



## **Ad-Hoc Query on Integration Agreement**

**Requested by IT EMN NCP on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

**Compilation produced on 22 February 2013**

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway (23 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 Italian Government introduced the so-called “Integration agreement” by means of the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 179 of September 14, 2011. According to this provision, any foreigner aged over 16 entering the country for the first time who applies for a residence permit for no less than 1 year is bound to sign a specific “Integration Agreement” for the duration of 2 years.

The Italian EMN NCP is interested in learning if similar provisions are in force in your MS, also in view of updating and completing the *Ad-Hoc Query on request on integration agreement and language examination for foreign citizens in the Member States*, requested by IT EMN NCP on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Please find attached the latest compilation produced on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

We would very much appreciate your responses by **8<sup>th</sup> February 2013:**

**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.

## 2. Responses<sup>1</sup>

		Wider Dissemination? <sup>2</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are third-country nationals entering your MS required to sign an Integration Agreement?</li> <li>2. If so, that does the Agreement envisage?</li> <li>3. Are there any exceptions?</li> <li>4. Can the effectiveness of the agreement be suspended or extended?</li> <li>5. If a point-based system is used, which criteria apply for credits' acquisition and loss?</li> <li>6. How are language courses financed?</li> <li>7. How are language examinations financed?</li> </ol>
	<b>Austria</b>	<b>No</b>	This NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that their response is not disseminated further.
	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Issuing visa and residence permits is a competence of the Federal State in Belgium. Although integration programmes exist, the obligatory signing of an integration agreement is not a precondition to obtain a residence permit. Integration and reception of newcomers is a competence of the (3) Communities and the (3) Regions.</p> <p><u>Please find herewith some more information about the integration programmes in the 3 regions.</u></p> <p><u>WALLONIA</u></p> <p>On 3 July 2012, the Walloon Government approved the outline of an integration pathway in Wallonia. This new integration pathway will be jointly organized by the Walloon Region, the French Community Commission (COCOF) and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and implemented by local initiatives and organizations. The integration pathway is targeted at foreign persons durably settled in Belgium, that is to say foreign persons who have been residing in Belgium for less than three years and who are in possession of a residence permit of more than three months.</p> <p>While the objective of the Walloon Government was that the new decree would be adopted to enter into force on 1 January 2013, different views confronted to one another, blocking progress. Texts were so far rejected, mainly due to a disagreement on whether the different stages of the integration pathway should be mandatory or not and whether sanctions should be foreseen or not. The new objective of the Walloon Government is to adopt the decree before the summer 2013 in order to enable the integration pathway to enter into force on 1 January 2014.</p> <p><u>FLANDERS</u></p> <p>For the integration of migrants, a specific civic integration programme, 'Inburgering' is offered and implemented by 8 welcome offices (in Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent and 5 in every Flemish province.) "Inburgering" is a policy at regional level, regulated by decree (<a href="http://www.inburgering.be/inburgering/en?lang=en">http://www.inburgering.be/inburgering/en?lang=en</a>).</p> <p>Civic integration is intended for foreigners aged 18 and more who come to Flanders or Brussels to reside there for a long period. The</p>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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."






