



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Civic integration policy in relation to recognised refugees

Requested by Adolfo SOMMARRIBAS on 16th October 2018

Integration

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (24 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:


The civic integration system in the Netherlands has been topic of extensive debate in the Netherlands for a number of years. Many organisations have voiced concerns on whether the system is reaching the goal of helping newcomers integrate in the Dutch society. An evaluation of the current system showed that there are several obstacles for an effective integration. The aforementioned has led the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment to announce changes to the current system. In view of these developments we would be interested in the practice of other Member States.

Questions

1. *Does a civic integration policy exist in your Member State? If yes, have specific regulations in relation to recognised refugees been incorporated in this policy?*
2. *Is it legally obliged for recognised refugees to participate in a civic integration programme and is it required for them to obtain a certain result? (for example passing a civic integration exam)*
3. *Is the access to a suitable civic integration programme for recognised refugees provided and financed by the government? If yes, in what way?*
4. *Are certain time periods set in which recognised refugees have to satisfy the civic integration requirement? If yes, what time period?*
5. *Are sanctions imposed when recognised refugees do not satisfy the civic integration requirement (in time)? If yes, what sanctions apply?*
6. *Is for recognised refugees satisfying the civic integration requirement a provision for (a) a permanent residence permit or for (b) naturalisation?*

Responses

| | Country | Wider Dissemination | Response |
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|   | Austria | Yes | 1. In Austria migration issues as well as issues regarding integration are dealt with at the national level. The aim of the Austrian integration efforts is to create a framework for „performance-based integration“. In that sense performance is enabled, required and recognized in order to ensure a comprehensive participation of all citizens in society (https://www.bmeia.gv.at/integration/). Concrete measures for integration are part of the Integration Act. The Integration Act also defines requirements regarding courses that need to be attended or obligations that must be met by asylum seekers and |

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| | | | <p>persons with subsidiary protection status.</p> <p>2. Yes, asylum seekers and persons with subsidiary protection status are obliged to full participation, collaboration and to completion of the within reason offered courses according to Art. 4 and 5 Integration Act (German Courses as well as courses in values and orientation, Art. 6 Integration Act). No provisions are made for a verification of the imparted knowledge.</p> <p>3. Yes, according to Art. 5 para 1 Integration Act the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs has to provide courses in values and orientation for persons entitled to asylum after they have completed their fifteenth year of life. The courses are run by the Austrian Integration Fund, a fund of the Republic of Austria.</p> <p>4. No, the Integration Act does not include time limits regarding the completion of the courses.</p> <p>5. Yes. According to Art. 6 para 2 Integration Act the federal provinces' authorities responsible for the granting of social welfare or the needsbased minimum benefit system are obliged to sanction its beneficiaries in case of an infringement of the obligations under the Integration Act (German courses, courses in values and orientation) according to the provinces' provisions that apply for insufficient willingness to use of workforce.</p> <p>6. a) no b) no</p> |
|  | Belgium | Yes | <p>1. A. Flanders: There is no specific regulation for recognised refugees. The only specific regulation concerns applicants of international protection who are four or more months in procedure. These persons belong to the target group of civic integration (they are allowed to follow a civic integration programme but there is no obligation). On the other hand, recognised refugees are obliged to follow the civic integration programme. Following the general regulations they are part of the integration policy and therefore an obliged target group of the civic integration programme. B. Wallonia: There is no specific regulation for recognised refugees. The integration policy concerns all foreigners and the civic integration programme is focused on newly arrivals as defined in the legislation, without a specific distinction linked to recognised refugees. C. Brussels: There is no specific regulation for recognised refugees. The civic integration programme of the French Community Commission is accessible for all</p> |

foreigners in general. D. German Speaking Community: The legislation concerning third-country nationals (non-EU) includes recognised refugees.


2. A. Flanders: The obligation to participate in the civic integration programme is mentioned in the decree of 07/06/2013 about the Flemish integration and civic integration policy and is only applicable for people that are registered in the region of Flanders. There is no obligation for people that are registered in the Brussels Capital Region. In the Brussels Capital Region, they want to incorporate an obligation to follow the civic programme but the regulation will concern another target group than the one defined in the decree of 07/06/2013. As soon as the applicant of international protection is recognised as a refugee by the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless persons or by the Council for Alien law litigation the obligation to participate needs to be fulfilled. Since 29/02/2016 there is also an obligation to follow the civic integration programme as a recognised refugee who is moving (from outside Flanders to a Flemish municipality) less than five years after his first registration in the Register (after 28/02/2016). The recognised refugee is obliged to attend the programme regularly. For each subject of the programme he needs to have an attendance of at least 80% . There are some exemptions for persons who are entitled to a flexible course (for example a person that is working or following a course not compatible with the civic integration programme timetable). As well there are exemptions for persons who are illiterate or uneducated. After participating the civic integration programme regularly, the recognised refugee will obtain a proof of regular participation. The certificate of the civic integration programme can only be obtained when the person met all the targets from every subject of the formation programme. The obligation to follow the civic integration programme stays active until the recognised refugee: obtains the certificate of civic integration OR obtains the proof of regular participation OR his obligation to follow the course is expired OR he has reached the age of 65. **B. Wallonia:** The civic integration programme is obliged for newly arrivals more specific, persons that have obtained a residence permit valid for more than three months and who have lived less than three years in Belgium (except for citizens of the EU, the European Economic Area, Switzerland and their family members). Persons not within this scope can always follow the civic integration programme voluntarily. There is no obligation regarding the result however the persons need to obtain their certificate of attendance no later than 18 months after the order of the residence permit at the municipality (a prolongation of the time period is foreseen in the regulation). **C. Brussels:** The civic integration programme can be followed on a voluntarily basis. The Joint Community Commission voted for an obligation of the civic integration programme but this is



not in practice yet. The recognised refugees will be obliged to follow the programme on a regular basis. There will be no obligation to pass an exam. D. German Speaking Community: It is legally obliged for third-country nationals (non-EU) to participate in a civic integration programme, this includes recognised refugees. Nevertheless the law foresees some exemptions. Participants are not required to pass an exam, but they have to attend at least 80% of the lessons.


3. A. Flanders: The civic integration programme is being organised by the Flemish Government and is being implemented by the Agency for Integration and Civic Integration, as well as the two local agencies for integration and civic integration of the cities of Gent (IN-Gent) and Antwerp (Atlas). The civic integration programme is for free. There is also financial aid for public transport and child care. B. Wallonia: The civic integration programme is free for the beneficiary (welcome module, access to the training and interpreters). The regional centres for integration and the social interpreter service (Setis Wallon) receive a specific grant for the civic integration programme. The operators of the training receive grants to achieve their missions (within the scope of an accreditation as local integration initiatives (ILI) OR within the scope of a call for projects concerning local integration initiatives). C. Brussels: The civic integration programme is entirely free for newly arrivals. The French Community Commission (COCOF) finances the operators (the reception offices) to ensure the reception, the support and the training of citizens. The COCOF also finances the operators of the languages trainings mainly for French and literacy classes. D. German Speaking Community : The access is provided and financed by the government. The whole integration programme is free of charge for the participants, in order to help their integration independently of their financial situation.

