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Ad-Hoc Query on 2024.5 Citizenship tests as part of naturalisation process

Requested by Finland on 7 February 2024

Compilation produced on 6 April 2024

Responses from EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Cyprus, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Estonia, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Georgia, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Greece, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Italy, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Serbia, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain, EMN NCP Sweden (25 in Total)

Exported for: Wider Dissemination

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The current Finnish government of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo states in its programme that it will reform the Finnish Nationality Act by tightening the requirements for naturalisation. One of the proposed new requirements for naturalisation would be passing a citizenship test.

Finland is therefore now in the process of considering introducing a citizenship test as part of the naturalisation process. The possible template for the test is currently being drafted in the Finnish Ministry of Interior and it will be modelled partly on similar tests used by other European countries.

Finland already requires language proficiency as one of the main eligibility criteria for naturalisation. This is usually proven by passing a National Certificate of Language Proficiency (YKI) test either in Finnish or Swedish. The government is considering whether this language test will be supplemented by a general citizenship test.

The current government programme highlights public security as a cross-cutting theme. Therefore, Finland is currently considering ways to integrate it into the citizenship test as well.

The Finnish Ministry of Interior would therefore like to gather information on citizenship tests in other EU member states. Replies are requested especially from member states which already have a citizenship test in place, as well as from countries who are planning on introducing one.

NB. If your country does not have a test yet, but is planning on introducing one, please provide any available information as an answer to the first question.

We would like to ask the following questions:

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- 1. Does your Member State require the foreigner to pass a citizenship test in order to acquired nationality? YES/NO. If you answer YES, can you please indicate which authority/institution is responsible for the administration of citizenship tests?**
- 2. Which authority/institution is responsible for drafting the questions for the test?**
- 3. What topics are covered by the questions in the test?**
- 4. Finland is interested in finding out about the connections between language tests and citizenship tests. If your member state has a citizenship test as part of naturalisation, does it contain a component that measures language skills, or is the language test a separate process?**
- 5. What legislation, policies, practical measures or sanctions are in place to prevent any potential misuse (e.g. trying to copy answers from another candidate or trying to substitute for another person) of citizenship tests?**
- 6. Is there a fee for participating in a citizenship test? YES/NO. If you answer NO, are there other fees or expenses relating to taking the test (e.g. payment for the preparation courses)?**


We would very much appreciate your responses by **6 March 2024**.

2. RESPONSES

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		Wider Dissemination ²	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	<p>1. Yes. The conferral of the Austrian citizenship generally requires that the applicant has a basic knowledge of the democratic order and the fundamental principles derived from it as well as the history of Austria and the respective province (Art. 10a para. 1 subpara. 1 Citizenship Act). This basic knowledge must be proven by means of a written examination, unless evidence is provided in another way. The examination must be taken at the responsible provincial government (Art. 10a para. 5 Citizenship Act). (Other proof options include attendance of a secondary school and positive completion of the subject "German" by minor applicants (Art. 10a para. 3 Citizenship Act) as well as a school-leaving certificate in the subject "History and Social Studies" at least at the level of the curriculum of the lower secondary schools (Hauptschule) for the said subject in the 4th grade (Art. 10a para. 4a Citizenship Act)).</p> <p>2. The citizenship examination consists of three examination areas (Art. 2 para. 1 Citizenship Examination Regulation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination area 1: Basic knowledge of the democratic system of the Republic of Austria and underlying principles • Examination area 2: Basic knowledge of Austrian history • Examination area 3: Basic knowledge of the history of the province of residence <p>The questions in examination areas 1 and 2 are created centrally (uniform throughout Austria). The federal</p>

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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province-specific questions (examination area 3) are created by the respective provincial government. (Source: Stiller, M. (2019). Pathways to Citizenship for Foreigners in Austria. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Vienna. P. 45-46)

3. See also question 2. The subject areas of examination areas 1 and 2 are regulated in the Citizenship Examination Regulation in accordance with Art. 10a para. 6 Citizenship Act. Examination area 1 comprises the following subject areas (Appendix A of the Citizenship Examination Regulation):


1. Human dignity
2. Austria as a liberal state
3. Austria as a constitutional state
4. Austria as a democracy
5. Austria as a republic
6. Austria as a federal state
7. Separation of powers in Austria
8. Austria as a member of the European Union
Examination area 2 comprises the following subject areas (Annex B of the Citizenship Examination Regulation):

1. Early settlers
2. The rule of the Habsburgs and the effects on present-day Austria
3. Upheavals in the 19th century
4. The rise of the nation states and the end of the Habsburg monarchy
5. 1918-1938: the end of the monarchy, the First Republic, and the corporative state
6. National Socialism and the Second World War
7. The Second Republic: a new beginning
8. Modern Austria
9. The Dawn of Europe
The subject areas of examination area 3 are regulated in regulations issued by the provincial governments. In Vienna, for example, the following subject areas are included in the examination (Art. 1 Examination Material Delimitation Regulation):

