

Seeking employment in the EEA and the Faroe Islands with Danish unemployment benefits

It is possible to claim Danish unemployment benefits for up to three months while seeking employment in another EEA country or the Faroe Islands. You must apply before you leave, and the rules are only applicable if you are a citizen of an EEA country, recognised as a refugee under the relevant convention or stateless.

EEA countries and areas

The common rules on unemployment insurance apply in the following countries, known as the EEA countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus (Greek part), the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The following areas are also covered by the EEA agreement: the Azores, the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Ibiza), Ceuta, the Canary Islands, Gibraltar, Guadeloupe, the Hebrides, the Isle of Wight, Madeira, Martinique, Melilla, the Orkney Islands, Réunion, the Shetland Islands, Saint Martin (French part) and the Western Isles.

A similar agreement has been concluded between the Danish Ministry of Employment and the Faroese Government on the coordination of unemployment insurance. In this leaflet, the Faroe Islands are referred to as an EEA country where the rules for the Faroe Islands do not differ from the EEA rules.

How to apply

You must ask to be issued with a document called a PD U2 by completing an 'Application for unemployment benefits while seeking employment in another EEA country (PD U2)' (EØS1). You can find the form at krifa.dk or request it from us.

It is essential that you enter the precise date of your departure on the application. You must not leave before the date specified in your application.

You can use a PD U2 in several countries within a three-month period. If you want to do this, you must give the precise dates of your periods seeking employment in the individual countries. The dates must be specified in your application, and we will issue a PD U2 for each country.

If your application is approved, we will issue you with a PD U2. This document must bear our original signature in order to be approved by the authorities in the other EEA countries. We would like to receive your application

no later than three weeks before your departure so that we can send you the original PD U2 by post. If there is insufficient time to send you the PD U2, you will have to collect it from us during our opening hours.

Conditions for obtaining a PD U2

You must meet the following conditions for us to issue you with a PD U2:

- You must apply for the document before you leave Denmark.
- You must be a citizen of an EEA country, recognised as a refugee under the relevant convention or stateless (does not apply in the case of a PD U2 for the Faroe Islands).
- You must be a member of the unemployment insurance fund and pay your membership fees
- You must be entitled to unemployment benefits at the time of your departure and throughout the PD U2 period.
- You must have a residence and be staying in Denmark up to and including the date of departure specified in your application.
- You must be registered as unemployed with the Job Centre in Denmark for at least four weeks leading up to the date of your departure (the four-week requirement) unless you can obtain an exemption (this does not apply to a PD U2 for the Faroe Islands).

Four-week requirement

You must be registered as unemployed with the Job Centre, be entitled to unemployment benefits and be available to the Danish labour market for at least four weeks leading up to the date of your departure.

Please note that the following situations affect compliance with the four-week requirement:

- Holiday. Your own earned holiday and holiday with holiday unemployment benefit for a total of up to three days can count towards the four-week requirement. If you take a holiday for more than three days in total, the four-week requirement may be extended, however
- Illness. Periods of illness do not count. However, an exemption may be granted for your own or a child's illness for a total of up to three days in the four-week period.
- Work. More than two consecutive days of work in total interrupts the four-week period, which will have to be accumulated again.
- Signing off from the Job Centre. Signing off interrupts the four-week period.
- Activation or an activity planned as part of a jobseeking strategy on your departure date. This will prevent a PD U2 from being issued.

A quarantine period or a qualifying period after finishing training or self-employment may count towards the four-week requirement if you are registered as unemployed with the Job Centre and available.

If you quit your job in order to go to another country, you will not be entitled to unemployment benefits during the intervening period. This means that you cannot claim unemployment benefits in the period from when you quit your job until you leave for the other country. You must, however, be registered as unemployed with the Job Centre and accept any employment offered to you during the intervening period. The intervening period may count towards the four-week requirement if you are registered as unemployed with the Job Centre and available. If you quit your job in order to go abroad, you will also be given a three-week quarantine. The quarantine period will not commence until the date on which you leave for the other EEA country.

If it is ascertained after your departure that you have not satisfied the four-week requirement, your right to a PD U2 will be revoked.

