



Ad-Hoc Query on request on integration agreement and language examination for foreign citizens in the Member States

Requested by IT EMN NCP on [11th November 2009]

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom – list of EMN NCPs who have responded, including requesting EMN NCP (16 in Total)

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1. Background Information


Following a recent legislative reform on immigration, the Ministry of Interior is drawing an implementing regulation ruling the Integration Agreement which third country nationals, jointly to the Member State, will have to sign when entering Italy. The agreement asks third country nationals for pledging to reach specific integration objectives within their residence period in the country.

With regard to this, we would like to receive a descriptive documentation on the provisions ruling the Integration Agreement in force in the Member States of the European Union.

Furthermore, in order to issue the residence permit for long-term residents, the new regulations call for the residence permit applicants to pass an Italian language examination, whose features are currently being defined.

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2. Responses¹

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| | | Wider Dissemination? ² | <p>We would like to ask for the provisions regarding the language examinations, where required in the other Member States, indicating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which stage of the residence period should foreign citizens undergo the examination? • Which are the features of the examination? Is it written or oral? • What is the entity entitled to provide the examination? • How are the costs covered? • Which level of language proficiency is required within the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages”? • What are the consequences of passing or failing the examination? • Is it possible to repeat the examination or to resort to the law in the event of failing |
|  | Belgium | YES | <p>There are no provisions regarding language examinations for third-country nationals entering the national territory. However, integration arrangements are currently being discussed for third-country nationals who are entitled to a residence permit in the framework of family reunification (integration condition in the sense of the directive 2003/86). The current federal government recently agreed on introducing an integration duty for third-country nationals who settle in Belgium in the framework of family reunification. The Secretary of State for Migration and Asylum Policy is currently drafting a proposal of cooperation agreement with the three language communities in Belgium (the Flemish Community, the French-speaking Community and the German-speaking Community) in order to introduce such integration condition in the federal legislation (cf. <i>Chambre, Commission de l'intérieur, 20.10.2009, 4ème session de la 52ème législature, réponse à la question de Mme Martine De Maght</i>). The proposal will be submitted to the Ministers' Council before being sent to the federal Parliament for approval.</p> <p>In addition, third-country nationals who have been residing in a Flemish municipality (municipalities located in the Flemish Region) for less than one year are obliged to take the so-called 'civic integration programme' (<i>inburgeringstraject</i>). Other categories of migrants (EU citizens for instance) can take part in the integration programme on a voluntary basis. An intensive Dutch language course is provided free of charge for those who take part to the civic integration programme, be it on a voluntary or mandatory basis. The level of language proficiency targeted in the language classes is the level A1 of the CEFRL. 90h, 120h, 180h or 240h are offered to the newcomers according to their needs. Before starting the language course, the linguistic abilities of the students are tested by a specialised institution: the <i>Huis van het Nederlands</i>. In function of the test results, newcomers attend a course given by 1) a Centre for Basic Education / <i>Centra voor basiseducatie</i> (adult education, up to the level of secondary education), 2) a Centre for Adult Education / <i>Centra voor volwassenenonderwijs</i> or 3) University Centres for language learning. The <i>Huis van het Nederlands</i> is the entity mandated by the Flemish authorities to provide officially recognised certificates of language proficiency. The migrants who take part in the integration programme</p> |

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A clear "YES", your response may be circulated further (i.e. to national network members) or "NO" should be added here.

