

On 9 October 1975 an agreement between the Polish People's Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on old-age pensions and on accident insurance was signed in Warsaw. The 1970s was a period of tension, but also of gradual normalisation of relations between Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany. The agreement was part of



Signing of a pension and accident insurance agreement between the Polish People's Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. On 9 October 1975, by the foreign ministers of both countries, Stefan Olszowski and Hans Dietrich Genscher.  
*Polish Press Agency*



After the fall of the Iron Curtain, cooperation between Poland and a reunified Germany gained new momentum. In 1994, the German-Polish Counselling Days were organised for the first time.  
*ZUS collections*



Herbert Rische PhD, President of DRV Bund, in 2014 received the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland from Polish President Bronisław Komorowski.  
*ZUS collections*



Cooperation between the two countries is not just limited to the organisation of Counselling Days, but is also developing in other fields. Signing of a cooperation agreement between ZUS (Zbigniew Derdziuk) and DRV Bund (Axel Reimann).  
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a process of seeking cooperation and recognition of borders and a milestone in relations between the two countries. The agreement comprehensively regulated, inter alia, the issue of pension security for Poles and Germans with qualifying insurance periods completed in a neighbouring country. The provisions of the agreement could be used by people who moved from Poland to Germany or from Germany to Poland and were subject to insurance in one of the two countries at the time. The agreement was based on the so-called 'inclusion principle', according to which the obligation to pay pension and accident benefits is taken over by the state of settlement, taking into account the insurance period completed in the state from which the person has left. Thanks to the agreement, thousands of Poles and Germans could receive pension benefits for years worked in a neighbouring country. From a German perspective, a major objective of the agreement was to enable people of German origin, from Polish territories according to the post-war borders, to return to Germany and to offer them adequate pension security - by the end of 1990, more than 900 thousand such persons had moved to Germany.

## ZUS international cooperation - history of German-Polish cooperation in the field of social insurance



50 years later, the agreement is still in force, providing pension and accident benefits to thousands of Poles and Germans with a Polish-German insurance history. The history of this agreement is that of cooperation, which shows that even in difficult times, agreements are possible with real impact on people's lives.



One of the effects of the 1989/1990 geopolitical breakthrough in Europe, including German reunification, was an increased level of migration from Poland to Germany. Thus, on 8 December 1990, a German-Polish social security agreement was signed, which covered persons leaving Poland for Germany or Germany for Poland after 31 December 1990. The agreement regulated all areas of social security and was based on the principle of the export of benefits. The 1990 agreement expired with Poland's accession to the European Union in May 2004. This is because, from that date, Community Regulations on the coordination of social security schemes became applicable in social security matters. In 2001, the border Counselling Days were inaugurated. They take place once or twice a year in the border towns of Słubice, Frankfurt/Oder, Zgorzelec and Szczecin. Thanks to the joint organisation of counselling days, citizens can obtain professional information on their pensions.  
*ZUS collections*



The 40th anniversary of the signing of the agreement on pension and accident insurance provision was celebrated in Germany and Poland.  
*ZUS and DRV Bund collections*