



# **Your social security rights in Slovakia**



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# **Your social security rights in Slovakia**

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**Freephone number (\*):**

**00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

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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 the country where you were born and satisfy the qualifying conditions, 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 part of the EU. The information below sets out when you are eligible for benefits, what you are entitled to and how to go about claiming it.

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# Family

## Childcare

You will learn:

- What social benefits you may claim as a child's parent on a regular basis;
- What social benefits and additional benefits you may apply for.

### When can I apply for benefits?

You always need to be the beneficiary (see below).

The entitlement to the payment of **parental allowance (*rodičovský príspevok*)** also arises in the case when the parent is in gainful employment and provides care for the child either himself/herself, through the other parent, or another adult or legal entity.

**Child benefit (*prídavok na dieťa*)** is received by one of the parents if s/he is an EU citizen.

**Supplement to child benefit (*príplatok k prídavku na dieťa*)** is a social benefit paid by the State to the beneficiary in addition to the child benefit as support for the upbringing and maintenance of the child, in relation to which a tax bonus cannot be claimed.

All entitlements may be claimed up to 6 months retrospectively.

**Maternity benefit (*materské*)** is an insurance benefit provided by the Social Insurance Agency (*Sociálna poisťovňa*) based on pregnancy or care for a new-born child (other benefits are awarded by the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)).

Furthermore, sickness benefit, benefit for the care of a sick relative, and equalisation benefit during pregnancy and maternity are provided to parents (or future parents, as the case may be) from sickness insurance. Employees, mandatorily sickness insured self-employed persons, voluntarily sickness insured persons, as well as natural persons, who are entitled to maternity benefits during the protective period, and all qualify for maternity benefits provided that they meet the conditions prescribed by law.

### What conditions do I have to meet?

You are entitled to **parental allowance** if you are regularly caring for a child under the age of 3 or 6 (in case of long-term unfavourable health conditions) and, at the same time, you are permanently or temporarily resident in Slovakia.

Your entitlement to **child benefit** arises with respect to each dependent child in your care if, at the same time, you are permanently or temporarily resident in Slovakia.

(When your child reaches 3 years of age, you are obliged to notify to the local office of labour, social affairs and family in which way the care for the dependent child will be arranged until the commencement of compulsory education. This does not apply in cases when you are the beneficiary of maternity benefits or parental allowance.)

Only a parent who fulfils the following conditions may apply for **supplement to child benefit**:

- the parent meets the conditions for entitlement to child benefit;
- the parent is a recipient of a pension (old-age or early old-age pension, disability pension due to his/her reduced capacity to perform gainful activity by more than 70%, service pension after reaching pensionable age, or a pension paid abroad);
- the parent is a recipient of a carer's allowance;
- the parent does not engage in any gainful activity;
- the parent has not been granted a child tax credit for the dependent child, for the support of whom the parent is receiving child benefits.

When applying for supplement to child benefit, all of the above-mentioned conditions must be fulfilled by both reviewed persons who cannot concurrently engage in any gainful

activity. When the child is entrusted to the care of only one of the parents, the fulfilment of the applicable conditions by the other parent is not examined.

The entitlement to **maternity benefit** is conditioned by the continuance of sickness insurance for a minimum of 270 days in the last two years prior to childbirth, as well as by the existence of sickness insurance at the time of commencement of the maternity leave or upon duration of the protective period as of that date. Moreover, self-employed persons and voluntarily insured persons are obliged to pay their sickness insurance contributions on time and in the correct amount.

Other insured persons other than the mother are also entitled to maternity benefits, e.g. the child's father or a person caring for the child based on a decision of a competent authority, provided the conditions are met.

### **What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?**

**Parental allowance** currently amounts to €214.70. You need to complete the **Parental Allowance Application** and the **Maternity Benefit Entitlement Certificate** forms available from the Social Insurance Agency.

**Child benefit** amounts to €23.68. You need to complete the **Child Benefit Application** form.

The [Child Benefit Application](#) form must be submitted with a photocopy of the child's birth certificate, a certificate from the child's basic or secondary school or university, if attended by the child, and the applicant should present his/her identity card. When you and your child are residing in a non-EU country, you should append a certificate confirming the existence of your compulsory health insurance in Slovakia.

**Supplement to child benefit** amounts to €11.10.

From the first day, the maternity benefit amount is equal to 75% of the daily assessment basis achieved in the reference period, which is usually the calendar year preceding the year in which the entitlement to the maternity benefit has arisen.

You may claim all these entitlements, except for maternity benefits, at the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) according to the place of your permanent residence (foreigners according to the place of their temporary residence in Slovakia).



### Jargon busters

**Dependent child** - A child from birth until completion of compulsory education or up to 25 years of age if in full-time education at a secondary school or university.

#### Beneficiary

- a) When claiming **parental allowance**, it is the child's parent or a natural person, into whose custody replacing parental care the child has been entrusted based on a decision of a court, or the spouse of the child's parent provided that the spouse lives with the child's parent in the same household.
- b) When claiming **child benefit**, it is
  - the parent of the dependent child (based on the mutual agreement of both parents);
  - the parent into whose personal care the child has been entrusted based on a decision of a court;
  - a person, who has the custody of the child based on a final decision of a court;
  - an adult dependent child (under certain conditions).
  - the child with a parental responsibility.

**Reference period** - It is usually the calendar year preceding the year in which the entitlement to maternity benefit has arisen.

### Required documents

- [Child benefit application](#)
- [Supplement to child benefit application](#)
- [Parental allowance application](#)
- [Maternity benefit entitlement certificate](#)
- Maternity benefit application - to be issued by the gynaecologist
- [Notice on provision of child care for child benefit purposes \(after reaching 3 years of age\)](#)
- [Certificate of secondary school or university attendance for child benefit purposes](#)

### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Family entitlements of EU citizens](#)

### Who do you need to contact if you need advice about parental benefits?

**Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

[Department of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

Špitálska 8, 812 67, Bratislava

**Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

Unit of Citizen's Services

[Unit of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

[List of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)

[Social Insurance Agency](#) (*Sociálna poisťovňa*)

[Contacts and Information](#)

[Information Centre](#)

# Health

## Healthcare

You will learn about the rules for providing healthcare in Slovakia.

In principle, citizens of EU Member States have the right to equal conditions for the provision of healthcare as Slovak citizens.

You will learn more about:

- what is included in healthcare
- what are the conditions for providing healthcare
- what are the patient's rights

### What conditions do I need to meet?

You have the right to emergency healthcare provided by a healthcare provider of your choice, regardless of whether you have public health insurance or not.

General outpatient healthcare is provided to persons with public health insurance based on an agreement on the provision of health care concluded with a general practitioner in writing, free of charge and for a minimum period of 6 months. Specialised outpatient healthcare covered in part or in full by public health insurance is provided only upon a referral from a general practitioner.

With the consent of the health insurance company, you may apply for the provision of healthcare (including operations and transplantations) also in EU Member States. If you do not have public health insurance, you have to pay in full the relevant healthcare costs, subject to specific exceptions.

In terms of emergency medical service and inpatient emergency service a small lump-sum fee is paid. You will also pay a small fee when collecting a prescription for medicines at a pharmacy. Co-payments in different amounts are made for many medicines. Certain patient categories may apply for a refund of their co-payments when the total amount exceeds a pre-determined maximum limit in a particular period.

