported regional policy responses in an attempt to answer four essential questions:

- a) What are the main types of policy responses adopted by Italian regions? Which ones are more frequent, and across which regions?
- b) In their first responses, are Italian regional policy makers leaning more towards a “one-fits-all” approach or, rather, measures with a sectoral focus? When a sectoral focus is explicit, what are the prevailing sectors?
- c) Are there any linkages between the regional responses adopted during the last month and the policies devised by the central government during or prior to the emergency?
- d) To what extent are regional policy responses aimed specifically at SMEs, and what is the share of “horizontal” measures, i.e. measures addressing any firm, regardless of the size?

#### **a) Typology of policy responses across regions**

The recorded measures can be divided into six policy macro-areas:

1. *Access to bank credit* (29 measures in 16 regions): this macro-area includes all interventions aimed at facilitating access to bank credit for SMEs and reducing related costs. Typical examples are credit guarantee funds (national or regional), the reduction of interest on credit, the suspension of instalments of loans or the rescheduling of amortisation plans over longer periods.
2. *Public financing* (65 measures in 17 regions): the introduction or remodelling at more favourable conditions of any type of subsidised financing for SMEs provided by regional public institutions, such as interest-free loans, non-repayable loans, alternative finance instruments and other financial instruments.
3. *Simplified procedures* (59 measures in 19 regions): measures aimed streamlining bureaucratic procedures for SMEs – such as the deferral of deadlines for submitting applications for public funding programmes or for reporting on investment plans subject to public incentives – and regulatory simplifications (including in the field of public procurement).

<sup>31</sup> OECD Regions and Cities at a glance, 2018: <https://www.oecd.org/regional/ITALY-Regions-and-Cities-2018.pdf>

4. *Labour and welfare* (41 interventions in 21 regions): policies to maintain employment levels and support temporarily unemployed workers in SMEs, such as incentives for smart working and out-of-work benefits, including regional allocations to supplement the national redundancy fund.
5. *Tax relief* (17 interventions in 13 regions): measures aimed at reducing or postponing the tax burden for SMEs, such as the deferral of tax deadlines, exemption from tax advances, advance payment of public contributions and the like.
6. *Planning and budgeting* (18 interventions in 11 regions): this category includes the establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination and dialogue task forces to design policies, as well as regulatory provisions aimed at reprogramming and reallocating budgets to deal with the emergency.

**Table 2. Regional breakdown of policy responses by macro-area of intervention**

Region	Access to bank credit	Public funding	Simplified procedures	Work and welfare	Tax relief	Planning and budgeting
Abruzzo						
Aosta Valley/Vallée d'Aoste						
Apulia						
Basilicata						
Bolzano-Bozen						
Calabria						
Campania						
Emilia-Romagna						
Friuli-Venezia Giulia						
Lazio						
Liguria						
Lombardy						
Marche						
Molise						
Piedmont						
Sardinia						
Sicily						
Tuscany						
Trento						
Umbria						
Veneto						
<b>Total regions</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>

Source: OECD Trento Centre, 2020

Figure 1 provides an overview of the spatial coverage across regions in terms of the six above-mentioned types of policy responses.

**Figure 1. Regional breakdown of policy responses by macro-area of intervention**



Source: OECD Trento Centre, 2020

### **b) One-fits-all vs. sectoral focus**

Policy responses without an explicit sectoral focus represent 161 out of 229 recorded entries (about 7 out of 10). Among measures with a sectoral focus, tourism and agriculture have the highest share (respectively 27 and 17 occurrences), followed by commerce (10) and cultural industries (4). Another noteworthy industry is the construction sector, which is expected to particularly benefit from measures aimed at deferring public procurement deadlines (4 occurrences).

At a moment when the time factor plays a key role, measures without an explicit sectoral focus may have been preferred because they are arguably faster to design and implement. In fact, these do not require differentiation between admitted and excluded sectors, which is typically quite complex and burdensome from a technical point of view and delicate from a political point of view. This was evident in decree-law of 22 March 2020, where the government distinguished between “essential” and “non-essential” sectors<sup>32</sup>. Not to mention that one-fits-all policies may raise fewer concerns among recipients in terms of their potential eligibility.

However, the prevailing absence of an explicit sectoral focus should not lead to the conclusion that measures will have a homogeneous impact across sectors. In fact, some sectors have been affected by the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 earlier and more severely than others have, and as such the need for incentives and aids is not evenly distributed. In addition, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises – which, as we will see further on, are the explicit target of most of the reported measures – play an uneven role across industries in terms of employment and value of production, implying that benefits will not be distributed homogeneously across sectors.

### **c) Presence of linkages with national policies**

Disentangling linkages between regional measures, the national policy framework and European funding and programmes is typically not an easy task even in normal circumstances. This becomes even more complex when rapid policy responses in face of an emergency are required. Several measures are still at an announcement stage, and even when launched, legal sources are often not yet available. Therefore, an in-depth analysis is required at a later stage.

Nevertheless, if observed in the context of the national policy framework described in the second chapter, regional responses reveal a high level of consistency with central government and, in at least three cases, the link is explicit:

1. The establishment or strengthening of regional special sections of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs is a clear example of a complementary, multi-level policy. As mentioned in Chapter 2, national regulations allow regions to set up and finance special sections of the Fund reserved for companies located in their territory. Regions often use European funding for this purpose. In this way, regional action makes use of a national instrument and enhances its effects.
2. Another example is the redundancy fund set up at the national level to benefit the unemployed not covered by other forms of social protection. The above-mentioned "Cura Italia" Decree regulates the distribution of resources among regions,<sup>33</sup> entrusting them to stipulate an institutional agreement with the social partners with the purpose of effective disbursement of the subsidy. The list of measures in the next section includes a number of examples of this kind. In some cases, regions are the first to report on the use of such instrument.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/italy-tightens-quarantine-as-it-battles-worlds-deadliest-coronavirus-outbreak-11584880383>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2020/DI-del-24032020-Riparto-risorse-Cassa-in-deroga.pdf>

3. The “Credit Agreement” signed on 6 March 2020 by the Italian Banking Association and business associations to encourage moratoria on loan repayment by companies: the Agreement provides that regions can join to encourage the involvement of local banks.

Beyond complementary efforts, many regional policy responses listed in the next section appear to be very similar to measures adopted at the national level, showing a fair degree of consistency between the two levels of governance. The deferral of tax deadlines and of application deadlines for public funding call, moratoria on loan repayment and other policy solutions can be found both at the national and regional levels, in their respective fields of competence.

#### **d) Horizontal approach vs. SME-specific policies**

All the measures described in the following pages are aimed at SMEs, as can be expected for a country where they make up 99.9% of the overall number of enterprises.<sup>34</sup> In almost all cases, SMEs are the exclusive target. In fact, measures specifically targeting large enterprises are rare. Measures explicitly targeting types such as micro-enterprises, start-ups, and self-employed, often mentioned alongside SMEs, are less rare. In cases when the target group is not explicitly identified (many policies are generically presented as “for the benefit of enterprises”), it is nevertheless the very nature of the instruments which indicates beyond any reasonable doubt that the target enterprises are SMEs. The National Guarantee Fund for SME mentioned above, for example, can only and exclusively be activated for SMEs. All measures adopted in compliance with European State aid regulations, such as *de minimis* contributions, are addressed only to SMEs by default. In other cases, even in the absence of explicit elements, the very nature of the adopted instruments (microcredit, seed loans, etc.) most likely suggests that SMEs are the only recipients. Finally, it is interesting to note that a very recurrent measure, i.e. the redundancy fund, normally reserved for larger enterprises, has been extended in the light of the current emergency to micro-enterprises with fewer than six employees. For instance, in Lazio, one of the first regions to publish evidence on the effects of this measure, 93.7% of the beneficiaries are micro-enterprises (see below for reference).

### **Full list of regional SME policy responses**

#### *Abruzzo*

The measures announced on 13 March 2020 are specifically targeted at SMEs and the self-employed and include:

- The suspension of all regional taxes until the end of the emergency;
- Unused regional funds will be converted into business support instruments;
- The unused European Structural Funds from the 2014-2020 EU financial period will be converted into business support instruments;
- Refinancing of the regional microcredit fund;
- Planned use of funds from the new 2021-2027 EU financial period for business support;
- Issue of bonds to support SMEs in accessing finance as an alternative to bank credit.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>34</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/38662/attachments/16/translations/en/renditions/native>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.regione.abruzzo.it/content/coronavirus-febbo-annuncia-misure-occupazione-ed-economia>

With a decree of 9 March 2020, the president of the regional council suspended the terms of payment of instalments for loans provided by the in-house regional agencies Abruzzo Sviluppo S.p.A. and Fi.R.A. S.p.A. Unipersonale.<sup>36</sup>

In addition, deadlines for two programmes funded in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund have been deferred, aimed respectively at investments in capital goods and R&D.<sup>37</sup>

On 30 March 2020 an institutional agreement with social partners was signed to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 27 157 200.<sup>38</sup>

Regional bill No. 106 of 2 April 2020 provides for a wide range of measures:

- Immediate payment for the public works managed by the region, provinces and municipalities, in collaboration with the Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (Italy's national development bank), for a total of EUR 20 million;
- Grants to micro enterprises and SMEs amounting to EUR 13 million;
- Allocation of EUR 10 million to suspend the fees owed by firms, which are a part of land reclamation consortia;
- Allocation of EUR 6.3 million to support investments by micro enterprises and SMEs to convert their activity into the production of health care devices;
- Allocation of EUR 5 million to suspend the fees due by firms, which are a part of industrial development consortia;
- Financing of development projects for a total of EUR 5.5 million.<sup>39</sup>

### *Aosta Valley/Vallée d'Aoste*

This autonomous region has launched several measures to support SMEs:

- On 9 March 2020, a package of measures was announced, including regional and municipal tax relief, non-repayable financing and other types of aid (planned budget of EUR 10 million);<sup>40</sup>
- Establishment of a new credit guarantee instrument managed by the local Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with regional guarantee institutions;
- Advance payment of wage subsidies to ensure the continuity of workers' income in the event of suspension or reduction of activity, in line with national policies;<sup>41</sup>