***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.

			<p>target group of the civic integration policy also includes Belgians who were not born in Belgium and at least one of whose parents was not born in Belgium.</p> <p>All persons integrating have a right to a civic integration programme. Moreover, certain categories are obliged to take a civic integration programme. These categories are: persons who recently emigrated to Belgium and have taken up residence in Flanders and ministers of religion in a local church or religious community, recognised by the Flemish authorities.</p> <p>Foreign-speaking minor newcomers also belong to the target group of civic integration. Their civic integration takes place not by means of a civic integration programme but mainly by attending school. It concerns the same target group of children and youngsters who are eligible for welcome classes.</p> <p>On the 21th of December 2012 the Flemish government approved a new (draft) Decree concerning the Flemish (civic) integration policy, and submitted it to the Flemish Parliament. Goals are a.o. to come to a (even) more co-ordinated approach and to underline the importance of the language fluency.</p> <p><b><u>BRUSSELS</u></b></p> <p>The French Community and the Flemish Community both organize a reception in the Brussels –Capital Region but it is not compulsory for third country nationals to sign an agreement.</p> <p>A draft decree from the French Community (COCOF) is currently under discussions (in parallel with the Walloon decree) and should be adopted before the summer 2013. The integration pathway would enter into force on 1 January 2014.</p> <p>2. Please find herewith some more information about the content of the integration programmes in the 3 regions:</p> <p><b><u>WALLONIA</u></b></p> <p>The integration pathway would include four stages: personalized assistance including information on rights and duties, social assessment and support in administrative procedures, leading to an integration contract between the regional integration centre and the beneficiary (“first reception stage”), (2) training in French language, (3) citizenship module with information on the functioning of the Belgian society and public institutions to enable the beneficiary to participate in the social, cultural and associative life (4) and social and professional orientation, with support in recognition of foreign qualifications and competences, access to training and seeking employment.</p> <p>Pursuant to the latest discussions, only the so-called “first reception” stage would be mandatory.</p> <p>European funds were used to support the implementation of pilot projects related to the future integration pathway in Wallonia.</p> <p><b><u>FLANDERS</u></b></p> <p>The primary civic integration programme consists of (1) a basic language course (Dutch as a second language), (2) a social orientation course, which consists of an introduction to the Flemish and Belgian society; (3) career orientation, which implies coaching in the search of employment or studies, and towards the provision of culture and leisure activities; and (4) programme counseling, which implies an individual counseling of the person integrating. The objective of “Inburgering” is that migrants can fully participate in society. Civic integration can help them to (better) take up, if necessary, their role as citizen, parent, employee, entrepreneur, student, member of an association...</p> <p>Several EIF (European Integration Funds) projects are co-funded by the Flemish Authority to promote the socio-economic contribution of migrants:</p> <p>- EIF project ‘Integrated language approach at the training floor’ -&gt; a ‘train the trainer’- project to make sure that during the vocational training, the trainer uses clear language at the</p>
--	--	--	--


***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.

		<p>training floor so that all participants can understand instructions (e.g. avoid jargon, use simple sentences...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EIF project to improve attainment on the higher education system</li> <li>- EIF project to improve attainment of young migrants to the education system</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.esf-agentschap.be/Templates/Content.aspx?id=3170&amp;LangType=2067">http://www.esf-agentschap.be/Templates/Content.aspx?id=3170&amp;LangType=2067</a></p> <p><u>BRUSSELS</u></p> <p>As previously said, so far there is no mandatory integration agreement in Brussels. However, third country nationals expressing their wish to follow the civic integration programme organized by Flanders can pay a fee from which they are reimbursed after having regularly attended the courses.</p> <p>The latest discussions at French community's level (COCOF) would install a similar integration pathway as in Wallonia.</p> <p>3. <u>WALLONIA</u></p> <p>In accordance with the last discussions, citizens of a European Union Member State, the European Economic Area and Switzerland and their family members would be exempt from the integration programme.</p> <p><u>FLANDERS</u></p> <p>The following persons integrating are exempt from the civic integration obligation: <a href="http://www.inburgering.be/en/integration-obligation">http://www.inburgering.be/en/integration-obligation</a> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• citizens of a European Union Member State, the European Economic Area and Switzerland and their family members. This exemption does not apply to family members of Belgians and persons integrating with the Belgian nationality that are mentioned above.</li> <li>• persons integrating who have already obtained a civic integration certificate.</li> <li>• persons integrating who cannot follow a civic integration programme as a result of a serious illness or disability.</li> <li>• persons integrating who have obtained a certificate or diploma in Belgian or Dutch education.</li> <li>• persons integrating who have attended welcome classes during an entire school year.</li> <li>• persons integrating of 65 years or older.</li> <li>• economic migrants who have a temporary residence status that may lead to a definitive residence.</li> </ul> <p><u>BRUSSELS</u></p> <p>Citizens of a European Union Member State, the European Economic Area and Switzerland and their family members would probably be exempt from the integration programme (when an agreement will be reached).</p> <p>4. The failure to comply with the obligations of an integration programme or pathway has no impact on the residence permit. However, persons integrating may receive an administrative fine in Flanders when they have a civic integration obligation and fail to fulfill it. In Wallonia, pursuant to the latest discussions, administrative fines would be imposed in case of infringement of the "first reception" stage of the integration pathway.</p> <p>5. There is no point-based system applicable in Belgium.</p> <p>6. <u>WALLONIA</u></p>
--	--	--