Exemptions from the four-week requirement

You can be granted an exemption from the four-week requirement if you:

- Travel to the Faroe Islands.
- Quit your job in order to accompany your spouse or partner who has entered permanent employment (more than five weeks) within the past year or is about to enter it or start on a longer-term education programme (at least 18 months) in another EEA country.
- Have been invited to attend a job interview in the other EEA country.
- Are a citizen of the EEA country you are going to.

If you are granted an exemption from the four-week requirement on the grounds that you are a citizen of the country you wish to go to, you must still be registered as unemployed with the Job Centre and available to the labour market for at least one week before your departure, however.

If you have previously been issued with a PD U2

If you have previously been paid Danish unemployment benefits while seeking employment abroad, you need to be employed before you can become re-entitled to claim Danish unemployment benefits while seeking employment in the EEA.

If you have full-time unemployment insurance, you must be employed for at least 296 hours within 12 weeks/3 months in order to re-qualify for benefits. If you have part-time unemployment insurance, you must

be employed for at least 148 hours within 12 weeks/3 months in order to re-qualify for benefits. Such employment may have been undertaken abroad.

If you are an independent employer, then the surplus profit from your company can be used to earn the 296 work hours that are required, in order to transfer your period of insurance from another EØS-country. We can first calculate the 296 hours of work, after your annual tax statement has been finalized. The annual tax statement is finalized, at the earliest, on the 1st of July in the following year.

Changing your departure date

Your departure date must be the date given in your application for a PD U2. Unfortunately, you will not otherwise be entitled to unemployment benefits while seeking employment in the EEA country.

If you change the date of your departure, you must contact us immediately, as you must not leave either before or after the date you gave us in your application. If you change your departure date, you must apply for a new PD U2, and the application must be approved. It is also essential that you contact the Job Centre and inform them about seeking employment abroad so that you are signed off by them on the date you leave.

You must be available in Denmark on the day of your departure up until your departure.

You must have a European Health Insurance Card

Please note that you must have a European Health Insurance Card (the blue EU medical card) to be entitled to medical assistance in the EEA country. Find out more about this at borger.dk.

Sign off from the Job Centre in Denmark on your departure date

It is essential that you sign off from the Job Centre on the date you leave Denmark so that the Job Centre has the correct information and does not allocate you a job or activation after your departure. Please note that you must be available in Denmark on your departure date up until your departure.

Stay registered with the Danish National Register

We recommend that you do not cancel your registration with the Danish National Register while seeking work in the EEA country. If you cancel your registration, you may have problems submitting your benefit form to us with NemID, and you will not be able to register with the Job Centre online if you return to Denmark. You will then have to go to the Job Centre in person.

Register with the Job Centre in the EEA country within the deadline

When you arrive in the EEA country, you must register with the Job Centre there as soon as possible. In order to receive unemployment benefits from the start date on the PD U2, you must register within seven days of the document's start date. You will find the date by which you must register in section 2.3 of the PD U2. If you register after this date, you can only receive unemployment benefits from the date on which you register.

If you cannot be registered when you first report to the Job Centre in the EEA country, it is essential that you obtain confirmation from the authorities in the other country that you have indeed reported to them for registration.

It would be an excellent idea to familiarise yourself in advance with arrangements in the country you are going to, e.g. where you must report in order to be registered correctly. If you do not speak the local language, you must expect to have to take an interpreter with you. You can find out more about arrangements in the various EEA countries at ec.europa.eu/eures.

Availability

You must comply with the foreign authorities' requirements for jobseekers. This means that you must

- attend the Job Centre at the times required under their rules.
- be available to the labour market in the other EEA country.
- be actively seeking employment.
- accept a job or participate in activation if you are offered it.
- inform the authorities in the other country if you fall ill, find employment, attend training or education programmes, return to Denmark or anything similar.

Failure to attend meetings or take part in activation will affect your entitlement to payment of unemployment benefits from Denmark.

Payment of unemployment benefits

You must continue to submit your benefit form every month via krifa.dk/mitkrifa so that you can receive unemployment benefits from us during the PD U2 period. The benefits will be paid into your NemKonto at the monthly rate that you were told when your registered as unemployed. You must have a NemKonto in Denmark to be entitled to unemployment benefits while seeking employment in an EEA country.

