



Horizon 12

Information Bulletin for Migrants in Geneva

Regularization: finally some good news!

For the past 15 years, CCSI and other organizations have been fighting alongside undocumented migrants for them to be able to come out of the shadows. After years of negotiations with the authorities, CCSI and other associations (all members of the Collectif de soutien aux sans-papiers) are very pleased to announce the good news: thanks to a pilot project – **Operation Papyrus** – many undocumented workers and their can regain hope and obtain a permit.

The conditions to request a permit within Operation Papyrus are quite strict and many documents are needed. CCSI can help you with the procedure and inform you about the details. Ask for help at the reception desk or in the consultations, or go directly to one of the specific consultations that have been set up for this operation (addresses and times are available at reception or on our website: www.ccsi.ch).

Operation Papyrus would never have succeeded without the courage of the undocumented migrants who got together to defend their rights. It is thanks to their determination that we were able to hold these negotiations with the authorities and ultimately, agree on Operation Papyrus. CCSI now continues to fight for a more human migration policy for all migrants.

Primary school: registration

All children living in Geneva, regardless of their legal status, have the right and the obligation to go to school. Children born before 01.08.2013 start school on August 28th 2017.

To be accepted at school, your child must have health insurance. CCSI is in charge of affiliation for children without a residence permit. Make an appointment, and come with the official identification for the child and his/her legal guardian, as well as your address. Your child will be able to start school as soon as you have come to CCSI.

Parascolaire

Official days for 2017 registration to *parascolaire* (extra-curricular activities) are **May 13th and 17th**. **DO NOT MISS THEM!** Addresses and times for registration can be found at www.giap.ch

Depending on your income, you could benefit from free parascolaire activities, regardless of where you live in Geneva. Leave the green form filled in and signed at the reception at CCSI.

School meals for children

If you live in the city of Geneva and your income is within the range, CCSI can request free school meals for your child. Please come with a copy of the health insurance subsidy and valid passports. For residents of other cities, please ask CCSI if financial aid is available.

Daycare

It is very difficult to find a place in daycare for pre-school children in Geneva. CCSI can help you increase your chances, but cannot guarantee a place. If you live in Geneva city, go to the Bureau d'Information de la Petite Enfance (BIPE, rue du Cendrier 8). If you live in another area in the canton of Geneva, you must go to the Secteur de la Petite Enfance of your commune – if there is one. If not, pre-register your child in the daycare center(s) closest to your home or workplace. To do so, you must present your child's insurance certificate.

CCSI can write a letter of recommendation to support your request. For this, you will need to make an appointment between **January and end of March 2017** with the Consultation *Petite enfance, santé et genre* at CCSI, so that your child can start daycare as of August. Please note that there is no guarantee that your child will have a place in daycare. The cost of monthly payments depends on your income. For full-time daycare, for the lowest income, the cost is approx. CHF 250 per month. There are currently no financial aids for those costs.

Health insurance: caution!

If a person calls you on the telephone or comes to your door saying you must change insurance or take on a new contract, **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING!** Contact CCSI for all matters regarding your health insurance.

Health insurance subsidy

You must ask for the subsidy (financial aid from the State for health insurance) for your child's health insurance each year. If you haven't done so yet, please make an appointment with CCSI as soon as possible and bring the 2017 insurance policy with you. This year, there are **new documents to provide**:

- a) If you have family benefits (allocations familiales), you need to bring a statement of the sums you received in 2016.
- b) If you (as an adult) have health insurance, please bring your 2016 insurance policy/ies.
- c) Please bring your bus passes.

As soon as you receive the subsidy, please bring a copy of the certificate to our reception with your name and phone number.

The subsidy is a right depending on your income. **Requesting it will not affect other proceedings, such as the request for a residency permit.** Only children residing in the canton of Geneva have the right to the health insurance subsidy. CCSI cannot request the subsidy for children living in neighboring France.

The subsidy covers your child's premium up to 100.- maximum. Every month, you will have to pay whatever exceeds 100.-. If you have supplemental health insurance, you will have to pay for it entirely; it is never covered by the subsidy.

In some cases, it is possible to pay a lower monthly premium. If you already have a pediatrician, you can give his/her name to the insurance or make an appointment at CCSI. She will help you to request a lower premium.

It often takes time for the insurance company to register your subsidy. In the meantime, it is best to pay the first bills yourself (they will be reimbursed later), or to call the insurance company to try and block the bills.

Points info-service

If you need help to understand an official letter, to fill in a form, to request benefits (health insurance subsidy, for example), or just wish to book a venue for a party or find out what is on offer in your neighborhood, you can go to one of the four Points info-service offered by the City of Geneva (if you are undocumented, ask CCSI). You can go to one of these addresses without an appointment:

- **Plainpalais**, rue Dancet 22
Monday to Friday
8.30 am - 12 pm and 1.30 - 5 pm
- **Servette**, rue Hoffman 8,
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday 9 am-1 pm
- **Pâquis**, rue Gautier 18
Monday and Wednesday 8.30
am - 12.30 pm, Tuesday and
Thursday 1 - 5 pm
- **Eaux-Vives**, rue Montchoisy 50
Tuesday to Friday 9 am - 1 pm

You can also call 0800 44 77 00 (toll free): they might be able to answer your request on the phone or tell you where to go to get help.

Municipal libraries

Municipal libraries offer many services. Borrowing books, access to international press, multimedia technology, but also activities for children, cultural activities, or simply a calm place to study, etc. These services are almost always free, and are accessible to all (with or without a permit).

The program of activities in municipal libraries is available at

reception at CCSI and on the City of Geneva website. Most neighborhoods have a library; find out where the one closest to you is located!

Maisons de quartier

Maisons de quartier are neighborhood centers for residents of the area. They offer all kinds of activities and services: language and cooking courses, activities for children (also during school holidays) or for adults, or projects to make life better in the neighborhood. It is often possible to rent a room or a venue for a party or a meeting.

Maisons de quartier are open to everyone in the neighborhood, without any distinction or discrimination. Activities are often very reasonably priced. A list of Maisons de quartier is available at reception at CCSI, there is probably one near you!

EU Citizens

To benefit from the rights stemming from the free movement of people (for family reunification, e.g.), the authorities must acknowledge that you are a "salaried worker". For that, your job must be considered "real and effective": it must be real work, in exchange for a salary, for a person or a company who is your superior. It is important to note that even if your income is low (but no lower than 900.-), you can still be considered a "salaried worker" by the authorities.

If you lose your worker status because of unemployment or because you are incapacitated (by illness or accident), it does not automatically imply that you no longer have any rights. It is very important to seek information with CCSI or another competent organization to find out how to protect and assert your rights.