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New GDA Portal
online
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TOP STORY

Admin with just a few clicks

Germany's social accident insurance in the Federal Government's planned Digital Portal Network

The Federal Government is pushing ahead with the implementation of e-government. The Act to Improve Online Access (OZG) aims to fully implement the Digital Portal Network, announced in the coalition agreement, by 2022. The aim of the citizen portal is to provide citizens with all administrative services online, regardless of which administrative portal they access. In addition to the federal and state authorities, this also includes social security services and thus statutory accident insurance.

When the OZG was announced, Germany's social accident insurance immediately began to develop a concept for two procedures which will be available as pilot projects via the Portal Network: reporting an accident and registering a business with a social accident insurance institution. These two procedures will be live by the end of this year and available via the portal network as early as 2019.

However, this is not fully ready. The responsible ministry and the various branches of social security need to work even closer together in order to integrate their services into the network; for example, the catalogue of benefits and services which includes the administrative services of all public authorities and social security institutions. In addition, key information regarding some social security branches are not yet available. An example of this is member administration of statutory accident insurance whose institutions are organised by industry for the private sector, and by region for the public sector.

'In order for the portal to make things easier, everyone involved must be heard and be involved in designing it.'

Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV



Photo: Daniel Berkmann – stock.adobe.com

In the near future, the Portal Network will also make it possible to apply online for social security benefits. The ability to go online and report accidents or register a company will be possible later this year for all accident insurance institutions.

It is expected that on October 25, 2018, the IT Planning Council affiliated with the Federal Ministry of the Interior will adopt what has been dubbed the Architecture Directive. It defines the structure of the future Portal Network, taking into account the parameters of all participating institutions. In August, the DGUV invited all social security branches to identify their needs and to focus more on the planning. 'In order for the portal to make things easier, everyone involved must be heard and be involved in designing it', stated Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV.

The enormous complexity of the eGovernment project requires concerted, intensive coordination. This is the only way that the portal can work so that it offers citizens with public and social security services online anywhere, anytime.

FYI Timeline of the citizen's portal

2013

The e-Government Act enters into force

2017

Online Access Act adopted

2018 – 2022

Federal Government's administrative portal gradually implemented



Digital unity

Dear Reader,

It seems that the idea of a united Europe has lost its shine for some people. However, instead of a dying swansong, the European Union's motto of 'Unity in Diversity' is more relevant than ever. Different languages and traditions are brought together under the umbrella of 'Europe'. Countries are neighbours without borders. Openness promotes economic and cultural exchange. This strengthens cohesion and ultimately ensures peaceful and lively coexistence and togetherness. But this doesn't work without laws and administrative acts. There needs to be coordination - not only between EU countries, but also within them. However, this takes time. The best example is the digitalisation of public administration. This is not just a national issue. The concept of eGovernment means that national public authority procedures should also be available online across Europe. The goal is to promote the free movement of businesses and EU citizens. This is the right way forward. But the challenges lie in the details. The switch to multilingualism requires a complex alteration to the IT infrastructure already in place. And is it really feasible to offer all procedures and services in a uniform way across Europe? The tension between digital unity on the one hand and the intrusion into the autonomy of national administrative procedures on the other is obvious; which makes open dialogue all the more important. One thing is clear: we are talking about a part of the future viability of a united Europe.

Dr Joachim Breuer

Director General of the DGUV

'The self-employed must make social security provisions'

Digitalisation is changing the world of work. The boundaries between dependent employment and self-employment are blurring. Different forms of employment, intermediate forms of employment and combinations of the two are intermingling. However, the social security systems are largely tied to the traditional employment relationship. Is this enough for the future and why should self-employed persons also be obliged to make provisions for old-age pensions and accident insurance? DGUV Kompakt spoke about this with Professor Rainer Schlegel, President of the Federal Social Court.

Professor Schlegel, how is digitalisation changing the world of work?