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| | | | receive at the end of the programme an 'integration attestation' if they attend at least 80% of the classes (in other words, the certificate is not performance-bound). The Flemish Minister of integration has announced that the Flemish authorities will introduce an additional certificate, delivered only to those who pass a language test and a test on the host society, at the end of the language classes and of the so-called 'social orientation classes' (course on the host society). However, failing these tests will have no consequences on the residence permits of the concerned migrants. |
|  | Bulgaria | YES | |
|  | Czech Republic | YES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A foreign national can apply for permanent residence after 5 years of residence in the territory of the Czech Republic. On the date of the submission of application, the certificate of the examination must not be older than 180 days. • The examination is both written and oral. • The examinations are provided by language schools that are authorized to carry out state language examinations. Their list is approved by government resolution and made public. • The fee is covered by the state on the basis of a voucher, which is issued by the Ministry of the Interior to all foreigners applying for permanent residence. • A1 level is required. • Certificate of the examination is one of the preconditions of granting of permanent residence. There are exceptions from this rule in case of foreign nationals who have not yet reached 15 years or have reached age of 60 years, respectively; who can prove that during 20 years preceding the application were at least for one year a pupil of a basic or secondary school with the instruction in the Czech language; whose ability to communicate is affected by physical or mental disability; foreign nationals in whose cases the precondition of 5 years of residence in the territory is not required (e.g. husband/spouse or dependent child of a recognized refugee, former Czech citizen, dependent child in case of family reunification). • It is possible to repeat the examination (the number of subsequent examinations not limited), however, the costs must be covered by the applicant himself/herself. <p>Further details on the examinations can be found at http://check-your-czech.com/index.php?hl=en_US</p> |
|  | Denmark | YES | |
|  | Germany | YES | <p>1. The Instrument of "Integration Agreements"</p> <p>On 27.09.2009, elections for the <i>Bundestag</i> were held in the Federal Republic of Germany. The winning parties Christian Democrat/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) formed a coalition with the Liberal Democrats (FDP) and presented their coalition agreement entitled "Growth, Education, Cohesion" on 26.10.2009. On page 76, the agreement announces the introduction of „integration agreements“: "In order to strengthen the binding force of promoting individual integration, we will establish the instrument of an</p> |

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| | | <p>‘integration agreement’ designed both for newly arrived third-country nationals and for migrants who have been living here for some time. In particular, the existing offers of integration measures should be made known as soon as possible to those persons who want to join their spouses in Germany and who have already acquired some knowledge of the German language in their country of origin. The integration agreements serve to arrange and continuously verify the measures necessary for a successful integration into the German society and labour market. Special attention is given to information and counselling about offers provided by both the state and civil institutions, including models of individual support, e.g. individual “integration guides”.</p> <p>Presently, the actual implementation is discussed on the political level, covering in particular questions of competence, concrete application and the concept of the “integration agreement”.</p> <p>2. Examination Procedure in the Integration Course</p> <p>The final test will take place after 645 (945) integration tuition units. At this point in time, the participant’s residence status is generally the same as it was at the beginning of the integration course. In order to participate in an integration course, the person must hold a residence title designed for permanent sojourn. The residence status of the participants can vary considerably: while some of them have been living in Germany for many years, others have arrived in Germany only after 01.01.2005.</p> <p>The final test consists of a language test newly introduced on 01.07.09, entitled „Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer“ (DTZ, <i>German Language Test for Immigrants</i>) and of a test introduced on 01.01.09 concerning the “orientation course”.</p> <p>The language test DTZ consists of an oral and a written examination. The successful candidate will receive a certificate stating his or her competence level “B1” or “A2” of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages CEFR. Pursuant to the Ordinance on Integration, the integration courses aim at the achievement of the competence level “B1” of the CEFR. For an overall level “B1” performance, candidates must reach this level in the subtest “speaking” and in one of the two subtests “listening and reading” or “writing”. The development of the new language test DTZ, carried out by the <i>Goethe-Institut</i> in co-operation with the <i>telc GmbH</i> from 2006 until the spring of 2009, was commissioned by the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The test is based on the contents of the frame curriculum for integration courses established by the <i>Goethe Institut</i>. This scaled language test allows a consistent verification of the candidates’ actual performance at the end of the language course covering the CEFR competence levels “A2” to “B1”. Format and contents are specifically adapted to the target group of immigrants. Further information and model tests are available on the Integration Portal of the Federal Office for Migration and Integration. The language test is carried out by both public and private institutions approved by the Federal Office for Migration and Integration. Evaluation is carried out by an external service. The results are communicated to the Federal Office which then issues the certificates to the participants.</p> <p>The test questionnaire of the orientation course contains 25 multiple choice items with four alternatives for answers each. Only one answer is correct. For this test, which is uniformly applied nation-wide, a pool totalling 250 multiple choice items was scientifically developed and tested by the <i>Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung im Bildungswesen</i> of the <i>Humboldt University</i> in Berlin. The pool covers topics such as religious diversity, equality of man and woman, education, attitude towards persons coming from different cultural backgrounds, school and family issues. Hence, the knowledge acquired in the orientation course is tested in a standardized procedure with comparable results. For preparation to the test, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees offers a sample questionnaire plus the whole catalogue of test questions for download or interactive access on www.integration-in-deutschland.de, also showing the correct answers. The final test of the orientation course can also be taken at the institutions in charge of providing the courses. The IT supported evaluation</p> |
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EMN Ad-Hoc Query: Integration Agreement




