

EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS FROM VISEGRAD COUNTRIES

*AND THEIR DEMANDS IN SOCIAL SECURITY
SPHERE AND LABOR LAW AREA*

Hungary

Written and edited by Viola Szabó and Eszter Markó
2015.

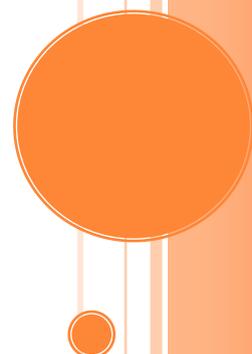


Table of contents

Labor sector	3
The process of employing foreigners.....	3
Valid employee card.....	3
The role of labor offices.....	3
Valid permission to stay on domain of individual states.....	5
Restriction to engage to employment.....	5
The request for permission to employment.....	5
Employment of foreigners by the domestic employers	5
Labour law arrangement of relations between the foreigner and employer.....	5
Juridical power in labour law relations in contact with strange element.....	6
Economic, social and cultural laws	6
Additional accident benefits	6
Personal hurdles in work.....	6
Equal position of foreigners (for example antidiscrimination act)	6
Sphere of social security foreigners in Hungary	8
Private health insurance.....	8
Health insurance in Hungary	9
Medical treatment.....	10
Medicine.....	10
Dental treatment.....	10
Early detection and preventive testing.....	10
Treatment at home	11
Hospital care.....	11
Medical appliances.....	12
Benefits for disabled people	15
Long term care	15
Pension insurance.....	16
Old-age pension	16
Disability pension	21
Widows pension.....	22
Survivor's pensions	22
<i>Work Accident Sickness Benefit</i>	23
<i>Work Accident Annuity</i>	23
Invalidity benefits	25
Survivors' pension	28
Unemployment.....	35

Job-seeker benefit	36
Job-seeker aid before pension	37
Previous coverage abroad can count.....	39
Sick pay insurance.....	41
Sick pay.....	41
Sickness Cash Benefits.....	41
Help in physical shortage.....	44
Benefit on subsistence	44
Additional payment on housing	44
Emergency express help	44
Social state support	44
Child benefit	44
Parental benefit.....	44
References:	54

LABOR SECTOR

The process of employing foreigners

Valid employee card

Hungary joined the European Union in 2004, so citizens of the EU and EEA member states do not require a visa or any kind of employee card. Actually no one needs any employee card; employer must register the employee at the beginning and the end of employment at the labor office.

The only documentation is required either the employee's passport or identity card. The countries which joined to the EU are:

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

While EU nationals working in Hungary do not need work visas, non-EU citizens generally require a permit to work. The work permit application is currently done as part of the residency application through the Hungarian immigration office. Many clients are not aware that the first step in this process is finding a position and signing a labor contract – and many employers are not clear on the procedure and need our help.

Apart from a work permit, there are other documents which are needed to work in Hungary:

- personal tax number;
- social security number (it is needed to put the employee on payroll);
- residence permit;
- work permit.

The role of labor offices

Employment in Hungary is mainly governed by the Hungarian Labor Code (*Munka Törvénykönyve*), which prohibits discrimination against employees on the basis of age, gender, nationality, race, ethnic origin, religion, political convictions, or any other matter that is not job-related.

The National Employment Service (*Nemzeti Foglalkoztatási Szolgálat – NFSZ*) is the government body concerned with unemployment benefits and helping job seekers to find work.

Non-Hungarian residents can also apply for unemployment benefits if they fulfill the necessary criteria.

On losing a job or being made redundant, it is necessary to register at the nearest National Employment Service – in this context labor office – as soon as possible and acquire a “job seeker” (*álláskereső*) status.

Job Seeker's Allowance

The payment of job seeker’s allowance is based on 60 percent of the claimant’s average salary over the previous four years, but it is capped and cannot be more than the official minimum wage. Job seeker's allowance can be received for a minimum of 36 and a maximum of 90 days. For every 10 days the claimant worked in the previous five years they are entitled to one day of allowance. Anyone who worked for 360 days in the previous five years would therefore be entitled to 36 days.

To be eligible to apply for job seeker’s allowance the claimant must be:

- Registered as a job seeker;
- Able and willing to work;
- Not employed or invoicing as a sole trader;
- Not a full time student;
- Not on disability allowance;
- Not receiving old age pension.

They must also agree to co-operate with the National Employment Service (*Nemzeti Foglalkoztatási Szolgálat – NFSZ*). This means that the job seeker has to report at a NFSZ office, take part in training courses, accept any job deemed suitable, and actively search for employment.

Speaking of the causes of losing a job it is important to tell a few words about trade unions. Sadly, they are very weak and have little role outside certain trades, for example, transport. Many employees are afraid of losing their jobs and as a result often work long hours; not all companies pay overtime. It can be said the a lot of times and employee’s rights are not represented.

Valid permission to stay on domain of individual states

Hungary does not have any special criteria according to staying in the country for a foreigner who is from one of the Visegrad countries, but a so-called “address card” is needed for everyone who wants to sign on – Hungarians as well.

Restriction to engage to employment

If someone from the Visegrad countries wants to work in Hungary, he or she needs the following documents:

- personal tax number;
- social security number (it is needed to put the employee on payroll);

Without these it is not possible to have a labor agreement. It is also important that to have a social security number one’s need a Hungarian address as well.

There are certain positions which depend on your citizenship in the public sphere. Certain positions can only be provided by Hungarian citizenship.

The request for permission to employment

Normally there is no need for any kind of permission to employment.

Although there is a possibility to reverse the whole process according to signing on: if a person’s social security number is missing for some reason and it cannot be triggered, then the employer can write an official statement about the wish of employing the person. With this formal document the person can apply for a social security number, because without it he/she is not able to sign a labor contract.

Employment of foreigners by the domestic employers

Labour law arrangement of relations between the foreigner and employer

The employer and the employee have to sign the work agreement which provides protection for both parties. The Hungarian Labor Law gives possibility for the so called „collective contract”, which can change some of the terms of the work.

Juridical power in labour law relations in contact with strange element

In every cases according to employment the Hungarian Labor Law shows the right steps. It is the first official juridical “power” which can be used in needed situations.

Economic, social and cultural laws

In these cases the same law works for the foreigners and the Hungarian employees. It is because of the work agreement which provides protection for both parties. The Hungarian Labor Code gives possibility for the so called „collective contract”, which can change some of the terms of the work.

Additional accident benefits

Work accident sickness benefit (*Baleseti táppénz*) is paid to people who, as a result of an accident at work or an occupational disease, are unable to work and cannot perform their normal work without an appliance or because of their state of health.

A work accident annuity (*Baleseti járadék*) is paid to anyone who, as a result of an accident at work or occupational disease, suffers a loss of working capacity of more than 13 % and is not entitled to disability benefit.

Benefits in kind include general medical assistance, 100 % coverage for medicine, appliances and healthcare, and certain free dental treatments that are connected with the sickness or injury.

Personal hurdles in work

As we said it before there are certain positions which depend on citizenship in the public sphere. Exact jobs can only be filled if the employee has Hungarian citizenship, for example juridical and military positions.

Equal position of foreigners (for example antidiscrimination act)

The level of equal opportunities in the labor field is really low all around the world. Theoretically every company agrees it is really important to make the same conditions for the employees. There is harmony in the opinions according to avoidance of ethnic discrimination. Sadly besides this a lot of employee can tell stories when they were discriminated.

The Equality Act clearly defines the requirements of the employers according to discrimination. It is clearly recorded who cannot be distinguished. The law designates a half-dozen target group, whose members are to be assessed in the same way both before and during employment just like anyone else.

Although there is one interesting paragraph according to what is written in the Law of Hungary when we talk about equality:

“A new Labor Code (LXXXVI, 2012/ I.) has been in effect in Hungary since 1 July 2012. Article 12 of the document guarantees equal treatment for all workers, especially in the real wage setting in the most general ways. Unlike the previous Labor Code, the new one does not require employers to prepare an equal opportunity plan.” (*The Policy on Gender Equality in Hungary*)

SPHERE OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOREIGNERS IN HUNGARY

Foreigners who are resident and working or studying in Hungary, as well as refugees and their dependants, are considered insured under the National Health Insurance Fund (*Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár – OEP*). Patients may be required to make a contribution towards the cost of medical care, however, as public funding for a medical service is often insufficient.

This section features information about how to register for health insurance, locate a doctor or pharmacy, and pay for medical care. In addition, there are details on the services provided for new mothers and babies in Hungary, as well as a list of vital telephone numbers that can be contacted in case of emergency.

