



Information about the U2 form and its use

1. The U2 form

The U2 form is the authorization you need to export your unemployment benefit if you are unemployed in an EU country⁽¹⁾ and wish to move to another EU country to look for work.

2. Where and when to obtain your U2 form

You should obtain your U2 from the employment service or the social security institution of the country where you became unemployed. It is very important that you request the U2 before you leave that country (otherwise you might not be entitled to the export of unemployment benefits).

3. Before you leave the country paying your unemployment benefit

You must have made yourself available to the employment service of the country which pays your unemployment benefit for at least 4 weeks after becoming unemployed before you can export this benefit to another country. However, in certain circumstances, the employment service or social security institution may allow you to leave before the end of this period. You should always consult the employment service about the export of your benefit if you are thinking of looking for work in another country. They will advise and issue you with the U2 form as appropriate.

4. Use of the U2 form

You should present the U2 to the employment services of the country where you are looking for work, at the time you register as a job seeker with the employment services there.

You must register with the employment services within seven days of departing. If you do this, your unemployment benefit will be paid without any break. If you register after this date your benefit will only be paid from the day you register. A full list of institutions can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/social-security-directory>.

5. What you have to do in the country where you are looking for work

You have to comply with the obligations and control procedures organised by the employment service or social security institution of the country where you are looking for work. The employment service in that country will advise you what these procedures are when you first present your U2.

6. Payment of your unemployment benefit

Your unemployment benefit will be paid direct to you by the employment service or competent institution in the country paying your benefit.

Your unemployment benefit will be paid for a period of 3 months, provided you comply with all the procedures and remain unemployed. The employment services or social security institution in the country paying your benefit may extend this up to a maximum period of 6 months. Your benefit can only be paid as long as you have an entitlement in the country paying you. For example if that country pays unemployment benefit for a maximum of 6 months, and you decide to look for work in another country after receiving benefit for 4 months, then you will only be able to export your benefit for a maximum of 2 months.

⁽¹⁾ In the following text, the terms "EU Country" or "EU Member State" will also refer to Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland as soon as Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009 become applicable to them.