



## **EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Ad-Hoc Query on the content of integration programmes for applicants for/beneficiaries of international protection**

Requested by Alessandro GENTILINI on 11th August 2016

### **Integration**

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Blocked / Unknown, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (22 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 Italy, Directive 2011/95/UE was implemented by Legislative Decree 21 February 2014, No 18, which provides for the adoption of a National Plan that identifies policy lines aimed at the effective integration of beneficiaries of international protection. A special focus is placed on the following: social integration, integration into the labour market, access to healthcare and social welfare, accommodation, education, language teaching and the fight against discrimination.


We are currently developing our Integration Plan. With a view to producing an Integration Plan that is in line with current trends in other Member States and to ensuring consistency at the EU level on a delicate issue such as integration, we would kindly ask you to answer the questions below.

## **Questions**

1. Which of the following integration policies are considered as a priority in your Member State? 1. Access to housing; 2. Access to healthcare and social services; 3. Language teaching; 4. Integration into the labour market; 5. Education; 6. Participation in social life; Other (please specify). On a scale from 1 to 6, please indicate the order of importance (1=low priority; 6=top priority).
2. Have you reviewed these priorities following current or recent migration pressure?
3. How does your Member State distribute (%) the maximum budget allocated for each applicant for/beneficiary of international protection entering your reception system? (If your reception system is managed at a regional/local level and there are differences from one system to another, please give an average estimate of cost distribution): 1. Food and accommodation %; 2. Clothing and other personal belonging, medicines, etc. %; 3. Pocket money %; 4. Integration (language courses, training courses, etc.) %; 5. Rent and overheads of reception facilities %; 6. Staff (in reception facilities) %; Other (please, specify) % (Total 100 %)
4. At what stage of reception are asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection placed in integration programmes/projects?
5. What is the length of planned integration processes? Can this length be extended, if needed?
6. What arrangements are in place in your Member State to encourage applicants for/beneficiaries of international protection to complete language programmes?
7. What measures are in place in your Member State to encourage economic migrants and their family members to take language courses?
8. Have there been changes lately in your Member State aimed at facilitating the recognition of educational and professional qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection and/or economic migrants? If this is the case, please summarise briefly those changes that have facilitated recognition.

## **Responses**

	Country	Wider Dissemination	Response
 	Austria	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Generally speaking, every integration measure has priority. However, to ensure successful integration from the outset, language acquisition (6) accompanied by values and orientation training (6) is imperative, followed by education (5) to ensure access to the employment market (5). Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Yes, you can find details on this issue in the 2016 Integration Report. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Such individuals receive means-tested minimum income. In Austria, means-tested minimum income is a social benefit to replace social assistance (Sozialhilfe), which was previously administered according to varying conditions depending on the province. It consists of a cash allowance and free health insurance coverage. The intention is to help people increasingly recognize means-tested minimum income as an educational instrument, encouraging them towards a way of living that is not dependent on transfer payments and putting into practice the notion of “helping people to help themselves” (as stated in one of the 50 measures recommended by the Expert Council for Integration). Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><b>4.</b> From the date when they receive a positive asylum decision. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><b>5.</b> This varies in length depending on the person and can be extended if necessary. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Motivation is provided by the prospect of access to the employment market. The basic condition is A2 level. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><b>7.</b> The Integration Agreement. It supports the integration of foreigners (i.e. individuals who are not either EU citizens or other EEA citizens or citizens of Switzerland) lawfully settled in Austria and is aimed at helping such individuals acquire greater proficiency in German. Basic German skills for elementary use of the language are a prerequisite for obtaining certain first-</p>

			<p>time residence permits prior to immigration, but this is not part of the Integration Agreement. The Integration Agreement consists of two consecutive modules that build on one another. When individuals are issued certain residence permits, they must complete Module 1 (German skills at the A2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) within two years. The prerequisite for obtaining permanent residence status and citizenship is completion of Module 2 (German skills at the B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p><b>8.</b> The Act on Recognition and Assessment of Qualifications entered into force as of 12 July this year. The aim of this Act is to promote integration into the labour market of individuals who have acquired qualifications in other countries and to support them in obtaining employment matching their qualifications. The Act establishes two service institutions and specifies the assessment procedure, leads to greater equality between EU citizens and third-country citizens, introduces for the first time consistent statistical monitoring and defines special procedures for persons granted asylum and for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who, because of having to flee, are no longer able to present documents certifying completed education or training. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p>
	Belgium	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In Belgium, the communities (Flemish, French and German) and the regions (Flanders, Walloon Region and Brussels Capital region) are responsible for integration policies. Priorities might differ from one regional entity to another, and it is very difficult to provide a ranking of the priorities for each regional entity. Furthermore all of the integration aspects are important and are linked with each other. For example, as long as beneficiaries of international protection have not yet found adequate housing and/or have to focus on surviving, it is very difficult to start with their integration process. As a consequence access to housing seems to be one of the key issues and major challenges. Obviously also language training is crucial for many individuals. Poor language knowledge hampers the access to social and counselling service, to the participation in vocational and educational programmes and labour market integration.</p> <p><b>2.</b> There has not been a formal review of priorities, but in the last year several initiatives were taken to increase labour market participation of beneficiaries of international protection and</p>

asylum applicants. One example is that since 9 December 2015 asylum applicants are granted access to employment after 4 months (without having received a first instance decision on their asylum applications), this instead of a 6 month waiting period. Besides, the different regional entities in Belgium allocated additional resources to (labour market) integration programmes.

**3.** It is not possible to provide a cost distribution of the “integration budget” for each applicant and beneficiary of international protection. Asylum applicants have the right to material assistance/aid in kind throughout the asylum procedure. This material aid, in collective or individual reception facilities comprises: accommodation; food; clothing; medical, social and psychological support; access to interpretation services; access to legal representation; access to training; access to a voluntary return programme and a small allowance (so-called pocket money). There are also specific provisions on vulnerable persons and minors. Depending on the reception facility (individual or collective) the asylum applicant is benefiting from, and depending on individual situations (children at charge, etc.) the allocation of resources differs. Beneficiaries of international protection have to leave the reception facilities for asylum applicants. It is the objective that the beneficiary of international protection finds housing on the private or social housing market. (However the Belgian Reception Act foresees a transition period which allows them to stay for an additional period of two months in the reception structures for asylum applicants. During these two months, the beneficiaries of international protection are entitled to the same material aid and allowances as asylum seekers in the collective or individual reception facilities. If the beneficiary of international protection has not found housing during the transition period of two months, he can ask for an extension of his stay in the reception facility.) If the beneficiary of international protection cannot find a job he is entitled to an integration income, which equals the integration income of own nationals. This integration income clearly differ from unemployment benefits. Beneficiaries of international protection who have worked a certain number of days (minimum 312 days) and who are available for the labour market and actively seeking work, can apply for an unemployment benefit which is a certain percentage (decreasing over time) of the last salary. Depending on the region (Brussels, Wallonia or Flanders) beneficiaries of international protection are entitled or obliged to follow integration programmes. Due to the fact that the resources for housing, integration income, language training, vocational training, etc. are depending from different budgets or entities, it is not possible to provide information on the cost distribution. Besides, for

most integration support measures beneficiaries of international protection are just one of the target groups and there is no information available which part of the total budget of a specific support measure is allocated to the group of beneficiaries of international protection.

**4.** As for what concerns asylum applicants there is no obligation to follow an integration programme in Belgium. The integration of beneficiaries of international protection (and other migrants) is a competence of the regions. Flanders has a (mandatory) integration pathway for newcomers since 2004. The training programme consists of social orientation to get familiar with Flemish and Belgian society, Dutch language lessons (Dutch as a second language (NT2)) and career orientation. At the end of February 2016, also the Walloon government introduce a mandatory integration programme in Wallonia. The Decree makes the components of the programme compulsory (reception module, learning French (120h), citizenship training (20h) and socio-professional orientation for those who need it. In the Brussels Capital Region and in the German speaking community there is no obligation for beneficiaries of international protection to follow an integration programme. Although, at the end of November 2015, the Brussels government announced the beginning of a compulsory integration pathway, including language training, to be implemented in 2017. Also in the German speaking community the integration pathway will start at the beginning of 2017. After the adoption of the integration decree – expected in 2018 -, the integration pathway will be obligatory for refugees.