4. A. Flanders: The recognised refugee needs to do his registration at the Agency within three months after he has obtained his status. There is no maximum period within he has to follow the civic integration programme. B. Wallonia: The newly arrivals need to obtain their certificate of attendance no later than 18 months after the order of the residence permit at the municipality. Before the end of that time period, there is a possibility to ask for a prolongation. This request needs to be duly motivated. The Minister has three months to give a ruling about the request (the request suspends the time period). C. Brussels: No obligation so no time period. D. German Speaking Community: After the registration at the municipality, the newly arrival has to show up in the reference centre concerned for integration within three months. The integration programme has to be finished in two years. Again the


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| | | | <p>law provides exemptions.</p> <p>5. A. Flanders: When the recognised refugee does not do his registration at the Agency within the three months after he has obtained his status OR when he has wrongfully terminated a component of the civic integration programme early and did not reach the targets of that component (an attendance lower than 50 % during a training component) OR when he did not attend a training component regularly and did not reach the targets of that component (an attendance higher than 50 % but less than 80 % for every training component) then the Agency will notify the enforcement officer of the Agency for Local Affairs. The enforcement officer can impose a fine between 50 and 5000 EUR. The amount of the fine depends on the infringement and the repetition of the infringement. There is no such thing as buying off the obligation to civic integration. The fine is only imposed after different phases. First the person will receive a written warning so he can take measures to meet the rules. He will get 15 days to act accordingly. After that he has the right to be heard (with or without a lawyer). When a fine is imposed, the person can go in appeal against the decision at the police court (article 39 and 40 of the decree of 07/06/2013). When the recognised refugee is entitled to income support of the public social welfare centre (PSWC), he can only be sanctioned by them (for example the PSWC can stop temporary the payment of the income support). Same conditions apply when the recognised refugee is entitled to tide-over allowance or unemployment benefits by the VDAB (the Flemish employment agency), then he can only be sanctioned by them (for example the VDAB can stop temporary the payment of these benefits). In those cases the enforcement officer is not entitled to sanction the person. Persons registered in the Brussels Capital Region cannot be sanctioned as there is no obligation to follow the civic integration programme. B. Wallonia: If the newly arrival does not obtain his certificate of attendance within the time period mentioned, an administrative fine might be imposed on him. The persons that are following the course voluntarily are not a subject to this rule. C. Brussels: On this moment there are no sanctions imposed as the programme is not obliged. Within the framework of the obligation of the civic integration programme, the newly arrivals will need to finalize the civic integration programme within one year (prolongations are possible). The sanctions they have foreseen in the case the obligation is not followed are fines (100 EUR for each infringement). D. German Speaking Community: In some cases the law provides sanctions, like fines.</p> <p>6. Obtaining a permanent residence permit or naturalisation is a competence of the federal state. a) Following or succeeding the civic integration programme can help to prove the integration efforts that</p> |
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| | | | <p>has been made to preserve the residence permit (article 1/2 Immigration Act). Nevertheless, recognised refugees are exempted from proving the condition of the integration efforts to preserve their residence permit. b) To obtain Belgian citizenship there are two procedures, the declaration of nationality and the naturalisation, this procedure is exceptional. - Declaration of nationality : The Belgian Citizenship law contains five different pathways to obtain nationality by this procedure, every pathway has his own conditions. Within some of these pathways the applicant needs to prove his integration into the society. This can be proven among others by satisfying the civic integration course. Furthermore, there are other possibilities to comply to this condition. - Naturalisation: only in exceptionally cases persons can apply for naturalization. The applicant needs to proof his extraordinarily accomplishments to the Belgian state on science, sport or sociocultural level and this must contribute to the international appeal and image of Belgium (article 19 Citizenship law). The Chamber of Representatives will decide on the application. There is no requirement to have followed or succeeded a civic integration programme but the law mentions that integration is an important element in the application (article 21, §5 Citizenship law). Recognised stateless persons can also obtain a naturalisation under certain conditions, again there is no obligation to have followed or succeeded the civic integration programme.</p> |
|  | Croatia | Yes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Croatia there is no general policy that concerns civic integration, however, there is a special integration policy for refugees: “Action Plan for Integration of persons who have been granted International Protection for the period from 2017 to 2019”. 2. No. It is not legally obligatory to participate, and they are not required to obtain a certain result. 3. Yes. Some of the programs in the Action Plan are funded by the government and some are funded or co-founded by relevant NGOs. Programs include lectures in the reception centre for applicants of international protection on rights of asylum seekers, informing beneficiaries of international protection on health care system, learning of Croatian language, history and culture in all the cities where refugees will be accommodated after being granted asylum, programs aimed at including children and young adults in education system, additional lectures in school for students that have insufficient knowledge of Croatian language, programs aiming to contribute to easier access to work rights of refugees, education of unemployed persons who have been granted international protection, measures for employing beneficiaries of international protection. |

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| | | | <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. a) No b) Yes. For naturalization, all applicants (including refugees) must prove knowledge of Croatian language and Latin script and pass an exam of Croatian culture and social organization. Details are specified in the “Ordinance on the manner of checking the knowledge of Croatian language and Latin script, Croatian culture and social organization in the procedures of acquiring Croatian citizenship.”</p> |
|  | Cyprus | Yes | <p>1. No.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. Yes, through AMIF.</p> <p>4. No</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. No</p> |
|  | Czech Republic | Yes | <p>1. Yes, the civic integration policy exists in the Czech Republic. The specific regulation is „Resolution of the Government of 20 November 2015 No. 954 – State Integration Programme for persons with granted international protection in the Czech Republic for the year 2016 and the following years“. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the State Integration Programme (SIP). Since 1994 the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) has provided the SIP for persons with granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection. The main goal of the SIP is to assist in the area of housing, work, education, health care, Czech language training, course of culture and democracy, and social assistance. Assistance is provided by professional social workers who provide individual assistance to the eligible persons. Every eligible person has signed up the Individual Integration Plan (IIP) that is fulfilled step by step during 12 months. Main partners of the MoI are Ministry’s Refuge</p> |