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| | | | <p>is carried out by the Federal Office itself.</p> <p>Both parts of the final tests can be taken without charges or fees. Participants who do not achieve level “B1” in the DTZ test may repeat 300 language tuition units and can take the final examination a second time free of charge provided that they have regularly attended the integration course. Participants who have not attained level “B1” in the second examination will be issued a certificate stating the test outcome. Besides, participants may repeat both final tests for an indefinite number of times at their own cost.</p> <p>Successful candidates of both the language and the orientation tests receive the “<i>Zertifikat Integrationskurs</i>”. All persons who pass the test may have their residence permit extended or receive a settlement permit. In the case of participants obliged to attend an integration course and receiving benefits according to Book V or XII of the German Social Security Code, the benefits can be cut back if they do not attend the course on a regular basis. The successful completion of the final tests may be helpful for persons seeking employment.</p> |
|  | Estonia | YES | <p>Estonia does not conclude an integration agreement with third country nationals when entering the country or staying in the country.</p> <p>In order to receive the long-term residence permit third country nationals have to pass an Estonian language examination at B-1 level as one of the requirements. The examination consists of 4 parts: 3 of which are written (reading, listening and writing) and one is oral (conversation). The examinations are carried out by the National Examination and Qualifications Centre . The Estonian language learning costs are covered up to 6000 EEK per person from the European Social Fund through the “Language Studies Development 2007-2010” programme.</p> |
|  | Ireland | YES | |
|  | Greece | YES | <p>There are two cases that TCNs need to prove the knowledge of Greek Language; in order to be granted the long term resident status or to acquire the Greek citizenship. The sufficient knowledge of Greek language, history and culture for the acquisition of citizenship is proven by an interview of the interested party. However, if TCNs want to be granted the status of long term resident they must take written examination. Specifically (16928/2007 Joint Ministerial Decision):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TCNs who are interested in participating in the examinations required for the status of long term resident must be at least 16 years old and reside legally in Greece. The examinations are held twice a year (in February and in October). Interested parties in order to participate in the examination must also attend a course of at least 150 hours of Greek language courses and 25 hours of Greek history and culture courses. The courses are also held twice a year. - The examination includes 5 parts and it is held in two phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st phase 1st part: comprehension of written speech (reading) 2nd part: comprehension of oral speech (listening) 3rd part: production of written speech (writing) 4th part: knowledge of Greek history and culture by answering questions of multiple choices. 2nd phase Oral examination. - Responsible for the organization of the courses is the Institute for Continuing Adult Education of the General Secretariat For |





