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Ad-Hoc Query on 2022.37 AHQ on the condition of language proficiency in order to obtain a multiannual residence permit or to acquire citizenship

Requested by EMN NCP France on 9 August 2022

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (24 in Total)

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

France is currently reflecting on the condition of language proficiency by third-country nationals (TCNs) in order to obtain a multiannual residence permit authorising them to stay permanently in France or to acquire French citizenship, and on the level of language to be used. This question is part of the need

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for elements for the parliamentary debate and the draft immigration law envisaged for this autumn. A reply from the Member States within 3 weeks would therefore be very much appreciated.

France would like to ask you the following questions:

We would like to ask the following questions:

1. Is a language proficiency required prior to entry into the territory of your Member State (YES/NO)? If so, please specify the level required and the categories of visas/residence permits concerned.
2. Does your Member State make the issuance of residence permits or citizenship generally subject to language proficiency, including for refugees (YES/NO)?
3. If you answered yes to Q2, please specify what level of language is required for the issuance of residence permits (please specify which categories of residence permits) and for access to citizenship, and whether this level of language must be justified by a diploma or language test certifying (or any other document)?
4. If you answered yes to Q2, do restrictions or sanctions apply if the third-country national does not justify the required language level (YES/NO). If so, please specify.
5. If you answered yes to Q2, does your Member State offer language courses to reach these levels (YES/NO)? If so, please specify whether the courses are free of charge or, if so, how much the beneficiary has to pay.
6. In addition to the condition of language proficiency, is there a condition of good knowledge of the host society and/or respect for the values of the host country (equality between women and men, freedom of expression, respect for beliefs, etc.) for the issuance of residence permits or access to citizenship (YES/NO)? If so, how is it assessed and what are the consequences in case of failure?


We would very much appreciate your responses by 15 September 2022.

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2. RESPONSES

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		Wider Dissemination ²	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	<p>1. In Austria, knowledge of the German language is obligatory for being issued certain types of residence permits. Generally, third-country nationals (TCN) are expected to already have knowledge of the German language at level A1 of the CEFR (Art. 21a Settlement and Residence Act and Art. 9b Regulation on the Implementation of the Settlement and Residence Act; AHQ 2020.14).</p> <p>Since first applications for residence permits are generally to be submitted abroad, knowledge of the German language must also be proven before entering Austria. (Source: https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/leben_in_oesterreich/aufenthalt/3/Seite.120260.html)</p> <p>Proof of knowledge of German at level A1 of the CEFR is required for the first-time issuance of the following residence permits (Art. 21a in conjunction with Art. 8 para. 1 subpara. 2,4-6,8-10 Settlement and Residence Act):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence Permit 'Red-White-Red Card Plus', which entitles the holder to temporary settlement and to engage in gainful employment and gainful self-employment; • 'Settlement Permit', which entitles the holder to temporary settlement and to engage in gainful self-employment; • 'Settlement Permit – Gainful Employment Excepted'; • 'Settlement Permit – Dependent', which entitles to temporary settlement gainful employment excepted; • Residence Permit 'Family Member', which entitles to temporary settlement; • 'Settlement Permit – Artists', which entitles to temporary settlement and to engage in gainful self-employment and gainful employment;

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Settlement Permit – Special Cases of Gainful Employment', which entitles to temporary settlement and to engage in certain gainful employment activities. <p>Children under the age of 14 years, persons who cannot be expected to provide proof of their language proficiency due to their physical or mental state of health, as well as dependents of holders of certain residence/settlement permits are excepted from the obligation to provide proof of their German language proficiency (Art. 21a para. 4 Settlement and Residence Act). Furthermore, the first-time issuance of residence permits 'Red-White-Red Card' is conditional upon achieving a certain amount of points within the points-based immigration system. Knowledge of the German language delivers such points and is considered an important element (Source: AHQ 2020.14). In general, the higher the German level, the more points are awarded to the TCN. The point-based system is applicable for the following types of resident permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Red-White-Red Card for very highly qualified workers' • 'Red-White-Red Card for skilled workers in shortage occupations' • 'Red-White-Red Card for other key workers' • 'Red-White-Red Card for start-up founders' <p>2. The (first-time) issuance of certain types of residence permits requires proficiency of the German language as described in Q1.</p> <p>Within two years of the first time a TCN was granted a residence permit under Art. 8 para. 1 subpara. 2,4-6,8-10 Settlement and Residence Act (see Q1), he or she is obliged to fulfil Module 1 of the so-called 'Integration Agreement' (Art. 9 Integration Act). Therefore, the TCN must acquire German language skills at level A2 of the CEFRL as well as knowledge of the fundamental values of the legal and social systems of the Republic of Austria (Art. 11 Integration Act).</p> <p>In order to be issued a permanent residence permit, TCNs must fulfil Module 2 of the Integration Agreement (Art. 10 Integration Act). Therefore, the TCN must acquire knowledge of the German language at level B1 of the CEFRL as well as knowledge of the fundamental values of the legal and social systems of the Republic of Austria (Art. 12 Integration Act). Furthermore, German language proficiency is a prerequisite for granting the Austrian citizenship. In general, knowledge of the German language at level B1 of the CEFRL is required (Art. 10a para. 1 subpara 1 Citizenship Act in conjunction with Art. 7 para. 2 subpara. 2 Integration Act).</p> <p>A higher level of language proficiency (level B2 of the CERFL) is required if citizenship is being sought in accordance with Art. 11a para 6 of the Citizenship Act; in return, the minimum residence period is reduced (to six years instead of ten years). However, some grounds for acquiring citizenship also exist for which evidence of adequate proficiency in German is not a prerequisite. This category includes naturalization in the special interests of the Republic of Austria under Art. 10 para 6 (Art.</p>
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			<p>10a para 2 subpara 1) of the Citizenship Act or acquisition of citizenship through notification. (Source: M. Stiller, Pathways to Citizenship for Foreigners in Austria, IOM, 2019, available at https://www.emn.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/emn-national-report-2019_-citizenship.pdf) Persons granted asylum and persons granted subsidiary protection above the age of 15 years are obliged to participate in German courses as part of the so-called 'Integration Declaration' (Art. 6 para. 1 in conjunction with Art. 4 para. 1 Integration Act). See also Q3.</p> <p>3. As described in Q1 and Q2, German language proficiency at level A1 CEFR is required for the (first-time) issuance of certain residence permits. Proof of the required German proficiency may be provided with a generally recognised language diploma issued by certain institutions (Art. 9b Regulation on the Implementation of the Settlement and Residence Act). Furthermore, the proof of knowledge of German is provided when the requirements for Module 1 or Module 2 of the Integration Agreement (see Q2) are met (Art. 21a para. 3 Settlement and Residence Act).</p> <p>As described in Q2, Module 1 of the Integration Agreement requires German proficiency at level A2 of the CEFR. Module 2 requires German proficiency at level B1 of the CEFR. Completion of Module 1 or Module 2 of the Integration Agreement can be proven by presenting a certificate issued by the Austrian Integration Fund showing that the individual has passed an integration exam. Module 2 is further fulfilled, when minors attend primary school as defined in the School Organization Act, show good performance in German as a subject (in an Austrian school or in a school or a post-secondary educational institution abroad) or completed the final apprenticeship exam according to the Vocational Training Act (Art. 10 para. 2 Integration Act).</p> <p>As described in Q2, German language proficiency at level B1 (respectively B2) is required in order to be granted the Austrian citizenship. Evidence of proficiency in German as required by the Citizenship Act can be provided in various ways, depending on the applicant's age. Minors are considered to have met the evidence requirement if they attend primary or secondary school as defined in the School Organization Act or show good performance in German as a subject (Art. 10a para. 3 Citizenship Act). In addition, evidence is also considered provided if German is the first language of the individual seeking citizenship or if he or she completes Module 2 of the Integration Agreement even if this is not required under the Integration Act (Art. 10a para. 4 Citizenship Act).</p> <p>(Source: M. Stiller, Pathways to Citizenship for Foreigners in Austria, IOM, 2019, available at https://www.emn.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/emn-national-report-2019_-citizenship.pdf) In the framework of the Integration Declaration, persons granted asylum and persons granted subsidiary protection are obliged to participate in German language courses, which are offered to reaching at least level B1 of the CEFR (see Q2). However, they are not obliged to pass any examination. (Source: P. Hecht, Integrationserfordernisse - Systematische Darstellung sowie unions- und verfassungsrechtliche Beurteilung,</p>
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			<p>migralex 2022/1, p. 4).</p> <p>4. The language levels which TCNs must acquire in order to be issued a residence permit or in order to be granted the Austrian citizenship (as described in Q1 and Q2) are a prerequisite for the issuance of the respective residence permit/the acquisition of the Austrian citizenship.</p> <p>Contrary to the wording, both the Integration Agreement and the Integration Declaration (see Q2) do not constitute a voluntarily concluded contract between the TCN and the state, but rather an obligation to learn the German language.</p> <p>If a TCN does not comply with Module 1 of the Integration Agreement, he or she risks the non-renewal of his or her residence permit (Art. 11 para. 2 subpara. Settlement and Residence Act), the issuance of a return decision (Art. 52 para. 4 subpara. 5 Aliens Police Act) as well as an administrative fine of up to € 500,- (Art. 23 para. 1 Integration Act).</p> <p>If a person granted asylum/subsidiary protection does not participate in the mandatory German language courses within the framework of the Integration Declaration, he or she risks a reduction of social benefits which is regulated under provincial laws. (Source: P. Hecht, Integrationserfordernisse - Systematische Darstellung sowie unions- und verfassungsrechtliche Beurteilung, migralex 2022/1, p. 4).</p> <p>5. In the framework of the Integration Declaration, German language courses for persons with asylum/subsidiary protection status above the age of 15 years are sponsored by the Austrian Integration Fund.</p> <p>For other TCNs integration courses, including language contents, are offered in order to prepare for the integration exam for Module 1 of the Integration Agreement (see Q2). Course providers are certified by the Austrian Integration Fund (Art. 16b para 1 Integration Act). It is optional to attend these courses. In certain cases, the costs of these courses may be (partly) reimbursed by the federal government in line with Art. 16 Integration Act. (AHQ 2020.14; 2019.15). Furthermore, the government partly reimburses the costs of integration courses for certain family members (Art. 14 Integration Act).</p> <p>6. Contrary to the requirement of proofing German language proficiency when applying for a residence permit (as described in Q1 and Q2), TCNs are not obliged to proof knowledge of certain values when applying for a residence permit in Austria for the first time.</p> <p>The Integration Agreement (see Q2) obliges TCNs who are lawfully settled in Austria to acquire knowledge of the democratic order and the principles which can be derived from it (Art. 7 Integration Act). The integration exam for Module 1 and Module 2 of the Integration Agreement covers German language contents as well as value contents serving to determine knowledge of the fundamental values of the legal and social systems of the Republic of Austria (Art. 11 and 12 Integration Act). If a TCN fails the exam, they can retake it until they pass. For the consequences in case a TCN does not comply with the Integration</p>
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			<p>Agreement see Q4.</p> <p>As part of the Integration Declaration, persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection above the age of 15 years are obliged to participate in values and orientation courses carried out by the Austrian Integration Fund (Art. 6 Integration Act). According to Art. 5 para. 3 Integration Act, the values and orientation courses teach participants about the democratic system and the fundamental principles derivable from it (fundamental values of the legal and social systems), and about the rules of peaceful coexistence. The dignity of human beings, equal rights of all human beings, and the right of every individual to a self-determined and self-responsible life, which are fundamental values of this kind, must be dealt with in any event. The main consequence for not participating in value courses is the reduction of social benefits (see also Q4).</p> <p>In order to acquire the Austrian citizenship on any grounds, TCNs have to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Austria's democratic system, including its underlying principles, as well as of the history of Austria and of the province of residence (Art. 10a para 1 subpara 2 Citizenship Act). In certain exceptional cases, citizenship can be acquired without demonstrating such knowledge. These include naturalization in the special interests of the Republic of Austria under Art. 10 para 6 (Art. 10a para 2 subpara 1) of the Citizenship Act or acquisition of citizenship through notification.</p> <p>The Citizenship Act sets out various options for providing evidence of this basic knowledge, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending a primary or secondary school as defined in the School Organization Act (Art. 10a para 4 Citizenship Act); • submitting a school certificate showing successful completion of the subject of "History and Social Studies" at a minimum of year four level in accordance with the curriculum for lower secondary schools (Art. 10a para 4a Citizenship Act); • passing an exam carried out by a provincial government (Art. 10a para 5 Citizenship Act). <p>Applicants who fail the exam can retake it until they pass (Art. 10a para 5 Citizenship Act; Art. 6 Citizenship Examination Regulation). The exam involves answering a total of 18 questions, with 6 questions taken from each of the following subject areas: basic knowledge of the democratic system of the Republic of Austria and underlying principles; basic knowledge of Austrian history; and basic knowledge of the history of the province of residence (Art. 3 Citizenship Examination Regulation). (Source: M. Stiller, Pathways to Citizenship for Foreigners in Austria, IOM, 2019, available at https://www.emn.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/emn-national-report-2019_-citizenship.pdf)</p>
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	<p>1. A language proficiency is not required prior to entry into the territory of Belgium.</p> <p>2. The issuance of residence permits is generally not subject to language proficiency. In order to obtain citizenship, there is a condition of linguistic integration (according to article 12bis of the Belgian Nationality Code). The condition is not required for</p>