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| | | | <p>Facility Administration (RFA), non-governmental organizations, national authorities, municipalities, employers, etc. The best practice of SIP is in close cooperation between clients and social workers, and the MoI with social care providers (NGO, RFA and municipalities).</p> <p>2. It is not obliged to participate for them. It is their right, they can apply. It is not required to obtain a certain result but to get certificate they need to pass exam on the level A1 – A2 in the course of the Czech language and they can participate in the course of culture and democracy but they don't have a civic integration exam.</p> <p>3. Yes, it is provided and financed by the Czech government. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the SIP and the MoI finances a general provider of integration services – Refuge Facility Administration (RFA) to ensure integration services from the state budget.</p> <p>4. They take part for 12 months at the SIP, they can participate 400 hours of a free language course and 20 hours of a course of culture and democracy.</p> <p>5. As there is not obliged participation, there are not sanctions.</p> <p>6. No, it is not.</p> |
|  | Estonia | Yes | <p>1. Yes, Estonia has worked out its integration policy in integration development plan titled “Integrating Estonia 2020”. Specific regulations concerning refugees are implemented in initiatives for newcomers, co-called the Welcoming Program, which was launched in 2015. The Welcoming programme is aimed at foreign nationals who have legally resided in Estonia for less than 5 years and are one of the following: 1) foreign nationals who have been granted temporary residence permit in Estonia on the basis of the Aliens Act or the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens; 2) citizens of the European Union who have acquired the temporary right of residence in Estonia on the basis stipulated in the Citizen of the European Union Act; 3) family members of citizens of the European Union who have been granted the temporary right of residence in Estonia on the basis stipulated in the Citizen of the European Union Act. More information concerning Welcoming Program can be found at https://www.settleinestonia.ee/mod/page/view.php?id=118</p> |

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| | | | <p>2. Yes, according to the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens § 75, the beneficiary of international protection is obliged to participate in the international protection theme module of the adaptation programme in the framework of Welcoming Program, if the Police and Border Guard Board has referred the person there. There are no specific requirements the person is obliged to fulfill, the only one is to participate. During the period of establishing the Welcoming Program for refugees, there has been some changes - originally a one-day course, it was redesigned and extended to a 3-days training course in early 2018. In addition, the amount of free Estonian language training (up to the level A2) for BIPs will increase from 100 hours (in 2017) to 300 hours in 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>3. The Welcoming Programme is funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund and from the state budget.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. No, the Welcoming Program courses are not providing any guarantee for permanent residence permit or naturalisation. Courses provide language training for migrants only up to level A1, for refugees up to level A2. According to Aliens Act § 234 p 1 the person applying for long-term residents is required to have the Estonian language proficiency at least at B1 level and fulfill other requirements (has resided in Estonia on the basis of a residence permit for at least last five years before the submission of the application for a residence permit for a long-term resident, has a permanent legal income which ensures his or her own subsistence in Estonia etc.) For applying the citizenship, the Estonian language requirements are also at least B1 level. Conditions for acquiring Estonian citizenship by naturalisation stipulated in the Citizenship Act also foresee, that prior to the date on which person submits the application for Estonian citizenship, the foreigner has lived in Estonia for at least eight years on the ground of a residence permit or by right of residence, of which at least five years on a permanent basis.</p> |
| + | Finland | Yes | <p>1. According to the Integration Act, integration training for adult migrants must be provided in compliance with this National Core Curriculum adopted by the Finnish National Board of Education. Language training and civic training (information on society, labour market and so on) are given side</p> |

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| | | | <p>by side and as a part of integration training. No specific regulations regarding recognized refugees.</p> <p>2. No, participation in integration measures is basically voluntary. If a person through his/her individual integration plan is enrolled in integration training there are some obligations, such as to participate in Finnish or Swedish language education and possible other measures agreed upon in the individual integration plan. Social benefits can be reduced if a person does not meet these obligations. Finland has no civic integration exam.</p> <p>3. Yes. Publicly financed integration training (including language and civic training) is provided as labour market training. It is mainly targeted to migrants who are unemployed and registered as a jobseeker at an employment and economic development office. Migrants who have resided in Finland less than 3 years after receiving the first residence permit are given priority for approval for the training. Integration training as labour market training is free of charge for participants. There are some courses also available as self –motivated studies, mainly in big cities, which one can attend by own cost without being registered as a jobseeker. Municipalities can also offer integration training to immigrants/residents who are not seeking employment (f.e. parents taking care of small children at home, elderly) as self –motivated studies, but at the moment it is not systematically organized. Integration training which is offered as labour market training is not available for asylum seekers</p> <p>4. N/a</p> <p>5. Please see response to Q.2.</p> <p>6. a) N/a as no civic integration requirement. b) A certain level of language proficiency in either Finnish or Swedish is one of the requirements for naturalization</p> |
|  | France | Yes | <p>1. Yes, there is a civic integration policy for all the newly arrived foreign nationals who have been admitted in France for the first time and wish to stay durably on the territory. In France, a difference is made between the newly arrived foreign nationals and the beneficiaries of the international protection. The newly arrived foreign nationals are the foreign nationals regularly residing in France who signed the Republican integration contract (CIR). The beneficiaries of the international protection are the persons who are recognised refugees (Article L711-1 of the Code of Entry and Residence of Foreign</p> |

nationals and the Right of Asylum (CESEDA)), beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (Article L.712-1 of CESEDA) and statelessness persons (Article L.812-8 of CESEDA). As protected persons, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection have access to the common law, which means that they have the same rights as French citizens or third-country nationals who reside permanently in France. They have free access to the labour market and can apply for a social housing or social rights. However, in order to facilitate their integration, beneficiaries of international protection are not exempted to sign the CIR, even if this is not compulsory. The law about the right of foreign nationals in France dated 7th of March 2016, endorsed a major reform on the civic integration policy of the foreign nationals admitted for the first time and those who received the status of refugee. From the 1st of July 2016, foreign nationals admitted for the first time in France or those who enter regularly France between 16 and 18 years old et who wish to stay durably on the territory commit into a personalized pathway of republican integration. The foreign national concludes with the State a Republican integration contract and follows the training announced during the interview with the French office for migration and integration (OFII).

2. Beneficiaries of international protection (BIP) are not exempted from signing the CIR. However, the issuance of a residence permit for a beneficiary of international protection is a full right, and the signature of the CIR is not necessary. Contrary to the newly arrived foreign national, the respect of the CIR has no consequence on the issuance of the residence permit to the BIP. In this way, for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, the signature of the CIR is strongly recommended, they can receive benefits and an individualized support. During the interview with the OFII are prescribed the civic training pathway (based on two topics: the first one is related to “the principles, values and institutions of the Republic” and the second one is “living and getting a job in France”) and the language training (according to the needs, 3 pathways of language training of 50 hours, 100 hours or 200 hours can be prescribed. This pathway aims to reach the A1 level and 3 different categories of French language are available).