Hungary provides full medical coverage for residents. Foreigners who are resident and working or studying in Hungary, as well as refugees and their dependants, are considered insured and they are issued with a national health insurance card (*TAJ kártya*) and a health insurance number (*TAJ szám*) by the National Health Insurance (OEP). The employer or the further education institute in question should take care of the necessary paperwork, or it can be requested from the OEP customer service department (website in Hungarian).

The following documents are needed to apply for health insurance:

- ID card (*személyazonosító igazolvány*) or passport (*útleveél*)
- Address card (*lakcímkártya*)

Private health insurance

There are also private insurance companies in Hungary which many people use for additional health insurance, and private hospitals are available.

Most state-employed doctors and specialists also have private practices, which many Hungarians choose in order to receive a better and more comfortable treatment, especially in the case of dental treatment, gynecology and childbirth. Doctors very often treat their private patients in the state hospitals where they practice.

European citizens and residents travelling within the European Economic Area, (i.e. the European Union, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and

Switzerland, for private or professional reasons are entitled to a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which simplifies the procedure when receiving medical assistance during their stay in a member state.

Health insurance in Hungary

In what situation can someone claim?

There is free choice of (employed or contracted) doctors. Patients have to register with one general practitioner. There are no geographical restraints. Patients are allowed to change doctor once a year (or more if justified).

For basic healthcare, it is possible to go to any doctor with whom the OEP has contracted. For secondary level care, with or without hospitalization, you must go to the designated specialist or institution serving your declared place of residence.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Everyone is automatically affiliated to a health insurance scheme as soon as he or she begins to work. Self-employed people register themselves, and employers register their employees, with the competent local bureau of the taxation and finance office and/or the competent social insurance organizations, as necessary. Employers and employees pay contributions.

Beneficiaries of the health insurance system fall into two categories:

- The holders of the right, i.e. those persons who have a statutory obligation to pay contributions, e.g. general employees, civil servants, public service employees, service providers and people with other legal working arrangements, the self-employed working alone or in collective organizations, ecclesiastical personnel and members of associations. These people are entitled to the full range of health insurance benefits (cash benefits, benefits in kind and accident allowances). This category also includes people receiving assistance while looking for work, who pay pension contributions on their benefits although they are not entitled to cash benefits.
- Entitled beneficiaries, e.g. minors, schoolchildren, students studying during the day, pensioners, people on low incomes who have reached retirement age, those receiving cash maternity and social protection benefits, persons placed in residential institutions providing personal care and those required to pay flat rate

contributions. These persons are entitled to non-cash health insurance benefits only.

Medical treatment

Everyone who is covered for healthcare is entitled to receive all the care their state of health requires. Medical care in Hungary is, as a general rule, free of charge. If the treatment

- is not prescribed by a physician or
- is not provided through the normal hospital system
- or if he/she chooses a doctor other than the one allocated by the healthcare system,

fees imposed by the care provider will be paid by the patient. The individual might also pay part of the cost of medicines and medical appliances.

Medicine

Medicines administered in hospital are free of charge. Otherwise, the National Health Insurance Fund (OEP) covers part or all of the cost when the medicine prescribed is included in the reimbursement list.

Dental treatment

Dental treatment is free up to the age of 18; students, seniors (60+) and pregnant women (from the determination of the pregnancy until 90 days after childbirth) are entitled to the full service but they still have to pay the technical costs. Each individual also pays the technical costs associated with dental treatment. According to the National Health Insurance Fund, only the emergency care of the dental treatments is covered by the social security system for the entitled person.

Early detection and preventive testing

Everyone with compulsory health insurance covering early detection and preventive testing is entitled to these tests on certain conditions (determined by age group) and at certain intervals. An individual or a doctor may request screening tests; where there is a public health issue, personal notices to attend are sent to all concerned. Early detection testing is - with certain exceptions - voluntary, since it is in the person's own interests. Most preventive care is provided by the family doctor.

Nurses also play a role, particularly in informing people about screening tests, as do school doctors and nurses, while some examinations are the

responsibility of the specialists concerned. To ensure preventive care is effective, early detection or screening tests may in some cases be a prerequisite for free treatment, otherwise people may be charged for treatment if they failed to take advantage of early detection/screening tests. No consultation fee is charged for these tests.

As a matter of prevention, as of 1 January 2012, smoking is banned in every indoor public place, including workplaces, restaurants, bars and cafes; except in specially designated smoking rooms, which already exist.

Treatment at home

Home-based treatments are intended to reduce the number of patients who have to be hospitalized and to provide more compassionate care. An insured person can be treated at home by professionals who have signed a contract with the OEP to provide these services. These benefits are not eligible for aid unless prescribed by a specialist. Home care is covered for the same length of time as treatment for the same condition in hospital.

Hospital care

Inpatient specialized care is provided in various types of facilities, i.e. institutions (for chronic, rehabilitation or nursing care), hospitals, national institutions (highly specialized care), university clinics and day-care hospitals.

Patients being treated in hospitals receive the following services for the flat-rate daily charge:

- diagnostic examinations related to the illness;
- the treatment prescribed by a doctor, including surgical operations, therapeutic equipment used during these and prosthetic appliances;
- medicines, blood tests, dressings and curative accessories;
- therapeutic care;
- dietary advice and healthy living advice;
- food, as part of a diet prescribed by the doctor;
- care in a convalescent home, for as long as required by their condition, depending on availability and the ethical and professional considerations involved.

A patient's health insurance will also cover part of the cost of any appliance prescribed as essential, and part of the cost of repairing and hiring these. Hospital and clinical care can cover several types, including diagnostics, treatment, rehabilitation and sanitary care. It may be continuous or periodic, i.e. a single episode or gradual treatment where follow-up care may be covered for a certain length of time. For some diseases there is a waiting list for treatment; in these cases, patients have to wait their turn. The waiting lists are published on the healthcare providers' websites. An individual whose health deteriorates must be re-examined and the waiting list may be modified as a result.

Medical appliances

The rules of reimbursement for medical appliances are laid down by law. The information on the reimbursed medical appliances is published in the National Health Insurance Fund Bulletin. Medical appliances have to be prescribed by a doctor for a patient to qualify for reimbursement. The amount of reimbursement is determined based on the percentage of the price (98/90/80/70/60/50 or 45 %). For medical appliances in the highest reimbursement category, any co-payment exceeding HUF 5 000 is borne by the National Health Insurance Fund (*OEP*).

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Medical treatment medicine, dental treatment, treatment at home, early detection and preventive testing, hospital care, and medical appliances prescribed by a doctor.

Basically, all treatments are free of charge.

Important state agencies:

- **Ministry of Human Resources**(*Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma*)
- **National Health Insurance Fund**(*OEP*)

Forms which need to be filled in:

- Residents of the European Union, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, who are entitled to the healthcare of the national health services or mandatory health insurance scheme of their respective countries of residence, can receive in Hungary the healthcare which becomes necessary on medical grounds during a

temporary stay in Hungary, taking into account the nature of the benefits required and the expected length of stay.

- You need both the European Health Insurance Card and your passport or ID during a temporary stay in Hungary. If you are insured in Hungary, you will need a TAJ number (social insurance number) to be entitled to the healthcare of the national health services.

Know your rights

Everyone is automatically affiliated to a health insurance scheme as soon as he or she begins to work. Self-employed people register themselves, and employers register their employees, with the competent local bureau of the taxation and finance office and/or the competent social insurance organizations, as necessary. Employers and employees pay contributions. Economically inactive residents pay a lump-sum HUF 6 810 flat-rate contribution to be covered against healthcare risks.

Beneficiaries of the health insurance system fall into two categories:

The owners of the right, i.e. those persons who have a statutory obligation to pay contributions, e.g. general employees, civil servants, public service employees, service providers and people with other legal working arrangements, the self-employed working alone or in collective organizations, ecclesiastical personnel and members of associations. These people are entitled to the full range of health insurance benefits (cash benefits, benefits in kind and accident allowances). This category also includes people receiving assistance while looking for work, who pay pension contributions on their benefits although they are not entitled to cash benefits.

Entitled beneficiaries, e.g. minors, schoolchildren, students studying during the day, pensioners, people on low incomes who have reached retirement age, those receiving cash maternity and social protection benefits, persons placed in residential institutions providing personal care and those required to pay healthcare contributions. These persons are entitled to non-cash health insurance benefits only.

Commission publication and website:

[Social security cover: your rights abroad as EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

Ministry of Human Resources

Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma

Budapest

Arany János utca 6-8

1051

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/emberi-eroforrasok-miniszteriuma>

<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources>

National Health Insurance Fund

Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár, OEP

Budapest

Váci út 73/a

1139

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

- <http://www.oep.hu>

Benefits for disabled people

Long term care

Long-term care services for the elderly

These services are provided:

- ✓ according to the person's dependency level;
- ✓ if there is a need for care for less than 4 hours per day, he or she can only receive home care;
- ✓ if there is a need for care for more than 4 hours per day, he or she can receive care in a home for the elderly.