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			<p>foreign nationals born in Belgiu, and who have established their main residence there on the basis of a legal stay since their birth, nor for foreign nationals who have established their main residence in Belgium on the basis of a legal stay for five years and who can prove that they cannot, due to a handicap or disability, hold a job or exercise an economic activity, or who have reached pensionable age.</p> <p>3. Knowledge of the language is defined (article 1, §2, 5° of the Belgian Nationality Code) as a minimum knowledge of one of the three national languages (Dutch, French, German) corresponding to a proficiency of level A2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The language can be chosen freely (thus, it does not have to correspond to the language of your main residence). The means of proof are listed in Article 1 of the Royal Decree of 14/1/2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma or certificate of an educational institution in Belgium or in the European Union, of at least higher secondary education level and in one of the three official languages of Belgium. • Certificate of successful completion of an integration program (of one of the Communities) • Five years of uninterrupted employment • Certificate of one of the regional public employment services • Language certificate of SELOR <p>4. Citizenship cannot be obtained without passing the language requirement.</p> <p>5. Within the integration program of the Communities, language courses are offered. In the Flemish Community, the language courses have a cost of 90 EUR for the course and 90 EUR for the exam. In the French-speaking and German-speaking Community, language courses are offered free of charge.</p> <p>6. Civic integration is a requirement to obtain citizenship. However, depending on the personal situation, civic integration can be proven in several ways. Mainly, it can be proven by successful completion of the civic integration program (organized by the Communities), five years of uninterrupted work, vocational training of minimum 400 hours, diploma or certificate of at least higher secondary education. Civic integration does not have to be proven for people who are above 65, who cannot work due to a handicap or for those born in Belgium.</p>
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. Language proficiency is not required for issuing residence permits.</p>


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			<p>Bulgarian language proficiency is required for foreigners applying for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship on the basis of Articles 12, 13, 13a and 14 of the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship (LBC). Foreigners who have received refugee status, shall apply for the acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship on the basis of Article 13a of the LBC. This Article provides for that foreigners who have received refugee or asylum status no less than three years before the date of submitting the application for naturalisation, may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if they meet the conditions under Article 12, Paragraph 1, Items 1, 3, 4 and 5, namely: they have reached the age of majority; they have not been convicted of intentional crime of a general nature by a Bulgarian court and no criminal proceedings have been initiated against them for such a crime, unless they have been rehabilitated; they have an income or an occupation that enables them to stay in the Republic of Bulgaria; they are proficient in Bulgarian language, which shall be established in accordance with the procedure determined by an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science.</p> <p>Regarding the foreigners who apply for the acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship on the basis of Articles 15, 16, 18 and § 14 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the LBC, there is no requirement for Bulgarian language proficiency.</p> <p>3. The procedure for establishing the Bulgarian language proficiency of the foreigners wishing to obtain Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation is determined by Ordinance № 5 of 3 September 1999 on the procedure for establishing Bulgarian language proficiency upon acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation (Ordinance № 5).</p> <p>4. According to Ordinance № 5 the exam for establishing Bulgarian language proficiency by the relevant foreigner shall be organised and conducted by the Centre for Control and Evaluation of the Quality of School Education (CCEQSE). Then, based on a proposal of the director of CCEQSE following a decision of the committee of experts that conducts the exam, the Minister of Education and Science or a person authorised by him issues a certificate of Bulgarian language proficiency. The certificate shall be presented together with the other required documents when starting the procedure for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship. The procedure may not continue without this certificate.</p> <p>Foreigners who have graduated higher education, primary education or secondary education in Bulgarian school in Bulgaria or abroad, certify their Bulgarian language proficiency with a copy of the diploma issued by the relevant school and/or a certificate for a completed semester in an accredited Bulgarian higher education institution. These documents shall be submitted to the Ministry of Justice together with the documents which are needed to acquire Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation.</p> <p>5. The courses are paid.</p>
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			6. There is no condition for a good knowledge of the host society and/or respect for the values of the host country as regards the procedure for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation.
	EMN NCP Croatia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. According to the Aliens Act, third-country nationals are not required to prove their knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script for the approval of temporary residence, while third-country nationals, including persons under international protection, must prove their knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script for the approval of a long-term residence (EU long-term). The Croatian language and Latin alphabet test for approval of long-term residence does not have to be passed by: children of preschool age or students, i.e. persons who have completed primary, secondary or higher education in the Republic of Croatia or persons over 65 years of age if they are not employed.</p> <p>A language proficiency is required for acquiring Croatian citizenship according to Article 8 Croatian Citizenship Act (Official Gazette 53/91, 28/92, 113/93, 130/11, 110/15, 102/19, 138/21), which stipulate regular way of acquiring Croatian citizenship by naturalization. According to this Article, a foreigner can acquire Croatian citizenship if he has lived and has had a registered residence in the Republic of Croatia for at least 8 years without interruption until the submission of the request and has been granted foreigner status with permanent residence.</p> <p>3. A language level (B1) is required for access to Croatian citizenship, according to Article 2 of the Rulebook on the method of verifying knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script, Croatian culture and social organization in the procedures of acquiring Croatian citizenship (Official Gazette 6/21). Knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script can be proven by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a certificate of passing the Croatian language and Latin script exam at universities or university units that run programs in the Croatian language and conduct exams, as well as a certificate from secondary schools, the National Center for External Evaluation of Education and adult education institutions that have permission to conduct exams in the Croatian language and the Latin script; • certificate of completion of primary education (class certificate), certificate of completion of secondary education (class certificate, certificate of passing the state matriculation certificate, certificate of final thesis) or diploma of completion of higher education in the Republic of Croatia; • a certificate of completion of the course or a copy of grades, i.e. a supplementary document on studies at a foreign higher education institution, at least B1 level of knowledge of the Croatian language.