**5.** In Flanders there is a primary civic integration programme and a secondary civic integration programme. The primary civic integration programme consists of: a social orientation course, which consists of an introduction to the Flemish and Belgian society; a basic Dutch as second language course career orientation, which implies coaching in the search of employment or studies, and toward the provision in terms of culture and leisure activities. programme counselling, which implies an individual counselling of the person integrating In Flanders, The Dutch language lessons for low language skilled or ‘slow learners’ are organised by the Centers for Basic Education (CBE). A standard course consists of 240 teaching hours. Illiterate or very low language skilled persons can also follow Dutch language lessons organised by these centers for basic education, consisting of 600 teaching hours. Higher educated or ‘fast learners’ are referred to Centers for Adult Education (CVO) where they can follow a standard course consisting of 120 teaching hours. Persons in the integration pathway who want to follow higher

		<p>education can follow a course of 90 hours if they fulfil the admission requirements for higher education. These courses are organised by academic language centers. A social orientation course in Flanders typically entails 60 hours. The participants can follow the lessons in their own language or in a contact language. The programme followed by a person integrating is established in his civic integration contract. The latter contains the courses he will attend and where and when they will take place. The welcome office takes maximum account of the work and family situation, the learning needs and questions of the persons integrating. The integration programme is thus flexible and can be extended if appropriate. Besides, there is also an integration programme. During the secondary programme, persons integrating can shape the choice they made during the primary civic integration programme that is to start working or to take up further education. The person integrating can, for instance, follow vocational training or entrepreneurship training. Moreover, he can enrol for 'Dutch as second language' follow-up courses and continue his studies. Unlike the primary programme, the secondary programme is not organised by the welcome office. Instead it is made available by the regular facilities. For what concerns the Walloon Region, after registration in a municipality in the Walloon Region, the candidate to the integration programme has to contact one of the eight Regional Integration Centers (CRI) within three months. The integration pathway in Wallonia consists of a personalized reception module, a French language training, a training in citizenship and a socio-professional orientation. The target group consists of foreigners (including beneficiaries of international protection) who have been living in Belgium for less than three years and who hold a residence permit valid for more than 3 months. The integration pathway is composed of 2 parts. The initial integration module consists of information on the rights and duties of each person living in Belgium; a social assessment (including a linguistic assessment); and assistance or orientation towards support services regarding various administrative procedures. Regarding social orientation, nine different topics are addressed during the course on citizenship during the second module: different residence statuses, housing, health, education, social security, taxes, insurance, institutions and daily live. Since 28 February 2016 also the second module become obligatory, including language training (120 hours) and social orientation (20 hours). The language programme of the courses in the French language "FLE" ("Français langue étrangère") must be completed in six months and be composed of a minimum of 120 training hours. A test is foreseen before the start of the programme in order to evaluate the French language level of the</p>
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		<p>candidate and another test takes place at the end of the programme in order to validate the knowledge acquired by the candidate. Also in the francophone part of Brussels the integration programme has two components. The first module is a welcome module including information on the rights and obligations (10 hours) of any person residing in Belgium and an assessment on the social situation and knowledge of French. The second component consists of social support and training. Social support is the support and monitoring of administrative procedures for the needs that has been identified through assessment and referrals to those active in the field of training and employment. The training programme consists of either language training or citizen training. Language training in French as a foreign language or literacy aim to reach the A2 level of the CEFR. These trainings are organized through a schedule of 20 hours per week during the day or 7 hours per week shift at atypical hours. The length of training varies between a minimum of 120 hours and a maximum of 1150 hours for illiterate people. Training in civic integration of minimum 50 hours allows newcomers to better understand our society. Basic information on the functioning of public institutions, social relations is provided. The Francophone Brussels integration path is currently organized on a voluntary basis and free of charge. It will become partly mandatory in the near future.</p>
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**6.** Most beneficiaries of international protection do not need to be encouraged to follow language courses. They understand it is important to learn the national language and that it can increase their chances on the labour market. Moreover, beneficiaries of international protection and other migrants are obliged to follow a civic integration programme in Flanders and Wallonia. If they fail to fulfil the obligation, they may receive an administrative fine. The system of administrative fines does not apply in the Brussels Capital Region where it's for the moment organised on a voluntary basis. Another incentive to encourage to follow the language courses is that the language courses are free of charge. Furthermore, In Flanders, due to the implementing decree of the Flemish Government of January 2016 candidates who want to acquire a certificate of civic integration at the end of the integration course will have to pass a test and herewith demonstrate they have reached a certain level of Dutch.

**7.** There is not a big difference between beneficiaries of international protection and economic migrants and their family members for what concerns the language courses or integration programmes; much depends on the duration of the residence permit. (see the answer to question



6). In Flanders, Civic integration is intended for foreigners aged 18 and more who come to Flanders to reside there for a long period. The target group of the civic integration policy also includes Belgians who were not born in Belgium and at least one of whose parents was not born in Belgium. All persons integrating have a right to a civic integration programme, but certain categories such as persons who recently emigrated to Belgium and have taken up residence in Flanders, for example beneficiaries of international protection, economic migrants and their family members, are obliged to take a civic integration programme. In the Walloon Region, the target group of the integration policy consists of foreigners (including beneficiaries of international protection and economic migrants) who have been living in Belgium for less than three years and who hold a residence permit valid for more than 3 months. In the Brussels Capital Region, the target group of the integration programme are foreigners (beneficiaries of international protection and other) who are older than 18 years and who have been legally staying in Belgium for less than three years. They also have to be registered in the foreigners' register of a municipality of the Brussels Capital region and have to hold a residence permit valid for more than three months.

**8.** There is no specific procedure for the recognition of certificates for asylum applicants or beneficiaries of international protection. However, there is a bit more flexibility regarding the documents that need to be submitted by refugees or asylum seekers. In Flanders, asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection are exempted from the fee for the application procedures. The legislation of the French Community on academic recognition of foreign higher education degrees has been recently revised in order to harmonize the recognition procedures, improve transparency and integrate new possibilities concerning automatic recognition (e.g. the decision of the Benelux on mutual recognition). In line with the provisions of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, this new legislation also includes a specific procedure dedicated to refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary and humanitarian protection who are unable to provide documentation on their academic background. In addition, procedures of recognition are now completely free of charge for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary and humanitarian protection. This new regulation will come into force by 15th September 2016. In July 2015, the Flemish government approved a concept paper on the Policy for the Recognition of Competences (EVC). The aim was the valorisation of knowledge and skills acquired by third-country nationals in schools, free time and through work experiences. Recognized EVC-

			<p>providers can test knowledge and skills and issue qualification certificates or certificates of competences which can be used to access the labour market or to get an exemption for certain training/educational programmes. The government aims at implementing the overall decree on EVC in 2017. For 2016, additional funds have been reserved for the recognition and statement of equivalence of foreign qualifications and for the development of a flexible procedure for refugees who are unable to present their diplomas and the required documents.</p>
	Blocked / Unknown	Yes	<p>1. 5- Language teaching 4- Training on French Republic values and organization 3- Integration into the labor market/access to housing 2- Education/access to healthcare and social services 1- Participation in social/public life</p> <p>2. Regarding housing issues for refugees, some actions towards better orientation and coordination have been implemented.</p> <p>3. No answer from the competent services.</p> <p>4. Regarding asylum seekers: During the process of the asylum application, asylum seekers do not have any access to integration programmes provided by the Republican integration contract (contrat d'intégration républicaine). In France asylum seekers benefit from the following rights: • Allowance for asylum seekers (allocation pour demandeur d'asile ADA): this in-cash allowance has been introduced by the reform of 29th July 2015 on asylum. It came into force on 1 November 2015 and is monitored by the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII). It is paid, under age and resources conditions, to asylum seekers who have accepted to comply with the OFII support activities while coming to the one-stop shop. The allowance is paid until the final decision on the asylum application or the transfer to another Member State. Steps towards access to this right can be taken as soon as the asylum application has been filed. • Access to education: direct access to education for asylum seekers is the same than for every national. According to the Code on education (Article L. 111-2) "every child has access to scholar trainings that contribute to its education, complementing the family action". Furthermore, "education is compulsory for French or foreign children between six and sixteen years" (Article L. 131-1 of the Education Code). • Access to healthcare: Asylum seekers can benefit from the basic or the complementary universal healthcare coverage (couverture maladie</p>



universelle, CMU) as soon as their asylum application has been filed. From that moment, asylum seekers have access to free medical/hospital care for him/herself, his/her husband/wife and his/her child/ren. • Access to labour market: Asylum seekers are not allowed to work until the OFPRA has not made a decision on their application or if it has not decided within nine months of the filing of the application and if this delay is not of their responsibility (Article L. 744-11 of the Code on Entry and Residence of Foreign nationals and Right of Asylum, CESEDA). In the latter case, asylum seekers can apply for a work permit when they can certify a request for a work permit made by their future employer. Regarding beneficiaries of international protection (BPI): BPI have access to integration programmes provided by the Republican Integration Contract (Contrat d'intégration républicaine, CIR). Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection can sign the CIR. This contract made between the State and the BPI aims to facilitate his/her integration within French society, in particular through access to linguistic and civic trainings. This contract can be signed as soon as the OFPRA has recognized the status of BPI and a residence permit has been delivered. However, it is important to note that signing the CIR is not compulsory for BPI.


**5.** The Republican Integration Contract is signed for a period of one year. The length can be extended for another year by the Prefecture on demand of the OFII.

**6.** The CIR gives access to linguistic trainings if needed. Once the contract has been signed it is compulsory to attend the trainings. Beneficiaries of international protection can have access to the CIR in contrast to asylum seekers.

**7.** When the French language skills of economic migrants are below the A1 level (basic French language skills at beginner level) according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, they have access to free linguistic trainings under the CIR. Attending this trainings becomes compulsory once the person has signed the CIR.

