



PENSIONSVERSICHERUNGSANSTALT



INFORMATION

for pensioners living abroad



PENSIONSVERSICHERUNGSANSTALT

Dear Sir or Madam,

we are sending you a decision/notification concerning your application for social security benefits.

You now belong to a vast community of people who are being served by us.

It is very important for you to be informed about the basic legal issues involving your specific rights and responsibilities connected to your retirement pension insurance. Therefore we kindly ask you to read this brochure carefully.

Upon request we will forward this brochure to you in English. There are also translations into Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian, Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, Turkish, Italian, Spanish, French and English in the internet at

www.pensionsversicherung.at

This brochure is based on the legal rights from 1st of January 2012.

In addition to this information, specialized staff from our office in Vienna and in selected foreign countries (these are especially arranged for retirees now resident abroad) can provide more detailed information or consultation if needed.

We are committed to servicing our customers, thus our aim is to utilize all legal possibilities and to help you in this matter as efficiently and unbureaucratically as possible.

Sincerley,

Ihre Pensionsversicherungsanstalt
Your Social Security Administration

In this brochure you will find following:

	Page
DETERMINING YOUR PENSION	3
PAYMENT OF THE PENSION	3
FIRST TIME PENSION ADJUSTMENT	4
CALCULATION OF THE RETIREMENT BENEFIT AND YOUR ENTITLEMENTS	5
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR OLD-AGE-PENSIONS	5
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS	6
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR EARLY RETIREMENT PENSIONS, CORRIDOR PENSIONS AND HEAVY LABOUR PENSIONS	8
SURVIVOR'S BENEFIT	9
ENTITLEMENT FOR DIVORCEES	11
SPECIAL ISSUES OF THE SURVIVING SPOUSE'S BENEFITS	12
BENEFIT FOR AN ORPHAN	13
SPECIAL ISSUES REGARDING THE ORPHAN BENEFIT	14
CARE BENEFIT	14
CHILD SUPPORT	16
DEFERRED PENSION	17
CHANGE OF RESIDENCE	17
SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS	18
TAXATION OF THE PENSION	18
HEALTH INSURANCE	20
CONFIRMATION OF BEING ALIVE	22
INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION	23
INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION	24

DETERMINING YOUR PENSION

Decision

You will be notified of the decision taken on your pension entitlement. This ruling will take effect, if it is not appealed within 3 months after the receipt of the decision.

Notification

The notification of an entitlement to an advance of your social security benefit, means that the preconditions for a decision are not yet met. We are, however, making every effort possible in determining the final settlement.

The decision/notification is a document identifying your eligibility for Austrian social security benefits.

Therefore we advise you to retain this document in safe keeping.

PAYMENT OF THE PENSION

In retrospect

The payment is made in arrears, beginning the first day of the following month. In case this day is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the pension will be remunerated in a timely manner on the last working day of the current month.

Payment to the recipient

The pension is to be paid exclusively to the entitled person.

Transfer to the Federal Republic of Germany

The benefit can, by way of the German post office ('Deutsche Post AG')

- be paid out in cash or
- be transferred cashless onto a checking account maintained by the German Post or onto an account with a German credit institution (Bank, Sparkasse) of your choice.

Payment worldwide

The pension will be transferred through the German Post AG

- to an account at a money institute of your choice in your country of residence.

A guide to the various benefits payable under different circumstances can be provided, upon request.

If you like to change matters of remittance, please inform us in due time.

FIRST TIME PENSION ADJUSTMENT

In the second year

Pensions with an effective date during year 2012 will be **initially increased on the 1st of January of the second calendar year** subsequent to the effective pension date.

For example: Effective pension date: during year 2012
First pension increase 1.1.2014

Exemptions for survivor's pensions

Exemptions are only made with those survivor's pensions whereby the **effective date of pension of the deceased is before** the year 2012.

In this case the survivor's pension with an effective pension date during 2012 will be **initially increased on the 1st of January in the year following** the effective date of the survivor's pension.

