

**Are you seeking work
in another
EU/EEA country
or Switzerland?**



Information from Unionens arbetslöshetskassa



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Are you seeking work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland?

Applicable legislation

When you work in an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, the main rule is that you are covered by the legislation and unemployment insurance in the country where you work. In order not to lose rights and benefits that you earned earlier, you may, under certain conditions, put together insurance and employment periods from different EU/EEA countries or Switzerland.

If you work in another EU country, no work permit is required. An EU/EEA citizen is entitled to work in another EU/EEA country without permission.

As an EU/EEA citizen you may reside in another EU/EEA country if you continue to fulfil the terms of residence. You have the right of residence permit for as long as you can support yourself financially.

If you are sent from Sweden to work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland, Swedish legislation and unemployment insurance apply.

If you have been employed in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you must make sure that you are covered by the employment insurance directly from the start of the work. You should be insured for unemployment in the country where you work. You do not need to bring any certificate from your Swedish unemployment benefit fund (a-kassan) as long as you do not seek unemployment benefits in the country.

Good to know

In Denmark you need to be a member of the Danish unemployment benefit fund to be insured for unemployment. Denmark does not have a basic insurance. Finland, like Sweden has unemployment benefit funds for income insurance as well as a basic insurance.

If you are unsure of applicable legislation when you start work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland, contact the Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) who is the competent authority.

Unemployment insurance in Sweden

In Sweden, unemployment insurance consists of two parts; a basic insurance and a voluntary income-based insurance. To be covered by the income-based insurance, one year's membership is required in an unemployment benefit fund (a-kassa). To become a member, it requires work in Sweden or if work has ended, it is required that the last employment was in Sweden.

The basic insurance is for those who are not members of an unemployment benefit fund (a-kassa) or who have not been a member for that time that is required to receive income-based compensation. Everyone working in Sweden is covered, either by the basic insurance or the income-loss insurance.

Unemployed in Sweden after work in the EU/EEA area or Switzerland

If you move or return to Sweden after work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland and you want to become a member of a Swedish unemployment benefit fund (a-kassa), you must apply for membership. If you are not a frontier worker or cross-border worker (see below), you must work in Sweden or have had your last employment in Sweden to become a member of a Swedish unemployment benefit fund (a-kassa). If you become unemployed you will be able to credit yourself insurance periods, periods of employment or periods of self-employment from the country where you have worked. The condition is that you are covered by Swedish unemployment insurance, which you do if you have been granted membership to an unemployment benefit fund (a-kassa) or have worked in Sweden. Insurance periods, periods of employment and periods of activity as self-employed from another EU/EEA country or Switzerland are certified with certificates U002, U017 or PD U1. The certificate is issued by the labour market authorities or the unemployment benefit fund (a-kassa) in each country.

After completing work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland, it is important that you immediately notify the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) that you are unemployed and seeking job.

If you have not yet applied for membership to Unionens a-kassa you can easily do it on our website.

Compensation in Sweden

To receive compensation from the income-based insurance in Sweden, you must comply with membership terms, and conditions of employment. To fulfil the membership terms, you have had 12 months of membership in an unemployment benefit fund (a-kassa). To receive compensation from the basic insurance, you must meet a working condition, but do not have to meet a membership terms. The working conditions means that during the past 12-month period you must have worked for at least 6 calendar months, and at least 80 hours per month.

If you do not meet this, you need 480 hours for a continuous period of 6 calendar months. At least 50 hours of work per month are required. In some cases, two months' parental benefit or Swedish total defence obligation can be counted as working in the working conditions. To be entitled to compensation from the unemployment insurance fund, you must also be available at the labour market and be registered with the Public Employment Service.

If you must use your work in another EU/EEA-country or Switzerland to fulfil the working condition, your right to compensation is examined under the EU Regulation 883/2004. Please contact us for more details.

Exceptions from the work requirements

If you work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland, but maintain your residence in Sweden during a foreign stay, you could be considered a frontier worker or a cross-border worker. As long as you work, you must be covered by unemployment insurance in the country where you work. If the work ends and you become wholly unemployed you are entitled to entry into Swedish unemployment insurance without having to work here at home.

Frontier worker

If you work in an EU/EEA country or Switzerland but live in another country and return to the country of residence at least once a week, you are a frontier worker and should be insured in the country of employment. A frontier worker who is partially or periodically unemployed shall apply for compensation in the country where he or she works. Frontier workers who become completely unemployed must register at the Employment Service in the country of residence and seek compensation from unemployment insurance there. As an unemployed frontier worker, you are entitled to membership into Swedish unemployment benefit fund without first having to work at home. For the insurance period to be coherent when you choose to apply for unemployment benefits in Sweden, you (immediately after you became unemployed) must apply for membership in the unemployment benefit fund, which corresponds to the employment that you had in the other country.

Cross-border worker

If you, like the frontier worker, live in an EU/EEA country or Switzerland and work in another country, but return to the country of residence less often than once a week, you could be a so called cross-border worker. This may apply, for example, if you have had your family here in Sweden or if you have had a temporary or seasonal employment. As a cross-border worker, you, like the frontier worker, must be insured in the country of employment. However, in the case of wholly unemployment, you can choose either to apply for unemployment benefit in the country of residence (Sweden) and to register for Swedish unemployment insurance, or apply for unemployment benefits in the country of employment. Then the right to compensation is tested there. For the insurance period to be coherent when you choose to apply for unemployment benefits in Sweden, you must apply for membership in a Swedish unemployment benefit fund directly. You must apply for membership in an unemployment benefit fund that has an area of activity corresponding to the employment you had in the other country. You have the right to membership into a Swedish unemployment benefit fund, without first working in Sweden.

