

Measures to face economic crisis caused by coronavirus on tourism and hospitality in Abruzzo Region



The Abruzzo Region to face the emergency caused by Covid19 issued a number of ordinances and laws to manage the lockdown and restart phases, in addition and integration of national laws.

In particular, as to tourism and hospitality sector, the Region approved LR 3 June 2020, n. 10 “**Urgent provisions in favor of the tourism, retail trade and other services sectors to face the effects of the serious economic crisis resulting from the epidemiological emergency caused by COVID-19**”.

This law issues, in addition to the national measures already running to support businesses and citizens, priority measures to ensure immediate availability to businesses in serious shortage of liquidity and to preserve the continuity of economic activities: contributions, including non-refundable for companies, indemnities, Contributions for the management of the safety of goods or areas belonging to the cultural, archaeological and speleological heritage of the Abruzzo region, provisions for employment, Rules for support for companies holding maritime state concessions and to ensure safety and prevention from coronavirus , Contributions in mountain areas, incentives for implementing cycle tourism routes, for sustainable mobility and Support to the Gran Sasso Tourist Center and to the Abruzzo Airport.

The Region grants a non-refundable contribution to companies in all economic sectors admitted by European legislation, as well as to subjects engaged in self-employed activities, including companies operating in the tourism sector (Bed and breakfasts and travel agencies too) . The contribution is provided on condition that the amount of revenues or fees relating to April 2020 has decreased by at least a third, compared to that of April 2019 and is determined as a percentage of April 2019 revenues.

A contribution of 2,000 euros is granted in favor of associations, non-profit cooperatives, which have in concession or in management sites, goods or areas belonging to the cultural, archaeological and speleological heritage of the Abruzzo region to be used for the management and safety of the concession sites.

The Region also grants to the owners of tourist, commercial, artisanal, industrial businesses and self-employed VAT holders, a **contribution to support the costs for the property lease contracts**, whose activities remained suspended in the March-April 2020 in execution of government measures. Furthermore, specific interventions have been set up aimed at safeguarding employment levels.



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The Law provides an economic contribution to the companies holding maritime state concessions for intervention related to guaranteeing measures safety and interpersonal distancing as well as aimed at financing the extraordinary management costs related to the protection of the bathing complexes (positioning of rocks to protect buildings and beaches), consolidation, restoration and recovery of the bathing structures damaged by the calamitous events of November 2019.

In order to ensure bathing safety and health prevention, **the Region gave a contribution to the coastal Municipalities, in proportion to the public beach and also to holders of beach concessions to comply with the emergency regulations issued regarding health prevention.**

In order to guarantee the safety of mountain tourism activities and health prevention in the use of reception areas, refuges, visitor centers, areas and equipped parks in mountain municipalities, the Region provides a contribution for the year 2020.

Measures are also provided to ensure tourist reception services within the "Trabocchi" of the Abruzzo coast, the Speleological-Mountaineering and Speleological Network of Abruzzo (REASTA), Gran Sasso Tourist Center and Abruzzo Airport.

With the aim of increasing cycle and pedestrian tourism by at least 25%, the Region supports the creation of cycle-tourist routes connecting the "Via Verde - Costa dei trabocchi" and the internal areas, for about 320 km.

Supports is also foreseen on private mobility, considering the current safety problems in the use of public transport, with a contribution of up to 50% of the cost supported, with a maximum of € 300.00, for the purchase of sustainable mobility vehicles suitable, such as bikes, e-bikes or electric scooters in favor of citizens residing in municipalities that are not provincial capitals (to complete and integrate the measures already provided for by the national standard).

