

Spain: Valencia region offers financial support to 4-day week

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Spain's Valencia region has decided to support companies in reducing the number of weekly working-hours. Companies which move to a 32-hour working week, will be eligible for financial relief, provided they do not cut wages. This is the first initiative of its kind in Spain and comes at a time when the debate over the 4-day working week is front and centre stage.

The support programme offers up to €9,600 per worker, spread over 3 years. The main chunk of the money is paid out in the first year, €5,500. After that the subsidy falls to €2,700 and €1,400. The same company cannot receive more than €20,000.

For companies to be eligible for support the reduction in working hours must affect at least 30% of staff in companies employing fewer than 49 employees, and at least 20% of staff in companies employing 50 or more. The aim of the plan is not only to encourage a better work-life balance but also to support companies as they adapt to the new work rhythm by optimising working time.

Another programme is expected at national level. The government's plan, which will be published by September 2022, will have a budget of €10 million and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises by opening a possibility of grants of €2,000 to €3,000 per employee.

Edited by industriAll Europe