For me, digitalisation is more of an umbrella term for changes in the world of work that make it increasingly difficult to delineate dependent employment from self-employment. One example is the increased use of computers. As a result, work often no longer requires a physical workplace in a company and can be done with a laptop anywhere and anytime. The demarcation criteria for work carried out according to the instructions of the client in terms of type, time and location of the task are becoming less important. In combination with a worldwide data network, this has led to things accelerating at an unprecedented scale, with reduced response times and the ability to reach people anywhere in the world. Business can be done via Internet platforms. Different forms of employment, dependent employment, self-employment, intermediate forms and combinations of these are also blending. Workers, especially those who are highly qualified, are moving away from the traditional image of the typical, permanent factory worker or office worker; their work assignments are becoming shorter and shorter, sometimes with a change in employer or client, even working on a day-to-day basis. We know this type of work from musicians who perform gigs. However, crowdworkers or clickworkers haven't appeared in the Federal Social Court in the form of concrete legal cases yet.

Up until now, social security systems have been largely tied to the employ-

ment relationship. Will this be enough in the future?

As it was in the 19th century, we still assume there is strict dualism between dependent employment and self-employment. All people in dependent employment, whether they want to or not, are obliged to participate in all branches of social security and to make contributions; they also come under the protection of labour law. Employees are required to take out compulsory insurance in order to ensure they can clearly provide for times in which they no longer receive an employment income because they are no longer able to work due to illness, old age or disability. Due to the fact that the amount that workers must contribute is based on their income, the individual is also able to pay for their insurance cover. Through workers' compulsory insurance, the general public is protected against the need for individuals to claim state welfare, as the case would be if personal provisions were not in place. It's not clear to me why this should be any different for the self-employed, especially when you consider that the proportion of welfare recipients in old age among those who were self-employed is much higher than dependent employees. As such, there is an urgent need to take action.

The current government wants to make it compulsory for the self-employed to have pension insurance. How do you rate this?

Absolutely positive. It is important that the self-employed are also able to pay their contributions and that they are actually de-



Photo: nenetus - stock.adobe.com

Digitalisation is changing the world of work: the boundaries between dependent employment and self-employment are becoming increasingly blurred due to the ability to work anywhere. Different forms of employment, intermediate forms of employment and combinations of these are intermingling.

ducted. The German utilisation procedure for employers means that employees can rest assured that their contributions will be collected, thus ensuring the highest degree of effectiveness. In answering the question as to whether there could be a comparable procedure for self-employed persons who are subject to compulsory insurance or other social security schemes, you need to have a good imagination. It's worth considering whether clients, including digital economy platforms, should be required to pay contributions directly to the insurance providers based on the volume of contracts. In this situation, they would be liable themselves if they did not meet their obligation to pay.

Within Germany's social accident insurance system, there are people who want to extend accident insurance protection to all self-employed workers.

I also see this as a positive idea. Many business owners voluntarily take out insurance with a social accident insurance institution, because there is no better protection. Anyone who is clever makes use of this option. Solo self-employed people in particu-

lar cannot afford to forego accident insurance and a minimum level of occupational safety. The same applies to retirement provisions. Compulsory insurance of these people must be in place to protect the general public from individual self-employed persons who do not make provisions for work accidents. If a self-employed person is involved in a serious work accident, they are also at risk of a loss of income. In addition, compulsory insurance for all self-employed persons would mean that they could save themselves the costs of private accident insurance, or that existing private insurance policies could be reduced to damages not covered by statutory accident insurance.

More information in DGUV Forum 9/2018

Web: www.dguv-forum.de (German only)



Professor Rainer Schlegel
President of the Federal
Social Court of Germany

Photo: Bundessozialgericht,
PicturePeople Kassel

TOPIC

Digital across Europe

The digitalisation of public administration is not just a national issue. The European Parliament and the Council agreed in June 2018 on a compromise on the implementation of the European Single Digital Gateway, which now has to be formally confirmed.

The planned European Single Digital Gateway shares similarities with the German Portal Network project which is due to start later this year. The digital gateway will use the 'Your Europe' portal. The aim is to enable EU citizens to have access to one central gateway for national public administrative procedures, including across borders.

