



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on BE EMN NCP AHQ on third-country nationals' access to integration income

Requested by Alexandra LAINÉ on 22nd September 2016

Integration

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Norway (19 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.

Background information:

In its coalition agreement, in particular under the migration policy section, the Belgian government stated that “the granting of the right to an integration income will be subject to investigation on income and estate, in the country and abroad”. In order to conduct this policy, more particularly to efficiently investigate applicants’ income and estate abroad, Belgian policymakers are willing to collect information and best practices from other Member States.

In order to collect comparable information, the integration income is part of the right to social integration system in Belgium. The social integration system leads either to an allowance (integration income) or a professional insertion (activation). The integration income is thus the residual financial assistance in relation to social security, which is granted by the CPAS (Centre public d'action sociale - Public Centre for Social Assistance) to any person who meets all the legal conditions set out in legislation in relation to the right to social integration. These conditions essentially relate to nationality, residence in Belgium, age and insufficient resources. For detailed information on the integration income, please use this link: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1102&langId=en&intPageId=2407>

The EMN study on “Migrant access to social security and healthcare: policies and practice” from 2014 included a section on guaranteed minimum resources (pp. 47-48). However this section focused rather on residence related requirements and less on resources-related requirements and investigations related to insufficient resources.

Against this background, the Belgian Contact Point of the EMN would like to collect more information from all (Member) States in order to better understand whether and how the existence of income/estate abroad is verified.

Questions

1. 1. Which third-country nationals are eligible for the integration income?
2. 2. Are there specific resources-related conditions to allow the granting of the integration income? Do such conditions relate to all types of resources, including in the (EU Member) State, in the country of origin or in another country abroad? Please specify.
3. 3. Do legislation/regulations foresee the verification of resources in the (EU Member) State, in the country of origin or in another country abroad?
4. 4. How are income/estate practically checked in the (EU Member) State, in the country of origin or in another country abroad? What are the challenges and best practices?
5. 5. Do the above-mentioned conditions/investigation methods differ from those applied to nationals from the Member State / EU nationals?

Responses

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
	Austria	Yes	<p>1. In Austria, there is no legal basis for a so-called "integration income". Foreigners lodging an application for asylum are entitled to benefits of Basic Welfare Support ("Grundsicherung") after they have filed their asylum application until 4 months after they have been granted asylum, to the extent they are in need of assistance and protection. Persons granted asylum under certain conditions are entitled like Austrian nationals to Guaranteed Minimum Resources ("Mindestsicherung"). Other third-country nationals in general only may receive Guaranteed Minimum Resources, if they have legally resided in Austria for more than five years. However, since the regulation of Guaranteed Minimum Resources falls within the competence of the provinces, there are different rules in each province regarding the categories of eligible persons and the requirements for receiving Guaranteed Minimum Resources. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>2. In general Guaranteed Minimum Resources are granted if the own income or property are not sufficient for a living or if notwithstanding all efforts no job is found. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>3. In any case, property in Austria is examined. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>4. For further information in English please see the explanations of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection: https://www.sozialministerium.at/siteEN/Social_Policy_Consumers/Means_tested_Minimum_Income/Means_tested_minimum_income Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>5. For further information in English please see the explanations of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection: https://www.sozialministerium.at/siteEN/Social_Policy_Consumers/Means_tested_Minimum_Income/Means_tested_minimum_income Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p>