**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.

			<p>Languages courses are financed by EIF. If the budget seems insufficient, it is not decided yet whether third country nationals or another authority will have to fund the courses.</p> <p><u>FLANDERS</u> Languages courses are financed by the Flemish Authority. Some projects are co-financed with the EIF.</p> <p><u>BRUSSELS</u> The Flemish Authority pays for the civic integration programme. French classes are financed by the European Integration Fund (in the same way as in Wallonia).</p> <p>7. The Flemish Authority finances Dutch examinations. Examinations are not organized in the framework of an integration agreement in French.</p>
	<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	There are not in force such kind of integration agreement or similar provisions concerning foreigners' entering and residence in the country according to Bulgarian legislation.
	<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2-7. Not applicable.</p>
	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2-5. Not applicable.</p> <p>6. Language courses are provided by NGOs and financed from state subsidies and grants from European Integration Fund. Nevertheless, some (rather minor) contribution is collected from the immigrants, since it positively influences their attendance.</p> <p>7. First exam is paid for by the state. In case of failure, further attempts shall be covered by the immigrants themselves.</p>
	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1.-5 No. Estonia does not require from third country nationals assigned International Agreement, as we don't have such form.</p> <p>6.-7. In order to receive the long-term residence permit or apply for Estonian citizenship 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 SA Innove <a href="http://www.innove.ee/en">http://www.innove.ee/en</a>. The Estonian language learning costs are covered by SA Innove (from the state budget) up to 384 eur per person (tests for persons applying the Estonian citizenship) or from the European Social Fund through the "Language Studies Development 2007-2010" programme up to 320 eur (Estonian language tests A2-C1).</p>
	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No, Finland does not have a compulsory integration agreement. The Act on the Promotion of Integration (1386/2010) stipulates that after an initial assessment of the immigrant's situation, an individual integration plan is made for each immigrant, who is both unemployed and registered as a job-seeker, or receives welfare benefits or is otherwise deemed in need of assistance in integration. The responsibility for implementing the integration plan lies with the municipality and the employment and economic development offices that also monitor the progress. The individual integration plan is adapted to suit the needs of a family (the integration plans of family members are taken into account). If an immigrant refuses to participate in the activities agreed in the integration plan without a valid reason, it may reduce the welfare benefits he/she receives.</p> <p>2. The content of the individual integration plan varies according to the immigrant in question. Below are some elements that might be included:</p>



**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.

			<p>Immigrants over the compulsory education age are provided with courses of Finnish or Swedish and are, if necessary, taught reading and writing skills and provided with other courses that promote access to employment and further training and social, cultural and life-management skills as part of integration training. Integration training may also include identification of previously acquired skills, recognition of qualifications and degrees and vocational planning and career guidance. Finnish or Swedish courses are provided in accordance with the national core curriculum for the integration training of adult immigrants drawn up by the National Board of Education. The teaching of reading and writing skills is provided in accordance with the national core curriculum for illiterate adult immigrants drawn up by the National Board of Education. The linguistic objective of integration training is to provide the immigrants with the basic language skills in Swedish or Finnish required in daily life.</p> <p>3. N/a</p> <p>4. The maximum time for receiving measures according to the integration plan is three years, although it may be extended by two years if it is deemed that the immigrant is in need of special measures. Parental leave or health-related leave extends the implementation of the plan accordingly.</p> <p>5. N/a</p> <p>6-7. Integration training is usually provided as labour market adult education. Integration training as labour market adult education in financed by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy (39,5 million € year 2013). Integration training may also be arranged as self-motivated studies. Funding forms of self-motivated language training vary a lot. Self-motivated language training can be organized for example by the city council, private training institutions, liberal folk education etc.</p> <p>There is a standardised national language test system which is run by the University of Jyväskylä. It is a general language test, not directly connected to courses. The test is voluntary. The test can be financed by the immigrant him/herself or the test fee can be included in labour market adult education.</p>
	<b>France</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes, newly-arrived foreigners from outside the European Union who have been granted residence in France for the first time or following regularisation, and who wish to settle in France are required to sign a “Reception and Integration Contract” (Contract d’Accueil et d’Intégration = CAI).</p> <p>2. The objective of the CAI is to prepare the integration of foreigners into French society, that being assessed in particular with regard to their personal commitment to comply with the principles that govern the French Republic as well as their knowledge of French. The CAI sets out, on the one hand, the obligations on the migrant (initiate her / his process of integration by following services provided in the context of the CAI), and, on the other hand, the obligation on the State (to organise and finance the integration pathway).The contract is signed between the State, represented by the prefect, and the migrant, for a duration of one year. It can be renewed for the same period.</p> <p>3. Foreigners who are exempted from signing the CAI are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- foreigners who hold an “employee on assignment” temporary residence permit (posted workers) or an "EU Blue Card" (high-skilled workers), their spouse and children;</li> </ul>

