



Your social security rights in Belgium



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Directorate C — Social Affairs
Unit C.2 — Modernisation of social protection systems

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Your social security rights in Belgium

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Sometime in your life you may be in need of the support provided by social security benefits. If you are living in your own country and satisfy the condition, you will be entitled to receive support, but you also have the right to receive benefits if you are a national of any EU country and move to another. The information below sets out when you are eligible for benefits, what you are entitled to and how to go about claiming.

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Family

Family benefits

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to receive family benefit in Belgium. Currently, the family benefits sector in Belgium consists of two family benefit schemes:

- the general family benefits scheme;
- the guaranteed family benefits scheme, a means-tested benefit which applies to persons not covered by social security, mainly beneficiaries of social integration income from a Public Centre for Social Assistance (CPAS).

In what situation can I claim?

Almost every child who lives in Belgium is entitled to family benefits until his or her 18th birthday.

What conditions do I need to meet?

You are entitled to family benefits if you are an employee, a public sector official or self-employed, or if you are unemployed, disabled or a pensioner.

For the self-employed, the regime is harmonised with that for employees starting from 1 July 2014.

Family benefits are granted until 31 August in the calendar year during which the child reaches the age of 18. After age 18 and up to age 25 the child must either be undertaking a course of study or be in training. In addition, the child must reside in Belgium, in a member country of the EEA or in a country with which Belgium has concluded a social security agreement. Otherwise, legislation provides for general or individual ministerial dispensations.

Furthermore, there has to be a family relationship (or equivalent, such as a placement, a refugee child, etc.) between the recipient and the child beneficiary. If not, legislation provides for general or individual dispensations.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

For employees, public sector officials and the self-employed, family allowances include:

- family benefits;
- the age-related supplementary allowance;
- the birth grant - the adoption grant;
- the annual supplement awarded in August at the start of the new school year.

For unemployed persons, disabled employees (after 6 months) and pensioners, these allowances are means-tested against the income of the household in which the children are brought up.

There is also provision for a supplement for a disabled child up to age 21 and an orphan's allowance.

Apart from the age supplement and the annual supplement, beneficiaries of family benefits under the general scheme receive the supplement provided for a child of a person unemployed for more than six months.

- For this scheme, family benefits must be applied for from the family benefits fund to which the employer or the last employer (before the unemployment or illness) of the worker is affiliated, or in most cases from the FAMIFED;
- For the self-employed scheme, the application must be sent to the body of free family benefits fund which belongs to the same office as that which includes the social insurance fund to which the worker is affiliated.

The amounts of family benefits are as follows:

Basic benefits Flanders Wallonia and Brussels

1st child	€ 92.09	€ 93.93
2nd child	€ 170.39	€ 173.80
3rd child	€ 254.40	€ 259.49

Family benefit for an orphan child: € 353.76 (Flanders) and € 360.83 (Wallonia and Brussels) per child

The age supplements for the first child at the ordinary rate not benefiting from a social supplement and not affected by a condition

	Flanders	Wallonia and Brussels
Children from 6 to 11 years	€ 16.04	€ 16.36
Children from 12 to 17 years	€ 24.43	€ 24.92
Children from 18 to 24 years	€ 28.16	€ 28.72

The age supplements for the other children

	Flanders	Wallonia and Brussels
Children from 6 to 11 years	€ 31.99	€ 32.63
Children from 12 to 17 years	€ 48.88	€ 49.86
Children 18 from to 24 years	€ 62.15	€ 63.40

The supplements for children of people unemployed over the previous 6 months, of single parents and pensioners:

	Flanders	Wallonia and Brussels
First child	€ 46.88	€ 47.81
Second child	€ 29.06	€ 29.64
Third child and each additional child	€ 5.10	€ 5.20
From the 3rd child of a single parent	€ 23.43	€ 23.90

The supplements for the children of workers with disabilities are identical to those shown in the table above, except for the first child for which the supplement is € 100.86 (in Flanders) and € 102.88 (in other regions).

- For the guaranteed family benefits scheme, the application should be addressed to the Federal Agency for family benefits (FAMIFED) and the amounts are as follows.

Amount of guaranteed family benefits in Flanders:

	Under age 6	From 6 to 11 years	From 12 to 18 years	Over 18
1st child	€ 138.97	€ 170.96	€ 187.85	€ 201.12
2nd child	€ 199.45	€ 231.44	€ 248.33	€ 261.60
From the 3rd child	€ 259.50	€ 291.49	€ 308.38	€ 321.65
From the 3rd child in a single-parent family	€ 277.83	€ 309.82	€ 326.71	€ 339.98

Amount of guaranteed family benefits in Wallonia and Brussels

	Under age 6	From 6 to 11 years	From 12 to 18 years	Over 18
1st child	€ 141.74	€ 174.37	€ 191.60	€ 205.14
2nd child	€ 203.44	€ 236.07	€ 253.30	€ 266.84
From the 3rd child	€ 264.69	€ 297.32	€ 314.55	€ 328.09
From the 3rd child in a single-parent family	€ 283.39	€ 316.02	€ 333.25	€ 346.79

- The birth grant under the 2 schemes amounts to:
- In Flanders:

First birth	€ 1,247.58
Second birth	€ 938.66

Each of the children resulting from a multiple birth € 1,247.58

- In Wallonia and Brussels:

First birth	€ 1,272.58
Second birth	€ 957.42
Each of the children resulting from a multiple birth	€ 1,272.52

The adoption grant per adopted child amounts to: € 1,247.58 in Flanders and € 1,272.52 in Wallonia and Brussels.

Jargon busters

- FAMIFED: Federal agency for family allowances. The social security body responsible for the organisation of the family benefit arrangements.

Forms you may need to fill in

All the forms for the Federal agency for family benefits for employees can be downloaded from the site : <http://famifed.be/home>

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter:

- [FAMIFED publications;](#)
- [The social security portal;](#)
- [The information and services portal of the federal authorities.](#)

Commission publication and websites:

- [Family benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen.](#)

Whom do I contact?

[The FAMIFED web page to contact](#)

[your family benefits fund : http://www.famifed.be/home.](#)

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks.](#)

Maternity and paternity benefits

This chapter provides you with information about how to benefit from maternity and paternity benefits in Belgium.

If you have worked and paid social insurance contributions in another European Union country, your period of work and the contributions you have paid can be taken into account as part of the benefit calculation.

In what situation can I claim?

In the event of pregnancy employees, unemployed persons or self-employed persons can benefit from maternity leave. However the conditions to be met, the duration of the leave and the amount of the benefits are different for each category.

Salaried workers who are fathers or co-parents are entitled to ten days paternity or birth leave.

What conditions do I need to meet?

To be entitled to maternity leave you must meet the following administrative conditions:

- you have completed a work placement of six months or you are exempt;

- if you are an employee, you have worked 120 days during the 6 months previous to your maternity rest period;
- you have paid a minimum amount of social security contributions;
- there is no break period of more than thirty days between the date your maternity rest period starts and your last working day (or assimilated day).

With the exception of the waiting period, the administrative conditions are the same as those applied to sickness benefits in the context of being unable to work.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Duration and period of maternity leave.