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.abruzzo sviluppo.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ordinanza\\_9\\_2020.pdf](http://www.abruzzo sviluppo.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ordinanza_9_2020.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.regione.abruzzo.it/content/por-fesr-abruzzo-2014-2020-asse-i-%C2%A0azione-111-%C2%A0asse-iii-azione-311-proroga-termini-di>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/content/coronavirus-fioretti-libera-ad-accordo-quadro-cassa-integrazione-deroga>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.abruzzo sviluppo.it/2020/04/02/coronavirus-consiglio-regionale-approva-progetto-legge-sostegno-economia-occupazione/>

<sup>40</sup> [http://www.ansa.it/valledaosta/notizie/2020/03/09/coronavirus-previsto-pacchetto-10-mln-sostegno-economia-vda\\_46af3e77-aca8-4385-a174-953ad369ee31.html](http://www.ansa.it/valledaosta/notizie/2020/03/09/coronavirus-previsto-pacchetto-10-mln-sostegno-economia-vda_46af3e77-aca8-4385-a174-953ad369ee31.html)

<sup>41</sup> <https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/VediNewsi/A0146A86AFE96977C125852D006444E7?OpenDocument>

- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 3 233 000;<sup>42</sup>
- Suspension for 12 months of the payment of instalments on soft loans granted by the regional financial company Finaosta S.p.A.;<sup>43</sup>
- Deferral of terms for applications under a regional programme to support growth and jobs (European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020);<sup>44</sup>
- Extension of application deadlines for authorisations for new planting of vines.<sup>45</sup>

## Apulia

Resolution No. 283 adopted by the regional government on 5 March 2020 provides as follows:

- Deferral by 12 months of any deadline for investment plans granted or subsidised by the region under various regional programmes aimed, inter alia, at SMEs and the tourism sector. The investment plans relating to these programmes will be extended;
- The extension up to six months of the loans granted by the regional administration under the subsidised financing programmes managed by the Puglia Sviluppo S.p.A. regional development agency (microcredit, support for the internationalisation of enterprises, etc.).<sup>46</sup>

Other measures taken in the last few days include:

- A set of measures (mostly extending deadlines for bureaucratic fulfilments) to support SMEs and in the following sectors: culture, entertainment, cinema, tourism;<sup>47</sup>
- Activation of the redundancy fund for employees of partnerships and shock absorbers for the partners of such firms.<sup>48</sup>
- Allocation of EUR 23.6 million for investment aid for SMEs;
- Allocation of EUR 12.6 million for investment aid for SMEs in tourism;<sup>49</sup>
- A 60-day deferral of the submission deadline for applications to the "Smart Grids" call for proposals on energy efficiency;<sup>50</sup>

<sup>42</sup>[https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie\\_ita/69739C9D23D2E3C1C1258538005C50F5?OpenDocument=ita](https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie_ita/69739C9D23D2E3C1C1258538005C50F5?OpenDocument=ita)

<sup>43</sup>[https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie\\_ita/0C0CC15CCD0B3537C1258536005FDF41?OpenDocument=ita](https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie_ita/0C0CC15CCD0B3537C1258536005FDF41?OpenDocument=ita)

<sup>44</sup>[https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie\\_ita/76DDD8A1487DC6C4C1258538004716B0?OpenDocument=ita](https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie_ita/76DDD8A1487DC6C4C1258538004716B0?OpenDocument=ita)

<sup>45</sup>[https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie\\_ita/AC75E1D20F0C7143C1258543004BCD7E?OpenDocument=ita](https://appweb.regione.vda.it/dbweb/Comunicati.nsf/ElencoNotizie_ita/AC75E1D20F0C7143C1258543004BCD7E?OpenDocument=ita)

<sup>46</sup>[http://www.regione.puglia.it/documents/3653273/50742580/283\\_2020\\_03\\_05.pdf/a5046a0a-5cb4-4511-8c81-3a75657be14c](http://www.regione.puglia.it/documents/3653273/50742580/283_2020_03_05.pdf/a5046a0a-5cb4-4511-8c81-3a75657be14c)

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.fasi.biz/it/notizie/approfondimenti/21755-coronavirus-tutti-i-contributi-delle-regioni-per-famiglie-e-impres.html>

<sup>48</sup>[http://www.sistema.puglia.it/portal/pls/portal/SISPUGLIA.RPT\\_DETtagliO\\_DOC.show?p\\_arg\\_names=id\\_arg\\_val ues=55558\\_arg\\_names=\\_PAGINATE\\_arg\\_values=NO](http://www.sistema.puglia.it/portal/pls/portal/SISPUGLIA.RPT_DETtagliO_DOC.show?p_arg_names=id_arg_val ues=55558_arg_names=_PAGINATE_arg_values=NO)

<sup>49</sup> <https://bit.ly/3cju2Zd>

<sup>50</sup> [http://www.regione.puglia.it/web/pressregione/pressregione-rss/-/asset\\_publisher/V2vFLtqdAjTg/content/id/50859368](http://www.regione.puglia.it/web/pressregione/pressregione-rss/-/asset_publisher/V2vFLtqdAjTg/content/id/50859368)

- Derogation of the deadlines for the regional energy cadastre to become fully operational;<sup>51</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 106 559 680.<sup>52</sup> On 2 April, 16 720 applications for the redundancy fund were sent, covering 59 725 for a total amount of EUR 68.5 million;<sup>53</sup>
- A 3-month deferral of the deadlines for implementation of the Urban Commercial Districts activities;<sup>54</sup>
- A simplified procedure for allocation of agricultural diesel;<sup>55</sup>
- Authorisation for local guarantee banks that were assigned regional funds to grant credit directly to Apulia's micro and small enterprises and self-employed persons, thus ensuring immediate liquidity by more than EUR 20 million;<sup>56</sup>
- Establishment of a regional section of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs, increasing the ordinary counter-guarantee coverage by up to 90%, in order to facilitate access to credit for SMEs;<sup>57</sup>
- Delayed payment of water consumption bills by SMEs, with a moratorium both in the payment of accrued debts (deferred in 12 monthly instalments) and for new invoices issued until 30 June 2020;
- Acceleration in payments to companies benefiting from regional measures, with the support of Puglia Sviluppo, ARTI (Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation) and InnovaPuglia;
- Establishment of a task force together with the Polytechnic University of Bari to support Apulian companies willing to convert their activity to production of personal protective equipment or individual components of respirators for intensive care.<sup>58</sup>

### *Basilicata*

On 11 March 2020, the regional department for economic development announced, among others, the following measures:

- Exemption from the regional corporate income tax due for 2020 by firms in the tourism sector, such as hotels and restaurants;

<sup>51</sup> [http://www.regione.puglia.it/web/pressregione/pressregione-rss/-/asset\\_publisher/V2vFLtqdAjTg/content/id/50859368](http://www.regione.puglia.it/web/pressregione/pressregione-rss/-/asset_publisher/V2vFLtqdAjTg/content/id/50859368)

<sup>52</sup> [http://www.regione.puglia.it/news?p\\_p\\_auth=dBO9R9BQ&p\\_id=56\\_INSTANCE\\_8oLBJ0XOEEsq&p\\_p\\_lifecycle=0&p\\_p\\_state=normal&p\\_p\\_mode=view&p\\_col\\_id=column-2&p\\_p\\_col\\_count=1&\\_56\\_INSTANCE\\_8oLBJ0XOEEsq\\_articleId=51050234&\\_56\\_INSTANCE\\_8oLBJ0XOEEsq\\_groupId=3653273&\\_56\\_INSTANCE\\_8oLBJ0XOEEsq\\_version=1.3&\\_56\\_INSTANCE\\_8oLBJ0XOEEsq\\_categoryName=Agreement+Framework+Region+Apulia+for+fruition+of+the+box+integration+in+derogation](http://www.regione.puglia.it/news?p_p_auth=dBO9R9BQ&p_id=56_INSTANCE_8oLBJ0XOEEsq&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_col_id=column-2&p_p_col_count=1&_56_INSTANCE_8oLBJ0XOEEsq_articleId=51050234&_56_INSTANCE_8oLBJ0XOEEsq_groupId=3653273&_56_INSTANCE_8oLBJ0XOEEsq_version=1.3&_56_INSTANCE_8oLBJ0XOEEsq_categoryName=Agreement+Framework+Region+Apulia+for+fruition+of+the+box+integration+in+derogation)

<sup>53</sup> <https://bit.ly/39VKKvY>

<sup>54</sup> [http://www.regione.puglia.it/web/pressregione/pressregione-rss/-/asset\\_publisher/V2vFLtqdAjTg/content/id/50906269](http://www.regione.puglia.it/web/pressregione/pressregione-rss/-/asset_publisher/V2vFLtqdAjTg/content/id/50906269)

<sup>55</sup> <https://bit.ly/2RkZbmL>

<sup>56</sup> <https://bit.ly/3e7d3uY>

<sup>57</sup> <https://bit.ly/39VBs3l>

<sup>58</sup> <https://bit.ly/39VBs3l>

- The region is expected to join an agreement signed on 6 March by the national associations representing Italian banks and cooperatives, aimed at suspending loan instalments to cooperatives for operations subsidised through regional programmes;
- Regional subsidies will be made applicable retroactively to cover investment and costs incurred for current expenditure by SMEs and freelancers during the emergency;
- Activation of a regional fund for subsidised start-up loans (up to EUR 30 000) to SMEs in all sectors. The fund will be managed by the regional agency Sviluppo Basilicata S.p.A. (initial allocation of EUR 9.7 million). The loans will finance both investment and current expenditure.<sup>59</sup>

More recently, the "First package of urgent support measures for businesses, workers and families" was introduced, including:<sup>60</sup>