**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.*



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- foreigners who studied in a French high-school abroad for at least three years;</li> <li>- foreigners who studied at the university in France for at least one year;</li> <li>- foreigners aged between 16 to 18 years old, born and living in France, who fulfill the conditions for obtaining French nationality and a residence permit;</li> <li>- foreigners who hold a “temporary worker” temporary residence permit;</li> <li>- spouses and children of foreigners who hold a “scientist/researcher” residence permit in France for less than a year;</li> <li>- ill foreigners who hold a “private and family life” residence permit.</li> </ul> <p>All foreigners who do not intend to settle permanently in France are exempted from signing the CAI, and especially students.</p> <p>4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the foreigner does not attend training without valid reasons, the prefect (authority of decentralized services of the state) might suspend the CAI.</li> <li>- The CAI is concluded for a period of one year. However, the contract signed by the foreigner who has obtained the renewal of his residence permit may be extended for one year by the prefect, acting on a proposal from the French Office for Immigration and Integration (Office Français de l’immigration et de l’intégration = OFII). The extension is legally binding if language training is not completed at the end of the first year. The contract might be renewed if training has been postponed for a valid reason (e.g. pregnancy or disease).</li> </ul> <p>5. N/A.</p> <p>6. The OFII, acting on behalf of the Ministry of Interior, funds languages courses. Therefore, they are stately funded.</p> <p>7. The OFII, acting on behalf of the Ministry of Interior, funds languages examinations. Therefore, they are stately funded.</p>
	<p><b>Germany</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>Questions 1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In a Pilot study, the Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration is testing integration agreements in 18 sites across the country. The integration agreement is concluded between the migrant (new arrival with long-term resident permit as well as Germans with migration background) and the local Office for Migration Counselling (MBE). The MBE is voluntary, individual, short-term professional advising of immigrants. Immigrants’ advising needs are first assessed, and then an individual plan of assistance, including goals, measures, responsibilities and a schedule, is agreed on. The MBE helps immigrants carry out the plan of assistance. For example, these plans may cover the need for remedial language instruction (in particular participation in the government-sponsored integration course), school/occupational qualifications (though no career advising or job placement) and concrete support related to family, health or financial issues in order to stabilize the integration process. On the other side, migrants receive support in finding appropriate language classes and other integration offerings. The integration agreement does not include sanctions.</li> </ul> <p>With regard to promoting language skills, there are two ways to check whether migrants fulfill their obligation to take an integration course.</p>

**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.




			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The local Aliens Departments: Since 2011, residence permits are renewed for no longer than one year for foreigners (third country nationals) who are required to take an integration course and have not yet successfully completed the course, i.e. have not attained the level B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).</li> <li>- The Federal Employment Agency: Foreigners who need remedial language instruction are required to take an integration course (Section 44a (1) second sentence Residence Act) if they receive benefits under the Social Code Book II and participation in the integration course is part of an integration agreement (Section 15 (1) first sentence Social Code Book II).</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Federal Employment Agency must persuade persons of working age who need help and whose language skills are below the B1 level to take an integration course (Section 3 II b Social Code Book II).</p> <p>Anyone who is required by the Federal Employment Agency to take an integration course and fails to do so may have his/her benefits under the Social Code Book II reduced.</p> <p>6.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Persons who are entitled to participate in integration courses (e.g. foreigners, persons with migration background) have to support language classes with 1,20 € per hour. Persons who receive social welfare can be exempted from contributing the course.</li> </ul> <p>7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The test questionnaire of the orientation course contains 25 multiple choice items with four alternatives for answers each. 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. The final test of the orientation course can also be taken at the institutions in charge of providing the courses. The IT supported evaluation is carried out by the Federal Office itself. Both parts of the final tests can be taken without charges or fees.</li> </ul> <p>Participants who do not achieve level “B1” 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><b>Greece</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. no, TCN's who entering Greece are not required to sign an Integration agreement.</p> <p>2-5. X</p> <p>6. Language courses are held through the educational program: “Odysseus: Education of immigrants on the Greek language, Greek history and culture», which is run by the Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports and is co funded by the Greek State and the European Union (in the context of the operational program “Education and Lifelong learning”..</p> <p>7. Language examinations are financed by the Greek State through its National Budget.</p>
	<p><b>Hungary</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1. Third country nationals intending to reside in Hungary for a longer time are not obliged to sign any integration agreement or pass any</p>