If you are an **employee**, in principle maternity leave lasts for 15 weeks and includes two periods:

- **Prenatal leave** is a maximum period of 6 weeks before the expected date of delivery:
 - Five weeks are optional and can be taken after the birth;
 - The week immediately preceding delivery is a compulsory week of maternity leave;
- **Postnatal leave** is a period of 9 weeks which starts on the day of the birth (or the day after the birth when the worker had started work on the day of the birth). Postnatal leave is compulsory.

If you are **self-employed** maternity leave lasts for 12 weeks (13 in case of multiple births). You are obliged to take at least 3 weeks uninterrupted: the week before the birth and the first 2 weeks after the birth. The remaining nine weeks (ten weeks in case of multiple births) are optional. During the optional period, the self-employed may undertake part-time work. The maximum duration of the optional maternity leave is therefore 18 weeks (20 weeks in the case of multiple births).

Amount of maternity benefit

The amount of maternity benefit depends on your status (employed, unemployed or self-employed) and on your income.

If you are an **employee**, your maternity benefit is calculated as:

- 82% of your salary (no ceiling) for the first 30 days;
- 75% of salary (subject to ceiling) from the 31st day onwards;
- Maximum: € 104.80 per day from 1 January 2018.

If you are **unemployed**, in principle the amount of benefit on 1 January 2018 is equal to:

- a basic benefit equivalent to the amount of your unemployment benefit + an additional allowance of 19.5% of gross capped salary at € 111.09 for the first 30 days;
- a basic benefit equivalent to the amount of your unemployment benefit + an additional allowance of 15% of gross capped salary at € 104.80 starting from the 31st day.

If you are **self-employed** the amount of the benefit is a flat-rate weekly amount. The amount is the amount which is applicable on the first day of maternity leave. As at 1 January 2018 the amount of maternity benefit per week is € 475.41 for leave at full-time and € 237.71 for maternity leave at part-time.

Maternity benefits are paid by your mutual insurance fund. The application for benefits should be addressed to your mutual insurance fund supported by a medical certificate stating the presumed date of the delivery as well as the start date of the maternity leave.

Paternity or birth leave

As a father or co-parent, you are entitled to ten days paternity leave on the birth of a child. You must take this leave within the four months following the birth. You can take the leave days all at once or spread them.

Your employer will pay you your full salary for the first three days.

For the next 7 days your mutual insurance fund will be responsible for payment. The amount paid by the latter will be 82% of capped daily gross salary at € 114.59.

For more information about maternity and paternity or birth benefits, [go to the social security portal](#).

Benefits in kind can also be paid during and after pregnancy: injections, pre and post-natal care, monitoring and assistance during labour and delivery in a hospital.

Jargon busters

- **National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance (INAMI)**: a public body which administers the sickness, maternity and invalidity sector and distributes the financial resources between the different insurance organisations
<http://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/Pages/default.aspx>.

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

- <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>;
- <http://socialsecurity.belgium.be>.

Commission publication and websites:

- [Social security benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen](#).

Who do you need to contact?

Federal Public Service for Social Security

- Address: Centre administratif botanique, Finance Tower, Boulevard du Jardin botanique 50, PO Box 100 - 1000 Brussels
- Main telephone number: +32 25286011
- www.socialsecurity.belgium.be

National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance (INAMI)

- Address: Avenue de Tervueren 211 - 1150 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 27397111
- Email: communication@inami.fgov.be
- Website: <http://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/>

Auxiliary Fund for Sickness & Invalidity Insurance (CAAMI)

- [CAAMI web page](#) to find your nearest regional office.

To contact the mutual insurance funds:

- [National Alliance of Christian Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Non-denominational Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Socialist Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Liberal Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Free Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [The SNCB Holding health insurance fund](#)

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks.](#)

Health

Healthcare

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to benefit from the health insurance system in Belgium.

For persons travelling or living in the European Union outside Belgium, the European health insurance card allows you to benefit from public health care at reduced cost or even free.

If you have worked and paid social insurance contributions in another European Union country, your period of work and the contributions you have paid can be taken into account as part of the benefit calculation.

In what situation can I claim?

The health insurance system covers practically the whole population: employees and persons treated as such, self-employed workers and persons treated as such, other categories (students, disabled persons, beneficiaries of integration income, etc.) as well as dependants of the aforementioned persons.

To be recognised as a dependant, you must reside in the family of the beneficiary of the insurance, with the exception of the separated spouse (de facto or living apart) and children under age 25. You must not have an income (pension, annuity, etc.) greater than € 2,436.10 gross per quarter (amount in force in the 2nd quarter of 2017).

What conditions do I need to meet?

To be able to obtain benefits:

- you must be registered with a health insurance body, which in turn must itself be affiliated to a national union of authorised mutual insurance funds, or register with CAAMI;
- your contributions may not be lower than a fixed minimum amount. If this is not the case, an additional contribution has to be paid to maintain the right to healthcare;
- Your affiliation to the insurance body remains valid until the end of the second year following the last year during which you were insured, at the latest.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

The benefits in relation to preventive and curative care are reimbursed according to the scales laid down in agreements established between practitioners and the health insurance system.

Medical and dental care

- You are free to choose your doctor or your dentist;
- you are free to consult a specialist;
- In principle, the health insurance fund will reimburse 60-75% of the fees charged for healthcare services.
- Co-payment of € 6 (€ 1.50 for those on the preferential scheme) for consultations with general practitioners; € 4 (€ 1) if you have a "dossier medical global".
- Co-payment of € 12 (€ 3 for those on the preferential scheme) for consultations with specialist physicians; physiotherapy is reimbursed only if prescribed by a doctor;
- the dental care which will be reimbursed includes preventive and conservative treatment, extractions, dental prosthesis and orthodontic treatment (depending on the age limit: 9 years for a first-line treatment and end of the intervention at the latest at the age of 22);
- you pay the fees directly to the doctor or dentist and you are then reimbursed by your insurance fund.

More information about reimbursement of medical costs is available on <https://socialsecurity.belgium.be/en>.

Pharmaceutical products

- You are free to choose the pharmacy where you get the medication prescribed by the doctor or dentist;
- you pay the amount of the cost directly to the pharmacist, who will give you a receipt for the medication provided;
- the amount reimbursed by the health insurance varies depending on the social and therapeutic usefulness of the prescribed medication;
- if you have a prescription, you will only have to pay the pharmacist the portion of the price not covered by your health insurance fund.

Hospitalisation

- The cost of care is shared between you and your health insurance fund. The hospital will invoice your health insurance fund directly for the costs covered by your insurance;
- on admission to hospital, you make a flat-rate prepayment. The amount varies depending on your status (those benefiting from the preferential scheme, the unemployed, dependent children);
- the cost of the daily care is a flat-rate amount which covers the costs of your stay and your care in hospital. A large proportion of this amount is paid by your health insurance fund. The amount which you have to pay yourself varies according to your status;
- you will also be charged a flat-rate daily amount for the reimbursed medications used during your hospital stay.

More information about hospitalisation at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>.