### What conditions do I have to meet?

If you wish to receive full healthcare, you need either to be insured or to pay for the healthcare provided. You will receive emergency healthcare also without public health insurance, however, the hospital or the physician have the right to demand the direct payment of incurred costs from you.

With regard to free dental interventions (tooth decay) they are based on a preventive examination in the year previous to the intervention.

If you wish to use a medical prescription or medical voucher issued in another EU Member State, you need to present a document, which fulfils the defined criteria (consult with the National Contact Point [here](#)). If not, you will have to pay the full price for a medicine, medical device or dietetic food.

### What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?

I have the right	Who provides what and how
To be informed about the treatment	Physician's obligation
To consent to the treatment	Patient's right
To be operated on/treated abroad	Contact the relevant health insurance company
To choose my surgeon/obstetrician	Pay the emergency medical service

## Jargon busters

**Emergency healthcare** is provided to individuals experiencing a sudden change in their health condition that poses an immediate threat to their life or any of their vital functions, Healthcare provided during childbirth is also considered as emergency healthcare.

Likewise, the emergency healthcare is also considered an examination of an individual who is suspected of being a potential source of a fast -spreading life-threatening disease, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of an individual with a fast-spreading life-threatening disease.

**Emergency transportation** – the emergency healthcare includes transportation of persons to a healthcare facility and between healthcare facilities. It also involves the emergency transportation of donors and recipients of organs. The emergency transportation is arranged by medical rescue service providers.

**General outpatient healthcare** - the specific type of healthcare.

## Required documents

- European health insurance card (EHIC)
- Agreement on the provision of healthcare
- Portable document S1 (PD S1)
- Portable document S2 (PD S2)
- Prior authorisation for cross-border healthcare (in cases where prior authorisation is needed upon national legislation)
- Authorisation for healthcare provided under bilateral agreements

## Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)
- [Using healthcare when living in another EU country](#)

## Who do you need to contact if you need advice about health insurance?

### Public Health Insurance Companies:

General Health Insurance Company, Inc., [www.vszp.sk](http://www.vszp.sk)

Union Health Insurance Company, Inc., [www.union.sk](http://www.union.sk)

Dôvera Health Insurance Company, Inc., [www.dovera.sk](http://www.dovera.sk)

**Health Care Surveillance Authority - HCSA** (Úrad pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou)

Želtova 2, 829 24 Bratislava 25

Telephone: +421 2 20856 789

[www.udzs-sk.sk](http://www.udzs-sk.sk)

Email inquiries and complaints concerning the quality of provided healthcare may also be sent to [national contact point](#) or directly to any of the eight [HCSA branches](#).

If you seek an advice or want to complain about the fee charged, contact the Health Care Department in any of the eight [Slovak self-governed regions](#).

# Incapacity

## Sickness cash benefits

What rules apply to the payment of incapacity benefits in Slovakia?

What benefits are you entitled to during your or your child's illness and who will pay them to you?

### When can I apply for benefits?

**Sickness benefit (*nemocenské*)** will be provided if you have been found temporarily incapacitated for work due to an illness or injury and/or if you have been subjected to quarantine measures.

You are entitled to **benefit for the care of a sick relative (*ošetrovné*)** if you are personally caring all day for a sick child, a sick spouse, a sick parent or a sick parent of your spouse. You are also entitled to this benefit when you are personally caring all day for a healthy child under the age of 10 in the event a pre-school or school facility and/or a social service facility is closed down based on a decision of competent authorities.

To be entitled to sickness cash benefits as self-employed person, you need to be compulsory insured and insurance contributions need to be paid in time and in the correct amount from the beginning of the insurance, i.e. for the last five years. As a voluntarily sickness insured person, you need to be insured for 270 days in the last two years and insurance contributions need to be also paid in time and in the correct amount.

As an employee, you are entitled to sickness benefits even though your employer did not pay contributions on your behalf.

If you become temporarily incapacitated for work in another EU country, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Lichtenstein (hereafter "EU Member State"), i.e. a physician other than a physician in Slovakia has decided on your temporary incapacity, you will claim your entitlement to sickness benefits at the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency via a certificate issued by the attending physician in another EU Member State.

The competent branch of the Social Insurance Agency will decide on your sickness benefit entitlement. When communicating with the Social Insurance Agency, you need to indicate your personal identification number.

### What conditions do I have to meet?

You either have to have sickness insurance as an employee, or compulsory sickness insurance as a self-employed person or voluntarily sickness insured. As a rule, the protective period is seven days from the cessation of sickness insurance, and eight months in case of a female insured person whose sickness insurance ceased during her pregnancy.

Your physician will issue a certificate of **temporary incapacity**.

You keep part I of the certificate - **temporary incapacity card** - for a possible inspection carried out by the Social Insurance Agency. The physician will indicate the date of your next medical check-up on the card. After your temporary incapacity for work ends, you will return the card to your physician.

Part II of the certificate - **application for sickness benefit/injury surcharge benefit (*úrazový príplatok*)** - should be submitted to the employer, whereas the employee will become entitled to sickness benefit provided by the Social Insurance Agency starting from the 11th day of temporary incapacity (income replacement is paid by the employer during the first 10 days), while self-employed persons and those voluntarily insured will claim their benefit entitlement at the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency.

You are obliged to indicate the following in the application:

- what benefit you are applying for ([sickness benefit](#) and/or );
- if your temporary incapacity is covered by multiple sickness insurance schemes, the physician will issue a certificate for each insurance;

- the method of benefit payment. Do not forget to sign the application.

Part IIa of the certificate - **application for income replacement during temporary incapacity** of the employee - should be submitted to the employer.

As soon as your temporary incapacity for work ends, you will sign part IV of the certificate and hand it over to the employer. After it is confirmed by your employer, you will send it to the branch of the Social Insurance Agency according to the registered office of the employer; self-employed persons and those voluntarily insured will hand in the document certifying the termination of their incapacity for work directly at their branch of the Social Insurance Agency.

### What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?

I have the right	Who provides what and how
<b>Sickness benefit</b> - determined by calculation	Social Insurance Agency / Employer
<b>Injury surcharge benefit</b> - determined by calculation	Social Insurance Agency / Employer
<b>Benefit for the care of a sick relative</b> - determined by calculation	Social Insurance Agency / Employer

The **sickness benefit amount** is determined based on income - an employee receives 55% of the designated amount (daily assessment basis) from the Social Insurance Agency starting from the 11th day of temporary incapacity. A self-employed person, a voluntarily insured person and other groups defined by law receive 25% of the designated amount from the 1st to the 3rd day of temporary incapacity and 55% starting from the 4th day of temporary incapacity.

Sickness benefit is halved when temporary incapacity is the consequence of alcohol intoxication or consumption of other addictive substances.

The benefit is paid for each day of incapacity for work by remittance to a bank account or in cash on a monthly basis in arrears for a maximum of 52 weeks.

Documents evidencing the entitlement to the payment of sickness benefits (namely the certificate of a continuation of a temporary incapacity for work or the notice of termination of temporary incapacity) should be submitted to the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency before the 3rd or the 5th day of the calendar month following the month for which the benefit is paid.