3. As it was mentioned earlier, the CIR is not focussed on the beneficiaries of the international protection. However, the State recognises and tries to deal with the difficulties faced by this public. Indeed, according to article L.757-1 of the CESEDA “ foreign nationals who received the status of refugee or the subsidiary protection and who signed the Republican integration contract has the right to benefit from an individual support for access to employment and accommodation...”. Moreover, the


budget program 104 of the Ministry of Interior “Integration and access to the French nationality” as part of the mission “Migration, asylum and integration” plans to give credits according to the integration of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. This action aims to: - Financing specific accommodation institutions for reception of vulnerable refugees: provisional centers accommodation (CPH) - Financing project implemented by associations with the transfer of financial help (scholarship) or actions promoting social and professional actions. Other types of financing can contribute to encourage the integration of beneficiaries of international protection on the labour market, but are not specific to this public : - The players i the field such as the associations but also the companies (for partnership contracts) who are involved in the reception and the integration of the newly arrived foreign nationals - The European credits: the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) who focus its second part on the integration of the third country nationals and the beneficiaries of international protection - The departmental plan of integration who offers a social and professional support to the public receiving the Active Solidarity Income (RSA) Finally there is the training insurance fund of temporary work (FAFTT) who decided to built and finance solutions to facilitate the reception and the professional and social integration of refugees. They aim to the empowerment and the sustainable return to the employment.




4. The Republican integration contract is concluded for 1 year. It is respected when the prescribed trainings have been seriously attended and when foreign nationals have not rejected any essentials values of the French society and Republic. The respect of the CIR and of the other conditions allow the issuance of the residence permit for 2 to 4 years after 1 year of regular residence. However, refugees are not subject to controls at the end of the CIR (see Question 1).


5. The refugees are not subject to any control at the end of the CIR, in that way, there is no sanction imposed.


6. Refugees can request French citizenship as soon as they receive the refugee status. They don't need to respect 5 years of residence. However, they have to fulfill the others conditions such as the language level and the integration into the French society. Reaching the A2 level is, from the 7th of March 2018, one of the conditions to obtain the 10-year residence permit. Finally, the acces to the French nationality is possible only with at least the B1 level, for the oral part.

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|  | Germany | Yes | <p>1. 1. Yes, in Germany there does exist a civic integration policy since 2005 (s. sections 43-45 and 75 of the Residence Act, Aufenthaltsgesetz.) At its heart, the flagship language program of the Federal Republic of Germany was introduced: the Integration Course (Integrationskurs), consisting of a language course element of either 600 (in general courses) or 900 units (in specified courses) leading to B1 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR). With respect to high demands of illiterate persons or those literate but not familiar with the latin alphabet special curricula (Alphabetisierungskurse, Zweitschriftlerner-Kurse) have recently been set up. The integration course also comprises an orientation course segment introducing German history, constitutional democracy and culture (100 units). Depending on residence and employment status, the attendance of an integration course may either be obligatory, optional or denied. Due to the huge influx of asylum seekers to Germany, legal amendments with regard to asylum seekers and recognized refugees have been made (Asylum packages I and II starting Oct. 2015 and the Integration Act coming into effect Aug. 6th, 2016). Generally, the Integration Act aims at facilitating an easier access for recognized refugees and asylum seekers to language courses and decreasing legal impediments to entering the job market as well as starting formal vocational training. Furthermore, refugees with protection status who depend on social benefits and do not attend university or vocational training are assigned a location of residence (federal state or municipality in which their asylum procedure was run) for up to three years.</p> <p>2. 2. By mainstreaming a social state's formula of 'support and challenge' (Fördern und Fordern), the Integration Act (2016) states the attendance of an integration course obligatory for recognized refugees. Asylum seekers with 'a good prospective to stay' (gute Bleibeperspektive), i.e. asylum applicants from home countries with a protection rate higher than 50% during the last six months, are given access to the integration courses prior to recognition. Following recognition, the obligation is imposed by either regional offices of the Federal Agency for Employment and the municipal jobcenters and/or regional authorities in charge of foreigners (Ausländerbehörden). The attendance, not a certain result is required. The integration course will end with either B1, A2 or below A2 (CEFR).</p> <p>3. 3. For asylum seekers and recognized refugees, who generally live on state subsidies the attendance of the courses are free of charge.</p> <p>4. 4. After twelve months access to the integration course expires. Meeting B1 (CEFR) is not compulsory though highly desirable to a low-level entry into the labour market. Integration course</p> |
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| | | | <p>regulations allow for a repetition of additional 300 units to meet B1. Language skills of B1 level allow for additional vocational language courses according to section 45a of the Residence Act (AufenthG). This program generally comprises courses from B2 up until C2 with additional specialist modules for certain professions. For additional information: www.bamf.de/EN</p> <p>5. Sanctions may be imposed by either the municipal branches of the Federal Agency for Employment or municipal social authorities as they provide state subsidies. Residence permits are extended only once for another 6 months in case of not meeting the integration course obligation.</p> <p>6. The legal requirement for permanent settlement in Germany are outlined in the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz). In order to obtain a permanent residence permit in accordance with section 9 of the Residence Act, sufficient command of the German language is generally required. Sufficient command of the German language is defined as corresponding to Level B1 of the CEFR. According to the Integration Act (Integrationsgesetz), recognized refugees can obtain permanent residence permit differentiated as follows: a) Three years after recognition if language skills correspond with C1 (CEFR) and if they can afford their own living largely and predominantly' (i.e.at present roundabout 720,--Euro/ single-person per month) or b) five years after recognition with language skills A2 (CEFR) - due to a given vulnerable state of refugees - and if they can afford their own living as shown above.</p> |
|  | Greece | Yes | <p>1. In Greece there is no compulsory civic integration requirements for legal residence and/or recognized refugees.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. n/a</p> <p>4. n/a</p> <p>5. n/a</p> <p>6. n/a</p> |


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|  | Hungary | Yes | <p>1. Due to the recent migration pressure the Hungarian integration system as a whole was reviewed and revised. Due to a change in legislation since the 1st of June 2016 integration support through an integration contract is no longer available.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. No.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. N/A</p> <p>6. N/A</p> |
|  | Ireland | Yes | <p>1. Ireland does not have civic integration requirements (e.g. language requirements or civic integration exams) for recognised refugees or other categories of migrants.</p> <p>2. .</p> <p>3. .</p> <p>4. .</p> <p>5. .</p> <p>6. .</p> |
|  | Latvia | Yes | <p>1. Yes. Integration activities of third-country nationals are provided in Latvia in accordance with “Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy for 2012–2018”. The Guidelines contain basic principles of the integration policy of Latvia, specify the issues to be settled and targets to be achieved as well as shall define certain tasks, including the ones driven towards support of integration of third-country nationals, and institutions responsible for performance thereof. Two types</p> |