Jargon busters

- **Prescription** document by which an authorised health professional sets out the treatment recommendations for a patient.
- **CAAMI** : Auxiliary Fund for Sickness & Invalidity Insurance. Public institution which carries out the same tasks as the mutual insurance funds. Unlike the latter, the auxiliary fund is required to register any beneficiary who applies without them needing a subscription to additional insurance. <http://www.caami-hziv.fgov.be/Model4-10-F.htm>.
- **Preferential scheme**: in certain circumstances certain categories of patient benefit from an improved level of reimbursement for their medical costs. This is referred to as the preferential scheme. The personal share that these patients pay for their medical care is therefore lower. More information about the status of beneficiary of the preferential scheme can be found at <https://www.socialsecurity.be>.
- **Personal share or co-payment** the amount which you have to pay yourself, after deducting the insurance element.
- **INAMI** : National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance. A public body which administers the sickness, maternity and invalidity sector and distributes the financial resources between the different insurance organisations (mutual insurance funds). <http://www.inami.fgov.be/FR/Pages/default.aspx>.

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

- <https://www.socialsecurity.be>;
- www.socialsecurity.belgium.be.

More information about the European health insurance card can be found on [the information and services portal of the federal authorities](#) and on [the dedicated page of the European Commission](#).

Who do you need to contact?

National Institute for Sickness and Invalidation Insurance (INAMI)

- Address: Avenue de Tervueren 211 - 1150 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 27397111
- Email: communication@inami.fgov.be
- Website: <http://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/Pages/default.aspx>

Auxiliary Fund for Sickness & Invalidation Insurance (CAAMI)

- [CAAMI web page](#) to find your nearest regional office.

To contact the mutual insurance funds:

- [National Alliance of Christian Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Non-denominational Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Socialist Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Liberal Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Free Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [Auxiliary Fund for Sickness and Invalidation Insurance](#)
- [The SNCB Holding health insurance fund](#)

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Long-term care

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to benefit from long-term care benefits in Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

While there is no specific legislation at federal (national) level in Belgium, the legislation does however provide for certain benefits aimed at dependent, disabled or elderly persons, who require specific equipment or long-term care. In particular this relates to:

- the integration allowance (AI);
- the allowance for assistance to the elderly (APA);
- Flemish Social Protection (Vlaamse Sociale Bescherming).

What conditions do I need to meet?

Integration allowance

To provide assistance with the additional costs which you will meet as a disabled person in arranging your day-to-day living space (motorised wheelchair, special equipment for the bathroom or the kitchen, etc.), an integration allowance may be awarded to you if:

- your disability is certified by an approved medical doctor;
- your income and that of your partner do not exceed certain limits;
- you are at least 21 years of age and under 65;
- you are included in the population register;
- you are domiciled in Belgium and actually reside there.

Allowance for assistance to the elderly

If you are aged 65 or over and you have difficulty in carrying out your day-to-day activities, you may be entitled to an allowance for assistance to the elderly (APA). This allowance is identical to the integration allowance, but is aimed at persons aged 65 or over. The earliest you can claim this allowance is the day of your 65th birthday. The criteria for obtaining the allowance are the same as for the integration allowance (AI).

More information about AI and APA is available at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>.

More information about the APA in the Flemish community can be found at the site of the Vlaamse Sociale Bescherming (Flemish Social Protection).

Flemish Social Protection (Vlaamse sociale bescherming) in the Flemish region.

Flemish Social Protection is a set of interventions and funding systems for long-term care within the Flemish Community.

A contribution of € 26 or € 51 is requested from each insured person, which finances the basic assistance budget, the Flemish Social Protection and the allowance for the elderly.

To be eligible, the insured person must have resided five years in the Flemish region or in the Brussels-Capital region. However, residents of Brussels are not obligated to join. The beneficiary must also, depending on the intervention, either have a recognised disability or be at least 65 years of age with a disability or a reduction in self-sufficiency (7 points or more on the autonomy scale). Medical examinations for the elderly care allowance are still conducted at the federal level.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Integration allowance

To provide assistance with the additional costs which you will meet as a disabled person in arranging your day-to-day living space (motorised wheelchair, special equipment for the bathroom or the kitchen, etc.), an integration allowance may be awarded to you if:

- your disability is certified by an approved medical doctor;
- your income and that of your partner do not exceed certain limits;
- you are at least 21 years of age and under 65;
- you are included in the population register;
- you are domiciled in Belgium and actually reside there.

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Jargon busters

- **FPS Social Security:** federal public service responsible for social security.
- **Income replacement allowance (ARR):** it can be awarded to a disabled person if their disability limits their capacity to work and therefore their ability to acquire an income through work.
- **AI:** integration allowance.
- **APA:** allowance for assistance to the elderly.

Forms you may need to fill in

The procedure regulating the submission of an application is available at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>.

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter.

FPS Social Security publications on AI and APA:

- <http://handicap.belgium.be/fr/>.

For more information about Flemish Social Protection , visit the following websites:

- <http://www.vlaamsesocialebescherming.be/fr/> (fr) ;
- <http://www.vlaamsesocialebescherming.be/> (nl);
- <http://www.vlaamsesocialebescherming.be/nl/zorgkassen> (nl).

Commission publication and websites:

- [Social security benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen.](#)

Who do you need to contact?

- [Alphabetical list by municipality and Belgian CPAS addresses.](#)
- FPS Social Integration:
 - Building WTC II - Tower 2 - Boulevard Roi Albert II 30, PO Box 40 - 1000 Brussels
 - Telephone: +32 25088586
 - Email: question@mi-is.be
 - Website: <http://www.mi-is.be/fr>

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Sickness cash benefits

This chapter provides you with information to enable you to claim daily sickness benefit in Belgium.

If you have worked and paid social insurance contributions in another European Union country, your period of work and the contributions you have paid can be taken into account as part of the calculation your benefit.

In what situation can I claim?

If you are an employee or a self-employed worker and you are no longer able to work as a result of an illness or an accident, you are entitled to income replacement (unless it results from occupational disease or a work-related accident). However, a specific scheme will apply, depending on your status.

What conditions do I need to meet?

If you are an **employee**, you must meet the following conditions:

- be registered with an insurance entity (mutual insurance fund) as holder;
- demonstrate a minimum volume of work or payment of a minimum level of contributions for a period of at least 12 months;
- not have had a period of interruption of more than 30 days between the start of the incapacity and the last working day;
- have worked for a total of at least 180 days;
- have stopped all work activity;
- Being acknowledged as unable to work by the doctor of the mutual insurance fund.

If you are **self-employed**, you must meet the following conditions:

- you must demonstrate payment of contributions for a minimum of 6 months;
- you must be able to demonstrate that you have paid sufficient contributions in a reference period preceding your incapacity for work;
- there must not have been a period of interruption of more than 30 days between the date of your incapacity for work and the last quarter of social security contributions.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

If you are an **employee** you must provide the medical adviser of your health insurance fund with a medical certificate completed by the doctor who is treating you.

During an initial period the benefits are paid by the employer:

- white-collar workers receive 100% of their earnings for a month;
- manual workers receive
 - 100% of their earnings for the first seven days of incapacity;
 - 85.88% from the 8th to the 14th day of incapacity, or via a supplementary allowance;
 - From the 15th to 30th day: 25.88% of compensation not exceeding the ceiling set by the disability health insurance and 85.88% of the amount exceeding the ceiling.

The sickness insurance starts when the guaranteed salary period paid by the employer is over.

The compensation rate is 60% of earnings. The ceiling taken into account for the compensation is € 139.7388 per day (for incapacities from 1 January 2018).

If you are still unable to work after a year, you will be entitled to invalidity benefit.

More information on the [INAMI website](#).