Long-term care services for people with disabilities

The patient must suffer from disability or impairment or need assistance from another person. He or she must suffer from certain types of disability supported by medical opinion.

Long-term care services for psychiatric patients and persons with addictions and long-term care services for homeless persons

Serious dependency is required (the person must be unable to carry out activities of daily life sufficiently).

Nursing fee(*ápolási díj*)

A nursing fee is payable to persons who provide long-term care for relatives who are disabled, permanently ill or who are in need of permanent care. The nursing fee (normative form) form is provided by the district offices. Nursing fee can be provided by the local governments also to those who are not entitled to the normative form of nursing fee.

The amount of assistance is 100 % of the basic amount defined by the Act on Central Budget (i.e. HUF 29 500), while in the case of persons with severe disabilities in need of intensive care it is 150 %. In the case of people who provide permanent care to a disabled or permanently ill relative whose state of health is assessed in the course of a complex assessment at 30 % or less, or in respect of whom family allowance in a higher amount is paid and who needs intensive nursing, the amount equals 180 % of the basic amount (i.e. HUF 53 100). The amount of nursing fee granted by the local governments cannot be lower than 80 % of the basic amount.

What is covered?

There is no particular definition for long-term care and no separate long-term care system; long-term care services are supplied within the healthcare and social service system. Long-term care services are based on social assistance and financed by the State budget. Both cash benefits and benefits in kind are provided.

Forms which need to be filled in:

- The forms for claiming the nursing fee are available at the district offices. The use of social services is voluntary based on an oral or written request by the claimant. Statements on the use of social services providing personal care must be attached to the application.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Social security cover: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is need to contact with:

- The service provider
- The district offices

Pension insurance

Old-age pension

Act LXXX of 1997 on Persons Entitled to Social Security Benefits and Private Pensions, as well as the coverage of these services (*törvény a társadalombiztosítás ellátásaira és a magánnyugdíjra jogosultakról, valamint e szolgáltatások fedezetéről*).

Act LXXXI of 1997 on Social Insurance Pension (*törvény a társadalombiztosítási nyugellátásokról*).

Act CLXVII of 2011 on the termination of early retirement pension, on benefits prior to retirement age and on benefits for the official members of the armed forces (*törvény a korhatár előtti öregségi nyugdíjak megszüntetéséről, a korhatár előtti ellátásról és a szolgálati járandóságról*). Compulsory State pension scheme for the active population is financed by social insurance contributions (PAYG) with

earnings-related benefits depending on contributions and the duration of affiliation.

From 1 January 2012, insured persons pay a 10%-pension contribution to the 1st-pillar Pension Insurance Fund even if they are members of one of the private pension funds.

Field of application: active population (employees and self-employed) and assimilated groups.

Age 62 and 6 months (gradually rising by six months a year until reaching age 65 in 2022) with at least 20 years of coverage; age 62 with at least 20 years of contributions if born before January 1, 1952.

At any age for women with at least 40 years of coverage (child raising periods are taken into account) including at least 32 years of work. For women who have raised five or more children, the number of required years of work is reduced by one year for each child, with a maximum reduction of seven years.

Age 60 if employed at least 10 years (men) or eight years (women) in arduous or unhealthy conditions; the retirement age is reduced by one year for each additional five-year period (men) or four-year period (women) of arduous or unhealthy work.

Partial pension: Age 62 with 15 years of service.

Deferred pension: The pension may be deferred in most professions.

Retirement is not necessary.

Old-age pensions are payable abroad.

[More about pension's types](#)

In what situation can someone claim?

According to the new rules, which entered into force on 1 January 2012, benefits provided by the statutory pension system are old-age pensions (only above retirement age), 40 years' eligibility period for women (*nők 40 év jogosultsági idővel*) and survivors' benefits.

Persons who have reached statutory retirement age and have paid the necessary number of years of insurance contributions are eligible for an old-age pension. Retirement age is being gradually increased (by half a year for every age cohort) as of 2010, reaching age 65 in 2022 for those

born in 1957 and after. The first persons concerned by this increase are those born in 1952.

You may be entitled to draw an old-age pension even if you are still gainfully employed, up to the income ceiling set by law. Since 1 April 2007, pensioners who are in salaried employment are required to pay pension contributions on their income. After 365 days of insurance payments, their pension increases by 0.5 % of the amount of the monthly contribution base.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Old-age pension

Persons who have reached the statutory retirement age and have paid the necessary number of years of insurance contributions are eligible for an old-age pension. Retirement age is being gradually increased (by half a year for every age cohort) as of 2010, reaching age 65 in 2022 for those born in 1957 and after. The first persons concerned by this increase are those born in 1952.

Early old-age pension

The so-called '40 years' eligibility period for women' (*nők 40 év jogosultsági idővel*) is available for those women, regardless of their age, who have fulfilled at least 40 years of eligibility period and have ceased gainful activity. The eligibility period refers to any period of gainful activity or of receipt of pregnancy confinement benefit (*terhességi-gyermekágyi segély*), child care fee (*gyermekgondozási díj*), child home care allowance (*gyermekgondozási segély*), and child rising support (*gyermeknevelési támogatás*) or of the nursing fee linked to child raising (*Ápolási díj*). At least 32 years of gainful activity are needed in addition to periods of receipt of the abovementioned benefits linked to child raising; or 30 years of gainful activity are required in the case of receipt of the nursing fee. The eligibility period is decreased by 1 year after every child raised in the household for women raising 5 or more children with a maximum reduction of 7 years.

From 1 January 2012, the former early retirement benefits, with the exception of the '40 years' eligibility period for women' (*nők 40 év jogosultsági idővel*), are now combined as 'benefits prior to retirement age' (*'korhatár előtti ellátás'*). The following are entitled to these benefits prior to retirement age:

- persons who fulfilled the age and service-time conditions required for an advanced pension (*előrehozott öregségi nyugdíj*) or an advanced pension with reduced sum (*csökkentett összegű előrehozott öregségi nyugdíj*) before 31 December 2011;
- women born in 1953, who have reached the age of 59 and who have at least 37 years' service time before the starting date of the benefit prior to retirement age, but no later than 31 December 2012;
- persons who became entitled to the former early retirement pension due to hazardous working conditions (*korkedvezményes öregségi nyugdíj*) before the starting date of the benefit prior to the retirement age, but no later than 31 December 2012;
- persons who became entitled to a miner's pension (*bányásznyugdíj*) before 31 December 2011;
- persons who became entitled to an old-age pension for artists before 31 December 2011;
- persons whose employment relationship was terminated before 1 January 2012 and who qualified for an early retirement benefit on that date, subject to certain conditions.

Those entitled to an early retirement pension due to hazardous working conditions can claim a benefit prior to retirement age as many years before reaching the retirement age as the number of years of early retirement they have acquired until 31 December 2012 due to hazardous working conditions or, if the starting day of the benefit is in 2012, until the day preceding the starting day of that benefit.

Pre-retirement benefits

In 2005, a new tool was introduced into the labor market, namely the Premium years program designed to keep the elderly in active employment. The objective of the program is to let workers in the public sector ease into retirement by allowing them to continue to work part time. Public sector employees within 3 years of retirement who have completed at least 25 years of service can reduce their working hours while receiving 70 % of their former salary, until they reach retirement age; this period counts towards social insurance rights. This benefit can be considered as a form of pre-retirement.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Pensions have to be applied for using a standard form. If you live in Hungary, you can submit the form to any pension insurance directorate, in person, by post or electronically.

If you are living or staying outside the EU/EEA, you must submit your application to the Pension Payment Directorate. If the application is not submitted in person, the applicant's signature on the printed form must be certified by a notary, or by the Hungarian Consulate, or by a local authority.

The amount of the pension depends on average wage and length of service time (insurance period). The average wage that is used as the basis for calculating the old-age pension is determined, as a general rule, on the basis of the income subject to pension contributions between 1 January 1988 and the date of retirement.

Minimum pension

The Hungarian pension system provides for a minimum pension, with a qualifying condition of 20 years of service, of HUF 28 500 per month. If the average contribution base is less than the amount of the minimum pension, the pension will equal 100 % of the average monthly wage.

Deferment of retirement

Persons with 20 years of service time who have reached retirement age, whose pension has not yet been granted and who have continued to work for at least 30 days are entitled to a pension increase of 0.5 % of the amount of the pension for each supplementary 30-day period. In this case, the final amount of the pension can be more than the average monthly contribution base.

Death grants

Hungarian legislation provides for two types of benefit which are not pension benefits: a funeral expenses allowance and a funeral at public expense.