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| | | | <p>Life Long Learning, while the examinations are carried out by the Secretariat General of For Life Learning. Both authorities are supervised by the Ministry of Education, For Long Life Learning and Religious Affairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cost of the exams procedure is cover by the State budget - The level of language proficiency which is provided by the certificate is A2. <p>The Certificate of Greek language, history and culture knowledge is being granted after the success of the participant in all examination parts. If they pass, then they can apply for the long term residence status. If they fail they can participate in following exams as many times as they want. Candidates do not pay a fee for their participation.</p> |
|  | Spain | YES | It is not required a language examination in order to obtain a long-term residence permit. |
|  | France | YES | <p>Foreign citizens who wish to stay in France must sign the “Reception and Integration Contract” (“Contrat d’Accueil et d’Intégration”) that includes a language training and a civic training (which aim is to learn about the French republican values, its institutions, etc.) First, foreigners must undertake an examination in French. If they pass it, they receive a certificate that exempts them from following the linguistic training and states that they have the sufficient level to obtain a resident card. If their level in French is not sufficient, they are compelled to follow the linguistic training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the entity entitled to provide the examination? The OFII (French Office for Immigration and Integration) is entitled to provide the examination. This organization is mandated for the reception of foreign persons holding for the first time a document authorizing them to reside in France, and for the registration on a course of integration. The OFII is also the entity responsible for signing the “Reception and Integration Contract”. • At which stage of the residence period should foreign citizens undergo the examination? During the first interview between the foreigner and a member of the OFII, the foreigner is given information about the contract in a language he/she can understand. Then, the foreign citizen is compelled to undertake an examination that will assess his/her level in French. • Which are the features of the examination? Is it written or oral? The examination is written and oral. This test assesses the capacities of expression and understanding of the foreigner concerning every day life. The foreign citizen must obtain the grade of 50 out of 100 for the written test. He/she must get a minimum grade of 35 out of 70 for the oral part. • How are the costs covered? All the trainings and services are organized and financed by the OFII. They are delivered for free. The agency must guarantee the registration of the foreign citizens for trainings and make sure they regularly come to class. • Which level of language proficiency is required within the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages”? At the end of the language training, foreigners are entitled to undertake the DILF (Initial Diploma in French Language). The DILF is an official qualification awarded by the French Ministry of Education that recognises a basic level of proficiency in French (level A1.1 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). It assesses the communicative and |


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| | | | <p>linguistic content described in the Référentiel pour les Premiers Acquis en Français, or the framework of reference for basic knowledge of French.</p> <p>The DILF assesses the 4 language skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the consequences of passing or failing the examination? <p>If the candidate passes the DILF examination, he/she will have the sufficient level in French to obtain a resident card.</p> <p>The “Reception and Integration Contract” states that in case the applicant fails his diploma or does not attend courses, it will be mentioned in his file and it will be more difficult for him to renew its residence permit or to be granted a residence card. But in the facts, it does not happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it possible to repeat the examination or to resort to the law in the event of failing <p>The OFII only pays once for the presentation of the foreigner to the DILF.</p> <p>If the candidate fails to the examination, he can repeat it but he will have to pay the fees.</p> |
|  | Italy | YES | |
|  | Cyprus | YES | |
|  | Latvia | YES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At which stage of the residence period should foreign citizens undergo the examination? <p>Alien has to undergo the examination <u>before</u> submitting an application to get a permanent residence permit. In general alien has the rights to get the permanent residence permit after his legal and uninterrupted stay in 5 years term before the day the application submitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which are the features of the examination? Is it written or oral? <p>In Latvia the examination has two parts – written and oral. If alien refuses to take an examination for one of the examinations parts, his language ability was not assessed. In the legislation is determined the relief to persons who has health-related restrictions on the functioning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the entity entitled to provide the examination? <p>The entity who is responsible for the examination is the Center of the Public Educational Content of the Ministry of Education and Science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the costs covered? <p>The alien before the examination has to pay a state fee ~7,-EUR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which level of language proficiency is required within the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages”? <p>At least A2 level of language proficiency is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the consequences of passing or failing the examination? <p>The alien who passed or failed the examination has the rights to stay in Latvia with the temporary residence permit issued for four year term.</p> |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it possible to repeat the examination or to resort to the law in the event of failing? <p>The alien has the rights to repeat the examination three months after the last examination took place.</p> |
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|  | Lithuania | YES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The foreign citizens who have lived in Lithuania with temporary residence permit for more than 5 year can apply for permanent residence permit but have to undergo the examination of language and basics of the Constitution prior to lodging the application. Disabled persons and persons older than 75 years are released from this obligation. - The language examination has two parts: written (a test) and oral (a conversation). If, for objective reasons, a person cannot make a written examination, she or he can have only an oral examination. - Every municipality (director of the administration of the municipality) appoints a basic school for a 2 years period which hosts the Qualification commission of the state language. The entity which can be appointed to be the basic school is a centre of adults' training, or an adults' school, or a general school which has classes for adults. The Qualification commissions of the state language are the entities which hold examinations and issue certificates of the knowledge of the state language. - For the language examinations of the first grade, foreigners must pay an amount of 0,3 of the minimum subsistence level (MSL) (currently (2009) MSL is 130 litas or 38 euro), elderly people – an amount of 0,3 of the MSL, disabled persons – an amount of 0,1 MSL. These amounts are established by the order of the Minister of Education and Science. - The examination is prepared according to the European Test Association (ALTE). First category exam is sufficient (level A2). - Having passed the language examination, the person can proceed to the examination of the basics of the Constitution. Having passed both examinations, the person can apply for a permanent residence permit. If the person fails to pass the language examination, she or he can repeat it again. There are no limitations as to the number of attempts to pass the examination. The examination fee is not refunded in case of the failure. <p>It is possible to repeat the examination. If the person is not content with the negative results of the examination, she or he can lodge a complaint to the Minister of Science and Education within 5 working days from the day of examination. If the person is not content with the answer of the Minister of science and education, she or he can address courts.</p> |
|  | Luxembourg | YES | |
|  | Hungary | YES | <p>According to the Hungarian legislation, Hungarian language knowledge is not a prerequisite for obtaining any kind of residence or settlement permit.</p> <p>Only when applying for citizenship, a citizenship test should be passed in Hungarian language. For this purpose Hungarian language trainings are only ensured on the basis of projects.</p> |
|  | Malta | YES | |