- Support to businesses adopting smart working plans (previously announced on 11 March 2020): SMEs, self-employed workers and freelancers can receive aid of up to 70% of the expenditure incurred for the activation of smart working plans for their employees, for a total budget of EUR 3 million. Eligible investments include tangible and intangible capital goods, for a maximum contribution of EUR 200 000;
- Establishment of a fund for financing cooperatives (cap of EUR 350 000 per company), to support their capitalisation and maintain employment levels (allocation: EUR 3 880 000);<sup>61</sup>
- Extension of the terms for investments co-financed by regional incentive instruments and suspension of the payment of instalments for subsidised loans granted by Sviluppo Basilicata S.p.A. within the framework of programmes aimed at micro-enterprises in the start-up phase and SMEs, as well as sectors such as industry 4.0 and financial instruments such as microcredit;<sup>62</sup>
- Accession of the region to the abovementioned national agreement on credit: companies that have received bank loans for investments co-financed by regional incentive instruments can benefit from the suspension and extension of instalments;
- An institutional agreement with social partners was signed to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 15 647 720.<sup>63</sup> On 7 April 2020, one day after the procedure was started, the region announced that 862 applications for redundancy payments were submitted by local firms.<sup>64</sup>

Finally, a regional task force has been set up to monitor the situation of local companies in the face of the current emergency.<sup>65</sup>

### *Bolzano/Bozen, autonomous province*

Several measures were announced on 11 March:

- Extension of delivery terms for public works contracts;<sup>66</sup>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/site/giunta/detail.jsp?sec=100133type=1012d=3063831alue=regione>

<sup>60</sup> [https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/files/docs/DOCUMENT\\_FILE\\_3064538.pdf](https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/files/docs/DOCUMENT_FILE_3064538.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/site/giunta/detail.jsp?sec=100133type=1012d=3064082alue=regione>

<sup>62</sup> [https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giuntacma/files/docs/DOCUMENT\\_FILE\\_3064193.pdf](https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giuntacma/files/docs/DOCUMENT_FILE_3064193.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/site/giunta/detail.jsp?sec=100133type=1012d=3064203alue=regione>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/site/giunta/detail.jsp?sec=100133type=1012d=3064773alue=regione>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/site/giunta/detail.jsp?sec=100133type=1012d=3064108alue=regione>

<sup>66</sup> [http://www.Provincia.bz.it/lavoro-economia/economia/news.asp?news\\_action=4ews\\_article\\_id=636186](http://www.Provincia.bz.it/lavoro-economia/economia/news.asp?news_action=4ews_article_id=636186)

- Agreement between the autonomous province, local banks and cooperatives to support access to and guarantees to credit for businesses;<sup>67</sup>
- Agreement between the autonomous province and the trade unions to streamline and make safer the procedures for applying to out-of-work benefits.<sup>68</sup>

During a press conference held on 18 March 2020, the provincial government announced the launch of two economic packages – already discussed with the social partners and being finalised at technical level – one of which contains measures to reinforce the policies introduced at national level. The latter provides for:

- Moratorium of up to 2 years for repayment of loan instalments granted on the regional revolving fund;
- Postponement of payment terms for local taxes and duties;
- Acceleration of the payment procedures for the contributions due to companies, and their payment even if the initiative for which the application was submitted (fairs, training courses, etc.) did not take place;
- A special allocation to increase the risk funds of guarantee cooperatives (Garfidi and Confidi), and higher guarantees by such entities.<sup>69</sup>

Details on three additional measures were provided during a press conference on 31 March 2020:

- Provision of non-repayable loans for small and very small enterprises (amounts will range between EUR 3 000 and EUR 10 000);
- Creation of an anti-crisis fund and establishment of new business support programmes (Restart Südtirol);
- An institutional agreement with social partners was signed to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 13 966 560;<sup>70</sup>
- On 7 April 2020, the provincial government announced changes in regulations that would allow introducing new economic measures to support businesses, self-employed workers and start-ups (e.g. a non-repayable funding for firms with up to 12 employees is envisaged).<sup>71</sup>

### *Calabria*

The first measure implemented by this region consists in the setup of a task force with the aim of identifying the strategic actions to support the regional economy, developing proposals for action specific to the most exposed sectors and promoting dialogue with the social partners.<sup>72</sup>

The following measures were introduced in the following days:

<sup>67</sup>[http://www.Provincia.bz.it/lavoro-economia/economia/news.asp?news\\_action=4ews\\_article\\_id=636164](http://www.Provincia.bz.it/lavoro-economia/economia/news.asp?news_action=4ews_article_id=636164)

<sup>68</sup>[http://www.Provincia.bz.it/lavoro-economia/economia/news.asp?news\\_action=4ews\\_article\\_id=636047](http://www.Provincia.bz.it/lavoro-economia/economia/news.asp?news_action=4ews_article_id=636047)

<sup>69</sup> [http://www.provinz.bz.it/news/de/news.asp?news\\_action=4ews\\_article\\_id=636489](http://www.provinz.bz.it/news/de/news.asp?news_action=4ews_article_id=636489)

<sup>70</sup>[http://www.provincia.bz.it/news/it/news.asp?news\\_action=4ews\\_article\\_id=637186](http://www.provincia.bz.it/news/it/news.asp?news_action=4ews_article_id=637186)

<sup>71</sup> [http://www.provincia.bz.it/news/it/news.asp?news\\_action=4ews\\_article\\_id=637494](http://www.provincia.bz.it/news/it/news.asp?news_action=4ews_article_id=637494)

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.unindustriacalabria.it/2020/03/18/la-regione-calabria-istituisce-una-task-force-a-sostegno-dei-settori-economico-produttivi-calabresi/>

- Suspension until 30 September 2020 of the payment of instalments on loans granted by the region (funds for employment and inclusion and for microcredit);<sup>73</sup>
- Extension of the requirements laid down in public notices for the implementation of investments, their completion and final reporting;<sup>74</sup>
- On 24 March 2020, an institutional agreement with social partners was signed to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 39 054 640.<sup>75</sup>

On 1 April 2020, an additional policy package known as the "Riparti Calabria" was announced, with a total budget of EUR 145 million:

- Establishment of fund, called "Liquidità Calabria", to grant loans to firms at subsidised rates;
- Liquidity support measures, such as increasing the endowment of the regional special section of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs;
- Other financial tools to support small firms (e.g. microcredit), with a focus on social enterprises, drawing from European Social Fund budget.<sup>76</sup>

### Campania

This region has shown an increasing dynamism during the last few weeks, and the measures put in place so far include:

- Acceleration of the procedures for the disbursement of regional funding to companies, also in derogation from official terms of contract, so as to provide firms with more liquidity;<sup>77</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 101 645 520;<sup>78</sup>
- Suspension of several regional taxes for freelancers;<sup>79</sup>

Budget of EUR 2 million to finance research and development activities to help overcome the current health emergency.<sup>80</sup>

The "Plan for the Socio-economic Emergency" of the Campania region, announced on 4 April 2020, provides for a wide range of interventions:

- Allocation of EUR 80 million for non-repayable grants to micro-enterprises (craft, commercial or industrial firms with less than 10 employees and up to EUR 2 million turnover) in sectors affected by the current economic emergency through a one-off grant of EUR 2 000 in April 2020;

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.regione.calabria.it/website/portaltemplates/view/view.cfm?17212>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.regione.calabria.it/website/portaltemplates/view/view.cfm?17213>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.regione.calabria.it/website/portaltemplates/view/view.cfm?17260>

<sup>76</sup> <https://portale.regione.calabria.it/website/portaltemplates/view/view.cfm?17326>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.ilgiornaledisalemno.it/coronavirus-la-regione-campania-a-sostegno-delle-imprese/>

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.nuvola.tv/regione-campania-firmato-laccordo-quadro-per-il-riconoscimento-dei-trattamenti-di-cassa-integrazione-salariale-in-deroga-ex-art-22-del-decreto-legge-17-marzo-2020/>

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.regione.campania.it/regione/it/news/comunicati-2020-52q7/18-03-2020-comunicato-n-74-covid-19-tasse-e-tributi-sospesi-dalla-regione-zj33?page=2>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.regione.campania.it/regione/it/news/regione-informa/avviso-di-manifestazioni-di-interesse-per-la-realizzazione-di-servizi-di-ricerca-e-sviluppo-per-la-lotta-contro-il-covid-19-rettifica-degli-allegati?page=1>

- Allocation of EUR 80 million for non-repayable grants to professionals and self-employed workers (with a turnover of less than EUR 35 000 in 2019 and self-assessing a reduction in activity in the first three months of 2020) through the disbursement of a one-off individual grant of EUR 1 000 in May 2020 in addition to the support already introduced by the national government;
- Allocation of EUR 13 million to set up a regional guarantee fund for credit operations activated by micro-enterprises operating in Campania, which are unable to access the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs. Loans are granted for a maximum of 18 months and for a maximum value of EUR 15 000;
- Allocation of EUR 5 million to grant a moratorium on loan instalments due by firms belonging to Industrial Development Area Consortia;
- Allocation of EUR 50 million for fisheries and agriculture enterprises, in the form of a one-off grant of EUR 1 500 for enterprises with up to 5 employees and of EUR 2 000 for enterprises with more than 5 employees;
- Allocation of EUR 1 million for the introduction of a one-off grant in relation to the reduced earning capacity resulting from the closure of shops and commercial activities operating in publicly owned premises;
- Allocation of EUR 30 million to support seasonal workers employed in hotel and non-hotel activities;
- Support for firms in the buffalo industry through the allocation of EUR 19 million to increase their liquidity, by granting subsidies for the adoption of biosecurity plans by farms, with each operator's production costs reimbursed at EUR 1 per litre of milk, subject to a maximum expenditure of EUR 10 million for the year 2020;
- Support to the floriculture sector through the allocation of EUR 10 million, for a maximum of EUR 10 000 per company.<sup>81</sup>

### *Emilia-Romagna*

This region has introduced a wide range of measures, including:

- Extension of the deadlines for requests for regional contributions from companies involved in post-disaster reconstruction related to the earthquake of 2012. In addition, public payments due to these companies will be advanced;
- Advance payment of EUR 6 million in public aids to the cultural sector;
- Subsidies for the reduction of interest rates on loans to agricultural enterprises (EUR 3.4 million);
- Non-repayable funding for enterprises operating in the tourism sector (EUR 3 million);<sup>82</sup>
- The region and the banking system have agreed to provide SMEs with interest-free loans, using regional guarantee mechanisms, for amounts of up to EUR 150 000 and repayment schedules of 36 months (EUR 10 million, with an estimated impact of EUR 100 million in terms of investments mobilised);<sup>83</sup>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.regione.campania.it/assets/documents/piano-socio-economico-regione-campania.pdf>