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| | | | <p>of measures are distributed in the Guidelines: 1) measures of basic flow for whole society (strengthening of civil society and promotion of participation, elimination of discrimination, establishment and strengthening of language and culture space); 2) measures for specific target groups (diaspora, minorities, Roma, third-country nationals (refugees and persons with subsidiary protection are included) and non-citizens). In addition, plans on the medium term introduction of the Guidelines are developed every two years. The implementation plan of Guidelines for 2017 - 2018 provide the social integration courses for beneficiaries of international protection, as well as services of individual consultations and measures, promoting participation of different newcomers in social and culture activities.</p> <p>2. No, participation in language courses and integration courses are voluntary.</p> <p>3. Yes partly, as all integration activities for third-country nationals are organized with support of Asylum, migration and integration fund.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. No. Those third country nationals who attend language courses have possibility to pass language test at the National Centre for Education just after the courses. If the test is positive, they receive a certificate which states the knowledge level of Latvian. Such language certificate helps to find a proper job. Those who do not want or are unable to pass the official language test receive a certificate of completing the language training.</p> |
|  | Lithuania | Yes | <p>1. Yes, Lithuania has Guidelines for Lithuanian Migration Policy (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines) which were approved by the Government in 2008. Yes, beneficiaries of international protection are incorporated in this policy. The Action Plan for Integration of Foreigners 2015-2017 was approved by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour - this plan was focused mostly on beneficiaries of international protection. Recently, (in September, 2018), the Strategy of Demography, Migrations and Integration was introduced and approved by the Parliament, moreover, the Action Plan of the Strategy is being prepared. Although, beneficiaries of international protection are not included yet.</p> |

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| | | | <p>However, it is worth to mention, that another action plan (different from the Action Plan of the Strategy) for the integration of foreigners into the society for the period of 2018-2020 is under preparation despite the Guidelines. The goal of the Action Plan is to improve the functioning of the newcomers and beneficiaries of international protection integration system and ensure their successful integration into society.</p> <p>2. Yes. Beneficiaries of international protection are not obliged to participate in an integration process but if they participate, they have obligations. According to the article 108 of the Republic of Lithuania Law on the Legal Status of Aliens aliens who are supported by the State of Lithuania for integration must fulfill the obligations specified in the agreement on the provision of state support for integration to Lithuania. The provision of state support to integration of Lithuania shall be terminated if an alien to whom the support of the Lithuanian state for integration is provided does not fulfill the obligations specified in the agreement on the provision of state support for integration to Lithuania (one of the mandatory area's of integration is learning the state language or attending state introductory courses). No obligatory exams.</p> <p>3. Yes, it is financed by the state. Beneficiaries of international protection in the Refugee reception center (hereinafter referred to as the center) or in other residential areas provided by the center are provided with integration support: free living space in a living center or in other residential areas provided by the center, provided psychological assistance services, the most necessary social, health and legal advice, other types of legal services and other.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. No.</p> |
|  | Luxembourg | Yes | <p>1. A) Yes The Law of 16 December 2008 on the reception and integration of foreigners in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg establishes the Welcome and Integration Contract (CAI - articles 8 to 13) which is proposed 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 (not included the international protection</p> |

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| | | <p>applicants). It is optional and aimed as much at EU and EEA citizens as at third country nationals, to new arrivals as well as to people who have been living in Luxembourg for many years. It is not mandatory in any way. The services offered within the framework of this contract are : •A language training course •A citizenship training course •An orientation day. The Law of 16 December 2008 foresees also a Multi-annual National Action Plan on Integration. The coordination of this multi-annual national action plan (PAN) is made by the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency (Office luxembourgeois de l'accueil et l'intégration – OLAI). The PAN 2018 provides a framework for the programs and tools in support of social cohesion between Luxembourgish and non-Luxembourgish citizens. The PAN includes two policy areas : the reception of applicants for international protection and the integration of non-Luxembourgish residents whether they are third country nationals, European Union citizens or beneficiaries of international protection. On 1st September 2017, the PIA (accompanied integration pathway) a social and professional integration programme targeting adult international protection applicants (IPAs) and beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) was launched by the OLAI in close collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and Youth (MENJE). The PIA is based on two main elements: a) learning the national and administrative languages and b) the comprehension of the functioning of common life in Luxembourg. This programme is developed in three consecutive phases: a) PIA I launched on 1st September 2017 targets IPAs who are housed in the non-permanent structures of phase 2, which accommodate international protection applicants during the first weeks of their stay in Luxembourg. PIA I comprehends 16 hours of training: 8 hours of language integration training which are provided by the Ministry of National Education and Youth. It provides also 8 hours of training on how to live in Luxembourg (live in society, rights and obligations, equal opportunities) provided by OLAI. In order to receive the PIA I certificate the international protection applicant must follow the courses in the two areas: “Linguistic Integration 1” and “Information sessions on life in Luxembourg 1”. b) PIA II launched in 2018 targets the IPAs housed in permanent structures of phase 3 in which the IPAs are housed during all the international protection procedure. c) PIA III is destined to the BIPs. Since January 2018, the IPAs who have finished PIA 1 must follow the modules proposed in the framework of the PIA 2. PIA 2 is developed around two major pillars: a) A personalised orientation session, language courses or any other free training provided by the MENJE. This part is compulsory; b) Facultative information sessions on everyday life in Luxembourg organised by OLAI. B) There are no specific regulations in relation to recognised refugees incorporated in this policy, neither in the CAI</p> |
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| | | | <p>nor in the PAN 2018. No distinction is made between foreigners whether they are migrants or beneficiaries of international protection.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. Foreigners who conclude a CAI contract are entitled to language training courses at a reduced rate and free citizenship education courses, and to the participation at the orientation day, in order to facilitate their integration. IPAs and BIPs are entitled to language training courses and to the information and training sessions for everyday life under the PIA. These training courses and sessions are free of charge for the participant.</p> <p>4. At the end of the CAI contract, the OLAI will verify that the signatory has fulfilled the contractual obligations. The contract is considered fulfilled when the agreed conditions are fulfilled by the signatory within 2 years of the entry into force of the contract. The IPA has to attend the information sessions of PIA 1 within 6 to 8 weeks after his/her arrival to Luxembourg.</p> <p>5. No sanctions are imposed if the foreigner hasn't fulfilled the obligations of the CAI. An IPA who doesn't attend the training courses and sessions of PIA1 may risk the reduction or withdrawal of material reception conditions.</p> <p>6. As such, the CAI contract is advantageous for third-country nationals who wish to obtain long-term resident status. Individuals who take the citizenship education course as part of the CAI contract are exempt from taking the module on the history of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and European integration in the "Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" course, which is necessary for acquiring Luxembourg citizenship. For an IPA who becomes a BIP, the fact that s/he has followed the trainings foreseen in PIA (1, 2, 3) facilitates the access to the Welcome and Integration Contract.</p> |
|  | Malta | Yes | <p>1. In December 2017, Malta launched a 'Migrant Integration Strategy & Action Plan' which creates a framework for understanding successful integration through the level of the migrants' own sense of belonging to Maltese society and the space Maltese society allows for such integration in its different sectors and strata. This integration policy is not refugee-specific, but it caters for the integration of all migrants resident in Malta, be they beneficiaries of protection, EU nationals or Third Country</p> |