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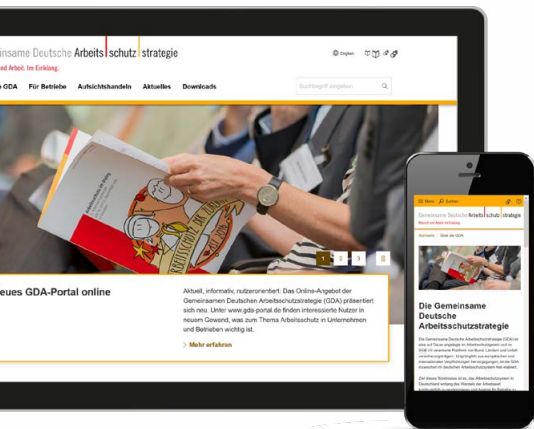
Specific examples include registering a motor vehicle, registering a business start-up or applying for social benefits. In order to do this, a number of public administrative procedures that are available in analogue format must also be offered fully digitally in the future. Additionally, these online procedures also need to be offered in a second language that is understood by the largest possible number of users across borders; this is likely to be English.

In a joint position paper, the European Representation of the German Social Insurance highlighted the significant additional effort and costs associated with this and that the principle of the EU not interfering in national administrative procedures must be ensured. Since the establishment of the German Portal Network and the EU's requirements for setting up a Single Digital Gateway to link national websites are directly related, both processes should be planned and executed concurrently in order to avoid any additional costs or making adjustments later on.

Web: www.dsv-europa.de > Statements

RECOMMENDED

New GDA portal online



The new GDA portal has also been optimised for mobile devices.

Web: www.gda-portal.de/EN

Informative, modern and user-friendly: the new portal of the German Joint Health and Safety Strategy (GDA) is now online. The platform is an initiative of the federal government, federal states and accident insurance institutions to strengthen safety and health at work. It provides information about occupational safety and health with a new menu structure and intuitive user guidance. The portal offers companies a variety of material including online checks, guides, films and information materials from the GDA work programmes. These can be used directly in companies. Special guidelines are available for supervisory staff on how to carry out advisory and monitoring activities. The goal of the new portal is to better reach more companies, those responsible for occupational safety and supervisory staff. Access to all materials is free.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Community of 'kommitmensch' people is growing

Safety and health should always be priorities – in all areas of life. This is something that the cooperation partners of the **kommitmensch** prevention campaign are also convinced of. They too want to inspire people to consider safety and health as key values in their decisions and activities, and to create a culture of prevention. Since the launch of the campaign by the German social accident insurance institutions in October 2017, the following partners have been won over by **kommitmensch**:

- ▶ German Road Safety Council (DVR)
- ▶ Association for Safety, Health and the Environment at Work (VDSI)
- ▶ Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG)



Photo: Jan-Peter Schulz / DGUV

Dr Susanne Woelk, Managing Director of Das Sichere Haus ('Home Safety initiative') and Gregor Doepke, DGUV's Head of Communication seal the **kommitmensch** partnership.

- ▶ The SME Initiative – Good for Germany
- ▶ Media Centre for the Promotion of OSH (www.arbeitschutzfilm.de, German only)
- ▶ Aktion DAS SICHERE HAUS ('Home Safety initiative', DSH)

Web: www.kommitmensch.de (German only)

Business Inclusion Prize

In 2019, the Inklusionspreis für die Wirtschaft ('Business Inclusion Prize') will be awarded for the seventh time. The prize honours exceptionally good examples from companies of inclusion for people with disabilities. Applications can now be submitted by businesses of all sizes.

Web: www.inklusionspreis.de (German only)

IMPORTANT DATES

26-27 September
13th OSH Forum
BERLIN
www.gda-portal.de

4 October 2018
Working Time in Germany
DORTMUND
www.baua.de

8-12 October 2018
Experience Work of the Future
BERLIN
www.wissenschaftsjahr.de

23-25 October 2018
Arbeitsschutz Aktuell
STUTTGART
www.arbeitsschutz-aktuell.de

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

8,352,144

... students at general education schools were protected by statutory accident insurance in 2017.

LEGAL INFORMATION

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