Funeral expenses allowance: the local government can grant an allowance for funeral expenses to anyone who assumes responsibility for a funeral while under no such obligation, or because the deceased's next of kin is unable to pay for the funeral without endangering his/her own livelihood or that of his/her family. This allowance can be granted if the monthly income of the family does not exceed the minimum statutory old-age

pension per person. In case of single persons, the monthly income cannot exceed 150 % of that amount. A funeral allowance cannot be less than 10 % of the cost of the cheapest funeral, and may cover the whole cost if this would endanger the livelihood of the applicant or his/her family.

Funeral at public expense: the mayor of the commune, including the locality where the death occurred must ensure that the person is buried at public expense within 30 days of notification of the death, if there is no one to take charge or if the person whose responsibility it is cannot be found or refuses to do so. The cost of the funeral is reimbursed by the commune in which the deceased was last resident.

Forms which are need to be filled in:

Application forms can be downloaded from [the government site](#) or picked up from any pension client service.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Retiring abroad: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

Pension Payment Directorate

Országos Nyugdíjbiztosítási Főigazgatóság

Budapest

Fiumei út 19/A

1081

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

<http://www.onyf.hu>

Disability pension

Must have a loss of at least 40% of working capacity with at least 1,095 days of coverage during the last five years before the claim, not receive any regular cash benefit, and be incapable of any gainful activity with no chance of rehabilitation (or where rehabilitation is not recommended).

There are four categories of disability: B2 (rehabilitation is possible but not recommended), C2 (permanent rehabilitation is needed but not recommended), D (employment is possible only through constant support), and E (the insured suffered significant health damage, is not self-sufficient, and needs constant attendance).

Rehabilitation benefit: Must have a loss of at least 40% of working capacity with at least 1,095 days of coverage during the last five years before the claim, not receive any regular cash benefit, and be incapable of any gainful activity but can be rehabilitated.

There are two categories of disability: B1 (rehabilitation is possible) and C1 (permanent rehabilitation is needed).

Disability and rehabilitation benefits are paid under sickness and maternity, and are replaced by the old-age pension at the normal retirement age.

Disability and rehabilitation benefits are payable abroad.

Widows pension

The deceased received or was entitled to receive an old-age or disability pension at the time of death.

Eligible survivors include a widow(er); divorced spouse; cohabiting partner; children younger than age 16 (age 25 for full-time students, no limit if disabled), including the surviving partner's children; sisters and brothers; grandchildren; dependent parents and grandparents with a disability or aged 65 or older; and foster parents who supported the deceased for at least 10 years.

Spouse's temporary pension: A temporary pension is paid to widow(er)s who are ineligible for a spouse's permanent pension and care for a child younger than age 18 months who is eligible for the orphan's pension (until age 3 if the child is disabled or has a permanent illness).

Survivor pensions are payable abroad.

Survivor's pensions

It is available if a person has incapacity during employing.

Benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases

In what situation can someone claim?

The insurance covers all injuries and illnesses incurred in the course of work, that are work-related or happen on the way to or from work (accidents at work), and diseases and deterioration of a worker's health due to the hazards peculiar to the job (occupational diseases). Occupational diseases are those listed as such by the government. The insurance does not cover injury or illness exclusively occurring because of the victim's behavior.

The compulsory health insurance contributions paid by workers and employers also entitle beneficiaries to healthcare benefits in the event of an accident. These are:

- benefits in kind in the form of healthcare;
- cash benefits such as accident benefits and an accident allowance.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Work accident sickness benefit (*baleseti táppénz*) is paid to people who, as a result of an accident at work or an occupational disease, are unable to work and cannot perform their normal work without an appliance or because of their state of health.

A work accident annuity (*baleseti járadék*) is paid to anyone who, as a result of an accident at work or occupational disease, suffers a loss of working capacity of more than 13 % and is not entitled to disability benefit.

Benefits in kind include general medical assistance, 100 % coverage for medicine, appliances and healthcare, and certain free dental treatments that are connected with the sickness or injury.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Work Accident Sickness Benefit

These benefits, which are equal to 100 % of income (90 % in the case of an accident while travelling) are granted for 1 year, but may be extended for a further year if necessary.

Work Accident Annuity

If the loss of working capacity is no more than 20 %, the allowance is paid for 2 years; otherwise, it is paid until the person is able to work again.

The amount of this allowance depends on the loss of working capacity, and represents 8, 10, 15 or 30 % of average monthly income.

The newly established authorized rehabilitation expert team makes a complex assessment on medical, social and employment issues. On the basis of this assessment, the team decides upon the extent of damage to health, the professional working capacity, the ability to be rehabilitated as well as the directions and duration of the rehabilitation.

Expressions which good to know:

- Work accident sickness benefit (*baleseti táppénz*)
- Work accident annuity (*baleseti járadék*)

Forms which need to be filled in

- Benefits have to be applied for using a standard form. If you live in Hungary, you can submit the form to any health insurance management agency in person, by post or electronically. Application forms can be downloaded from the government site (<http://www.oep.hu>) or picked up from any pension management service.
- If you are living or staying outside the EU/EEA, you must submit your application to the Central Hungary regional pension office. If the application is not submitted in person, the applicant's signature on the printed form must be certified by a notary, or by the Hungarian Consulate, or by a local authority.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

- [Social security cover: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

National Health Insurance Fund

Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár, OEP

Budapest

Váci út 73/a

1139

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

www.oep.hu

Invalidity benefits

In what situation can someone claim?

Persons eligible for benefits intended for persons with changed working capacity are those:

- whose state of health is assessed at 60 % or less; and
- who had been insured for at least 1 095 days within 5 years, 2 555 days within 10 years or 3 650 days within 15 years before submitting the claim;
- who are not performing any gainful activity; and
- who do not receive any regular cash benefits.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Benefits for persons with changed working capacity

Persons eligible for benefits intended for persons with changed working capacity are those:

- whose state of health is assessed at 60 % or less; and
- who had been insured for at least 1 095 days within 5 years, 2 555 days within 10 years or 3 650 days within 15 years before submitting the claim;
- who are not performing any gainful activity; and
- who do not receive any regular cash benefits.

The benefit for persons with changed working capacity consists of two separate provisions:

- the person is entitled to rehabilitation benefit, if he/she can be rehabilitated. The rehabilitation benefit may be provided for the period required for rehabilitation, within the limit of 3 years from the start of the benefit.
- a person with changed working capacity is entitled to disability benefit, if rehabilitation is not recommended; or he/she cannot be rehabilitated, or the person reaches the retirement age within 5 years.

Benefits for persons with changed working capacity are health insurance benefits.

Eligibility is assessed by the rehabilitation authority, which conducts a multidisciplinary examination (the so-called 'complex assessment') on the state of health and the possibility of rehabilitation of the claimant.

The claimant may be obliged to report to the rehabilitation body for the complex assessment. Failure to do so may result in termination of the procedure.

Disability and rehabilitation benefits are paid by the Pension Payment Directorate.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Rehabilitation benefit:

- persons for whom rehabilitation is possible within an expected time frame:
 - amount: 35 % of the average monthly income;
 - minimum: 30 % of the minimum wage;
 - ceiling: 40 % of the minimum wage;
- persons who need permanent rehabilitation:
 - amount: 45 % of the average monthly income;
 - minimum: 40 % of the minimum wage;
 - ceiling: 50 % of the minimum wage.

Disability benefit varies according to the decision on the health status and the possibility of rehabilitation:

- amount: 40-70 % of the average monthly income;
- minimum: 30-55 % of the minimum wage;
- ceiling: 45 % or 150 % of the minimum wage.

Expressions which good to know:

- **Disability benefit** (*rokkantsági ellátás*)
- **Rehabilitation benefit** (*rehabilitációs ellátás*)

Forms which are need to be filled in

From 1 January 2012, benefits for persons with changed working capacity can be claimed free of charge via the relevant printed or electronic application forms at the newly established rehabilitation bodies of the county government office of the claimant's place of residence.

The forms are available on the following website:

<http://nrszh.kormany.hu/letoltheto-nyomtatvanok>

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Social security cover: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

National Office for Rehabilitation and Social Affairs

Nemzeti Rehabilitációs és Szociális Hivatal

Budapest

Damjanich utca 48.

1071

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

www.nrszh.kormany.hu

Policy Administration Services for Rehabilitation

Rehabilitációs szakigazgatási szervek

The contact details for the Policy Administration Services for Rehabilitation are available on the following website:

<http://nrszh.kormany.hu/cimek-ugyfelfogadasi-helyek>

Survivors' pension

In what situation can someone claim?