<sup>82</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@\\_@comunicatodettaglio\\_view?codComunicato=93185](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@_@comunicatodettaglio_view?codComunicato=93185)

<sup>83</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@\\_@comunicatodettaglio\\_view?codComunicato=93185](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@_@comunicatodettaglio_view?codComunicato=93185)

- Procedural simplifications on two calls for the internationalisation of enterprises in 2019-2020, in the framework of the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund;<sup>84</sup>
- A moratorium on loans granted to companies in the Emilia-Romagna region, with the consequent extension of the duration of loans up to 100% of the residual amortisation period. In this way, the region adheres to the addendum to the 2020 credit agreement with the national association of Italian banks;<sup>85</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 110 956 560;<sup>86</sup>
- Extension of the social shock absorbers provided at national level with the allocation of 30 million for companies, including micro-firms with just one employee;<sup>87</sup>
- Launch of a call for proposals on rural development providing for compensatory allowances for farms and livestock farms operating in mountain areas, worth EUR 12.6 million;
- Introduction of a simplified procedure for the allocation of agricultural diesel;<sup>88</sup>
- Extension of the deadlines for applications and fulfilments due for a regional programme to support agriculture called "Campagne";<sup>89</sup>
- Postponement of several payments and obligations due to environmental protection;<sup>90</sup>
- Simplification and deferral of terms on calls for proposals in the field of culture;<sup>91</sup>
- Deferral of application deadlines on several calls for proposals financed in the framework of the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund;<sup>92</sup>
- Protocol for early payment of out-of-work benefits;<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> <http://fesr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/notizie/primo-piano/export-e-fierte-nuove-disposizioni-per-i-due-bandi-por-fesr-2019-2020>

<sup>85</sup> [http://servizissir.regione.emilia-romagna.it/deliberegiunta/servlet/AdapterHTTP?action\\_name=ACTIONRICERCADELIBERE&operation=leggi&cod\\_protocollo=GPG/2020/226&ENTE=1](http://servizissir.regione.emilia-romagna.it/deliberegiunta/servlet/AdapterHTTP?action_name=ACTIONRICERCADELIBERE&operation=leggi&cod_protocollo=GPG/2020/226&ENTE=1)

<sup>86</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio\\_view?codComunicato=93185](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio_view?codComunicato=93185)

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.agenzialavoro.emr.it/come-fare-per/schede-tematiche/per-accedere-alla-cassa-integrazione-in-deroga>

<sup>88</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio\\_view?codComunicato=93235](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio_view?codComunicato=93235)

<sup>89</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio\\_view?codComunicato=93253](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio_view?codComunicato=93253)

<sup>90</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@Communicating\\_view?codCommunicated=93274](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@Communicating_view?codCommunicated=93274)

<sup>91</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@Communicating\\_view?codCommunicated=93283](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@Communicating_view?codCommunicated=93283)

<sup>92</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio\\_view?codComunicato=93288](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@comunicatodettaglio_view?codComunicato=93288)

<sup>93</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@Communicating\\_view?codCommunicated=93290](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@@Communicating_view?codCommunicated=93290)

- Appropriation of EUR 5 million (Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020) to finance 154 projects under the call “Innovation and product or service diversification projects for SMEs”,<sup>94</sup>
- Extension for works related to the energy requalification of public buildings in the municipalities of Emilia-Romagna.<sup>95</sup>

### *Friuli-Venezia Giulia*

With regional law No 3 of 12 March 2020, this autonomous region introduced a wide range of measures for businesses and workers, including:

- Subsidised loans under the anti-crisis sections of the regional budget, which may be disbursed even without the acquisition of collateral or bank or insurance guarantees or guarantees issued by trusts or public guarantee funds. According to Resolution No. 415 of 20 March 2020 of the regional council, loans will range from EUR 5 000 and EUR 300 000, and will have a maximum duration of 6 years;<sup>96</sup>
- The suspension of mortgages and the extension of amortisation plans on revolving funds for companies hit by the crisis;
- A supplementary allocation of EUR 4 million to regional guarantee institutions. Resolution No. 461 of 27 March 2020 set out specific criteria and modalities for the granting of guarantees;<sup>97</sup>
- Measures to facilitate remote vocational training;
- Contributions to investment, including in the form of a 20% tax credit, by businesses in the tourism and trade sectors (allocation of EUR 7.5 million). Resolution No. 489 of 30 March 2020 defined the eligibility criteria;<sup>98</sup>
- Extension of the deadline for the payment of regional corporate taxes.<sup>99</sup>

Other measures include:

- *De minimis* contributions for research and development projects carried out by companies of all sizes (EUR 3.45 million allocated);<sup>100</sup>
- Package of coordinated support measures in favour of the companies participated by Friulia S.p.A., the regional development agency, including: 24-month loans at subsidised rates and without commissions for urgent cash needs; free advice for the redefinition of business plans; the postponement by 12 months of the payment of all instalments due by 31 December 2020 without any additional interest;<sup>101</sup>

<sup>94</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@\\_@Communicating\\_view?codCommunicated=93320](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@_@Communicating_view?codCommunicated=93320)

<sup>95</sup> [https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@\\_@comunicatodettaglio\\_view?codComunicato=93341](https://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenzia-di-informazione-e-comunicazione/@_@comunicatodettaglio_view?codComunicato=93341)

<sup>96</sup> [http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020\\_490/Testo%20integrale%20della%20Delibera%20n%20490-2020.pdf](http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020_490/Testo%20integrale%20della%20Delibera%20n%20490-2020.pdf)

<sup>97</sup> [http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020\\_461/Testo%20integrale%20della%20Delibera%20n%20461-2020.pdf](http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020_461/Testo%20integrale%20della%20Delibera%20n%20461-2020.pdf)

<sup>98</sup> [http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020\\_449/Testo%20integrale%20della%20Delibera%20n%20449-2020.pdf](http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020_449/Testo%20integrale%20della%20Delibera%20n%20449-2020.pdf)  
[http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020\\_489/Allegato%201%20alla%20Delibera%20489-2020.pdf](http://mtom.regione.fvg.it/storage//2020_489/Allegato%201%20alla%20Delibera%20489-2020.pdf)

<sup>99</sup> <http://arpebur.regione.fvg.it/newbur/visionaBUR?bnum=2020/03/13/13>

<sup>100</sup> <http://www.regione.fvg.it/rafv/comunicati/comunicato.act?dir=/rafv/cms/RAFVG/notiziedallagiunta/m=20200313130549002>

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.friulia.it/it/news/friulia-approva-nuove-misure-urgenti-per-il-sostegno-finanziario-alle-imprese>

- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 24 958 760.<sup>102</sup>

### Lazio

On 24 March 2020, the regional government announced the launch of the so-called “Ready Cash Plan”:

- Activation of a special section of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs dedicated to businesses and freelancers in Lazio, able to assign direct guarantees of 80% and to reinsure 90% of the operations guaranteed by dedicated regional institutions. Guarantees can also be provided for small and very small loans. An allocation of EUR 20 million is foreseen and it is estimated that the facility will be able to allow the activation of new loans by EUR 200 million;
- Establishment of a revolving fund for small loans (EUR 10 000) at zero interest, for a duration of five years and with one year of grace. Budget: EUR 55 million;
- Introduction of a subsidised funding scheme using an appropriation of EUR 100 million from the European Investment Bank programme for regional development, with loans of EUR 10 000 and a regional incentive to reduce interest rates (EUR 3 million have been allocated for the latter). It is estimated that the facility will allow the activation of new loans by EUR 200 million;<sup>103</sup>
- A few weeks earlier, a call for non-repayable funding had been launched for companies adopting *smart working* plans (grants ranging from EUR 7 500 to EUR 22 500, depending on the size of the company). A total of EUR 2 million has been earmarked for this measure);<sup>104</sup>
- A simplified procedure for the allocation of agricultural diesel has been introduced.<sup>105</sup>

On 25 March 2020, an institutional agreement with social partners was signed to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 144 450 440.<sup>106</sup> On 5 April 2020, the region announced that 29 210 applications had been received (3 out of 4 from the Province of Rome), affecting 71 797 workers. The overwhelming majority of the applications (93.7%) came from firms with less than 5 employees, mainly in crafts and commerce.<sup>107</sup>

Several measures were also taken on 25 March to ensure larger liquidity for companies:

- Moratorium of instalments due to the region, up to a maximum of 12 months. Alternatively, an extension of the amortisation period of the loan may be granted, for a maximum of 100% of the residual duration and, in any case, up to a maximum of 5 years;
- Suspension for two months of fulfilments due by beneficiaries of regional funding programmes;
- Extension by two months of deadlines for apply for five regional calls for proposals.<sup>108</sup>

The following measures were approved in the beginning of April:

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.regione.fvg.it/rafvfg/cms/RAFVG/formazione-lavoro/servizi-datori-lavoro/news/113.html>

<sup>103</sup> <http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl/coronavirus/giunta-lazio-vara-piano-pronto-cassa-no-burocrazia/>

<sup>104</sup> [http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl\\_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5386](http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5386)

<sup>105</sup> [http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl\\_agricoltura/?vw=newsDettagliod=1011](http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl_agricoltura/?vw=newsDettagliod=1011)

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl/coronavirus/il-lazio-firma-accordo-su-cassa-integrazione-in-deroga-dopo-decreto-di-riparto/>

<sup>107</sup> [https://roma.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/20\\_aprile\\_05/cassa-integrazione-gia-arrivate-regione-72-mila-domande-edbe34d8-769d-11ea-91b2-6c33b390094b.shtml](https://roma.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/20_aprile_05/cassa-integrazione-gia-arrivate-regione-72-mila-domande-edbe34d8-769d-11ea-91b2-6c33b390094b.shtml)

<sup>108</sup> <http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl/coronavirus/bandi-regionali-moratoria-per-i-rimborsi-dei-bandi-credito/>

- Suspension of the 2020 payment deadlines for the car tax, the regional tax on noise emissions from civil aircraft and the regional tax on automotive petrol;<sup>109</sup>
- Allocation of EUR 10 million, divided into EUR 5 million for the floriculture sector and EUR 5 million for the production of cow's milk and buffalo milk, with a maximum amount of EUR 5 000 per enterprise;<sup>110</sup>
- Allocation of EUR 10 million for private housing companies for works already suspended due to the health emergency;<sup>111</sup>
- Allocation of EUR 23 million to reduce costs of rents for traders and craftsmen who have suffered a loss of turnover as a result of the closure of their shops.<sup>112</sup>

### Liguria

The measures put in place by this region include:

- Establishment of a regional guarantee fund covering bank loans to SMEs in the trade, tourism and agriculture sectors (EUR 5.5 million allocated);<sup>113</sup>
- Establishment of a revolving fund for subsidised loans to street retailers. Interest rates will amount to 0.75% and the amount of the loans will range between EUR 5 000 and EUR 35 000 (EUR 700 000 allocated);<sup>114</sup>
- Revolving fund for subsidised loans (interest rate of 0.75%) to enterprises in the cultural sector. The loans will range from EUR 10 to EUR 25 000 and the amortisation plans will span over five years (EUR 500 000 allocated);<sup>115</sup>
- Extension of the deadlines for several regional calls for tenders to support retail trade, the digitisation of micro-enterprises, and inland shops;<sup>116</sup>
- On 23 March 2020, the region reached an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 32 071 360.