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| | | | <p>Nationals (TCNs). The following measures, amongst others, are included in the ‘Migrant Integration Strategy & Action Plan’: (a) the ‘I Belong’ programme (more details are found in question 2), (b) the development of intra-ministerial action plans, (c) the training of cultural mediators to be deployed as required in public services, and (d) setting up a regional integration hub in the Gozo (Malta’s neighbor island).</p> <p>2. The second measure of the Migrant Integration Action Plan refers to ‘Delivery of courses for Stage 1 and Stage 2 applicants,’ also known as the ‘I Belong’ programme. Migrants currently participate in this programme on a voluntary basis. Stage 1 courses are be offered by the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST) consists of a Maltese language for Integration course (MQF Level 1), an English Language for Integration course (MQF Level 2) and a Cultural Orientation course (MQF Level 1). The latter course includes knowledge about Malta’s Constitutions and laws, institutional set-up, equality, and non-discrimination, customs, and signposting. Successful participants will be awarded a Pre-Integration certificate. The certificate is obligatory for registration to Stage 2. Stage 2 is organized by the University of Malta and has two components, namely the ‘I Belong’ course, which is a cultural orientation course of at least 100 hours focusing on social, economic, cultural and democratic history and environment of Malta, with a specific focus on the Constitution, law, democratic values and practical sessions, as well as Maltese language for Integration course (MQF Level 2). A pass mark of at least 75% in the ‘I Belong’ course (which was formerly known as the ‘Living and Working in Malta’ course), and acquiring a pass mark of at least 65% in the Maltese course of Stage 2, are two of the criteria needed by migrants to lodge an application for a long-term residence status.</p> <p>3. Stage 1 courses are funded by AMIF. Stage 2 courses are financed by national funds.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. The courses are part-requirement for application for the Long-term residence.</p> |
|  | Netherlands | Yes | <p>1. Yes, in the Netherlands there is a civic integration policy that applies to all newcomers that have been granted a residence permit with a non-temporary ground [art. 3(1)(a) and art. 5 CIA jo. Art. 2.1(1)</p> |


CID]. This group includes recognised refugees. In Dutch national law no distinction is made between persons with a refugee status and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. The same rights and duties apply to them. You can find the Dutch civic integration policy in the Civic Integration Act (CIA), the Civic Integration Decree (CID) and the Civic Integration Regulation (CIR). The Education Executive Agency (DUO) ensures the implementation and enforcement of the Civic Integration Act. When in the answers below the term ‘newcomer’ is used, this also includes recognised refugees. Although the conditions of the integration programme and exams are the same for all newcomers, there are a few specific provisions for refugees (1) with regard to the financing of the civic integration courses and exams and (2) municipalities receive funding from the central government to support refugees with their integration, the so-called ‘social guidance’ [art. 18 CIA, jo. Art. 5.1 CID, jo. Art. 5.1 CIR]. These specific provisions will be explained in more detail at question nr. 3.


2. All newcomers between 18 years old and the legal AOW pension age (this is on average 65 years, but it differs for persons) that are subject to the Civic Integration Act are legally obliged to obtain the civic integration diploma [art. 3(1) CIA jo. Art. 5(1)(a) CID] within three years [art. 7a and 7b CIA]. If this obligation is not satisfied, DUO imposes a fine and a new time period in which the requirement must be met. See for more information below, at question nr. 5. Basically there are three ways of satisfying the integration requirement: 1. Newcomers can obtain the civic integration diploma by passing the 6 different integration exams (in language skills and knowledge of Dutch society (KNM) and labor market (ONA)) and by signing the participation statement after attending a workshop on Dutch core values. Except for the workshop on the participation statement, newcomers are not obliged to participate in a language or civic integration course. There is only an obligation of result: obtaining the civic integration diploma. Hereby the Dutch integration policy stresses one of its pillars, the ‘own responsibility’ of newcomers. However, whereas a newcomer is free to choose for self-study in order to prepare for the integration exam, practice shows that most newcomers enroll in an integration course. 2. A person can be exempted from his obligation to obtain a civic integration diploma, when he is able to show a substituting diploma, certificate or document that proves a certain knowledge of the Dutch language [art.5 CIA, art. 2.3 CID]. 3. If due to special individual circumstances someone is prevented from taking the civic integration examination (such as psychological disorder, physical impairment or mental disability), or in spite of many efforts failed to pass the examination, he can be exempted from the integration requirement [art. 6 CIA, art. 2.8 CID, art. 2.4 CIR].

3. The Dutch government provides a social loan for all newcomers that are obliged to obtain the civic integration diploma [Art. 16 CIA jo. Art. 4.1 and 4.1a CID]. The maximum amount of the loan is €10,000, depending on the income of the person and its partner [art. 4.1a(2) CID]. Six months after satisfying the civic integration requirement, the newcomer must pay back the used amount to DUO within ten years [art.17 CIA, art. 4.6 CID] in proportion to the height of the person's and its partner's income [art. 4.6 until 4.11 CID]. Special provisions on recognised refugees: • With regard to the social loan: ◦ Refugees are always granted the maximum loan of €10,000, irrespective of their income ◦ If a refugee satisfies the civic integration requirement within the determined period of time (see below question 4), the debt will be cancelled [Art. 16 Wi jo. Art. 4.1, 4.2 en 4.13, lid 3 Bi]. This provision also applies to family members of refugees [art. 4.1a(3) CID]. However, when a refugee defaults, he must pay back the social loan as any other person described above [art. 4.13(3)(a) CID]. • The Dutch government finances the support of refugees for their integration as soon as they are housed in the municipality (social guidance) with a contribution of €2370 (per refugee that must fulfill the integration requirement). The quality and duration of the social guidance differs in every municipality (from half a year to 2.5 years) and is in most cases executed by welfare organisations. It includes amongst other things assisting in the paper work, finding a school for the children and an integration course for the parents. In the Netherlands there is a free market for language schools. The Dutch government monitors the quality of the civic integration courses by the means of the quality label 'Blik op Werk' [art. 12a CIA and 3a(1) CID]. Only language schools having this label, receive payments by DUO via loans [art. 4.1a(4) CID].