	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. The following third-country nationals are eligible for the integration income : - Third-country nationals registered in the population register - Stateless persons - Refugees (and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection as from 1/12/2016)</p> <p>2. Persons are eligible for the integration income only when they do not have sufficient resources; they must not be able to claim or obtain such resources by their own efforts or by other means. The article 3 of the law from 26 May 2002 relating to the right to social integration stipulates that, in order to benefit from the right to social integration, the person must, inter alia, not have sufficient resources, nor be able to claim or access these, through personal efforts or other means. The said resources are calculated by the CPAS (Centre public d'action sociale - Public Centre for Social Assistance). All resources, whatever their nature or origin, that the applicant has, are taken into account, including any benefits awarded under Belgian or foreign social legislation, except those that the King has expressly exempted. Immovable property located abroad are taken into account according to provisions applicable to immovable property located in Belgium. May also be considered the resources from the persons with whom the applicant lives together.</p> <p>3. The article 19 of the law from 26 May 2002 relating to the right to social integration stipulates that the CPAS (Centre public d'action sociale - Public Centre for Social Assistance) undertakes a social investigation with a view to granting social integration in the form of an integration income or professional insertion. The conditions for the above-mentioned social investigation are laid down in several instruments (Circular from 14 March 2014 and Royal Decrees from 1 December 2013 relating to minimum conditions for the social investigation). It is foreseen that the social investigation includes an inventory of the applicant's resources. This inventory is made based on payment slips, account statements, contracts, attests, etc. The findings from in-home visits also shed light on this matter. Article 19 of the law from 26 May 2002 also refers to: • The applicant's duty to provide any useful information and authorization to handle his/her application; • The gathering of lacking information by the CPAS; and Article 20 also refers to: • The possible hearing of the applicant if he/she requests it.</p> <p>4. Practically: On the applicants' side: • The applicant fills in a predetermined form containing all useful information in relation to his/her identity as well as his/her social and material situation and that of the persons with whom he/she lives together. • The applicant submits a statement of resources • The application provides an authorization for the CPAS to verify the said information and statements with financial institutions, social security institutions and public administrations. • The applicant must inform the CPAS of any change</p>
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			<p>regarding his/her situation. On the CPAS' side: • The CPAS resorts to qualified social workers to undertake a social investigation, and as part of it, an inventory of resources (through payment slips, account statements, contracts, attests, findings from in-home visits...) • The CPAS are connected to the network of the Crossroads Bank for Social Security (Banque Carrefour de la Sécurité Sociale - BCSS) which regulates and facilitates data exchanges between social security and cooperating institutions/services. In this framework, the CPAS consult the information made available through flows. A proactive and regular check of these flows help the CPAS to use and compare the information collected with the information provided by the applicant as well as with the findings in the field (during in-home visits) and in this way to better prevent fraud. Additional electronic information flows help CPAS to collect useful information in the framework of the social investigation. As regards income and estate/property abroad, the applicant has the duty to report them to the CPAS as part of their resources. In addition to that, they have to declare them (according to taxation rules) in Belgium. However the latter information might not always be accessible through the above-mentioned flows of the BCSS. National authorities are working on this to ensure complete and accurate electronic information exchange on this as well. Other difficulties and challenges arise when income or estate/property abroad aren't declared. To overcome this, the authorities cross-check data and information and conduct further investigation. For example, the authorities might suspect undeclared income/estate/property when an applicant regularly travels to a certain place abroad. The authorities might in case of doubt contact competent authorities abroad to investigate the resources from an applicant. Belgian authorities are willing to increase access to information on income and estate/property abroad and would like to learn from other (Member) States 'practices (databases, liaison officers, etc.).</p> <p>5. Persons eligible to the integration income, including Belgian nationals and EU citizens (and family members) authorized to stay for more than three months, are subject to the same resource-related conditions as third-country nationals. Also investigation methods are the same.</p>
	Croatia	Yes	<p>1. The integration income related to a residual financial assistance is not provided to TCNs in Croatia. Seekers of international protection accommodated in the Reception Centre for asylum seekers have the same rights regardless of whether they are single, family or unaccompanied minors, and those rights include financial assistance (100 kn per person), basic needs including food, clothing, shoes, laundry, hygiene package. Medical care includes emergency care and essential treatment of diseases and serious mental disorders.</p>

			<p>2. Cash allowance is fixed at 100 kn per month per accommodated person (only for those who are accommodated in the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers).</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. The Czech Republic does not define the term „integration income“ as BE. As an equivalent to the Belgian integration income, the Czech Republic defines assistance in material need which is regulated by the Act No. 111/2006, Col., on Assistance in Material Need, as amended. Also, the Act No. 110/2006 Coll., on Living and Subsistence Minimum, as amended, can be mentioned as regards the area of financial aid. Persons with permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, beneficiaries of international protection (either in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection), citizens of the EU Member State whose stay is registered in the Czech Republic for the period longer than three months or those persons protected by applicable EU legislation and their family members, foreigners with granted legal status of a long-term resident of the EU and their family members in case they have residence in the Czech Republic are eligible (repeatedly) for assistance in material need (allowance in living, supplement for housing). Foreigners without having permanent residence in the Czech Republic who reside in the Czech are eligible to receive repeatedly assistance in material need in case these rights are guaranteed by the international treaty. The only relevant treaty of such kind is the European Social Charter. Bilateral agreements on social security, which the Czech Republic has concluded with a number of states outside the EU, do not cover the area of social assistance. Group of persons eligible for exceptional immediate aid (a lump sum provided under exceptional circumstances) is broader. Apart from the above-mentioned groups of foreigners, also foreigners who reside in the territory of the Czech Republic according to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic are eligible for this exceptional immediate aid. Also, it concerns foreigners who reside in the Czech Republic and who are breaching the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals if they are in danger of serious damage to health. There are no statistical data concerning third-country nationals' access to assistance in material need available. The number is expected to be low though. The reason is obvious, it is hard to qualify for this aid: a concerned person has to be granted residence permit, to be a citizen of a state</p>

