



SOCIAL SECURITY COORDINATION

ACCESS TO SOCIAL BENEFITS BY ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE PERSONS

The European Commission's proposal clarifies the rights of non-active citizens moving abroad - people who are not working nor actively looking for a job.



WHAT ARE THE CURRENT RULES AND WHAT IS THE COMMISSION PROPOSING TO CHANGE?

CURRENT SITUATION

For economically inactive mobile citizens¹, a Member State may make access to both social assistance and social security benefits subject to the requirement that such citizens legally reside there.

In practice this means the citizen concerned must have comprehensive sickness insurance and sufficient resources so as not to impose an unreasonable burden on the social security system of the host state. This principle derives from case-law and is not expressly stated in the EU social security rules.

UNDER THE NEW PROPOSAL

The proposal makes these principles more explicit, so that Member States and citizens have more clarity on their rights and obligations.

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR YOU

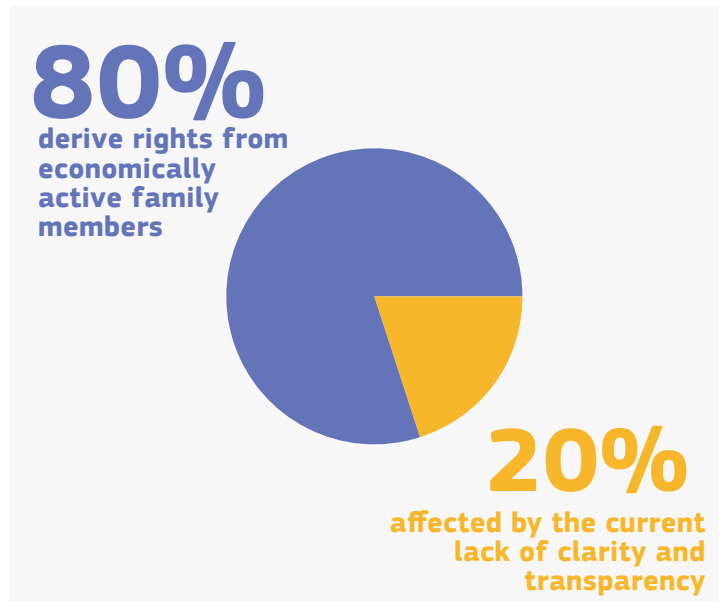
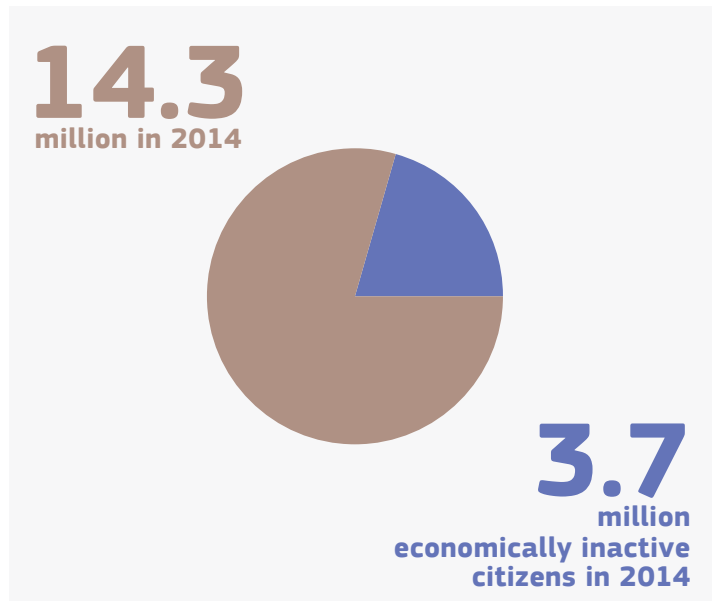
You are an economically inactive citizen and you move from Austria to Hungary with no intention to seek work there. You request social assistance to cover your basic subsistence costs and also other social security benefits. Your residence does not respect the conditions of the Free Movement Directive, as you do not have sufficient resources of your own. Hungary can therefore refuse access to social assistance and social security benefits.

1] Persons who are not working nor actively looking for work and who do not derive rights as a family member of a worker.



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED?

Out of a total EU-28 mobile population of **14.3 million in 2014**², there were an estimated **3.7 million economically inactive** mobile EU citizens³. **Nearly 80%** of economically inactive mobile citizens derive rights (residence rights and/or rights to benefits) from economically active family members with whom they are living in the host Member State and are entitled to equal treatment with the family members of national workers. However, the **remaining 20%** are affected by the current lack of clarity and transparency as regards their right to claim certain social benefits in their host state.



2| All ages (Labour Force Survey, 2014)

3| All ages except 0-14 (Labour Force Survey, 2014)