Between the end of March and the beginning of April, the region announced the following measures:

- Deferral of the deadline for the submission of applications for funds from the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund and the Regional Strategic Fund;
- Suspension for 12 months of payment of the capital share of medium- and long-term subsidised loans subscribed with regional development agencies;<sup>117</sup>

<sup>109</sup> [http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl\\_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5407](http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5407)

<sup>110</sup> [http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl\\_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5408](http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5408)

<sup>111</sup> [http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl\\_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5420](http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5420)

<sup>112</sup> [http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl\\_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5426](http://www.regione.lazio.it/rl_main/?vw=newsDettagliod=5426)

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.regione.liguria.it/eventi-live/coronavirus-11-marzo-2020>

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.regione.liguria.it/eventi-live/coronavirus-11-marzo-2021>

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.regione.liguria.it/eventi-live/coronavirus-11-marzo-2022>

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.regione.liguria.it/articoli/100786-eventi-live/25083-live-coronavirus-24-03-2020.html>

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.regione.liguria.it/eventi-live/coronavirus-notizie-29-marzo.html>

- Establishment of a regional task force to support companies willing to repurpose their activities for the production of health care devices;<sup>118</sup>
- Through the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020, EUR 3.5 million are allocated for a call for proposals to encourage investments in technological innovation, with non-refundable grants covering 60% of the costs, for a minimum amount of EUR 1 000 and a maximum of EUR 5 000. Access to the call will also make it possible to apply for vouchers made available by the European Social Fund for the training of the staff of companies adopting smart working plan, with an initial allocation of EUR 600 000.<sup>119</sup>

## Lombardy

Since the early days of the crisis, the region has implemented a wide range of support measures, including:

- In line with similar national measures, allowances will be granted to freelancers located in the so-called "red zone" municipalities;<sup>120</sup>
- Deferred deadlines for the submission of applications for a regional innovation support programme in the field of the circular economy;<sup>121</sup>
- Large allocation for the activation of a redundancy fund, with retroactive effect from 23 February (allocation of EUR 135 million);<sup>122</sup>
- Contribution to the adoption of *smart working* plans to cover the costs incurred for digital training and the purchase of digital technology. Non-reimbursable funding will range from EUR 2 500 to EUR 15 000 (EUR 4.5 million allocated);<sup>123</sup>
- On 23 March 2020, an institutional agreement with social partners was signed to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 198 376 880;<sup>124</sup>
- Extension of deadlines on regional funding programmes for SMEs in manufacturing, construction and craft;<sup>125</sup>

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.regione.liguria.it/homepage/salute-e-sociale/101395-coronavirus/25235-coronavirus-benvenuti-task-force-regionale-supporto-imprese.html>

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.regione.liguria.it/homepage/salute-e-sociale/101395-coronavirus/25311-bando-dotazione-e-formazione-smart-working.html>

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/wcm/connect/f86b2209-7b0c-42e5-b147-bbde95d2d296/Comunicato+CIGD+-+indemnit%C3%A0+12+marzo+2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=FUNDSPACE-f86b2209-7b0c-42e5-b147-bbde95d2d296-n3iXyUT>

<sup>121</sup> <https://www.lombardianotizie.online/regione-e-unioncamere/>

<sup>122</sup> <https://www.fasi.biz/it/notizie/approfondimenti/21755-coronavirus-tutti-i-contributi-delle-regioni-per-famiglie-e-imprese.html>

<sup>123</sup> <https://www.lombardianotizie.online/coronavirus-smartworking/>

<sup>124</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioAvviso/servizi-e-informazioni/imprese/gestione-risorse-umane/ammortizzatori-sociali/20200325-ammortizzatori-coronavirus/20200325-ammortizzatori-coronavirus>

<sup>125</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioAvviso/servizi-e-informazioni/imprese/imprese-manifatturiere-artigiane-e-di-servizi/bando-faber-proroga-acquisto-macchinari/bando-faber-proroga-acquisto-macchinari>

- Deferral of deadlines for fulfilments relating to the "Storevolution" call for proposals for micro, small and medium-sized commercial enterprises;<sup>126</sup>
- Appropriation of EUR 25 million for guarantees on medium-long term loans, covering up to 70% of each loan, to companies in the agri-mechanical sector. Loans will have a maximum duration of 48 months and will fund the purchase of tangible and intangible assets. They will range from EUR 500 000 to EUR 2 000 000;<sup>127</sup>
- Suspension of deadlines for the submission of applications for a call for tenders for the operation of the navigation service on the Navigli system;<sup>128</sup>
- Extension of terms for a regional funding programme (Pianura e Colline) on agriculture;<sup>129</sup>
- Allocation of EUR 4 million for the call "Industrial Research and Experimental Development", in the framework of the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020, as a part of the project "COVID-19: Together for Research for All". The contribution covers 40% of the investment made by companies, with a minimum grant of EUR 300 000 and a maximum of EUR 1 million;<sup>130</sup>
- Subscription by the region to the Addendum to the 2019 Credit Agreement, which extends the temporal scope of applicability of moratoria on loans and extends such benefit to all companies (beyond SMEs).<sup>131</sup>

### Marche

Measures implemented by this region include:

- Postponement of the deadlines on regional grants financed under the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020;
- Deferred deadlines for applications for regional export and internationalisation incentives for SMEs<sup>132</sup>;
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 33 105

<sup>126</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioAvviso/servizi-e-informazioni/impresecommerciali/commercio-al-dettaglio-in-sede-fissa/proroga-redicontazione-band-storevolution/proroga-redicontazione-bando-storevolution>

<sup>127</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioAvviso/servizi-e-informazioni/impresecommerciali/commercio-al-dettaglio-in-sede-fissa/proroga-redicontazione-band-storevolution/proroga-redicontazione-bando-storevolution>

<sup>128</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioAvviso/servizi-e-informazioni/impresecommerciali/commercio-al-dettaglio-in-sede-fissa/proroga-redicontazione-band-storevolution/proroga-redicontazione-bando-storevolution>

<sup>129</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioAvviso/servizi-e-informazioni/impresecommerciali/commercio-al-dettaglio-in-sede-fissa/proroga-redicontazione-band-storevolution/proroga-redicontazione-bando-storevolution>

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.instm.it/public/02/27/BANDO%20COVID19%20finale%20x.pdf>

<sup>131</sup> <https://www.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/istituzionale/HP/DettaglioAvviso/servizi-e-informazioni/impresecommerciali/commercio-al-dettaglio-in-sede-fissa/proroga-redicontazione-band-storevolution/proroga-redicontazione-bando-storevolution>

<sup>132</sup> <http://www.regione.marche.it/In-Primo-Piano/ComunicatiStampa/id/28551/p/1/CORONAVIRUS-POSTICIPATI-I-TERMINI-PER-LA-RENDICONTAZIONE-DELLE-SPESE-DEI-BANDI-POR-FSE-E-FESR-E-LA-SCADENZA-DEL-BANDO-DELLINTERNAZIONALIZZAZIONE-BORA-DECISIONE-ATTESA-DALLE-AZIENDE-MARCHIGIANE-PRIMA-LA-SALUTE>

920.<sup>133</sup> On 6 March 2020, the region announced that in less than a week there are already 9 485 applications for the redundancy fund in derogation submitted by employers, for 17 546 employees in the Marche region who do not enjoy ordinary protection. The hours amount to 4 185 448 and the total amount is EUR 33.9 million, already more than the available budget;<sup>134</sup>

- Extension of deadlines for applications and fulfilments due to the regional rural development programme;<sup>135</sup>
- Postponement of deadlines for certain regional taxes, including business licence fee owed by freelancers and the car tax.<sup>136</sup>

### Molise

Three measures have been launched so far by this small region of Central Italy:

- Suspension of the instalments on loans granted by the regional financial institution Finmolise S.p.A.;<sup>137</sup>
- Suspension of deadlines for firms benefiting from European and national funding programmes;<sup>138</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 6 207 360;<sup>139</sup>
- Setup of a fund called "COVID-19 Micro-credit" for the allocation of loans of up to EUR 5 000, at zero interest rates, without guarantees and management costs paid by SMEs. The fund, entrusted to Finmolise S.p.A., is financed from reprogrammed resources (appropriation: EUR 8 000 000);<sup>140</sup>
- "Io lavoro agile" is a public call aimed at promoting smart working in support of businesses and workers, through the allocation of EUR 461 179, and individual benefits ranging from EUR 10 000 to 50 000, as part of the regional programming of the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund 2014-2020.<sup>141</sup>

### Piedmont

Several policies have been carried out by this region:

- Support measures for the activation of *smart working* plans by companies (EUR 4.5 million allocated);<sup>142</sup>

<sup>133</sup> <http://www.regione.marche.it/In-Primo-Piano/ComunicatiStampa/id/28588/p/1/AMMORTIZZATORI-SOCIALI-IN-DEROGA-PRIMO-RIPARTO-DEL-MINISTERO-ALLE-MARCHE--MILIONI-DI-EURO-LE-DOMANDE-POTRANNO-ESSERE-PRESENTATE-DOPO-LA-PUBBLICAZIONE-DEL-DECRETO-INTERMINISTERIALE-E-DELLA-CIRCOLARE-INPS>