			<p>party to the European Social Charter and to meet the requirements in order to qualify for such aid.</p> <p>2. In order to be granted a status of a person in material need and to receive the aid, income (Section 9 of Act on Assistance in Material Need, Section 7 of the Act on Living and Subsistence Minimum) and social and financial circumstances (Section 15 of the Act on Assistance in Material Need) of the applicant for the aid and the relevant persons whose application is assessed together (family members, persons living in the same accommodation) are examined. As regards the income, income of foreign origin is taken into account. As regards the overall social circumstances and overall financial circumstances (such as the value of movable and immovable property), there is no explicit link to the sources abroad mentioned in Czech legislation.</p> <p>3. As regards the income, the Czech legislation foresees the verification and as regards the property, this option is not ruled out. However, legislation was created mainly in order to deal with the matter of poverty/material need at the national level.</p> <p>4. The authority of assistance in material need (Labour Office of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Labour and Social Affairs) while making a decision takes into account mainly the application for assistance and other forms where applicants state all the relevant events, including income and property – the truthfulness of stated realities is confirmed by the signature of the person in question. The applicants are required to prove these facts. Also, realization of social investigation in the applicant’s accommodation in order to verify these facts which are important and decisive for the claim can be conducted. The verification of the facts (provided by the applicant) concerning the country of origin is not feasible for the Czech Republic</p> <p>5. No, there is no significant difference.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. In Estonia we do not have an „integration income“. In Estonia, all legal residents have the right to social assistance. The main social benefit for persons in need of financial aid is the subsistence benefit. Subsistence benefit is a monthly benefit and it is paid by local governments from state budget funds. Subsistence benefit is paid if all other measures to alleviate poverty and need (including insurance benefits and allowances) have proved to be insufficient. A person living alone or a family has the right to receive subsistence benefit, if the monthly net income, after the deduction of housing expenses, payable in the current month, is below the subsistence level. Therefore the monthly amounts are differential, depending on the income of the person or family in the last month and the housing expenses payable in the current month. The parliament establishes the</p>

subsistence level for each budget year for people living alone or the first member of the family. In 2016 the subsistence level is 130 Euros per month. The subsistence level for minors is also 130 Euros. For the second and each following adult household member, the subsistence level stands on 104 Euros per month. In addition to granting the subsistence level (which is meant for food, clothes etc), subsistence benefit is also paid to cover monthly housing costs. The following housing expenses are taken into account upon granting the subsistence benefit: • rent; • the cost of services of supplying water and leading off waste water; • the cost of energy for supply of hot water; • the cost of energy for heating; • the costs related to consumption of electricity; • the cost of household gas; • the expenses made on land tax; • the expenses made on building insurance; • the fee for the transport of municipal waste. • in case of an apartment building the administration costs and repayment of loan taken for renovation of the apartment building. The above mentioned housing expenses are taken into account within the limits of socially justified standards for dwellings. The limits of the socially justified standards for dwellings are the following: the socially justified standard for dwellings is 18 m² for each member of the household and in addition 15 m² for household. So for a single person the socially justified standard for living is 33 m² and for a family of two persons the socially justified standard for living is 51 m². There are also a couple of exemptions to this standard, which are more favorable to the applicants.

2. As stated above, the person living alone or the family is entitled to receive the subsistence benefit if the monthly net income, after the deduction of housing expenses is below the subsistence level. The overall principle is that all of the net income received is taken into account. However, the Social Welfare Act lists the resources which are disregarded for the purposes of calculating subsistence benefit: • lump-sum benefits paid to a person living alone, a family or members thereof out of the funds of the State budget or local budget; • periodic benefits paid from local government budgets to low-income families or granted to compensate for the cost of a specific service; • benefits paid to disabled persons, except for the Disabled Parent Allowance; • student loan granted with security guaranteed by the State; • stipends and transport benefits paid to unemployed persons; • needs-based study allowances paid on the basis of the Study Allowances and Study Loans Act; • child allowance for the third and each subsequent child in the amount of €45 for each child; • needs-based family benefit) paid on the basis of the Social Welfare Act. In addition to the above mentioned exemptions, the local government may choose not to include grants paid for a specific purpose or benefits paid to cover specific expenses or loss of income for the purposes of calculating subsistence benefit. The social worker receives information regarding the incomes of the applicant from different state registries, but may also ask the applicant to submit documents regarding the income received (for example statement of bank accounts or a pay-roll received from the employer). If an income cannot be documented, the subsistence