When applying for **benefit for the care of a sick relative**, it is necessary to submit the Application form containing the paediatrician's confirmation of the insured person's temporary incapacity to perform gainful activity due to a personal and full day care of a sick family member/taking care of a child under the age of 10. The completed and signed application form must be delivered to the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency.

If you are an employee, the application should be confirmed by your employer prior to its delivery to the branch.

When caring for a sick family member, the condition of personal and all-day care must be fulfilled.

### Jargon busters

**Protective period** - The period during which you are entitled to sickness benefits also after the cessation of insurance (e.g. following dismissal from employment).

**Overlapping of insurance** - The benefit entitlement may be claimed from several insurance schemes, e.g. from employment and compulsory sickness insurance of the self-employed person or from two, or several occupational relationships, etc.

**Method of benefit payment** - The payment of the benefit to the bank account or by means of a money order.

### Required documents

- **Certificate of temporary incapacity** (to be completed by a physician);
- If your temporary incapacity is due to an injury, you will also submit Report of Injury for Sickness Benefit Purposes [form](#) (to be completed by you);
- Application for the benefit for the care of a sick relative.

### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)

### Who do you contact if you need advice about sickness benefits?

#### Social Insurance Agency (*Sociálna poisťovňa*)

Headquarters Office, Ulica 29. augusta 8 and 10,

813 63 Bratislava 1

+421 906 171 989 (8:00 am - 4:00 pm)

[List of Social Insurance Agency branches in Slovakia](#)

Official advice concerning real-life situations can be found on the website of the Social Insurance Agency - [FAQ](#).

## Invalidity pension

You will learn more about the procedure for acquiring invalidity pension in Slovakia.

You will obtain information on what conditions you need to meet and on where and how to apply for a pension.

### When can I apply for benefits?

You have the right to receive an invalidity pension (*invalidný dôchodok*) if you are unable to engage in gainful activity in the long term as a result of unfavourable health condition. The entitlement to invalidity pension arises when you become disabled as an insured person provided that you have been insured for a sufficient period of time and do not fulfil the conditions entitling you to old-age pension as of the date of onset of disability and/or you have not been granted early old-age pension.

Persons with a permanent residence in the territory of Slovakia are also qualified for invalidity pension provided that they became disabled while:

- a) being a dependent child with a permanent residence in the territory of Slovakia (the claim commences when reaching 18 years of age at the earliest) or
- b) performing a full time doctorate study and has not reached 26 years of age.



The required period of pension insurance is:

- less than 1 year for insured persons under 20 years of age;
- at least 1 year for insured persons from 20 to 24 years of age;
- at least 2 years for insured persons from 24 to 28 years of age;
- at least 5 years for insured persons from 28 to 34 years of age;
- at least 8 years for insured persons from 34 to 40 years of age;
- at least 10 years for insured persons from 40 to 45 years of age;
- at least 15 years for insured persons over 45 years of age.

When examining the pension entitlement, the period of insurance in another EU country is also considered, however, only if the period of pension insurance in Slovakia is less than the legally stipulated pension insurance period. These periods are counted towards the total period of insurance provided that they are confirmed by means of form E 205/P5000 (depending on the EU country).

Even in this case, however, the actual pension amount is calculated only from the period of insurance in Slovakia.

The required number of years is not ascertained if disability is the consequence of an accident at work or an occupational disease and/or if disability occurred to persons at a time when they were dependent children.

### **What conditions do I have to meet?**

Invalidity pension should be applied for from the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency according to your place of permanent residence, whereas you are obliged to demonstrate circumstances confirming your entitlement to disability pension and its payment.

The long-term unfavourable health condition and the degree of reduced capacity to perform gainful activity is determined by a medical assessor in accordance with the Social Insurance Act. Invalidity occurs in cases when the long-term unfavourable health condition results in the reduced capacity to perform gainful activity by more than 40% for a period exceeding 1 year.

### **What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?**

The invalidity pension amount is basically the same as that of the old-age pension, it only differs in the degree of disability (between 41% and 70%). The amount of the disability pension is based on the period of pension insurance as of the date on which the entitlement to disability pension has arisen. The period from the commencement of the entitlement to disability pension to the date on which pensionable age is achieved is counted towards this period (i.e. added period).

Invalidity pensioners or their employers are entitled to:

- Special spa stays and cures, medication and compulsory rehabilitation as recommended by the physician;
- State subsidies for employers to fund the creation and operation of sheltered workshops, transportation costs, job training and education for disabled employees;
- State subsidies to support entrepreneurial activities of disabled persons - allowances for start-ups, operations, reconstructions or technical betterment of tangible assets, sheltered workshops, or job-support subsidies;
- State subsidies for disabled job applicants, reimbursement of boarding, accommodation and transportation costs covered in relation to training;
- career counselling and job placement services.

Those interested in these benefits should contact the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family according to their place of permanent residence.

### Jargon busters

- **Invalidity** - The insured is disabled if, due to his/her long-term unfavourable health condition his/her ability to perform gainful activity is reduced by more than 40% compared with a healthy person;
- **Social insurance medical assessor** - A physician who performs a medical assessment within the framework of social insurance in accordance with the Social Insurance Act. Medical assessments are carried out by the medical assessor of the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency and by the medical assessor at the headquarters of the Social Insurance Agency.

### Required documents

- Pension application;
- Application for the remittance of pension benefits to the pensioner's bank account;
- Evaluation – Follow up Examination\* form (to be completed and confirmed by the attending physician);
- Valid identity document (identity card or passport);
- Certificate of completed education;
- Military service book or another document issued by the competent military administration;
- Children's birth certificates (if the recognition of child care or upbringing is requested);
- Decision of the Social Insurance Agency on the spouse's pension, which was adjusted due to being a single source of income;
- Certificate confirming all periods, during which the applicant was entered in the register of unemployed jobseekers (prior to 1 January 2001) and/or received unemployment benefits in the period from 1 January 2001 until 31 December 2003; a credible document on employment (e.g. registered certificate of pension insurance, employer's certificate, etc.);
- Employer's certificate confirming the period of employment abroad prior to 1 May 1990 in countries with which Slovakia has not concluded an international agreement on social insurance;
- Other documents depending on the circumstances.

### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)

### Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?

[Social Insurance Agency \(Sociálna poisťovňa\) - Contact Centre](#)

Tel.: 0800 123 123

[podatelna@socpoist.sk](mailto:podatelna@socpoist.sk)

[Enquiry form](#)

[List of Social Insurance Agency branches in Slovakia](#)

## Severe disability allowances

You will learn who is considered a person with a severe disability (SD) and what reliefs, compensations and cash benefits s/he may obtain.

### What conditions do I need to meet?

Severely disabled persons (*osoby s ťažkým zdravotným postihnutím, ŤZP*) are entitled to support provided in the form of discounts, compensations and cash benefits. An individual

diagnosed with a degree of disability (functional disorder) of at least 50% is considered a person with a severe disability.

### **What conditions do I have to meet?**

An individual with a severe disability receive a disability card with the aid of which they may claim compensations and reliefs designated to overcome or alleviate the social consequences of their severe disability.