**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.

			<p>language exam within a given time period. The only relating criteria occur in case if a third country national applies for Hungarian citizenship generally after 8 years of residency in the country (or in some special cases after a shorter time, which is for instance 3 years if the applicant is a spouse of a Hungarian citizen). Then he has to make the citizenship exam in Hungarian since both the written and the oral part is held in Hungarian. Candidates with middle level language knowledge and after acquiring the necessary teaching material should be able to pass the exam. The failed part of the exam can be repeated many times. Citizenship preparing trainings and exams are organised by the government offices of place of residence till 31 March 2013 and are financed by the given migrants. After that date the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest will be authorised with a country-wide competence for organising the exams.</p> <p>2-6. Not relevant.</p> <p>7-8. Language courses and language exams are financed project base or individually by the migrants in accredited institutions.</p>
	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Ireland does not have such an Agreement at present.
	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. In 2010, after the experience of the Veneto Region, the Italian Government introduced the so-called “Integration agreement” by means of the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 179 of September 14, 2011 (published on the <i>Gazzetta Ufficiale</i> no. 263 of November 11, 2011 and came into force on March 10, 2012), which is going to be translated in 19 languages.</p> <p>2. According to this agreement, any foreigner aged over 16 entering the country for the first time who applies for a residence permit for no less than 1 year, is bound to sign a specific “Integration Agreement” for the duration of 2 years. This agreement, which regulates the so-called “Point-based Permit of Stay”, consists in a commitment, by the foreigner, to learn the Italian language, at least at the Level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; to have sufficient knowledge of the Italian culture and civic life, especially with regard to healthcare, schooling, social services, labor market and fiscal obligations; to abide by the duty to educate his/her children; to learn the organization of the Administration.</p> <p>3. There is an exemption for foreigners who have pathological conditions or disabilities that severely limit their self-sufficiency or that can cause serious difficulties in cultural and language learning and for the victims of trafficking, violence or serious exploitation, for which the agreement is replaced by implementation of a social protection path.</p> <p>4. The effectiveness may be suspended or extended, upon request, as long as there is a force majeure or legal impediment to the fulfillment of the agreement, as evidenced by appropriate documentation, resulting from serious health or family reasons, business reasons, due to courses or vocational training attendance, or for reasons of study abroad. The serious health reasons shall be testified through the submission of a certificate issued by a public health facility or a practitioner of the National Health Service (Art. 8, Presidential Decree of 14 September 2011, n. 179).</p> <p>5. Once the Integration Agreement is signed between the foreigner and the Prefect, the foreign citizen will be awarded 16 credits, and will be required to earn at least 30 credits within 2 years. Credits may be acquired or lost by the foreigner, according to his/her activities and behavior: for instance, credits may be obtained by demonstrating certain knowledge of Italian language or activities (like, for instance, vocational trainings, etc.) or, on the opposite, credits may be lost by the foreigner if convicted of a crime or a serious administrative or fiscal violation, etc. After two years, the Agreement signed with the foreigner is verified in order to determine the acquisition of at least 30 credits. If not, the Agreement is extended for one year. In case the foreigner reaches zero or less credits, the agreement is canceled and the</p>



