

Working abroad

If you intend to work in a country with which Greece has made a bilateral agreement you have to know **which legislation you are subject to**.

Generally speaking, when moving from one country to another the applicable legislation for social security scheme is that established by the country of new employment.

If your employer sends you in a country with which Greece has signed a bilateral agreement to complete a specific task on a short assignment for max up to 2 years, or if you are interested in working as self employed professional without losing your attachment from the Insurance Institute of your country of origin you should be provided with a **certificate of coverage**.

This certificate proves that you are entitled to insurance rights in your country of origin and ensures that you continue being affiliated with the Insurance Institute of the country you come from without losing your insurance rights for pension benefits. This also will allow you to **be exempted from the insurance contributions** that you should have paid to the Insurance Institute of the country of your work.

Especially when it comes to self employed professionals (e.g engineers, doctors, merchants) you have the opportunity to operate in several countries, you should consider where you carry out the essential part of your work. Before being transferred to another country, **you and your employer should check your insurance status**.

The certificate of coverage obtained is in effect for up to **2 years** (24 months). If approved by the Institutes of both countries, this can be extended for up to 5 years according to the agreement.

How to claim a certificate of coverage

You should submit a request to the **Section of Insurance and Contributions at the EFKA regional Division you belong to** asking for a certificate of coverage.

After the checking of your insurance status carried out by the employees of the Section you will be provided with the certificate of coverage. Note that the Insurance Institutes before the EFKA creation had different provisions among them about the eligibility to insurance rights.

Once approved, the certificate will be forwarded to the Department of International Relations which will send it to the competent Authority of the contracting party. You are going to be given one copy of it.

Given Greece has signed 9 agreements with provisions related to the secondment or detachment of working people, **check which certificate of coverage is requested by the country you intend to go** in the following template.

COUNTRY	CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE
ARGENTINA	Certificate of temporary stay
AUSTRALIA	GR-AUS 3
BRAZIL	GR-B 1
CANADA	GR-CAN 4
NEW ZEALAND	GR-NZ 1
QUEBEC	GR- QUE 1
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	GR- USA 1
URUGUAY	Liaison form
VENEZUELA	Temporary Liaison form

Working in Greece

If you intend to work in a country other of your home country as salaried worker or self employed professional you should know that, generally speaking, **you are subject to that legislation for social security scheme established by the country of your new employment.**

If you or your employer wishes to be covered by the social security of your home country you should at first **submit a request for a certificate of coverage** according to the bilateral agreement signed between Greece and your home country.

It covers the specific task you have been assigned to complete on a temporary basis for a period **max up to 2 years**. This will allow you to be **exempted from the mandatory social security contributions of the host country** while maintaining the insurance rights of the social security system of your country of origin.

Next, it will be forwarded by the competent authority of your country of origin to the Department of Bilateral Conventions of the Division of

International Agreements. It will be next sent to the Section of Insurance and Contributions at the EFKA Regional Division which will follow the necessary procedures regarding exemption from paying social contributions to EFKA.

If there is need to extend the validity of this certificate, you have to apply for social security over extension so that the involved authorities from the country of origin and the host country reach a mutual agreement.

Note that many Insurance Institutes follow other practices than the Greek one. For this reason, it is important to **be dully informed by the Department of International Relations of your country.**

If you seek more information about the bilateral agreements you can address your questions at the following address using the **“Request Form”**

Postal address

EFKA-DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
GHERANIOU 42 str;
10431 ATHENS
TEL:+302106783690
FAX:+302106744824
e-mail: tm.dska@efka.gov.gr

or

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
STADIOU 29str;
10559 ATHENS
Tel:, +302131516386
Fax: +30210 3368025
e-mail: inter-1@otenet.gr , bilatconv@ypakp.gr