**8.** For BPI: The service offered by the Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP)\* is the same for all third-country nationals. However, the procedure for refugees is more flexible. For example, even if the person in question does not have all the required documents, the French ENIC-NARIC Centre can conduct an assessment of the documents which are presented.

			Moreover, applications from this specific group are processed as a priority. (* The CIEP is a public administrative body under the auspices of the Ministry for National Education, Higher Education and Research (MENESCR)) For economic migrants: no.
	Croatia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please refer to the attached document.</li> <li>2. Please refer to the attached document.</li> <li>3. Please refer to the attached document.</li> <li>4. Please refer to the attached document.</li> <li>5. Please refer to the attached document.</li> <li>6. Please refer to the attached document.</li> <li>7. Please refer to the attached document.</li> <li>8. Please refer to the attached document.</li> </ol>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6 Language training 5 Integration to the labour market 4 Access to housing 3 Education 2 Access to healthcare and social services 1 Participation in social life</li> <li>2. No, the priorities are constant.</li> <li>3. Applicant for international protection: The process of integration commences once the foreigner has been granted international protection – meaning there are no integration programmes for applicants for international protection. Beneficiary of international protection: 1. Food and accommodation: 0%; 2. Clothing and other personal belonging, medicines, etc.: 0%; 3. Pocket money: 0%; 4. Integration (language courses, training courses, etc.): 120,000 CZK/1person (app. 4,444 EUR); 200,000 CZK/family 2-4 persons (app. 7,407 EUR); 250,000</li> </ol>

			<p>CZK/family 5 persons and more (app. 9,259 EUR). 5. Rent and overheads of reception facilities: N/A 6. Staff (in reception facilities): N/A</p> <p><b>4.</b> We do not have integration programme for asylum seekers. After being granted international protection (in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection), a foreign national has the opportunity to apply for the State Integration Programme.</p> <p><b>5.</b> The support from the State Integration Programme lasts 6 months. Accommodation in the integration asylum centres is possible up to 18 months.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Only beneficiaries of international protection are entitled to attend free language courses. There are no special arrangements in place yet. Legal obligation to attend the language courses is being considered.</p> <p><b>7.</b> The Ministry of the Interior provides grants to NGOs to be able to run free language classes for foreigners.</p> <p><b>8.</b> No changes.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs ranked the priorities as following: 6. Integration into the labor market 5. Education 4. Access to healthcare and social services 3. Access to housing 2. Language teaching 1. Participation in social life</p> <p><b>2.</b> No</p> <p><b>3.</b> Please find explanation of this answer from attached file. Applicants for international protection - Fixed expenses, does not depend on the number of applicants of international protection – cost of reception facilities, staff, Estonian classes etc. – estimated cost in 2016 – 101 000 € - Cost per one applicant of international protection – 225 €/month. Includes clothing and other personal belongings, health care, translation services, transport, other. - Monetary benefit for one person in one month is 130 € Beneficiary of international protection - Accommodation – one-time benefit 780 € to support the renting the place to live. Not payed in cash but directly to</p>

the land lord. - Estonian classes – 1560€/person - Translation service – 1040€/person or 2080 €/family

**4.** Beneficiaries of international protection are entered into the Welcoming programme (adaptation programme for foreign nationals residing in the country on a legal basis for less than 5 years) upon receiving their residence permit. The international protection module of the programme (8 hours) is mandatory for recipients of international protection, other modules (basic, work, education, research, family life, children and young adults provided for individuals under 15) are voluntary. Asylum seekers are not entitled to adaptation programmes, but they are invited to language courses, work-related and social counselling and other voluntary events and projects organized by reception centres and volunteer organisations.

**5.** It is foreseen in national legislation that integration support for beneficiaries of international protection (costs for translation and costs of the Estonian language learning) is covered up to two years. Beneficiaries of international protection are also required participate in the international protection module of the Welcoming programme and to use the service of a support person where appointed to him or her. Usually the service is provided for the first adaptation period, which is up to six months, but it might be extended in accordance with the individual needs of the receiving person or family.

**6.** Please see the previous answer.

**7.** All foreign nationals with less than five years of legal residency in Estonia are provided a free of charge Welcoming programme aimed at supporting adaptation. The programme includes also an 80-hour A1 state language course. All individuals who pass state language proficiency exams on various level have the option of having their A2-C2 language course costs reimbursed. One of the integration requirements for migrants and their family members who are applying for a residence permit for long-term residents is to have the Estonian language proficiency at least at the elementary level – language proficiency level B1 or a corresponding level. But also the beneficiaries of international protection who are living in Estonia may be required to refund the amounts spent on provision of language learning in the following cases: 1) a person eligible for subsidiary protection has not acquired language proficiency level A1 within one year as of the

			<p>grant of international protection; 2) a person who has been granted a refugee status has not acquired language proficiency level A2 within two years as of being granted international protection; 3) a person eligible for subsidiary protection has not acquired language proficiency level A2 within two years as from the extension of the residence permit; 4) a beneficiary of international protection has not acquired language proficiency level A2 within five years as of being granted international protection.</p> <p><b>8. No.</b></p>
+	Finland	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> FI has no specific list of priorities, access to housing is a key issue, closely followed by language training and integration to the labour market. The Government Integration Programme also mentions education and participation in social life. Please see the reply to the next question. All the issues are interlinked and of importance, therefore it is difficult to put them in a specific order.</p> <p><b>2.</b> As planned, the Government has elaborated a new Integration Programme for 2016-2019, which was approved on the 8th September 2016. The goal of the Government Integration Programme is to promote equality and ensure that the knowledge and skills of immigrants benefit Finnish society. By means of an effective initial stage of integration and cooperation between authorities and stakeholders, efforts are made to ensure a smooth transition for immigrants into, for example, studies or working life. Four programme focus areas The Government Integration Programme is aimed at four focus areas, which are based on the Government Programme. The focus areas include a total of nearly 70 measures. Contained within each focus area are also those measures which will respond to the integration challenge posed by the increased number of asylum seekers. The focus areas are as follows: 1. Using immigrants' cultural strengths to enhance Finnish innovation capacity The objective is to utilise the knowledge and skills of trained immigrants and those foreign students who graduate from Finnish institutes of higher education and to promote career advancement in Finnish labour market, business growth, and internationalisation. 2. Enhancing integration through cross-sectoral measures The conditions for integration of immigrants are established in the early stages. The objective is to equip people with the required resources for continued training and</p>

working life, to improve immigrants' position in the labour market, to ensure the provision of multi-profession support to immigrant families, and to support immigrants' participation in leisure activities. 3. Increasing cooperation between the State and municipalities in the reception of beneficiaries of international protection The objective is that the placement into municipalities of quota refugees and asylum seekers that have received a residence permit takes place within two months of notification of the granting of the residence permit, and that the integration process begins immediately. 4. Promoting a humane national discussion culture that will not tolerate racism The objective is that discussion about immigration be carried out openly and in a manner that respects human dignity. Official forums will also be created for dialogue between authorities and immigrants.


**3.** The costs are distributed overall for the reception system, not per person. Reception facilities (rents): 22,6% Staff costs: 21,3% Reception allowance (paid to the asylum seekers): 16,0% Services: 15,6% Health services: 9,4% Other expenses: 8,3% Supplies: 6,8%

**4.** The actual integration programme starts when an asylum seeker has been granted a residence permit, although different forms of activities in the reception centres already provide for so called pre-integration training, language courses, and knowledge about the Finnish society. There have been pilot projects to map the education and professional qualifications of asylum seekers already in the early stages in the reception centres.

**5.** The first individual integration plan is for one year, so that its suitability for the person can be assessed. It can then be modified if needed and extended by two years, so that the intended regular maximum length is three years. There can be individual differences e.g. due to health reasons or maternity/paternity leave. For persons with special needs a further extension for two years is possible, bringing the maximum length to five years.

**6.** An individual integration plan is elaborated for each person, and in general, language training is always a mandatory part of the plan. It is therefore impossible to complete the integration programme without participating in language training. From the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration Section 17 paragraph 4: "If the immigrant refuses to take part in the drawing up or review of the integration plan or refuses to participate in measures specifically




			<p>drawn up for him/her as part of the integration plan and has no valid reasons for his/her refusal, his/her right to the benefits paid as integration assistance may be restricted, as provided in the Unemployment Security Act (1290/2002) or curtailed as provided in the Act on Social Assistance.”</p> <p><b>7.</b> The Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration encompasses, all categories of migrants, also economic migrants, therefore they also have the possibility to take part in language courses if the initial assessment finds it necessary. In practice, it rarely happens, as the language courses are during daytime (i.e. during working hours). In many cases, economic migrants may have the possibility to receive language training provided by the employer or take online courses. For the family members of economic migrants it is easier to participate in language courses. There are differences in the availability of language courses depending on the municipality and their engagement in providing these courses.</p> <p><b>8.</b> Measure 14 of the Government Integration Programme mentions the need to develop the recognition of educational and professional qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection and/or economic migrants. A uniform national way of recognizing professional qualifications acquired abroad will be created. An emphasis will also be put on ensuring the availability of complementary education that will enable the recognition of foreign educational and professional qualifications meeting the national standards. This also includes language training. In the spring of 2016, pilot projects at certain higher education institutions aim to facilitate and speed up the process for immigrants to enter higher education.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> It’s not possible to frame the importance of each position. All positions focus on important factors for integration and are regarded with the same priority. On a case-by-case-basis, the priority of each position may depend on the individual integration process of the migrant, her/his personal needs and existing qualifications (educational background, knowledge of German language e.g.), access to the host society and job opportunities.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The priorities mentioned are under current review. For example in regard to positions 3 and 4 the adjustments taken in the German integration act (inception August 6th 2016) and the § 45a of</p>



the German residence act (inception October 24th 2015) can be considered as an important outcome of such reviews.

