

# Part 1:

## SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS FOR SELF-EMPLOYED ARTISTS IN AUSTRIA, GERMANY AND SLOVENIA

Esther Baio

Information provided by:



# Names:



KSVF –

Künstlersozialversicherungsfond

*Artists social insurance fund*



KSK – Künstlersozialkasse

*Social Security Insurance Scheme  
for Artists and Writers*



Samozaposleni v kulturi s  
pravico do plačila prispevkov za  
socialno varnost iz državnega  
proračuna

*Self-employed in culture with the right to  
have their social insurance covered from  
the state budget*

# Definition:

National systems that fully or partly cover compulsory social insurance costs of artists who generate their income through self-employed artistic work in different genres of the arts. (SI: also cultural workers)

# Comparison:



<b>Insurance cover:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health insurance</li> <li>- Statutory Pension insurance</li> <li>- Statutory long-term nursing care insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health insurance</li> <li>- Accident insurance</li> <li>- Pension insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invalidity and pension insurance</li> <li>- Health insurance</li> <li>- Parental care insurance</li> <li>- Employment insurance</li> </ul>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Self-employed artists and writers</b> <small>(music, performing arts, visual arts, design)</small>	<b>Self-employed artists</b> <small>(fine arts, performing arts, music, literature, film)</small>	<b>Artists and cultural workers</b>
<b>System:</b>	<b>KSK pays 50% of social insurance costs directly to social insurance companies</b>	<b>KSVF pays up to a maximum amount directly to insurance companies</b>	<b>Ministry of culture pays minimum basis insurance contributions of self-employed in culture</b>
<b>Calculation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insurance premiums are based on artists' income (36.6% child free)</li> <li>- KSK pays 50%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insurance premiums are based on artists' annual income (about 28%)</li> <li>- KSVF covers maximum € 158 / month (1,896 € / year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reference: 60% of the last known average national income</li> <li>- € 425.43 / Month <i>(October 2021)</i></li> </ul>

# Comparison:



<p><b>Requirements:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- main source of income from prof. self-employed artistic occupation</li> <li>- min. threshold € 3,900/yr</li> <li>- Not more than 1 member of staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professional, self-employed artist creating artwork</li> <li>- min. threshold 2022: € 5,830.20/yr</li> <li>- max. threshold 2022: € 31,580.25</li> </ul>	<p>Step 1: artists must register to receive status of a self-employed in culture</p> <p>Step 2: application to ministry of culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Excellence of work as a contrib. to field of arts and culture</li> <li>- reapply every 5 years</li> <li>- Must not exceed Income census: appr. € 60,000 in three years</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- levy paid by companies that utilise artistic and journalistic/written works (e.g. galleries, music schools, theatres, radio stations, advertising agencies, publishing houses)</li> <li>- in 2022 the levy is 4.2%</li> <li>- federal government grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- funded by levies/charges for devices used for reception of broadcasting via satellite or cable network</li> <li>- (Federal government contributions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funds come from the yearly budget of the Ministry of Culture</li> <li>- The amount of money is adjusted in the yearly budget of the ministry according to the number of self-employed in culture with the right to have their social insurance covered by the state.</li> </ul>

# Timeline:



1975

January 13th  
„artist report“

1981

July 27th  
Artist Social  
Security Act (KSVG)

1983

KSK established



1998

Social Security  
Amendment Act

End of law  
exemption for  
artists

2000

Artist Social  
Security Act  
(K-SVG)

2001

KSVF deployed



Republic of Slovenia

1982

Act of Independent  
Cultural Workers  
(ZSKD) Yugoslavia

1991

Law on the  
realisation of the  
public interest in  
the field of culture  
(ZUJIK)

1994

2002

Change in definition  
of ZUJIK: specific  
register by the  
Ministry of Culture

# Numbers:



<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	200,000 artists and writers (2022)	2020: 5,410 artists since 2008	2022: approx. 2,180 artists
<b>Budget:</b>	2019: € 1,147.6 Mil.	In 2020, income from levies under the Arts Subsidies Act 1981 totaled € 15.56 million	2021: € 10,108,888