**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.*

			<p>foreigner expelled from the country.</p> <p>6. Language courses fall under the educational offer of the Ministry of Education, University and Research. Courses will be implemented through pilot projects, also funded by the EIF.</p> <p>7. The language tests and courses of civic culture and civic life in Italy are covered by the Ministry of Interior funds, including the financial contribution that foreigners pay for obtaining a residence permit.</p>
	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No 2-5. N/A 6. There aren't state financed language courses. There are language courses funded by the EIF. 7. In order to receive the permanent residence permit, applicants have to pass Latvian language examination. Examination is conducted by National Centre by Education, which is public administration institution, financed from state's budget. The applicant before the examination has to pay a state fee ~14,-EUR.</p>
	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No. 2-7. N/A</p>
	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. NO. In Luxembourg the Welcome and Integration Contract (Contrat d'accueil et d'intégration, or CAI) is not mandatory. It was instituted by the Law of 16 December 2008 on the Reception and Integration of Foreigners in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The CAI was officially launched on 29 September 2011.</p> <p>2. The CAI is offered to any foreigner of at least 16 years of age who resides legally on the territory of Luxembourg and wishes to remain on a permanent basis. It aimed as much at European Union citizens as at third country nationals, at new arrivals as well as at people who have been living in Luxembourg for many years.</p> <p>The general aim is the integration of the target population in the Luxemburgish society. It aims to enable the signatory of the CAI to reach at least Basic User Level A.1.1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in one or more of the three administrative languages of Luxembourg – i.e. Luxembourgish, French, or German and to provide a 6-hour citizenship training course and information on daily life in Luxembourg during an orientation day. Besides the language training, an orientation day, organised at least twice a year, will take place during half a day on a weekend. It will include various partners and is aimed at enabling the signatory candidate to have better knowledge of Luxembourg's official establishments and organisations, in a friendly atmosphere. The citizenship training course aims to provide insight on integration and on the basic conditions of a harmonious cohabitation in a plural Luxembourg as well as on the history of Luxembourg, its political organisation, and its mores and customs. There are special courses for illiterate persons. For certain courses, a working language adapted to a specific public is used (i.e. French is used as a working language in German courses, Portuguese and English as working languages in a French course, German or French as working languages in Luxemburgish courses) An administrative meeting with the candidate to the CAI is held to determine the linguistic skill of the candidate and to orient him/her in the language training that is better adapted to his/her personal/professional needs. If the candidate reaches and approved the introductory level A.1.1 either in Luxemburgish, French or German, he/she can, in accordance with his/her personal/professional needs develop his/her competences in one of the languages in which he/she had approved the introductory level A.1.1. (In case of need, the language training can be completed with literacy courses.</p>



**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.

			<p>3. NO. There are no exceptions because the contract is signed voluntarily by the foreigner as it is not mandatory.</p> <p>4. The CAI's starting point is the date when the first service is rendered. The beneficiary who have been granted the services agreed in the contract and who cannot fulfill them because of legitimate reasons recognized as such by the OLAI (i.e. health issues, or work related issues, etc.) during the duration of the contract, can sign a new contract with OLAI. This second contract will only comprehend the validation of the courses or training which were not fulfilled by the candidate in the first contract (i.e. A.1.1 level in a language course, the six hours of the citizen training course or the participation in the orientation and sessions).</p> <p>5. NO. There is not a point system putted into place for evaluating the foreigner's performance. However, the skills acquired at the end of a course are assessed through a descriptive bilan of competences issued by the training organization.</p> <p>6. The program is stately funded. The participation at the orientation day and the citizenship training are free of charge. The linguistic courses are at reduced rates (at the moment the price for the person who signs the CAI is 5 euros /10 euros per course depending on the organizer). This represents between 2 and 5% of the regular price. Language courses are offered under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, who has within its responsibilities adult and continuous education through contracted providers who have a convention with the Department of Adult Education of the Ministry.</p> <p>7. As we mentioned the program is stately funded, and the expenses of the language and citizenship training courses are covered by the Ministry of Education whereas the organization of the orientation day is covered by the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency (OLAI).</p>
	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No.</p> <p>6. Migrants are required to finance their own language course. For those with limited means, a social loan system has been put into place; migrants can take a loan with favorable conditions in order to pay for the language course.</p> <p>7. Migrants pay for the language examinations that they are required to take.</p>
	<b>Poland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No. This kind of mechanism is only applied to <u>recognized refugees and persons benefiting from subsidiary protection</u>, who are provided support under the so-called Individual Integration Programme (IPI). The programme specifies the scope and forms of integration assistance for a period not longer than 12 months, and the mutual commitments of the refugee or beneficiary of subsidiary protection and the PCPR (Poviat Family Assistance Centers). Sometimes NGOs who offer integration support to foreigners under projects co-financed from <i>inter alia</i> the EFI and EFU, require them to sign integration agreements in view of facilitating integration process but this is not an obligation imposed by the state.</p> <p>2. The Individual Integration Programme provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>financial benefits for maintenance and covering of expenses associated with learning Polish, ranging from 446 PLN to 1 149 PLN per month per person;</li> </ul>