1. The history of the city of Vienna: origins, Vienna as a Roman military camp, obtaining the city charter, naming, growth, Habsburg residence, division into districts, Vienna during the occupation
2. Technical infrastructure and transport
3. Flood protection
4. Supply of the population
5. Political history: Vienna's special position as a province, municipality and provincial capital, electoral law, provincial parliament, mayor, official residence, politics at district level, parties in the municipal council, coat of arms
6. Vienna as the seat of international organizations
7. Historical buildings and monuments in Vienna
8. Historical individuals in Vienna
9. Historical events in Vienna, such as the conclusion of the State Treaty

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			<p>4. Proof of the required German language skills (Art. 10a para. 1 subpara. 1 Citizenship Act) can be provided in different ways - depending on the age of the applicant - and is separate from the citizenship test.(Source: Stiller, M. (2019). Pathways to Citizenship for Foreigners in Austria. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Vienna. P. 43)</p> <p>5. The Citizenship Examination Regulation stipulates that several different examination forms can be used for the respective examination date in order to ensure that the individual candidates can answer the questions independently (Art. 3 para. 3 Citizenship Examination Regulation). In addition, supervisory bodies monitor the course of the examination and draw up an examination record, which, if need be, notes if examination participants answer examination questions with outside help or through the use of aids (Art. 4 para. 4 and 6 Citizenship Examination Regulation). Examination papers that have been finished with the help of others or through the use of aids are assessed as "failed" (Art. 5 para. 2 Citizenship Examination Regulation).</p> <p>6. No. The test and the learning materials are provided free of charge.(https://www.wien.gv.at/verwaltung/staatsbuergerschaft/staatsbuergerschaftspruefung.html)</p>
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	<p>1. No. Currently, candidates for Belgian citizenship must prove their linguistic competence (French, Dutch or German) as well as their social integration, which can be done in various ways (diploma, work, training, etc.) (Article 12bis of the Belgian Nationality Code).</p> <p>The introduction of an additional requirement such as a citizenship test has already been debated in the past, but has so far failed to receive sufficient support in parliament. A proposal for a new law introducing a citizenship test is currently under review in Parliament (introduced in November 2022). It is important to note that if such a test were passed into law at the federal level (i.e., in an amendment of the Belgian Nationality Code), the modalities of the test would need to be determined in coordination with each of the</p>

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			<p>three linguistic Communities in Belgium (French-speaking, Dutch-speaking, German-speaking), as they are responsible for integration policy. Indeed, the proposal specifies that the content of a citizenship test would have to be aligned with the content of the current civic integration programmes organised and delivered by the Communities. The proposal suggests that the citizenship test should cover “the political functioning of the country, its norms and values, its history, traditions, and human rights”, but does not go further in determining its exact content.</p> <p>Pending proposal in Parliament: https://www.lachambre.be/kvvcr/showpage.cfm?section=/flwb&language=fr&cfm=/site/wwwcfm/flwb/flwbn.cfm?lang=F&legislat=55&dossierID=3004</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p> <p>6. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. No. The terms and conditions for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship are provided for in the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship and Ordinance No. 1/1999 implementing Chapter Five of the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship. The application for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship shall be submitted in person to the Ministry of Justice or to the diplomatic or consular representation abroad. When submitting an application for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship, an interview in Bulgarian is conducted with the applicant.</p>


