

U1 — Periods to be taken into account for granting unemployment benefits



Information about the U1 form and its use

1. The U1 form

The U1 form certifies your periods of insurance and employment or self employment in another EU country⁽¹⁾ that will be taken into account for the award of unemployment benefits.

2. Where and when to obtain your U1 form

If you are going to work in another EU country, then before you leave you can request a U1 form from the employment service or the social security institution you are currently insured with for unemployment benefits. This is your right but not an obligation. A full list of institutions can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/social-security-directory>.

3. Use of the U1 form

If you become unemployed after working in the country you have moved to and claim unemployment benefit there, the record shown on the U1 may need to be used to establish your entitlement to unemployment benefit. The same applies if you claim unemployment benefit in your country of residence after working in another country. When you claim unemployment benefit in such circumstances, therefore, you may have to present your U1 to the employment service when you make your claim. If you do not present U1, the institutions will exchange necessary information electronically.

Example:

- You move from France to the UK and work there for 1 year, but then lose your job and claim unemployment benefit in the UK. Under UK national law to be entitled to unemployment benefit you would normally have to have been insured for 2 years. You have only 1 year's insurance in the UK but, under the EU rules, the UK will take into account the insurance in France during the relevant period as shown on the U1. They will add this to the UK insurance to enable you to satisfy its two year test.

4. Special rules for self-employed schemes

When you move to another EU country, it is recommended to contact the competent institution to receive the correct information whenever needed, as not all EU countries have a specific self-employed scheme.

5. I am unemployed and going to look for work in another country, do I need to take a U1 form?

No. You will receive a form U2 which enables your unemployment benefit to be paid for a limited period in the other country.

⁽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.