Cross-Border Enforcement Center - Germany

| Contents |
| --- |
| To generate table of contents, right-click here and select **Update Field.** |

# Judgments

## With which jurisdictions does this country have reciprocal arrangements for enforcement of judgments?

**Brussels Regulations:**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

**Lugano Convention 2007:**

Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland

**Hague Choice of Court Convention 2005:**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

**Bilateral:**

Israel, Mexico, Montenegro, Singapore, Tunisia

## If there is no reciprocal arrangement, is it still possible to enforce a foreign judgment by means of a writ on the judgment, declaration of enforceability or similar mechanism?

Yes. If German judgments are similarly recognized in the jurisdiction of origin (as is the case e.g. for the USA, Australia, and Japan).

## What is the approximate time required to register and enforce a foreign judgment if unopposed?

Brussels/Lugano regime: 2 - 4 months. No registration is required under the Brussels regime.

Other jurisdictions: 4 - 8 months

## What is the approximate time required to register and enforce a foreign judgment if opposed?

Brussels/Lugano regime: 6 - 12 months. No registration is required under the Brussels regime.

Other jurisdictions: 8 - 18 months

## What is the approximate cost of registering and enforcing a foreign judgment (including court fees and other disbursements) if unopposed?

EUR 240 (approximately USD 280) court fees for recognition, independent of the amount at issue. Attorneys usually charge by the hour.

## What is the approximate cost of registering and enforcing a foreign judgment (including court fees and other disbursements) if opposed?

EUR 240 (approximately USD 280) court fees for recognition, independent of the amount at issue, plus moderate court fees for enforcement. Attorneys usually charge by the hour.

## Are there any unusual difficulties in enforcing a foreign judgment?

There are hardly any unusual difficulties. However, note that the German Federal Supreme Court of Justice has held that judgments for punitive or treble damages violate German public policy.  Due to the limited reasons which render a foreign judgment unenforceable, defendants opposing the recognition and enforcement of a foreign judgment frequently argue that the foreign court was misled by the plaintiff and that recognition and enforcement of the foreign judgment would thus violate the German public policy.

# Arbitration Awards

## Is this jurisdiction a party to the New York Convention?

Yes.

## What is the approximate time required to register and enforce a foreign arbitration award if unopposed?

4 to 8 months.

## What is the approximate time required to register and enforce a foreign arbitration award if opposed?

8 to 18 months.

## What is the approximate cost of registering and enforcing a foreign arbitration award (including court fees and other disbursements) if unopposed?

USD 12,000 in court fees, assuming an amount at issue of USD 1 million. Attorneys usually charge by the hour

## What is the approximate cost of registering and enforcing a foreign arbitration award (including court fees and other disbursements) if opposed?

USD 12,000 in court fees, assuming an amount at issue of USD 1 million. Attorneys usually charge by the hour.

## Are there any unusual difficulties in enforcing a foreign arbitration award?

No.

# Limitation

## Which law governs the limitation period for registering a foreign judgment or arbitration award?

There is no limitation period for such registration, as statutory limitation is a matter of substantive law in Germany. The substantive law governing the limitation period for the claim(s) (that are the subject matter of the judgment or award) is determined through ordinary conflicts of laws principles.

## If the limitation period for registering a foreign judgment is governed by the law of the place of enforcement, what is that limitation period in your jurisdiction?

There is no limitation period for such registration. The limitation period for claims confirmed by judgment or arbitral award is 30 years.

## If the limitation period for registering a foreign arbitration award is governed by the law of the place of enforcement, what is that limitation period in your jurisdiction?

There is no limitation period for such registration. The limitation period for claims confirmed by judgment or arbitral award is 30 years.

# Enforcement

## Are fees and costs of enforcement typically recoverable?

Yes.

## Is seizure of goods available as an enforcement method?

Yes.

## Is attachment of earnings available as an enforcement method?

Yes.

## Is attachment of third party debts available as an enforcement method?

Yes.

## Are charging orders or orders for sale of land, goods etc available as an enforcement method?

Yes.

## Can a judgment or award be enforced by way of insolvency proceedings?

No, but enforcement may trigger the debtor's insolvency. The creditor must then cease individual enforcement and file the claim in the insolvency proceedings.

## Can a receiver be appointed by way of enforcement?

No.

## Any other method of enforcement?

No.

# Contacts

## Who can be contacted to enforce a judgment or arbitration award in this jurisdiction?

Dr. Günter Pickrahn; Dr. Heiko Alexander Haller.

## What papers will be needed?

Foreign judgment/arbitral award, contractual documents in the case (in particular to review the jurisdiction of the foreign court).

# Rating

## Overall, is enforcement of foreign judgments in this jurisdiction easy, moderate or difficult?

Easy to moderate, depending on the facts of the case.

## Overall, is enforcement of foreign arbitration awards in this jurisdiction easy, moderate or difficult?

Easy to moderate, depending on the facts of the case.

# Reciprocal Enforcement Maps

## Reciprocal Enforcement Maps

EMEA

Click the link below to access the reciprocal maps for Germany.

[Reciprocal Enforcement Map](https://resourcehub.bakermckenzie.com/en/-/media/cross-border-enforcement-center/files/emea/germany.pdf?sc_lang=en)

©Copyright © 2025 Baker & McKenzie. All rights reserved. **Ownership**: This documentation and content (Content) is a proprietary resource owned exclusively by Baker McKenzie (meaning Baker & McKenzie International and its member firms). The Content is protected under international copyright conventions. Use of this Content does not of itself create a contractual relationship, nor any attorney/client relationship, between Baker McKenzie and any person. **Non-reliance and exclusion**: All Content is for informational purposes only and may not reflect the most current legal and regulatory developments. All summaries of the laws, regulations and practice are subject to change. The Content is not offered as legal or professional advice for any specific matter. It is not intended to be a substitute for reference to (and compliance with) the detailed provisions of applicable laws, rules, regulations or forms. Legal advice should always be sought before taking any action or refraining from taking any action based on any Content. Baker McKenzie and the editors and the contributing authors do not guarantee the accuracy of the Content and expressly disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of the consequences of anything done or permitted to be done or omitted to be done wholly or partly in reliance upon the whole or any part of the Content. The Content may contain links to external websites and external websites may link to the Content. Baker McKenzie is not responsible for the content or operation of any such external sites and disclaims all liability, howsoever occurring, in respect of the content or operation of any such external websites. **Attorney Advertising**: This Content may qualify as “Attorney Advertising” requiring notice in some jurisdictions. To the extent that this Content may qualify as Attorney Advertising, PRIOR RESULTS DO NOT GUARANTEE A SIMILAR OUTCOME. **Reproduction**: Reproduction or copying of the Content on this Site without express written authorization is strictly prohibited.