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			<p>The questionnaire for the interview is approved by the Minister of Justice. When the application is submitted to the diplomatic or consular representation of the Republic of Bulgaria, the interview is conducted by an employee of the relevant representation where the application is submitted.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. When applying on the basis of general naturalisation, individuals are required to prove their knowledge in Bulgarian by presenting a document issued by the Ministry of Education and Science or a notarially certified copy of diploma for a completed degree of education in Bulgaria (primary, secondary or higher school). The official who conducts the interview notes not only the answers of the person, but also the level of proficiency in Bulgarian. When the interview is conducted through an interpreter, s/he also puts his signature. When the Citizenship Council at the Ministry of Justice considers the application for citizenship, the answers from the interview and level of the Bulgarian language are evaluated together with all the documents presented in the relevant file.</p> <p>5. When submitting the documents and conducting the interview, the persons certify their identity with a valid identity document. The questions are not announced in advance and no training is provided to prepare for the interview.</p> <p>6. There is no fee for the interview different from the one that the person pays when submitting the documents. The amount of the fee depends on the ground on which the person applies and is determined by law.</p>
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 EMN NCP Croatia	Yes	<p>1. Yes. For acquiring Croatian citizenship based on Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Croatian Citizenship ("Official Gazette", No. 53/91, 28/92, 113/93, 130/11, 110/15, 102/19 and 138/21) it is necessary to prove knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script, Croatian culture and social organization. The Ordinance on the method of checking knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script, Croatian culture and social organization in the procedures for acquiring Croatian citizenship ("Official Gazette", 6/2021) prescribes the method of checking knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script, Croatian culture and social organization in the procedures of acquisition Croatian citizenship. The aforementioned Ordinance prescribes documents that prove knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script. The Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia is responsible for this issue. Ministry of Science and Education determines the institutions that conduct the Croatian language and Latin alphabet exam for foreigners (a list of institutions is published on the website of the said Ministry). The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for conducting tests of knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization. Persons over the age of 60 do not have to prove knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script, Croatian culture and social organization in the procedures for acquiring Croatian citizenship. Foreigners who were in refugee status in the Republic of Croatia for at least 10 years and foreigners who had a residence in the Republic of Croatia on October 8, 1991, and who are beneficiaries of the return or reconstruction or housing program, can prove knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script by filling by themselves the application form for acquiring Croatian citizenship.</p> <p>2. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for drafting questions to test knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization. The aforementioned questions were prepared by the working group of the Service for Citizenship. The aforementioned questions (110 of them) were published in the Official Gazette as an attachment to the Ordinance on the method of checking knowledge of the Croatian language and Latin script, Croatian culture and social organization in procedures for acquiring Croatian citizenship, and are publicly available.</p>
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3. Questions for checking knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization test knowledge of: - The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia in topics related to the organization of state power and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,- Declarations on the Homeland War ("Official Gazette", 102/20) in topics related to the Homeland War,- History and culture of the Republic of Croatia (prominent artists, writers, inventors, athletes, etc.).The questionnaire on knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization consists of 15 questions and is completed by the applicant for acquiring Croatian citizenship independently, without consultation with other persons, without supporting literature, in front of the official of the police department/police station of the Ministry who receives the application, for a duration of 60 minutes.The questionnaire is filled out in such a way that only one answer is circled for the question asked or the question is supplemented with the required answer. It is considered that a foreigner has proven his knowledge of Croatian culture and the social organization of the Republic of Croatia if he has correctly answered at least 10 questions from the questionnaire.

4. In order to acquire Croatian citizenship, it is necessary to prove knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script.The above can be proved by:-certificate of passing the Croatian language and Latin alphabet exam at universities or university units that run programs in the Croatian language and conduct exams, as well as certification from secondary schools, the National Center for External Evaluation of Education and adult education institutions that have consent to conduct exams of Croatian language and the Latin alphabet- a certificate of completion of primary education (class certificate), a certificate of completion of secondary education (class certificate, certificate of state matriculation certificate, certificate of final thesis) or a diploma of completed higher education in the Republic of Croatia- a certificate of completion of the course or a transcript 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.Proving the Croatian language knowledge and Latin script is separate from the test proving knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization.The questionnaire for testing knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization is in the Croatian language and no auxiliary literature is allowed during testing.


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		<p>5. The questionnaire on knowledge of Croatian culture and social order is filled out independently, in front of the official of the police department/police station. To an applicant who has not proven knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization, an official may, at his request, provide the graded questionnaire for inspection, but he may not take the questionnaire out of the official premises of the police department/police station, nor to make a copy.</p> <p>6. Accessing to the exam on knowledge of Croatian culture and social organization is free of charge. The cost of taking the exam on knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin script is 140 euros.</p>
EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. Yes ,The Ministry of Education of Cyprus</p> <p>2. The Ministry of Education of Cyprus</p> <p>3. The topics covered in the test include history, geography ,politics, current affairs of Cyprus etc.</p> <p>4. The language test is a separate process.</p> <p>5. Preventive measures are taken in order to prevent the misuse of the procedure. If despite these measures someone was proved to have misused the procedure of the exam, his test is cancelled.</p> <p>6. Yes</p>