<sup>134</sup> <https://bit.ly/2RjHofQ>

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.regione.marche.it/Entra-in-Regione/Psr-Marche/Comunicazione/Notizie>

<sup>136</sup> <http://www.regione.marche.it/In-Primo-Piano/ComunicatiStampa/id/28651/p/1/APPROVATA-PDL-SOSPENSIONE-TERMINI-TRIBUTI>

<sup>137</sup> <http://www3.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17143>

<sup>138</sup> <http://www3.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17153>

<sup>139</sup> <http://www3.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17171>

<sup>140</sup> <http://www3.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17196>

<sup>141</sup> <http://www3.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17197>

<sup>142</sup> <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/pinforma/notizie/oltre-45-milioni-per-lavoro-agile-nelle-aziende-private>

- Advance payment of regional contributions and financing due to companies. This measure should mobilise investment by EUR 200 million;<sup>143</sup>
- Extension of the instalments due to the regional development agency Finpiemonte S.p.A. An estimated 1 000 companies will benefit from this measure and the funding in question amounts to EUR 110 million;<sup>144</sup>
- The regional government decree of 6 March 2020 introduces a moratorium on loans granted by banks with the contribution of public resources under regional business financing programmes;<sup>145</sup>
- Allocation to strengthen the regional section of the National Guarantee Fund to facilitate access to credit by local SMEs (EUR 54 million allocated);<sup>146</sup>
- Planning of a campaign to promote Piedmont on the national and international markets after the emergency (appropriation of EUR 7.5 million);<sup>147</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 82 506 160;<sup>148</sup>
- Increase from 50% to 80% of the allocation of agricultural diesel;<sup>149</sup>
- Allocation for trade, tourism and culture (measures still to be defined).<sup>150</sup>

### *Sardinia*

Regional law No 8 of 9 March 2020 provides for various urgent measures to support and safeguard employment in the tourism industry, including:

- The introduction of new regional credit guarantee instruments;<sup>151</sup>
- The granting of regional interest-free loans to allow companies to pay social security and welfare charges (provision of EUR 1.7 million);
- Aids for the realisation of online training courses (budget of EUR 1.5 million);<sup>152</sup>
- Income support measures and active labour policies: redundant employees who do not qualify for standard national benefits are granted an extraordinary contribution of EUR 1 000 per

<sup>143</sup> <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/pinforma/notizie/coronavirus-prime-misure-per-sostenere-leconomia-piemontese>

<sup>144</sup> <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/pinforma/notizie/coronavirus-prime-misure-per-sostenere-leconomia-piemontese>

<sup>145</sup> [https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/sites/default/files/media/documenti/2020-03/d.g.r.\\_26-1108.pdf](https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/sites/default/files/media/documenti/2020-03/d.g.r._26-1108.pdf)

<sup>146</sup> <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/temi/sviluppo/agevolazione-dei-prestiti-sezione-piemonte-fondo-centrale-garanzia>

<sup>147</sup> <https://www.fasi.biz/it/notizie/approfondimenti/21755-coronavirus-tutti-i-contributi-delle-regioni-per-famiglie-e-imprese.html>

<sup>148</sup> <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/temi/istruzione-formazione-lavoro/lavoro/ammortizzatori-sociali/cassa-integrazione-deroga-prime-informazioni-utili>

<sup>149</sup> <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/pinforma/comunicati-stampa/regione-piemonte-aumenta-dal-50-all80-lassegnazione-anticipo-gasolio-agricolo-per-2020>

<sup>150</sup> <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/pinforma/comunicati-stampa/provvedimenti-per-commercio-turismo-cultura-dichiarazione-dellassessore-poggio>

<sup>151</sup> <http://www.regione.sardegna.it/j/v/2568?s=405793=2=392=1>

<sup>152</sup> <https://buras.regione.sardegna.it/custom/frontend/viewInsertion.xhtml?insertionId=93bd6afa-a622-45ba-b632-ee57ead0b578>

month for a period not exceeding three months. Enterprises hiring the above mentioned workers for at least 4 months are granted a contribution of EUR 2 000, or EUR 500 per month for four-month contracts (budget of EUR 3.6 million);<sup>153</sup>

- Unsecured loans to micro and small enterprises, not exceeding EUR 70 000 granted under de minimis EU regulations, interest-free and reimbursed over a period not exceeding five years from the date of disbursement, of which at least six months as pre-amortisation (allocation of EUR 15 million).<sup>154</sup>

The most recent measures include:

- The deadline for invitations to tender managed by the DG for Cultural Heritage, Entertainment and Sport was deferred;<sup>155</sup>
- Extension of deadlines for applications and fulfilments underuse to the regional rural development programme;<sup>156</sup>
- Suspension by six parts of instalments due to regional funding for entrepreneurship;<sup>157</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 32 847 280;<sup>158</sup>
- General suspension of all regional debt collection activities;<sup>159</sup>
- A request-based suspension of payments relating to loans granted by the region.<sup>160</sup>

## *Sicily*

The policy responses undertaken by this autonomous region include:

- Deferral of instalments relating to bank loans activated before 31 January 2020;
- Deferral of the instalments up to 100% of the residual amortisation period;
- Doubling the amount allocated to the regional section of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs;<sup>161</sup>
- Simplification of procedures relating to public works;<sup>162</sup>

<sup>153</sup> <https://delibere.regione.sardegna.it/protected/50015/0/def/ref/DBR49998/>

<sup>154</sup> <https://delibere.regione.sardegna.it/protected/50013/0/def/ref/DBR49997/>

<sup>155</sup> <https://www.regione.sardegna.it/j/v/2568?s=406138=2=3=1>

<sup>156</sup> <https://www.regione.sardegna.it/j/v/2568?s=406285=2=3=1>

<sup>157</sup> <https://www.regione.sardegna.it/j/v/2568?s=406473=2=3=1>

<sup>158</sup> <https://www.regione.sardegna.it/j/v/2568?s=406495=2=3=1>

<sup>159</sup> <http://www.regione.sardegna.it/j/v/13?s=406834=2=3=1>

<sup>160</sup> [https://delibere.regione.sardegna.it/it/homepage.page;jsessionid=A7958FE889FF5A96536CBBB39E8F1FE3B.ap4?frame19\\_item=2](https://delibere.regione.sardegna.it/it/homepage.page;jsessionid=A7958FE889FF5A96536CBBB39E8F1FE3B.ap4?frame19_item=2)

<sup>161</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_IIPresidente/PIR\\_Archivio/PIR\\_Coronavirusprove dimentivaratidalgovernoMusumeci](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_IIPresidente/PIR_Archivio/PIR_Coronavirusprove dimentivaratidalgovernoMusumeci)

<sup>162</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_ArchivioLaRegioneInforma/PIR\\_CoronavirusImpre seedilisbloccatipagamenti](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_ArchivioLaRegioneInforma/PIR_CoronavirusImpre seedilisbloccatipagamenti)

- Wage guarantee for public transport workers;<sup>163</sup>
- Subsidised and unsecured loans to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a duration 15 months (including at least three months' pre-amortisation), not exceeding EUR 100 000;<sup>164</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 108 111 520;<sup>165</sup>
- Extension of an application deadline for the call for proposals "Interventions for the protection and enhancement of attractive areas of strategic importance (protected areas on land and sea, protected landscapes) to consolidate and promote development processes", within the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund;<sup>166</sup>
- Extension of deadlines for funding programmes under the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund;<sup>167</sup>
- Deferred deadline for the submission of any documentation by firms involved in events, shows and tourist initiatives;<sup>168</sup>
- Establishment of a task force for the development of medium to long-term economic measures;<sup>169</sup>
- Simplification of administrative procedures within the Rural Development Programme;<sup>170</sup>
- Extension of application deadlines for authorisations for new planting of vines.<sup>171</sup>

### *Trento, autonomous province*

Law 50/XVI of 2020 provides for a diversified package of measures, including:

- Deferred payment of regional 2020 taxes on real estate;
- Simplified procedures for the award of public contracts for amounts both below and above the thresholds provided for by European legislation, in order to increase the participation of SMEs in contracts;
- Simplified procedures for access to regional contributions for businesses, both at the application and payment stage;
- Simplified audit procedures for regional business support instruments;

<sup>163</sup> <https://www.ilfattoniseno.it/2020/03/sicilia-coronavirus-assessore-falcone-regione-garantira-stipendi-nel-trasporto-pubblico-speculazioni-saranno-sanzionate/>

<sup>164</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_Servizi/PIR\\_News?stepNews=det\\_newsNews=200481606](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_Servizi/PIR_News?stepNews=det_newsNews=200481606)

<sup>165</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_IIPresidente/PIR\\_Archivio/PIR\\_Vialiberacassainte grazioneaziendesiciliane](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_IIPresidente/PIR_Archivio/PIR_Vialiberacassainte grazioneaziendesiciliane)

<sup>166</sup> <http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/pls/portal/docs/151139625.PDF>

<sup>167</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_ArchivioLaRegioneInforma/PIR\\_Attivitaproductive differitescadenzePoFesr](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_ArchivioLaRegioneInforma/PIR_Attivitaproductive differitescadenzePoFesr)

<sup>168</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_LaStrutturaRegionale/PIR\\_TurismoSportSpettacolo/PIR\\_Turismo/PIR\\_Areetematiche/PIR\\_Manifestazioni/DA513-S6%20del%2001.04.2020.pdf](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_LaStrutturaRegionale/PIR_TurismoSportSpettacolo/PIR_Turismo/PIR_Areetematiche/PIR_Manifestazioni/DA513-S6%20del%2001.04.2020.pdf)

<sup>169</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_ArchivioLaRegioneInforma/PIR\\_Unatask-forceperlemisureeconomiche](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_ArchivioLaRegioneInforma/PIR_Unatask-forceperlemisureeconomiche)

<sup>170</sup> <http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/pls/portal/docs/151139681.PDF>