4. Yes. After receiving the residence permit, DUO sends a letter to inform all newcomers about the civic integration requirement and the time period for satisfying this requirement. There are two different time periods determined for each newcomer: a) Within one year the participation statement must be signed. This period starts as soon as a newcomer has been granted a residence permit and is housed in the municipality [art.7a(2) CIA]. This year can be extended when the newcomer proves he cannot be held accountable for not signing the statement within time [art.7a(3) CIA, art. 2.12 CID and art. 2.4c CIR]. b) Within three years all newcomers must have passed all other exams of the civic integration examination (all 4 language skills, ONA and KNM) [art. 7b(1) CIA]. This time period starts from the moment a person receives the DUO letter. Under certain circumstances the three years can be extended, for example when a person is illiterate or when the person is not accountable for exceeding the time period [art. 7b(3)(a) CIA] (due to illness or waiting time in the reception center or

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| | | | <p>in spite of several efforts failed to pass the examination).</p> <p>5. Yes. DUO imposes sanctions (fines) to newcomers (including refugees) for not satisfying the integration requirement when the determined period of time is exceeded [art. 28 and 31 CIA]. When the (extended) time period has ended, DUO sends a letter to the newcomer announcing the provisional sanction and giving the possibility to explain the reason for the default. Subsequently, DUO decides whether there is a ground to extend the time period (see conditions mentioned in question 4) or whether a definite sanction will be imposed. The sanction consists of a fine: • For not signing the participation statement within 1 year, the maximum fine is €340. A new period of one year will be imposed [art. 29 and 34 CIA]. Furthermore, the person loses the right to the social loan in order to finance the civic integration course and exams [art. 16(1) CIA]. The fine of €340 will be imposed every year the statement is not signed [art. 30(2) CIA]. • For not satisfying the civic integration requirement within the set period of time, the maximum fine is €1,250. This can be lowered in accordance with the level of participation (hours of followed classes and attempts of exams). The minimum fine is €250. Also a new time period of two years will be determined [art.31 and 34 CIA]. The fine will be imposed every new period of two years the civic integration requirement is not met [art. 33(2) CIA]. Besides a fine, recognised refugees also lose their right to the cancellation of debt [art. 16(4)(c) CIA, art. 4.13(1) and (3) CID and art. 4.1a, lid 3 CID]. These refugees must pay back their social loan to DUO according to the same regular conditions as other newcomers [art 16 CIA and art. 4.6 Bi t/m 4.12 CID]. Furthermore, not satisfying the civic integration requirement can also have negative consequences for obtaining a residence permit (see below question 6).</p> <p>6. Yes. Without satisfying the civic integration requirement, newcomers will not be considered for (1) a permanent residence permit [art. 3.96a, art. 3.80a and 3.107a Vb] or (2) naturalisation [art. 8(1)(d) Act on Dutch Citizenship]. For both (1 and 2), similar kind of conditions apply (diploma and exemptions) as to the requirement of civic integration (see question 2).</p> |
|  | Poland | Yes | <p>1. No. In Act on Social Service (chapter 5 concerning beneficiaries of international protection) there are no regulations concerning participation of recognised refugees at orientation courses. Social service worker who leads individual integration program informs foreigner about his appurtenances and refers him to institutions which could help him/her. It is a form of orientation. Additionally, voivods in</p> |


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| | | | <p>Poland realize FAMI cofounded projects. One of their tasks is providing of orientation courses which are target to all foreigners who are interested, not only to beneficiaries of international protection. However these courses are not legal fixed, but realized as projects.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. No</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. No</p> |
|  | Portugal | Yes | <p>1. No</p> <p>2. NA</p> <p>3. NA</p> <p>4. NA</p> <p>5. NA</p> <p>6. NA</p> |
| | Slovak Republic | Yes | <p>1. Slovak Republic has adopted Integration Policy for foreigners – third country nationals which includes also beneficiaries of international protection. Besides, the integration of the beneficiaries of international protection is also governed by the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic. The State Integration Programme for Beneficiaries of International Protection is also under preparation by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior. In particular, the integration of beneficiaries of international protection is regulated by the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum. Nowadays, the</p> |

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| | | | <p>integration of beneficiaries of international protection is carried out by the NGO projects, funded by the The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.</p> <p>2. In the Slovak Republic, the beneficiaries of international protection are not obliged to participate in the integration project, but in that case they are not provided with any integration services. If they join an integration project, they are required to attend the Slovak language courses and job counseling otherwise their financial support is cut down. Persons who were granted international protection are not required to obtain any compulsory results in the integration project. Passing an exam is obliged only when applying for a citizenship.</p> <p>3. The integration of the beneficiaries of international protection is financed by The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and co-funded of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No. Beneficiaries of international protection are not obliged to fulfil any civic integration requirements. In a case they join the integration project they are required to attend the Slovak language course and job counseling otherwise their financial support is cut.</p> <p>6. No.</p> |
|  | Spain | Yes | <p>1. Yes. The Secretariat of State for Migrations has a comprehensive strategy of attention to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, of the status of stateless persons and of temporary protection in Spain with the aim of complying with the obligations that fall under national and international rules and encouraging the reception and integration of this group of persons. This strategy is embodied in a Reception and Integration System comprising the following lines of action: a) A reception state network, which includes: - Migration Centres dependents on the General Directorate of Migrations (DGM) - Other reception facilities, subsidized by the DGM and managed by non-profit entities intended to serve this same group. b) The complementary resources subsidized by the DGM and managed by the mentioned entities, necessary to facilitate integration measures (legal, psychological attention, labour orientation, language learning and knowledge of host society courses, translation and interpretation, economic benefits, etc.). The Reception and Integration System is</p> |