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 EMN NCP Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. Yes. According to the current Czech legislation, generally an applicant for Czech citizenship must prove:- knowledge of the Czech language, - knowledge of the constitutional system of the Czech Republic and basic orientation in the cultural, social, geographical and historical realities of the Czech Republic (so-called knowledge of Czech realities). These conditions do not have to be met by applicants under the age of 15 or over the age of 65, or by applicants aged 15-65 who, as part of the application procedure for Czech citizenship, prove that they have attended a primary, secondary or higher education institution where the language of instruction was Czech for at least 3 years. In addition, applicants with a physical or mental disability that prevents them from acquiring the required knowledge are generally not required to meet the above conditions. Verification of knowledge of the Czech language and knowledge of Czech realities is carried out by means of two separate examinations administered by the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies at Charles University in Prague (a separate part of Charles University that focuses on teaching Czech as a foreign language). A person who successfully passes the examination receives a certificate of passing the relevant examination, which is subsequently submitted in the procedure for applying for Czech citizenship.</p> <p>2. More detailed requirements for the content and scope of knowledge of the Czech language and knowledge of Czech realities are set out in the implementing decree of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The Czech language examination shall include knowledge of the Czech language at least at B1 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR); the Czech language examination shall include knowledge of Czech realities at a level corresponding to primary education according to specific legislation. The copyright owner of all examination materials for the Czech language examination is the Institute of Language and Preparatory Studies of Charles University in Prague. The copyright owner of all examination materials for the Czech language examination is the National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic (an organisation directly managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports).</p>
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			<p>3. The Czech language exam consists of a written and an oral part. The written part includes reading comprehension, listening comprehension and writing. The oral part includes communication (speaking) in pairs. The Czech realities exam includes questions on civic background, basic geographical information about the Czech Republic and basic historical and cultural information about the Czech Republic.</p> <p>4. As has been already mentioned, the Czech language exam and the Czech realities exam are two separate exams (however, the exams can be taken either separately or together on the same day). In general, a certain level of knowledge of the Czech language is a prerequisite for passing the Czech language exam.</p> <p>5. The tests are carried out in accordance with the rules set out in the Examination Regulations. Violation of the Examination Regulations (e.g. copying from another person) usually results in exclusion from the examination. The Examination Regulations also define precisely what percentage results a candidate must achieve in order to pass the examination.</p> <p>6. Yes, there is a fee for the Czech language and Czech realities exams. The Czech language exam costs CZK 3,700 (approx. 145 EUR), the Czech language exam costs CZK 2,000 (approx. 80 EUR).</p>
	EMN NCP Estonia	Yes	<p>1. Yes. The Ministry of Education and Research, through its agency, the Education and Youth Board (Harno), which deals with the implementation of Estonian education and youth policy, is responsible for the citizenship examinations.</p> <p>2.</p>

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			<p>The exam questions along with the correct answer options are compiled by an expert committee, whose members are composed by the Education and Youth Board and approved by the Minister of Education and Research through an official decree.</p> <p>3. The citizenship exam tests the knowledge of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia and the Citizenship Act. The exam consists of four topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the fundamental principles of the Estonian state, as stipulated in chapters I and III of the constitution;• the fundamental rights, freedoms, and obligations of everyone, as stipulated in chapter II of the constitution;• the competence of the Estonian parliament, the president, the government, and the courts according to the constitution;• the conditions and procedures for acquiring, obtaining, restoring, and losing Estonian citizenship according to the Citizenship Act. <p>The exam is considered passed, if the examinee has answered correctly at least 18 out of the 24 multiple-choice questions in the test. The duration of the exam is 45 minutes and one may use the Estonian Constitution and the Citizenship Act (in Estonian language), as well as a dictionary in Estonian during the exam.</p> <p>4. To obtain citizenship, the applicant needs to pass an Estonian language test at level B2. Language test is a separate process from the citizenship exam.</p>
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			<p>The citizenship exam, however, is conducted in the Estonian language. Examinees are permitted to use an Estonian dictionary during the exam.</p> <p>5. If a person receives outside assistance during the exam, the exam is considered not passed. No other measures are employed.</p> <p>6. The citizenship exam and preparation courses are provided free of charge. The only expenses involved are related to traveling to the nearest town where the examination is held.</p>
+	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. There is currently no citizenship test in Finland. The Finnish Immigration Service decides on the granting of citizenship. One main eligibility criterion for citizenship is language proficiency. Language proficiency is often demonstrated by a language test administered by the Finnish National Board of Education. The Finnish National Board of Education does not organise the test itself, but arranges the organisation of the language test with external bodies (e.g. universities, vocational schools, community colleges).</p> <p>2.</p>