benefit applicant verifies it with a signature. The law does not specify where the income of the family has to be obtained. It is considered normal that in some cases income is received from abroad. Upon the first application for subsistence benefit (or in case of changes in the composition of real property) an applicant shall submit a written list setting out the immovables and movable dwellings vehicles and securities used or owned by the applicant and their family. The local government may refuse to grant the subsistence benefit in the following cases: • if the applicant is capable of work and aged between 18 and pensionable age, is neither working nor studying and has not registered as unemployed with the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund or has more than once and without due cause, failed to comply with the Individual Action Plan or turned down participate in social services or training courses organised by a local government directed towards independent ability to ope; • if the applicant or a child or other descendant or ascendant living with the applicant has the right to receive support but refuses to submit a document certifying the right to receive the support or refuses to claim the support. • if the local authority finds that the property (movables and immovables) used or owned by the subsistence benefit applicant or his or her family or the lease, rental or sale thereof ensures sufficient funds for coping for the person or his or her family. However, the dwelling used for permanent habitation and objects essential for everyday life, studies and employment used or owned by the applicant or his or her family, are disregarded.

3. The applicant of the subsistence benefit has to, according to the Social Welfare Act, submit an application to the local authority and append documents to the application certifying the net income of a person living alone or the members of a family received during the preceding month. If any type or amount of income cannot be documented, a subsistence benefit applicant has to verify it by his or her signature. The legislation does not foresee any other verification of resources.

4. The social services and benefits registry, which is used for the processing of the subsistence benefit applications, is consistently developed. This inter alia means that data exchange is implemented with other databases. For example data exchange is implemented with the Estonian Tax and Customs Board with regard to the income (salary) of the applicants of subsistence benefit and also with the Social Insurance Board with regard to the pensions, child benefits etc received by the applicant. Data exchange is implemented also with the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund with regard to the unemployment status of the applicants. Preparatory work in connection with data exchange has started also with many other databases. The ultimate goal is that the person does not have to provide the same information to the state many times. Instead the state databases communicate with each other via x-road to receive the necessary information. The challenges may

			<p>be connected with cash income since this sort of income does not show in registries. Also it is a challenge to gain information about all the different bank accounts a person or family may have.</p> <p>5. There are no different conditions/investigation methods used based on the nationality of the applicants of the subsistence benefit.</p>
+	Finland	Yes	<p>1. Current situation: In Finland there is no separate integration income for immigrants. For the duration of the integration plan, the immigrant is paid unemployment benefit or social assistance. The eligibility criteria for unemployment benefit is determined in the Unemployment Security Act, and the eligibility criteria for social assistance in the Act on Social Assistance. Different types of unemployment benefits include unemployment allowance and labour market subsidy. Unemployment allowance is either basic allowance (paid by national social security institution, Kela) or earnings-related allowance (paid by unemployment funds). Kela pays also the labour market subsidy. Granting labour market subsidy has a requirement of permanent residence in Finland. A person who is not a citizen of Finland does not have the right to labour market subsidy if s/he has the right to employment based on a temporary residence permit. Concerning unemployment allowance, the requirement of permanent residence may be waived. Changes expected in near future: A legislative proposal has been passed regarding the integration income (Government Bill 169/2016 vp.). According to the proposal, those unemployed jobseekers, who have a residence permit in Finland as stipulated in the Aliens Act, would in the future be granted integration income instead of labour market subsidy. The law is aimed to be in effect on 1st January 2017, and to be in effect for three years. Integration income would be paid to those immigrants who have a residence permit and who have not been beneficiaries of Finnish social security in the past 10 years. The maximum duration of the integration income would be three years. The amount of integration income would be 90 percent of the amount of basic allowance. In principle, integration income would be granted on same premises as labour market subsidy, and therefore e.g. the means-testing would apply, according to which investment income reduces the amount of labour market subsidy. Regarding current and future practices, EU legislation (e.g. Regulation EC No 883/2004) is taken into consideration.</p> <p>2. Labour market subsidy is means-tested against person's own income (or parents' income if living in the same household) from mainly capital income. Part-time earnings are adjusted with all unemployment benefits. Unlike labour market subsidy, social assistance is a household-level benefit which is means-tested against all household income and wealth except specifically exempted income sources and wealth mentioned in the Act</p>

