



Turkey

Impact of COVID-19 outbreak in the EFFAT Sectors and measures taken to deal with the consequences of the pandemic

EFFAT affiliates: OZ GIDA IS, TOLEYIS, TARIM-IS, TEKGIDA-IS, DEV TURIZM IS, SEKER-IS, OLEYIS TRADE UNION, Öz Orman-İş HAK-İŞ

Governmental measures:

The Turkish Health Ministry warned citizens through visuals and videos published on social media about obligatory preventive hygiene measures to respect (washing hands, self-quarantine of 14 days if necessary, etc.). Additionally, preventive posters and documentation was sent out to all stakeholders. Sterilisation of many public infrastructures have been undertaken (government and municipalities buildings, public transportation, shopping malls, etc.). Elderly persons received free masks, gloves and disinfectant.

Many financial measures to fight the impact of COVID-19 on many sectors have been taken, such as postponing taxes and social security premium payments for a period of six months, supporting minimum wage funds, creating a "Short Term Work" project to support employers and employees, suspending accommodation taxes until November 2020, affected businesses are granted a credit debts delay of 3 months by the Turkish public bank (plus possible financial support by the Government), increasing the credit guarantee fund threshold by 7.7 billion dollars and credit will be first granted to small and medium companies.

Also, to ensure continuity in employment, the 2-month compensatory working period will be increased to 4 months. Short time working allowance is provided, meaning that while temporary income support is given to workers at workplaces that suspend their activities, the cost of employers will be reduced. Workers may have the right to receive paid vacation and their income will not be affected. Dismissed workers due to financial crisis will be supported at least 3 months from the unemployment insurance fund.

Furthermore, to prevent the spread of the virus, elementary schools were closed since 16 March and students receive online education through internet and TV, universities offer distance learning programmes. Sport events are organised without spectators.

More information on the governmental measures can be found on the ETUC webpage [here](#).

Impacts in the EFFAT sectors and specific measures adopted to deal with them:

Agriculture sector:

All agriculture and forestry workers have been informed via General Directorate of Forestry and Agriculture

Food, Drink and Tobacco sector:

Export of supplies and products have been restricted to support the local market.

Working time at shopping malls were changed from 12 am to 20.00 pm, however many brands suffer from temporary closures.

Although the Food Retailer Association announced that the food and market chains continue to supply products and services without interruption, some food companies' shares have increased due to the increase in demand caused by the concerns that consumers may be interrupted.

**HRCT sector:**

Many tourism companies cancelled tour programs and organizations and as consequence will have a direct impact on the Turkish economy.

Bars, restaurants, cafes are closed, and many restaurants offer take away services.

Hospital cafeterias have been disinfected. New seating arrangements (1 meter distance) have been organized in workplace cafeterias and all workers were informed regarding the preventive measures. Masks and gloves were provided to workers. Disinfectants are used in all areas.

Measures adopted in specific companies

Hilton Hotels (Ankara, İzmir, Mersin) announced paid leave for its workers and applies the implantation of the “Short Term Work” of the Government. All hotels were disinfected.

The Bar Association (Litai Hotel) closed most of its units. The hotel was disinfected.

Workers that need to go to workplaces keep distance with others and leave place for 1 meter. Workers do not go lunch breaks together and obey 1 meter distance rule. Some companies changed lunch break time so as to prevent collective entries. Sterilization materials have been delivered. Workers are being informed regarding the requirement of individual cleaning.

For more information on the measures adopted in transnational companies please check the main page

Links to affiliates communications/statements:

OZ Gıda started a Social Media Campaign “Food workers on the go” with an aim to support employees in food production who should keep producing to meet the needs of country. #GıdacılarıŞBaşında / Twitter account: Ozgidais_snd