



# Your social security cover as an artist in Europe



Art, culture and the economic and social diversity of the artistic world in Europe know no borders. That is why it is important to identify the rules and procedures in the country of residence or in the country where you work in order to guarantee your social security cover.

The Belgian, French and Italian social security institutions responsible for processing the cross-border worker mobility files offer a common approach.

The mobility of artists may involve occasional or regular travels, predictable or not, on the basis of an employment contract or on their own account in two or several countries, in Europe or in countries further afield. These elements are important to know where the social security charges will be due and where the social benefits will be paid (unemployment, health care, family allowances, ...).

Whether you are an artist, performing or creating, whether you are organizing live shows or hosting cultural events, there is no shortage of situations in our countries where culture plays an essential role.

## Social security in a European context: what are we talking about?

In Europe, every EU Member State<sup>1</sup> has a compulsory social security scheme which aims at providing a basic cover to the population in terms of health care, accidents at work, unemployment or any other risk. Most of the time, social security is financed by social security contributions from employers and workers or by taxes.

In Europe, artists who are generally very mobile benefit from **European regulations<sup>2</sup> on social security coordination** in order to facilitate their movement within the European Economic Area<sup>3</sup> and Switzerland, **by coming under a single national social security scheme.**

1. A Member State is a country that belongs to the European Union: Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Germany, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Malta, Cyprus (Greek part), Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia. The United Kingdom still applies the European coordination regulations under certain conditions.

2. Regulation n° 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems as well as the implementing regulation n° 987/2009.

3. Including the Member States of the European Union and also Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

# How to determine the social security scheme I come under when I work abroad?

In order to determine my social security scheme in case of international mobility, my situation must concern at least **two countries**, whether via the location of my usual residence, the location of my activity/activities, the head office of my employer, etc.

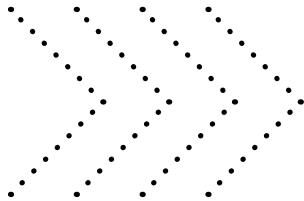
For example, I live in Brussels and I work full time as a stage manager (employee) for the 'Opéra de Lille'. According to the basic principle, I come under the French scheme where I work exclusively. I will receive social benefits in accordance with the French national rules and procedures.

## There are two main exceptions to this basic principle:

- When I work on a **one-off** and **temporary** basis in a country other than the usual country of work.
- When I work **regularly** and **predictably** in several countries. Or when there is alternatively occasional work benefits and the payment of unemployment benefits.

In these situations, the social security institution of the country designated competent by the coordination regulations will issue an A1 certificate attesting to its competence, at your request or at your employer's request.

See diagram on next page



## My situation concerns at least 2 countries

*Example: I live in Italy and I carry out my activities in France.*

NO

The European regulations on social security coordination **do not apply**.

I must contact the institution of my country of residence.

NO

I **regularly** and **predictably** carry out activities in several countries (with at least **2 countries** where I carry out more than **5% of my activities**).

### Simultaneous activity

All my activities are carried out under **the same status** in all countries.

YES

I carry out a **substantial part** of my activities in the country **where I live**.

Make a choice

A

#### I am an employee

*Example: I live in Rome and I make decorations as an employee (for a Austrian company) in 10 EU countries, I work for 25% of my working time in my country of residence.*

→ I come under the social security scheme of my country of residence (Italy).

**For my A1\***, I must contact the institution of my country of residence.

B

#### I am a self-employed worker

*Example: I am a self-employed artist and I live in Paris. I work for 36% of my working time at the 'Opéra de Paris' and I carry out the rest of my activities at 'La Scala' in Milan.*

→ I come under the social security scheme of my country of residence (France).

**For my A1\***, I must contact the institution of my country of residence.

YES

I usually **only** work in **one country**.

YES

I come under the scheme of my country of employment.

*Example: I live in Brussels and I work exclusively for the 'Opéra de Lille'. I therefore come under the French scheme.*

NO

Make a choice

A

B

I carry out a short assignment on a **one-off** and **temporary** basis in another country.

### Detachment

I shall remain covered by my usual social security.

*Example: I am a self-employed dancer in Belgium and I live in Brussels. An Italian theatre offers me to perform two times.*

→ I come under the Belgian social security scheme.

