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**CENTRAL UNIT FOR PARENTAL
PROTECTION AND FAMILY BENEFITS**

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**SUBJECT: DATA EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR
GRANTING FAMILY BENEFITS WITHIN THE COORDINATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY
SYSTEMS**

The primary objective pursued by EU Member States for the purpose of granting and calculating family benefits is the prompt, standardised and structured exchange of information between competent institutions. With a view to achieving the smoothest possible operation and efficient management of the procedures implementing the rules on the coordination of social security systems within a time frame acceptable to citizens in regard of obtaining information about their family benefits, it is necessary to provide for efficient and closer cooperation between the social security institutions, which is vital to ensuring that people's rights within the meaning of Regulation (EC) 883/2004 are exercised promptly and are subject to the most favourable provisions.

In line with the aforementioned and based on the guiding principles that focus on close cooperation between the institutions and the pragmatism and flexibility of the procedure concerned within the framework of the coordination of social security systems, as of 1 January 2018, the exchange of social security information will only be possible between the competent institutions of EU Member States. This departs from current practice allowing EU Member State citizens to directly contact the competent institutions to obtain information about their individual cases. Experience has shown that, contrary to what would benefit all stakeholders, in most cases the involvement of EU Member State citizens in obtaining information about receiving family benefits from competent institutions operating in the social security system only prolonged the procedures and hindered their simplification.

As of 1 January 2018 the Central Unit for Parental Protection and Family Benefits, which is the competent institution of the Republic of Slovenia, will no longer accept E411 Forms for confirmation directly from clients; the Unit will only confirm the Forms received from competent institutions abroad.

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