

European Health Insurance Card: over 200 million Europeans already carry one

Almost 206 million Europeans already have the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), according to the latest figures available for 2014. This represents nearly 40% of the total insured population in the reporting Member States. As in previous years, the number of cards keeps increasing: there are six million more than in 2013 (+ 4%). Since 2009, the total rose by 10%.

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne **Thyssen** commented: *"I am glad to see that the European Health Insurance Card is more and more known and used by our citizens. The card allows them to get necessary treatment when travelling within the European Union, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland. Now in summertime, I encourage those who still don't have one to get it, so they can enjoy their holidays without worrying about unexpected healthcare costs."*

The EHIC, available free of charge, confirms that a person is entitled to receive medical treatment that becomes necessary on a temporary stay abroad from the host country's public healthcare system on the same terms and at the same cost as nationals of that country. The EHIC cannot be used to cover planned medical treatment in another country.

Hospitals that provide public health services are obliged to recognise the EHIC. In the vast majority of cases, patients presenting the EHIC receive the necessary healthcare and are reimbursed without any problems. In case the EHIC is not accepted, patients should contact the relevant health authority in the country they are visiting. The emergency contact numbers are easily accessible via the [EHIC application](#) for smartphones and tablets (see below). In case of further refusal, patients should request support from their home country's health authorities. If they cannot clarify the matter with the national authorities, they can contact [Your Europe Advice](#) for personalised advice on their EU rights, or [SOLVIT](#) if they consider their rights are not respected by public authorities in another EU country.

Citizens should be aware that the card is issued for free by their national health insurance provider in the home country, without any need of paying charges to intermediaries who offer help for the application process, as it has been reported to happen in some countries. Citizens should report such cases to the national health insurance authorities.

The European Commission continues to raise awareness on the card, and encourages Member States to do the same. Following a campaign run in 2014, the Commission produced a new [EHIC promotional video](#).

Download the app!

The [EHIC application](#) gives information about the card, emergency phone numbers, treatments that are covered and costs, how to claim reimbursement and who to contact in case you have lost your card. The app covers 28 EU countries, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It is available in 25 languages, with the option to switch from one language to another. However, the app does not replace the EHIC.



For more information

[European Health Insurance Card](#)

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Annex: EHICs and Provisional Replacement Certificates (PRCs) issued and in circulation in 2014:

Country	Number of EHICs issued	Number of PRCs issued	Total number of EHICs in circulation	Number of insured persons	% insured persons with an EHIC
Belgium	2,623,665	32,644	3,556,792	10,815,037	32.9%
Bulgaria	150,282	28,189	278,546	6,078,287	4.6%
Czech Republic	app. 4,100,000	n.a.	app. 10,000,000	10,419,458	app. 100%
Denmark	2,275,302	56,171	3,494,522	app. 5,600,000	62.4%
Germany	n.a.	n.a.	app. 45,000,000*	n.a.	n.a.
Estonia	77,741	12,231	n.a.	1,232,819	n.a.
Ireland	368,584	108,102	1,101,373	n.a.	app. 30%
Greece	134,372	34,889	108,442	app. 9,900,000	1.1%
Spain	1,893,858	813,474	3,417,348	46,420,010	7.4%
France	4,737,581	2,528,005	4,737,581	58,800,000	8.1%
Croatia	248,852	4,151	248,081	4,349,958	5.7%
Italy	app. 8,900,000	app. 100,000	app. 59,000,000	app. 59,000,000	app. 100%
Cyprus	38,754	18	app. 44,789*	548,780	n.a.
Latvia	74,592	415	218,109	2,268,599	9.6%
Lithuania	178,051	4,751	355,361	2,976,287	11.9%
Luxembourg	763,815	9,873	764,530	781,826	97.8%
Hungary	441,135	37,247	1,645,941	9,951,038	16.5%
Malta	34,396	10	196,066	205,459	95.4%
Netherlands	app. 4,844,000	app. 8,000	app. 16,000,000	16,823,215	95.1%
Austria	1,106,232	app. 20,000	8,208,058	8,652,656	94.9%
Poland	2,319,798	17,559	1,678,089	35,130,363	4.8%
Portugal	421,460	19,730	1,469,633		
Romania	261,501	68,266	125,520	17,174,986	0.7%
Slovenia	510,608	125,809	726,376	2,163,317	33.6%
Slovakia	712,072	85,305	2,619,879	5,177,717	50.6%
Finland	804,267	11,531	1,462,950	5,474,155	26.7%
Sweden	1,632,561	8,567	app. 3,000,000*	n.a.	n.a.
UK	5,400,701	9,402	26,801,935	n.a.	n.a.
EU28	45,054,180	4,044,339	196,259,921		37.4%
Iceland	51,229	992	90,141	324,007	27.8%
Lichtenstein	1,332	75	38,393	38,393	100.0%
Norway	681,986	8,315	app. 1,500,000	n.a.	n.a.
Switzerland	app. 797,667	n.a.	7,850,000	8,200,000	95.7%
Total	46,586,394	4,053,721	205,738,455		38.8%

*The total number of EHICs in circulation in Germany, Cyprus and Sweden are estimates based on previous years' reports.