**3.** The legal regulations regarding the benefits for asylum seekers are defined in the German Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz (AsylbLG). For beneficiaries of international protection the legal regulations are defined in Book II of the German Social Code – SGB II. Depending on these legal regulations, the maximum budget for each asylum seeker/ Refugee is handled by the German States and the municipalities inconsistently and therefore differs in amount and specific percentages.


**4.** 1. In autumn 2015, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees developed an App called “Arrival” for Android and iOS, which was launched in January 2016 and which by now is well established (170.000 downloads within the first three months). The idea is that of a first companion for all asylum seekers within the first months in Germany, combining useful lectures in German (contributed by the Goethe-Institute), glimpses of every-day-life and informal contents to ‘the German way of life’ as well as information regarding the German asylum procedure, access to housing, education and the German labour market. 2. According to new legislation from Oct. 2015, asylum-seekers and applicants for asylum, emerging from home-countries with statistically considerable chances of acceptance (more than 50%) are given access to integration courses, i.e. language treatment up to B-1 (GER, 600 units) and so called orientation-courses (100 units). These refer to applicants from Syria, Iran, Iraq, Eritrea. Since August 1st, 2016 additionally asylum-seekers from Somalia. a. Access to Integration-Projects and partial to the Migration-Counselling-Service is open to the same group of Refugees. 3. In addition to Federal facilities, various states already afford - or are in the process of establishing - first language- and orientation courses, immediately following arrival. Moreover, volunteers are adding a huge contribution of informal support.


**5.** Integration processes always have to be considered individually and may depend on the qualifications e.g. of the migrant. The completion of the Integration and orientation course can be considered as an important component of the integration process.

			<p><b>6.</b> On Aug. 6th 2016 the integration act (Integrationsgesetz) came into force. This offers incentives with regard to duration and permit to take residence for migrants and refugees/asylum-seekers and - applicants, who successfully complete language programmes. Complementary, sanctions are to be faced in case of refusal to participate or to complete language programmes.</p> <p><b>7.</b> According to the German residence act: Third country nationals, who do not dispose a certain level of German language, can be obligated by the immigration authority to complete the integration course. EU-nationals can attend an integration course, if free places are available.</p> <p><b>8.</b> Since April 2012, legislation on the recognition of educational and professional qualifications is established, constituting the right of individual assessment of talents and professional skills. A network of agencies for recognition has been established in every Federal State (“Integration through qualification”: IQ-network), which offers individual assessment of documents and foreign certificates as well as counsel on the acquirement of further qualification and certification. The network also addresses players within the economy in order to open it up for diversity and intercultural awareness. The IQ-network is administered by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.</p>
	Greece	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> .Prioritising of integration policies (1=low priority; 6=top priority) • Access to housing 5 • Access to healthcare and social services 6 • Language teaching 6 • Integration into the labour market 5 • Education 6 • Participation in social life 5 • Other (please specify) - fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia 6</p> <p><b>2.</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>3.</b> We do not have this kind of information</p> <p><b>4.</b> Immediately after the registration and identification process, asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection are placed in the available integration programmes/projects.</p>

			<p><b>5.</b> Due to the fact that each asylum seeker/beneficiary of international protection has different needs and characteristics, the integration process is based on the case by case approach, which means that there isn't a specific duration.</p> <p><b>6.</b> The Ministry of Education has planned, for the current school year, an introductory program in order to prepare all children of asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection to integrate smoothly into the Greek education system in the coming school year. Furthermore, several Regional Operational Programmes have planned Greek language courses for migrants, asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, which are free of any charge. Finally, there are several NGOs that are conducting Greek language courses for asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection in the reception centres/facilities.</p> <p><b>7.</b> As it was mentioned above, several Regional Operational Programmes have planned Greek language</p> <p><b>8.</b> No so far, but soon after the end of the registration and identification process of asylum seekers, changes are planned aiming at facilitating the recognition of educational and professional qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection and/or economic migrants.</p>
	Hungary	No	
	Italy	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 1. Access to housing: 4 2. Access to healthcare and social services: 6 3. Language teaching: 5 4. Integration into the labour market: 5 5. Education: 6 6. Participation in social life: 4 In Italy, the above priorities are dealt with in the framework of 'second-line reception', with the provision of the services indicated above, after the emergency (identification, health screening, etc.) has been tackled at the stage of 'first-line reception'. 'Second-line reception' is taken care of by the System for the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR), consisting of the local authorities that submit integration projects.</p>

			<p><b>2.</b> No</p> <p><b>3.</b> 1. Food and accommodation 40%; 2. Clothing and other personal belonging, medicines, etc. 7%; 3. Pocket money 8%; 4. Integration (language courses, training courses, etc.) 20%; 5. Rent and overheads of reception facilities 5%; 6. Staff (in reception facilities) 20%. The above percentages, that are referred to the ‘second-line reception’, may vary depending on the size of the projects, the number of third-country nationals involved and the type of reception facility (publicly- or privately-owned).</p> <p><b>4.</b> They are placed in integration programmes/projects at the stage of ‘second-line reception’. However, in some exceptional cases, third-country nationals may be provided some services (such as language courses and orientation) during first-line reception, if this stage lasts more than usual. In this way, they are prepared for the following stage of second-line reception.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Applicants for international protection are entitled to remain within the system of the SPRAR (second-line reception) until the outcome of their applications is notified to them. Applicants who are granted a form of international protection or humanitarian protection are entitled to remain there for six months. This period may be extended by the SPRAR’s Central Service on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Italian language courses are part of the “package” of services offered to the applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection placed in reception facilities.</p> <p><b>7.</b> The main measures adopted by Italy is the ‘Integration Agreement’. On their first entry on Italian territory, third-country nationals over 16 years of age applying for a residence permit of a year or longer are required to sign an Integration Agreement at a Prefecture (Territorial Government Office) or at a Questura (Provincial Police Authority Office). An Integration Agreement with a third-country national is based on the following mutual commitments. The Government ensures the enjoyment of fundamental rights and the provision of tools enabling the foreign national to learn the Italian language and culture and the principles of the Italian Constitution. The foreign national undertakes to respect the rules of civil society, in order to pursue a smooth integration process of mutual interest. By signing an Integration Agreement, a</p>
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			<p>third-country national undertakes to acquire a suitable knowledge of spoken Italian (equivalent at least to level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)).</p> <p><b>8. No</b></p>
	Latvia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 6. Access to healthcare and social services (top priority); 5. Language teaching; 4. Integration into the labour market; 3. Access to housing; 2. Education; 1. Participation in social life.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Action Plan for persons in need of international protection was adopted on 2 December 2015. It foresees different support to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, including language learning courses, information and practical support in dealing with socio-economic integration, interest groups, education, medical issues, housing and job finding issues. In order to help applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in dealing with different issues, they are provided by assistance of social workers and social mentors. Social workers and social mentors for the applicants are available during all asylum procedure, but for beneficiaries of international protection they are provided for 12 months. Social workers and social mentors play important role for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in successful socio-economic integration in Latvia.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Not considered so far in that kind of perspective, as different authorities are involved and different budgets are used.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Asylum seekers are placed in the integration programme from the beginning of reception. Beneficiaries of international protection are placed in integration process right after granting an international protection. Participation in integration process is based on voluntary principle.</p> <p><b>5.</b> According to the Action Plan, integration process for the applicants is planed during all period of the asylum procedure, but for the beneficiaries of international protection it is foreseen for 12 months period after granting status. At the same time applicants and beneficiaries of international protection may participate in all available integration processes provided by the State authorities or NGOs (not included in Action Plan) without any time limits.</p>

			<p><b>6.</b> To encourage applicants for/ beneficiaries of international protection to complete language programme they are provided with information about courses and necessity to know Latvian language for getting a job and to successfully join labour market. Transportation is provided from the reception centre to the courses and snacks are provided during the courses.</p> <p><b>7.</b> Legal migrants have possibility to participate in Latvian language courses organised by the State authorities or NGOs, but it is voluntary. No special measures are taken.</p> <p><b>8.</b> No</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In Lithuania, there is no official document stating which of the integration aspects is considered the priority. However, it is frequently emphasized that beneficiaries' rapid integration into the labour market is of very high importance as monetary allowances are minimal and can barely cover most important living expenses.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Yes. On 18 November 2015 the legal act regulating the integration of the persons who have been granted asylum in Lithuania was amended to shorten the duration of support for integration and to reduce the rates of one-time settling-in allowances and monthly allowances. According to the new regulation, for a period of six months a person will receive an increased allowance, starting from the seventh month – the allowance will be reduced by half, and after the lapse of 12 months the allowance will not be paid. This aims to encourage refugees to more promptly find a job and to support themselves.</p> <p><b>3.</b> There is no specified maximum budget set in the Integration order allocated for each applicant/beneficiary of international protection. Asylum seekers do not receive integration support; however, they can participate at activities organized by “Caritas” day centre at the Foreigners registration centre (where most of the asylum seekers are accommodated) such as cultural events, IT classes, legal and psychological consultations (free of charge). Beneficiaries, while they initially are accommodated at the Refugees Reception Centre (RRC) (for up to 3 months) are provided with the accommodation, and receive EUR 61.2 for food and personal expenses. After the integration at the RRC finishes, beneficiaries move to municipalities and are paid a one-time settling-in allowance in the amount of EUR 204 (for adults) to purchase the</p>


basic furniture and household items, if necessary – to cover the expenses of his travel and luggage transport to the place of residence. They are also paid a monthly allowance for up to 12 months.