If you are **self-employed**, you must meet the following conditions:

- You must have completed a waiting period of 6 months or be exempt;
- You must be able to demonstrate that you have paid sufficient contributions for the compensation sector in a reference period preceding your incapacity for work;
- There must not have been a period of interruption of more than 30 days between the date of your incapacity for work and the last quarter of social security contributions (or equivalent period) or an exemption from social security contributions.

Jargon busters

- **Invalidity benefit:** benefit which you can claim if you have received sickness benefits for 1 year and you are still certified as being unable to work.
- **INAMI:** National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance. A public body which administers the sickness, maternity and invalidity sector and distributes the financial resources between the different insurance organisations (mutual insurance funds) [INAMI website](#).

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter:

- <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>;
- The amounts of benefits for employees on [the INAMI website](#).

Commission publication and websites:

- [Social security benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen](#).

Who do you need to contact?

Federal Public Service for Social Security

- Address: Centre administratif botanique, Finance Tower, Boulevard du Jardin botanique 50, PO Box 100 - 1000 Brussels
- Main telephone number: +32 25286011
- Email : social.security@minsoc.fed.be <http://socialsecurity.belgium.be/fr>

National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance (INAMI)

- Address: Avenue de Tervueren 211 - 1150 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 27397111
- Email: communication@inami.fgov.be
- Website: <http://www.inami.fgov.be/homefr.htm>

To contact the mutual insurance funds:

- [National Alliance of Christian Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Non-denominational Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Socialist Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Liberal Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Free Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [Auxiliary Fund for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance](#)
- [The SNCB Holding health insurance fund](#)

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Incapacity

Benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to claim benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases in Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

- An accident at work is defined as “any accident that happens to a worker during the course and by the fact of the performance of his contract of employment and which causes an injury”.
- If the occupational disease is on the official list and the victim is employed in a sector where he or she is exposed to that risk, the causal link between the exposure and the disease is presumed. An open system coexists alongside the list.

What conditions do I need to meet?

Occupational diseases

If you are **employed in the private sector**, bound by a contract of employment, you are insured. The following are also insured:

- apprentices and trainees, even if these receive no remuneration;
- persons who, because of a physical work incapacity or unemployment, are undertaking a vocational rehabilitation or training course;
- pupils and students who are exposed to a risk of occupational disease during their studies.

If you are **employed in the public sector**, you are insured against the risk of occupational disease. However, the administrative route to be followed by a particular case is not the same depending on the relevant authority or body.

If you are a **self-employed worker** you are not yet covered by mandatory insurance in relation to occupational diseases. Nonetheless you can still apply to the sickness and invalidity insurance scheme for self-employed workers.

Accidents at work

Any worker who is incapacitated as a result of an accident at work is entitled to compensation. An accident at work is defined as:

- A sudden event (which distinguishes an accident at work from an occupational disease) which causes an injury and which happens during the course and by the fact of the performance of the contract of employment;
- Accidents at work on the way to and from work.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Occupational diseases

Victims of an occupational disease or persons entitled on their behalf are entitled to compensation paid by the Federal Agency For Occupational Risks (l'Agence fédérale pour les risques professionnels - Fedris).. You may be entitled to one of the following compensations:

- for permanent loss of working capacity;
- for temporary loss of working capacity;
- for reimbursement of medical costs related to the treatment of an occupational disease;
- for the assistance of another person;
- after a death caused by an occupational disease, the compensation is then paid to the persons entitled on their behalf.

Please note. The information which appears on this page only applies to paid employees in the private sector. Salaried workers in the public sector should contact their public sector personnel department.

You can never receive compensation which is higher than the maximum amount of your basic salary. This is also the case if you receive several compensation payments from Fedris because, for example, you have contracted different occupational diseases, and for any compensations paid following an accident at work.

More information can be found at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>.

Accidents at work

- Any worker who is incapacitated as a result of an accident at work is entitled to compensation;
- the costs of medical care provided to the victims of an accident at work are reimbursed;
- in the event of a death resulting from an accident at work, the close relatives may be entitled to an annuity.

In the event of an accident at work, you are entitled to compensation for:

- temporary total or partial loss of working capacity (you receive daily allowances);
- permanent loss of working capacity (you receive an allowance during the review period and an annuity after that period).

The compensations, allowances and annuities are calculated from the starting point of the basic remuneration.

More information can be found at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>.

Jargon busters

- **FEDRIS** : The Federal Agency for Occupational Risks (l'agence fédérale pour les risques professionnels) is a Belgian public social security institution resulting from the merger of the Occupational Diseases Fund and the Accidents at Work Fund which ensures that the rights of victims of occupational accidents and diseases are respected.
- **Occupational disease**: occupational diseases are caused directly and definitively by the exercise of an occupation. There is an official list of these diseases, but it is also possible for a disease which is not on the list to be certified as an occupational disease.
- **Basic remuneration**: the salary which you earned during the year preceding the accident in the job role occupied at the time of the accident.

Forms you may need to fill in

- [The forms relating to occupational diseases can be downloaded from the Fedris website, see below.](#)
- Accident at work declaration form: <http://www.fedris.be/fr>

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

- www.socialsecurity.belgium.be.
- The Fedris website : <http://www.fedris.be/>
- <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>

Commission publication and websites:

- [Unemployment and social security benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen](#)

Who do you need to contact?

Fedris:

- Address: Avenue de l'Astronomie 1 - 1210 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 22266400
- Email: secr@fedris.be
- Website: <http://www.fedris.be>

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Invalidity benefits

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to claim invalidity benefits in Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

When you have been certified as having been incapacitated from work for more than a year you switch to invalidity. The period of invalidity therefore begins from the second year of your inability to work.

What conditions do I need to meet?

If you are **employed** you must:

- be registered with a mutual health insurance fund, as holder;
- have worked for 180 days within a period of one year. Certain periods of inactivity, for example paid leave, sickness absence, etc., are counted as working periods;
- be certified as having been unable to work for a year;
- demonstrate that the minimum contributions have been paid.

If you are a **self-employed worker**:

- You must have completed a work placement of 6 months or be exempt;
- You must be able to demonstrate that you have paid sufficient contributions for the compensation sector in a reference period preceding your incapacity for work;
- There must not have been a period of interruption of more than 30 days between the date of your incapacity for work and the last quarter of social security contributions (or equivalent period) or an exemption from social security contributions.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

It is the Invalidity Medical Council (Conseil médical de l'invalidité - CMI) of the INAMI which decides whether to certify the invalidity and on any possible extensions on the basis of a medical report drawn up by the medical officer of the employee's mutual insurance fund.

The invalidity benefit payments can continue until retirement age, provided that the beneficiary continues to fulfil the medical conditions.

Amount

The amount of the benefit depends on your family circumstances and on the date the incapacity started:

- It amounts to 65% of the lost earnings (capped), if the incapacitated person has at least one dependant (maximum € 90.83 per day for incapacities occurring from 1 January 2018);
- If you have no dependants, this amount is set at 55% (maximum € 76.86 from 1 January 2018);
- If there is a cohabitant the rate is 40% of the lost earnings (capped), maximum € 55.90 per day for invalidities occurring from 1 January 2018.

The daily compensation cannot be lower than the following amounts (as at 1 January 2018):

- for a regular worker: € 58.68 (with dependants), € 46.96 (single, without dependants) or € 39.98 (cohabitation without dependants);
- with regard to a non-regular worker: € 45.78 with dependant(s) and € 34.33 for others.