The survivors of an insured person are entitled to survivors' benefits as long as the deceased had the necessary insurance period or had been receiving an old-age or invalidity pension before death. A person who is found by the courts to have intentionally provoked the death of the insured is not entitled to a benefit. Survivors' pension benefits are paid to the widow/widower, orphans or parents of an insured person. Survivors' benefits are also paid if the death was due to a work accident or occupational disease.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Widow(er)'s pension

Persons eligible for a widow(er)'s pension (*özvegyinyugdíj*) are those whose spouse died as an old-age pensioner, or whose spouse:

- died before reaching age 22; and
- has accrued service period in the 180 days after finishing studies; or
- has accrued in total at least 2 years of service period;
- died between ages 22-25 and has accrued at least 4 years of service period;
- died between ages 25-30 and has accrued at least 6 years of service period;
- died between ages 30-35 and has accrued at least 8 years of service period;
- died between ages 35-45 and has accrued at least 10 years of service period;
- died after reaching age 45 and has accrued at least 15 years of service period.

Persons are also eligible if their deceased spouse has not accrued the above-mentioned service periods, but has accrued the required service period for a lower age cohort, provided that after that date until the date of death there has been no interruption longer than 30 days in his/her service period.

Temporary and permanent widow(er)'s pension:

Temporary widow(er)'s pension is due for 1 year or for a maximum of 3 years if the widow(er) cares for a disabled or permanently ill orphan.

Temporary widow(er)'s pension is converted into permanent pension if the spouse:

- is above his/her relevant retirement age; or
- is deemed to be a person with changed working capacity; or
- has at least two minor children (who are entitled to orphan's allowance) from the deceased.

Widow(er)s whose spouse switched back to the 1st pillar State pension scheme between 3 November 2010 and 31 January 2011 have the right to choose between widow(er)s' pension and a new benefit: widow(er)s' pension annuity (özvegyi járadék). The amount of widow(er)s' pension annuity is based on the accumulated amount.

Orphan's allowance

Any child, including a child of an earlier marriage or cohabitation, who is raised in the same household in the framework of a marriage or cohabitation, is entitled to an orphan's allowance. An adopted child is not entitled to an allowance from the death of his/her biological parent unless he or she has been adopted by his or her biological parent's spouse.

This allowance is also due to the brothers and sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren who have lived with the deceased in the same household when there is no one in their family who is obliged and able to look after them.

Parental pension

A dependent parent's pension will be paid to any person whose deceased child was an old-age or invalidity pensioner at the time of his/her death, or was entitled to either of those pensions if, at the time of his/her death, the parent is disabled or elderly (65 or over) and had been substantially dependent on the child during the last year of the latter's life.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Widow(er)'s pension

A temporary widow(er)'s pension is usually granted for a period of 1 year from the date of death of the spouse (up to 3 years if the widow(er) cares for an orphan in the same household).

Once this period has expired, a permanent widow's pension is due if the person has reached the age of entitlement to the old-age pension (i.e. retirement age); or is disabled; or looks after at least 2 orphans (or an orphan with disability or permanent illness) who are the children of the deceased and living in the same household. This permanent pension is also due if one of the above situations occurs within 15 years of the death of the deceased if he or she died before 1 March 1993 or within 10 years if he or she died after 28 February 1993.

The temporary widow's pension is 60 % of the amount of the pension the deceased was receiving or would have been entitled to. The permanent widow's pension is also 60 % if she has no pension in her own right; otherwise it is 30 % of the deceased person's pension.

If there is more than one beneficiary, the widow's pension is shared equally among them. There is no statutory minimum pension.

Orphan's allowance

The orphan's allowance is paid until the beneficiary reaches the age of 16 or has completed full-time education, to a maximum age of 25. If the child becomes disabled while still entitled to this pension, he or she retains this right for as long as he or she remains disabled, regardless of his or her age.

A child whose parent had fulfilled the service period required for widow(er)'s pension before his or her death, or died as an old-age pensioner, is eligible.

The orphan's allowance is 30 % of the deceased person's pension and 60 % if both parents are deceased or if the surviving parent is disabled. As of 2010, this benefit cannot be less than HUF 24 250. A child who is entitled to a pension from the right of both parents will be granted the more generous of the two.

Parental pension

The parental pension is calculated in the same way as the widow's pension on the same conditions (60 % or 30 %). If there is more than one beneficiary, the pension must be shared equally among them. There is no statutory minimum pension.

Forms which are need to be filled in:

Pensions have to be applied for using a standard form. If you live in Hungary, you can submit the form to any pension insurance directorate, in person, by post or electronically. Application forms can be downloaded from the government site (<http://www.onyf.hu>) or picked up from any pension client service.

If you are living or staying outside the EU/EEA, you must submit your application to the Pension Payment Directorate. If the application is not submitted in person, the applicant's signature on the printed form must be certified by a notary, or by the Hungarian Consulate, or by a local authority.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Bereavement benefits: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

Pension Payment Directorate

Országos Nyugdíjbiztosítási Főigazgatóság

Budapest

Fiumei út 19/A

1081

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

<http://www.onyf.hu>

Social-Assistance

In what situation can someone claim?

Invalidity annuity

This is paid to any person who before the age of 25 has been assessed by the national institute of medical experts through the competent medical committee as wholly unable to work and who is not entitled to a pension or an accident pension.

Non-contributory old-age allowance

Elderly persons whose income is insufficient to support them are entitled to an old-age allowance.

Benefit for persons of working age

This benefit is provided to ensure a minimum standard of living for persons of working age (ranging from the age of 18 until retirement age) who are not employed and not in education, and who do not have sufficient living resources.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Invalidity annuity

This is paid to any person who before the age of 25 has been assessed by the national institute of medical experts through the competent medical committee as wholly unable to work and who is not entitled to an accident pension or allowance. The right to this benefit operates from the first day of the month in which the applicant turns 18 years of age. A person who is placed in an institution free of charge is not entitled to this benefit.

Non-contributory old-age allowance

Elderly persons whose income is insufficient to support them are entitled to an old-age allowance. This applies in the following cases.

- Persons of 62 years of age or older, or who are of legal retirement age and who are living with a spouse or cohabiting partner, where their joint net monthly income does not exceed 160 % of the minimum statutory old-age pension.
- Persons living alone who are 62 years of age or older or who are of legal retirement age, but are less than 75, and whose monthly income does not exceed 95 % of the minimum statutory old-age pension.

- Persons living alone who are 75 years of age or older, and whose monthly income is less than 130 % of the minimum statutory old-age pension. The amount of the allowance paid depends on which category the beneficiary belongs to.

The old-age allowance cannot be granted or paid to a person who is in custody or in prison, who is resident abroad for more than 3 months, or who's right of residence has ceased or who is not residing in the country anymore.

Benefit for persons of working age

This benefit is provided to ensure a minimum standard of living for persons of working age (ranging from the age of 18 until retirement age) who are not employed and not in education, and who do not have sufficient living resources.

Those entitled to benefit for persons of working age are those who:

- have lost at least 67 % of their working ability (or have a health impairment of at least 50 %), or are in receipt of blind persons' annuity or of disability assistance;
- are unemployed, but no longer entitled to income supplement for the unemployed (or not entitled to income supplement at all, in this case a certain period of cooperation with the public employment service is needed);

and have no alternative source of living.

A person does not have an alternative source of living if the family's monthly income per consumption unit does not exceed 90 % of the minimum old-age pension.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Invalidity annuity

The amount of invalidity annuity in 2014 was HUF 33 330 a month.

Non-contributory old-age allowance

As regards old-age allowance, if the beneficiary is not living alone, the amount is 80 % of the minimum statutory old-age pension; for those in the second category (aged 62-75 and living alone), the amount of the pension is 95 % of the minimum statutory old-age pension; for those in

the third category (one-person households above 75 years) it is 130 % of the minimum statutory old-age pension.

Benefit for persons of working age

Two types of cash benefits are paid in this framework, i.e. regular social allowance and employment substituting benefit. The amount of the regular social allowance depends on the size, composition and income of the family (the maximum amount in 2014 is HUF 45 569); the amount of the employment substituting benefit is fixed (HUF 22 800 in 2014).

Forms which are need to be filled in:

- Invalidity annuity is administered by the territorially competent pension directorate.
- In the case of benefit for persons in active age, the evaluation of eligibility is done by the local authorities; in the case of old-age, allowance is granted by the district offices. The claimant has to complete a form and attach the documents on the family's income (in the case of benefit for persons of working age (*aktív korúak ellátása*), also on family properties). Under certain conditions, other documents are also needed, e.g. a document on health impairment or a certificate of the public employment service on the exhaustion of job-seeker benefits (*álláskeresési járadék*). The authority has to take a decision on the claim within a period of 21 calendar days, which can be extended by another 21 calendar days.

