**Unemployment benefits in the European Union (EU)**

**What you must do if you become unemployed in another EU Member State (also applies to Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland)**:

1. **Unemployment benefit must be claimed in the country where you were subject to social security insurance before becoming unemployed (the ‘country of last employment’).** In order to receive unemployment benefit, you must register with the employment service of the country in question and submit an application for unemployment benefit.
2. When making on decision on your eligibility for unemployment benefit, the employment service of the respective country **must also take into account periods of employment or work in other EU Member States, if they are relevant to your eligibility for unemployment benefit in that country**.
3. You must fulfil all the requirements set by the employment services of the specific country, i.e. you must comply with the procedure that is in place in the country and fulfil all obligations under that country’s unemployment legislation. Furthermore, you are entitled to the same level of assistance from the country’s employment services as is enjoyed by nationals of that country.
4. If you are eligible for unemployment benefit in another Member State or you are already receiving it, you **may go to any other Member State, including Latvia, to seek employment while continuing to receive unemployment benefit from the competent Member State (‘export of unemployment benefit’)**. You remain eligible for unemployment benefit for 3 months after the date of departure; this period may be extended for up to 6 months. Conditions for retaining unemployment benefit while going to another Member State in search of employment:
   * you must remain available to the employment service of the competent country for at least 4 weeks after registering with it. This period may be reduced in specific cases, e.g. if the you join a spouse who starts employment in another Member State;
   * you must be eligible for unemployment benefit;
   * you must go to another Member State in search of employment.
5. An unemployed person wishing to go to another Member State, including Latvia, in search of employment must request the **U2 document (*Bezdarbnieka pabalsta tiesību saglabāšana* – Extension of entitlement to unemployment benefits)** from the competent authority (the authority granting the unemployment benefit). The U2 document confirms your eligibility for unemployment benefit paid by another Member State while looking for work in Latvia.

Your responsibilities in the Member State where employment is sought:

* you must register with the employment service of the Member State where you are looking for work (the NVA in Latvia) within 7 days of arriving there;
* you must fulfil all the obligations applicable to unemployed persons in the Member State.
  1. If you fail to find work in another Member State within 3 or 6 months, but in accordance with the legislation of the competent Member State you are entitled to receive unemployment benefit for a longer period, you must return to the country that pays the benefit before the 3- or 6-month period expires (as stated in the U2 document) in order to continue receiving the benefit.



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tulkojumu nodrošināšanā