			<p>of Social Assistance. Means-test of these benefits makes no difference if the wealth or the income is located outside Finland.</p> <p>3. The Unemployment Security Act does not make a difference between property in Finland or abroad.</p> <p>4. A person who applies for unemployment benefit or social assistance is required to give all the information, which affects the determination of benefit/assistance. Kela can verify taxation in Finland. Kela or the municipality, however, do not have access to tax or property registers outside of Finland.</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	France	Yes	<p>1. In France the income support (revenu de solidarité active, RSA) is intended to guarantee unemployed persons or workers who have a very low income a minimum level of income which is variable according to the number of persons in the household. The RSA concerns persons who are at least 25 years old, and those aged between 18 and 24 years if they are single parents or if they can prove a certain number of working years. Third-country nationals that have stayed in France regularly for at least five years (except special cases) are eligible for the RSA.</p> <p>2. The average monthly income of the household over the last three months prior to the application must not exceed a certain level. The amount of the RSA depends on the number of persons in the household (single parent, couple with or without dependent children) and on the income of each member of the household. If the household has no professional income, the minimum guaranteed income is a flat sum, which depends on the composition of the family. In this case it is a basic income support. If the applicant is a single parent with dependent children or pregnant, the guaranteed minimum amount is increased. Number of children Single person Couple 0 535,17€ 802,76€ 1 802,76€ 963,31€ 2 963,31€ 1123,86€ Per additional child 214,07€ 214,07€ Applicable amounts from 1 September 2016. Per additional child 214,07€ 214,07€ Applicable amounts from 1 September 2016. If the income does not result from employment (unemployment benefits, daily allowances, housing benefits, etc.), the amount of the RSA is equal to the difference between the basic income support and your income. If the income results from employment, the RSA takes the form of an additional income if the income from employment is below the guaranteed minimum amount. The amount of RSA is equal to the difference between this guaranteed minimum amount and the household's income from employment (plus any housing benefits). The guaranteed minimum amount depends on the level of income</p>

			<p>received and the composition of the household. With some exceptions, all kind of resources of the household are taken into account, even if they are not taxable. These are: • salary; • unemployment benefits; • sickness or employment injury benefits; • old age or invalidity pensions; • maintenance payments; • income from savings etc.</p> <p>3. Not applicable in France.</p> <p>4. Not applicable in France.</p> <p>5. Not applicable in France.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. There is no direct equivalent to ‘integration income’ in Germany. Tax-financed guaranteed minimum resources in Germany include (1) basic security for employment seekers (“unemployment benefits II”, also known as “Hartz IV”, according to Section 7, Subsection 1, SGB II(Social Security Code)) and (2) social subsistence benefits (Section 27, SGB XII) for those unable to work. The eligibility of third country nationals is described in detail in the EMN-Study “Social Security for Third-Country Nationals in Germany”, pp. 28. Taking unemployment benefits II as an example, third-country nationals do have access. As a general requirement, the third-country national must be (theoretically) able to work by law. Exempt from unemployment benefits II are: • Foreigners who are neither employed nor self-employed, and their family members for the first three months of their residence • Foreigners whose right to residence is solely for the purpose of seeking employment, and their family members. • Those eligible for benefits under the asylum seekers benefits act (Section 1, AsylbLG(Act on Benefits for Asylum seekers) - Section 7, Subsection 1, Sentence 2, Number 3 SGB II). It must however be noted that a definite residence title may not be renewed / withdrawn if the acquisition of unemployment benefits II becomes necessary.</p> <p>2. Yes. Taking the example of unemployment benefits II, applicants have to be considered “in need” in terms of Section 9, SGB II, in order to receive the benefits. The condition “in need” is met is if a person cannot or cannot sufficiently secure a livelihood with eligible income or property and cannot receive the necessary help from others, specifically family members or other social security benefit providers. Sections 11 and 12, SGB II specify which income and property is to be considered when determining the need for assistance. It is not specified whether the income / property derive from Germany or abroad. Generally, thus, both domestic and</p>

			<p>foreign resources may fall in the scope of the provision.</p> <p>3. According to section 60, SGB I, a person who receives or applies for social benefits must declare all facts relevant to the benefits provided (thus including information about all income and property), has to name documentary evidence and provide the latter if requested by the competent authority.</p> <p>4. See question 3. With regard to foreign resources, challenges may arise with regard to lacking documentation, making it difficult, for instance, to assess the value or usability of property abroad.</p> <p>5. See question 3</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. Due to the recent migration pressure the Hungarian integration system as a whole was reviewed and revised. Within this system those granted international or subsidiary protection had a chance to apply in writing to the Office of Immigration and Nationality to enter into an integration contract, and to get integration support. The integration support meant financial support for a maximum of 2 years from the date of recognition, and also included social support services through the Family Support Office. This type of support was available for those granted protection between 1st January 2014 and 31st May 2016. Due to a change in legislation from 1st July 2016 integration support through an integration contract is no longer available, although the already established support is paid by the OIN if the eligibility criteria are met. The revision of the system was necessary due to the experience of the past 2 years showing that most of those granted protection were not committed to integrate into Hungarian society, the payment of integrational support and the integration contracts themselves had to be terminated by the OIN since many left to an unknown location. The integration contracts still in effect (those applied for no later than 31st May 2016 and got concluded) grant support for a maximum of 2 years from the date of recognition which is not extendable.</p> <p>2. Not relevant, see point 1.</p> <p>3. Not relevant, see point 1.</p> <p>4. Not relevant, see point 1.</p>