The issue of the disability card or the granting of compensation cash benefits is preceded by an individual assessment carried out by a medical assessor and a social worker of the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

### **What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?**

The State compensates the consequences of severe disability in case of:

- reduced movement or orientation ability;
- reduced communication ability;
- increased expenses for
  - special dietary requirements;
  - hygiene, clothes, bed linen, shoes and furnishings;
  - passenger motor vehicle operation;
  - care for a specially trained dog;
- limited or lost self-service ability.

#### **Benefits, discounts and compensation for citizens with severe disabilities:**

- Discounts when travelling by train or bus, free use of public transport in certain towns and cities;
- the right to park at reserved parking spaces for the disabled and the free use of motorways (applies to disability card holders dependant on individual transportation);
- remission of payment for radio and television services;
- discounts on state administration and self-administration fees - e.g. waste disposal fees, dog and other fees in the competence of municipalities;
- cash benefits for the purchase of a vehicle, medical devices, flat conversions, personal assistance, lifting equipment; cash benefit for transportation, job assistants, etc.;
- benefits for special dietary requirements (in case of diabetes, coeliac disease and other eating disorders).

**Cash benefits for persons with a severe disability** may be:

- **one-off** - e.g. a cash benefit for the purchase, adjustment and repair of medical devices, for assistance dog training, for the purchase of lifting equipment, for the purchase and/or modification of a passenger motor vehicle, or flat conversion, etc.;
- **repeated** - e.g. a cash benefit for personal assistance, transportation, for compensation of increased expenses, or a cash benefit for attendance service.

#### **Jargon busters**

- **Social consequence** of severe disability - A disadvantage in comparison to a person without any disability, which is caused by a severe disability and which the disabled is unable to overcome himself/herself because of his/her severe disability;
- **Functional disorder** - The deficiency of physical, sensory or mental abilities lasting more than 1 year.

#### **Required documents**

- [Medical findings](#)
- [Application for the issue of a card for a person with a severe disability](#)
- [Application for the issue of a parking card for a person with a severe disability](#)
- [Application for compensation cash benefits of severe disability](#)

- [Application for attendance service benefit](#)

## Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

[Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)

## Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?

**Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

[Department of Compensation Cash Benefits of Severe Disability and Assessment Activities;](#)

Špitálska 8, 812 67, Bratislava

**Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*):

[Unit of Citizen's Services](#)

[Unit of Compensation Cash Benefits of Severe Disability and Assessment Activities](#)

[List of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)

## Accident at work and occupational diseases

You will learn what benefits may be acquired by the aggrieved or survivors in case of an accident at work or an occupational disease.

### When can I apply for benefits?

The employer is responsible for occupational health and safety. When, while performing or in direct connection with the performance of work tasks, an accident at work results in an injury to health or the death of an employee, the employer with whom the employee was employed at the time of the work accident is liable.

### What conditions do I have to meet?

Employees are obligated to immediately report any accident at work to the employer, if their health condition permits the same. The employer is obligated to investigate the causes and circumstances of any work accident requiring medical attention and/or resulting in incapacity for work and to submit the applicable documents demonstrating the occupational injury or disease to the Social Insurance Agency.

The aggrieved employee or survivors (in the event of the employee's death) may claim their entitlement to benefits covered by occupational injury insurance by submitting the corresponding benefit application to the Social Insurance Agency.

### What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?

In case of an accident at work, the aggrieved is entitled to the following benefits:

Injury surcharge benefit during temporary incapacity ( <i>úrazový príplatok</i> )	<b>The benefit amount is calculated from the gross wage and it is reduced if the accident resulted from the employee's fault.</b> <b>The injury surcharge benefit amounts to:</b> - 55% of the daily assessment basis (from the 1st to the 3rd day of temporary incapacity); - 25% of the daily assessment basis from the 4th day of temporary incapacity.
Compensation for pain and suffering ( <i>náhrada za bolesť</i> )	The basic document for the granting of compensation for pain and suffering is a medical report recognising damages for pain. The amount depends on the physician's rating of the injury. The value of each rating point is determined by the Ministry of

	Labour, Social Affairs and Family ( <i>Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny</i> ).
<b>Compensation for reduced social opportunities</b> ( <i>náhrada za sťaženie spoločenského uplatnenia</i> )	It is provided based on the attending physician's rating of reduced social opportunities.
<b>Compensation for treatment expenses</b> ( <i>náhrada spojená s liečením</i> )	When effective expended costs for the treatment of the consequences of an occupational injury or disease cannot be covered from health insurance, it will be reimbursed by the Social Insurance Agency. The amount is determined according to the submitted documents.
<b>One-off redemption benefit</b> ( <i>jednorazové vyrovnanie</i> )	It serves to compensate reduced capacity for work of a minimum of 10% and a maximum of 40%, resulting from an occupational injury or disease.
<b>Injury annuity benefit</b> ( <i>úrazová renta</i> )	The regular cash benefit is to compensate the aggrieved person's income reduced in consequence of a decreased working ability of more than 40% due to an occupational disease or work injury. The amount is calculated from the daily assessment basis.

Other injury benefits:

- Working rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit (*pracovná rehabilitácia a rehabilitačné*);
- Retraining and retraining benefit (*rekvalifikácia a rekvalifikačné*);
- Surviving annuity (*pozostalostná úrazová renta*);
- One-off compensation benefit (*jednorazové odškodnenie*);
- Compensation for funeral expenses (*náhrada nákladov spojených s pohrebom*).

### Jargon busters

- The **daily assessment basis** used to determine the amount of the injury surcharge benefit, injury annuity benefit, one-off redemption benefit, surviving annuity, one-off compensation benefit, rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit is a fraction of the sum of the employee's assessment bases, from which the employer is paying injury insurance premiums on behalf of the employee in the reference period, and the number of days of the reference period.
- The **reference period** used to determine the daily assessment basis for the injury surcharge benefit, injury annuity benefit, one-off redemption benefit, surviving annuity, and the one-off compensation benefit is generally the calendar year preceding the calendar year, in which the accident at work occurred or the occupational disease was diagnosed.
- **Accident at work (work accident, occupational injury)** is an injury to health inflicted upon an employee while performing work tasks or the death of an employee while performing work tasks.
- **Occupational disease** is a disease recognized by a competent healthcare facility (occupational medicine and clinical toxicology clinic), which was developed by an employee while performing work or service tasks and is included in the [list of occupational diseases](#).

### Required documents

The entitlement to injury benefits should be claimed by the aggrieved employee at the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency according to the registered office of the employer. All forms required to claim benefits in the event of an occupational injury or disease are available in the appropriate section of the Social Insurance Agency ([www.socpoist.sk](http://www.socpoist.sk)).

## **Know your rights**

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)

## **Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?**

**Social Insurance Agency** (Sociálna poisťovňa) - [Contact Centre](#)

Tel.: 0800 123 123

[www.socpoist.sk](http://www.socpoist.sk)

[List of Social Insurance Agency branches in Slovakia](#)

# Old-age and survivors

## Old-age pension

You will learn when and how old-age pension is granted in Slovakia.

### When can I apply for benefits?

The Slovak pension system consists of three independent systems, i.e. 3 pillars. You may receive old-age pension (*starobný dôchodok*) from the mandatory pension insurance, old-age pension saving or voluntary supplementary pension saving system.

