



Ad-Hoc Query on Skills Surcharges

Launched by UK EMN NCP on 16 June 2015

Reply requested by 3rd July 2015

Compilation produced on 21st July 2015

Responses from: Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Croatia and Norway (21 in total)

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

1. Background Information

The UK wishes to find out the situation in other European countries concerning the application of a **skills surcharge** to the admission of some migrants. This is the levying of an **additional fee in the context of issuing a visa or residence permit**, the proceeds of which is used to fund skills training, apprenticeships, etc, with the aim of up-skilling the resident workforce.

This information will be used to inform policy development concerning the requirements for admitting third country skilled workers under Tier 2 of the UK's Points Based System.

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Questions:

1. Does your Member State (or Norway) currently add a 'skills surcharge' to visa fees or residence permit fees for any groups of migrants?
2. If yes to Q1, how is the surcharge implemented?
 - a. What is the level of skills surcharge that you apply ?
 - b. What migrant groups is it applied to?
 - c. Is the surcharge applied to employers or the migrants themselves?
 - d. When was the surcharge implemented?(please provide month/year)
3. If yes to Q1, did the introduction of surcharge(s) have any discernible impact on volumes of applications and overall migration?
4. If yes to Q1, has the application of the skills surcharge been successful in addressing skills gaps through investment in skills training?"

We would very much appreciate your responses **by 3rd July 2015.**

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2. Responses¹

		Wider Dissemination ? ²	
	Austria	Yes	
	Belgium	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belgium does not add a „skills surcharge“ to visa fees or residence permit fees for any group of migrants. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A
	Bulgaria	Yes	
	Cyprus	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, CY does not currently levy a 'skills surcharge' on visa fees for any groups of migrants. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A
	Czech Republic	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A
	Denmark	Yes	
	Estonia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO, Estonia doesn't add a 'skills surcharge' to visa fees or residence permit fees for migrants.

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 default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A
	Finland	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, the fees charged for residence permit applications are only for covering the costs of processing an application. 2. - 3. - 4. -
	France	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO <p>France does not apply skills surcharge to visa fees or residence permit fees. Indeed, a third country national who applies for a work / student visa will obtain a visa or a residence permit based on his/her current skills and experience and because he/she can participate in France's economic development.</p> <p>Skills training and apprenticeship are funded through employers and all French, EU and non EU workers legally authorized to work in France and who pay related social contributions.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. Since 2008 the visa fee for all visa categories amounts to uniform 60 € and is payable upon application. Both the Code on Visas (Schengen Visas) as well as in the Residence Regulations (National Visa) provide elements of reduction or exemption of fees. Additional fees or fees surcharges for qualification measures do not exist. 2. Not applicable. 3. Not applicable. 4. Not applicable.
	Greece	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neither Greece currently levies a 'skills surcharge' on visa or residence permit fees for any groups of migrants. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A
	Hungary	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No.
	Ireland	Yes	








EMN Ad-Hoc Query: Asylum seekers access to the labour market

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	Italy	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, Italy does not levy a 'skills surcharge' on visa fees for any groups of migrants. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A
	Latvia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Latvia does not apply any "skills surcharge" to visa or residence permit fees.
	Lithuania	No	
	Luxembourg	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. Luxembourg does not currently levy a 'skills surcharge' on visa fees for any groups of migrants. 2. N/A 3. N/A. 4. N/A. <p>N/A.</p>
	Malta	Yes	<p>All Third country nationals admitted to the labour market are issued with a work/residence permit. Prior to the implementation of the Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State, such persons were issued with an employment licence at a standard fee, whatever the skill involved. Following the implementation of this Directive in Maltese legislation the said residence permit incorporates also an employment licence. The fee for the employment licence has, therefore, been also incorporated with that of the residence permit.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A
	Poland	Yes	Poland does not add a 'skills surcharge' to visa fees or residence permit fees for any groups of migrants.
	Portugal	Yes	No. PT do not add a 'skills surcharge' to visa fees or residence permit fees for any groups of migrants.
	Romania	Yes	

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	Slovak Republic	Yes	1. No 2. – 4. N/A
	Slovenia	Yes	
	Spain	Yes	
	Sweden	Yes	1. No 2. Na 3. Na 4. Na
	United Kingdom	Yes	5. No, the UK does not currently levy a 'skills surcharge' on visa fees for any groups of migrants. 6. N/A 7. N/A 8. N/A
	Croatia	Yes	1. No, the Republic of Croatia does not apply a 'skills surcharge' fees on already determined visa fees or residence permit fees.
	Norway	Yes	1. NO In terms of issuing visas, Norway is committed to taking the same fees as other Schengen MS, so that there is no opportunity to add on any additional fees. In relation to other forms of residence permits the fees are supposed to cover the costs of processing an application. The rates are specified in Norwegian Immigration Law §§ 17-10 - 17-13, and there is no indication in these provisions that a skills surcharge has been added or included.