# Critiques:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sick leave benefits after 6 weeks (42 days)</li><li>- Artists pay percentage share for doctors visits (20%)</li><li>- No unemployment benefits</li><li>- Low pensions</li><li>- definition of artists is narrow</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sick leave benefits after 6 weeks (42 days)</li><li>- No unemployment benefits</li><li>- Low pensions (especially women with children)</li><li>- No inclusion of non-artistic professions within the field</li><li>- allowed additional income from non-artistic work too low</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sick leave benefits after 20 days</li><li>- No cover for work-based injuries</li><li>- minimal insurance coverage brings pension below poverty threshold: € 450 / month</li><li>- current political climate: efforts to reduce the number of beneficiaries</li></ul>
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# Honorary Mentions:

freie theater

**IG NETZ**

## Part 2:

# “INTERMITTENCY”- MODELS FOR ARTISTS IN ITALY, PORTUGAL, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND

Esther Baio

Information provided by:



# Names:



Arbeitslosenversicherung

*Unemployment insurance*



SET - sostegno economico  
temporaneo

*temporary financial support*



Subsídio de suspensão da atividade  
cultural

*Subsidy for suspension of the cultural activity*



Scenkonstalliansernas

*performing arts alliances*

Teateralliansen, Dansalliansen, Musikalliansen

# Definition:

National systems that offer financial benefits to artists in times of work intermittencies.

# Comparison:



<b>System:</b>	Integrated into the national unemployment benefit system	Integrated into the national unemployment benefit system	Separate fund	State funded organisations that employ performing artists “between” contracts - artists are “on leave” for the duration of a project
<b>Status:</b>	since 2003	postponed to 2023	Comes into effect October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022	1999 Teateralliansen 2006 Dansalliansen 2008 Musikalliansen
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Professions in which frequent changes of employer and temporary employment are common = freelancers	employed artists	self-employed artists	Employed: Actors (Teateralliansen) Dancers (Dansalliansen) Musicians (Musikalliansen)

# Comparison:



<p><b>Requirements</b></p>	<p>General rule for unemployment benefits:          12 Months of employment in 2 years to receive unemployment benefits for two years  <u>regulation for freelancers:</u>          The first two months (in whole or in part) of each contract in the artistic field are count double when calculating the 12 working months required for the entitlement.</p>	<p>Not known</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be registered as a cultural professional</li> <li>- 180 days of contributions are necessary to get benefits</li> <li>- this is a value that is found dividing the professional income for an internal index that results in € 36.93/day = € 6,648</li> <li>- 30 days of no income before any unemployment benefits get paid out</li> </ul>	<p>Only highly experienced freelance actors are employed based on the total time of engagement by publicly owned theatres and independent groups with regular state subsidies.</p>
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# Comparison:



<p><b>Stipulations:</b></p>	<p>Requirements are the same as for other unemployed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monthly updates with supervisors</li> <li>- Proof of active job search</li> <li>- re-apply every two years</li> </ul>	<p>Not known</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural professionals shall maintain their registration as such, valid for at least 36 months</li> <li>- Continuous contributions need to be paid to Social Security. In the months when there is no income, the payment to Social Security is € 20,00/month</li> </ul>	<p>Every actor has a personal time account. When contracted for artistic work they take a leave from the employment at the alliance. To maintain the time account at a steady level the employee needs to work on contracts an average of 8 months per year.</p>
<p><b>Benefits:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- people with children or a previous salary below 3,797 CHF/month: 80% of previous salary</li> <li>- others 70% of previous salary</li> </ul>	<p>Not known</p>	<p>65% of the total income of the last 12 months/360 days</p>	<p>Teateralliansen: salary between the allowance from the unemployment insurance fund and the open market salary</p>

# Critiques:



The general unemployment system is not very well adapted to the unique working conditions of freelance artists.



- The rules that will regulate the coordination between the situations of those professionals who are simultaneously employed and self-employed are not clear.
- The rules applicable to non-resident cultural professionals are also not clear.



Only a very few artists can benefit from an employment at the performing arts alliance. The majority of the freelancers are not part of this intermittency system and need, between contracts, to apply for the common unemployment benefits, which is poorly adapted for freelancers.

- 150-180 actors
- about 80 dancers
- 150-170 musicians