Old-age pension is provided after reaching the statutory retirement age for securing income during old age.

From 1 January 2004, the pensionable age has been unified for men and women.

As of 1 July 2015, the minimum pension has been introduced.

The old-age beneficiaries qualify for the minimum pension even if they have been awarded as the early old age pension or the invalidity pension after reaching the pensionable age.

The qualifying conditions for the minimum pension are satisfied if the person:

- completes at least 30 years of qualifying pension insurance period which can also be pension insurance period completed abroad;
- the sum of pension incomes inclusive of incomes from abroad is lower than the minimum pension amount;
- has claimed all pension types to which s/he could be entitled to (e.g. survivor's pensions).

As of 1 January 1 2017, the method of determining the pensionable age has changed. The pensionable age of insured born after 31 December 1954 will be gradually increased every year by a stipulated number of days depending on the increase of average life expectancy. The pensionable age in 2018 is 62 years and 139 days.

You are entitled to old-age pension from mandatory pension insurance (1<sup>st</sup> pillar) if you have been insured for at least 15 years and you have reached the retirement age referred above.

You are entitled to old-age pension from the old-age pension saving system (2<sup>nd</sup> pillar) if you have reached the retirement age.

You are entitled to old-age pension in the form of lifelong or fixed term supplementary old-age pension either upon meeting conditions in your contract on supplementary pension savings or upon meeting conditions in the act on supplementary pension savings (reaching the age of 62, receiving old-age pension or early old-age pension from mandatory pension insurance).

Subject to the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated by law, you are also entitled to early old-age pension (*predčasný starobný dôchodok*) from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar.

After reaching the statutory retirement age, early old-age pension is automatically transformed to old-age pension. The pension amount is not recalculated and no decision is issued in this respect.

### What conditions do I have to meet?

You are entitled to old-age pension if you have been insured for at least 15 years and have reached the retirement age.

Insurance periods completed in another EU Member State are taken into account for the pension claim on condition that the insured person:

- has not completed the required pension insurance period in Slovakia, or
- has completed the insurance period after having qualified to the old age pension in Slovakia or in another EU Member State. These insurance periods are taken into account based on the form E 205/P5000. These form is issued based on several



supporting documents (e.g. diploma, insurance periods record, leaving certificate). The pension amount is calculated only from insurance periods completed in Slovakia.

When you become eligible for old-age pension and continue engaging in gainful activity, pension insurance for this period is valorised for the purpose of determining the amount of your future pension.

An old-age pension recipient may receive a pension and, at the same time, work without any restrictions. This does not apply to an early old age pension which will not be paid out if the beneficiary starts performing work. From the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, an early old age pension recipient may receive an early age pension and, at the same time, work outside an employment relationship.

The entitlement to a pension from pension insurance abroad arises when you work abroad for more than a year.

### **What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?**

You may apply for old-age pension at the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency according to the place of your permanent residence. If you are not permanently resident in Slovakia, you have to file your application at the headquarters of the Social Insurance Agency.

The following documents should be appended to the old-age pension application:

- Valid identity document (identity card or passport);
- Certificate of completed education (vocational certificate, general certificate of education, diploma, etc.);
- Military service book or another document issued by the competent military administration;
- Children's birth certificates;
- Decision of the Social Insurance Agency on the spouse's pension, if a single source of income;
- Certificate confirming all periods, during which you were entered in the register of unemployed jobseekers prior to 1 January 2001;
- Received unemployment benefits in the period from 1 January 2001 until 31 December 2003;
- Documents on employment (namely registered certificate of pension insurance);
- Employer's certificate confirming the period of employment abroad prior to 1 May 1990 in countries, with which Slovakia has not concluded an international agreement on social insurance;
- If you apply for payment of the pension benefits by transfer to your bank account, request your bank to confirm the Application for Remittance of Pension Benefits to the Pensioner's Bank Account form.

The aim of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar old-age pension is to ensure income in old age as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> pillar pension. Old-age pension from the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar is paid only in concurrence with pension from the 1<sup>st</sup> pillar. You may choose whether you wish to receive a lifelong pension (*doživotný dôchodok*) from the entire savings amount or in the form of a temporary pension (*dočasný dôchodok alebo programový výber*), if you meet all conditions. You may apply for old-age pension from the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar by submitting an application to the pension insurance company, with which you have concluded the old-age pension saving contract. More detailed information will be provided by your pension insurance company.

### Jargon busters

- **Countries subject to the EU coordination regulations:** 28 EU Member States + Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland (European Economic Area states)
- Current pension value
- Pension insurance period
- Personal wage point
- Personal assessment basis
- Average personal wage point
- Reference period
- General assessment basis

### Required documents

- [Pension application](#)
- [Registered certificate of pension insurance](#)
- Form E 205 - When demonstrating the period of pension insurance abroad

### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Your rights as an EU citizen upon entering retirement outside Slovakia](#)

### Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?

**Social Insurance Agency** (*Sociálna poisťovňa*)

Tel: 0800 123 123

In person at any [Social Insurance Agency branch](#), the Information and Consulting Centre at the headquarters of the Social Insurance Agency  
[Enquiry form](#)

## Survivor's benefits and Funeral Grant

What benefits are you entitled to in the event of death of a relative? Who will pay the benefits?

### When can I apply for benefits?

You may apply for a **funeral grant** (*príspevok na pohreb*) at the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family according to the temporary stay or permanent residence of the deceased if:

- you are arranging the funeral;
- you are permanently or temporarily resident in Slovakia;
- the deceased permanently or temporarily was resident in Slovakia at the time of death.

A dependent child is entitled to an orphan's pension in the event of the death of a parent or an adoptive parent who was a recipient of old-age pension or disability pension at the time of death, who was entitled to early old-age pension or had sufficiently long pension insurance to become eligible for disability pension at the time of death, or has qualified for the old age pension or who died as a result of an accident at work or occupational disease.

A dependent child (legal guardian of a child under 15 years of age) may claim an **orphan's pension** (*sirotský dôchodok*) at the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency.

The entitlement to **widow/widower's pension** (*vdovský/vdovecký dôchodok*) arises to a surviving spouse who:

- received old-age pension, disability pension at the time of death or was entitled to early old-age pension, or
- fulfilled the conditions to become eligible for old-age pension at the time of death, or
- fulfilled the conditions stipulating the number of years of pension insurance required for the entitlement to disability pension, or
- died as a result of an accident at work or occupational disease.

**The entitlement to widow/widower's pension** and its payment arises on the date of the spouse's death, provided the survivor claims the pension.

If the person who died due to a work injury or an occupational disease had been assigned by a court as your custodian, you are entitled to the **Survivor's injuries annuity** provided from the accident insurance.

If your spouse died due to a work injury or an occupational disease, you are entitled also to the **lump-sum compensation** from the accident insurance. This applies also to your dependent child.

You may claim the **reimbursement of funeral expenses** from occupational injury insurance if the aggrieved died in consequence of an occupational injury or disease and provided that you have paid the funeral expenses.

If the deceased was an old-age pensioner from the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar and received life annuity for less than 84 monthly payments, the survivors receive the remaining amount due.

