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Here is a brief explanation of changes in the Czech "rodicovsky prispevek" (parental contributions) for the period of 2.3 or 4 years.

Unfortunately, all Czech employment offices or agencies are depriving Czech moms abroad (with a long stay there), who are taking care of their children (even those registered in the Czech Republic), from their right to this parental benefit. The reason these agencies give for this, is not entirely correct.

I've already written many letters to various agencies, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs and the European institutions that deal with breaches of European law. The following was told.

The Czech employment agencies were long ago warned by the European Commission and other Member States that they interpreted the term "residence" too broad. This would lead to abuse of the whole social system. (Czech nationals living abroad receive social contributions in the Czech Republic and also in the country where they actually live).

Therefore the Czech employment programs, under the internal rules of the Ministry of Social Affairs, changed the methodology and interpretation in the sense that the formal registration in the Czech Republic as such, no longer automatically entitles Czech nationals to social security contributions from the Czech Republic. The Czech authorities have changed this interpretation, not because new EU regulations have been established. The coordination rules regarding the applicability of a particular social system were already stated in an earlier Regulation 1408/71 but these rules were, until now, misinterpreted by the Czech Republic, in other words:

Many Czech women, with a long-term stay abroad, but still registered in the Czech Republic, received these parental contributions from the Czech Republic unlawfully.

The rule is that legislation of no more than one Member State applies. By coincidence of rights to family benefits, these benefits are granted under the legislation of a country that has 'priority'.

The order of priority is as follows: first the country where the rights are gained by employment, then the country where the rights are acquired under a pension (old age benefits), and finally the country where the rights of residence are obtained or where the center of interest of the family lies.

So Czech women abroad are not deprived of the right to these parental contributions by the new European legislation, namely Regulation 883/2004 (as stated by many Czech employment offices). But because from May 1st, 2010, with referral to the new regulation, the rules regarding the interpretation of the legal title / the reason under which the family benefits were paid and the method of assessment / evidence have changed.