Please note that we cannot pay unemployment benefits to you until we have received documentation document

SED U009) from the other EEA country's Job Centre to prove that you have registered as a jobseeker.

If you find employment in the EEA country

If you find employment in the EEA country, you will no longer be entitled to Danish unemployment benefits. You must therefore contact us immediately and let us know that you have found employment.

As a general rule, when you find employment in an EEA country, you must take out unemployment insurance in the country where you work.

If you are an employee, your payslip will usually show whether you are paying unemployment benefit contributions in the other EEA country. If you pay unemployment benefit contributions, you are automatically covered by the insurance system in the EEA country. In Sweden and Finland, however, you must register with an unemployment insurance fund yourself.

If you are self-employed, it is your own responsibility to contact the authorities of the other EEA country in order to take out unemployment insurance. Unemployment insurance may not always be available to self-employed persons in EEA countries.

When you are positive that you are covered by the other EEA country's unemployment insurance system, you must cancel your membership of our unemployment insurance fund in writing. We recommend that you read all about these rules in the leaflet entitled 'Unemployment insurance in the EEA and the Faroe Islands' (P141b), which you can find at krifa.dk.

If it turns out that you cannot obtain unemployment insurance cover in the other EEA country (if unemployment insurance is not available to self-employed persons or your work does not qualify for insurance, for example), you may continue your membership with us. You must provide us with documentation for your inability to obtain unemployment insurance cover in the other EEA country. This can take the form of a written refusal of insurance from the country's authorities.

If you receive a refusal of insurance, it will be possible in some cases for us to still pay unemployment benefits or supplementary unemployment benefit. Contact us immediately so that we can advise you.

In the Nordic countries, you can opt to retain your membership with us during the PD U2 period in the case of partial work. This requires you not to be covered by the unemployment insurance system in the EEA country. We recommend that you contact us

immediately so that we can advise you on the payment of supplementary unemployment benefit.

If you fall ill in the EEA country

If you fall ill while you are staying in another EEA country, you must contact us and register as sick immediately. You must also register as sick with the Job Centre in the country where you are staying. If you expect to be ill for more than 14 days, you must also contact your Danish municipality of residence within a week.

You must report your illness when you submit your benefit form. As a general rule, you can be paid Danish unemployment benefits for the first 14 days of your illness. If you contacted the municipality within the time stated, they will decide whether you are entitled to payments after the 14 days.

If you are registered as sick on your return to Denmark after your PD U2 period expires, it is essential that you read the section headed 'Exemption from registration deadline on return to Denmark' in this leaflet.

If you take a holiday during your PD U2 period

You can take a holiday for up to seven days at your own expense or on holiday pay from an employer while seeking employment in the EEA country. Unfortunately, you cannot receive Danish unemployment benefits or holiday unemployment benefit while on holiday.

It is essential that you let us know about your holiday in good time, and that you tell us the dates of your holiday when you submit your benefit form.

If you travel to Denmark temporarily and register as unemployed with the Job Centre in Denmark, you will lose your current PD U2 period.

If you take a holiday for more than 7 days, the period with unemployment benefits while seeking employment in the EEA country will be interrupted and unfortunately cannot be resumed.

If you return to Denmark

If you do not wish to lose your benefit entitlement in Denmark, you must return to Denmark and register as unemployed with the Job Centre before your allotted period expires. You cannot receive unemployment benefits for the days you spend travelling back to Denmark unless you are signed off by the Job Centre in the EEA country and registered in Denmark on the same day.

You will find the date by which you must be back in Denmark and register as unemployed with the Job Centre in section 2.2.1 of the PD U2. If this deadline falls on a Sunday or public holiday, you must register as

unemployed with the Job Centre on the next working day.

We will need documentation that you have returned to Denmark by the last date of your entitlement to Danish unemployment benefits while seeking employment in the EEA. This can be a copy of your plane ticket, attendance in person at our customer centre, a receipt from a purchase made in Denmark with your debit card or the like.