If the dependant receives a monthly income below € 970.67, the holder is regarded as having a dependant.

If the dependent receives a monthly professional income between € 970.67 and € 1,562.59, the holder is considered single.

It is the same if the dependent has a monthly replacement income (possibly combined with a professional income) between € 970.67 and € 1,068.28.

More information about the amounts of invalidity benefit for employees can be found on [the INAMI website](#).

If you are a self-employed worker, the amount of your sickness benefit is a flat-rate amount which depends on your family circumstances. During the period of invalidity it also depends on the cessation or otherwise of her business.

The amount of the benefit is linked to the index. Sickness benefits are paid by your mutual insurance fund.

Jargon busters

INAMI: National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance. A public body which administers the sickness, maternity and invalidity sector and distributes the financial resources between the different insurance organisations (mutual insurance funds).

<http://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/Pages/default.aspx>

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter:

- The website of the Federal Public Service for Social Security : <https://www.socialsecurity.be>;
- [The INAMI website](#).

Commission publication and websites:

- Unemployment and social security benefits: [your rights abroad as a European citizen](#).

Who do you need to contact?

National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance (INAMI)

- Address: Avenue de Tervueren 211 - 1150 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 27397111
- Email: communication@inami.fgov.be
- Website: <http://www.inami.fgov.be/FR/Pages/default.aspx>

To contact the mutual insurance funds:

- [National Alliance of Christian Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Non-denominational Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Socialist Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Liberal Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Free Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [Auxiliary Fund for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance](#)

- [The SNCB Holding health insurance fund](#)

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Old-age and survivors

Survivors' benefits

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to claim survivors' benefits in Belgium.

If you have worked and paid social insurance contributions in another European Union country, your period of work and the contributions you have paid can be taken into account as part of the benefit calculation.

In what situation can I claim?

In the event of death, the survivor's pension enables the surviving spouse to obtain a pension calculated on the employment or self-employment career of his/her deceased spouse. Originally, the survivor's pension was reserved for widows but since 1984 it has also applied to widowers.

What conditions do I need to meet?

In order to benefit from a survivor's pension you must, as of 1 January 2018:

- have reached the age of 46 years and 6 months;
- have been married to the worker for at least a year at the time of the death. This condition is also met if the marriage was directly preceded by a period of legal cohabitation and the total of these periods (cohabitation + marriage) is at least 1 year;
- comply with the general terms and conditions of payment of pensions.

There are however exemptions from these conditions:

Exemptions from the **marriage condition**:

- a child was born from your marriage or your child was born within three hundred days of the death of your spouse;
- at the time of death, a child was a dependant for whom you or your spouse were receiving family benefits;
- the death was due to an accident subsequent to the date of the marriage;
- the death was due to an occupational disease contracted in the exercise or on the occasion of the exercise of the profession: the origin or the exacerbation of this disease, however, must be later than the date of your marriage;
- the death was due to an occupational disease contracted in the course of an assignment from the Belgian government or in the context of Belgian technical assistance: the origin or the exacerbation of this disease, however, must be later than the date of your marriage.

A surviving spouse who fulfils the marriage or exception conditions, but not the age conditions, is entitled to a transitional allowance for 12 months (without dependent children) or 24 months (with dependent children).

There is no ceiling to the combination of the transitional allowance with social benefits and professional income.

More information on the SFP website: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Generally, it is necessary to apply for a survivor's pension. However there are instances where the assessment is carried out automatically, without prior request.

You can apply for your survivor's pension online on the SFP website: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>.

Amount

The amount of the survivor's pension or the transitional allowance will vary depending on whether your spouse was a pensioner or not.

- Your spouse was receiving a pension (calculated at the household rate or at the single rate). The amount of the survivor's pension amounts to 80% of the pension calculated at the household rate of the deceased spouse (which corresponds to a pension at the single rate);
- Your spouse was not yet in receipt of a pension. The survivor's pension is then 80% of the projected retirement pension which would have been awarded to the spouse. However, certain special rules are aimed at reducing the inequalities.

For more information, please refer to the websites of the relevant institutions:

- self-employed workers: www.inasti.be;
- salaried workers and civil servants: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>.

Jargon busters

- **SFP: Federal Pensions Service.** Public social security institution responsible for administering old-age and survivor's pensions for salaried workers and of civil servants: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>.
- **INASTI:** National Insurance Institute for the Self-employed (Institut national d'assurances sociales pour travailleurs indépendants). A public social security institution, INASTI administers pensions for self-employed workers. http://www.nisse.be/en?_ga=2.158811133.65664522.1497365541-1987368120.1497365541

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

- SFP website: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>.

Commission publication and websites:

- [Benefits in the event of bereavement: your rights abroad as a European citizen.](#)

Who do you need to contact?

If you are **employed** or civil servant: Federal Pension Service (**SFP**)

- Free phone number from Belgium: 1765
- Chargeable number from abroad: +32 78151765
- Address: Tour du Midi - 1060 Brussels
- Website: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>

If you are **self-employed**: the National Insurance Institute for the Self-employed (**INASTI**)

- Telephone: +32 25464211
- Address: Quai de Willebroeck 35 - 1000 Brussels
- Email: info@rsvz-inasti.fgov.be
- Website: <http://www.inasti.be/fr>

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Old-age pensions and benefits

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to claim a pension and other old-age benefits in Belgium.

If you have worked and paid old-age insurance contributions in another European Union country, your period of work and the contributions you have paid can be taken into account in the calculation of the amount of your pension.

In what situation can I claim?

Every person who has worked either as a paid employee, a self-employed person or a public sector employee in Belgium has a right to a retirement pension at the end of their career.

What conditions do I need to meet?

In Belgium the legal pension age is set at:

- 65 years for those retiring on or before 31 January 2025;
- 66 years for those retiring between 1 February 2025 and 31 January 2030 inclusive;
- 67 years for those retiring on or after 1 February 2030

However, all individuals can receive an early retirement pension, if certain age and career conditions are met. From 1 January 2018 onwards, recipients have to be at least 63 years of age and have 41 years of service.

There are exceptions for long careers; pension can be taken at 60 for those with 43 years of service, and 61 for those with 42 years of service.

Depending on the profession, there are 3 pension regimes in force:

- For salaried workers, the amount of the pension is calculated based on three parameters: the length of the professional career, the remuneration received during the career and the family circumstances. More information is available on the website of the [Federal Pensions Service \(SFP\)](http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr) : <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr> or at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>;
- For self-employed workers the parameters which come into play are identical to those used in the regime for salaried workers (career, remuneration and family circumstances). However certain aspects are different. More information is available on the website of the [National Insurance Institute for the Self-employed \(INASTI\)](https://www.socialsecurity.be/) and at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>;
- For public sector workers the pension regime is different from that for salaried workers. The earnings obtained throughout the career are not taken into consideration, but a reference salary is used which corresponds to the average of the last 10 years' salary for the public servant who was not aged 50 as at 1 January 2012. More information is available on the website of the [Federal Pensions Service \(FPS\)](http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr) : <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr> and at <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>.