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			<p>This is currently being investigated in Finland. The national certificate of language proficiency test is drafted by the University of Jyväskylä Centre for Applied Language Studies in collaboration with the National Board of Education.</p> <p>3. Possible topics could include issues relating to fundamental and human rights, the basic rules of society and their application. Issues relating to the history and geography of the country. Consideration has been given to how to include issues related to public security in society.</p> <p>4. Finland already has the language requirement as part of the naturalisation process. It is currently considered, whether there should be a separate citizenship test or whether it should be integrated as part of the language requirement somehow.</p> <p>5. With regards to the language test, Finnish law provides for a sanction for a person caught in the act of misuse. The test will be disqualified and the person will lose the right to sit the exam for a limited period. The identity of the person taking the language test is checked at the time of the test and the test situations are monitored.</p> <p>6. For example, in Finland the national certificate of language proficiency intermediate level test (CEFR level B1) costs 176€ (from 1.1.2024). Re-sitting the test will cost the same. There is no official textbook for the test, but free exercises are available online for practice.</p>
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<p>EMN NCP France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. YES. In France, for the purpose of naturalization, there is a legislative requirement known as assimilation into the French community, implying among others sufficient knowledge, depending on the applicant's condition, of the French language, history, culture and society, of the rights and duties granted by French nationality, and support for the essential principles and values of the Republic (article 21-24 of the Civil Code). This condition is assessed during an interview conducted at the prefecture by a policy officer. On this occasion, and specifically with regard to the expected civic knowledge, the applicant is interviewed by the officer on various topics (major landmarks in French history, principles, symbols and institutions of the Republic, exercise of citizenship, France's place in Europe and the world, etc.). The topics and expected levels of knowledge are stated in a "citizen booklet" available online, the content of which is approved by the Minister in charge of naturalization (article 37 of the Decree n°93-1362 of 30th December 1993). This booklet is established on the basis of the fundamental knowledge expected of a pupil at the end of the mandatory education (16 years old). However, the introduction of a civic test in place of the assimilation interview is being considered, in order to assess the applicant's knowledge. This test could be attended at certified organisations and a certificate of successful completion would be one of the documents to be produced in support of the application, in a similar manner to the existing language test system.</p> <p>2. As indicated above, there is no pre-established test or benchmarking questions. The questions are asked over the course of the assimilation interview, by the prefecture policy officer, on the basis of the elements of knowledge expected and indicated in the citizen's booklet.</p> <p>3. This interview covers knowledge of French history, culture and society, including fundamental elements relating to : "a) The main landmarks in French history: applicants are expected to have a basic knowledge of the historical development of France, enabling them to identify and situate the main events or personalities referred to in social life; b) The principles, symbols and institutions of the Republic: applicants are expected to know the rules of life in society, particularly as regards respect for the law, fundamental freedoms, equality, especially between men and women, and secularism, as well</p>
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as the main features of the political and administrative organisation of France at national and local level;c) The exercise of French citizenship: applicants are expected to be familiar with the main rights and duties they would have if they acquired French nationality, as set out in the Charter of the Rights and Duties of French Citizens;d) France's place in Europe and the world: applicants are expected to have a basic knowledge of France's characteristics, situating it in a global environment, and of the fundamental principles of the European Union".(article 37 of decree no. 93-1362 of 30 December 1993).The citizen's booklet available online, for all applicants for naturalisation preparing the assimilation interview, summarizes, in a non-exhaustive manner, the main features of the current organisation of the Republic and of democracy, the republican principles and values that make up the daily framework for the exercise of citizenship, as well as some of the major dates in our history that help to put the origins of France and its development up to the present day in context.

4. Within the framework of the naturalization process, France requires that applicants demonstrate a command of the French language equivalent to the B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (oral and written).The language test is a separate procedure from the assimilation interview. The required language level can be proven in different ways, and the applicant will have to produce alternatively : - The diploma awarded on completion of compulsory schooling, "diplôme national du brevet"- a diploma awarded by a French authority, in France or abroad, certifying a level at least equal to level 3 of the national nomenclature of training levels (certificate of professional competence/secondary school diploma);- a diploma attesting to a level of knowledge of French at least equivalent to the B1 levelOr otherwise :- a certificate of successful completion of a test of oral and written expression and comprehension issued less than 2 years ago by a certified body (France Education International and the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry) certifying level B1 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.


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			<p>5. In accordance with article 27-2 of the French civil code, if it is discovered that naturalization has been obtained through lie or fraud, the French citizenship can be withdrawn within two years from the date of this discovery.</p> <p>6. The assimilation interview is part of the overall naturalization procedure, which requires the applicant to pay a 55 euros tax stamp (article 958 of the general tax code.)</p>
<p>⚑ EMN NCP Georgia</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>1. YES. According to the national legislation, to obtain the Georgian citizenship a foreigner has to pass the test proving the knowledge of the state language and the history of Georgia, as well as the basic principles of the Law. Based on regulation currently in force, the knowledge level assessment is administered by the Commission on Citizenship Issues consisting of six representatives of different entities. The Commission is chaired by the LEPL of the Ministry of Justice – the Public Service Development Agency (PSDA). Meanwhile, the amendment (from 1 November 2023) to the “Organic Law on Georgian Citizenship” sets the new regulations according to which, as of 1 May 2024, the assessment of the knowledge level of the state language and the history of Georgia, and the basic principles of the Law instead of interagency Commission on Citizenship Issues will be solely administered by the PSDA.</p> <p>2. The development of the knowledge assessment tests, that are currently applied, had been commissioned by the Commission on Citizenship Issues and elaborated by relevant experts under the assistance of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development within the EU funded Project. According to the new legislative regulations (see above), from 1 May 2024, the applicant’s level of knowledge will be assessed by means of the new tests developed by the National Assessment and Examinations Center under the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia.</p>