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|  | Netherlands | YES | <p>A) As of 15 March 2006, a number of foreign nationals who wish to come to the Netherlands for a longer period and require a provisional residence permit must now take the civic integration examination abroad. This examination tests candidates' basic knowledge of the Dutch language and of Dutch society. This takes place before the foreign national comes to the Netherlands.</p> <p>The civic integration examination abroad is an examination that must be taken in the country of residence and therefore before the foreign national comes to the Netherlands. The civic integration examination abroad is an oral examination that is taken in Dutch. The examination tests candidates' basic knowledge of the Dutch language and Dutch society. The examination is taken at a Dutch Embassy or Consulate General abroad.</p> <p>you are exempted from taking the civil integration test if you have the American, Australian, Canadian, Japanese, New Zealand or South Korean nationality</p> <p>Any person aged between 18 and 65 years who wishes to reside in the Netherlands for a longer period and who is required to apply for a provisional residence permit must take a civic integration examination abroad. This applies in the case of a marriage or relationship, but also to children aged 18 years or over. Individuals with a spiritual profession, such as imams or members of the clergy, who are coming to work in the Netherlands must take the civic integration examination abroad. A number of groups of people are exempt from the obligation to take the civic integration examination abroad. It may be that a foreign national is unable to take the civic integration examination abroad because he or she has a severe physical or psychological problem. In this case he or she may request an exemption</p> <p>The following groups of people are exempt from taking the civic integration examination abroad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - persons under 18 years old; - citizens of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland, the United States |
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| | | | <p>of America, Vatican City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Surinamese nationals who have at least attended primary education in Dutch in Surinam or the Netherlands and are able to prove this by means of written evidence (declaration, certificate) issued or legalised by the Surinamese Ministry of Education and Community Development [Ministerie van Onderwijs en Volksontwikkeling]- individuals who come to the Netherlands for a temporary purpose, for instance in order to study, to work as an au pair, as part of an exchange or for the purpose of medical treatment- individuals who have the status of ‘third country nationals resident on a long-term basis’, provided that they have met the conditions in respect of integration that apply in the Member State that granted them said status- individuals with a work permit, persons who are self-employed and highly skilled migrants, and the family members of these three groups- family members of an asylum seeker who holds an asylum residence permit. <p>These people are however usually required to follow the civic integration programme in the Netherlands. In the event that, in accordance with the Civic Integration Act, these individuals are not required to follow this programme, they will also not be required to take the civic integration examination abroad. Examples of this are if an individual is in possession of certain diplomas or if a person resided in the Netherlands for a period of eight years or more whilst still of compulsory school age.</p> <p>The fees for the civic integration examination abroad (€350) are paid into the central bank account of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. The following payment procedure applies in this respect:</p> |
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- In most cases, the candidate who wishes to take the civic integration examination abroad has a sponsor in the Netherlands. Responsibility for payment therefore lies with the sponsor, in principle
- The sponsor in the Netherlands completes the application form on the Immigration and Naturalization's website (www.ind.nl). This form is forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- A message is automatically sent to the sponsor's e-mail address stating the payment details and a unique reference number
- The sponsor transfers the examination fee to the account of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by bank transfer. Please note: it is important that the reference number and the name of the candidate are stated!
- Once the payment has been received, a confirmation of receipt will be sent to the sponsor's e-mail address stating that the candidate may contact the Dutch representation in order to make an appointment.