It is possible for you to resume or pursue professional activities as a pensioner. However there are certain requirements which you have to meet. For more detailed information please refer to the Federal Pensions Service website (SFP): <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

The pension for employees is calculated in relation to the length of insurance, earnings on which contributions have been paid (within the ceiling limit) and the family circumstances of the pensioner. It is based on the following formulae (S = the reference salary)

- For a single person or a married person without a dependent spouse: $S \times 60\% \times \text{length of period of insurance} / 45$;
- For a married person with a dependent spouse: $S \times 75\% \times \text{length of period of insurance} / 45$.

Other benefits, linked to pensions, may be provided for the elderly:

- the heating allowance granted to retired miners (31.74 € per year): it is awarded for each year of work completed in the mines with a maximum of 30 years (maximum € 952.20);
- a holiday allowance and supplementary holiday allowance: the holiday allowance is granted annually to recipients of an old-age pension for the month of May in the current year. The allowance is a flat-rate amount and depends on the type of pension.

Pension applications must be submitted to the municipal administration of your place of residence. If you live in another EU Member State, you must send your application to the local pension institution in that State. To avoid delays in the processing of your case, you are advised to submit your application 1 year before reaching retirement age.

There are two ways in which you can receive your pension. It can be paid either by postal order, which can be sent to you at home, or by transfer into a post office or bank account in your name.

Jargon busters

- Holiday allowance: remuneration paid by the employer to the worker during their statutory leave.
- SFP: Federal Pensions Fund (Service fédéral des pensions). Public social security institution responsible for administering old-age and survivor's pensions for salaried workers and public sector pensions. <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>.
- INASTI: National Insurance Institute for the self-employed (Institut national d'assurances sociales pour travailleurs indépendants). A public social security institution, INASTI administers pensions for self-employed workers. <http://www.inasti.be/fr>.

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

- The website of the Federal Pensions Service
- [The website of the Federal Public Service for Social Security](#)
- [Information from the FGTB trade union: http://www.fgtb.be/](http://www.fgtb.be/)
- [Information from the CSC trade union](#)
- [Information from the CGSLB trade union](#)

Commission publication and websites:

- [Retiring abroad: your rights as a European citizen](#)

Who do you need to contact?

If you are **employed or a civil servant**: the Federal Pensions Service (SFP)

- Free phone number from Belgium: 1765
- Chargeable number from abroad: +32 78151765
- Address: Tour du Midi - 1060 Brussels
- Website: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>

If you are **self-employed**: the National Insurance Institute for the Self-employed (INASTI)

- Telephone: +32 25464211
- Address: Quai de Willebroeck 35 - 1000 Brussels
- Email: info@rsvz-inasti.fgov.be
- Website: <http://www.inasti.be/fr>

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Social assistance

Integration income

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to benefit from integration income in Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

If your means of support are insufficient and you are unable to obtain adequate income yourself you are entitled, in principle, to an integration income.

What conditions do I need to meet?

You are entitled to an integration income in three particular circumstances:

- from the moment you apply until such time as you actually start working or you have sufficient resources;
- if you are benefiting from, and complying with the requirements of, an individualised project for social integration;

if you are unable to access the labour market for health reasons or on the grounds of equity.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Integration income is residual financial assistance in relation to social security, which is granted by the CPAS (Centre public d'action sociale - Public Centre for Social Assistance) to any person who meets all the legal conditions set out in legislation in relation to the right to social integration. These conditions essentially relate to nationality, residence in Belgium, age and insufficient resources.

The amount depends on the category to which you belong:

- If you live with someone with whom you share the household expenses (rent, energy, etc.), you will be regarded as cohabiting and can receive an amount of € 578.27 per month. It need not necessarily be your partner;
- If you live alone, you will be regarded as single and can receive an amount of € 867.40 per month;
- If you have at least one child who is a minor in your care, you will be deemed as having a dependent family and you can receive an amount of € 1,156.53 per month.

The CPAS has to take into account all of your resources except certain resources which are exempt as well as, under certain circumstances, the resources of the people with whom you live (the spouse, but also a first-generation ascendant or descendant). Therefore you may not receive the full amount equating to the social integration income referred to above, because your own resources have to be deducted from that amount.

More information can be found at <https://www.socialsecurity.be>

Jargon busters

- **Individualised social integration project:** drawn up between the CPAS and the person requesting assistance; its objective is to achieve maximum integration and participation in the life of society. The CPAS has three instruments at its disposal to ensure the right to social integration: employment, integration income and individualised social integration projects, or a combination of these three.
- **FPS SI:** Federal Public Service for Social Integration. A public body which aims to guarantee a dignified existence to every person who does not qualify for social security and who lives in poverty. The closest partners of the FPS SI are the CPAS.
- **CPAS:** Centre public d'action sociale - Public Centre for Social Assistance. A CPAS has a number of social services at its disposal and provides various types of assistance of a financial, tangible or intangible nature (taking responsibility for bills, food packages, guidance on budgeting, etc.) in order to allow a person to be able to lead a life which is consistent with human dignity. Each municipality or town has its own CPAS offering a wide range of services and types of assistance.

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter:

- SPP website Social integration: <http://www.mi-is.be/fr>;
- <https://www.socialsecurity.be> .

Commission publication and websites:

- [Social security benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen.](#)

Who do you need to contact?

[Alphabetical list by municipality and Belgian CPAS addresses.](#)

FPS Social Integration:

- Address: Building WTC II - Tour 2
- Boulevard Roi Albert II 30 - boîte 40 - 1000 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 25088586
- Email: question@mi-is.be
- Website: <http://www.mi-is.be/fr>

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Other social assistance allowances

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to benefit from other social assistance allowances in Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

If your means of support are inadequate and you cannot change this situation by yourself, you are entitled, in principle, to other social assistance allowances in addition to social integration income:

- Guaranteed income for elderly persons (GRAPA);
- Allowances for disabled persons (ARR and higher family benefits);
- Guaranteed family benefits.

What conditions do I need to meet?

Guaranteed income for elderly persons (GRAPA)

The GRAPA or guaranteed income for elderly persons is a minimum income allocated by the authorities to the aged people who have reached pension age, i.e. currently 65 years, subject to certain conditions relating to nationality and residence in Belgium. The GRAPA is awarded when a person has insufficient means to live.

Allowances for disabled persons

The federal authorities grant financial assistance to disabled persons who do not have sufficient income to provide for their needs. The allowances system for disabled persons is intended for the most deprived. Disabled persons must meet certain conditions in order to benefit from this social assistance (certification of disability, income, age).

Income replacement allowance (ARR)

It can be awarded to a disabled person if their disability limits their capacity to work and therefore their ability to acquire an income through work. This assistance is however linked to several conditions, such as:

- nationality;
- age;
- place of residence;
- income (of the disabled person and of the person with whom they share a household).

Guaranteed family benefits

Are you unable to obtain family benefits for the children in your household under any Belgian, overseas or international scheme? In this case you can claim guaranteed family benefits.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Guaranteed income for elderly persons (GRAPA)

As soon as you reach the legal retirement age (currently 65), the Federal Pensions Service (SFP) automatically checks if you are entitled to the GRAPA. Entitlement to this financial assistance is automatically considered if you are receiving an allowance for disabled persons or the integration income.

- If you live with one or more persons, you can receive the basic amount of € 8,666.16 per annum (or € 722.18 per month);
- If you live alone, you can receive the higher amount of € 12,999.36 per annum (or € 1,083.28 per month).

If you have applied for a pension this also constitutes a GRAPA application. If you have not applied for a pension you should contact your municipal administration or the Federal Pensions Service.