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			<p>3. Since the tests examine the knowledge in state language and the history of Georgia, as well as the basic principles of the Law, they include questions from these themes.</p> <p>4. As mentioned, the applicant is being tested in three subjects, including the state language of Georgia. The proficiency check in later is not assigned as a separate procedure.</p> <p>5. All tests, developed to assess the knowledge of an applicant intending to acquire the Georgian citizenship through the procedure of naturalization, are available at the PSDA web-site, thus allowing the applicant to familiarize with and prepare for the test in advance. Out of 600 tests, the applicant must answer 30 questions randomly selected (i.e. 10) from each subject. During the exam, the applicant receives tests with different content randomly selected by the Commission out of the stock available at the PSDA's web-site. This excludes a possibility of copying. After entering into force of above legislative amendment, from 1 May 2024 the random selection of tests as well as the examination process will be administered through the software.</p> <p>6. NO. Participation in a citizenship test is free of charge. An applicant is charged with only a service fee assigned for the review of the application the part of which is testing for the acquisition of citizenship through the naturalization. There are no paid preparation courses provided by PSDA. However, as mentioned above the tests designed to assess the knowledge of applicant for the acquisition of Georgian citizenship by naturalization, are available at the PSDA web-site, thus allowing the interested person to familiarize with and individually prepare for the test in advance.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Germany</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Federal Office) is responsible for administering the standardised nationwide naturalisation test on behalf of the federal states.</p>


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			<p>2. In 2007, the IQB - Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung im Bildungswesen (Institute for Quality Development in Education) at the Humboldt University in Berlin, a scientific institution of the Länder with the relevant competence, took over the technical development of the task pool. Since then, the tasks have been regularly reviewed by the Federal Office to ensure that they are up to date and have been adapted where necessary.</p> <p>3. The questionnaire for the naturalisation test consists of general questions on "Living in a democracy", "History and responsibility" and " Individuals and society", as well as Länder-specific questions that only have to be answered for the respective federal state.</p> <p>4. Sufficient knowledge of German is usually demonstrated by a language test. The applicants for naturalisation must meet the requirements of a language test at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The language tests are part of a separate procedure.</p> <p>5. Most of the examination centres for the naturalisation test are integration course providers approved by the Federal Office. They ensure that the test is conducted in an objective and secure manner in accordance with the provisions of the naturalisation test regulations. The identity of candidates will be checked before the start of the test and the entire test will be supervised by at least one invigilator. Candidates who cheat or attempt to cheat during the test will be excluded from the test. Their test will not be evaluated.</p> <p>6. Yes. The examination fee is €25.00.</p>
	EMN NCP Greece	Yes	1. Greece requires the foreigner to pass an examination (citizenship test and language test) in order to obtain the "Certificate of Knowledge Adequacy for naturalization" which is a prerequisite for applying for

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			<p>Greek Citizenship via the naturalization process. The Organizational Committee of the Secretariat General for Citizenship is responsible for the administration of the examination.</p> <p>2. The Scientific Committee of the Secretariat General for Citizenship is responsible for drafting the questions stored in an "Item Bank". The Committee randomly chooses those that will be used in each examination session.</p> <p>3. The main topics of the first part of examination which is the citizenship test are Greek history, geography, culture and political institutions.</p> <p>4. The second part of the examination is the language test. The candidate is examined in reading comprehension, as well as his/her essay writing and listening ability (level B1 and above).</p> <p>5. .In case of any kind of misuse by the candidate during the examination procedure, he/she is immediately excluded from the exams.</p> <p>6. To participate in the examination the candidate must pay an examination fee of 150 euros</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Hungary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. YESThe responsible authority is the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest (for the whole country)</p> <p>2. Government Office of the Capital City Budapest</p> <p>3. Questions cover the basic characteristics of Hungarian language, literature, history, the issues of the Hungarian society and culture, and the functioning of the Hungarian state.</p>

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			<p>4. Yes Language skills are examined during the citizenship test, which includes a written and an oral part as well (both in Hungarian). At least the intermediate level (B1) knowledge of the Hungarian language is expected to successfully pass the test, but the citizenship test is not a language exam per se.</p> <p>5. Misuses are sanctioned and may result that the candidate fails the test.</p> <p>6. Yes The costs of the citizenship test is 50% of the present minimum wage (HUF 133 400 since 1 January 2024). The procedure directly does not require other additional costs for the applicant. (Indirect costs: certified translations of documents) There are free one-day-long preparatory consultations available for candidates. The test curriculum is covered in one book which can be purchased for HUF 4200.</p>
■	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	<p>1. No. Ireland does not require a foreign national to pass a citizenship test in order to acquire Irish nationality and there are currently no plans to do so.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p> <p>6. N/A</p>