**4.** Integration support to beneficiaries is provided at RRC (where beneficiaries of international protection are accommodated after receiving their status), later the integration continues in the territory of municipality. Integration program includes teaching of the state language, orientation courses, education, vocational training, recognition of qualifications, counselling, provision with residential premises, health insurance, and social guarantees.

**5.** Integration begins at the RRC which provides the aliens who have been granted asylum with accommodation for a period of up to 3 months with the possibility of extension for up to four months if, for objective reasons, the person has failed to prepare for integration in a municipality. Following the integration stage at the RRC, support for integration is further provided in a municipality for a period of 12 months. In respect of vulnerable persons – unaccompanied minors, pregnant women, victims of torture, persons with mental disorders, persons with health disorders resulting in a long-term disability or in cases when a person's access to education, involvement and action is reduced due to an illness, trauma, injury, health disorders, whether congenital or acquired in childhood, or the harmful impact of environmental factors and such a person is in need of permanent care, pensioners, single parents raising minor children, families with minor children – the commission may extend the duration of the integration period, but for no longer than the period of validity of the residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania issued to them.

**6.** The Refugees Reception Centre, which provides the aliens who have been granted asylum with accommodation at the initial stage of integration, organises intensive Lithuanian language courses corresponding to Level A1 of the Council of Europe's Framework of Reference for Languages. The authority implementing integration (an NGO or a municipal body) organises within the territory of a municipality a state language teaching programme meeting requirements for Level A2 of the Council of Europe's Framework of Reference for Languages and State Language Knowledge Qualification Category I. The state language teaching course includes 190 hours of instruction at the Refugees Reception Centre and 190 hours – in municipalities. Upon



			<p>completing the course, an alien holds an examination for State Language Knowledge Qualification Category I. Where the alien fails the examination for valid reasons (mental health disorder, incapacity to learn, etc.), up to 100 hours of instruction can be additionally assigned and the examination is repeated. If the beneficiary misses 40 per cent of the Lithuanian language classes at the RRC or in municipalities, the integration support can be suspended or terminated.</p> <p><b>7.</b> Integration order in Lithuania is not applied to economic migrants or other Third country nationals who are not beneficiaries of international protection.</p> <p><b>8.</b> Yes. A copy of a relevant decision of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (CQAHE) on academic recognition of a foreign qualification is no longer required provided that the alien's profession is not regulated in the Republic of Lithuania, but it is required to possess a university degree. It is sufficient to present a copy of a recommendation of the CQAHE on the assessment of a foreign qualification. In this manner, the period of handling of documents has been shortened, as the decision of the CQAHE on the academic recognition of the foreign qualification is issued within 1 month and the recommendation – within a week.</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In Luxembourg the priorities based on the Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy are established by the National Action Plan for Integration and Against Discrimination. The priorities at national level established in 2014 were the following: a. Integration is a two-way process, involving participation on the part of the migrants and of the host country b. Employment (access to the labour market) c. Basic knowledge of the three official languages (French, German and Luxembourgish), the history and the political institutions of Luxembourg d. Education e. Intercultural dialogue f. Data collection, development of indicators and evaluation mechanisms These principles have the same level of priority. In Luxembourg the municipalities can draft a Local Integration Plan (Plan Communal d'Intégration) which will tackle the local priorities. It is important to mention that access to healthcare is based on a contributory system (employed-based or voluntary) so it is not related to a specific integration policy. The legal system in Luxembourg grants access to housing to third-country nationals legally residing in Luxembourg (including beneficiaries of international protection), as well as social aid if the foreigner fulfils the criteria established by the amended</p>

law of 18 December 2009 on social aid. A new service, LISKO (Luxembourg Centre for the integration and social cohesion) was inaugurated. On 13 June 2016. This service is managed by the Luxembourgish Red-Cross through a convention signed with the Ministry of Family and Integration. This service supports the beneficiaries of international protection to better integrate in Luxembourgish society without not losing site of social cohesion as a whole. In on hand, beneficiaries of international protection are individually supported by implementing measures to increase their autonomy level (empowerment). This is implemented through the required intercultural comprehension and the support of the intercultural translation in case it is needed. In the other hand LISKO has established links between social services and associations in order to guarantee that beneficiaries of international protection will be accompanied during the implementation of local integration actions as well as links with the local population. The individual social work allows to identify on the field the specific needs. LISKO will inform the local authorities about the needs detected and contributes if need it on the implementation of a local integration plan and a partnership with the relevant stakeholders. The main targeted population of the LISKO's service are the most vulnerable beneficiaries of international protection and vulnerable refugee families who have no resources (or very scarce resources) to take the necessary steps and who still residing in the reception centers or living in social housing. LISKO collaborates closely with the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency (OLAI) on the reception of refugees arriving into Luxembourg through the "resettlement" programmes. As housing is a major challenge in the country, LISKO has launched a call to house and apartment owners, who will be interested to rent their properties to beneficiaries of international protection, through a lease contract or the social accommodation agency (Agence Immobilière sociale) or the Wunnengshëllef, LISKO guarantees the social follow-up of these families or individuals. The authorities want to promote the integration process of international protection applicants since their arrival through the access to education and training.

2. No.


3. It is impossible to respond to this question accurately. As a matter of fact, many factors come into play which may affect the cost distribution such as the household composition and incomes, special social needs, . . . For reference only, international protection applicants receive the

following allowances during the international protection procedure depending if they are lodged in the reception centres or outside of the reception centres. (See document attached)

**4.** There are no specific integration programmes as such for international protection applicants during the international protection procedure. However, they have access to the language courses in the conditions mentioned in answer to question 3. Beneficiaries of international protection have access to the Welcome and Integration Contract as any other foreigner legally residing in Luxembourg.

**5.** N/A. There are not integration processes in place. However, the Welcome and Integration Contract has a maximum duration of two years.

**6.** In Luxembourg the Welcome and Integration Contract (Contrat d'accueil et d'intégration, or CAI) is not mandatory. It was instituted by the Law of 16 December 2008 on the Reception and Integration of Foreigners in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The CAI is opened to any foreigner of at least 16 years of age who resides legally on the territory of Luxembourg and wishes to remain on a permanent basis. It targets as much European Union citizens as third country nationals (including beneficiaries of international protection), the new arrivals as well as people who have been living in Luxembourg for many years. The general aim is the integration of the target population in the Luxembourgish society. The services offered by the CAI are: • A language training course • A citizenship training course • An orientation day. The language training course (30 -180 hours) aims to enable the signatory of the CAI to reach at least Basic User Level A.1.1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in one or more of the three administrative languages of Luxembourg – i.e. Luxembourgish, French, or German. There are special courses for illiterate persons. For certain courses, a working language adapted to a specific public is used (i.e. French is used as a working language in German courses, Portuguese and English as working languages in a French course, German or French as working languages in Luxembourgish courses). The 6-hour citizenship training course aims to provide insight on integration and on the basic conditions of a harmonious cohabitation in a plural Luxembourg as well as on the history of Luxembourg, its political organisation, and its mores and customs The orientation day, organised at least twice a year, will take place during half a day on a weekend. It will include various partners and is aimed at enabling the signatory

			<p>candidate to have better knowledge of Luxembourg's official establishments and organisations, in a friendly atmosphere. Language courses and citizenship training course are offered under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, who has within its responsibilities adult and continuous education through contracted providers who have a convention with the Department of Adult Education of the Ministry. The organization of the orientation day is covered by the Luxembourg Welcome and Integration Agency (OLAI) / Ministry of Family and Integration.</p> <p><b>7.</b> See answer to question 6 (above).</p> <p><b>8.</b> No.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Our Ministry of Social Affairs cannot make a distinction between these different integration policies, because they believe that they are all equally important (they would give them a 5 priority). Another important point in Dutch integration policies is education about the norms and values of importance to Dutch society.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Integration into the labor market, education and participation in social life became increasingly important following the recent migration pressure and got more attention. This is also due to the fact that we feel that the results of these integration measures stay behind with the expectations of the measures.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The scheme below gives an overview of the costs that the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) makes per applicant for international protection, divided in percentages of the total costs. For this overview, COA has divided the initial subsidy available by the average number of applicants expected for 2016. The overview therefore displays the costs calculated per inhabitant per day. With respect to the percentage distribution of the various costs: it is evident that the picture presented below is a snapshot, since the distribution is also affected by factors as the composition of the population in the COA reception centers and developments in the occupation of the centers. Also, comparison of the percentages with other countries might be difficult, since it is not immediately possible to compare due to differences in definitions in the underlying models. Costs per inhabitant per day 100% Care and supervision 18% Integration 2%</p>