			5. Not relevant, see point 1.
	Ireland	No	
	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. There is no such kind of income/benefit or any other monetary support which is clearly called integration income in Latvia. In general different groups of third country nationals under different requirements have the rights to request social benefits, social services and assistance, and benefits/support for unemployed persons. In addition a refugee for the first 12 months after acquisition of refugee status and a person who has been granted alternative status, for the first nine months after acquisition of alternative status, shall receive the benefit, which covers the residence costs, and also the costs necessary for learning Latvian language, if the person does not have other source of income and request for both benefits is submitted within 12 months from the day when the decision to grant refugee or alternative status has entered into effect. Benefit for learning Latvian language may be considered as benefit for integration, but it has to be taken into account that mentioned benefit is transferred to the account of the institution or authority at which a person is learning the official language and which ensures the acquisition of the official language within the framework of a licensed programme. However currently changes in legislation about cancelling benefit for language leaning from the year 2017 are under discussions, as other options for Latvian language learning are available.</p> <p>2. Benefit for language learning for person to whom international protection has been granted is provided only if the person does not have any other source of income (any income). Decision is based on available information in person's case and information provided by person in the application for the benefit and assets declaration. Only information about person's incomes and property in Latvia can be checked by the authority in order to decide on granting a benefit or refusal to grant it. Additional information or documentary evidences may be asked from the person (taking into account his/her international protection status).</p> <p>3. Please see answers above.</p> <p>4. Please see answers above.</p> <p>5. N/A</p>

	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. Only third country nationals granted asylum in Lithuania (refugee status or subsidiary protection) are eligible for integration allowances.</p> <p>2. A person who has been granted international protection must submit annual income and assets declaration. If a person declares income or assets the integration allowance is not payable.</p> <p>3. No. It is only based on annual income and assets declaration provided by the person.</p> <p>4. The decision to pay integration allowance is taken based on the income and assets declaration. Additional checks are not performed.</p> <p>5. N/A</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. The Guaranteed minimum income (revenu minimum garanti) in Luxembourg is the equivalent to the integration income. The aim of RMG is to fight against social exclusion, to ensure sufficient means for a decent standard of living and measures of professional and social integration. The guaranteed minimum income consists of either an integration allowance (indemnité d'insertion) or a supplementary allowance (allocation complémentaire) aimed at compensating the difference between the thresholds of the guaranteed minimum income and the sum of the household resources. It is a subjective right and it is non-discretionary. The supplementary allowance is granted either by the social assistance office of the municipality where the claimant lives, or by the National Solidarity Fund. The integration allowance is only granted by the National Solidarity Fund (Fonds national de solidarité (FNS)). 1. The RMG is considered in Luxembourg as a universal right for all the individuals legally residing in Luxembourg and it is not subject to nationality requirements. However, in the case of third-country nationals there is a residence requirement and age requirement: a. Having resided in Luxembourg for at least 5 years during the last 20 years (except for nationals of an EU/EEA Member State, Swiss nationals, refugees and stateless persons); b. Being at least 25 years of age.</p> <p>2. As mentioned above the RMG can consist of either an integration allowance (indemnité d'insertion) or a supplementary allowance aimed at compensating the difference between the thresholds of the RMG and the household income (see the thresholds). In the case of the integration allowance it is granted to persons who are capable of following professional integration measures. Other conditions are being under 60 years of age and not being beneficiary of any other professional integration measure from the Agency for the Development of</p>

Employment. In regards to the supplementary allowance the FNS takes into account in the calculation the beneficiary gross income as well as the income and fortune of persons who live with him/her and are part of the household (except 30% of different types of income such as the income from work) as well as any replacement income and supplementary benefits (except child benefits, birth allowance (allocation de naissance) and long-term care benefits) from the social security. In the calculation, the real estate in Luxembourg or abroad (dwelling, other houses, building lots,...) is converted into a life annuity according to multipliers laid down in grand-ducal regulations and taken into consideration. Also movable assets (cash, savings, stocks, bonds,...) are converted into a life annuity.

