

The different social statuses in SPAIN

INTRODUCTION

The main social statuses for artists in Spain according to 2016 are three: General, General-Artistas and Autónomo (self-employed).

The General status is the most common for several kinds of jobs and a contract defines the roles and duties of the employer and the employee. From each contract a proportion of the gross income is discounted and goes to social contributions as healthcare, sickness and disability allowance, maternity leave, pension, unemployment, etc. The main difference in this status depending on the kind of job is that for artists the duration uses to be for a period of time according to the duration of a project or a service. So for artists it's rare to have a continuous or an indefinite contract.

The General-Artistas status has the same basis than the General but is used basically for performing arts, mainly actors and dancers in big companies. Their contracts include the period of time for the rehearsals and the number of performances and usually their amounts are calculated per days. Small companies including these disciplines usually are asked to make invoices, this leads us to introduce the third main status which is the self-employed in which most of the artists and creative workers are working in Spain.

The Autónomo status (self-employed) is the most common but also the most unsustainable for most workers. There are no proportional payments between their income and their social contributions. Each month they have to pay a fix price (minimum of 267,04 €) even if their income is low. Since 2013 there are some reductions for the first months of activity. Also most of the political parties include in their programs for the next elections a revision of this fix payment and this could be a chance to set up a proportional price depending on the income.

Due to the difficulty of living as an artist, a lot of them have more than one job and they are working in different statuses at the same time. The ones that have punctual jobs as artists and their employers ask for invoices, can decide to invoice trough cooperatives and then they avoid the regular payment of Autónomos. There is another existing status that we can call "professional worker" and it's used for artists with punctual jobs and not exceeding the interprofessional minimum salary which in 2016 is based in 655,20 € per month (9172,80 € per year in 14 payments). But there exist a big legal vacuum as the Social security doesn't clarify what means exactly a punctual job and a

regular freelance job. What it's clear is that they have to be registered in the Treasury (Hacienda) and declare their incomes, vat and taxes (www.infoautonomos.es).

For more information visit:

www.agenciatributaria.es (personal income tax)

www.seg-social.es (social security)

www.serautonomo.net (only for autónomos)

www.smart-ib.org (cooperative for artists, creative and cultural workers)

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