Housing 27% Healthcare 26% Provisions for inhabitants in kind 9% Financial provisions for inhabitants 8% Overhead costs 9%

**4.** This process starts as soon as the Immigration and Naturalization Services (IND) has issued a residence permit and the status has been granted. The IND shares this information with the Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs (DUO), the organization that determines if the status holder actually has to meet the integration requirements, or if he/she is exempted. If they have to, DUO sends the status holder information and a notification regarding the obligation to integrate and launches the integration program. At two different occasions are asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection placed in integration programs/projects. The first occasion is when they still reside in the asylum seekers reception center (AZC) and the second occasion is when they are placed in the host municipality. First of all, applicants for international protection are housed at a reception center of COA, before they move to regular housing. In the reception center, the applicant for international protection can start the so-called pre-integration trail, which is a program for all migrants aged 18 or above and arranged by COA in the name of the Ministry of Social Affairs. This pre-integration trail serves as a preparation for the integration program in the different host municipalities and consists of language lessons, training on knowledge of the Dutch society, individual counselling and orientating towards the Dutch labor market, including credential evaluation of diploma's and certificates. The language courses aim to teach the participants the Dutch language at least A1- level before the official integration program starts. Once a status holder has moved towards the assigned housing location, he or she can start the official integration program in the municipality.

**5.** The Integration Act (article 7 paragraph 2) and the Aliens Act oblige persons between 18 years old and the retirement age who wish to obtain a permanent residence permit and persons who want to stay in the Netherlands with a residence permit for a non-temporary purpose of stay, to complete the integration program within three years after the first permit was obtained. This obligation is not specific to beneficiaries of international protection, but for anyone who aspires permanent residence in the Netherlands and according to the Integration Act must comply with integration measures. This period can be extended, according to the Integration Act article 7, paragraph 3. This might be the case if the status holder who has to comply with integration measures can prove that he/she is not to blame that the integration exam cannot be completed


successfully within three years. The period can also be extended with a maximum of two years if the status holder who has to comply with integration measures can demonstrate that he/she is illiterate and follows a literacy course and therefore is not able to meet the requirements within three years.

**6.** For all beneficiaries who have to comply with integration measures that do not have sufficient income to pay for the exam, loans are available for a maximum of 10.000 euro. Beneficiaries of international protection are eligible for the cancellation of their debt, if they manage to pass the integration exam within three years. Beneficiaries who have to comply with integration measures are also “encouraged” to pass their integration exam within three years, because it’s a requirement to apply for a stronger right of residence. This stimulates them to take language courses to get a better chance of passing the integration exam. Moreover, beneficiaries of international protection who have to comply with integration measures are encouraged to take language and citizenship courses that suit their level, because they have the ability to get a free credential evaluation of their diploma’s and a determination of their level of knowledge. This will be explained in question 8

**7.** Economic migrants have a license to perform work. This is considered a temporary purpose of stay (see the Integration Decree, Article 2.1, first paragraph). They are not required to complete an integration course, but are encouraged by the Dutch government in various ways to learn the Dutch language. Economic migrants are entitled to a loan from the government to finance any language and integration courses. Also, the government makes economic migrants aware of the fact that there are different possibilities for self-study, both free and paid. In the Netherlands, there are also voluntary language-coaches: Dutch residents who on a voluntary basis give support and language courses to newcomers on a local level. Moreover, and perhaps most important of all: employers of economic migrants can help their employees to master the Dutch language. In various instances, it is possible to arrange language training via the employer, partially funded or self-paid. The emphasis is placed on the fact that sufficient knowledge of the Dutch language contributes to higher productivity and quality of work output, better career opportunities in the Netherlands and better interaction with clients and co-workers. It is also important that employers can read the safety instruction and health regulations at the workplace. There are several websites that employers and employees can access to get help. Finally,


residence permit holders who are not obliged to comply with integration measures, are encouraged to take language lessons and comply with the requirements, because they might need it in the future. If migrants with temporary residence in the long term would like to permanently settle in the Netherlands, they are still obliged to integrate. An early integration ensures that they in the end do not have to comply with the measures and go through the process.

**8.** For beneficiaries: The Dutch government has developed a procedure in which all beneficiaries who have graduated abroad, can have their educational and professional qualifications recognized. For all beneficiaries who have to comply with integration measures, this examination is free, funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs. COA already informs beneficiaries of this possibility when they are still staying in reception facilities. Also, DUO sends them a letter with information about this possibility. This letter serves as evidence to appreciate the diploma free of any costs. Since January 1 2015, beneficiaries can also claim an Indication of their Educational level, if they cannot show relevant diploma's to the authorities. Only beneficiaries of international protection who are unable to prove their level of education can obtain recognition of their education through the IcDW (Informatiecentrum Diplomawaardering). This organization checks on the basis of the story of the status holder if certain facts about their education can be validated. If this is the case, the status holder is eligible for recognition of education. Also, all beneficiaries who have to comply with integration measures who finished an education abroad can apply in the Netherlands for a recognized Dutch title. All these measures mentioned are financed by the Dutch government. It is also possible to get a "Erkenning van Eerder Verworven Competenties" (Recognition of Prior Competences). This recognition costs between €1000 and €1500 and it gives an overview of previous work experience and skills gained. Beneficiaries can submit an application for a fee to cover the costs at DUO. At the moment (October 2015), our Minister of Education, Culture and Science wants to streamline the system for credential evaluations. This means that she wants to integrate the specific actions that need to be undertaken in the field of credential evaluation of diplomas and the tasks of the IcDW. The goal is to realize one specific stop where applicants can do their intake, undergo a competence investigation from IcDW and have their diploma's validated. A pilot projects has been launched under the name Leerwerkloket+. Economic migrants Economic migrants have a license to perform work. This is a permit for a temporary purpose of stay (Integration Decree, Article 2.1, first paragraph). They are therefore not required to take the


			<p>integration course. They also cannot claim compensation for credential evaluation by the government. They however may finance these services themselves and get the appreciation.</p>
	<p>Portugal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1. Access to housing – 4; Access to healthcare and social services – 5; Language teaching – 6; Integration in the labour market – 6; Education – 6; Participation in social life – 3; Culture – 6; Professional qualifications – 6.</li> <li>2. Yes. These priorities are mentioned in the Strategic Plan for Migration (PEM) 2015-2020.</li> <li>3. In Portugal, each applicant of international protection is given an amount of 150€/month as well as food, clothes and essential goods (personal, child and neonatal care, baby food, medical assistance, medicines, education and school supplies).</li> <li>4. They are placed in integration programmes/projects as soon as they arrive to Portugal.</li> <li>5. The length of integration processes depends on the established duration of protocols and projects (between 18 and 24 months at least).</li> <li>6. Portugal has since 2008 a Programme, managed by the High Commission for Migration, I.P. (the Portuguese Public Institute with the mission to integrate migrants), to promote the learning of Portuguese by foreigner legally residing in Portugal (which also includes beneficiaries of international protection). Further details at <a href="http://www.acm.gov.pt/-/como-posso-frequentar-um-curso-de-lingua-portuguesa-para-estrangeiros">http://www.acm.gov.pt/-/como-posso-frequentar-um-curso-de-lingua-portuguesa-para-estrangeiros</a>- This programme with the official name Programme Portuguese for All (PPT) allows immigrant citizens and their descents to learn the Portuguese language and to improve their language skills. A better use of the Portuguese language can work as a stepping stone not only toward their social and professional integration, but also facilitates access to nationality, residence authorization and the status of long-term residence, thru the completion certificate. The organization of the courses is according to the assumptions proposed in the Common European Framework of Reference which was operationalized in Portugal with the implementation of the Referential “The Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages – Elementary User on Host Country” to obtain Level A2 – Elementary User (150 hours) and to achieve Level B2 – Independent User (150 hours) the</li> </ol>