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			<p>4. Yes. The request for long-term residence will be rejected, if the third-country national does not provide proof that he or she has completed primary, secondary or higher education in the Republic of Croatia, or proof of having passed the exam on knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script of the prescribed level B1 during the long-term residence approval process.</p> <p>5. Yes. Courses and exams for learning the Croatian language and the Latin alphabet are conducted by universities in the Republic of Croatia or institutions authorized by the Ministry of Science and Education. Third country nationals independently bear the costs of the course and exam, and the cost of the course and exam is determined by the university or the institution that conducts it.</p> <p>6. Yes. In addition to the language requirements described, according to Article 8 Croatian Citizenship Act, a foreigner can acquire Croatian citizenship if he is familiar with Croatian culture and social arrangement. Knowledge of Croatian culture and social order is proven by completing a questionnaire on knowledge of Croatian culture and social order. In case of failure, the foreigner can repeat the knowledge check of Croatian culture and social order.</p>
	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. Yes, for long term residence permits and for the renewal of residence permits, issued to family members of a refugee. No, for refugees and for citizenship.</p> <p>3. A2 level, for the cases only mentioned in Q2. There is a dedicated language test, by the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>4. The residence permit is not issued/renewed.</p> <p>5. No, not for the specific requirements.</p> <p>6. The A2 exam of the Ministry of Education (see also Q3) may include questions/topics on elements of modern political and social reality of Cyprus.</p>

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	EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. YES However, refugees are not required to speak Czech to apply for international protection. Once international protection has been granted, recipients can apply for the State Integration Programme where assistance in various fields is available to them. One of the requirements of the State Integration Programme is that the recipients must attend free Czech language classes (starting with an intensive introductory one, followed by higher level classes). Similarly, there are no language-related requirements for temporary residence permit applicants. However, a certain level of Czech language proficiency is required for obtaining a permanent residence permit or citizenship.</p> <p>3. There are no language-related requirements for temporary residence permit applicants. For third-country nationals applying for a permanent residence permit (after 5 years of residence in the Czech Republic or if they have an EU Blue Card), the required level of Czech language is A2. (This is a recent change, in effect since 1 September 2021. Prior to that, no language exam was required.) A document proving the required knowledge of the Czech language does not have to be submitted by someone who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has not reached the age of 15 or someone who is more than 60 years old, • proves that in the course of the 20 years preceding the application for a permanent residence permit he/she has been a pupil of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a primary school (min. 1 school year), ○ or a secondary school (min. 1 school year), ○ or a student of a higher education institute with teaching in the Czech language or a study programme focused on the Czech language at a university (min. 1 academic year), • submits a confirmation that he/she has passed one of the examinations stipulated by Government Decree No. 31/2016 Coll., as amended by Government Decree No. 199/2021 Coll. (on proving knowledge of the Czech language for the purposes of obtaining a permanent residence permit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a school-leaving examination in the Czech language ○ a certificate of the state language examination in the Czech language, which s/he passed at a language school with the right to a state language examination, ○ a state final examination, a state viva voce examination or a state doctoral examination taken at a university within a study program, which took place in the Czech language, ○ a Certified Examination in Czech for Foreigners (CCE) for level A2 or for a higher level,
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applies for a permanent residence permit pursuant to Section 66 or 67* of the Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic, or after the expiry of a previous residence permit, if the applicant is a foreign national in foster care who has reached 18 years of age • proves that he/she has a physical or mental handicap that would influence his/her ability to communicate. <p>*Sections 66 and 67 describe conditions under which a foreign national can obtain a permanent residence permit without having to reside in the territory of the Czech Republic for 4 uninterrupted years.</p> <p>For obtaining Czech citizenship, applicants are required to pass a Czech language examination at B1 level.</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 14(5) of the Czech Citizenship Act, the Czech Life and Institutions Exam need not be taken by the following individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An applicant who documents that he or she has attended three years of basic, secondary or post-secondary school where classes were taught in Czech • An applicant who on the date of submission of the Czech citizenship application was less than 15 years old or more than 65 years old • An applicant with a physical or mental handicap that prevents him or her from learning Czech. <p>Pursuant to Section 14(4) of the Czech Citizenship Act, the Czech Language Exam need not be taken by the following individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An applicant who documents that he or she has attended three years of basic, secondary or post-secondary school where classes were taught in Czech • An applicant who on the date of submission of the Czech citizenship application was less than 15 years old or more than 65 years old • An applicant with a physical or mental handicap that prevents him or her from learning Czech • An applicant who documents that he or she has successfully completed an equivalent language exam (pursuant to Section 13 of the Decree on demonstrating knowledge of the Czech language and Czech life and institutions for the purposes of granting Czech citizenship), which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School-leaving exam in Czech ○ State Czech language exam taken at a language school with authorisation to give state language exams ○ State final exam, state rigorous exam or state doctoral exam taken at a university as a party of a study programme taught in Czech ○ A Czech as a Foreign Language exam for the B1 level or higher, certified by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) and given by a full-fledged member of this association.
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			<p>The Ministry of the Interior may, based on Section 15(3) of the Czech Citizenship Act, exempt Czech citizenship applicants from the obligation to demonstrate knowledge of the Czech language and the obligation to demonstrate knowledge of Czech life and institutions for reasons worthy of special consideration. The exemption request is submitted along with the Czech citizenship application, and such request has to contain an explanation of the specific reasons worthy of special consideration based on which the exemption request is filed.</p> <p>Czech language exams can be retaken. (For A2 level exams, first attempt is free. For every other attempt, test takers must pay 2,500 CZK.)</p> <p>(As to the B2 Czech Language Exam and Czech Life and Institutions Exam for obtaining citizenship, the fees are 3,700 CZK and 1,800 CZK respectively.)</p> <p>4. As mentioned above, A2 level is required in order to be granted a permanent residence permit (see above for exceptions). If the applicant fails, their application will be denied. However, they can retake the Examination and apply again.</p> <p>5. There are no official courses. However, official materials (Handbook to the A2 Examination and The brochure with the A2 model test) can be downloaded from the official website of the Examination. An official Facebook page (over 30,000 followers) as well as a YouTube channel (5,000 subscribers; almost 500,000 views) have a lot of free materials to help applicants prepare for the Examination.</p> <p>6. As mentioned above, only Czech language exam is required to obtain a permanent residence permit. For obtaining Czech citizenship, applicants must pass an examination in Czech Life and Institutions (along with the B1 level language exam mentioned above). As this is a prerequisite, if an applicant fails the exam, their application will be denied. The exam can be retaken.</p>
	EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	<p>1. In general no, but according to the Aliens Act a temporary residence permit for study may be issued if the purpose of the stay of an alien in the country is to study on the basis of a higher education curriculum or the curriculum of an educational institution established on the basis of a treaty or in-service training of a training institution supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his or her proficiency in the language of instruction is sufficient.</p> <p>The proficiency in the language of instruction of an alien is considered to be sufficient if it corresponds to the minimum requirements set by the educational institution for language of instruction or if an alien commences in-depth studies in the national language.</p> <p>The procedure for submitting evidence of conformity to the requirements set to the proficiency in the language of instruction</p>

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			<p>shall be established by a regulation of the minister in charge of the policy sector Education and Research.</p> <p>For example, applicants to bachelor's or master's level programs must provide proof of English language proficiency via acceptable certificates (TOEFL IBT, IELTS Academic and PTE Academic test, language test offered by the university). Minimum B2 level is required. For programs taught in Estonian, the minimum level of Estonian language must also be B2. PhD level students' language proficiency skills must correspond to level C1. There are exceptions when proof of English language skills is waived (e.g. applicant has completed secondary education, bachelor's or master's degree taught fully in English etc.).</p> <p>2. Yes, when acquiring citizenship and when issuing some types of residence permits (e.g long-term residence permit) the TCN is generally subject to language proficiency.</p> <p><u>3. Temporary residence permit for employment in case the TCN has resided in Estonia for at least five years on the basis of temporary residence permit for employment</u></p> <p>In case a TCN has resided in Estonia for at least five years on the basis of temporary residence permit for employment and wishes to apply again for temporary residence permit for employment, he or she is required to have the Estonian language proficiency at least at the language level A2.</p> <p>The requirement for the Estonian language proficiency shall not be applied to an alien who is applying for: 1) a temporary residence permit for employment with the purpose of research activities 2) the EU Blue Card; 3) a temporary residence permit for an intra-corporate transferee; or 4) a temporary residence permit for employment as an academic staff member in Estonia in an educational institution which complies with the requirements established by legislation.</p> <p><u>Temporary residence permit for study</u></p> <p>According to the Aliens Act a temporary residence permit for study may be issued if the purpose of the stay of an alien in the country is to study on the basis of a higher education curriculum or the curriculum of an educational institution established on the basis of a treaty or in-service training of a training institution supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his or her proficiency in the language of instruction is sufficient.</p> <p>The proficiency in the language of instruction of an alien is considered to be sufficient if it corresponds to the minimum requirements set by the educational institution for language of instruction or if an alien commences in-depth studies in the national language.</p> <p>The procedure for submitting evidence of conformity to the requirements set to the proficiency in the language of instruction shall be established by a regulation of the minister in charge of the policy sector Education and Research.</p> <p><u>Residence permit for long-term residents</u></p> <p>According to Article 234 of the Aliens Act an alien who is applying for a residence permit for long-term residents is required to</p>
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			<p>have the Estonian language proficiency at least at the elementary level – language proficiency level B1 or a corresponding level.</p> <p>The integration requirement need not be complied with by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) an alien under 15 years of age; 2) an alien over 65 years of age and 3) an adult alien who has restricted active legal capacity. <p>The Estonian language proficiency is evaluated at the Estonian language proficiency level exam under the conditions provided for in the Language Act.</p> <p>An alien who has acquired the basic, secondary and higher education in the Estonian language is not required to take the Estonian language examination.</p> <p>If a TCN is permanently unable to comply with the requirements of the Estonian language proficiency level examination, he or she will be released from the examination. If the TCN is not able to fully comply with the language requirements of the Estonian language proficiency level examination, he or she will pass the examination to such extent and in such manner as his or her state of health allows. The decision on release of the exam is done by expert committee.</p> <p><u>Citizenship</u></p> <p>Article 8 of the Citizenship Act stipulates that proficiency in the Estonian language means general proficiency in basic Estonian needed in everyday life which corresponds to the proficiency level B-1 specified in the Language Act or to an equivalent level. The proficiency requirements in the Estonian language for a person who wants to acquire Estonian citizenship are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the applicant is able to cope in most everyday situations; 2) the applicant is able to describe experiences, events, dreams and goals and can briefly give reasons for and explain his or her views and intentions; 3) the applicant is able to fully understand the gist on familiar topics such as work, school and leisure; 4) the applicant is able to compose a simple text on a topic which he or she is familiar with or takes an interest in. <p>The applicant's proficiency in the Estonian language is assessed by way of examination. The procedure for holding examinations is established by the Government of the Republic.</p> <p>An applicant who passes the examination is issued a corresponding certificate.</p> <p>Applicants who have acquired a basic, secondary or higher education in the Estonian language are not required to take the examination.</p> <p>4. There are no sanctions, but if the required language proficiency cannot be proven and no exemption applies, the corresponding residence permit cannot be issued or extended.</p>
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			<p>5. Yes, Estonia offers language courses. The courses are free of charge. The free A1 and A2 level Estonian language courses are offered within the adaptation programme. Also, the Integration Foundation offers Estonian language courses for adults (starting at the age of 18) at the A1, A2, B1, B2 and C1 levels.</p> <p>For persons who wish to acquire Estonian citizenship and who have lived in Estonia on a legal basis for at least five years and who meet the basic conditions for applying citizenship, there is an opportunity to sign a language learning contract. The language learning contract enables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-time free Estonian language lessons from zero to level B1 inclusive; • In order to participate in Estonian language courses, the person who signed the contract will be paid a language training allowance based on the person's average salary for 20 calendar days for the times they participated in language courses on the days of unpaid study leave. The upper limit of compensation is the average annual gross salary in Estonia; • the contract is considered fulfilled if the person has submitted an application for acquiring citizenship to the Police and Border Guard Board. <p>Before signing the contract, the foreigner's language skills are assessed and he can learn Estonian for free only at those levels that he lacks from the B1 language level (e.g. A2 and B1).</p> <p>If the alien does not keep the contract or if, at the time of conclusion of the contract, they did not comply with the conditions for its conclusion, the arranger of language training collects the cost of language training and of any compensation paid or sums reimbursed from the TCN.</p> <p>6. YES when acquiring citizenship. According to Citizenship Act Article 9 a person who wishes to acquire Estonian citizenship must know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the general principles of the Estonian constitutional order which are provided in Chapters I and III of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia; 2) the fundamental rights, freedoms and duties of every person which are provided in Chapter II of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia; 3) the powers of the Riigikogu, the President of the Republic, the Government of the Republic and the courts of law as provided in the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia; 4) the conditions and procedure for acquisition, restoration and loss of Estonian citizenship as provided in the Citizenship Act. <p>Knowledge of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia and the Citizenship Act is assessed by way of examination which is held in Estonian. The procedure for the holding of the examination is established by the Government of the Republic.</p>
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			Persons who, for health reasons, are unable to fully comply with the requirements take the examination to an extent and in a manner that the state of their health allows. In case of failure of the examination, citizenship is not acquired.
+	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. NO.</p> <p>2. YES. There is no language proficiency requirement for residence permits. Citizenship is subject to language proficiency.</p> <p>3. There is no language requirement for issuance of residence permits. One of the requirements for becoming a Finnish citizen is that the person has satisfactory skills in one of the following: -oral and written Finnish -oral and written Swedish -Finnish Sign Language -Finland-Swedish Sign Language A certificate of language skills must be submitted with the citizenship application. Language skills may be demonstrated in the following ways: 1) language proficiency certificates a. The National Certificate of Language Proficiency (YKI) in Finnish or Swedish completed at level 3 or higher (intermediate level). b. Civil Service Language Proficiency Certificate with at least satisfactory oral and written skills in Finnish or Swedish. 2) basic education certificates a. A leaving certificate issued by a Finnish comprehensive school or a certificate of completing the entire syllabus of basic education. The certificate must show that the applicant has passed the examination in Finnish or Swedish as their native language or as a second language. 3) upper secondary school certificates a. A leaving certificate issued by a Finnish upper secondary school or the Finnish matriculation examination showing that the applicant has passed the examination in Finnish or Swedish as their native language or as a second language. b. A certificate that the applicant has completed the upper secondary school syllabus in Finnish or Swedish as their native language or as a second language.</p>