You are therefore not allowed to take a holiday in the other EEA country in continuation of your PD U2 period if you wish to apply for unemployment benefits after returning to Denmark.

Registration in Denmark after the deadline expires

If you register as unemployed with the Job Centre in Denmark late – i.e. after the document expires – you will not be entitled to unemployment benefits from us until after you have been employed. The same applies if you are unable to document that you were in Denmark before your allotted period expires.

If you are covered by full-time insurance, you must be employed for at least 296 hours within 12 weeks/3 months to re-qualify for benefits. If you have part-time unemployment insurance, you must be employed for at least 148 hours within 12 weeks/3 months in order to re-qualify for benefits.

If you are an independent employer, then the surplus profit from your company can be used to earn the 296 work hours that are required, in order to transfer your period of insurance from another EØS-country. We can first calculate the 296 hours of work, after your annual tax statement has been finalized. The annual tax statement is finalized, at the earliest, on the 1st of July in the following year.

Even if you lose your entitlement to benefits by failing to report to the Job Centre in time, you will not lose your entitlement to membership of the unemployment insurance fund. You must therefore continue to pay membership fees to the fund in order to become entitled to receive benefits again.

Exemption from registration deadline on return to Denmark

The unemployment insurance fund can grant an exemption to enable you to register as unemployed with the Job Centre in Denmark after the document expires without losing your entitlement to unemployment benefits in Denmark. An exemption may be granted in the following situations:

- You can document that you have been invited to attend a job interview in the other EEA country immediately after the document expires, or
- You can document by means of a doctor's certificate that you have been prevented from travelling because of illness, or
- You go on maternity/paternity leave before the PD U2 expires, or
- Excusable, unforeseeable circumstances have prevented you from returning to Denmark in time.

In all cases, you must apply for an exemption before your PD U2 period expires.

Even if the unemployment insurance fund grants you an exemption allowing you to register as unemployed with the Job Centre in Denmark after the period specified in the PD U2 document expires, you cannot be paid unemployment benefits in the other EEA country beyond the duration of your entitlement period. In other words, the period during which you are entitled to Danish unemployment benefits while seeking employment in the EEA country cannot be extended beyond the allotted period. The maximum time for which we can pay Danish unemployment benefits while you are seeking work in an EEA country is three months.

If you are ill and receive unemployment benefits during your illness, however, you can have up to 14 days with unemployment benefits during illness if you have applied for an exemption before the PD U2 expires and had the deadline for your return extended.

In some cases, if you are going to attend a job interview or are waiting for a reply, you may be entitled to receive unemployment benefits for a short period pending a reply. This requires you to apply for an exemption before the PD U2 expires and the deadline for your return to be extended.

If you are granted an exemption enabling you to register as unemployed with the Job Centre, it is essential that you do so on the day after the exemption expires at the latest.

If you do not return to Denmark

If you remain in the country after the period during which you are entitled to Danish unemployment benefits while seeking employment, you will lose your entitlement to unemployment benefits in Denmark.

In order to re-qualify for Danish unemployment benefits, you must meet the requirements described in 'Registration in Denmark after the deadline expires'. The work requirement does not apply if you are covered by the insurance system in the EEA country, however.

It is essential that you continue your membership with us until you are covered by the insurance system in the EEA country so as not to lose the qualification you have accrued.

You may transfer your period of unemployment insurance and the qualification you have accrued from Denmark to the EEA country. In order to transfer your periods of employment and unemployment insurance in Denmark, you must obtain confirmation of the periods in the form of a document called a PD U1. You can apply to us for the document.

The authorities in the EEA country can tell you if you are entitled to unemployment benefits there, and what may be needed to qualify for payments from them.

Generally speaking, if you find employment in the EEA country, you must cancel your membership with us. Find out more about this in the section entitled 'If you find employment in the EEA country'.

Contact us if you have any questions

This leaflet describes the rules as they are today. We would therefore always encourage you to contact us if you are staying in an EEA country for an extended period so that we can give you the correct and most accurate advice based on your situation. Call us on 7227 7227 between 7 am and 8 pm on weekdays for advice.

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