**For my A1\***, I must contact the competent institution of my usual scheme.

NO

Make a choice

A

#### I am an employee and a self-employed worker

*Example: I live in Zaventem and I am an actor working as an employee at the 'Théâtre de la Toison d'Or' in Brussels. I teach acting in Rome as a self-employed worker.*

→ I come under the social security scheme of the country where I work as an employee (Belgium).

**For my A1\***, I must contact the institution of my country of residence.

B

#### I carry out my activities as a civil servant and another part as a self-employed worker and/or an employee

*Example: I am of Indian origin and I live in Maastricht. I work as a teacher (civil servant) in a fashion design school in Milan and I work as an employee in a fashion house in Antwerp. I give private lessons in cutting garments to students in Germany as a self-employed worker.*

→ I come under the social security scheme of the country where I carry out my activity as a civil servant (Italy).

**For my A1\***, I must contact the institution of my country of residence.



\*A1 is a document certifying the social security scheme that applies to my situation.

# Essential questions to prepare my procedures and to be better protected

**Important:** all the details of your individual situation are decisive in enabling the social security institutions to identify which social security scheme is competent.

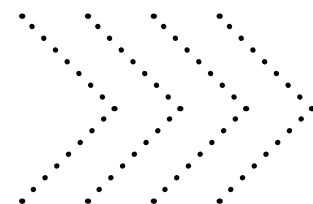
## My original situation:

- **My country of residence?** Where my stable and regular residence is located, it is generally the State where my medical follow-up is done, where my children go to school, where my tax residence is located, etc.
- **Am I an employee, a temporary worker?** I receive payslips, employment contract, my employer pays my social security (my payslip therefore mentions a gross amount and a net amount), etc.
- **Am I unemployed with benefits?** I receive unemployment benefits
- **Am I a self-employed worker?** I issue invoices to pay myself, service contract, I am responsible for paying my social security contributions, I complete VAT returns...
- **How much activity?** in terms of working time, income, turnover or number of services provided I carry out in the country where I live?

## My international mobility situation:


- In which country(/ies) shall I be working?
- Is it on a one-off and temporary basis, on a short-term basis?
- Is it regular, predictable and planned in advance?
- Is it for several employers or customers:
  - » How are my activities distributed in each country?
  - » How am I paid (wage, salary, invoices)?
- What is my **status** in the host country(/ies) (employee, self-employed worker, civil servant)?

**Please** note that the same activity may be qualified differently depending on the State where it is carried out. It is therefore crucial to find out in the host country whether the national law qualifies my activity as an employee, a self-employed worker, a civil servant.



# Before going abroad

- **For artists and performing arts professionals, as soon as I am aware of it:** I report any plan to work abroad to my social security Institute. If I may remain covered by my usual social security scheme abroad, I make sure I have the A1 certificate to prove it.
- **For the organizers:** I check whether the artists who perform have their A1 certificate or are covered by the social security scheme of the country hosting the event



**FRANCE**  
**Employed artist and self-employed artist:**  
[www.urssaf.fr/portail/home/travail-etranger-mobilite.html](http://www.urssaf.fr/portail/home/travail-etranger-mobilite.html)  
**Artist author:**  
[www.artistes-auteurs.urssaf.fr](http://www.artistes-auteurs.urssaf.fr)  
**Entertainment workers and entertainment employers:**  
[www.pole-emploi.fr/spectacle/](http://www.pole-emploi.fr/spectacle/)  
**Casual entertainment employer: de spectacle :** [www.guso.fr](http://www.guso.fr)

**BELGIUM**  
**Artist's status:**  
[www.artistatwork.be](http://www.artistatwork.be)  
**Employed artist:**  
NSSO – [www.socialsecurity.be](http://www.socialsecurity.be)  
**Self-employed artist:**  
NISSE - [www.inasti.be/fr/international](http://www.inasti.be/fr/international)

**ITALY**  
**Employed artist and Self-employed artist:**  
INPS - [www.inps.it](http://www.inps.it)

This European Commission website is specially dedicated to the coordination of social security systems. You will find, on this website, the practical guide on the applicable legislation in the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) and in Switzerland as well as other documents:  
[Official documents - Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