In case of failing the examination, the examination has to be repeated.

B) If one wishes to acquire Dutch citizenship by means of naturalisation, he must demonstrate that he has integrated sufficiently. This means that he should speak, read, write, and understand Dutch reasonably well. He must be able to manage in Dutch society.



To be considered for naturalisation, one must pass the civic integration examination at A2 level. This means that one can make oneself understood in Dutch and that others understand what one tells them or what one has written. So, one does not have to speak or write Dutch without making any mistakes. One must, for example, be able to have a short chat with the neighbour about the weather, pay in the super market, buy a train ticket, or write a short letter to the insurance company. The news or the radio must be understood. A Civic Integration Certificate is rewarded after passing the exam. With this certificate, one can submit a naturalisation application.

In principle, everyone who wishes to become a Dutch citizen must take the integration examination. Only in exceptional cases, one does not have to take the integration examination.

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| | | | <p>Other methods of becoming integrated are, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State examination: this is an examination at a higher level than the integration examination and provides access to higher professional education or university; • Upper senior vocational education with language skills provision: this is language support for people who attend an upper senior vocational educational programme; • All forms of secondary education, vocational education, professional education, and university, provided that teaching is provided in the Dutch language. <p>In case of failing the examination, the examination has to be repeated.</p> |
|  | Austria | NO | This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that their response is not disseminated further. |
|  | Poland | YES | |
|  | Portugal | YES | |
|  | Romania | YES | |
|  | Slovenia | YES | |
|  | Slovak Republic | YES | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Slovak Republic the language test is required when applying for <u>citizenship</u>. 2. The language test consists of the following steps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oral test (interview) where the applicant is asked personal questions concerning him/herself and his/her relatives and general questions on the history, geography, and political and public life of the Slovak Republic - reading of the randomly selected unfamiliar text from newspapers in the Slovak language comprising of at least 500 words which is handed over to the applicant right before the examination - writing of the summary of the text which was read in 30 minutes time <p>The structure of the language test is adjusted to the age, health and mental situation of the applicant.</p> 3. The language test is conducted in front of the special commission comprised of 3 persons which is appointed by the head of the district authority, ambassador or consul (depending on the place where the application for the citizenship is lodged however in case of embassy or consulate the preparation and execution of the language test is very rare). 4. The costs are covered by the district authority or when applicable by the embassy or consulate. 5. The results of the tests are not classified according to the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages”. The language test is verified by the special commission (as described in answer 3). In the decision making process all members of the |

