



EU regulations on the property regimes of INTERNATIONAL COUPLES

Fact sheet | January 2019

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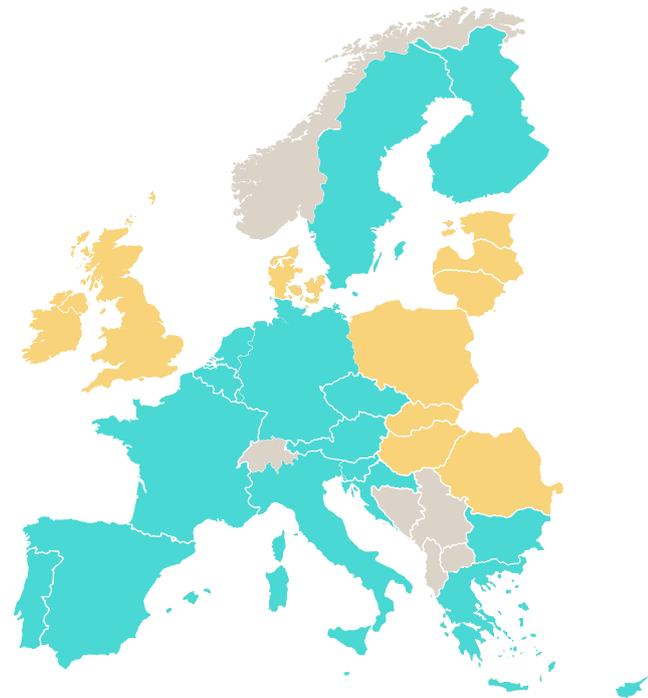


There are about 16 million international couples living in the Union

International couples are either **married or live in a registered partnership** and:

- Are made up of two people of different nationalities, or
- Live in a Member State other than their own, or
- Own property in a Member State other than their own

Every year, a number of international couples divorces or separates, or one of the partners dies. Yearly, the value of property that needs to be split between these former couples amounts to €500 million. This is why we need EU rules on property regimes for international couples, which is the aim of the Regulations at stake.



In what countries do the two Regulations apply?

To date, **18 Member States** have decided to cooperate and adopt the Regulations: Sweden, Belgium, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Luxembourg, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland and Cyprus.

The remaining Member States can join the enhanced cooperation at any stage.

Legend:

- Member States with the Regulations in force
- Member States that have not adopted the Regulations

The majority of the EU's international couples is covered by the Regulations, as the **18 Member States** where they are in force represent **almost 70%** of the EU's population.

How will international couples benefit from both Regulations?

The Regulations will:



Clarify which courts should deal with matters concerning the couples' property and which national law should apply to such matters. This will provide legal certainty to couples as well as cut down the costs of legal proceedings.



Facilitate the recognition and enforcement in one Member State of a judgment given in another Member State.

These benefits will apply to international couples when managing their property on a daily basis and when dividing it up in case of divorce, separation or the death of one of their members.



What happens in Member States that have not adopted the Regulations?

The Member States that do not participate in the Regulations keep on applying their national laws to cross-border situations involving the property regimes of marriages and registered partnerships. For their part, the 18 participating Member States will keep on applying their national law to the recognition and enforcement of judgments given in a non-participating Member State. The situation about property regimes of international couples will therefore be similar to legislation on divorce and succession, where not all Member States apply the same rules.

What if members of international couples come from a non-participating EU country, or a non-EU country?

The application of the Regulations on the property regimes in a participating Member State will not depend on the nationality of the members of the couple, that is, on whether or not the members of the couple are nationals of a participating Member State or a country outside of the EU. For instance, in Sweden, Swedish authorities would apply the Regulations also to a non-Swedish couple bringing a property matter before them.