### **What conditions do I have to meet?**

You may apply for a **funeral grant** in writing by submitting the [Funeral Grant Application](#). The application will be issued and confirmed by the register office and the funeral service. The death certificate should be appended to the application.

When applying for an orphan's pension(after completing compulsory education), you need to demonstrate that you are a dependent child and that you are continuously preparing for your future occupation. You will submit a certificate of study containing information about the commencement and presumed completion of your studies.

When studying abroad, the certificate of study is examined based on the decision of the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas of the Ministry of Education. When studying in the Czech Republic at a university listed among recognized universities, you do not need to apply for the recognition of your studies at the Ministry of Education. Such studies are considered equal to a study programme at a university in Slovakia.

The entitlement to the payment of an orphan's pension ceases on the day on which the beneficiary is no longer a dependent child, i.e. upon the completion of studies, if a student. The entitlement to the payment of orphan's pension will be renewed from the date on which the individual once again becomes a dependent child. The entitlement to the payment of orphan's pension ceases also upon the adoption of a dependent child. If the adoption is reversed, the entitlement to orphan's pension is renewed.

The entitlement to orphan's pension ceases at all times upon reaching the age of 26 years.

Payments of orphan's pension will be discontinued from the pension payday following the date on which these circumstances have arisen (e.g. the individual reached the age of 26 or completed his/her studies).

Proceedings concerning the granting of widow/widower's pension commence upon the submission of a written application by the applicant.

The following documents should be appended to the application:

- Valid identity document (identity card or passport);
- Marriage certificate and/or extract from the record of marriages;
- Death certificate of the spouse;
- Certificate of completed education of the deceased spouse (vocational certificate, general certificate of education, diploma, etc.) or a certificate from a school

confirming the dates the studies not completed in the prescribed manner started and ended;

- Military service book or another document issued by the competent military administration;
- Children's birth certificates;

The application should also be accompanied with documents pertaining to the deceased spouse:

- Certificate documenting all periods of unemployment and/or periods when the spouse received unemployment benefits;
- Credible document (namely registered certificate of pension insurance, employer's certificate, etc. - also from employers abroad) confirming the period of employment.

The entitlement to the payment of widow/widower's pension exists for a period of 1 year from the death of the spouse. After the expiry of 1 year, the entitlement continues only if the surviving spouse fulfils any of the following conditions:

- the surviving spouse cares for at least one dependent child who is entitled to orphan's pension as a survivor of the deceased or was raised in the family of the deceased;
- is disabled due to his/her reduced capacity to perform gainful activity by more than 70%;
- raised at least three children;
- reached the age of 52 and raised two children;
- reached the retirement age.

If the entitlement of the surviving spouse to the payment of widow/widower's pension ceases because s/he no longer fulfils the condition of caring for a dependent child or is no longer disabled due to his/her reduced capacity to perform gainful activity by more than 70% and, after some time, s/he once again meets any of these conditions, the entitlement to the payment of widow/widower's pension will be renewed.

### What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?

<b>Information and consulting services</b>	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (according to the place of permanent residence) Social Insurance Agency (according to the place of permanent residence) Funeral service
<b>Funeral grant</b>	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (according to the place of permanent residence)
<b>Orphan's and widow/widower's pension</b>	Social Insurance Agency (according to the place of permanent residence) Life insurance company for pension from 2 <sup>nd</sup> pillar
<b>Survivor's settlement, accident compensation, rent, lump-sum for funeral expenses</b>	Social Insurance Agency (according to the place of permanent residence)

You may claim a funeral grant by submitting an application to the **Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family**.

The entitlement to an **orphan's pension** is claimed in person by a child who is over 15 years of age and legally competent. Applications for an orphan's pension on behalf of orphans under the age of 15 and/or not legally competent are filed by their legal guardian at the relevant branch of the **Social Insurance Agency** (according to the place of permanent residence).

The entitlement to **widow/widower's pension** may be claimed at the relevant branch of the **Social Insurance Agency** (according to the place of permanent residence).

If you are temporarily dwelling elsewhere than at the place of your permanent residence and your health condition does not allow you to submit an application at the competent branch according to your place of permanent residence, the application may be processed by the [competent branch](#) according to your place of temporary residence. When you do not permanently reside in Slovakia, the application will be processed by the headquarters of the Social Insurance Agency.

Orphan's and widow/widower's pensions are paid in advance on a regular monthly basis either to the beneficiary's bank account or in cash at the post office.

The pay day is determined by the Social Insurance Agency.

**Widow/widower's pension** is equal to 60% of the designated amount; **orphan's pension** is equal to 40% of the designated amount.

Should entitlements to the payment of widow/widower's pension and orphan's pension(s) arise to the survivors of the same deceased insured person, the aggregate sum of these pensions cannot exceed 100% of the pension of the deceased, to which the deceased was or could have been entitled at the time of death.

**Injury annuity benefit** is paid throughout the existence of the maintenance obligation. You may claim your entitlement at the relevant branch of the Social Insurance Agency (according to the place of permanent residence).

### Jargon busters

- **A child raised in the family of the deceased:** The surviving spouse's own or adoptive child who was entrusted to the care of the surviving spouse or the deceased spouse during the existence of marriage based on a decision of the competent authority on entrusting the child to care replacing parental care;
- **Child upbringing:** The raising of a child from his/her birth until adulthood (i.e. until the age of 18 and/or until the child's marriage if the child marries at an early age).

### Required documents

- [Funeral grant application](#)
- [Widow/widower's pension or orphan's pension application](#)

### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Your social benefit entitlements as an EU citizen in the event of death of a relative](#)

### Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?

**Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

[Department of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

Špitálska 8, 812 67, Bratislava

**Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

Unit of Citizen's Services

[Unit of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

[List of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)

**Social Insurance Agency** (*Sociálna poisťovňa*)

Tel: 0800 123 123

In person at any [Social Insurance Agency branch](#), the Information and Consulting Centre at the headquarters of the Social Insurance.

# **Social assistance**

## Assistance in material need

This section will tell you about who is entitled to receive assistance in material need in Slovakia. You will obtain information on what conditions you have to meet to become eligible for benefit and what other allowances you may apply for.

### When can I apply for assistance?

The assistance in material need serves is payable to households who are not able to secure basic living conditions and cannot increase their income through their own efforts (i.e. by work, statutory entitlements). One hot meal a day, necessary clothing and dwelling are considered basic living conditions. The benefit amount varies depending on the number of household members.

Tax-financed scheme which provides for the granting of the **Benefit in material need (*Dávka v hmotnej núdzi*)** and **Allowances to benefits in material need (*Príspevky k dávke*)**.

### What conditions do I have to meet?

A resident (or foreigners in specific cases) in Slovakia may apply for assistance in material need provided that his/her income (along with jointly assessed individuals) is lower than the subsistence minimum (*životné minimum*), i.e.:

- €199.48 per month for one adult person;
- €139.16 per month for each jointly assessed person;
- €91.06 per month for a dependent minor child and dependent children in material need.