The different forms are available at the competent authorities.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Social security cover: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is need to contact with:

Invalidity annuity: pension directorates (*nyugdíjbiztosítási igazgatóságok*)

<http://www.onyf.hu/hu/f%C5%91v%C3%A1rosi,-ill-megyei-korm%C3%A1nyhivatal-nyugd%C3%ADjbiztos%C3%ADt%C3%A1si-igazgat%C3%B3s%C3%A1gok.html>

Old-age allowance: district offices (*járási hivatalok*)

Benefit for people of working age: offices of the local governments
(*települési önkormányzatok hivatalai*)

Unemployment

In what situation can someone claim?

A job-seeker is a person who is registered as a job-seeker with the national employment service, i.e. who meets the necessary legal and other conditions enabling him/her to work (e.g. he or she does not need a work permit); citizens of the EU/EEA are regarded as job-seekers even if they do require a permit. A job-seeker cannot be a student in full-time education or a person entitled to an old-age pension, rehabilitation annuity (*rehabilitációs járadék*) or benefits for persons with changed working capacity (*megváltozott munkaképességű személyek ellátásai*), and may not receive income from other activities, except for occasional work. A job-seeker has to cooperate with the national employment service.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

A job-seeker who has worked for at least 360 days in the 3 years before becoming a job-seeker is entitled to a job-seeker benefit of 1 day's benefit for every 10 days worked. This means that the minimum entitlement is for 36 days, and the maximum 90 days.

Job-seeker aid before pension can be granted to older job-seekers.

The unemployment benefits system comprises both active and passive benefits. For job-seekers, the latter include information about employment and the labor market, occupational guidance and counseling, local employment tips and job offers. A job-seeker can also take part in training and business start-up programs. Moreover, there are many forms of employment support channeled through the employer, including support for job creation and job preservation, and support for places for young and disabled workers. Active support comprises job-seeker benefit, which is a financial benefit available to those who have lost their jobs, and job-seeker aid before pension. There is no special benefit for insured self-employed persons, who receive the same job-seeker benefit as the employees.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Job-seeker benefit

The law provides for the job-seeker benefit to be paid for a maximum of 90 days, and the allowance equals 60 % of the previous average pay, but the amount cannot be higher than 100 % of the minimum wage (i.e. HUF 101 500 in 2014).

The amount of this benefit is calculated on the basis of the average pay in the four calendar quarters preceding the loss of the job. If the job-seeker has worked for more than one employer in that time, the amount of the allowance is calculated on the basis of the average pay received from all their employers. If the job-seeker's average pay cannot be determined, the amount of the allowance is calculated on the basis of 130 % of the national minimum wage.

Job-seeker benefit stops:

- at the request of the beneficiary;
- if the beneficiary becomes entitled to benefits for persons with changed working capacity;
- if the beneficiary receives income from other activities for more than 90 days, except for occasional work;
- if the beneficiary agrees to enroll in a training program under which he or she will receive an allowance equal to the minimum wage;
- if the beneficiary enters full-time education;
- or when the period of entitlement ends;
- or if the beneficiary dies.

Job-seeker benefit should be terminated:

- if he or she is removed from the register;
- or if he or she does not fulfill the criteria of a job-seeker;
- or if he or she does not comply with the obligation to appear;
- or if he or she does not accept the appropriate job offered by the labor centre;
- or if he or she fails to enroll in a training program under which he or she will receive an allowance equal to the minimum wage;

- or fails to participate in an employment-facilitating labor market program;
- or if he or she fails to fulfill his or her obligation of reporting to the labor centre that he or she is pursuing gainful activity.

Job-seeker aid before pension

It is a principle of the law that no group of unemployed persons can be less favorably treated than another. Thus job-seeker aid before pension is paid to a job-seeker who:

- is within 5 years of reaching retirement;
- has been receiving job-seeker benefit (*álláskeresési járadék*) for at least 45 days, and the period of payment of benefit comes to an end, or their job-seeker benefit was terminated due to employment and they are not entitled to job-seeker benefit again;
- shall reach retirement age in not more than 5 years, within 3 years of the termination of the job-seeker benefit;
- is not receiving benefit prior to retirement age (*korhatár előtti ellátás*), service benefit for armed forces (*szolgálati járandóság*), life annuity for ballet artists (*balettművészeti életjáradék*), or transitional annuity for miners (*átmeneti bányászjáradék*);
- has a sufficient contribution period for retirement (normally 15 years).

The relevant legislation stipulates that job-seeker aid before pension can be paid until the person becomes entitled to the old-age pension or to benefits for persons with changed working capacity (*megváltozott munkaképességű személyek ellátása*). The amount of the compensation is 40 % of the minimum wage (HUF 40 600,-) at the time when the application is made. If the calculation of the job-seeker benefit was based on a lower amount than the aforementioned sum, the aid will be equal with this lower amount.

The job-seeker receiving this compensation is authorized to work. Unlike the job-seeker benefit, the income from this work has no impact on the payment of job-seeker aid. Otherwise, the rules for cancellation and suspension of job-seeker's compensation are generally the same as those for job-seeker benefit.

Forms which are need to be filled in:

Form E301 or PDU1 which can be given by the competent local labor office.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Unemployment and social security cover: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

A person who loses his or her job must register with the competent local labor office of the district offices. They must declare themselves a job-seeker actively looking for work and must cooperate with the competent local labor office.

Ministry for National Economy

Nemzetgazdasági Minisztérium

Budapest

József nádor tér 2-4

1051

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

Tel.:+36617955010

E-mail: ugyfelszolgalat@ngm.gov.hu

Opening hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9.00-12.00, 12.30-14.00, Fri. 9.00-12.00.

<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/nemzetgazdasagi-miniszterium>

National Labour Office

Nemzeti Munkaügyi Hivatal

Budapest

Kálvária tér 7

1089

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

<http://www.munka.hu>

Previous coverage abroad can count

In what situations can someone claim?

- If you are going to work in an EU country, or other countries covered by EU regulations, generally you will no longer be a part of the Hungarian social security system and the laws of your new country will apply to you.
- If you have lived, worked and/or paid insurance in another EU country, or other countries covered by the same regulations, your time living in another of these countries, the period you have worked or the contributions you have paid may be taken into account when your benefits are calculated in Hungary.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

The ability to combine your contributions paid in EEA countries applies to the following benefits:

- sickness benefit
- maternity and paternity benefit
- insurance-based family benefits
- benefits for persons with reduced working capacity
- old-age pension (contributory)
- widow's, widower's or surviving partner's pension
- job-seeker's allowances.

In the case of these payments, your last social insurance contribution must be in Hungary. You may also be required to have contributions paid in certain years, but these conditions can be satisfied using contributions made in other countries.

Certain social security benefits from another European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland may also be transferred to Hungary.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

If you have been working in a country covered by EU regulations and you are returning to Hungary, you need to bring:

- a record of your social insurance contributions using forms E104 and U1 (formerly E301) which you can get from your local social

security office. Check with them to make sure you are bringing back all the necessary documentation.

If you have been receiving unemployment benefit from an EEA country or Switzerland for 4 weeks, you can transfer it to Hungary for 3 to 6 months for job-seeking purposes. You need to bring a completed U2 form (formerly E303).

When you are applying for Hungarian social insurance payments, there is a section in the form which asks if you have ever been employed in an EU country.

You will need to know:

- the country where you worked;
- the name and address of your employer there;
- the dates you worked there; and
- your Social Insurance Number there.

Whenever you need to meet certain conditions to claim, the authorities need to take into account the time you may have been paying if you have been working in an EU country or other countries covered by EU regulations. You will still be covered if you change your job and travel to work in these countries.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

- [Your rights in the healthcare system - National Health Insurance Fund](#)
- [Your rights in the pension system](#)
- [Your rights in the family benefit system](#)
- [Your rights in the unemployment benefit system](#)

Commission publication and website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=849&langId=en>

It is needed to contact with:

More information about Hungarian Social Insurance record:

National Health Insurance Fund

Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár, OEP

Budapest

Váci út 73/A

1139

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

Tel. + 36 03502001

Fax + 36 12982413

Homepage: www.oep.hu

Sick pay insurance

Sick pay

Sickness Cash Benefits

In what situation can someone claim?

When an insured person becomes sick and unable to work, they are eligible for sickness benefits like the absence fee and statutory sickness benefit prescribed by a medical doctor. The absence fee is paid by the employer; the statutory sickness benefit is paid by the Healthcare Provider. The absence fee is not a healthcare benefit.