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| | | | <p>commission has to be present. The final decision is valid when two members of the commission approve it. A report on the language test is prepared where the evaluation of each member of the commission is stated, i.e. if the applicant proved the knowledge of the Slovak language – in oral and written form. This report with the results of the test together with the application package is sent to the Ministry of Interior which decides on the citizenship.</p> <p>6. If the applicant fails the language test the application is denied.</p> <p>7. New application for the citizenship can be lodged 2 years after the decision on the denial of the application entered into force.</p> |
|  | Finland | YES | <p>Act on Integration of Immigrants and Reception of Asylum Seekers (Act on Integration) governs the integration of refugees and also applies to persons granted residence permit on the basis of subsidiary protection or humanitarian protection under Section 113. Also persons with residence permit granted under Section 51, 52 and 93 are covered with the same provisions.</p> <p>An integration plan is made with every recognised refugee and beneficiaries of complementary protection for three years³. The municipality is in charge of the drafting, implementation and development of the integration programme as well as of the monitoring of programme realisation and impacts. At the initiative of the municipality the Employment Office and other authorities where necessary shall participate in the drafting and implementation of the programme as concerns their sector. Immigrants, non-governmental organisations operating in the municipality, employee and employer organisations and other parties shall be heard during the drafting and implementation of the programme. Measures and services shall be planned so as to enable the efficient and correctly timed promotion and support of immigrant integration.</p> <p>Integration plan consists of <u>language courses, vocational training, and preparatory training for vocational studies</u>. The studies include Finnish and everyday skills, communication skills and information technology as well as an introduction to Finnish society and culture.</p> <p>Since the responsibility for organising language courses is divided between the municipalities, the quality and level of the language course differs from municipality to municipality. Language courses are usually provided by schools which get to decide upon examination etc. As a result, there is no single, unambiguous answer to be given.</p> |
|  | Sweden | YES | Sweden has no requirements regarding language skills connected to any of the procedures and therefore not language examinations. |

³ After three years it is on every municipality's own choice, if they re willing to provide further education etc.

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|  | United Kingdom | YES | <p>At which stage of the residence period should foreign citizens undergo the language examination?</p> <p>Foreign citizens currently have the option of showing either that they have made progress from one language level to the next or of taking a stand-alone computer-based test that shows their level of language competence and their knowledge of life in the UK. They need to do this to obtain indefinite leave to remain which for economic migrants (workers) will be after 5 years of temporary residence or for spouses after two years of temporary residence. Under new proposals being introduced in 2011 “indefinite leave to remain” will be replaced by “probationary citizenship”. Currently, someone meeting the requirements when seeking indefinite leave to remain does not have to show further progress or pass the test when applying for citizenship but under the new proposals this is subject to change. Someone who had indefinite leave to remain before these provisions came into force in April 2007 will need to pass the test when applying for citizenship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which are the features of the language examination? Is it written or oral? <p>Those people taking a language course have to take an examination that is set and moderated by one of the UK approved awarding bodies for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). This is a mainstream qualification and as the emphasis is on speaking and listening, the examination is oral. However, the alternative computer-based test is a multiple-choice question format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the entity entitled to provide the language examination? <p>The entity providing the language examination will be one of seven approved awarding bodies for ESOL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the costs covered? <p>Costs of courses and examinations are subsidised by the State. Currently people will have to pay 37% of the cost of the course and the balance is from State funding. Spending on ESOL is around £300 million per year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which level of language proficiency is required within the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages”? <p>The level required for citizenship is B1 Threshold on the Common European Framework. The computer-based test is set at this level. However, someone taking a language course only has to show progress from one level to the next – so someone with no English at the start needs to progress to A1, and someone at A1</p> |
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| | | | <p>needs to progress to A2 and so on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the consequences of passing or failing this examination? <p>Someone who does not meet the required standard will not get indefinite leave to remain or citizenship. Indefinite leave applicants will be given a further period of limited residence in order to meet the required standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is it possible to repeat the examination or to resort to the law in the event of failing? <p>It is possible to repeat the course or take the test as many times as necessary in the event of failing. The only recourse to law would be by means of a judicial review of the reasonableness of the decision to grant indefinite leave to remain or citizenship. There is no recourse to law in respect of the course or test outcomes.</p> |
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