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■	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<p>1. NO. Applicants are asked, at the time of application, to complete a questionnaire for the exclusive purpose of understanding the level of integration in the country. The Questionnaire is optional and is administered by Prefectures.</p> <p>2. The questions in the quiz have been identified in advance by the citizenship offices Central Administration of the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>3. Reasons for applying, composition of family unit, income earned in Italy, conduct performed in Italy, knowledge of the institutional political apparatus of the Italian system.</p> <p>4. The language test is part of a separate process. Knowledge of Italian language not below level B1 (CEFR) is required by law and must be attested at the time of application.</p> <p>5. N/A</p> <p>6. No, it is only provided for the payment of the citizenship contribution in the amount of 250 euros.</p>
=	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. Yes. The level of Latvian language skills and basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the national anthem, the basics of Latvian history and culture, which are necessary for obtaining Latvian citizenship through naturalization, are regulated by the Citizenship Law. Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, which is under the Ministry of the Interior, deals with issues related to the acquisition of Latvian citizenship and also administers the examinations prescribed by the Citizenship Law.</p> <p>2. Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs</p>



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		<p>3. Language proficiency tests: listening, reading, writing, speaking. Knowledge test: basic knowledge of the basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the national anthem, Latvian history and culture</p> <p>4. The Citizenship Law stipulates that there are two independent tests - language skills and knowledge test. A person can take the knowledge test only after passing the language proficiency test. The knowledge test does not include language test components.</p> <p>5. The examination rooms are equipped with video surveillance systems. During the test of language skills and knowledge, the citizenship applicant is not allowed to talk with other persons, use teaching aids, electronic means of communication or other aids. If the applicant for citizenship violates these rules, the examination commission makes a decision to terminate the language skills or knowledge test. Also, if another person comes to the test instead of the citizenship applicant, the commission makes a decision not to allow this person to take the relevant test. The person who appeared in place of the applicant receives a refusal to obtain citizenship, and the person who appeared in place of the applicant is also held accountable. The Citizenship Law, on the other hand, stipulates that in this type of case, the citizenship applicant is denied citizenship and a new application can be submitted only after one year.</p> <p>6. Yes. The state fee for naturalisation is 28.46 EUR. The following persons are exempted from paying it: victims of political repressions, persons with a disability of group I, orphans, children without parental care, and persons admitted to public and municipal social care institutions. The state fee in the amount of 4.27 EUR must be paid by: 1. members of poor families or poor persons living separately; 2. unemployed persons who have registered with the State Employment Agency; 3. members of families with three and more minors; 4. persons receiving old-age and service pensions; 5. people with a disability of group II and III; 6. intramural students of general and vocational educational establishments certified by the state; 7. full-time students of higher educational establishments certified by the state.</p>
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	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. YES. Foreigners register for the test via the Migration Information System MIGRIS maintained by the Migration Department. The test is administered and the certificate of completion is issued by the National Education Agency.</p> <p>2. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport together with the Ministry of Justice</p> <p>4. There is a separate language test. In order to take the test on the fundamentals of the Constitution, the foreigner must first pass the language test. Moreover, the test on the fundamentals of the Constitution is in Lithuanian.</p> <p>5. ID is checked before the test</p> <p>6. YES</p>
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. YES. Non-Luxembourgish persons applying for Luxembourg nationality regarding "citizenship test" have two possibilities:</p> <p>1) take the 'Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg' course (24-hours-course); or 2) pass the test (same topics as those of the courses, both are equivalent).</p> <p>The institution in charge for administering the citizenship test is the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth.</p> <p>2.</p>


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		<p>The authority that is responsible for drafting the questions for the test is the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth. Once the applicant successfully passes the exam s/he will receive a certificate "Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (Living together in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)" issued by the Department of Adult Education (Service de la formation des adultes).</p> <p>3. The courses and the exam in the languages German, French or English cover the following subjects:</p> <p>Fundamental rights of citizens (6 hours - 10 questions); State and municipal institutions in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (12 hours - 20 questions); The history of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and European integration (6 hours - 10 questions).</p> <p>The exam is a test taken on the computer with multiple choice questions and is organized in the City of Luxembourg while courses are available in the City of Luxembourg, Esch-sur-Alzette and Diekirch.</p> <p>4. No. The language skills for the obtention of Luxembourg nationality is an independent exam which is carried out by the National Institute of Languages (Institute National de Langues). The language test in Luxembourg is completely separated from the citizenship test ("Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (Living together in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)"). People applying for nationality must pass the Sproochentest (Luxembourgish language test) at the Institut national des langues Luxembourg (INLL) and only test oral expression and oral comprehension of the Luxembourgish language.</p> <p>5. The authorities are trying to prevent any potential misuse:</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As it was mentioned above, the citizenship test is made in a computer in which each candidate has a separate terminal so it is difficult to cheat. - Also, in order to enter the test room, the identity of the individual is verified against a valid identity document (i.e. residence permit or passport). - There is also good supervision during the examination. <p>6. No. Registration for this course or for the "Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" test is free. There are no other related expenses.</p>
	EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. Yes, in the Netherlands there is a 'citizenship test' (naturalisatietoets) (defined from the Finnish answer as a test with questions on language and civic norms/values) as a part of the naturalisation procedure. Not all third-country nationals need to pass the naturalisatietoets. There are exemptions possible, for instance: when having a Dutch diploma, when having lived in the Netherlands for at least eight years between the age of 5 and 16 years or when having obtained a diploma in Belgium, Suriname or at a European Baccalaureate with Dutch as first or second language (Article 3 of the Decision Citizenship Test, Besluit Naturalisatietoets). Some third-country nationals (for instance most beneficiaries of international protection) have to pass the regular civic integration courses and exams (or meet the criteria to be exempted) to meet the civic integration obligation. To clarify, civic integration is an obligation, while naturalisation is a choice. People who have passed the regular civic integration courses and exams are able to show they have enough knowledge about the Dutch society and Dutch language skills to apply for naturalisation. For more information on these regular civic orientation courses, please see our answers to AHQ 2023.54 Implementation of measures for civic orientation courses/trainings as an important tool for the integration of third-country nationals. Article 2 of the Decision Citizenship Test specifies that the authority/institution responsible for the administration of</p>