For example:

Effective pension date of the deceased: before the year 2012

Effective date of the survivor's pension: during the year 2012

First increase of the survivor's pension: 1.1.2013

CALCULATION OF THE RETIREMENT BENEFIT AND YOUR ENTITLEMENTS

The calculation is the same for all pensions. Any particularities thereof will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Details of benefits for special cases, their various forms, the circumstances under which you can qualify for them and their effect on the amount of your benefit are given subsequent to the appropriate headings in this booklet. Close attention should be paid to the particular regulations.

Previously acquired benefits from another member State of the European Union, the European Economic Area (EEA) or a State which has entered into an agreement with Austria, will be taken into account in accordance to Austrian regulations. **The Austrian Social Security will accredit these payments at the time Austrian Social Security takes effect.**

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR OLD-AGE-PENSIONS

Increased old-age-pensions

If old-age-pension is claimed after completion of the standard retirement age (women at the age of 60 and men at the age of 65), an **increased old-age-pension** for the months of the later use is due – however, at the earliest after the waiting period.
(Bonus)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS

Prorate benefits

If a person entitled to disability insurance earns more than the minimum monthly income, (year 2012: EUR 376.26) in a particular month, the benefit will be changed over into a prorate benefit for that particular calendar month.

If the total monthly income exceeds a gross sum of EUR 1077.99 the benefit as a whole will be reduced. The reduction factor is calculated as a percentage of the total income:

over EUR 1077.99 to EUR 1617.03.....30% reduction
over EUR 1617.03 to EUR 2155.97.....40% reduction and
over EUR 2155.97.....50% reduction

In any case, the amount accredited is not to exceed 50% of the retirement benefit or 50% of your earned income.

The total income is composed of your full benefit (excluding the accumulation rate) and your gross earned income.

A statement of your prorate benefit will be provided:

- In case of an adjustment of your pension;
- whenever employment is resumed;
- At the request of the recipient;
- For the filing of your annual tax declaration.



Limitations

The disability benefits are basically granted for a period of 24 months. If disability is still applicable after the 24 month time limit, social security benefits may be continued for another **24 months**, as long as an application for continuation was filed within 3 months after the expiration of the previous claim.

An unlimited disability insurance will only be granted if the physical or mental condition of the recipient is as such that recovery cannot be expected.

Continuation of disability benefits

In the case that a person is granted limited disability and there are no signs of improvement in his/her health, it is recommended to apply **three months prior** to the expiration of the grant to hinder gaps between payments.

Check-ups

If it is expected that a person's health condition may improve, the Pensionsversicherungsanstalt conducts check-ups at appropriate intervals.

Suspension of disability benefits

Limited disability benefits as well as permanent disability benefits will be discontinued when the health of the retiree has improved to the extent that the original criteria no longer apply.

Employment may also bring about a review of the disability claim and ultimately lead to the discontinuation of payments.

60(65) years

Upon reaching retirement age (women 60 years, men 65 years), suspension of the disability benefit is not allowed.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR EARLY RETIREMENT PENSIONS, CORRIDOR PENSIONS AND HEAVY LABOUR PENSIONS

Discontinuation

The early retirement pension, the corridor pension and the heavy labour pension are no longer being paid from that day the **monthly income** from work (pre-tax) increases the marginal earnings threshold, even though of employment abroad.

Reinstating

The early retirement pension, corridor pension and heavy labour pension will be reinstated at the time that earnings from employment or self-employment do not exceed the minimum wage restriction.

To enable us to pay your pension as quickly as possible, please notify us promptly.

The minimum wage limit in year 2012 was EUR 376.26

Transition into old-age-pension

An earlier old-age-pension will turn **self-acting** into an old-age-pension for the same level upon the first of the month after completion of the standard retirement age (women at the age of 60, men at the age of 65)

The application for an old-age-pension is therefore not allowed, if there already exists an entitlement for an earlier retirement pension.

SURVIVOR'S BENEFIT

If all the requirements are met, a survivor's benefit is payable to the surviving spouse (also divorced) and the children of the deceased. For "children" the same conditions apply as in the section "Child Support".