The parent is entitled to sickness benefit when the child is in hospital and the parent is there with him/her. Generally, the sickness benefit can be paid to a parent when the child is cared for at home and the child is between 12 and 18 years of age or when the child is in hospital and the parent is there with him/her.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Incapacity for work must be certified by a doctor. There is no formal time-limit for it, with a maximum back-dating time of 5 days (in exceptional circumstances, 6 months), and the benefit will not be paid for longer than a 1-year period. The person has to be re-examined regularly (depending on the doctor's decision).

To be entitled to statutory sickness benefit the sick person has to be insured, the sickness has to be verified by a medical doctor, and the sick person has to pay the healthcare supplement.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

An absence fee (*távolléti díj, betegszabadság*) of an amount of 70 % of the daily gross earnings is granted by the employer for up to 15 working days annually and can be used only in the same calendar year. It cannot be transferred. The calculation is based on the average daily gross earnings (except in the case of endangered pregnancy). This fee will be paid by the employer. In the case of endangered pregnancy the employee is entitled not to the 15 days absence fee but to the sickness benefit.

A sickness benefit (*táppénz*) can be granted for a maximum of 1 year while the person is validly insured. The amount of this benefit is 60 % (or 50 % when the time of being insured is shorter than 2 years) of the average gross daily pay not monthly exceeding double the gross minimum wage (HUF 156 000). The sickness benefit will be paid for every calendar day spent on benefits starting after the last day of the 15-day absence period.

The compensation is paid by the health insurance service of the county government offices within 30 days or by the corporate social insurance payment service on the pay day (an employer with a payroll of more than 100 persons is required to create an in-house social insurance payment service).

The sickness benefit has to be claimed through the employer using the medical doctor's proof. A self-employed person has to claim for the sickness benefit at the local healthcare offices.

Expressions which are good to know:

- **Absence fee**(*távolléti díj*)
- **Sickness benefit**(*táppénz*)
- **National Health Insurance Fund**(*OEP*)

Forms which are needed to be filled in:

- The sickness benefit has to be claimed through the employer using the medical doctor's proof. The employer will electronically register your claim as 'Employer's Proof' on the OEP's website, as well as the sickness benefit, sickness benefit while caring a child,

pregnancy confinement benefits, child care fee, and accident sickness benefit claim forms.

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Social security cover: your rights abroad as EU citizen](#)

It is important to contact with:

Employer, medical doctor or practitioner.

Ministry of Human Resources

Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma

Budapest

Arany János utca 6-8

1051

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/emberi-eroforrasok-miniszteriuma>

<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources>

National Health Insurance Fund

Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár, OEP

Budapest

Váci út 73/a

1139

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

<http://www.oep.hu>

Help in physical shortage

Benefit on subsistence

If someone is unemployed for because of his or her disability has the opportunity to apply for living allowance.

Additional payment on housing

The National Employment Found provides housing allowance for the job seekers. Thanks to that they have the opportunity to take a job which is far of their house (more than 100 km or 5 hours of travel.)

Emergency express help

Extraordinary settlement funding is primarily given for those people who can take care of themselves or their families living and they cannot provide it other way. It can be applied when there is an illness, death, elementary damage which caused crisis situation, keeping a baby when the pregnancy was not planned, schooling, etc. The funding can be applied at the local council.

Social state support

Child benefit

Parental benefit

Family and family benefits

In what situations can someone claim?

Family allowance

This is a monthly allowance for raising and education expenses for children in a family. The beneficiary can be the biological parent, the spouse of the biological parent, the adoptive parent, the foster parent, the guardian, or any other person with whom a child has been temporarily placed.

Child home care allowance

Child home care allowance is payable to the parent, the spouse of the parent, the adoptive parent or the guardian of a child raised under his or her roof until the age of 3 or, in the case of twins, until the end of the first year of compulsory schooling or in the case of a chronically ill or seriously disabled child, until the age of 10.

Child raising support

This support is paid to the parent, the spouse of the parent, the adoptive parent or guardian who is raising three or more minor children in his or her household.

Child care fee

The parent considered as entitled under the health insurance scheme - either the mother or the father - may be entitled to a child care fee until the child has reached the age of 2.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Family allowance

The beneficiary can apply for this allowance for raising expenses from the birth of the child up to the compulsory schooling age (usually 0-18 years), then for secondary school education or vocational training up to 20 years of age (up to 23 years in the case of special educational needs, or without age limit in the case of a seriously disabled person without regular income). In the case of a certain number of unjustified absences of the child from school, the benefit has to be suspended. Students in higher education are not eligible. A child living temporarily outside the family to study, in Hungary or abroad, or for the purposes of medical treatment, is also treated as if living at home.

Child home care allowance

Child home care allowance is payable to the parent, the spouse of the parent, the adoptive parent or the guardian of a child raised under his or her roof until the age of 3 or, in the case of twins, until the end of the first year of compulsory schooling or in the case of a chronically ill or seriously disabled child, until the age of 10. The benefit can be paid to a grandparent if the child is 1 year old and is being raised and looked after in the parents' house with the parents' written consent. A parent receiving child home care allowance cannot engage in paid employment until the child is 1 year old: when the child is above the age of 1, the parent can engage in paid employment without time limit. The grandparent cannot pursue a gainful activity before the child reaches 3 years of age; when the child is above 3 years, the beneficiary can pursue a gainful activity of no more than 30 hours a week, or without time restriction at home.

Child raising support

This is payable from the date when the youngest child reaches the age of 3 until that child reaches the age of 8. The person receiving child raising support can engage in paid employment for a maximum of 30 hours a week or longer if working at home. A child home care allowance and child raising support cannot be drawn together.

Child care fee

The parent considered as entitled under the health insurance scheme - either the mother or the father - may be entitled to a child care fee until the child has reached the age of 2. This benefit is paid to one of the parents after expiry of the pregnancy confinement benefit period or after a period of the same length. The parent has to be insured, and needs at least 365 days of insurance during the last 2 years before delivery. Mothers who - in the absence of a gainful activity - would not be entitled to a child care fee, but who have completed at least 2 active semesters in higher education are entitled to a child care fee until the child reaches 1 year of age.

This benefit is not paid when:

- the beneficiary is engaged in any sort of gainful employment - before the child reaches the age of 1 year - except for remuneration for services covered by royalty rights - or is practicing a paid activity requiring an official permit;
- the beneficiary is being paid his or her full salary while on leave (if only part of the salary is being paid, the child care bonus corresponds to the remainder);
- the beneficiary is receiving other regular cash benefits (e.g. sickness benefit, invalidity or old-age pension) under Law III of 1993 on the administration of the social security system and the benefits provided;
- the beneficiary cannot look after the child under his/her own roof and the child has been temporarily placed in foster care or placed provisionally or for a longer period in an educational institution or placed in a social institution for more than 30 days;
- the child of the beneficiary has been placed in a day-care facility except when the parent is pursuing a gainful activity and the child

is above 1 year of age (integration or re-integration institutions not included);

- the beneficiary is in custody or detention or is in prison.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Family allowance

In 2014, family allowance is (per month):

- for a family with 1 child, HUF 12 200;
- for a single-parent family with 1 child, HUF 13 700;
- for a family with 2 children, HUF 13 300 per child;
- for a single-parent family with 2 children, HUF 14 800 per child;
- for a family with 3 children or more, HUF 16 000 per child;
- for a single-parent family with 3 children or more, HUF 17 000 per child;
- for a family with a chronically ill or seriously disabled child, HUF 23 000;
- for a single-parent family with a chronically ill or seriously disabled child, HUF 25 900.

The allowance is due and paid for the whole month, regardless of the date of application and the date of cessation of the benefits.

Child home care allowance

The monthly child home care allowance is equal to the minimum old-age pension, regardless of the number of children; except for twins, where the amount is multiplied according to the number of children; for fractions of a month, the allowance is calculated in thirtieths of the monthly amount.

Child raising support

The child raising support is equal to the minimum old-age pension, regardless of the number of children; for fractions of a month, the allowance is calculated in thirtieths of the monthly amount.

Child care fee

The child care fee amounts to 70 % of the daily average gross earnings of the previous year, with a ceiling of 70 % of the double of the minimum wage. For those who are eligible because of their higher education

studies, the child care fee amounts to 70 % of the minimum wage, (HUF 101 500 in 2014), or in the case of BA or PhD studies, 70 % of the guaranteed wage minimum (HUF 118 000 in 2014).