			<p>Referential “The Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages – Independent User on Host Country”. Moreover, this Programme provides immigrants, who already speak Portuguese but require additional knowledge of Technical Portuguese for their employment, with a 25 hours certified technical Portuguese language courses. Those technical courses focus mainly on four different sectors: retail, hostelry, beauty care, building construction and civil engineering. In 2016 the High Commission for Migrations (ACM) launched a new “tool” within the Programme Portuguese for All (PPT) – created in 2008 -, the Portuguese Online Platform (<a href="https://pptonline.acm.gov.pt/">https://pptonline.acm.gov.pt/</a>), namely to provide a complementary answer to the specific needs of refugees and of beneficiaries of international protection in Portugal (although all immigrants can benefit from it). This Platform includes content for acquiring Portuguese language skills for adults who speak other languages. Presently the Platform is available in Portuguese and English, and will be soon available in other languages, namely Arabic, mandarin and Romanian, providing answers to the specific needs of the refugees and of beneficiaries of international protection in Portugal. This platform is not a textbook for teaching and the acquisition of Portuguese, instead is a tool that allows the user to develop listening, reading and writing skills. In addition, it also allows the user to learn and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge necessary to use the language. The content is organized in two levels - level A and level B – and is presented in two reference frameworks: "Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages - The elementary user in the host country" and "Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages - The independent user in the host country". The Online Platform for Portuguese is organized in functional thematic modules (24 modules), which are presented in the following formats: text, audio, video and image. In each module, the content is divided into the following areas: listening (with videos), reading, vocabulary and grammar. The first six modules are already active and the remaining will be available soon.</p> <p><b>7.</b> See answer above about Programme Portuguese for All (PPT) working since 2008.</p> <p><b>8.</b> Nothing to report.</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> For the Slovak Republic, access to housing, integration to labour market and education are all equal and most important priorities.</p>

			<p><b>2.</b> No, these priorities remained the same.</p> <p><b>3.</b> 1. The costs for food (raw materials) for one day per person is cca € 3,50; + overheads cca € 6 per day; for children and pregnant women + 0,73. It is only possible to determine the approximate amounts as in each region (i.e. in each asylum facility) the costs of food slightly differ. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. N/A 6. N/A</p> <p><b>4.</b> Already in the asylum facility the asylum seekers can participate on the Slovak language classes, however on voluntary basis.</p> <p><b>5.</b> After the person is granted asylum or subsidiary protection, s/he continues to participate on the integration project within first 6 months since protection had been granted. In special cases, mostly in those related to vulnerable groups can be participation in the integration project and support linked to this, prolonged.</p> <p><b>6.</b> In reception facilities attendance of Slovak language course is voluntary. Of course, social workers always emphasize the importance of knowledge of the official language needed for successful inclusion into the labour market in the Slovak Republic. In order to receive a financial support for covering the costs connected with accommodation and basic needs, the beneficiaries of international protection need to actively participate in the integration project. This means, the person has to attend also the Slovak language classes. In case the beneficiary of international protection misses more than 25% of the classes without and adequate apology, the financial support is curtailed which serves as a motivation tool.</p> <p><b>7.</b> No specific measures of encouragement of economic migrants and their families are in place.</p> <p><b>8.</b> No.</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Integration into labour market=6 Language teaching=5 Education=4 Access to healthcare and social services=3 Access to housing=2 Participation in social life=1 All these priorities are interconnected, so this is just a ranking according to the development of the integration process.</p>

			<p><b>2.</b> Integration into labour market=6 Language teaching=5 Education=4 Access to healthcare and social services=3 Access to housing=2 Participation in social life=1 All these priorities are interconnected, so this is just a ranking according to the development of the integration process.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No.</p> <p><b>4.</b> No.</p> <p><b>5.</b> 1. Food and accommodation 35 %; 2. Clothing and other personal belonging, medicines, etc.10 %; 3. Pocket money 5 %; 4. Integration (language courses, training courses, etc.) 20 %; 5. Rent and overheads of reception facilities 10%; 6. Staff (in reception facilities) 20 %;</p> <p><b>6.</b> 1. Food and accommodation 35 %; 2. Clothing and other personal belonging, medicines, etc.10 %; 3. Pocket money 5 %; 4. Integration (language courses, training courses, etc.) 20 %; 5. Rent and overheads of reception facilities 10%; 6. Staff (in reception facilities) 20 %;</p> <p><b>7.</b> After they are granted international protection status (refugee or subsidiary protection). In the phase when they are applicants for international protection they have possibilities to attend different programmes of empowerment.</p> <p><b>8.</b> After they are granted international protection status (refugee or subsidiary protection). In the phase when they are applicants for international protection they have possibilities to attend different programmes of empowerment.</p> <p><b>9.</b> Law on international protection defines integration help in the period of 3 years after the status is granted.</p> <p><b>10.</b> Law on international protection defines integration help in the period of 3 years after the status is granted.</p> <p><b>11.</b> New Law on international protection defines that persons with international protection are entitled to financial allowance for private accommodation for 18 months after their status is granted. If they in the first 18 months attended language programme and were present at the</p>
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			<p>course at least in 80 % hours, they are entitled to financial allowance for private accommodation for another 18 months.</p> <p><b>12.</b> New Law on international protection defines that persons with international protection are entitled to financial allowance for private accommodation for 18 months after their status is granted. If they in the first 18 months attended language programme and were present at the course at least in 80 % hours, they are entitled to financial allowance for private accommodation for another 18 months.</p> <p><b>13.</b> Economic migrants and their family members voluntary decide whether they will attend free of charge language course and the exam when course is finished. The exam is needed to gain Slovenian citizenship. This is a pull factor for migrants to attend course and the exam. They are entitled to exam free of charge if they attend course in the amount of 80 % of hours.</p> <p><b>14.</b> Economic migrants and their family members voluntary decide whether they will attend free of charge language course and the exam when course is finished. The exam is needed to gain Slovenian citizenship. This is a pull factor for migrants to attend course and the exam. They are entitled to exam free of charge if they attend course in the amount of 80 % of hours.</p> <p><b>15.</b> No.</p> <p><b>16.</b> No.</p>
	Spain	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> The system of reception and integration of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection is a comprehensive system composed of different phases starting with the provision of accommodation and satisfaction of basic needs( food, clothing) and then a series of benefits and services tailored to the specific or short-term needs of the beneficiaries (education, vocational training, job placement, social services.). It is not giving priority to some policies on others, but to serve on and individual basis every person/family regarding their needs, taking into consideration that the first aim is to satisfy basic needs.</p>

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|  |  | <p><b>2.</b> In the years 2014 and 2015 there has been a huge increase in the number of applicants of international protection coming to Spain that has made a big impact in the system; therefore the budgetary allocations to finance the reception and integration system (as a whole) have been reinforced making the appropriate budgetary changes through the instruments provided for this in the relevant legislation. The priorities remain the same with special attention to increasing the number of reception places (accommodation and basic needs).</p> <p><b>3.</b> This Budget breakdown is not available. The system of reception and integration is managed at national level and it is not a competence of the regions or the local governments. In any case, please also see ES answer to AHQ launched in August 2015 by Germany “on the allowances for asylum seekers”.</p> <p><b>4.</b> When the applications have been accepted for processing the reception and integration program starts.</p> <p><b>5.</b> First phase: reception phase. Length of the stay in the Center: up to 6 months, extendable to 9 months, in case of vulnerable people. Second phase: integration phase: Length: 6 months up to 14 in case of vulnerable people. Third phase: autonomy phase: Length: 6 months. The maximum duration of the itinerary may not exceed 24 months.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Applicants must sign a commitment to implementing the program of integration designed which includes, if necessary, learning Spanish; their participation is voluntary, but should refuse to participate in the program can extinguish their right to receive benefits.</p> <p><b>7.</b> The participation of economic migrants in Spanish learning courses or courses guidance and knowledge of the host society is voluntary and free. However in certain cases of renewal of residence permits and/or work in certain conditions that are not legally or required access to the residence/work permit for social integration, the applicant has the possibility to present a report integration effort issued by the Autonomous Community of residence which can be assessed, among other things, knowledge of the language.</p> |
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			<b>8.</b> No changes have been made in this regard.
	Sweden	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 1. Access to housing 6 2. Access to healthcare and social services 6 3. Language teaching 6 4. Integration into the labour market 6 5. Education 6 6. Participation in social life 6 7. Other (please specify). -</p> <p><b>2.</b> The high number of asylum seekers during 2015 did not change the priorities as such, but highlighted the need for access to housing. Even though Sweden has a flexible system of good quality that normally adapts to large numbers of asylum-seekers, with the extraordinary increase of asylum seekers, the capacity of our reception system was stretched to its limits. It has also highlighted the fact that successful integration to the labor market and the local community is key to a functional reception system.</p> <p><b>3.</b> This question is not applicable to Swedish conditions as we do not make any such calculations. Please find information regarding individual support to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection below. This has also been stated in previous ad-hoc queries on subsistence to asylum-seekers. Asylum seekers: If you do not earn your own money and you do not have some other resources, you can apply for financial support from the Migration Agency. The financial support is made up of several parts: daily expenses compensation, accommodation (e.g. room, apartment etc.) compensation and special allowance. Daily expenses compensation varies in amount depending on whether you live in a Migration Agency accommodation with food included, or in an accommodation with no food included. In accommodation where food is included the daily compensation is •24 kr/day for adults who are alone •19 kr/day per person for adults who share household expenses •12 kr/day for children up to and including 17 years of age In accommodation where food is not included the daily compensation is •71 kr/day for adults who are alone •61 kr/day per person for adults who share household expenses •37 kr/day for children 0–3 years old •43 kr/day for children 4–10 years old •50 kr/day for children 11–17 years old Families which have more than two children will get the whole daily compensation for the two eldest children and half the daily compensation for the other children. Apart from food the daily compensation must suffice for clothes and shoes, health care and medicines, dental care, toilet articles, other consumer goods and leisure activities.</p>

Special allowance If you have a very strong need of something not covered by the daily compensation you can apply for a special allowance for it. You must demonstrate that you have a strong need of the item or service and that you cannot pay for it by yourself. It can be for example eyeglasses, a baby carriage or warm winter shoes. Migration Agency always makes an individual evaluation of the need. Beneficiaries of international protection: When you are taking part in activities that are a part of the introduction program, you receive an introduction benefit, which is up to a maximum of 308 SEK per day. You receive the benefit for five days per calendar week and the benefit is paid once a month.