The following regulations for the widows' pension also apply mutatis mutandis for **registered relationships**.

Surviving spouse's benefits

The spouse's entitlement to a benefit is based on the pension entitlement of the deceased spouse at the time of death or the benefit the deceased would have been eventually entitled to.

Entitlement from 0% to 60%

The amount of the surviving spouse's pension ranges between 0 % to maximum 60 % of the retirement benefit to which the deceased person was entitled to or would have been entitled to.

To establish the percentage rate a calculation basis has to be formed; therefore the income respectively of the deceased person and the income of the surviving dependant(s) of the **last two calendar** years prior to the date of death of the insured person have to be taken into account, divided by 24.

In case the decrease in income of the deceased person was due to diseases or unemployment during the last two calendar years, the income of the last four calendar years prior to the date of death have to be taken into account to establish the calculation basis for the deceased person, divided by 48, if this is more advantageous for the surviving dependant(s).

Income

The following earnings are considered as **income**:

- Earnings arising from self-employment or employment (in Austria or in a foreign country);
- Certain earnings for officials if the marginal amount of earnings is exceeded (see appendix);
- Recurring cash benefits (gross) arising from state social security and unemployment insurance (i.e. pension, accident insurance, sick pay, unemployment benefit)
- Any other rendered benefits, such as health care, etc.
- Retirement benefits from foreign countries
- Any earnings subject to law on supporting benefits or any other fees

- Compensation for a lost vacation and any settlements thereof.
- If recipient due to semi-retirement the amount of the contributions into the compulsory insurance and supplementary payments, if these are higher than the amount of any contemporary received income;
- Administrative pensions and bridging payment on the basis of social plans (respectively basic contributions into a contemporary existing voluntary insurance, if these are higher than the income of the deceased person).

An increase up to 60%

Depending on the financial situation of the surviving spouse, the entitlement of less than 60% may be subject to an increase.

In the case that the surviving spouse's income or retirement benefit do not reach a specific minimum income (in year 2012: EUR 1762.98), as long as requirements are met, the percentage of the pension will be increased to the extent that sum emerging from one's own income and the surviving spouse's benefit reaches the specific minimum income.

The surviving spouse's benefit can only be increased **to a maximum of 60%**.

A decrease down to 0%

If the sum of the spouse's own pension and/or earned income together with the surviving spouse's benefit exceed the double of the regulated maximum monthly income (year 2012: EUR 8460.-), the benefit will be reduced by the amount exceeding down to 0%.

Under certain circumstances, 60% of an incremental payment of the deceased is to be added to the surviving spouse's benefit.

Notification of any changes of earnings

Increases or decreases in your own income can have an effect on your surviving spouse's benefit. A new statement will be made by the Social Security Office in respect to the change and in accordance with official regulations. A new statement will also be made upon special request.

Surviving spouse's benefit for Divorcees

Entitlement for Divorcees

Limitation - Support

If not remarried, the divorcee is entitled to a surviving spouse's benefit, as long as, at the date of death of the insured:

- a court order or
- settlement has been concluded
- before the marriage was dissolved, a contract was made regarding support and/or alimony
- after divorce was official, regular alimonies had been paid, for at least one year prior to death, to cover support requirements in regard to disproportionate earnings (duration of marriage at least 10 years)

The extent of the surviving spouse's monthly benefit has limitations.

Entitlement for Divorcees

No Limitation - Support

However, as long as he/she has not remarried the surviving spouse's benefit is due to the full extent, if

- the marriage was annulled according to article 55 of the marriage law, version 1.7.1978
- the divorce decree contains the sentence that the party requesting divorce is solely or primarily guilty of the disruption of the marriage
- the marriage lasted at least 15 years and
- at the time the divorce enters into effect, the divorcee is at least 40 years of age.

The requirement of being 40 years at the time divorce came into effect no longer applies if the surviving spouse is unable to work or is receiving an orphan's pension for a child stemming from the deceased or an orphan's pension received because following the death the child is living in a common household with the surviving spouse's. The requirement for a common household no longer applies when the child is born after the death of the father.