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			<p>4) vocational qualification certificates</p> <p>a. From 1 January 2018 onwards: A vocational upper secondary qualification, a further vocational qualification or a specialist vocational qualification that has been achieved through studies in Finnish or Swedish (qualification according to act 531/2017).</p> <p>b. Before 2018: A vocational upper secondary qualification that has been achieved through studies in Finnish or Swedish (qualification according to act 630/1998). Further vocational qualification or specialist vocational qualification, including competence-based qualifications, that has been achieved through studies in Finnish or Swedish (a qualification according to act 631/1998).</p> <p>Only certificates issued for full completion of a qualification are accepted as proof of meeting the language skills requirement. An applicant cannot use certificates issued for education undertaken in preparation for a qualification, or certificates for partial completion of a qualification, as proof of your language skills, even if the certificate in question refers to the acts mentioned above.</p> <p>5) certificates issued for higher education in Finland</p> <p>a. A degree certificate of studies in Finnish or Swedish for civil servants completed at a university or university of applied sciences (the level of Finnish or Swedish language skills necessary for jobs in bilingual areas of Finland that require a higher education degree).</p> <p>b. A certificate of approval of a maturity test in Finnish or Swedish for the purpose of attaining a degree at a university or university of applied sciences.</p> <p>6) Demonstration of proficiency in sign language</p> <p>a. A certificate issued by the Finnish Association of the Deaf of at least satisfactory proficiency in the Finnish or Finland-Swedish Sign Language. The association tests the sign language skills of a person through an interview.</p> <p>Exceptions to the language skills requirement are made very rarely. The situation of each applicant is considered individually. There has to be sufficient grounds as defined by law before an exception can be made. See more details below in Q4.</p> <p>4. In Finland, there are no language requirements for residence permits. Failure to submit a required language certificate (or if the level of language skills is not sufficient) with the citizenship application will result in a negative decision. An applicant can re-apply for citizenship. An applicant may also request to be exempted from the language requirement, but exemptions are made rarely.</p> <p>According to law (Nationality Act, Section 18b), exceptions to the language skills requirement can be granted if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the applicant is over 65 years old • the applicant's health prevents them from acquiring the required language skills • the applicant has arrived in Finland as an adult and is illiterate (unable to read and write)
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are otherwise special and weighty reason for granting an exception. (These exceptions also apply to applicants, who are EU-citizens). Exceptions to the language skills requirement: https://migri.fi/en/exceptions-to-the-language-skills-requirement <p>5. In Finland, basic comprehensive education and secondary education (upper secondary and vocational schools) are free, as is most of the education after this at tertiary level. Schools offer Finnish and Swedish language courses. Those that are past the age of compulsory education and entitled to integration services, can have free Finnish or Swedish courses as a part of their integration training. Paid courses (specifically meant for studying for the language exam) are available to anyone and are offered by various institutions such as multicultural centres, upper secondary schools for adults, adult education centres open universities, universities of applied sciences, churches etc. They charge anything between 10 – 460 euros per course, which typically covers one 'language level'. Some also offer free courses. List of these courses can be found here: https://finnishcourses.fi/courses/yki-courses?page=0</p> <p>6. NO. The topic has emerged occasionally in public debates, whether a citizenship test should be included as part of the application process, but no such policy has been implemented ever.</p>
	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. France does not require a minimum level of language as a precondition for entry into the country.</p> <p>2. A level of language is required in some cases only. See the replies below:</p> <p>3. France does not require a minimum language level for the issuance of annual or multi-annual residence permits (2 years or 4 years) for third-country nationals (TCN) who settle in the country. Those who move permanently to France sign a Republican Integration Contract (Contrat d'intégration républicaine - CIR). If they do not have level A1, they will be required to undergo language training. TCNs must attend language courses regularly and demonstrate progress, but attainment of level A1 is not required. If these conditions are not met, TCNs cannot obtain a multi-annual residence permit. A second annual residence permit is then issued. Initial and final evaluations are carried out by specialised service providers selected through public procurement. These evaluations shall not be considered as a certifying language test. However, a language level (A2) is required for the 10-year resident card. A language level (B1) is required for access to French citizenship. Regarding the resident card and access to citizenship, language levels must be proven by a certifying diploma or language test.</p>

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			<p>4. No. If the TCN does not justify the level of language required for a multiannual residence permit, there are no restrictions or sanctions applied.</p> <p>5. Yes. French courses are free of charge as part of the Republican Integration Contract. If they do not master French at least at level A1 when they receive their first residence permit, they must attend French courses which target level A1 (100 hours, 200 hours, 400 hours or 600 hours) and can continue to levels A2 (100 hours) and B1 (100 hours).</p> <p>6. In addition to the language requirements described, the signatories of the Republican Integration Contract must undergo a 4-day civic training course, sign a commitment document to respect the principles and values of the Republic (respect for beliefs, equality between women and men, etc.) and have not expressed their rejection. This civic training is not validated by an assessment of knowledge at the end of the course, but the signatory of the Republican Integration Contract undertakes to respect the values and principle of the Republic by signing a commitment document. If these conditions are not met, the signatory of the Republican Integration Contract is not entitled to a multi-annual residence permit but will be issued with a new annual residence permit.</p> <p>NB: the language and civic training requirements described above do not apply to beneficiaries of international protection and to certain categories of residence permits, in particular those relating to highly qualified migrants.</p> <p>NB: As regards access to citizenship, the applicant signs a charter of citizens' rights and duties during the assimilation interview, which may be the subject of questions during that interview.</p>
	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>The regulations on the requirement of language proficiency for the issuance of residence permits are based on the German Residence Act (AufenthG) (https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/). The regulations for acquiring German citizenship are based on the German Citizenship Act (StAG), (https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_stag/).</p> <p>Language proficiency is required for the issuance of a temporary residence permit, depending on the purpose of the stay. When applying for a visa for the following purposes, language proficiency must be proven before entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residence permit for the purpose of education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualified vocational training if the language skills required for the specific qualified vocational training have neither been tested by the educational institution nor are to be acquired through a preparatory German language course: Level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) (Section 16a (3) sentence 3 AufenthG). Study, if the required knowledge of the language of education has neither been tested by the university

