The Life You *Choose*

THE MADE REAL BLUEPRINT / STEP 3

Go and change where I am

Do I change my life where I am, or do I move?

A written request for four days, with my notice period, and the first Friday off.

Sam · 2 November 2026

MY FIVE LIGHTS / AS I RECORDED THEM

Money
Amber

One month with the difference between my pay and €2,360 set aside (€590), and €2,360 covering what I actually spend

Papers
Amber

Written agreement on my hours, my pay and the option to return to five days

People
Green

My sister knows, and my manager has agreed to a meeting

Place
Green

I stay in the flat I know, at the rent I know

Plan B
Green

If the request is refused, the two evenings stay and I ask again after six months

These colours record my own assessment on this date; they are not an independent verification. Any amber or red checks still need attention before I commit.

THE CONDITIONS STILL OPEN

- **Money** — 4 December 2026
  One month with the difference between my pay and €2,360 set aside (€590), and €2,360 covering what I actually spend

- **Papers** — With the written request, 1 December 2026
  Written agreement on my hours, my pay and the option to return to five days

My first step: Have an initial conversation with my manager. No decision is needed yet; I will test the budget before submitting a formal request, before 4 November 2026.

02 / MONEY

What my budget allows

Monthly costs €2,210

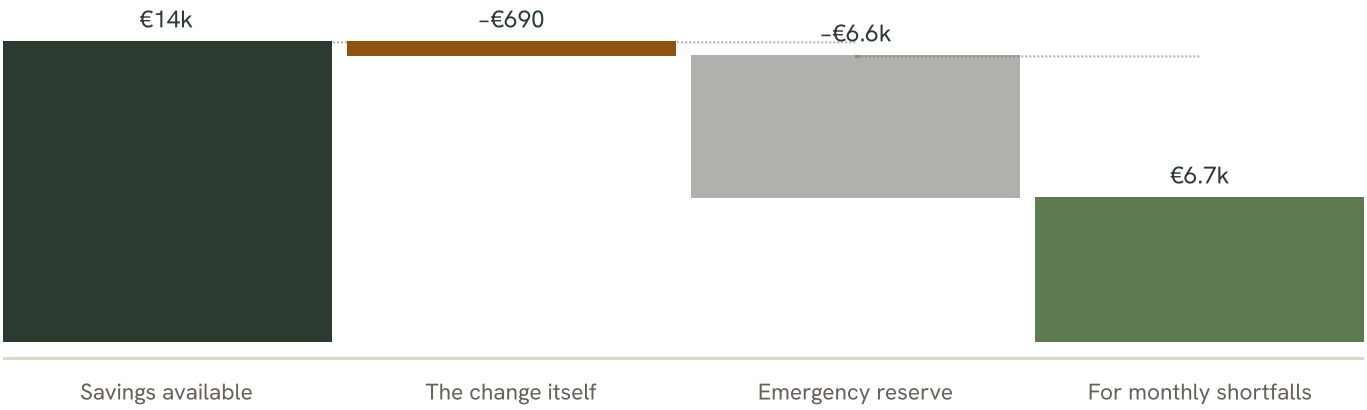
Income I can count on €2,360

€150

left over each month

On the income I can count on today.

HOW €14,000 BECOMES €6,710 TO LIVE ON



6

months I want

If monthly costs rise by 30%, they become €2,873. With income of €2,360, the monthly shortfall is €513. The €6,710 available for shortfalls would last about 13 months, with the €6,600 emergency reserve kept separate. I would go back to five days for a season rather than spend it.

This calculation uses the €6,710 left after the change itself and emergency reserve have been set aside. It does not use the full €14,000 in savings. Nothing here is advice; these are my own figures. This check uses the numbers you enter. It shows what your numbers say; it does not predict what will happen. Prices, taxes and rules change. Before you commit money, for example by selling a home or signing a contract, ask a qualified professional.

RISK AND A WAY BACK

What I will watch

Most of what I need is already here. I do not yet have outdoor space of my own, so I will test whether sharing a neighbour's allotment meets that need. The four-week test worked on six evenings out of eight. Moving would cost me the people I stay for.

01 I get the time and fill it with work again

Warning sign: Two Fridays in a row where I do not leave the house

A standing Friday with my sister, so somebody is expecting me

02 My manager says no

Warning sign: The meeting keeps being moved

Keep the two evenings, ask again after six months, one unpaid day a month meanwhile

03 Four-fifths pay turns out to be tight

Warning sign: The first month ends with nothing left over

Live on the lower figure for a month before I sign anything

My own judgement of what could go wrong. The warning signs are things I will look for, not predictions.

MY WAY BACK

Keep a home. Protect a return fund.

Not needed. The equivalent is the reserve, and a written option to return to five days.

Before changing my hours, I will ask whether I can return to five days and get any agreement in writing. My reserve of €6,600 stays untouched.

THE ALTERNATIVE STILL ON THE TABLE

Nothing changes, nothing is risked, and the money stays where it is.

FROM DECISION TO ACTION

The order I will do this in

For one month, set aside the difference between my current pay and €2,360 (€590 a month) and check that €2,360 covers my actual spending. Written agreement on my hours, my pay and the option to return to five days before I sign anything.

1

4 NOVEMBER 2026

Have an initial conversation with my manager

What must be true first: Nothing yet. No decision is needed at this point

2

2 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2026

Set aside the difference between my pay and €2,360 for a month

What must be true first: Last three months of spending in front of me

3

1 DECEMBER 2026

Put the request in writing, with two months' notice

What must be true first: A yes in principle, and the result of the budget month

4

JANUARY 2027

Take a corner of a neighbour's allotment

What must be true first: Tools and boots

5

5 FEBRUARY 2027

First Friday outdoors

What must be true first: The four-day week in place

A COMMITMENT I KEEP FOR LATER

I rent, and I keep renting. A four-day week is not the month to take on a mortgage.

FROM DECISION TO ACTION

What I come back to

LOOK AGAIN / 28 DECEMBER 2026

My employer refuses the request and cannot offer an alternative, or a month on the lower pay that does not add up.

Decided with: Me, with my sister. We agree.