



The European Business Registry Association (EBRA), together with our peer organizations International Association of Commercial Administrators (IACA), Corporate Registers Forum (CRF) and ASORLAC, sought member feedback on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on business registries. The response period was open from 8 March to 16 April 2021. We hereby present the received responses from our member jurisdictions.

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Impact of COVID-19 on workload and operations

The Danish Business Authority (the DBA) has experienced an increased workload due to the possibility for companies to apply for economic help during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are several individual schemes for compensation, e.g. lost revenue for self-employed, compensation for fixed costs, compensation for salaries to employees who have been sent home due to the restrictions, and compensation to freelancers for lost income. In total, the DBA received 229,490 applications regarding compensation during 2020.

From April 2020 to April 2021, 576 new external employees have been hired to help process these applications. At the moment 393 external employees are working on processing the applications.

The number of new companies has increased by approx. 1% in 2020 compared to 2019, and the number of bankruptcies has decreased to 5,614 in 2020 compared to 8,474 in 2019.

All employees in the DBA have been working from home using virtual tools for collaboration. However, all employees working with the above-mentioned applications and other employees with a critical function have been working from the office. Working from the office requires a test for COVID-19 twice a week and it is a requirement to use a face mask when moving around in the office.

Impact of COVID-19 on development projects and strategy

The above-mentioned possibility for economic help to companies has required new IT solutions, as all applications for compensation have been submitted online. As a consequence, general maintenance and development of the existing IT solutions has been postponed.

Most of the cases that the DBA receives are submitted online. The few cases that cannot be submitted online can be submitted by e-mail. As a result hereof, there have been no particular challenges in this regard due to the pandemic.



COVID-19 and companies

In 2020 the deadline for filing the annual report was extended due to the assembly ban. Furthermore, it has been possible for companies to hold shareholder meetings online using electronic voting devices, even if this had not been adopted in the companies' articles of association. Online shareholder meetings are so far also a possibility in 2021.

The “New Normal”

The DBA has no specific initiatives or projects planned in this regard.