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			<p>during the admission decision nor is to be acquired through a study preparation measure: the required level depends on the knowledge of the language of education required for the specific course of study (§ 16b Abs. 1 S. 4 AufenthG). The language of education to be proven does not necessarily have to be German.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measures for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications: German language skills appropriate to the activity, usually at least level A2 CEFR (§ 16d Abs. 3 S. 1 Nr. 1 AufenthG). Search for a training or study place: Level B2 CEFR (§ 17 para. 1 p. 1 no. 3 AufenthG). • For most residence permits for the purpose of gainful employment, no specific language skills need to be demonstrated prior to entry. Language skills are only required for the issuance of visas for the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT specialists without formal qualification: level B1 CEFR (§ 19d Abs. 1 AufenthG). ○ Job search for skilled workers with vocational training: German language skills appropriate to the position applied for (§ 20 Abs. 1 S. 1 AufenthG). • Residence permit for the purpose of family reunification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spousal reunification with Germans and third-country nationals: Level A1 CEFR. Exceptions apply, among others, for family reunification with highly qualified persons, aliens with protection status, or if proof of language proficiency cannot be provided due to illness or disability. ○ Child reunification with aliens if the child has already reached the age of 16: Level C1 CEFR <p>An overview of the required language proficiency depending on the type of visa can be found here: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/living-in-germany/learn-german/knowledge.</p> <p>For other residence, e.g. for other gainful employment purposes or for reasons of international law, humanitarian or political reasons, German language skills do not usually have to be proven prior to entry.</p> <p>2. Yes/ No.</p> <p>For the issuance of a temporary residence title (visa), proof of German language skills prior to entry is only required in certain cases. See answer to question 1. This applies accordingly to the subsequent issuance of a residence permit after entry. If language proficiency at least at level A1 CEFR is not yet available and the residence is not only temporary, the obligation to attend an integration course can take place, the completion of which is a prerequisite for the extension of the residence. For the issuance of an unlimited residence permit (national settlement permit or permanent residence EU), German language proficiency at the level B1 CEFR is always required in principle. In certain exceptional cases, language proficiency can be dispensed with (illness or disability, case of hardship) or the requirements can be reduced to level A1 CEFR (low need for integration, impossibility or unreasonableness of attending an integration course) (§ 9 para. 1 no. 7 and 9a para. 2 no. 3 AufenthG in conjunction with §§ 44 para. 3 no. 2 and 44a para. 2 no. 3 AufenthG). In the case of recognized refugees, language</p>
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			<p>proficiency at level A2 CEFR is sufficient for the issuance of a settlement permit (§ 26 Abs. 3 AufenthG). The waiting period for the settlement permit is reduced from five to three years if language proficiency at the C1 CEFR level is proven. Holders of an EU Blue Card only require language skills at the A1 CEFR level for the issuance of a settlement permit. With existing language proficiency at the B1 CEFR level, the waiting period is shortened from 33 to 21 months.</p> <p>Language proficiency (level B1 or A1 CEFR) is also required for the granting of a residence permit to aliens who are obliged to leave the country (e.g. § 19d AufenthG – residence permit for qualified tolerated persons for the purpose of employment, § 25b AufenthG – granting of residence in the case of sustainable integration).</p> <p>In principle, language proficiency at level B1 CEFR is required for naturalisation (Section 10 (1) sentence 1 no. 6 StAG). Exceptions apply if the requirements cannot be met due to illness or disability (Section 10 (6) StAG). If an integration course has been successfully completed, the period after which naturalisation is possible is reduced from eight to seven years (Section 10 (3) StAG).</p> <p>For persons who have been granted refugee status, the language requirements only apply to the granting of permanent residence permits and to naturalisation.</p> <p>3. See answers to question 1 and 2.</p> <p>Prior to entry, language proficiency must usually be proven by an official language certificate (Zertifikat Deutsch) from a recognized provider (e.g. Goete-Institut, telc-certified institutes). Integration courses completed in Germany (usually 700 teaching units) consist of a language course (600 teaching units) and an orientation course (100 teaching units), which covers, among other things, the German legal system, history and culture, and society in Germany. Both components are concluded with an official examination. The language exam is at level B1 CEFR.</p> <p>4. If the required language proficiency cannot be proven and no exemption applies, the corresponding residence permit cannot be issued or extended (Section 8 (3) Residence Act). If all requirements for this are met, another residence permit for which no language proficiency or a purely lower level of language proficiency is required can be issued.</p> <p>5. Yes.</p> <p>After entering Germany, aliens who have resided in Germany permanently (usually a residence permit for one year or possession of a residence title for more than 18 months) are generally entitled to an integration course (§ 44 AufenthG). This does not apply to children, adolescents and young adults who are undergoing school education in Germany. Persons with a recognizably low need for integration or who already have sufficient knowledge of German are also not entitled to attend an integration course.</p>
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			<p>In addition, there is the possibility of an obligation to participate in an integration course (§ 44a AufenthG). Such an obligation occurs, for example, if German language proficiency is not already at least at level A1 CEFR or if social benefits are received. The cost contribution to be paid by the participants for the general integration course (700 teaching units) is 1540 euros (EUR 2.20/teaching unit). For special courses with more teaching units, the cost contribution is correspondingly higher. If the course is successfully completed within two years of obtaining the right to participate, half of the cost contribution paid can be refunded. Detailed information on integration courses can be found here: https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/Integrationskurse/integrationskurse-node.html</p> <p>6. Yes. Basic knowledge of the German legal and social system is required for the issuance of an unlimited residence permit. This can be proven by successful participation in an orientation course (part of the integration course in addition to the language course). In addition to proof of language proficiency, a commitment to the free democratic basic order of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany is required for naturalisation (§ 10 Para. 1 No. 1 AufenthG). In addition, knowledge of the legal and social order and living conditions in Germany must be proven, as a rule, by passing a naturalisation test (Section 10 (1) No. 7 StAG in conjunction with Section 10 (5) StAG). Detailed information on the requirements for naturalisation can be found here: https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/Einbuengerung/einbuengerung-node.html</p>
	EMN NCP Greece	Yes	<p>1. NO</p> <p>2. YES</p> <p>3. Access to citizenship According to the Greek Citizenship Code, foreigners (including refugees) who wish to obtain Greek citizenship via the naturalization process must meet the language proficiency criterion (level B1a level and above). In order to establish this, they are examined in their reading comprehension, as well as their writing and listening ability. In particular, third country nationals participate in an examination process for the acquisition of the so-called "Certificate of Knowledge Adequacy for naturalization" thus verifying their ability in mastering the Greek language, their level of knowledge on Greek history, geography, culture, the institutions of the Greek state and their function. The aforementioned Certificate, is among others, a prerequisite for applying for Greek citizenship via the naturalization process. If the applicant fails in these</p>


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			<p>exams, he/she can participate in any of the following exams (with no limitation in the number of times), with the exams being held twice a year.</p> <p>Furthermore, in case of foreigners who have successfully attended a total of 9 consecutive years of primary and secondary or 6 consecutive years of secondary education in a Greek school in Greece or are graduates of a Greek university, the Certificate of Knowledge Adequacy for naturalization is not required.</p> <p>Currently language courses are not being offered to foreign nationals. However, all the questions to be examined, as well as their answers are stored in a "Item Bank" and are available on the internet for the public. These questions have been conducted by an independent Scientific Committee, which is also responsible for randomly choosing those that will be used in each examination session.</p> <p>In order to verify the competency of Greek language, 100 essays (with their relevant exercises) are included in the "Item Bank", whereas, in order to verify the competency in Greek history, geography, Greek civilization and the function of the political institutions, the total number of the questions does not exceed 300.</p> <p>Issuance of the residence permits</p> <p>According to article 89 of Law No 4251/2014, third country nationals who wish to apply for the long-term residence permit (according to the relevant EU Directive), shall prove that they fulfill the conditions for integration into Greek society. The conditions for integration into Greek society are also met if he/she proves that he/she has sufficient knowledge of the Greek language and knowledge of elements of the Greek history and the Greek culture in accordance with article 107 of the abovementioned Law. Furthermore, adequate knowledge of the Greek language, history and culture is proved by one of the following qualifications:</p> <p>which among other conditions require:</p> <p>a) Greek language certificate of at least B1 level, issued in accordance with Presidential Decree 60/2010 and</p> <p>b) special certificate of sufficient knowledge of the Greek language and elements of Greek history and culture, after a successful examination carried out under the responsibility of the General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning in collaboration with the Greek Language Center, within the framework of its competences for the certification of Greek knowledge.</p> <p>Moreover, the Directorate for Lifelong Learning of the General Secretariat for Vocational Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is the competent Service for conducting the examinations for the certification of knowledge of the Greek language and elements of the Greek history and civilization for third country nationals, in order to be granted the status of long-term resident, according to the provisions of the Joint Ministerial Decision nr. 140304/K1/3.11.2021 (GG B' 5125).</p> <p>4. YES, in the abovementioned cases, if the required proof of language level is not fulfilled, the third country national's</p>
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			<p>application for the issuance of residence permit is rejected.</p> <p>5. Issuance of the residence permits</p> <p>YES, language courses are offered by Lifelong Learning Centers, the private sector and the civil society. More specifically, the Directorate for Lifelong Learning of the General Secretariat for Vocational Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is the competent Service for conducting the examinations for the certification of knowledge of the Greek language and elements of the Greek history and civilization for third country nationals, in order to be granted the status of long-term resident, according to the provisions of the Joint Ministerial Decision nr. 140304/K1/3.11.2021 (GG B' 5125). In the Lifelong Learning Centers of the municipalities (https://kentradiaviou.gr/), are offered for free the following Greek language courses for migrants and third country nationals, within the context of the thematic section "Education for Migrants":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level A1: Addressed to beginners or quasi beginners (those who have not obtained the language skills of the Greek language, 125 hours) • Level A2: Addressed to persons who have obtained the language skills of the Greek language at the beginners' level, 175 hours) • Level B1: The candidate can communicate independently and effectively in ordinary circumstances (185 hours) • Level B1 (for specific purposes): Particular attention is given to oral comprehension and speech production (195 hours) <p>Access to citizenship</p> <p>Currently language courses are not being offered to foreign nationals. However, all the questions to be examined, as well as their answers are stored in a "Item Bank" and are available on the internet for the public. These questions have been conducted by an independent Scientific Committee, which is also responsible for randomly choosing those that will be used in each examination session.</p> <p>In order to verify the competency of Greek language, 100 essays (with their relevant exercises) are included in the "Item Bank", whereas, in order to verify the competency in Greek history, geography, Greek civilization and the function of the political institutions, the total number of the questions does not exceed 300.</p> <p>6. Issuance of the residence permits/Access to citizenship</p> <p>YES, see answer to question number 3.</p>
	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	<p>1. In case of a 'Residence Permit for the Purpose of Study', the third-country national (hereinafter referred to as TCN) is required to prove that (s)he has sufficient language proficiency for the purpose of studies.</p>


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			<p>2. See the answer to Question 1.</p> <p>3. See the answer to Question 1.</p> <p>4. See the answer to Question 1. If a TCN fails to prove that (s)he has sufficient language proficiency her/his application for a residence permit shall be refused.</p> <p>5. -</p> <p>6. A national permanent residence permit may be issued to a TCN whose permanent residence is in accordance with the interest of Hungary. In particular, economic, political, scientific, cultural and sports interests of Hungary, as well as the high level of social integration of the TCN can be considered to be in the interest of Hungary. If the condition that the TCN's permanent residence is in the interest of Hungary is not met, the national permanent residence permit shall not be issued</p>
	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. N/A.</p> <p>4. N/A.</p> <p>5. N/A.</p> <p>6. N/A.</p>
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<p>1. NO</p>