**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.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• payment of the healthcare insurance premium as defined in the legal provisions on general insurance in the National Health Fund;</li> <li>• specialist counseling, particularly in the field of law, psychology and family support</li> </ul> <p>The refugee or beneficiary of subsidiary protection is obliged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• register at the place of residence,</li> <li>• register at the district labor office within the time period established in the programme and actively search for a job;</li> <li>• participate in obligatory Polish language courses, if necessary;</li> <li>• cooperate and contact the PCPR within the specified time intervals, at least 2 times a month;</li> <li>• perform other activities as agreed with the PCPR, due to their individual situation;</li> <li>• comply with the commitments undertaken in the programme.</li> </ul> <p>3. Refugee and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who are married to a Pole are exempted from participating in the Programme. Taking part in it is not obligatory to everyone. Integration under current Polish legislation is thus optionally to a foreigner.</p> <p>4. IPI can't be extended. However it can be suspended or discontinued. This happens when, amongst other things, a foreigner persistently, through their own fault, does not fulfill obligations set forth in the programme, does not attend – without justification – Polish language courses, makes use of assistance in a way that is not consistent with the purpose for which it was granted, or gives false information about their life situation. Assistance is also withheld in the case of criminal proceedings being launched against an alien – until such proceedings are terminated. Moreover, refusal to continue assistance occurs when a foreigner who has previously had their assistance suspended and then reinstated, again behaves in a defined way, thus violating principles of the agreement entered into under the IPI, is deprived of refugee status or subsidiary protection is withdrawn, or, finally, has been convicted of an intentional crime. Refusal to grant assistance also occurs in the case of non-compliance with the deadline for submitting an application for assistance, i.e., 60 days from the moment of receiving the decision to grant refugee status or subsidiary protection.</p> <p>5. N/a</p> <p>6. The entire Programme, including language courses, are financed by Voivods (regional representatives of the central government). However in majority of voivodeships there are a lot of NGOs who organise Polish language courses for various groups of foreigners. They are mostly co-financed by the European funds and free of charge for foreigners.</p> <p>7. A foreigner is not obliged to take any exams under the IPI. According to the new act on Polish citizenship, in order to be granted Polish citizenship, good command of Polish is required. Foreigners taking the State Certificate examinations in Polish as a foreign language must pay examination fees. Rarely fees are paid by the NGOs.</p>
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. – 7. - NA</p>
	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	No. In the Republic of Slovenia only persons with international protection have an agreed Individual Integration plan, which envisages integration help for persons with international protection.

