



Short information

on the entitlement to German pensions for former workers in a ghetto as to the latest adjudication (so-called ghetto pension as to the ZRBG*)

The Federal Social Court (BSG) has by several judgements considerably abated the characteristic requirements to be met for the payment of so-called ghetto-pensions. This can lead to the situation that persons persecuted by National Socialism who had worked in a ghetto can now receive a German pension or an increase of their German pension.

1. What has changed?

- The characteristic requirements for "employment at one's own will" and "remuneration" have been considerably abated.
- Persecuted persons with contribution periods completed in a ghetto can - under further adjusted conditions - acquire a claim for substitute periods for staying abroad because of persecution after reaching 14 years of age.
- Transnistria is now deemed to belong to the territories covered by the ZRBG.
- The consideration of ghetto periods within a foreign pension does no longer conflict the taking into account of periods of contributions completed in a ghetto under the ZRBG.

2. What preconditions do you have to meet?

- You have the status as a person persecuted under National Socialism in terms of the German Federal Indemnification Law (BEG).
- You were forced to live in a ghetto in a territory, which was occupied by the German Reich or incorporated into it. The stay in a concentration camp or work camp does not constitute contribution periods completed in a ghetto; however, these periods can be accounted for as substitute periods after attaining 14 years of age.
- You performed work at your own will (e.g. based on your own efforts or through placement by the Jewish Council (Judenrat). You received a remuneration or compensation for your work (among other things also food). The amount of the compensation is not decisive.

3. Who can receive a German pension according to this?

German pension benefits can be paid as old-age pension for attaining 65 years of age or - after the death of the persecuted person - as widow's or widower's benefit. You have to fulfil the qualifying minimum insurance period of 60 calendar months.

4. What do you have to arrange?

- **Objection proceedings or legal action is still pending**

You do not have to file an application. We will examine whether ghetto-periods can now be accounted for and a pension can be paid. You will receive further notice.

* Law dated 20/06/2002 regarding the conditions for making pensions payable from an employment in a ghetto

- **Your pension application had been rejected, objection proceedings or legal action is not pending**

You do not have to file an application. We will examine whether ghetto-periods can now be accounted for and a pension can be paid. If applicable, we will notify you. The re-examination, however, can be effected only successively, starting with the eldest age groups. You can receive further information from the pension insurance institution that rejected the previous application.

- **You are already in receipt of a pension without contribution periods completed in a ghetto**

If you believe that you now meet the conditions for contribution periods completed in a ghetto to be taken into account, we recommend you to file an **application** for re-assessment of your German pension, as possibly your pension amount could increase. You have to submit the application to the pension insurance institution that is paying your pension.

- **A pension application has not yet been filed**

If you believe that you meet the conditions for taking contribution periods completed in a ghetto into account, you are asked to submit an application for the so-called ghetto-pension to Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund, 10704 Berlin.

5. What do you have to do if you have already received the benefit of EUR 2,000 according to the ordinance of recognition?

If you already received the benefit of EUR 2,000 in recognition of ghetto-work and subsequently a so-called ghetto-pension will be granted, you will be obliged to repay the benefit to the BADV (Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues). You can in this case give us the authority to retain the benefit amount in recognition of ghetto-work from your pension and to forward the amount to the BADV. For reasons of simplification and costs we recommend you to utilise this possibility.

6. Who will give advice and assistance?

The following institutions of the German Pension Insurance (DRV) will be at your disposal for any further questions:

DRV Bund Tel. + 49 (0)30-20247780	Competent authority for all states Telephone calls can be answered also in the English, Polish and Russian languages
DRV Rheinland Tel. 08000-100048013 (domestic calls) Tel. + 49 (0)211-937-0 (from abroad)	Competent authority especially for persons residing in Belgium, Chile and Israel
DRV Nord Tel. + 49 (0)40-5300-0	Competent authority especially for persons residing in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the USA
DRV Rheinland-Pfalz Tel. + 49 (0)6232-17-2459	Competent authority especially for persons residing in France and Luxembourg
DRV Bayern Süd Tel. + 49 (0)871-81-2154	Competent authority especially for persons residing in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic
DRV Mitteldeutschland Tel. + 49 (0)361-482-4000	Competent authority especially for persons residing in Hungary
DRV Knappschaft-Bahn-See Tel. + 49 (0)234-304-23001	Competent authority for persons from all states