



SOCIAL SECURITY COORDINATION

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The European Commission's proposal to update the current rules on social security coordination clarifies three elements of the unemployment benefits you are entitled to in a cross-border situation.



A TAKING YOUR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS WITH YOU TO ANOTHER EU COUNTRY

CURRENT SITUATION

As a jobseeker you can take your unemployment benefits with you to another Member State for 3 months, with a possible extension to 6 months.

The employment services of your home country may request a monthly report on your activities from your host country.

UNDER THE NEW PROPOSAL

You can take your unemployment benefits with you to another Member State for 6 months, with a possible extension to your whole period of entitlement.

Your host country must send a monthly report to your home country on your efforts to re-enter the labour market.

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR YOU

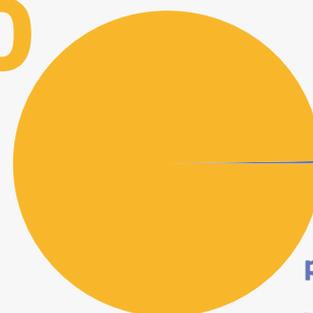
You are registered as unemployed in Finland, but would like to look for work in Estonia. You can do so while receiving your unemployment benefits from Finland for at least six months. In return, you will need to respect all the conditions imposed by the Estonian employment services in the same way as any other jobseeker in Estonia. Estonia will send a monthly report on your performance to Finland.



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED?

Approximately **27.000 unemployed persons** have exported their unemployment benefits in 2013 and in 2014¹. This represents **on average only 0.1% unemployed persons** in **2013** and in **2014**.

1000
unemployed



1
person who
exported
his benefits

1| Statistical data about the number of Portable Document U2/SED U008 issued. Source: Pacolet, J. and De Wispelaere, F., Export of unemployment benefits – PD U2 Questionnaire, Network Statistics FMSSFE, European Commission, June 2014, 25 p.



B IF YOU ARE A FRONTIER WORKER

CURRENT SITUATION

When you become unemployed as a frontier worker, you must claim your unemployment benefits in the Member State where you live.

UNDER THE NEW PROPOSAL

As a frontier worker you will now receive your unemployment benefits from the Member State of former employment, if you have worked there for at least 12 months.

If you have worked there for less than 12 months, you will receive your unemployment benefits from the Member State where you live.

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR YOU

You live in the Netherlands and cross the border every day to work in Belgium. This means that you pay your social security contributions in Belgium. After five years you lose your job. You will receive unemployment benefits from Belgium, as you have worked there for more than 12 months.



C HOW LONG YOU MUST BE INSURED IN A NEW EU COUNTRY BEFORE HAVING A RIGHT TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

CURRENT SITUATION

When you become unemployed after taking up work and residence in a new Member State, you may request that periods of previous insurance in other Member States where you have worked are taken into account when your host country assesses if you meet the minimum period to qualify for unemployment benefits (so called “aggregation”).

The current rules do not specify a minimum period of prior employment in the new Member State before you can ask for such “aggregation”.

UNDER THE NEW PROPOSAL

The “aggregation” principle is not changed, but now there will be a minimum period set.

You must work for at least three months in a new Member State before you can ask for aggregation.

Your existing rights to unemployment benefits remain protected. If you have worked in your new country for a shorter period, you can seek unemployment benefits from the Member State where you previously worked.

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR YOU

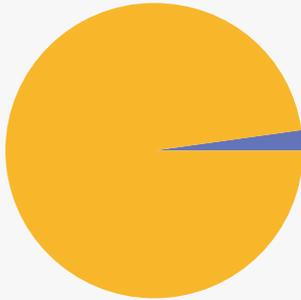
After five years of work in Portugal, you move to Italy to take up a new job. You become unemployed after one month. As you have been employed for less than 3 months in Italy, you will need to seek unemployment benefits from Portugal. Italy will not be obliged to provide such benefits by taking into account the periods of your insurance in Portugal.



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED?

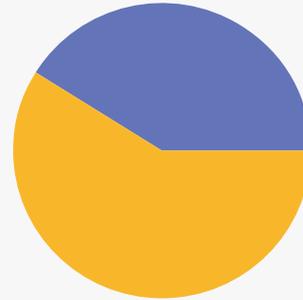
In the 23 Member States for which data are available for 2013, **24.821 cases** of aggregation of periods for unemployment were reported. This represents **2,1%** of the total annual inflow of migrants of working age in those States. **41%** of the total number of cases of aggregation in the case of unemployment in 2013 reported by the 23 Member States related to workers who had worked for less than 3 months in the host Member State.³

Aggregation cases out of annual inflow of migrants



2.1%
aggregate periods
of unemployment

Total aggregation cases in EU23: 24.821



41%
worked less than 3 months
in the host Member State

³ Table 10. Pacolet, J. and De Wispelaere, F., "Aggregation of periods or salaries for unemployment benefits: Analysis of the economic impact of the options"