Expressions good to know:

- Family allowance (*családi pótlék*)
- Child care fee (*gyermekgondozási díj*)
- Child raising support (*gyermeknevelési támogatás*)
- Child home care allowance (*gyermekgondozási segély*)

Forms which are need to be filled in:

The forms - with the exception of child care fee - are available on the website of the Hungarian State Treasury:

<http://cst.onyf.hu/hu/>

<http://www.kormanyhivatal.hu/hu/csaladtamogatások>

<http://cst.onyf.hu/hu/nyomtatv%C3%A1nyok.html>

In the case of child care fee, the form is available on the website of the National Insurance Fund:

[http://www.oep.hu/felso_menu/lakossagnak/ellatas_magyarorszagon/penz_beli_ellatasok/gyermekvallalas_tamogatasa/gyermekgondozasi_dij/gyermekgondozasi_dij.html#Nyomtatv%C3%A1nyok:](http://www.oep.hu/felso_menu/lakossagnak/ellatas_magyarorszagon/penz_beli_ellatasok/gyermekvallalas_tamogatasa/gyermekgondozasi_dij/gyermekgondozasi_dij.html#Nyomtatv%C3%A1nyok)

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law, they are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Family benefits: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

Magyar Államkincstár

Budapest

Hold u. 4.

1054

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

www.allamkincstar.gov.hu

National Health Insurance Fund

Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár, OEP

Budapest

Váci út 73/a

1139

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

www.oep.hu

Maternity and paternity benefits

Benefits in the period of gravidity and in the period of maternity

In what situations can someone claim?

Pregnancy confinement benefit can be claimed by insured pregnant women. The allowance will also be paid to a guardian or to a woman who is going to adopt or who fosters a child she is intending to adopt, if she meets the conditions of the benefit on the day when the child is entrusted to her.

In certain cases the father can be eligible for the benefit as well (e.g. illness or death of the mother).

Birth grant is available to: women who give birth and who are legally staying in Hungary; adoptive parents; guardians; or the father upon the death of the mother.

What conditions does someone need to meet?

Pregnancy confinement benefit

Pregnancy confinement benefit is paid to women who, in the 2 years preceding the birth of their child, were covered by health insurance for at least 365 days, and who give birth:

- while still covered (e.g. when under a contract of employment);
- within 42 days of the expiry of their insurance coverage;
- within 42 days of the expiry of their insurance coverage during which time the work accident sickness benefit was paid (Baleseti táppénz) (or within 28 days of the termination of the disbursement).

The allowance will also be paid to the guardian or to a woman who fosters a child she is intending to adopt if she meets these conditions on the day

the child is entrusted to her. In this case, the allowance is payable for the period from the day the child is entrusted to her to the end of the statutory period of maternity leave.

In certain cases the father can be eligible for the benefit as well (e.g. illness or death of the mother).

This allowance is not payable when the insured:

- is being paid her full salary during her maternity leave, for the period during which she is paid that full salary;
- is engaged in any sort of gainful employment - except for remuneration for services covered by royalty rights or honorariums exempted from personal income tax - or is practicing a paid activity requiring an official permit.

If the insured person is receiving part of her salary during her maternity leave, she is entitled to pregnancy confinement benefit in the amount of the remainder.

Birth grant

A birth grant is available to: women who give birth and who are legally staying in Hungary; adoptive parents; guardians; or the father upon the death of the mother. A birth grant is not paid to parents who agreed to give up a child for adoption before the birth; or if the new-born child is made the subject of a care order of the guardianship authority and the child is covered by the child protection system.

What is someone entitled to and how can he or she claim?

Pregnancy confinement benefit

Mothers are entitled to pregnancy confinement benefit during their maternity leave for a maximum of 168 days following the birth. Maximum maternity leave is 24 weeks, 4 of which may be taken before the calculated date of delivery. The pregnancy confinement benefit is equal to 70 % of the average daily pay in the calendar year proceeding the first day of maternity leave.

Particular features of this benefit:

- the period for which pregnancy confinement benefit is paid is credited towards old-age pension insurance;

- women receiving pregnancy confinement benefit are entitled to healthcare services (e.g. inpatient and outpatient care in healthcare establishments) on the same footing as those with full health insurance;
- persons who are required to pay maintenance or who have wrongly received health insurance benefits will have their pregnancy confinement benefit reduced by up to 33 %;
- the benefit does not have to be returned if the recipient is a student at an institution of higher education who is receiving pregnancy confinement benefit on the first day of the current semester (lecture period) and who is engaged in a basic training program, a supplementary training course, an advanced training course or a superior training course in an accredited school.

Birth grant

The birth grant corresponds to a one-off lump-sum payment of 225 % of the minimum old-age pension or 300 % per child in the case of twins.

Forms which are need to be filled in:

- [Birth grant](#)
- [Pregnancy-confinement benefit](#)

Know your rights

The links below set out your rights in law. They are not European Commission sites and do not represent the view of the Commission:

Commission publication and website:

[Family benefits: your rights abroad as an EU citizen](#)

It is needed to contact with:

Birth grant:

Hungarian State Treasury

Magyar Államkincstár

Budapest

Hold u. 4.

1054

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

www.allamkincstar.gov.hu

Pregnancy confinement benefit:

National Health Insurance Fund

Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár, OEP

Budapest

Váci út 73/a

1139

MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

- www.oep.hu

Pregnancy and Birth

Here is a guide to pregnancy and giving birth in Hungary: maternity leave, choosing a doctor, how to register the birth and childhood vaccinations

Hungary offers universal healthcare; however, most women choose to have an obstetrician/gynecologist (*nőgyógyász*) follow their pregnancy and deliver the baby. Obstetricians/gynecologists can be found in all municipalities and as well as working for the national health system most also have private practices. In general, a pregnancy is monitored at a private practice, but the baby is delivered in a state hospital.

Pregnancy test kits are available over the counter at pharmacies and cosmetics shops. An obstetrician/gynecologist and not a GP must confirm the pregnancy.

After a pregnancy has been confirmed, contact the local health visitor (*védőnő*), whose number can be found in the telephone directory or on the

municipality's website. The health visitor issues a booklet (*kiskönyv*) where all medical appointments and notes are recorded during the pregnancy. This booklet is required for doctor's appointments, by the hospital where the baby is delivered, and even after the birth in order to claim a one-off birth grant (*anyasági támogatás*).

For further information about the birth grant please visit:

<http://www.allamkincstar.gov.hu/en/pages/page/805/>

Prenatal Care

Prenatal classes provide an opportunity for parents to learn about what happens to the body during pregnancy, the development of the baby, and how to do breathing and physical exercises to make giving birth easier and less painful. Most hospitals in Hungary organise prenatal classes, but they are in Hungarian and tend to be lectures only.

There are a few prenatal classes offered in English:

- [Budapest Moms](http://www.budapest-moms.com/) (<http://www.budapest-moms.com/>)
- [FirstMed](http://firstmedcenters.com/prenatal-education/) (<http://firstmedcenters.com/prenatal-education/>)
- [Tanfolyamok](http://www.szules.hu/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=39&Itemid=63) is website in Hungarian and run by a team of independent midwives who arrange week-long prenatal classes. (http://www.szules.hu/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=39&Itemid=63)

At every visit, either the obstetrician/gynecologist or health visitor (*védőnő*) checks the mother's weight and blood pressure, as well as the baby's heartbeat. Some doctors also conduct an ultrasound scan at each appointment.

In general the following tests are recommended to take place during pregnancy:

- Four ultrasound scans - at the first visit, at around 12 weeks for the nuchal scan, at around 30 weeks, and at 36 weeks
- Four blood tests, which include blood type, AFP (alpha-fetoprotein), toxoplasmosis, rubella, Hepatitis B
- Urine
- Pap smear
- Genetic consultation for women over 35 years (amniocentesis)

REFERENCES:

1. *Policy Administration Services for Rehabilitation, Homepage:*
<http://nrszh.kormany.hu/cimek-ugyfelfogadasi-helyek>
2. *Central Administration of National Pension Insurance, Homepage:*
<http://www.onyf.hu/hu/>
<http://www.onyf.hu/en/>
3. *Ministry of Human Resources, Homepage:*
<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/emberi-eroforrasok-miniszteriuma>
<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources>
4. *National Health Insurance Fund, Homepage:*
<http://www.oep.hu/>
5. *Hungarian State Treasury, Homepage:*
<http://www.allamkincstar.gov.hu/hu/>
6. *Your Europe, Homepage:*
http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/family/children/benefits/index_en.htm
7. *Budapest Moms, Homepage:*
<http://www.budapest-moms.com/>
8. *Firs Med - Your Health comes first - website:*
<http://firstmedcenters.com/prenatal-education/>
9. *Angloinfo The global expat network Hungary, website:*
<http://hungary.angloinfo.com/>
10. *Employment, social affairs&inclusion, website:*
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=858>
11. *Europien Comission>Employment, social affairs&inclusion>Social protection systems – MISSOC –comparative tables database:*
<http://www.missoc.org/MISSOC/INFORMATIONBASE/COMPARATIVETABLES/MISSOCDATABASE/comparativeTableSearch.jsp>