<sup>171</sup> [http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE/PIR\\_Servizi/PIR\\_News?\\_piref857\\_3677299\\_857\\_3677298\\_3677298.strutsAction=%2Fnews.dotepNews=det\\_newsNews=200613227](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_Servizi/PIR_News?_piref857_3677299_857_3677298_3677298.strutsAction=%2Fnews.dotepNews=det_newsNews=200613227)

- Contributions for the reduction of the interest rate applied to companies for short-term loans granted by banks and other financial intermediaries adhering to the protocol signed with the autonomous province;
- Agreement between the province and local banks to introduce a moratorium on mortgages and leasing for 12 months (for credit lines of up to 24 months), with a benefit of six months additional to that provided by the national government;<sup>172</sup>
- Recovery of unused regional funds for the purpose of business support.<sup>173</sup>

Other measures include:

- Extension of the deadlines relating to regional contributions to the costs incurred by agricultural firms for the control and certification of the organic production process.<sup>174</sup>
- Discussions are underway between the central government and the autonomous province to increase the regional allocation of the redundancy fund (EUR 8 535 120);<sup>175</sup>
- Suspension of the payment of rents due by companies hosted by public entities, such as regional start-up incubators;<sup>176</sup>
- Allocation of EUR 2 million to the provincial employment agency for the creation of a special emergency fund for COVID-19;<sup>177</sup>
- Establishment of a digital platform for home delivery companies;<sup>178</sup>
- Establishment of a task force for the development of medium to long-term economic measures;<sup>179</sup>
- Re-employment of workers excluded from the labour market (a plan known as "Progettone") in essential industries.<sup>180</sup>

### Tuscany

This region has introduced a number of measures, including:

- Extended deadlines for applications for regional rural development programmes;<sup>181</sup>

<sup>172</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Mutui-accordo-fra-banche-e-Provincia-per-una-moratoria-di-12-mesi>

<sup>173</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.Provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Misure-urgenti-della-Provincia-per-sostenere-famiglie-lavoratori-e-settori-economici>

<sup>174</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Processo-produttivo-biologico-domande-di-contributo-entro-il-15-maggio>

<sup>175</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Cassa-integrazione-in-arrivo-altri-fondi-nazionali-per-chi-e-stato-sospeso-dal-lavoro-a-causa-del-Coronavirus>

<sup>176</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Trentino-Sviluppo-Patrimonio-del-Trentino-misure-straordinarie-per-contribuire-al-superamento-dell-emergenza-Coronavirus>

<sup>177</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/In-arrivo-2-milioni-di-euro-per-l-Agenzia-del-Lavoro>

<sup>178</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Online-la-nuova-piattaforma-per-le-aziende-che-consegnano-a-domicilio>

<sup>179</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Economia-e-Coronavirus-la-Provincia-al-lavoro-con-esperti-e-parti-sociali-per-impostare-la-manovra-economica-e-disegnare-gli-scenari-futuri>

<sup>180</sup> <https://www.ufficiostampa.provincia.tn.it/Comunicati/Il-Progettone-in-aiuto-alla-distribuzione-alimentare>

<sup>181</sup> <https://www.toscana-notizie.it/web/toscana-notizie/-/programma-di-sviluppo-rurale-proroga-dei-bandi-aperti-fino-ad-aprile-2020>

- Activation of three new instruments to facilitate access to credit, with a total budget of EUR 38 million:
  - a regional special section of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs, with a budget of EUR 21.5 million;
  - a regional guarantee fund, with a budget of EUR 10.5 million;
  - a regional fund for capital contributions to reduce the cost of guarantee operations, with a budget of EUR 6 million;<sup>182</sup>
- Establishment of a roundtable between the social partners to devise measures in support of the tourism sector;<sup>183</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 84 704 600;<sup>184</sup>
- Establishment of a regional fund for the advance payment to workers of the redundancy fund;<sup>185</sup>
- Suspension of loans granted under the regional programme "Garanzia Toscana";<sup>186</sup>
- Simplified procedure for the allocation of agricultural diesel;<sup>187</sup>
- EUR 8.5 million to support Tuscan agriculture: in particular, EUR 4 million will go to farms converting to organic farming, while EUR 4,5 million will go to mountain farming;<sup>188</sup>
- With resolution no. 421 of 30 March 2020, the deadlines established by calls for proposals, negotiation procedures, contracts, acts of allocation of contributions and related obligations to be borne by the beneficiaries were suspended;<sup>189</sup>
- The same resolution promotes the advance payment of public contributions (up to 80% of the amount due) through the simplification of the related procedures.<sup>190</sup>

### Umbria

Measures put in place by this region include:

<sup>182</sup> <https://www.toscana-notizie.it/web/toscana-notizie/-/coronavirus.-ciuoffo-38-milioni-per-imprese-e-professionisti-con-garanzia-toscana-> ; <https://www.regione.toscana.it/-/garanzia-toscana>

<sup>183</sup> <https://www.toscana-notizie.it/web/toscana-notizie/-/turismo-formata-unit%C3%A0-di-crisi-per-affrontare-l-emergenza-da-covid-19-in-toscana%C2%A0>

<sup>184</sup> <https://www.regione.toscana.it/-/cassa-integrazione-in-deroga-per-covid-19>

<sup>185</sup> <https://www.toscana-notizie.it/web/toscana-notizie/-/cassa-integrazione-fondo-regionale%C2%A0per-l-anticipazione-ai-lavoratori>

<sup>186</sup> <https://www.toscana-notizie.it/web/toscana-notizie/-/coronavirus-dal-31-marzo-al-via-liquidit%C3%A0-imprese-e-domande-per-cassa-integrazione-in-deroga>

<sup>187</sup> <https://www.toscana-notizie.it/web/toscana-notizie/-/coronavirus-dal-31-marzo-al-via-liquidit%C3%A0-imprese-e-domande-per-cassa-integrazione-in-deroga>

<sup>188</sup> <https://www.toscana-notizie.it/web/toscana-notizie/-/coronavirus-dal-31-marzo-al-via-liquidit%C3%A0-imprese-e-domande-per-cassa-integrazione-in-deroga>

<sup>189</sup> <https://www.regione.toscana.it/-/coronavirus-bandi-su-fondi-europei-statali-e-regionali-sospensione-termini-e-liquidazioni-semplificate>

<sup>190</sup> [http://www301.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/Contenuto.xml?id=5248720omeFile=Delibera\\_n.421\\_del\\_30-03-2020](http://www301.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/Contenuto.xml?id=5248720omeFile=Delibera_n.421_del_30-03-2020)

- Allocation of EUR 11 million to support businesses, workers and access to credit (the implementing arrangements are not yet known);<sup>191</sup>
- Extended deadlines for applications for regional rural development programmes;<sup>192</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 20 044 600.<sup>193</sup> The region announced that in the first three days of April, 2 947 applications were submitted by firms, affecting 9 480 employees for a total of 2 022 953 working hours.<sup>194</sup>
- Deferred deadlines for bureaucratic fulfilments related to the "Charming Umbria" regional programme for tourism promotion, and for the submission of applications for the 2020 contribution in support of firms in the entertainment sector.<sup>195</sup>

Suspension of the deadline for payment of the annual environmental contribution due from mining companies.<sup>196</sup>

### Veneto

Among the measures implemented by this Region, a first group concerns income support for temporarily unemployed workers:

- Large allocation for the activation of the redundancy fund for enterprises based in the region, including micro-enterprises with less than six employees (allocation of EUR 63.5 million);<sup>197</sup>
- Stipulation of an institutional agreement with social partners to regulate the disbursement of the regional share of the redundancy fund established at national level, for an amount of EUR 99 059 920.<sup>198</sup>

Measures aimed at increasing the liquidity of companies include:

- Revision of the regional section of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs to strengthen direct guarantee and reinsurance operations and portfolio guarantees (source: Veneto Region, DG for Industry, Craft, Commerce and Services);

<sup>191</sup> [http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset\\_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/bilancio-agabiti-%E2%80%9C sosteniamo-cittadini-famiglie-e-imprese-20-milioni-per-emergenza-coronavirus%E2%80%9D?read\\_more=true](http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/bilancio-agabiti-%E2%80%9C sosteniamo-cittadini-famiglie-e-imprese-20-milioni-per-emergenza-coronavirus%E2%80%9D?read_more=true)

<sup>192</sup> [http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset\\_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/agricoltura-morrone-%E2%80%9C Caltri-5-mln-pagati-da-agea-a-oltre-1000-aziende-umbre-nonostante-grave-periodo-di-emergenza-struttura-regionale-impegnata-con-eff?read\\_more=true](http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/agricoltura-morrone-%E2%80%9C Caltri-5-mln-pagati-da-agea-a-oltre-1000-aziende-umbre-nonostante-grave-periodo-di-emergenza-struttura-regionale-impegnata-con-eff?read_more=true)

<sup>193</sup> [http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset\\_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/cassa-integrazione-fioroni-%E2%80%9C regione-attiva-per-favorire-accordo-con-sigle-sindacali-e-datoriali-in-modo-da-poterne-garantire-erogazione-quanto-piu-vel?read\\_more=true](http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/cassa-integrazione-fioroni-%E2%80%9C regione-attiva-per-favorire-accordo-con-sigle-sindacali-e-datoriali-in-modo-da-poterne-garantire-erogazione-quanto-piu-vel?read_more=true)

<sup>194</sup> [http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset\\_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/cassa-integrazione-assessore-fioroni-in-umbria-attivata-dal-1-aprile-e-gia-quasi-4mila-domande-presidente-ordine-consulenti-lavoro-diffonde-dichiarazi?read\\_more=true](http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/cassa-integrazione-assessore-fioroni-in-umbria-attivata-dal-1-aprile-e-gia-quasi-4mila-domande-presidente-ordine-consulenti-lavoro-diffonde-dichiarazi?read_more=true)

<sup>195</sup> [http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset\\_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/turismo-e-cultura-agabiti-prorogati-bandi-%E2%80%9C Umbria-charme%E2%80%9D-e-per-lo-spettacolo?read\\_more=true](http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/turismo-e-cultura-agabiti-prorogati-bandi-%E2%80%9C Umbria-charme%E2%80%9D-e-per-lo-spettacolo?read_more=true)

<sup>196</sup> [http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset\\_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/coronavirus-differiti-versamenti-annualita-scavo-con-ordinanza-presidente-regione-assessore-morrone-provvedimento-urgente-in-aiuto-ad-aziende-settore-?read\\_more=true](http://www.regione.umbria.it/dettaglionotizie/-/asset_publisher/IU1Y2yh4H8pu/content/coronavirus-differiti-versamenti-annualita-scavo-con-ordinanza-presidente-regione-assessore-morrone-provvedimento-urgente-in-aiuto-ad-aziende-settore-?read_more=true)

<sup>197</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4341148>

<sup>198</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4395714>

- Reorganisation of reinsurance operations of the regional guarantee fund to facilitate access to credit for companies (source: Veneto Region, DG for Industry, Craft, Commerce and Services);
- Introduction of a moratorium on existing regional funding and accession to the national credit agreement signed on 6 March 2020;<sup>199</sup>
- New financing instruments of smaller amount were also announced, such as microcredit (source: Veneto Region, DG for Industry, Craft, Commerce and Services).

