

Nordic cooperation to support citizens moving with their services and benefits

Families on the Move Conference

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The Nordic Countries

(map Wikivoyage)

Freedom of movement for Nordic citizens since the 1950's
EU Member States: Denmark 1971, Finland & Sweden 1994

EEA Member States: Iceland and Norway 1992

Outside EU/EEA: Faroe Island & Greenland

More information: www.norden.org

Removing barriers to cross-border mobility

- ▶ Priority area in Nordic cooperation since 2007
- ▶ Information service for citizens: "Hallo Norden"
- ▶ Freedom of Movement Council since 2014
- ▶ Data base on barriers: Contains 21 "unsolved" barriers relating to social protection, e.g.
 - Transport services for persons with disabilities
 - Travelling with guide dogs (administrative formalities)
 - Retention of personal assistance for persons with disabilities
 - Mobility of persons in need of institutional care

Removing the barriers – methods

- ▶ Administrative cooperation
- ▶ Revision of national laws
- ▶ Revision of Nordic agreements, for example:
 - ▶ Nordic Convention on Social Security (1955, rev. 1992, 2012)
 - Corresponds to EU Regulation 883/2004
 - ▶ Nordic Convention on Social Assistance and Social services (1994):
 - Benefits or persons not covered by EU law
 - “Social and medical assistance”
 - Economically inactive EU citizens, third country nationals

Revision of the Convention on Social Assistance and Social services: Problems to be addressed – example

Avoiding loss of benefits

Case C-679/16 (request for preliminary ruling, pending):

- A person with a disability from Finland would like to retain his benefit for personal assistance when studying 3 years in Estonia.
- Is the benefit a sickness benefit in the meaning of 883/2004? If so: outside the scope of the Convention.
- If not: How should the situation be regulated for persons moving between the Nordic countries?

Revision of the Convention on Social Assistance and Social services 2: Solutions (?)

- ▶ More information and administrative cooperation in order to facilitate mobility rather than new material rights:
- ▶ If a person with special needs (e.g. disability) wants to move to another Nordic country an obligation should be introduced for the providers of service (local government) to consult each other, if needed, in order to facilitate the removal.
- ▶ A right to apply for services and receive a decision in advance (before moving) should be introduced.