The household is not considered in material need if its members do not claim all their statutory entitlements. These include, for example, maintenance for children, supplementary maintenance, maintenance for spouses, income replacement during temporary incapacity, sickness insurance benefits, pension insurance benefits, occupational injury insurance benefits, guarantee insurance benefits and unemployment benefits, entitlements arising from labour relations, service pension benefits and repeated state social benefits, except child benefit.

### What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?

**The benefit in material need (*dávka v hmotnej núdzi*)** is provided in the following amounts:

- €61.60 per month to one person;
- €117.20 per month to one person with 1 to 4 children;
- €171.20 per month to one person with more than 4 children;
- €107.10 per month to two persons without children;
- €160.40 per month to two persons with 1 to 4 children;
- €216.10 per month to two persons with more than 4 children.

**Other benefits** that you may apply for in addition to the benefit in material need include:

- **Activation allowance (*Aktivačný príspevok*)** - €63.07 per month. Its granting is conditioned by the applicant's employment or inclusion in the register of unemployed jobseekers, as well as by increasing his/her qualification by studying while on employment and performing minor community work.
- **Housing benefit (*Príspevok na bývanie*)** - €55.80 per month (or €89.20 per month when more persons are assessed jointly). It is preconditioned by regular payments of housing-related costs. Is granted also when applicant is accommodated in certain type of social service facility.
- **Protecting allowance (*Ochranný príspevok*)** - has three levels. €63.07 per month if you have reached retirement age, your disability is more than 70% or you are caring for a child with long-term unfavourable health conditions; €34.69 per

month if incapacity for work continues for more than 30 days; €13.50 per month for pregnant women from the 4th month of pregnancy or for single parents caring for a child up to the age of one year.

- **Allowance for a dependent child (*Príspevok na nezaopatrené dieťa*):** €17.20 per month for each child during the period of compulsory education.

#### Special benefits include:

- **Special allowance (*Osobitný príspevok*)** granted for the first 6 months in the amount of €126.14 and the second 6 months in the amount of €63.07 to a person long-term unemployed person and is now receiving an income at least equal to the minimum wage but not higher than twice the minimum monthly wage.
- **One-off benefit in material need (*jednorazová dávka v hmotnej núdzi*)** serves for the partial reimbursement of the extraordinary expenses of household members.

#### Special additional assistance for households in material need:

- **Subsidies to support the development of eating habits of a child threatened by social exclusion (*dotácie na podporu výchovy k stravovacím návykom dieťaťa ohrozeného sociálnym vylúčením*)** serve to provide for school dinners and other meals at kindergartens or basic schools.
- **Subsidies to support the development of skills related to the fulfilment of school duties of a child threatened by social exclusion (*dotácie na podporu výchovy k plneniu školských povinností dieťaťa ohrozeného sociálnym vylúčením*)** are designated for the reimbursement of school utensils necessary for the child's education in a kindergarten or basic school.

As regards subsidies, the applicant is the founder of the education facility, a municipality or a civic association.

Applicants claiming a benefit in material need should file a written application to the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office in the place of their permanent residence.

#### Jargon busters

**Subsistence minimum** - A person's income recognized by law, which is considered a necessary minimum for the satisfaction of basic living needs. Income up to the subsistence minimum is exempt from tax.

#### Required documents

- [Application for assistance in material need](#)
- [Annex to application - Certificate confirming the payment of housing-related costs](#)
- [Certificate of income/salary](#)
- [Special allowance application](#)
- [Certificate of temporary incapacity for work](#) (commencement of the incapacity for work)

#### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)

#### Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?

**Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

[Department of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

Špitálska 8, 812 67, Bratislava



**Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

Unit of Citizen 's Services;

[Unit of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

[List of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)

# Unemployment

## Unemployment benefits

You will find out more about your rights and obligations if you become unemployed in Slovakia or when you are looking for a job in another EU Member State. You will also learn how to proceed if you come from Slovakia and have lost a job abroad.

### When can I apply for benefits?

In principle, you are entitled to employment benefits in the country of your most recent employment.

In the event you become unemployed as a cross-border worker, the payment of unemployment benefits primarily falls within the competence of the country of your residence. The Social Insurance Agency pays benefits to cross-border workers who were employed or self-employed in another EU Member State while being permanently resident in Slovakia. In addition, Slovak cross-border workers may also enquire about their rights at labour offices in the EU Member State, in which they most recently engaged in gainful activity.

If your last place of work was Slovakia, you are entitled to an unemployment benefit on condition that, while being registered at the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, your regular or occasional income from work or creative activity does not exceed the (gross) amount of €199.48 per month and this employment relationship does not exceed a total of 40 days per calendar year. It is your right to register, not your obligation.

### What conditions do I have to meet?

You need to apply for your **inclusion** in the register of unemployed jobseekers in person by submitting the written [application for entry in the register](#) of unemployed jobseekers or the [application for entry in the register in case of repeated entry](#).

When visiting the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, competent according to your permanent residence, you should bring a valid identity document (identity card or passport), documents on employment termination (agreement on employment termination, notice of employment termination, employment certificate), and school graduates should bring a certificate confirming the highest level of completed education.

You are obliged to actively seek new employment, which you will demonstrate yourself in different ways on the dates and at places designated by the labour office.

Within three to eight calendar days, you are obliged to notify the labour office in writing of any change in your personal information and you should make yourself available to the labour office within three business days from the date on which you were requested to do so by the labour office.

When you want to seek employment in another EU Member State and, at the same time, you want to retain your entitlement to the unemployment benefit, you have to notify the labour office of the date of your departure to another EU Member State.

### What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?

Information and consulting services	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (according to the place of permanent residence)
Individual action plan (for disadvantaged applicants)	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Unemployment benefit	Social Insurance Agency

You may apply for unemployment benefit (*dávka v nezamestnanosti*) at the **local branch of the Social Insurance Agency** based on the documents (notice of entry in the register of unemployed jobseekers) received from the competent local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

You become eligible for unemployment benefit provided that you were insured over a period of 4 years preceding your inclusion in the register of unemployed jobseekers or you were voluntarily insured for a minimum period of 2 years. For example, self-employed fulfil the benefit eligibility criteria if they have wound up their business and, while still in business, have paid contributions to voluntary unemployment insurance.

The unemployment benefit is provided according to the number of days worked in a particular month for a maximum of 6 months. The amount approximately corresponds to 50% of your last wage.

As a benefit beneficiary, you are obligated to notify the Social Insurance Agency in writing of any changes to your name, surname or address of your residence and of your removal from the register of unemployed jobseekers within a period of 8 days.

### Jargon busters

- **Gross wage** - Total gross income, including taxes and other fees;
- **Cross-border worker** - Carries out activities as an employee or a self-employed person on the territory of one EU Member State while being resident on the territory of another EU Member State where s/he returns on a daily basis or at least once a week.

### Required documents

- Either form **E 301** or the transferrable portable document U1 (**PD U1**) document issued abroad, institutions competent for issuing of E301 or PDU1 in the Member States see [here](#);
- [Applications for employment services field](#);
- [Application for entry in the register](#) of unemployed jobseekers
- Unemployment benefit [application](#).

### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Your rights and social entitlement as an EU citizen when becoming unemployed](#)

### Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?

**Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

[Department of Employment Services](#);

Špitálska 8, 812 67, Bratislava

**Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

Unit of citizen's services

[Unit of employment services](#)

[List of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)

**Social Insurance Agency** (*Sociálna poisťovňa*)

Tel: 0800 123 123

[List of Social Insurance Agency branches in Slovakia](#)

# Moving abroad

## Contributions paid abroad can count

What you need to know if you are moving within the EU and how it affects your social insurance.

### Social insurance and EU regulation

When you start working in another EU Member State or in a country covered by the EU regulation on the coordination of social security systems, the laws of that particular country apply to you.

If you lived, worked and/or paid insurance contributions in another EU country and other states covered by the Regulation, the period of employment and/or the paid contributions are counted towards the social security benefits of the relevant state.

### What benefits are covered by the coordination of the social security systems?

The aggregation of the periods of previous insurance applies to:

- sickness benefits;
- maternity and equal paternity benefits;
- disability benefits;
- old-age benefits;
- survivors' benefits;
- benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases;
- funeral grants;
- unemployment benefits;
- pre-retirement benefits;
- family benefits.

The Regulation on the coordination of the social security systems stipulates that persons who live and work in another EU Member State receive the same benefits and have the same obligations as the nationals of the relevant member country. Any discrimination based on citizenship with respect to social security is prohibited. According to the Regulation, insurance periods in other member countries are taken into account when determining social security benefits. The general rule is that only the legislation of one country is applied in order to avoid duplication when paying into multiple systems or when providing social security benefits.

### When can I apply for benefits?

When living or working in another EU Member State or a country covered by the Regulation on the coordination of social security system, you will need to present the following certificates upon your return to Slovakia:

- if you were unemployed abroad and you want to find a job in Slovakia, you need to submit the completed portable document PD U2 (E303) on the export of benefits (confirmed by a labour office abroad) to the Social Insurance Agency;
- unemployment benefits granted by the country of your previous residence may be provided to you in Slovakia for a period of 3 months. This period may be extended in exceptional cases to a maximum of 6 months;
- if you worked abroad, you will claim unemployment benefits from the Slovak Insurance Agency which, when examining your application, may take into account the period of insurance in another member country. You will demonstrate it by submitting the confirmed portable document PD U1 (E 301). The unemployment benefit amount is calculated from the gross earnings from your most recent employment, while taking into account the maximum daily assessment basis determined pursuant to Slovak legislation;
- for the purposes of pension insurance, the periods of insurance are assessed and confirmed by the competent institution in the state where you worked. It will certify

the periods on the prescribed form (E form/SED), which it will subsequently send to the Social Insurance Agency in Slovakia upon its request, provided that you claim your pension entitlement in Slovakia after your return and indicate that you have been pension insured also in an EU country.

### Jargon busters

- **Coordination of social security systems** - It is a set of rules aimed at improving the effectiveness of collaboration among competent institutions responsible for applying social security rules within EU Member States. It has been introduced in Slovakia upon its entry in the EU on 1 May 2004 with the objective to guarantee workers and their family members their rights within the EU to allow them choose any place in the EU where they want to live or work without losing their rights;
- **Countries subject to the EU coordination regulations:** 28 EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) + Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

### Required documents

- Portable document U1 - PD U1 (E 301)
- Portable document U2 - PD U2 (E303)

### Know your rights

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)

### Who do you need to contact for advice about social security?

**Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

[Department of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

Špitálska 8, 812 67, Bratislava

**Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*)

Unit of Citizen's Services

[Unit of Assistance in Material Need and State Social Benefits](#)

[List of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)

### **[Social Insurance Agency \(Sociálna poisťovňa\)](#)**

Phone: 0800 123 123 information on pensions

Mobil: 0906 171 931,

02 3247 1989 information on contribution collection, sickness insurance and other types of social insurance

[Information Centre](#)

E-mail: [podatelna@socpoist.sk](mailto:podatelna@socpoist.sk)

[www.socpoist.sk](http://www.socpoist.sk) - Enquiry form

[List of Social Insurance Agency branches in Slovakia](#)

**Health Care Surveillance Authority** - Úrad pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou

Žellova 2, 829 24 Bratislava 25

Phone: +421 2 20856 789

[www.udzs-sk.sk](http://www.udzs-sk.sk)

**Health Insurance Companies:**

General Health Insurance Company, Inc.: [www.vszp.sk](http://www.vszp.sk)

Union Health Insurance Company, Inc.: [www.union.sk](http://www.union.sk)

Dôvera Health Insurance Company, Inc.: [www.dovera.sk](http://www.dovera.sk)



# Main residence

## Habitual residence

You will obtain information on residence (usual residence) and the conditions that apply when claiming entitlements to certain social benefits.

### **Am I a person with residence (usual residence)?**

The term **residence** (usual residence) designates a place in the country where the person usually resides for most of the year. While employees and tradesmen are entitled to social security in the country in which they work, persons not engaging in any gainful activity, e.g. pensioners or students, become eligible in the member country where they have their usual residence. Likewise, the determination of residence (usual residence) is important for workers who work in more than one member country (e.g. cross border, seasonal workers, or workers appointed abroad), or for their family members.

### **What conditions do I have to meet?**

When determining the residence (usual residence), various criteria are examined, such as marital status and family relations, length of stay, employment or self-employment, housing situations, or the state where the person pays taxes, the person's reasons for moving and his/her objectives.

Residence of a foreigner – Information for foreigners applying residence on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

### **What benefits can I apply for and how should I exercise my rights?**

A person with recognized residence (usual residence) in Slovakia becomes eligible for the following social benefits:

- sickness cash benefits, sickness benefits, healthcare;
- maternity and equal paternity benefits;
- disability benefits;
- old-age benefits;
- survivors' benefits;
- benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases;
- funeral grants;
- unemployment benefits;
- pre-retirement benefits;
- family benefits.

Beneficiaries or their family members receive cash benefits in compliance with the legal regulations of one or more EU Member State also in the case if their residence (usual residence) is in another EU Member State.

### **Know your rights**

Link to additional information provided by the European Commission:

- [Social entitlements of EU citizens](#)

### **Whom to contact if you need advice about your place of residence?**

For general information about residence in the Slovak Republic please contact:

#### **[Ministry of interior of the Slovak Republic](#)**

Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force

Ružinovská 1/B, 812 72 Bratislava 1

Phone: +421-9610-50701

E-mail: [Send message](#)

For information about residence conditions according to EU coordination Regulation, you can contact:

**[Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)** (Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny)

Špitálska 8, 812 67, Bratislava

[List of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#)

**[Social Insurance Agency \(Sociálna poisťovňa\)](#)**

Phone: +421 906 171 934

E-mail: [info.english@socpoist.sk](mailto:info.english@socpoist.sk)

or local [Social Insurance Agency branches](#) according to the place of permanent residence

**Health Care Surveillance Authority** (Úrad pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou)

Želova 2, 829 24 Bratislava 25

Phone: +421 2 20856 789

[www.udzs-sk.sk](http://www.udzs-sk.sk)

**Health Insurance Companies:**

General Health Insurance Company, Inc.: [www.vszp.sk](http://www.vszp.sk)

Union Health Insurance Company, Inc.: [www.union.sk](http://www.union.sk)

Dôvera Health Insurance Company, Inc.: [www.dovera.sk](http://www.dovera.sk)

