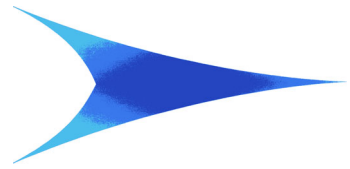


The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



ABOUT THE SCG

The Southern Cross Group is a non-profit organisation founded in Brussels, Belgium, in January 2000 by a group then consisting primarily of Australians and New Zealanders. The Group was formed in response to a growing realisation that there are a number of issues which impact negatively on individuals who are seeking to work effectively within the professions, multinational companies and organisations outside of their country of nationality. The aim and purpose of the Southern Cross Group is to advocate and work towards the removal of legal and practical barriers which presently impede international mobility in the global economy.

The Southern Cross Group initially identified three main issues on which it would focus in its first year:

1. Dual Nationality, in particular under Australian citizenship law;
2. Bilateral Social Security Agreements between Australia and other countries, in particular the lack of such an agreement with Belgium;
3. EU social security legislation and its present non-application to non-EU nationals contributing to the EU Member State social security systems.

During 2000 it has become evident through contacts generated by articles and invitations on the Group's web site that there are many similar barriers to mobility being faced by individuals regardless of their nationality or the country in which they work.

Membership of the Southern Cross Group is thus open to any organisation or company or any individual of any nationality anywhere in the world who shares the Group's basic aim and purpose. In addition to the Brussels group, SCG coordinators have been appointed in Washington, Canberra and the United Kingdom. The Group's focus on dual nationality and bi-lateral social security agreements has been broadened to a global perspective and it is expected that during 2001 other global constraints will be adopted as focus issues.

There are no membership fees at the present time and those who wish to participate in our work as a Member of the Group usually e-mail us via our web site with a request to be placed on our mailing list. Intending new members will shortly be able to complete a membership details form for submission through our improved website. Our e-mail news bulletins are sent automatically to Members. It is hoped that Members will also support the initiatives of the Group on particular issues by using their collective and individual voices to put pressure on decision makers at key times as a result of the information shared in these e-mail news bulletins.

The Group is run on a day-to-day basis by a Management Committee currently comprising twelve individuals who give their time on a voluntary basis. Although most of the individuals on the Management Committee presently live in Belgium, the Management Committee and the wider Southern Cross Group also has members residing in other countries in Europe, Australia, the USA and elsewhere. The Group is supported by a research team of law students from Adelaide in South Australia.

For more information see our website

www.southern-cross-group.org