A number of simplification measures were also introduced:

- Extension of deadlines for fulfilments by vine growers and beekeepers;
- Deferral of deadlines for operations financed by the regional rural development programme;
- Extended deadlines for applications for regional rural development programmes;<sup>200</sup>
- Prorogation of deadlines for fulfilments due to such rural development programmes.<sup>201</sup>
- Extension of the deadline for the call for tenders promoting the aggregation of SMEs for the promotion and display of international markets.<sup>202</sup>

There are also several measures in the field of public funding and budgeting:

- Increased allocation for a call for proposals on manufacturing and craft services by EUR 12 million;<sup>203</sup>
- Exemption for agricultural firms from the obligation to allocate at least 3% of regional funding to promotion and marketing activities;<sup>204</sup>
- Technical support to companies willing to convert their business into the production of essential goods by benefiting from national dedicated incentives;<sup>205</sup>
- Reprogramming of EUR funds through the allocation of EUR 62.5 million to support workers and enterprises during the post-emergency phase;<sup>206</sup>
- Technical support to companies willing to convert their activities into the production of health care devices, by benefiting from national incentives;<sup>207</sup>
- Reprogramming of European funds through the allocation of EUR 62.5 million to support workers and enterprises for the post-emergency phase.<sup>208</sup>

<sup>199</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4441257>

<sup>200</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4395876>

<sup>201</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4395876>

<sup>202</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4415033>

<sup>203</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4394113>

<sup>204</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4393540>

<sup>205</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4431166>

<sup>206</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4441302>

<sup>207</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4431166>

<sup>208</sup> <https://www.regione.veneto.it/article-detail?articleId=4441302>

## 5. Summary of the main findings

Italy has been the most severely affected country in the COVID-19 pandemic and was exposed to its economic repercussions earlier than any other EU country, making its responses of particular interest for policy makers worldwide. Within the Italian institutional setting, regions play a major role in economic development matters and SME policies.

As of 8 April 2020, all regions and autonomous provinces have launched at least one SME measure each. In total, 229 measures were on record, all launched after 20 February 2020 and all targeting mainly or exclusively SMEs. Compared to 1 April 2020, the date of the previous issue of this note, an increase of 55 measures has been recorded, in line with the previous week (+60). The recorded policies can be divided into six policy areas:

1. *Access to bank credit* (29 measures in 16 regions):

This macro-area includes all interventions aimed at facilitating access to credit for SMEs and reducing related costs. Typical examples are credit guarantee funds (national or regional), the reduction of interest on credit, the suspension of instalments of loans or the rescheduling of amortisation plans over longer periods.

2. *Public financing* (65 measures in 17 regions):

The introduction or remodelling at more favourable conditions of any type of subsidised financing for SMEs provided by public institutions, such as interest-free loans, non-repayable loans, alternative finance instruments and other financial instruments.

3. *Simplified procedures* (59 measures in 19 regions):

Measures to streamline bureaucratic procedures for SMEs – such as the deferral of deadlines for submitting applications for public funding programmes or for reporting on investment plans subject to public incentives – and regulatory simplifications (including in the field of public procurement).

4. *Labour and welfare* (41 measures in 21 regions):

Measures to maintain employment levels and support temporarily unemployed workers in SMEs, such as incentives for smart working and out-of-work benefits, including regional allocations to supplement the national redundancy fund.

5. *Tax relief* (17 measures in 13 regions):

Measures aimed at reducing or postponing the tax burden for SMEs, such as the deferral of tax deadlines, exemption from tax advances, advance payment of public contributions and the like.

6. *Planning and budgeting* (18 measures in 11 regions):

This category includes the establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination and dialogue task forces to design policies, as well as regulatory provisions aimed at reprogramming and reallocating budgets to deal with the emergency.

While the number of measures adopted grew over the last few weeks, also the number of regions adopting a diversified policy approach – i.e. extending over multiple areas of intervention – has steadily increased. Eighteen regions now have measures spanning over at least four policy macro-areas. Only three cover three or fewer macro-areas. On the other side of the spectrum, three regions have covered all the macro-areas outlined above.

Some policy macro-areas have now been implemented by all (e.g. out-of-work benefits) or almost all (simplification of administrative procedures and subsidised funding) regions.

On the other hand, a clear diversity persists in terms of the number of measures falling under the six macro-areas outlined above. In this sense, simplified procedures (65 occurrences) and public financing (59) stand out as being respectively about four and three times more frequent than, for example, tax breaks (17 occurrences).

**Table 3. Frequency of policy typologies by macro-area**

Macro-area	Policy typology	N.
1. Access to bank credit	Regional guarantee instruments on bank credit	9
	Additional funding to the regional section of the National Guarantee Fund for SMEs	7
	Contributions to reduce interest rates on bank credit	7
	Suspension of instalments on loans, in accordance with banks	6
	<i>Subtotal</i>	29
2. Public funding	Non-repayable financing granted by regional institutions	23
	Suspension of mortgages on loans granted by regional institutions	18
	Subsidised financing granted by regional institutions	7
	Advance payment of regional contributions	6
	Micro-credit or other public financing tools	6
	Zero-interest rate financing granted by regional institutions	5
	<i>Subtotal</i>	65
3. Simplified procedures	Deferral of deadlines for applications to public funding	24
	Deferral of deadlines for fulfilments (e.g. audit) related to public funding	19
	Waivers from standard regulations	11
	Accelerated procedures for the disbursement of public contributions	3
	Qualified legal assistance by regional institutions	2
	<i>Subtotal</i>	59
4. Labour and welfare	Implementation of the regional share of the national redundancy fund	21
	Out-of-work benefits funded by regions	13
	Support to smart working	5
	Support to online training	2
	<i>Subtotal</i>	41
5. Tax relief	Deferral of payments of regional taxes	14
	Reduction of or exemption from regional taxes	3
	<i>Subtotal</i>	17
6. Planning and budgeting	Reprogramming of regional budget	11
	Multi-stakeholder dialogue	7
	<i>Subtotal</i>	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>

Source: OECD Trento Centre, 2020

“Sector-neutral” measures are much more frequent (seven out of ten occurrences) than those aimed at specific economic sectors, in which case agriculture and tourism play a major role.

Finally, the scenario is also very varied in terms of the number of measures undertaken by the different regions. The extremes are given, on the one hand, by three regions that have introduced 5 measures each and, on the other, by a region that has adopted 18 measures. Specifically, there are eight regions with no more than 9 measures, 8 regions that have implemented between 10 and 13 measures, and 4 regions that have introduced between 14 and 18. These figures highlight the diverse approaches followed by the regional legislators.

Although two thirds of the interventions recorded do not imply any cost to public finance, it is estimated that the regional policies launched so far involve a total budget of EUR 1.39 billion (with a weekly increase of EUR 410 million).

**Table 4. Appropriations by territorial macro-area**

Macro-area <sup>209</sup>	EUR (M)	Quota
<b>North-West</b>	254.2	18.3%
<b>North-East</b>	344.6	24.8%
<b>Centre</b>	180.5	13.0%
<b>South</b>	560.4	40.3%
<b>Islands</b>	51.8	3.7%
<b>Italy</b>	1 391.5	100.0%

Source: OECD Centre in Trento, 2020

Looking into the territorial distribution of appropriations, the predominant role played by Southern regions appears to be due at least in part to the greater availability of resources from the European Structural Funds. By way of example, three instruments introduced by Campania as a part of its “Plan for the Socio-economic Emergency” announced on 4 April 2020 are entirely financed through European resources. The non-repayable grants to micro-enterprises (EUR 80 million) and the fund for the liquidity of credit guarantee institutions (EUR 13 million) are financed within the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020, whereas the bonus to professionals and self-employed workers (EUR 80 million) is partly financed within the Regional Operational Programme of the European Social Fund 2014-2020 and partly within the Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020.

The greater availability of financial resources among Southern regions is closely related to the very principles on which the distribution of Structural Funds are based: the larger the size of the regional economy and the greater its development lag, the higher the allocation. Moreover, as highlighted by IFEL (the foundation of the National Association of Italian Municipalities) in a study published in December 2019, regions from Southern Italy are on average lagging behind other Italian regions in the implementation of Structural Funds, suggesting that a greater residual availability may have allowed them to have more room for budget reprogramming in face of the current emergency.<sup>210</sup> Several consultations with experts in European funding issues and regional administrators confirm this interpretation.

<sup>209</sup> According to the classification adopted by the National Institute of Statistics: the North-West includes Liguria, Lombardy, Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste; the North-East includes Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol and Veneto; the Centre includes Lazio, Marche, Tuscany and Umbria; the South includes Abruzzo, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania and Molise; Islands include Sardinia and Sicily.

<sup>210</sup> IFEL, “The territorial dimension in cohesion policies. State of implementation and the role of municipalities in the 2014-2020 programming”, December 2019 (see in particular Table 9, p. 23): [https://www.fondazioneifel.it/documenti-e-pubblicazioni/item/download/3649\\_b0fb27c996671ed559f9b0c1e4b922ca](https://www.fondazioneifel.it/documenti-e-pubblicazioni/item/download/3649_b0fb27c996671ed559f9b0c1e4b922ca)

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