SPECIAL ISSUES OF THE SURVIVING SPOUSE'S BENEFITS

Continuation after limitation

If the surviving spouse's benefit is only awarded up to 30 calendar months subsequent to the death of the insured person, you should bear in mind the following.

In case the survivor is invalid at the time of discontinuation he is still eligible to the survivors benefit for the period of invalidity. An application for continuation of payments must be submitted to the Social Security Office no later than three months after discontinuation. An application submitted later than three months will be rejected. If you consider yourself to be eligible for disability benefits, we advise you to **apply** for a continuation of payment **before the expiration of the 30 calendar month period**.

Lump sum

In the case of **remarriage**, a lump sum will be calculated to the equivalent of 35 times the monthly payment (without any cost-of-living adjustments).

In the case that a surviving spouse's benefit is provisional and the beneficiary has remarried, there is no entitlement to a lump sum settlement.

A reinstated entitlement

If the new spouse dies or the remarriage is dissolved or declared for null and void, the former entitlement, upon **application**, may be reinstated on condition that

- The divorce or dissolution of marriage is not solely or predominantly the fault of the surviving spouse, and
- The surviving spouse is deemed not guilty at the time of nullification.

The entitlement will be continued the first of the month after filing for application, however, at the earliest, two and one-half years after the discontinuation of the previous pension payments.

For the revival of the surviving spouse's pension any entitlement of pension from the recent marriage, as well as support and income entitlements thereof, resulting from the dissolution or nullification of the marriage, will be taken into account. **It is not possible to reinstate any temporarily awarded surviving spouse's benefit.**

BENEFIT FOR AN ORPHAN

The child's entitlement to a benefit is based on the pension entitlement of the deceased father or mother at the time of death or the benefit the deceased would have been eventually entitled to. The calculation for the payment of benefits is as specified under the chapter heading, "Calculation of the retirement benefit and your entitlements".

Height of the benefit for an orphan

Every child of the deceased is entitled to a benefit. The calculation for the child's benefit is always based on 60% of the surviving spouse's pension, independent of the amount actually accrued.

The benefit for a child losing one parent is 40% of the surviving spouse's pension and 60%, if both parents are lost.

If the conditions for the entitlement of a child's benefit are fulfilled according to the entitlements of both parents, then two benefits are warranted.

Until 18 years

A person is considered to be a child until the age of 18 years and includes legitimate children, foster children and illegitimate children of the insured (in the case of males, proof of paternity is required) and also, under certain circumstances, stepchildren.

Older than 18 years

If older than 18 years of age, an orphan or child without one parent is only eligible for a benefit when he/she is:

- In full-time schooling or vocational training, maximum until the age of 27 years or if pursuing his/her studies for which dependency allowance is drawn or for which no dependency allowance is drawn but a study is pursued in a serious and focussed manner (Article 2, paragraph 1 the law for equalization of family burdens "Familienlastenausgleichsgesetz").
- Inable to work if the disease or the handicap has begun prior to 18th birthday or during educational or vocational training.

SPECIAL ISSUES REGARDING THE ORPHAN BENEFIT

Continuation of the entitlement

An application for renewal of the benefit must be submitted within the first three months after reaching 18 years of age to assure no interruption of payment.

Termination of eligibility

If the requirements for the entitlement are no longer met, payments will be terminated at the end of the same month. If a disability or incapacity to work ceases to apply, the entitlement will be revoked.

Grandchildren are not eligible for the said benefit.

CARE BENEFIT

The Federal Law for Care Benefit (Bundespflegegeldgesetz – BPGG) regulates a standardized nursing allowance, throughout the Republic of Austria to be applied to persons in need of care due to a physical, psychological or mental disease or handicap, for an estimated minimum of at least 6 months.

Recipients with a residence in a member State of the European Union, of the European Economic Area, and Switzerland (equivalent to domestic residency), are eligible for a care benefit as long as certain requirements are met.