3. Yes. In Luxembourg the law foresees that the agents of the FNS are authorised to practice controls in the residence of the beneficiaries and applicants in order to verify and to re-examine the attribution conditions. The agents are authorised to enter the residence between 6:30 and 22:00 hours. The agents also conduct a social investigation on the financial situation of the applicant and all the members living in the household (income plus assets). The investigation also includes local and tax authorities, the social security institutions, social assistance institutions and public and private services which work in the social action domain. The agents can require that the applicant produces any documents proving his/her resources. In case that the beneficiary improves his/her economic situation or lies/hides regarding his/her income, the beneficiary is obliged to totally or partially reimburse the amounts that he/she has received. If the individual refuses, the FNS or the social offices have a recovery action against the beneficiary.

4. In practice, the agents of the FNS are entitled to verify the said information and statements with financial institutions, social security institutions and public administrations, etc. The applicant must inform the FNS of any change regarding his/her situation. If he/she fails to do so the RMG can be withdrawn and a recovery action can be filed against him/her. International financial transactions can be traced through the financial institutions. Undeclared income/estate/property abroad is more difficult to verify seen the limit number of diplomatic representations but in case of suspicion of their existence the authorities can request the collaboration of the diplomatic missions of other Member States which represent Luxembourg in the country of origin or in another country. Also, as Luxembourg applies the principle of global taxation, the applicant is obliged by law to declare any type of income and property which is abroad.

5. No.....

	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. The concept of an Integration income is not familiar for the Netherlands. In principle, everyone residing legally in the Netherlands is eligible for social assistance (bijstand), which is arranged in the Work and Social Assistance Act (Wet Werk en Bijstand). Persons who do not have enough income to provide for a basic living can apply for bijstand. There are a couple of conditions which need to be met: - The applicant needs to reside legally in the Netherlands; - The applicant needs to be 18 years or above; - The applicant needs not to have enough income or capital to provide for a basic living. If the applicant lives together with a partner or has a joint household, the income of the member of the household is also assessed during the application; - The applicant cannot apply for other payments; - The applicant is not residing in jail or in a closed detention center; - The applicant joins trainings and courses from the municipality in order to find a job. Apart from this, the applicants needs to fulfill to a set of specific rules regarding job trainings, behavior and willingness to travel or move to find a job elsewhere. Also, the applicant needs to behave well, has the obligation to cooperate and provide all the supporting documents. He/she moreover needs to legitimize him/herself and needs to update the municipality on new development in his/her financial situation. Lastly, the applicant needs to have a basic understanding of the Dutch language. Applicants can prove that they understand the Dutch language if: - They followed Dutch education at a Dutch institution/school for at least eight years, - They successfully finished the integration examination, or - They can prove via another document that they are proficient in Dutch language If applicants cannot prove that they speak a sufficient level of Dutch, they need to do a language test. If they fail the test and do not make an effort to learn the Dutch language, the municipality may lower the bijstand. For the first six months, the payment can be lowered with 20%, for the next six months with 40% and the year after with 100%. This requirement does not count for beneficiaries of international protection, since they do not need to comply with integration measures for obtaining a residence permit in the Netherlands.</p> <p>2. Yes. In the Netherlands, there is a so-called Vermogenstoets (Test of capital and income), which assesses if the applicant is eligible to receive bijstand. The municipality an applicant lives in, is the organization that assesses whether an applicant's income and capital is below the threshold to apply for the bijstand. There are standard maximum amounts of income for different living situations: - Joint household: <€11.840 - Single parent: <€11.840 - Single without children: <€5920 In this assessment, not only income from work, but also capital like a house, a car and savings is assessed. This counts for income and capital in the Netherlands, but also for capital and income in another country abroad. A special organization called the International Office for Fraud-information (Internationaal Bureau Fraude-informatie, IBF) assists the municipalities in checking whether or not an applicant has income or capital in a country abroad, if the municipality believes that the</p>
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			<p>applicant might not have told them that they possess income or housing abroad.</p> <p>3. In Article 53a of the Participation Law (Participatiewet), it is arranged that the government can assess via an official investigation if the requested details and the income and capital reported is really the amount of income and capital that the applicant owns. The Participation Law does not contain provisions on the verification of resources.</p> <p>4. As stated in question 2, staff at the Dutch embassies abroad assesses whether or not an applicant has income or capital abroad. These checks are based on administrative research and limited investigations in the field. These employees of IBF collect relevant proof and make a report about their findings. First, IBF conducts administrative research on the basis of the personal details of the applicant. IBF makes use of the internet to look for additional information about the applicant, for example regarding housing abroad. Next, different sources are checked. IBF checks at the local municipality whether or not the applicant for bijstand owns real estate. Also, IBF checks if the applicant is known at the Chamber of Commerce in the area. If there for example is real estate, the employee of IBF consults with people in the neighborhood about the real estate and it's owners. IBF will also research whether or not the real estate is being rented and what the income from the rent is. Lastly, the income or capital is being validated to the current economic value. Regarding income, IBF also checks if the applicant is eligible for a retirement fund.</p> <p>5. No, the municipality can apply this procedure for anyone applying for bijstand and living in the Netherlands.</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. Only beneficiaries of international protection (foreigners possessing refugee status or subsidiary protection) are eligible for the integration income, understood as integration financial support.</p> <p>2. Integration income is not connected with the specific resources-related conditions.</p> <p>3. As it was pointed in the previous question, right to the integration income does not depend on the foreigners resources. Integration income is available for each beneficiary of international protection only for 12 months. After this period of time foreigners can apply for regular social assistance, on the same conditions as Polish citizens.</p>