Allowances for disabled persons:

- the income replacement allowance (ARR): the amount of the allowance is defined based on the family circumstances of the disabled person: single, in a household, cohabiting, dependent children, in an institution;
- increased family benefits: the amount of the supplement to family benefits depends on a range of factors, such as the number of children in the household, the age of the child and the particular circumstances. More information is available on [the FAMIFED website](#). To obtain this allowance please contact your family benefits fund.

Disabled persons are also entitled to social and fiscal benefits, with for example:

- a reduction in taxes;
- access to social housing;
- parking card.

More information about social and fiscal benefits for disabled persons is available on the website of the FPS Social Security:

<http://socialsecurity.belgium.be/fr> and at <http://handicap.belgium.be/fr/>

Guaranteed family benefits:

This is conditional upon you receiving a social integration income or the GRAPA, or if you only have reduced means.

The guaranteed family benefits are granted only if the household resources per quarter is lower than € 4,226.93 for a household with one child, plus 20% per additional child starting with the second.

Jargon busters

- APA: Allowance for assistance to the elderly. Forms part of the allowances for disabled persons and applies to over 65 year olds.
- AI: Integration allowance. To help disabled persons meet the costs of improvements to the quality of their day-to-day lives (motorised wheelchair, special equipment, etc.)
- ARR: Income replacement allowance.
- GRAPA: Guaranteed income for elderly persons.
- SFP: Federal Pensions Service (Service fédéral des pensions)

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

To find out more about the GRAPA please refer to the following pages on the SFP website:

- <http://www.onprvp.fgov.be/FR/profes/benefits/igo/pages/default.aspx>;
- <http://www.onprvp.fgov.be/FR/profes/support/igo/Pages/default.aspx>.

More information about allowances for disabled persons on the [Federal Public Service for Social Security website](#) and on [the social security portal](#).

More information about increased family benefits:

- At the website : <http://www.famifed.be/home>;
- [More information on the granting of family benefits for the disabled children of employees via the social security portal](#);
- [More information on the granting of family benefits for the disabled children of self-employed persons via the social security portal](#).

More information on guaranteed family benefits on the FAMIFED website: <http://www.famifed.be/home>.

Commission publication and websites:

- [Social security benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen](#).

Who do you need to contact?

[Alphabetical list by municipality and Belgian CPAS addresses](#).

Guaranteed income for elderly persons: Federal Pensions Service(SFP):

- Free phone number from Belgium: 1765
- Chargeable number from abroad: +32 78151765
- Address: Tour du Midi - 1060 Brussels
- Website: <http://www.sfpd.fgov.be/fr>

Allowances for disabled persons: Federal Public Service for Social Security office for disabled persons:

- [Contact form](#) on the website
- Free phone number from Belgium: 0800 98799
- Website: <http://www.handicap.fgov.be/fr>

Guaranteed family benefits: Federal Agency for Family Benefits (FAMIFED):

- The FAMIFED web page to contact your family benefits fund:
<http://www.famifed.be/home> .

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Unemployment

Unemployment

This chapter tells you what you need to know in order to claim unemployment benefits in Belgium.

If you have worked and paid social security contributions in another European Union country, your period of work and the contributions you have paid can be taken into account in the calculation of the amount of your benefits in Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

Employees covered by social security can obtain unemployment benefits if they meet the necessary conditions.

Young persons who are unemployed after their vocational training can, in certain circumstances, receive a flat-rate allowance called an integration benefit, the amount of which varies depending on their family situation and their age. Payment of this benefit is limited to three years.

No unemployment insurance scheme exists for self-employed persons. However there is a transitional benefit (a financial benefit and continuation of some social security rights for a maximum of one year of a self-employed person's working life) in the event of bankruptcy, judicial settling of debts (*règlement collectif des dettes*), forced cessation of work in the event of force majeure or cessation because of economic difficulties. This benefit is not granted by unemployment insurance. It should be requested from the self-employed worker's social insurance fund.

What conditions do I need to meet?

In order to benefit from unemployment benefits you have to fulfil the following conditions:

- have worked a minimum number of days (between 312 and 624) in a specified period (from 21 to 42 months) depending on your age;
- be deprived of earnings because of circumstances beyond your control and have lost a full-time job;
- be able to work and be available on the labour market;
- be registered as a job-seeker with the competent employment service (FOREM, Actiris or VDAB) and be prepared to accept a suitable job or to undertake a training course offered to you;
- be actively looking for work and cooperate with the support activities and training offered by the employment service. Individual interviews will be held to assess if you are making sufficient efforts to get back into the job market. If your efforts are considered to be inadequate payment of your benefits may be suspended;
- be under retirement age (65);
- your usual residence must be in Belgium.

Unemployment regime with company supplement (RCC) is a system which allows certain older workers to obtain a supplementary allowance in addition to unemployment benefits. To be entitled to the unemployment regime with company supplement (RCC), you must:

- be aged 62;
- have been dismissed;
- be entitled to unemployment benefit;
- withdraw from the labour market.

More information about the RCC can be found on the ONEM website (National Employment Office): <http://www.onem.be/fr>.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

Unemployment benefits are granted for all the days of the week except Sunday.

You have to apply for benefits to your trade union or to the Auxiliary Unemployment Benefits Fund (the CAPAC).

Duration

The duration of the payment of unemployment benefit is, in principle, unlimited. However, the amount of the benefit gradually reduces ("digression") depending on the duration of the unemployment and taking into account the previous work history as an employee. The current minimums for the amounts of benefit are nonetheless guaranteed. Moreover, you must be making effective attempts to find work and, as appropriate, adhere to the action plan which has been put in place for you. Otherwise your benefits may be reduced or temporarily suspended.

Amount

The amount of the benefit depends on:

- the amount of the last salary received (subject to an upper limit of € 2,619.09 per month);
- the family situation (cohabiting with dependent family, single, cohabiting without dependent family) starting from the second year of unemployment;
- the length of your professional activity prior to your unemployment situation;
- the length of time since you registered as unemployed. For the first year (3 + 3 + 6 months):

	Amount of the last salary received
first 3 months of unemployment	65%
next 3 months	60%
following 6 months	60%

Digression of the amount of benefit does not apply to persons:

- with a long professional past (at least 25 years);
- aged 55 or over;
- who are permanently unemployable for at least one third of the time.

Unemployed persons aged 60 and over may be entitled, under certain conditions, to a "seniority supplement" from the 2nd year of unemployment. In particular the beneficiary must be able to demonstrate a working career of at least 20 years. The amount of the seniority supplement depends on the family circumstances and the age of the applicant.

Income guarantee benefit (AGR - Allocation de garantie de revenu)

If you are unemployed and you undertake part-time work in certain cases you can receive a supplementary allowance which is additional to your earnings. This income guarantee benefit (AGR) aims to guarantee that you have an overall income which:

- is at least equal to your unemployment benefit if your part-time work does not exceed 1/3 of your time;
- is higher than your unemployment benefit if your part-time work exceeds 1/3 of your time.

Jargon busters

- Unemployment regime with company supplement (RCC): formerly an early retirement arrangement, this system enables certain older workers who are made redundant to obtain a supplementary allowance which is additional to unemployment benefit and is borne by their ex-employer. This system is not an early retirement pension.
- National Employment Office (ONEM - Office national de l'emploi): the ONEM is a public social security institution which implements the unemployment-insurance system and other similar benefits, as well as certain employment measures.
- Income guarantee benefit (AGR) allowance received in addition to your earnings if you undertake part-time work.

