

Rome, 24th March 2021

Mr SCHEERLINCK Danny
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European Commission DG Employment,
Social Affairs and Inclusion EMPL.B 1
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REF: VS/2019/0079 “Break up to get back together (Breakback).The impact of unionization through innovative service provision on union membership and industrial relations”. Request for a new extension due to Covid 19 crisis, in order to implement project activities.

The project “Break up to get back together (Breakback). The impact of unionization through innovative service provision on union membership and industrial relations”– **VS/2019/0079**” started on **1/03/2019** and was scheduled to end on **28/02/2021**.

Due to the Covid crisis effects, we obtained an additional period of six months in order to complete project activities. In this way, the project new ending date was fixed on **31/08/2021**.

Unfortunately, due to the “second wave” of Covid 19 emergency, some of the project activities have been further delayed.

Therefore, we are asking for another short extension (three months) for the following reasons:

- it was necessary to postpone the sending of the project web survey (addressed to case studies users) in order to overcome some Gdpr difficulties and to reinforce the engagement of trade unions, heavily engaged in tackling the Covid crisis consequences;
- it was necessary to revise methodologies for focus groups, workshops and policy labs and to reorganise face to face activities into blended and/or online meetings;
- activities and tools have also been revised due to the forced stop to cross-border air flights with the consequent improvement of online activities, tools and platforms;
- the research activities of the project continue in smart working as all the workplaces of almost all the partners are still closed;
- the slowdown in activities (which are not however suspended) it is also due to the lesser availability of those who will have to be interviewed in the case studies (trade unions, service providers for workers, bilateral bodies, users etc.) also located mainly in countries very significantly affected by the Covid crisis 19 and lockdown measures.
- It will be included a further deepening to our research activities related to the effects of Covid 19 crisis linked to all the services analysed in the project;
- it is extremely unlikely that the final conference of the project will be held in person on the appointed date.

With reference to the above-mentioned reasons, we are asking for an extension of the project deadline

from 31 August 2021 to 30 November 2021.

However, it is important to underline that these variations have not changed in any way the operational costs, which are the same as the figure calculated in the original project (with the internal and allowed revisions between headings related to the modified activities).

Looking forward to your kind reply.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Lauria'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

Francesco Lauria

Cisl Project Manager Vs 2019/0079