**4. Asylum seekers:** Many asylum seekers have access to language courses and activities for labour market introduction and integration. These courses and activities may be publicly funded but are offered by civil society organizations or liberal adult education associations. The language courses and activities are not mandatory. Beneficiaries of international protection: Beneficiaries of international protection are offered a two year introduction program with a number of targeted measures, such as language courses, civic orientation, subsidized jobs, complementary education and programs for validation and work placement. The introduction program is two years, counting from when you are registered as a resident in a municipality after being granted resident permit.

**5. Beneficiaries of international protection:** The introduction program is two years, counting from when you are registered as a resident in a municipality after being granted resident permit. The length of the program can be extended if you are ill or on parental leave during the two year period.

**6. Asylum seekers:** Many asylum seekers have access to language courses and activities for labour market introduction and integration. These courses and activities may be publicly funded but are offered by civil society organizations or liberal adult education associations. The language courses and activities are not mandatory. Beneficiaries of international protection: Free courses in Swedish for immigrants are open to anyone with a resident permit who is at least 16 years old and is registered as a resident at a municipality.

			<p><b>7.</b> EU / EEA citizens or citizens of Switzerland are entitled to study Swedish for immigrants if they have a right of residence (for work or studies) and are registered as a resident at the municipality where they live. Civil society organizations and liberal adult education associations offer language courses open to all migrants irrespective of their legal status.</p> <p><b>8.</b> Early skills assessment for asylum seekers To improve the introduction of newly arrived migrants in the labour market, the Government have introduced skills assessment, i.e. assessment of newly arrived immigrants' educational background and work experience, to be offered by the Swedish Public Employment Service already during the asylum-seeking period. Skills assessment for asylum seekers can ensure that recruitment needs primarily in welfare areas are better satisfied. Beneficiaries of international protection: In order to make use of the migrants' skills, the Government have identified measures for creating more rapid ways, or 'fast tracks', into the labour market, for new arrivals with education and training or work experience in areas for which there is demand of labour in Sweden. The fast track means that the Swedish Public Employment Service's various measures can be used in parallel. For example, work experience can be combined with lessons in Swedish for the workplace and a supplementary education programme at a higher education institution. The first so called "fast track" was presented in September 2015, and concerned chefs. "Fast tracks" have been presented for several professions such as doctors, nurses and painters.</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> We take a holistic view to the integration of refugees but we consider being able to speak the language of paramount importance. This is why the Government announced its ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programme mentioned below.</p> <p><b>2.</b> We keep a watching brief of migration pressures and of how our European neighbours are managing migratory flows and integration. The UK Government is working towards achieving more integrated communities and creating the conditions for everyone to live and work successfully alongside each other.</p> <p><b>3.</b> For asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, we provide free, fully furnished accommodation. We also cover utility costs and provide a cash allowance to cover other "essential living needs" of £36.95 for each person in a supported household. This support is</p>




provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The cash allowance is reviewed every year, using an evidence-based methodology, and we are satisfied we provide enough to meet essential needs. Each local authority region has a strategic migration partnership that provides coordination and support services for those organisations working with migrants. We also launched a community sponsorship scheme to enable community groups to take on the challenging but rewarding role of welcoming and supporting a refugee family in the UK. Those who are granted refugee status in the UK are given access to the labour market and benefits, and are encouraged to access organisations, such as the independent charity Migrant Help, which can assist with integration into the UK. The Home Office also offers a loan to recognised refugees for integration purposes. The loan is designed to help them integrate into UK society by offering financial support towards housing costs, employment and training.

**4.** N/A

**5.** N/A

**6.** The Department for Education supports English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) as part of its wider strategy to improve adult literacy in England and in 2014/15, we invested an estimated £104 million on fully and part-funded ESOL courses, supporting 131,000 adult learners. Any Government has to identify how to prioritise public funding and in our approach to skills training, we aim to create a fair balance between the investment made by Government, the employer and the individual. We believe that non-native speakers of English, who choose to live in England, should be expected to invest in the improvement of their English, with some exceptions. Refugees are one such exception. Adults who are granted refugee status or humanitarian protection are eligible for the same skills funding as any other English resident and are not subject to the normal 3 year qualifying period. ESOL funding is not ring-fenced and comes out of a provider's Adult Education Budget (AEB). Colleges and training providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their AEB to meet the needs of their communities. It is therefore their responsibility to plan which ESOL courses they deliver locally, within their resources. In addition, the Government has pledged up to £10m over five years for a

			<p>jointly funded DfE and Home Office programme to enable Syrian refugees across the UK to access language tuition and integrate into British society.</p> <p><b>7.</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8.</b> N/A</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> All of the six mentioned areas are regarded as highly important within Norwegian integration policy, and we have thus chosen not to indicate the order of importance of the different policy areas. The key to integration in Norwegian society is, however, considered to be actually taking part in working life and having a good knowledge of the Norwegian language. The 2016 White Paper on integration policy further underlines labor market integration as a high priority goal.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The latter half of 2015 witnessed a sharp increase in the number of migrants seeking asylum in Norway. In response to this trend, IMDi has been working with municipalities to increase their capacity for settling newly arrived immigrants. Moreover, labor market integration has retained its status as a high priority goal throughout these developments. In May 2016 the Norwegian government launched a white paper on integration policy. The white paper is based on the migration situation in Europe and Norway in 2015 and 2016. It outlines how Norway's integration policy and integration measures should be organised to ensure that newly-arrived immigrants with refugee backgrounds enter the labour market or start an education without delay and acquire a permanent connection to the labour market.</p> <p><b>3.</b> 1. Food and accommodation 78 %; 2. Clothing and other personal belonging, medicines, etc. 2 %; 3. Pocket money 11 %; 4. Integration (language courses, training courses, etc.) 3 %; 5. Rent and overheads of reception facilities 1 %; 6. Staff (in reception facilities) N/A %; (included in running costs as part of rental agreements) Other (please, specify) 5 % Includes health checks and various refundable expenses as well as additional support for special cases. (Total 100 %) *</p> <p><b>4.</b> Upon being granted international protection or granted 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</p>

Norwegian language education and social studies education, as well as career guidance and work training. Participation in local civil society activities is also encouraged. The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) continually works with Norwegian municipalities to ensure the swift settlement of newly arrived immigrants in stable and satisfactory housing. Since 2010, the government's target has been for a minimum of 70 per cent of all participants who have completed the program to be employed or taking an education within one year after completion of the program.

**5.** The standard duration of the Introduction Program is two years, involving at least 600 hours of Norwegian language and social studies training. In certain special circumstances, the duration can be extended to up to four years, and up to 3000 hours of Norwegian language and social studies training.

**6.** As detailed above, the Introduction Program involves the right and the obligation to participate in Norwegian language training. Moreover, satisfactorily passing Norwegian language and social studies exams has been made a requirement for eventually obtaining Norwegian citizenship.

**7.** Economic migrants from third countries (non-EEA countries) are required to complete 300 hours of tuition (250 hours in Norwegian language and 50 hours in social studies) to be able to acquire a residence permit. Migrants from EEA countries have no rights to free language training, but neither do they have the obligation to learn the language to get a residence permit. The children of these migrants, however, have a right to free schooling provided by the government funded school system, and the fact that they thus learn Norwegian can work as an incentive for the parents. To encourage the acquisition of the language by EEA country nationals living and working in Norway, the Norwegian government is providing, through several channels, financing for projects aimed at the creation of free online learning resources. Norwegian on the Web (NoW), originally created for foreign students in Norway, was adapted to the needs of foreign workers in a process which was co-financed by Vox. This open online resource is now called LearnNow. Instructions and help texts are available in English, Polish and

			<p>Spanish.. EEA country nationals are also welcome as participants in the national program for the acquisition of basic skills, CompetencePlus.</p> <p><b>8.</b> Norway has made some changes in facilitating the recognition of educational and professional qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection: 1) Norway is developing an online tool for individual mapping of informal, non-formal and formal competence that will be available at receptions centers for beneficiaries of international protection. The tool will provide an overall view of a person's competence as basis for further integration and education or work. 2) Norway is also developing provisions of career guidance in receptions centers. This career guidance will be linked to the competence mapping mentioned above. 3) Norway is developing "fast tracks" through the higher education system for beneficiaries of international protection with foreign higher education. This may for instance include shorter courses to complement education for teaching and nursing, an offer which the University College for Oslo and Akershus has already initiated. Measures 1 and 2 will be piloted with a start on Sept 1st 2016 and the complete system is expected to function from July 2017. <a href="http://www.hioa.no/eng/">http://www.hioa.no/eng/</a></p>
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