

It has been almost one year since the new Regulations No 883/2004 and 987/2009 came into force on 1.5.2010. These regulations replaced the former Regulations No 1408/71 and 574/72, which had been laying down the rules for coordination of the national social security systems for almost 40 years.

As the extent of issue is relatively huge I have focused only on some aspects of coordination.

The first chapter concerns the general concept of coordination and the sources of coordination law. It also includes the detailed description of personal and material scope of regulations. One part of this chapter is dealing also with some of the new concepts included in the regulation.

The second chapter describes the basic social security coordination principles, ie. the principle of equal treatment, the principle of single applicable legislation, the principle of exporting the benefits and the aggregation principle. In addition to these four basic principles mentioned above new rule for the assimilation of facts is described. This is in fact a new principle, previously applied only on the basis of case-law.

The third chapter focuses on organizational aspect at both EU and national levels. There are lists of all relevant bodies included together with description of their roles and responsibilities.

The fourth chapter presents new coordination tool - the introduction of compulsory electronic communication between social security institutions in all EU countries. In addition to the characterization of the legal basis for this electronic data exchange, there is a brief description of the basic elements of the newly built communications network EESSI.

The fifth chapter focuses on coordination of one particular group of benefits - sickness benefits. In the introduction to this chapter there are examples of application of basic coordination principles in this particular issue. Some application problems are also mentioned. Furthermore, the text is structured in accordance with the relevant chapter of coordination regulation which deals with the sickness benefits. First subchapter describes entitlement to sickness benefits in kind in case of residence outside the competent Member State, second subchapter deals with the issue of temporary stay abroad and a significant portion of this chapter is dedicated to the scheduled treatment in another Member State.