Forms you may need to fill in

The forms to complete are available online on [the ONEM website](#)

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

- <https://www.socialsecurity.be/>;
- [The website of the Federal Public Service for Social Security](#);
- [The website of the FGTB trade union](#);
- [The website of the CSC trade union](#);
- [The website of the CGSLB trade union](#).

Commission publication and websites:

- [Unemployment and social security benefits: your rights abroad as a European citizen](#).

Who do you need to contact?

The National Employment Office (ONEM)

- Find the office where you live:
- <http://www.rva.be/home/MenuFR.htm>
- Address (central administration): Boulevard de l'Empereur 7 - 1000 Brussels
- Telephone number (main): +32 25154111
- Website: <http://www.rva.be/home/MenuFR.htm>

Paying organisations:

Fédération générale des travailleurs de Belgique (FGTB) - Belgian General Federation of Labour

- Address (central administration): Rue Haute 42 - 1000 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 25068211
- Website: <http://www.fgtb.be>

Centrale générale des syndicats libéraux de Belgique (CGSLB) - General Federation of Liberal Trade Unions in Belgium

- Address (central administration): Chaussée de Haecht 579 - 1031 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 22463111
- Website: <http://www.cgslb.be/fr>

Confédération des syndicats chrétiens (CSC) - Confederation of Christian Trades Unions

- Address (central administration): Avenue Roi Albert 95 - 9000 Ghent
- Telephone: +32 92225751
- Website: <https://www.csc-en-ligne.be/default.html> <https://www.csc-en-ligne.be>

Caisse auxiliaire de paiement des allocations de chômage (CAPAC) – Auxiliary Unemployment Benefits Fund

- Address (central administration): Rue de Brabant 62 - 1210 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 22091313
- Website: <https://www.capac.fgov.be/fr>

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Moving abroad

Combining social insurance contributions from other countries

This chapter tells you what you need to know if you have paid social insurance contributions in other countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) or in Switzerland and you come (or return) to Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

If you leave to go and work in another country in the European Union, or in another country covered by the same rules, in general you will no longer pay your social security contributions in Belgium but rather in the new country where you are working.

If you have lived, worked and/or paid social insurance contributions in another country in the EU, or in a country covered by the same rules, the period of your stay in one of those countries, the period during which you worked there or the contributions you paid there can be taken into account for the purposes of calculating your benefits in Belgium.

European regulations guarantee that:

- in Belgium you will have the same rights and the same obligations in relation to social security as a Belgian worker;
- your periods of work and your social security contributions in another country and in Belgium will be taken into consideration in assessing your entitlements to social security benefits in Belgium;
- in certain circumstances you will be able to receive the social security benefits of your country of origin when you reside in Belgium;
- your periods of work in other countries will be accumulated for the purposes of assessing your entitlements to social security and for the calculation of the amounts, for example retirement pensions, in Belgium.

What conditions do I need to meet?

The procedures for the granting of social security benefits are set out in the regulations. The relevant benefits are:

- family benefits;
- healthcare benefits;
- sickness benefits (including maternity and paternity benefits);
- invalidity benefits;
- benefits in respect of accidents at work;
- benefits in respect of occupational diseases;
- unemployment benefits;
- retirement pensions;
- survivors' pensions.

What am I entitled to and how can I claim?

If you have worked in another country in the European Economic Area or in Switzerland and you come (or return) to Belgium, you must have:

- Evidence of your health insurance contribution with form E104 and U1 which you can obtain from your social security fund in the country you are leaving. Make sure you check with them that you have all the necessary documents.

If you are in receipt of unemployment benefit in another EEA country or in Switzerland, you can export these benefits to Belgium so that you can look for work there. You should fill in form U2

When you contact your insurance fund in Belgium to apply for social benefits you should advise them of:

- the country where you worked;
- the name and the address of your employer there;
- the period during which you worked there;
- your social security number.

Jargon busters

- **Form E104:** certification in relation to the totality of the periods of insurance, employment or residence. This document summarises the periods of insurance completed in a Member State. It is used by the relevant department in another State where the person is working, for the purposes of acquiring rights to sickness, maternity and death insurance benefits (allowances) when a worker starts work in a particular State but does not meet that State's conditions for claiming benefits.
- **Form U1:** Periods to be taken into account for the granting of unemployment benefits. It is aimed at unemployed persons who claim benefits in one Member State after having worked in another Member State.
- **Form U2:** maintenance of the right to unemployment benefits. This form is designed for the unemployed worker who wants to transfer his place of residence to another Member State in order to look for work there.
- **EEA:** European Economic Area. The 28 Member States of the EU except for Croatia, plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

Social security portal:

- <https://www.socialsecurity.be> ;
- [for your social security rights](#);
- [for your unemployment benefit](#).

Commission publication and websites:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=849&langId=fr>.

Who do you need to contact?

The National Employment Office (ONEM)

Find the office where you live:

- <http://www.rva.be/home/MenuFR.htm>.
- Address (central administration): Boulevard de l'Empereur 7 - 1000 Brussels
- Telephone number (main): +32 25154111
- Website: <http://www.rva.be/home/MenuFR.htm>

National Institute for Sickness and Invalidation Insurance (INAMI)

- Address: Avenue de Tervueren 211 - 1150 Brussels
- Telephone: +32 27397111
- Email: communication@inami.fgov.be
- Website: <http://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/Pages/default.aspx>

Auxiliary Fund for Sickness & Invalidation Insurance (CAAMI)

- [CAAMI web page](#) to find your nearest regional office.

To contact the mutual insurance funds:

- [National Alliance of Christian Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Non-denominational Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Socialist Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [National Union of Liberal Mutual Insurance Funds](#)

- [National Union of Free Mutual Insurance Funds](#)
- [The SNCB Holding health insurance fund](#)

[In the event of any problems with your rights as a European citizen: EU helpdesks](#)

Main residence

Main residence

This chapter tells you about the conditions required in respect of the main residence and what you need to comply with in order to obtain social security benefits in Belgium.

In what situation can I claim?

The main residence is the place where you normally live, whether alone or within a family or household.

Determination of the main residence

The main residence is determined by the factual situation. It is therefore the place where you actually live for most of the year. This fact is established on the basis of various elements, and in particular:

- the place where you go home after work;
- the place where the children go to school;
- energy consumption and telephone charges;
- the usual residence of the spouse or the other members of the family.

Merely the intention of making a place the main residence is not sufficient. You must also actually live there.

Formal recognition of the main residence

Formal recognition of the main residence happens after checks have been carried out. The municipal administration defines the procedures. Generally it involves a visit by the district officer, who checks whether you actually live at the address provided.

Consequences of formal recognition

If your main residence is in a particular municipality and the checks show that it is indeed your main residence you are then entered into the population register of that municipality.

As a general rule you must have established your main residence in Belgium in order to benefit from the social security benefits in that country.

Know your rights

The links below allow you to find out more about your rights. These sites are not dependent upon the European Commission and so do not represent the viewpoints of the latter;

- On [the website of the Directorate General for Institutions and Populations](#) of the Federal Public Service for Home Affairs;
- On [the portal for information and official services](#).

Commission publication and websites:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=849&langId=fr>.