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			<p>2. YES.</p> <p>Language proficiency is required for the issuance of the EU residence permit for long-stay visa, with the exception of: minors under the age of 14, persons with severe limitations on language learning abilities, holders of refugee and subsidiary protection status and other highly specialized categories who work in Italy.</p> <p>According to Article 9.1 of Law n° 91/92, the granting of Italian nationality iure matrimonii and by naturalisation (Art. 5 and 9) is conditional on the possession, on the part of the interested party, of an adequate knowledge of the Italian language, attested to by a qualification or certification issued by a certifying body. The only cases of exemption are for those who have signed the integration agreement referred to in Art. 4 bis of the Consolidated Act of 25 July 1998, no. 286, or for those who hold an EU long-term residence permit referred to in Art. 9 of the same Consolidated Act.</p> <p>3. For long-term residence permits, a certificate Level A2 must be issued by an accredited or certifying body. For citizenship, knowledge of the Italian language is required and must not be less than level B1 (CEFR), which must be attested at the time of submitting the application by possession of a qualification issued by a public or equivalent educational institution recognised by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Alternatively, certification issued by a certifying body recognised by the Ministry of Education (University for Foreigners of Perugia, University for Foreigners of Siena, University of Roma Tre and Società Dante Alighieri) may be produced. In the case of certifications issued by public entities, self-certification is sufficient, while a certified copy of the deed is required in the case of equal or private entities.</p> <p>4. The application is not accepted due to the absence of the language requirement.</p> <p>5. Various language courses are offered, although they are not specific to obtaining citizenship.</p> <p>6. It is not stipulated by law as a requirement but as a condition of the administration's assessment for citizenship. The applicant fills out a news sheet on his presence in Italy.</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. Yes.</p> <p>Language skills are required in some cases. Knowledge of the Latvian language is required for those who want to naturalize, for those who want to register Latvian citizenship as an ethnic Latvian or Liv (according to Article 2, Part One, Clause 3 of the</p>

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			<p>Citizenship Law).</p> <p>Third-country nationals who want receive a permanent residence permit must also prove their knowledge of the Latvian language. Those who have been granted refugee status in Latvia do not need to prove their knowledge of the Latvian language.</p> <p>The required level of Latvian language knowledge is different for each category. See the following replies.</p> <p>3. If a person goes through naturalization process, the applicant must pass the Latvian language proficiency test in the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs of the Ministry of Interior. Latvian language proficiency test takes place in two parts. In the first part the listening, reading and writing skills of the person are examined. The speaking skills of the person are tested in the second part. The required skill level is to be able to understand the texts heard on topics of a domestic nature, read and understand texts on various topics, be able to write simple texts, talk about household topics. Each language skill is assessed separately.</p> <p>The test of Latvian language proficiency does not need to be taken, if not earlier than five years before the submission of the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the person obtained higher education in Latvian; - the person has certified Latvian language skills in the centralized exam in Latvian, finishing elementary school and obtaining a total score of not less than 50% or finishing secondary school and obtaining a total score of not less than 20%. <p>Examinations are exempted if a person has obtained basic education in Latvian, learning more than half of the basic education program in it. The Latvian writing skills do not need to be passed if the person has reached the age of 65. Exemptions and relieved procedures for testing are provided for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>If a person wants to register Latvian citizenship as an ethnic Latvian or Liv, the applicant must pass the Latvian language proficiency test in the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs. A person must know the Latvian language at a level to be able to communicate in everyday situations. The test of Latvian language proficiency takes place orally.</p> <p>The test of Latvian language proficiency does not need to be taken, if not earlier than five years before the submission of the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the person obtained higher education in Latvian; - the person has certified Latvian language skills in the centralized exam in Latvian, finishing elementary school and obtaining a total score of not less than 50% or finishing secondary school and obtaining a total score of not less than 20%. <p>Examinations are exempted if a person has obtained basic education in Latvian, learning more than half of the basic education program in it. Exemptions and relieved procedures for testing are provided for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Foreigners who want receive a permanent residence permit must also prove their knowledge of the Latvian language, at least</p>
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			<p>A2 level is required. Those who have been granted refugee status in Latvia do not need to prove their knowledge of the Latvian language.</p> <p>Foreigner must pass the test of Latvian language proficiency in the National Centre for Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. The test has two parts - a written part and an oral part. The State Fee for Examination is EUR 14.23.</p> <p>A certificate of proficiency in the official language is issued by National Centre for Education where the level and grade of proficiency in the official language are indicated.</p> <p>The test is not required for persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - who have obtained basic, secondary or higher education in Latvian; - who have studied an accredited minority education program and passed the centralized exam in the Latvian language (for 9th grade) or the centralized exam in Latvian language and literature (for 12th grade), which is confirmed by a certificate of primary education or general secondary education; - who have health-related functional limitations or diagnoses (determined by the state); - who have not reached the 15 years of age. <p>The examination with exemptions shall be taken by persons with functioning limitations (determined by the state).</p> <p>4. More NO than YES (please see the description).</p> <p>If the test of Latvian language proficiency is not passed as part of the naturalization process, it can also be passed a second and third time, no earlier than three months after the previous test. The person shall repeatedly pass only the part of test not passed during the previous time. If a person cannot pass the Latvian language proficiency test during the naturalization process - within one year, the naturalization case is closed. A person can once again start a new naturalization case by submitting all the necessary documents and thus will have to pass the Latvian language proficiency test again.</p> <p>If a person who wants to register Latvian citizenship as an ethnic Latvian or Liv does not pass the Latvian language test, he is assigned to the next test. The person shall repeatedly pass only the part of test not passed during the previous time. Language proficiency test must be passed within one year. If a person cannot pass the Latvian language proficiency test within one year, the case is closed. A person can once again start a new case by submitting an application and thus will have to pass the Latvian language proficiency test again.</p> <p>If a foreigner who wants to receive a permanent residence permit does not pass the test, he may take the test of the same or higher national language proficiency level no earlier than three months after the last test.</p> <p>If a positive result has been obtained in the test, but the required level of language proficiency has not been obtained, then the</p>
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			<p>test can be retaken at any time by re-registering for the exam.</p> <p>5. Yes. Mostly Latvian language in-person courses are organized by municipalities, courses are free of charge. At the same time there is possibility to learn the Latvian language online free of charge, using a self-learning tool.</p> <p>6. Yes. As part of the naturalization process, it is necessary to prove knowledge of the basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the national anthem, and the basics of Latvian history and culture. The person must recite or write the national anthem, answer questions about the history and culture of Latvia, answer questions about the basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia. Each part is evaluated separately. The applicant shall take the knowledge test within two months after taking the fluency in language test. If the test is not passed, it may be repeated no earlier than after one month. Only the part of the test that was not passed the previous time should be passed. Exemptions and relieved procedures for testing are provided for persons with disabilities.</p>
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. No. Language proficiency is not required prior to entry into Lithuania.</p> <p>2. Yes</p> <p>3. There are no language requirements for the issuance of temporary residence permits. There are language requirements for <u>some</u> foreigners who apply for a permanent residence permit. According to Article 53§6 of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners, passing the state language proficiency exam is required of those foreigners who apply for a permanent residence permit when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. they have resided in the Republic of Lithuania for the past 5 years uninterruptedly with a temporary residence permit or a national visa; or 2. they have resided in the European Union for the past 5 years uninterruptedly, of which they spent at least 2 uninterrupted years in the Republic of Lithuania as holders of a temporary residence permit issued on the grounds of intending to take up work that requires high qualification; or 3. they have resided in the European Union for the past 5 years uninterruptedly, of which they spent at least 2 uninterrupted years in the Republic of Lithuania as holders of a temporary residence permit issued on the grounds of being a family member of a foreigner with the EU blue card. <p>There are language requirements for those who become citizens through naturalization. According to Article 18§1.3 of the Law</p>


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			<p>on Citizenship, they must pass the state language proficiency exam.</p> <p>The Lithuanian language proficiency exam is the same for both groups. The Lithuanian language proficiency exam is administered by the Center for the Professional Development of Pedagogues and the National Center for Exams. The exam consists of a test and a conversation designed to check the reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The purpose of the exam is to assign the language proficiency category.</p> <p>According to Article 6 of Government Resolution No. 1688 of 24 December 2003, there are three categories of proficiency: the first is the lowest and the third is the highest. Foreigners seeking to acquire citizenship through naturalization or to get a permanent residence permit on the above-mentioned grounds must reach the first level of proficiency, which corresponds to A2 (elementary Lithuanian). According to Article 5.2 of the Government Resolution, to reach the A2 level, a person must have the following language skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to understand short, clearly structured spoken and written texts and commonly used expressions on casual everyday topics (e.g., oneself, family, shopping, local geography, and job) • be able to talk about specific well-known things, complete typical document forms, compose short unofficial texts (e.g., announcements, letters), as well as tell about his/her education, environment and basic needs. • be able to comprehend spoken and written text and use a limited number of terms within his/her area of work. <p>4. No, there are no restrictions or sanctions if the third-country national fails the language proficiency exam. However, passing the language proficiency exam is a prerequisite for issuing a permanent residence to the earlier-mentioned categories of applicants or for granting citizenship through naturalization. There is a small fee for taking the exam and those who fail are neither reimbursed nor exempted from it if they wish to retake the exam. More importantly, reaching the first category of proficiency is mandatory for workers in service, manufacturing, trade, transport, and other areas if they have to interact with customers and/or fill out basic forms in the job.</p> <p>5. Yes.</p> <p>The requirements for reaching A2 level are outlined in Order ISAK-209 of 11 February 2004 of the Minister of Education and Science and they essentially correspond to the Council of Europe's CEFR Levels. A detailed description of the key requirements for the first category of proficiency in the Lithuanian language have been published in a book, which is freely available online. Since the requirements, the exercises, and sample tests are freely available, it is possible to prepare for the exam independently. Language courses to prepare for the exam are offered by both state-funded and private organizations. In most cases, the language courses are not offered free of charge, although there may be exceptions (for example, Caritas offers free language courses to residents). The cost of preparatory courses ranges widely, depending on a number of factors</p>
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			<p>(type of organization offering courses, group size, course length, intensity location, etc.). For example, Vilnius university offers an introductory Lithuanian language course (50 academic hours) for 200 EUR. Language and Culture Institute LINGUA LITUANICA, a private company, offers a two-part course to reach the A1 level of proficiency for 340 EUR, followed by a two-part course to reach the A2 level for 580 EUR; however, there is also an intensive (80 academic hours) course for 380 EUR. Another company, KALBA UAB, offers an introductory Lithuanian language course for 586 EUR.</p> <p>6. Yes.</p> <p>Both those who need to pass the state language proficiency exam to get a permanent residence permit and those who need it to acquire citizenship through naturalization must also pass the exam on the Lithuanian Constitutional Foundations. The exam covers various topics related to the Constitution, including the following: the form of the government, elections, legislative process, courts, municipal self-government, referendums, citizenship, official language, state anthem, flag, coat of arms; basic values (freedom, human rights, family, religion); economy (economic system, jobs, business, freedom to strike, right to safe working conditions, social security, health care, etc.); finance (money, central bank, state budget, etc.). The exam is a written test of 20 multiple-choice questions.</p> <p>Passing the exam is a prerequisite to obtaining a permanent residence permit (in cases when it is required by Article 53 of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners) or acquiring citizenship through naturalization.</p>
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. No. In regard to the issuance of residence permit there is no requirement of language proficiency.</p> <p>However, in order to obtain Luxembourg citizenship, the applicant must pass a language exam (speaking and hearing comprehension). Before acquiring Luxembourgish nationality by naturalization, and in certain cases by option declaration (including beneficiaries of international protection), applicants must be able to demonstrate knowledge in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Luxembourgish language, as evidenced by a Luxembourgish language test pass certificate or a certificate confirming participation in a Luxembourgish language course; <p>the fundamental rights of citizens, the state and local institutions of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, as well as the history of Luxembourg and European integration, as documented by a "Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" certificate.</p> <p>3. As we mentioned before the language requirement is not necessary for the issuance of residence permits.</p> <p>In regard to the access to nationality, the level for the speaking examination is A2 and the level for the hearing comprehension</p>


