

# Unemployment benefit when moving within the European Union (EU)

(applies to the EU, the EEA (Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) and Switzerland)

## What to do if a person loses their job in another EU Member State and wishes to look for work in Latvia

1. **The person must register** as unemployed or as a jobseeker with the employment service of the EU Member State in which they were employed and socially insured immediately before losing their job (the state of last employment) and apply for the **granting of an unemployment benefit**.

### For information!

When determining entitlement to an unemployment benefit, the state of last employment will, if necessary, also take into account insurance periods completed in any other EU Member State, including Latvia.

2. **All requirements set by the employment services of the relevant EU Member State must be complied with:**
  - the person must submit to the procedures established in that state;
  - the person must fulfil all obligations of an unemployed person laid down in that state's legal acts.

The person is entitled to receive the same assistance from the employment services of that state as is provided to nationals of that state.

3. **After the unemployment benefit has been granted** in another EU Member State, **the person must request the competent institution** of that state which granted the unemployment benefit to issue the **U2 document** "*Retention of entitlement to unemployment benefits*". The U2 document confirms the person's right, while seeking employment in Latvia, to continue receiving the unemployment benefit granted in another EU Member State.

**The competent institution will issue the U2 document provided** that the person:

- has been registered with the employment services of the competent Member State as an unemployed person or jobseeker for at least four weeks prior to departure to Latvia (in certain cases, the competent institution may shorten this period);
- travels to Latvia for the purpose of seeking employment.

### **For information!**

An unemployed person has the right to travel to any other EU Member State, including Latvia, to seek employment while retaining the right to receive the unemployment benefit from the competent Member State (export of unemployment benefits). The right to receive the unemployment benefit is maintained for three months from the date of departure, and this period may be extended up to six months.

#### **4. Upon arrival in Latvia after receiving the U2 document:**

- **within 7 days, register with the State Employment Agency (NVA)** and obtain unemployment status (the deadline for registration is indicated in the U2 document). When registering with NVA, the U2 document issued by the competent authority of the other EU Member State must be presented;
- **fulfill all unemployment obligations** in accordance with Latvian legislation and the procedures established by NVA;
- **submit the U2 document to the State Social Insurance Agency (SSIA). The U2 document is submitted to SSIA with a free-form application**, indicating the current residential address in Latvia and contact details (email and phone number).

#### **The application and U2 document can be submitted to SSIA:**

- electronically by sending to [spn@vsaa.gov.lv](mailto:spn@vsaa.gov.lv);
- in person at any SSIA customer service center.

### **For information!**

If the person does not find employment in Latvia within the period specified in the U2 document (3 or 6 months), and wishes to continue receiving the unemployment benefit granted by the other EU Member State for a longer period (if the benefit was originally granted for a longer duration), the person must return to the Member State paying the benefit by the end of the period indicated in the U2 document or earlier.

#### **Contacts for consultation:**

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