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| | | | <p>developed through individualized integration itineraries whose aim is to facilitate the progressive autonomy of the refugees and their social and labour integration in the host society. These itineraries are instrumented in three phases that respond to different needs, taking into account the time spent in our country, their personal evolution and the degree of acquired autonomy. The integration itinerary comprises three phases: reception (1st phase), integration (2nd phase) and autonomy (3rd phase). This policy arise from the main national legal frame: the Organic Law 4/2000, of January 11, on rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and its social integration, The Law 12/2009 of October 30, regulating the right of asylum and subsidiary protection and the Royal Decree 203/1995 approving the Regulations for the application of this law. Moreover, there are some other rules regulating different aspects of the attention to refugees (for example: access to centres, rights to grants, etc).</p> <p>2. No. There is no obligation for them to participate but in such case, they will not have the right to get some possible services, benefits, etc. from the national system. There is not exams to check the level of civic integration, on the contrary the approach taken is motivate for them to realize that their active participation will result in a better integration.</p> <p>3. Yes. There is national budget to afford this program which can be co-funded by European funds as AMIF or ESF; activities can be implemented through two ways: either directly by the DGM with its own human and material resources or through non-profit entities which are subsidized by the DGM to put necessary resources to attend refugees in an integral way.</p> <p>4. As a general rule, the total duration of the itinerary of integration for a refugee is 18 months (three phases: reception, integration and autonomy), extendable to 24 months for vulnerable people. Within this overall duration, the duration of each phase is indicative, depending on the degree of autonomy acquired by the participant, but this period is the time in which refugees are entitled to services and benefits and not a time period in which he/she has to satisfy any civic integration requirement because this one does not exist.</p> <p>5. As there is not an exam/requirement of “civic integration” there are not sanctions related to it; sanctions are only applied if refugees don’t accomplish the rules laid down to be part of the national system of reception and integration and will consist in the reduction or withdrawal of some or all of the reception services, for example: when the applicant has sufficient economic resources and can face all</p> |
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| | | | <p>or part of the costs of the reception conditions or when he has concealed his financial resources, and, get unduly benefits from the established reception benefits, the coexistence in the reception centres is severely hampered or there is a lack of respect to others residents or the staff of the centres according to the internal rules, etc.</p> <p>6. Granting of the right of asylum or subsidiary protection will imply in itself the authorization of residence and permanent work in the terms established by Organic Law 4/2000, of January 11, on rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and its social integration, so it is not related with the civic integration as a “requirement”. Concerning naturalization, civic integration courses delivered into the national system of reception and integration for refugees could help them to pass the exam for acquiring naturalization but not as a “requirement” in itself: naturalization process has its own requirements.</p> |
|  | Sweden | Yes | <p>1. No. Swedish for immigrants, which contains some elements of civic integration, is offered to everyone who does not speak Swedish.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. NA</p> <p>4. NA</p> <p>5. NA</p> <p>6. No</p> |
|  | United Kingdom | Yes | <p>1. The UK Government published the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper in March 2018. This sets out the Government’s vision and proposed measures for supporting integration in England, and includes measures relating to refugee integration (in Chapter 2). The consultation on the Green paper closed in June and the Government will publish a response to the consultation, including details of specific measures that will be taken forward, later this year. We view integration as a two way process, which involves both migrants and resident communities, and we are clear that integration is</p> |

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| | | | <p>not assimilation. Integration policy in England is not underpinned by specific regulations in relation to refugees, or other target groups. The Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper signalled a new localised approach, with a focus on supporting local authorities and other partners to take tailored actions that address specific integration challenges in their area. The Government issues a Statement of Requirements to local authorities participating in the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, which includes some requirements relating to integration, such as providing a minimum of eight hours per week of English language training, providing a caseworker for the first year and helping refugees to access welfare, health and other local services. The Government recognises that local authorities, NGOs, faith organisations and businesses have an important roles to play in refugee integration and seeks to support their involvement by sharing learning about best practice.</p> <p>2. Refugees are not legally obliged to take part in a civic integration programme. Refugees that are unemployed and looking for work will be required to agree activities that they will undertake in order to find work and this may include participation in language training. This will be a condition for receipt of unemployment benefits. Local authorities and NGOs signpost refugees towards activities that can support their integration</p> <p>3. Refugees are able to work upon arrival in the UK and have access to mainstream services that can support them into employment and enable wider integration. This includes immediate access to welfare benefits, healthcare and refugees who are unemployed and looking for work can access free English language tuition. In relation to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, the Government funded a NGO partner to pilot the Specialist Employment and Training Programme, which takes a more tailored approach to supporting refugees into work. The findings from evaluation of the pilot were positive, and we are currently considering how to take this forward. The Government has also distributed new information booklets for adults and children resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, the Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme and unaccompanied children transferred from Europe, to help their integration into life in Britain.</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p> |
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| | | | <p>6. Refugees are granted five years leave to remain upon recognition in the UK. At the end of five years they can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain and are not required to pass any language or civic integration test. If a refugee wishes to apply for citizenship, they need to pass a Life in the UK Test and an English language test.</p> |
|  | <p>Norway</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>1. The term civic integration policy may be interpreted to encompass different categories of immigrants, at different stages of their integration trajectories. Norway interprets this query to be concerned primarily with newly arrived refugees, who have obtained a residence permit. This also happens to be the primary target group for the most comprehensive element of the Norwegian civic integration policy, namely the Introduction Program (IP). The legal parameters of the IP were first established in the Introduction Act of 2003 (see http://app.uio.no/ub/ujur/oversatte-lover/data/lov-20030704-080-eng.pdf). https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40878-016-0045-8 https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/nou-2017-2/id2536701/sec1</p> <p>2. The right and the obligation to take part in the IP applies to newly arrived refugees (and their reunited family members) between the ages of 18 and 55, who have a need for basic qualification. It is up to the host municipality to establish the presence or absence of this need, based on involvement in work or education, language skills, and educational credentials. The IP is designed as a full-time program (37 hours per week) that nominally runs over two years. At a minimum, the program consists of Norwegian language training and civics education. All participants are assigned a program advisor, and an individual plan is drawn up. Ideally and indeed in many cases, the program also includes some form of work training scheme and/or additional training leading to more formal qualifications. Participants are not obligated to pass certain exams or obtain certain results, but undocumented absence and/or withdrawal from the program has consequences in the form of economic benefits being held back. Full participation is tied to a benefit of a basic amount of the national insurance (comparable to a minimum welfare benefit).</p> <p>3. The IP is financed by the government, through grants to municipalities. Municipalities receive per capita grants tied to each refugee, which run over five years. The grants are intended to cover the costs</p> |

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| | | | <p>of administering the program.</p> <p>4. No. The IP nominally runs over two years, but in some cases a third or even a fourth year is offered. Participants may also be registered within the program for longer periods due to leaves of absence.</p> <p>5. See the final paragraph under 2. Participants are not obligated to pass certain exams or obtain certain results, but undocumented absence and/or withdrawal from the program has consequences in the form of economic benefits being held back. Full participation is tied to a benefit of a basic amount of the national insurance (comparable to a minimum welfare benefit).</p> <p>6. No. Newly arrived immigrants will not qualify for Norwegian citizenship as it is tied to a requirement of seven years of residence in Norway. Citizenship furthermore requires passing a specific exam and/or documentation of having passed Norwegian language and civics exams at a sufficient level.</p> |
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