Furthermore, those persons who migrated out of Austria between 4 March 1933 and 9 May 1945 due to political, religious or racial reasons (except for those persons active in the nationalist party) and who are granted pension benefits are eligible for a care benefit.

Care benefit must be applied for and will be paid 12 times a year with no deductions.

It is payable at the earliest at the beginning of the following month after the application was filed. The entitlement expires on the date of death of the insured person; in this month the payment is prorated.

Nursing needs are officially regulated and divided into 7 levels, as can be seen in the table below.

Level	Average nursing needs per month exceeding	Amount monthly 2012
1	60 hrs	EUR 154.20
2	85 hrs	EUR 284.30
3	120 hrs	EUR 442.90
4	160 hrs	EUR 664.30
For Level 5 onwards there are additional requirements (especially qualified nurses)		
5	180 hrs and exceptional nursing expenses	EUR 902.30
6	180 hours and difficult-to-coordinate care procedures during day and night or round-the-clock presence of trained personnel.	EUR 1260.00
7	180 hours and inability to move arms and legs or an equivalent condition	EUR 1655.80

CHILD SUPPORT

Any recipient of a pension (except for a recipient of the survivor's pension) is eligible for child support for a legitimate, illegitimate or foster child of the pensioner till the completion of the child's 18th year. Stepchildren and grandchildren are only eligible when specific criteria are met. If more than one parent is eligible for child support to the same child, the support is only granted for one parent.

There are special rules for the residence in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland as well as for third-country nationals with a residence in a member state of the European Union.

Amount payable

A monthly amount of EUR 29.07 gross is awarded for each child. It may be less if the entitlement to Austrian social security benefits is only possible by adding on insurance years earned abroad.

Child support is payable to the last day of the child's 18th year irrespective to income, even if the child is employed.

At the end of the 18th year child support is valid solely for a child which:

- is in school, a university or vocational training, which draws a maximum of his/her efforts, but, at the utmost, to the completion of his/her 27th year, or
- is incapacitated for employment, inasmuch as the sickness or affliction has set in before the child turns 19 or during his/her schooling, university or vocational training.

An application for renewal of the benefit must be submitted within the first three months after reaching 18 years of age to assure no interruption of payment.

If the requirements for the entitlement are no longer met, payments will be terminated at the end of that same month, for instance, at the end of the month in which the official notification is received that the child will no longer be considered as incapacitated for employment.

DEFERRED PENSION

Under certain circumstances your pension may be deferred.

Residency abroad

Your retirement benefit is deferred so long as you reside in a foreign country. This doesn't apply

- if residency in a foreign country is **less than 2 months** in a calendar year;
- if you reside in a foreign country with the consent of the Pensionsversicherungsanstalt;
- if a bilateral agreement has been made for social security with the foreign country or if an agreement for the European Economic Area states otherwise.

If retirement benefit is deferred because of residency abroad, relatives who still reside in Austria, such as those who are entitled to a survivor's benefit in the case of death, are entitled to a part of the pension.

Other reasons

Pension payments are deferred for a term of imprisonment lasting more than a month. Affiliated persons who were not complicit in any crime committed by the insured person are eligible for a portion of the insured person's pension.

Special Issue: The pension is not deferred if the imprisonment is executed by the use of an electronically controlled house arrest (ankle monitor).

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

If you are constantly changing your residency or intend to move to Austria, please let us know in due time so that there is no delay in the payment of your pension.

SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS

Complementary to the pensions paid in **April** and **October of every year**, supplements will be paid.

These supplements will be to the amount of the benefit paid in the months April and October including child support.

Pro rata payment

The **first supplement will be pro rata**, if the pension was not continuously drawn during the relevant month and during the last 5 months. At that the extent of the supplement is reduced for every month without pension about one sixth.

Special issue

The following special issue takes effect for survivor's benefits: Pension months will also be taken into account for the survivor's benefit. Did the deceased already receive a pension, these pension months will also be taken into account.

TAXATION OF THE PENSION


Limited tax liability

Persons, who have not established Austrian residence nor have regularly resided in Austria, and who have not resided there for more than 6 months, are subject to limited tax liability.