**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.

	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. -</p> <p>3. -</p> <p>4. -</p> <p>5. -</p> <p>6. All immigrants over the age of 16 who is lacking basic knowledge in Swedish are offered Swedish tuition for immigrants. This education is voluntary and organized by the local governments and paid for by the government.</p> <p>7. The examination is conducted within the Swedish tuition for immigrants and is organised and paid for in the same way. The examination is voluntary and has no influence on the validity of the residence permit.</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. There is no requirement for an integration agreement at entry. There are, however, pre entry English language requirements for work and family routes. These vary according to route but include A1 CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) speaking and listening for those entering as partners or fiances of people settled in the UK or British citizens and B1 for most work routes. Migrants seeking to remain permanently or naturalise as British citizens are required to demonstrate their knowledge of language and life within the UK. Currently they can do this either by passing the Life in the UK test at level B1 on the Common European Framework or, for those whose English is not at that level, by progressing in their English and obtaining a recognised English language qualification after following a course of study which uses citizenship based teaching materials. From October 2013, applicants for permanent residence will be expected to pass the Life in the UK test and have a speaking and listening qualification at B1. The Life in the UK test is based on the Life in the UK handbook. A new edition of the handbook – Life in the UK: a guide for new residents – was published on Monday 28 January 2013 and tests based on the new book will start on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The book focuses on British history, traditions, culture and democratic system of government.</p> <p>2. n/a</p> <p>3. There are exceptions to the pre entry English language requirement for spouses and partners, and generally to the requirements for permanent residence and naturalisation, on the grounds of disability, age and special circumstances. Migrants on particular immigration routes, for example refugees, are also exempt at permanent residence stage but will need to satisfy the requirement if they chose to apply for naturalisation.</p> <p>4. n/a</p> <p>5. n/a</p> <p>6. Eligibility for funding is based on a person being ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, the European Union or the European Economic Area for at least the previous three years. Providing the residency rules are satisfied: English for Speakers of Other Language courses (ESOL) are fully funded (ie no fees are paid by the learner) for individuals who are aged</p>

**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.*

			<p>19 or over and on Job Seeker’s Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) for skills training in order to help the individual into work or to remove a barrier to getting the individual into work. This includes units and awards as well as full qualifications.</p> <p>Unemployed individuals who are in receipt of a state benefit, other than JSA or ESA (WRAG), who want to enter employment and need skills training to do so are, at the discretion of the Provider, eligible for full funding for units and other learning aims that will help the individual into work or removes a barrier to getting the individual into work..</p> <p>All other learners are co-funded (that is learners or their employer pay 50% fees).</p> <p>7. Where a learner pays no course fees for their language course because they fall into the categories covered by the first two full paragraphs above they would not pay examination fees.</p> <p>Where a learner is co-funded and pay a fee, it is up to the provider to decide whether they pay a fee or not but the Agency expects the provider to be very clear at the enrolment stage whether they will have to pay a fee or not.</p>
	<p>Norway</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No, but to be granted Norwegian citizenship one must document sufficient knowledge of the Norwegian or Sami languages, and the Introductory Act states that refugees, persons granted residence on political and humanitarian grounds and their family members between 18-55 years are to be offered an Introductory Programme for up to two years. The targeted groups in need of basic skills have the right and obligation to participate in the program offered by the municipality. The aim is to give each participant basic skills in the Norwegian (or Sami) language, basic insight into Norwegian society and to prepare him or her for employment or education. An individually adapted action plan is drawn up for every participant based on their training needs. As a minimum the plan specifies training and measures, dates and various stages of the programme. The plan is drawn up by a local case-worker in close consultation with the participant and reassessed at a regular basis and in the event of significant changes.</p> <p>2. According to the Introductory Act, participation in the program gives the right to an individual introduction benefit. If an absence is not due to illness or other compelling welfare reasons, the participant’s benefit is reduced correspondingly hour per hour. If the candidate decides to move to another municipality or leave the program before the training is completed, the candidate may lose the right to social benefits and program. Note that the participant anyhow is obligated to attend 600 hours of Norwegian language tuition and social studies in order to be granted permanent residency. If the participant and the local case-worker cannot agree on the content and pace of the program, the participant can submit a complaint to the municipality. If the municipality decides to uphold their decision, the participant’s complaint will be processed by the County Governor.</p> <p>3. For the target groups mentioned above there is an exception for those who have conditions or disabilities that severely limit their possibility to attend a fulltime programme. The Programme, with its individual action plan, is replaced by other social paths and programmes. People in the target group that are economically self-sufficient, in work or in ordinary education are not obliged to attend the Programme.</p> <p>4. The participation may be suspended or extended, upon request, as evidenced by appropriate documentation, resulting from e.g. serious health or family reasons, maternity leave.</p>

***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.*

			<p>5. Irrelevant</p> <p>6. The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) administers grants and other measures to municipalities who have responsibility for facilitating tuition. Immigrants' right and obligation to participate in Norwegian and social studies tuition was enshrined in law on 1 September 2005.</p> <p>7. The Language tests are financed by the Government. Candidates that fail the test must pay a fee, which covers the expenses of the test.</p>
--	--	--	--

\*\*\*\*\*