Five-year rule – Nordic agreement

The five-year rule applies to those who have been insured in Sweden earlier, either because you have worked in Sweden (basic insurance) or because you have been a member of a Swedish unemployment benefit fund (income-based insurance). After you have left the Swedish insurance you should have worked in another Nordic country. You must return from another Nordic country within five years. If you want to become a member of a Swedish unemployment benefit fund again, you must apply for membership within eight weeks of leaving the other Nordic country's insurance. If you were previously insured and are unemployed when you return to Sweden, you must register at the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) and apply for compensation at the Alfa-kassan within eight weeks of leaving the other Nordic country's insurance.

Unemployed in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland

If you become fully or partially unemployed in an EU/EEA country or Switzerland and belong to the country's unemployment insurance, you are covered by the laws there and can apply for unemployment benefit. Special rules apply to frontier workers. If you do not meet the conditions for compensation, you can credit yourself for periods of insurance and employment from Sweden. The periods must be certified with a special certificate, U002 or PD U1. Contact your previous unemployment benefit fund and find out what information they need to issue the certificate. Alternatively, the foreign labour market authority or the unemployment benefit fund may request the certificate from the Swedish unemployment benefit fund.

Job seeking in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland with decision U2

As unemployed you have the possibility to make a search trip to a different EU/EEA country and Switzerland with retained compensation from the Swedish unemployment benefit fund.

How to prepare a search trip:

- Plan the trip carefully; destination, residence and time of departure. Make your application on a special form, "Application for Certificate U2", which you will find at www.iaf.se/Intyg
- Ensure that the application is complete. It should also be filled in by the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) and the unemployment benefit fund (a-kassan).
- As the Swedish Unemployment Insurance Board (IAF) decides on certificate U2, you must ensure that the application is sent to IAF at the right time. Please note that your application for unemployment benefit must be finalized at the unemployment benefit fund before IAF can grant you a U2 trip.
- Pay the membership fee to the unemployment benefit fund before you travel, for the entire search period.
- Contact the Social Insurance Fund (Försäkringskassan) for health insurance. www.forsakringskassan.se
- Please find information about the country of destination, for example, through the country's embassy or consulate in Sweden. You can also contact a European Employment Agent, EURES Adviser, at the Employment Service.

If you are eligible for a search-trip, certificate U2 will be sent to you from IAF. Read carefully all the information that accompanies the decision. While you are on a U2 trip, you send time reports to your Swedish unemployment benefit fund. Your unemployment benefit is paid to your Swedish bank account. If you do regret and do not travel, return the decision to IAF, and don't forget to make a request for it to be revoked. Please note that the application for a search-trip cannot be made afterwards. You should also not commence the journey before the certificate has been granted. For more information on what is required, contact your unemployment benefit fund or IAF. Certificate U2 can be granted more than once. The requirement to get a new certificate/decision is that you have acquired employment again. More information about search tips can be found at www.iaf.se

Upon arrival in the country of destination

Immediately report to the Public Employment Service in the country of destination and leave decision U2 to them. If you register within seven days you are entitled to unemployment benefits from the date of departure. The foreign employment agency sends the certificate U009, with information on the registration date at the employment office, to your Swedish unemployment benefit fund. The foreign employment agency also determines the conditions for the job search. You continue to send time reports to your Swedish unemployment benefit fund even during the U2 trip. If you get work in the country of destination, be sure to be covered by the country's insurance, so that you have the possibility to receive unemployment benefits. You are entitled under certain conditions to credit your insurance and employment periods from Sweden.

Back home

To retain your right to compensation in Sweden, you must return to Sweden within the search period. Deadline for return is also indicated on the U2 certificate. If you want to apply for unemployment benefit from the day of arrival, you must register with the Swedish Employment Service immediately when you get home. If you return to Sweden after the granted search period without having worked in the country of destination, you must meet a new working condition to gain the unemployment benefit. If you have income-based compensation, you must have retained the membership of the unemployment insurance fund in order to receive such compensation again. If you return to Sweden after the granted three-month period and have worked in the country of destination, you must apply for membership into an unemployment benefit fund at the time of your return. The unemployment benefit fund then checks if you are entitled to membership without first having to work in Sweden. If you have maintained your membership we recommend that you contact your unemployment benefit fund for more information.

Special agreement with Israel

With Israel (which is not an EU/EEA-country), Sweden has an agreement that allows transfer of insurance and employment periods between the countries. To transfer such periods from Israel to Sweden, you must have worked in Sweden for at least 100 days.

The Social insurance

The Social Insurance Fund (Försäkringskassan) can provide information on the right to sickness insurance, parental allowance, child allowance and more during a foreign stay.

www.forsakringskassan.se

The Employment services

All Swedish employment agencies can inform about vacancies abroad. At some employment agencies there are specially trained European Job Agents, EURES Advisers, for those who want to apply for work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland. EURES Advisers can provide negotiation assistance, inform about internship and vacation work and on working and living conditions in different countries.

Read more at www.arbetsformedlingen.se.

EU-countries

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland (including Åland)
- France (including Guadeloupe, Martinique, Reunion)
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Croatia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal (including The Azores, Madeira)
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain (including Canary Islands)
- United Kingdom
- Sweden
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- Hungary
- Austria

EEA-countries

- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Norway

Switzerland-agreement

Switzerland has signed an agreement with all 28 EU-countries

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