The income tax of the pensions will be determined upon the provisions of the Income Tax Law of 1988. The deductible for sole wage earners and for single parents as well as certain tax exemptions such as for physically handicapped individuals or holders of victim passes (Opferausweisen) and official certificates will not be taken into consideration.

EEA/ EWR Nationals and Swiss Citizens

A citizen of one of the member states of the European Union or of a country, to which the treaty of the European Economic Area (EEA/EWR) applies, can be treated as persons with unrestricted tax liability if their main income derives from Austria.



Such a claim – for expired calendar years - should be presented to the tax authorities in the 1st district (Finanzamt für den 1. Bezirk, Radetzkystraße 2, 1031 Vienna, Austria).

The open pension coverage for the regulations of limited tax liability are however further subject to taxes.

Double Taxation Treaty (DTT)

In accordance to treaties for the Prevention of Double Taxation concluded with individual countries, pensions transferred to a foreign country are only subject once to taxation.

Retirees, who are physically present on a regular basis or have their residence in the following countries, shall be tax exempted. Taxation occurs respectively in the country of residence.:A certificate of residence confirmed by the foreign tax administration has to be produced prior to a conversion of the tax referencing (Form ZS-QU1).

- Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Australia, Egypt
- Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria
- Eastland
- France
- Georgia, Greece, Great Britain and North Ireland
- Hong Kong
- India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Korea, Croatia, Cuba, Kuwait
- Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania
- Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldavia
- New Zealand
- Pakistan, Poland, Portugal
- Federation of Russia
- Saudi-Arabia, Switzerland, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain
- Tajikistan, Thailand, Chechnya, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey
- Hungary, Uzbekistan
- United Arab Emeritus, Vietnam
- Cypres

In addition, retirees who have residency or are physically present on a regular basis in Sweden and who possess Swedish citizenship, qualify for a non-taxed remittance order.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Residence in an EEA/EWR -EU Member-State or Switzerland

Decisive are, in principle, the respective provisions of the VO (EEA/EWR) 1408/71 and 574/72 as well as the VO (EC) 883/2004 and 987/2009 since the 1st of May 2010). Thereupon, you and your dependants will receive benefits as per the national health insurance of your country of residence and in accordance to the health insurance carrier's rules and regulations. In general, this would also be the case, if you would be receiving a pension in your home country.

If there is no established health insurance coverage in your country of residence and no participating member state to execute your health insurance, for instance, Switzerland would take over its execution, then you and your dependants shall receive health benefits as based on the Austrian Pension Insurance and charged to the Austrian health insurance. This temporary execution of benefits will be carried out by the health insurance carrier in your country of residence and in accordance to its standard rules and regulations.


Further information can also be obtained from the pension or health insurance carrier of your country of residence.

Residence in a Member-State of a Treaty

Decisive are the respective provisions of the treaty for social security coverage. However, not all of these treaties contain provisions on health insurance for retirees. Relevant regulations currently exist in the following countries:

Bosnia–Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey.

If you are living in one of the above-mentioned countries and are not receiving a pension according to the statutory provisions of your country of residence, then you and your dependants shall receive health benefits as based on the Austrian Pension Insurance and charged to the Austrian health insurance. This temporary execution of benefits will be carried out by the health insurance carrier in your country of residence and in accordance to its standard rules and regulations.



Further information can also be obtained from your pension or health insurance carrier of your country of residence.

Registration for Austrian health insurance

The claim for benefits from the national health insurance to be charged to Austrian health insurance requires registration with the Austrian health insurance, as well as registration with the relevant assisting health insurance institution of the state of residence.

- **No pension can be drawn** in accordance to the regulations of the state of residence:

If you are residing in an EEA (EWR) - resp. EU member state or Switzerland, as well as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia or Turkey, the verification of the preconditions for registration with the health insurance as well as the registration itself is essential before any decision on the pension can be made.