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			<p>is B1.</p> <p>The National Institute for Languages (INL) organises the Luxembourgish oral exam taken as part of the process to acquire Luxembourgish nationality.</p> <p>The exam consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a spoken test (A2 level); • a listening test (B1 level). <p>In order to pass the Luxembourgish language test, candidates must get a score of at least 50 % on the spoken test. A score of less than 50 % on the spoken test may be offset by the score received on the listening test.</p> <p>In this case, applicants can still pass the exam if the arithmetic average, rounded up to the next whole number if applicable, of the scores received in the 2 tests is equal to or higher than 50 % of the full score.</p> <p>The registration form (see the section "Forms / Online services" below) must be submitted to the INL together with the supporting documents, before the registration deadline.</p> <p>If the physical or psychological state of the person applying for Luxembourgish nationality prevents them from learning Luxembourgish, a request for exemption from taking the Luxembourgish language test may be sent to the Minister of Justice, accompanied by a medical certificate from a medical specialist.</p> <p>Spoken test</p> <p>The level required to pass the spoken test is A2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to introduce oneself and use simple language to talk about one's family and other people, one's living conditions and training or occupation; • ability to use simple language to describe and compare people, objects and activities. <p>The spoken test consists of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an interview between the examiner and the applicant; • description of a visual aid.
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			<p>Listening test</p> <p>The level required to pass the listening comprehension test is B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding of the main points of clear standard speech on familiar topics; • understanding of the main points of radio or TV programmes on current affairs or matters of personal or professional interest. <p>The listing test consists of 3 tracks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a radio news item; • an everyday conversation between 2 people; • a discussion or presentation on a specific topic. <p>After each track, candidates will answer the multiple-choice test paper by ticking their answer on the answer sheet.</p> <p>4. No. In the case of access to nationality, if the applicant does not pass the exam, s/he can try again.</p> <p>5. N/A for residence permits.</p> <p>There is a wide range of language courses on offer in Luxembourg, both from public integration bodies (such as the National Institute for Languages (INL), the municipalities) and private organisations (associations or other private initiatives). The courses are not free of charge and are not targeted to obtaining citizenship. The prices vary depending the provider.</p> <p>As an indication, the semester rate for a standard Luxembourgish course at the INL (three times a week) to reach level A1 is 280€. The same amount is needed to prepare for level A2.1 or level A2.2. The inscription fee for a standard Luxembourgish course at the INL (two times a week) to reach one of the following levels B1.1, B1.2, B1.3 is 200 €.</p> <p>6. N/A for residence permits.</p> <p>For nationality see answer to question 2. If the individual does not pass the examination s/he can try again so there is no sanction in case of failure.</p>
	EMN NCP	Yes	1. Yes, but only for certain categories of newcomers who are obliged to apply for a regular provisional residence permit (mrv)

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	Netherlands		<p>in order to enter the Netherlands.[1] An mvv is required for most nationalities entering the Netherlands (e.g. countries in the EU and EEA are exempted). In principle, only newcomers between 18 years old and the Dutch state pension age (currently 66 years and 4 months) with an mvv-obligation who are migrating to the Netherlands for family reunification or family formation or to work as a spiritual counsellor need to pass the so-called Civic Integration Exam Abroad, as part of which Dutch language proficiency is required on A1-level. There are exceptions, such as when someone applies for family reunification with an asylum permit holder.</p> <p>[1] https://ind.nl/en/civic-integration-exam-abroad</p> <p>2. Yes, knowledge of the Dutch language is required for becoming a Dutch citizen by means of naturalisation[1] and for becoming eligible for certain non-temporary/permanent residence permits[2] (see the reply to question 3 for the categories). For the issuance of other residence permits there is in principle no civic integration requirement and no language requirement.</p> <p>Apart from naturalization and obtaining more secure residence permits, all migrants from outside the EU, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland with a non-temporary residence permit are obliged to fulfill the civic integration exam within three years after obtaining a residence permit (extension of this period is under conditions possible). People who do not fall into the above mentioned nationalities must complete the civic integration process if they stay in the Netherlands for a longer period of time and wish to obtain a more secure residence permit or wish to obtain Dutch nationality.</p> <p>[1] Article 8-1-d, Guidelines for the application of the Netherlands Nationality Act [2] Article 3.80a, 3.96a and 3.107a, Aliens Decree 2000.</p> <p>3. Knowledge of the Dutch language on A2-level (CEFR Framework) is required for becoming a Dutch citizen and for becoming eligible for more secure (non-temporary) residence. This concerns the following categories of residence permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permanent regular residence permit[1] • permanent asylum residence permit[2] • residence permit long-term resident EU or humanitarian non-temporary residence permit[3] (involving five years of residence as a family member or relative, or two years of residence with a European blue card holder and at least five years of legal and continuous residence on EU territory). <p>Knowledge of the Dutch language on A2-level can be proven by obtaining a diploma after passing the civic integration exam (naturalization test). There are exceptions to the obligation of obtaining the diploma (please see reply to question 4).</p>
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			<p>Currently, as part of the recently implemented (in January 2022 Civic Integration Act 2021, adjustment of the language level requirement is being looked into (possibly to level B1). However, currently the language level is still A2.</p> <p>[1] Article 3.96a, Aliens Decree 2000. [2] Article 3.107a, Aliens Decree 2000. [3] Article 3.80a Vb, Aliens Decree 2000.</p> <p>4. No, For naturalization or for more secure residence there are no sanctions in place. However, naturalization or a more secure residence permit is not granted if the TCN does not meet the required language level. In some cases it is possible that the TCN is waived from civic integration, for example when medical issues obstruct the TCN to fulfill civic integration requirements.</p> <p>[1] For all the exceptions please visit IND, 'Integration in the Netherlands', https://ind.nl/en/Pages/Integration-in-the-netherlands.aspx#Civic-integration-for-naturalisation-and https://ind.nl/nl/formulieren/7116.pdf. Last accessed on 18 August 2022.</p> <p>5. Yes, with the recently implemented Civic Integration Act 2021 the Dutch municipalities have a more important role in the civic integration process for newcomers than before. They have the responsibility to assist newcomers in learning Dutch as quickly as possible and to help them participate in daily life.[1] They can guide newcomers and help them with finding (language) courses that fit their personal needs. These language courses are provided by the market and for asylum migrants paid by the Dutch government. Regular migrants can apply for a loan which will be have to be paid back within 10 years after they successfully completed their civic integration exam. Also for others who did not (have to) complete the civic integration process and still need to fulfill the civic integration process and language requirement for the application for permanent residency or citizenship, courses are available. In general the language courses are not free of charge and it depends on the provider of the course how much the applicant/beneficiary has to pay. In some cases it is possible for the municipality to provide funding for courses for people that aren't obliged to civically integrate.</p> <p>[1] https://www.government.nl/topics/integration-in-the-netherlands/civic-in-...</p> <p>6. Yes, the integration exam consists of several different components:[1] 1. A language test (reading, listening, writing, speaking on A-2 level) 2. Knowledge of Dutch Society</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knowledge of Dutch society - orientation on the Dutch labour market <p>3. The participation statement</p> <p>The exam about knowledge of Dutch society entails lessons on values of the Dutch society (among which equality between women and men, democratic values, freedom of expression etc.). This course is assessed with an exam. In case of failure the migrant can do a re-exam. In some cases the TCN can apply for an exemption of the obligation of civic integration (not for exams as such). The participation statement is a statement to be signed by the applicant in the first year after the start of the three year period. The procedure consists of an introduction to Dutch core values by the municipality, followed by the signature of a participation statement. By doing so, the applicant states that he or she will actively participate in Dutch society and declares that he/she has been informed of, and will respect, the values and basic rules of Dutch society.[2] In case one of the components of the exam is not passed or if the participation statement is not signed and the applicant is not eligible for exceptions, permanent residency or citizenship is not granted.</p> <p>[1] https://ind.nl/en/Forms/3006.pdf [2] Government.nl, 'Participation statement to be mandatory part of civic integration exam', https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2016/07/08/participation-statement-to-be-mandatory-part-of-civic-integration-exam. Last accessed on 20 August 2019.</p>
	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. Yes</p> <p>3. The law on Polish citizenship makes the acquisition of Polish citizenship conditional on one of the modes, i.e. recognition of a foreigner as a Polish citizen (including a refugee) among others from demonstrating the knowledge of the Polish language in accordance with art. 30 sec. 2 of the Act of April 2, 2009. on Polish citizenship (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 465). Pursuant to this provision, a foreigner applying for recognition as a Polish citizen, with the exception of a minor foreigner referred to in sec. 1 point 4 and 5 of the abovementioned Act, is obliged to have knowledge of the Polish language confirmed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - official certification with a language proficiency level of at least B1, - a school leaving certificate in the Republic of Poland or - a certificate of graduation from a school abroad with Polish as the language of instruction.