			<p>4. It is not checked.</p> <p>5. N/a</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. In the Slovak Republic integration income as described is not provided to TCNs. However, currently it is under the consideration of the government to introduce such an income within the framework of the State Integration Programme for beneficiaries of international protection (which is currently being elaborated). The discussion on this aspect is still open.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. In Slovenia so called "integration income«, do not exists as such. Third country nationals, holders of residence permit, status for international protection, have excess to rights which help them in their integration process into Slovenian society such as social support, free health insurance, free education, etc.. The level of rights depends from type of status or residence permit (temporary, permanents) which TCN holds and conditions which fulfils (pupils, student, adult, (un)employed, vulnerable groups, family members, etc.). For more please see EMN study “Migrant access to social security and healthcare: policies and practice” from 2014.</p> <p>2. /</p> <p>3. /</p> <p>4. /</p>

			5. /
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. The Swedish equivalent to “integration income” would be the “introduction benefit”, even if it differs in its application from the Belgian variety. A uniform nationwide “introduction benefit” was introduced in 2010 as part of the “Introduction Act”, which was the most recent major overhaul of Swedish labour market integration policies. Beneficiaries of international protection and their family members are the primary target group for this act. An individual who has reached 18 years of age and is settled in a municipality can apply for this benefit (parents apply for their children). A legal custodian applies for unaccompanied minors. The introduction benefit can be granted for maximum 24 months. To be eligible for the introduction benefit the individual has to participate in activities stipulated in an individual introduction plan (containing e.g. language courses, internships, on-the-job training etc.). The benefit is reduced if the person does not participate full time or works. Please see the Swedish national report of the EMN focussed study “Integration of beneficiaries of international/ humanitarian protection into the labour market: policies and good practices” for further details.</p> <p>2. Please see above. The introduction benefit is not means tested in this sense. Participation in the activities in the introduction plan is required to receive the benefit. The benefit is reduced in case of absence or work. The recipient is obliged to report any such changes that affect his/her right to receive the benefit. To the best of our knowledge there is no other inquiry.</p> <p>3. To the best of our knowledge we are not aware of any such practice concerning the introduction benefit.</p> <p>4. To the best of our knowledge we are not aware of any such practice concerning the introduction benefit.</p> <p>5. As mentioned above, only certain groups of third country nationals are eligible for the introduction benefit. Meanwhile, an application for guaranteed minimum resources is means tested and such an investigation would normally include to collect information on any (financial) assets in other countries.</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. N/A</p>

			<p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. There does not appear to be any direct equivalent to the Belgian integration income in the Norwegian context. The Ministry of Justice and Public Security has the overall responsibility for refugee, immigration, and integration policy in Norway. The ministry supervises the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and the Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi). UDI is responsible for benefits granted newly arrived immigrants while they are still in reception centers. IMDi is responsible for the settlement and integration of immigrants who have been granted residence. Upon being granted asylum or a residence permit, newly arrived immigrants between the ages of 18 and 55 have the right and the obligation to participate in the Introduction Program, according to the Introduction Act of 2003. The program includes Norwegian language education and social studies education, as well as career guidance and work training. Participants in the Introduction Program are entitled to an introduction benefit, which is not means-tested. Per 2016, the introduction benefit is equal to around 20.650 Euros per year. Participants under the age of 25 are entitled to two thirds of this amount, equaling around 13.750 Euros (absolute minimal means by Norwegian standards). The introduction benefit is intended to prevent newly arrived immigrants from becoming dependent on social security benefits. However, newly arrived immigrants who are over 55 years old, or for other reasons do not participate in the Introduction Program, are referred to the social security system. Benefits within the social security system are administered by the Norwegian Labor and Welfare Service (NAV).</p>
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