- **Pension can be drawn** in accordance to the regulations of the state of residence:

If you are residing in an EEA (EWR) - resp. EU member state or Switzerland, then, as a rule, verification does not occur automatically. We therefore request you to promptly inform us, if you do not have a national health care coverage in your state of residence.

If you are residing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia or Turkey, the health insurance is based on the provisions of the state of residence.

- **Contribution to the Austrian Health Insurance**

In the event of a registration with the Austrian health insurance, a contribution has to be paid to the Austrian health insurance basically from every pension in the field of application of the VO (EC) No. 883/2004, with the exception of orphan's pensions.

Temporary stay in Austria

If you are residing in an EU- resp. EWR member state or in one of the above-mentioned countries with a bilateral treaty or in Switzerland, then you and your family members are also entitled to urgently needed services (medical assistance and institutional care). These costs are covered by the health insurance institution of your state of residence.

Further information can also be obtained from the health insurance institution in your state of residence or from the regional health insurance institution (Gebietskrankenkasse) of your Austrian residence.

CONFIRMATION OF BEING ALIVE

Obligation for presentation

If you are a pension recipient living abroad you are obligated to produce a confirmation of being alive once a year to receive your pension payment.

At the moment all retirees living in Germany are excluded from the obligation to produce certain documents.

Forms

The forms are shipped once a year, namely in January each year. The form is to be sent back completed and signed immediately. A “statement of income” is requested only in case any other income could interfere with your pension. If the completed form is not received by Pensionsversicherungsanstalt within 6 weeks the pension payments are suspended.

You can find the Form **Lebensbestätigung** (confirmation of being alive) in several languages on the Internet under www.pensionsversicherung.at

INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION

The statutory regulations oblige all recipients of benefits and applicants to promptly notify any changes that affect their eligibility for payments, the amount payable or their place of residence.

PLEASE NOTIFY US WITHIN 7 DAYS IN CASE OF:

(in case of receipt of **orphans' pension** within 2 weeks)

- The pursuit of a gainful occupation and the amount of the earned income
 - Any change on the amount of the earned income.
-
- PLEASE NOTIFY US WITHIN 2 WEEKS IN CASE OF:
 - any change of residence, change of name as well as marriage or a registered relationship
 - Any award, new adjustments (except for pension or retirement adjustments) or the discontinuation of a pension or retirement from another area of Austria or abroad.
 - The receipt of any sickness benefits from an Austrian health insurance
 - Detention in prison lasting longer than one month.
 - If recipient of a widow(er)'s pension, the receipt of a payment from an Austrian Accident Insurance, for instance coverage of an accident, or from unemployment insurance, as well as the receipt of an Austrian or foreign settlement provided to civil servants or persons with similar employment status, a settlement or pension entitlement due to official pension regulations or a private pension contract through an employer, in addition to a change or discontinuation of listed benefits.
 - upon receipt of an orphan's pension or of child support also the marriage or registered relationship (death) of a child (orphan), as well as a change in income of the child/orphan or the termination or interruption of studies or schooling (inasmuch as the child/orphan is above the age of 18)

Please note that in case of late notification, the overpayment must be reimbursed!

INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION

For any questions concerning pension matters, please contact us during working hours from Monday to Thursday between 7:00 am and 3:30 pm CET and Friday between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm CET under the following telephone number: **+43 503 03**.

Questions can be addressed in writing to:

Pensionsversicherungsanstalt
Landesstelle Wien
Friedrich-Hillegeist-Straße 1
1021 Wien
Austria

You can also contact us by facsimile at **+43 503 03/288 50** or by e-mail at **pva-lsw@pensionsversicherung.at**.

Current information on pension matters can be accessed through the homepage

www.pensionsversicherung.at

Information and consultation can also be obtained at **consultative meetings** conducted by the "Pensionsversicherungsanstalt" currently being held in the following countries:

Germany, Italy, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czechia, Hungary

Place and time of the consultative meetings can be obtained from 'Landesstelle Wien'.

The decision/notification includes your social security number ('Versicherungsnummer'). Please add your social security number in each written exchange without fail. It facilitates the retrieval of your file and allows us to process your concern efficiently.