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			<p>The issuing of official certificates of knowledge of the Polish language at the B1 level is regulated by Art. 11a of the Act of October 7, 1999. on the Polish language (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 672).</p> <p>4. If a foreigner cannot demonstrate his / her statutory knowledge of the Polish language, he or she may apply for Polish citizenship in a different manner, i.e. by granting Polish citizenship by the President of the Republic of Poland.</p> <p>5. Poland does not provide Polish language courses for the purpose of acquiring a long-term resident's EU residence permit.</p> <p>6. In terms of obtaining Polish citizenship, there is no such requirement – good knowledge of the host society and/or respect for the values of the host country (equality between women and men, freedom of expression, respect for beliefs, etc.). At the same time, it should be emphasized that even if the formal conditions are met by a foreigner applying for Polish citizenship, the refusal to obtain Polish citizenship occurs when the acquisition of Polish citizenship by the foreigner constitutes a threat to the defense or security of the state or the protection of public safety and order.</p>
	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. Yes.</p> <p>3. A diploma or a language test certificate is needed, on at least proficiency A2 level, on the requests for the citizenship, permanent residence permit and for the long term resident statute. https://data.dre.pt/eli/port/1262/2009/10/15/p/dre/pt/html</p> <p>4. It is not mentioned in the law.</p> <p>5. Yes, and it is free of charge.</p> <p>6. No.</p>
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	<p>1. No.</p>


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			<p>2. Language proficiency is not required for any type of residence permit (including refugees).</p> <p>As for the citizenship, knowledge of the Slovak language is one of the conditions for the citizenship to be granted. There are exceptions when the language proficiency is not required, e.g. when the applicant is under 14 years of age or over 65 years of age, is/was a citizen of the Czech Republic, has a certificate of the Slovak living abroad, has made a significant contribution to the Slovak Republic in the economic, scientific, technical, cultural, social or sporting fields, has successfully passed the secondary school leaving examination in the Slovak language, the state language examination in the Slovak language or the state examination at a higher education institution in a study programme conducted in the Slovak language within the last ten years, etc. This exception does not concern specifically refugees as such.</p> <p>3. NA for residence permit.</p> <p>Citizenship</p> <p>Proficiency in the Slovak language is verified in a manner appropriate to the applicant's state of health, the applicant's education and the applicant's age. In the case of a minor child, proficiency in the Slovak language is usually verified in the presence of a legal representative, guardian or custodian.</p> <p>For this purpose, a three-member commission appointed by the head of the district office in the seat of the region, the ambassador or the consul shall be set up. At the interview, the applicant shall be asked questions concerning his/her person and persons close to him/her and questions of a general nature, in particular on the history, geography and socio-political development of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>The applicant must read aloud a randomly selected Slovak-language press article of at least 500 words. After reading it, he/she has 30 minutes to write what he/she remembers about the article.</p> <p>The applicant's state of health shall be taken into account when verifying his/her knowledge of Slovak. A record of the process and outcome of the Slovak language proficiency test is made on the same day so that there is a written record of the outcome of the interview.</p> <p>This procedure is not applicable in some cases (exceptions are listed specifically in the relevant legislation) including cases when the applicant has successfully passed the secondary school leaving examination in the Slovak language, the state language examination in the Slovak language or the state examination at a higher education institution in a study programme conducted in the Slovak language within the last ten years.</p> <p>4. NA for residence permits.</p>
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			<p>Knowledge of the Slovak language is one of the conditions for the citizenship to be granted.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. NA for the residence permit.</p> <p>As for the citizenship when verifying the language proficiency as described in question 3 the applicant is also asked questions of a general nature, in particular on the history, geography and socio-political development of the Slovak Republic.</p>
	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. NO</p> <p>2. YES</p> <p>3. For extension of temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification the level of language proficiency required is A1 (hereinafter: entry level) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The compulsory test of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the entry level is carried out before an expert committee appointed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. It is considered that an adult family member meets the requirement of knowledge of the Slovene language at the entry level, if he is accepted into publicly valid educational or study programs in the Republic of Slovenia, which are conducted in the Slovene language, or if he has completed schooling at any level in the Republic of Slovenia, or completed primary or secondary school with Slovenian as the language of instruction in areas where members of the indigenous Slovenian national community live in neighboring countries or if he is over 60 years old. The condition of knowledge of the Slovene language at the entry level is also met by an adult family member who is illiterate, but communicates in Slovene, as evidenced by a certificate of successfully passing an exam in Slovene at the entry level. The condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the entry level does not have to be met by an adult family member in the cases referred to in the fourth sentence of the first paragraph of the Article 47 of the Foreigners Act and an adult family member who is unable to pass the exam in the required format due to health impairments that prevent communication. Proof of the fulfillment of this condition in the case of the alleged actual state of inability to take the exam is carried out with an expert. The costs arising from the implementation of this proof are the burden of the foreigner.</p>


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			<p>For permanent residence permit the required level of language proficiency is A2 of CEFR (hereinafter: basic level). The compulsory test of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the basic level is carried out before an expert committee appointed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. It is considered that a foreigner fulfills the condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the basic level, if he is accepted into publicly valid educational or study programs in the Republic of Slovenia, which are conducted in the Slovenian language, or if he has completed schooling at any level in the Republic of Slovenia, or if he has completed elementary or secondary school a school with a Slovenian language of instruction in areas where members of the indigenous Slovenian national community live in neighboring countries or if he is over 60 years old. The condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the basic level is also met by a foreigner who is illiterate, but communicates in Slovenian, which is proven by a certificate of successfully passing an exam in spoken communication in Slovenian at the basic level. The requirement of knowledge of the Slovenian language at the basic level does not have to be met by a foreigner who can be issued a permanent residence permit before the expiry of five years of continuous legal residence in the Republic of Slovenia, or by a foreigner who, due to health impairments that prevent everyday communication, is unable to pass the exam in the required form. Proof of the fulfillment of this condition, in the case of the claimed actual state of inability to take the exam, is carried out with an expert. The costs arising from the implementation of this proof are the burden of the foreigner.</p> <p>For access to citizenship, the foreigner must pass a basic level exam in Slovenian language (A2-B1 level). The condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language is also met if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the person finished primary school in the Republic of Slovenia; 2. the person successfully finished a publicly recognised secondary school programme in the Republic of Slovenia; 3. the person obtained a higher education or university degree, i.e. completed higher education or university studies after 25 June 1991; 4. the person is over 60 years of age and has actually been living in Slovenia for 15 years; 5. the person finished primary or secondary school with Slovenian being the teaching language in regions where people belonging to the native Slovenian national community are living in the neighbouring countries. <p>4. YES.</p> <p>If the language proficiency requirement is not met, this is a reason to refuse to extend a temporary residence permit for a family member or to issue a permanent residence permit. However, in the procedure for (issuing and) extending a temporary residence permit to a family member, the competent authority must, if there are reasons for refusing the extension of a permit, take into account the nature and closeness of the family relationship, the duration of his or her residence in the Republic of</p>
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			<p>Slovenia and the existence of family, cultural and social ties with the country of origin.</p> <p>In the process of acquiring citizenship, a rejection decision is issued if the third-country national does not justify the required language level.</p> <p>5. YES. Slovenia offers Slovenian language courses at a basic level as part of the Initial integration of immigrants program. Free Slovenian language courses shall be made available to TCNs and who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reside in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of a permanent residence permit, and to their family members who reside in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification, irrespective of the length of residence in the Republic of Slovenia and the validity of the permit; - reside in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of a temporary residence permit issued with a validity of at least one year; - are family members of Slovenian citizens or EU citizens residing in the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of a residence permit for a family member, irrespective of the length of residence or the validity of the permit. <p>TCNs who have completed education at any level in the Republic of Slovenia, participate in regular educational programmes in the Republic of Slovenia conducted in the Slovenian language, or have already obtained a certificate of successfully passing the Slovenian language examination at least at the basic level shall not be entitled to participate in a Slovenian language course.</p> <p>From April 27, 2023 onwards, the Slovenian language learning program will no longer be free, namely a TCN will be entitled to a one-time co-financing of the costs of participation in the Slovenian language learning program in the amount of 50 percent of the program price. TCNs with a valid temporary residence permit for the reason of family reunification, and TCNs with a valid temporary residence permit who have legally resided continuously in the Republic of Slovenia for five years will be entitled to a one-time co-financing of the costs of participation in the program. TCNs who have completed education at any level in the Republic of Slovenia, are enrolled in a regular educational program in the Republic of Slovenia, which is conducted in the Slovenian language, or who have already obtained a certificate of successfully passing an exam in the knowledge of the Slovenian language will not be entitled to co-financing the costs of attending the program.</p> <p>6. NO.</p>
	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	1. No

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			<p>2. Yes. To obtain Spanish nationality, applicants who do not have Spanish as their mother tongue are required to take an exam (DELE). To obtain residence permits is not required.</p> <p>3. To acquire the Spanish nationality, language proficiency, level A2, must be certified by the Instituto Cervantes, Official School of Language or University School of Language. Applicants for Spanish nationality by residence who have been schooled in Spain and passed compulsory secondary education (ESO) may be exempted from the completion of the DELE exam and also those who have completed and obtained the School Graduate, Basic Vocational Training, Baccalaureate, Vocational Training intermediate or higher degree, Bachelor's degree, Diploma, Degree University or Doctorate..</p> <p>4. The only consequence to not justifying the required knowledge of the Spanish language is the denial of the nationality application.</p> <p>5. Language courses are available in Spain offered by NGOs and regional and municipal administration. Information regarding the cost of these courses is not available.</p> <p>6. Test of constitutional and socio-cultural knowledge known as the CCSE. Applicants for Spanish nationality by residence who have been schooled in Spain and passed compulsory secondary education (ESO) may be exempted from the completion of the CCSE exam and also those who have completed and obtained the School Graduate, Basic Vocational Training, Baccalaureate, Vocational Training intermediate or higher degree, Bachelor's degree, Diploma, Degree University or Doctorate.</p>
	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. Not applicable</p> <p>4. Not applicable</p> <p>5. Not applicable</p>

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			6. No
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