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			<p>citizenship tests is appointed by the Minister of Justice and Security. The Education Executive Agency (DUO) administers the test.</p> <p>2. Cito (Institute for Educational Measurement)</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2019, the questions in the test are divided into five categories, of which four relate to measuring Dutch language proficiency: 1) knowledge of the Dutch society, 2) speaking, 3) reading, 4) listening, 5) writing. This applies to third-country nationals residing outside of the Netherlands. When taking the test in the Netherlands there is a sixth category included, which is orientation of the Dutch labor market (ONA). (Sources: IND & DUO)</p> <p>4. In the Netherlands, the citizenship test (naturalisatietoets) contains a component that measures language skills.</p> <p>5. Article 5 of Appendix examination rules citizenship test (examenreglement naturalisatietoets buitenland) to regulation Dutch citizenship test (regeling naturalisatietoets Nederland) includes examination rules and specifies that in case of committing fraud or causing disturbance, the test results are invalidated and the participant may not be allowed to take the citizenship test for a period of one year.</p> <p>6. Yes, there is a fee for participating in the citizenship test (naturalisatietoets). (Source: IND)</p>
	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<p>1. NOThe Act of April 2, 2009 on Polish citizenship (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1989) does not provide a citizenship test.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>



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			<p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. According to the provision of Article 30(2) of the Polish Citizenship Act, a foreigner (with the exception of the foreigners indicated in points 4 and 5 of that provision, i.e., minor children, one of whose parents already has Polish citizenship) applying for recognition as a Polish citizen must have knowledge of the Polish language confirmed by the official certification referred to in Art. 11a of the Polish Language Act of October 7, 1999 (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 672, as amended), at a level of language proficiency of at least B1, a certificate of graduation from a school in the Republic of Poland, or a certificate of graduation from a school abroad with Polish as the language of instruction. The official certificate of proficiency in Polish as a foreign language - referred to in the aforementioned provision - is a certificate of proficiency in Polish, issued by the State Commission for the Certification of Proficiency in Polish as a Foreign Language. To obtain such a certificate one must pass an exam. Candidates apply to the centers that organize the exams. The Minister of Science and Higher Education grants, administratively, the authority to organize exams. According to the law, an examination center can be Polish or foreign higher education institutions conducting studies in Polish philology, as well as Polish or foreign institutions that have been teaching Polish as a foreign language or other classes in Polish for at least three years. More information about the examinations and the certificate can be found on the website (including a list of entities authorized to organize the examinations): https://certyfikatpolski.pl/ https://www.gov.pl/web/nauka/certyfikacja-jezyka-polskiego-jako-obcego</p> <p>5. N/A</p> <p>6. N/A</p>
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	EMN NCP Serbia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. N/A 6. N/A
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, however during the citizenship interview proficiency in the Slovak language is verified, where 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. 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. According to the law, the authority responsible for examining the applicant is the one who receives his/her application, i.e. the district office in the seat of the region, the diplomatic mission or the consular office of the Slovak Republic. 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. 2. See question 1.


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			<p>3. See question 1.</p> <p>4. See question 1.</p> <p>5. NA</p> <p>6. No. There is a fee only when citizenship is granted.</p>
	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. No. The foreigner has to pass a basic level exam of Slovenian language.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. N/A</p> <p>6. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	<p>1. YES. The institution "Instituto Cervantes" is responsible for the administration so citizenship tests.</p> <p>2. Instituto Cervantes.</p> <p>3. Duties and rights of the citizens in Spain as well as cultural and social issues.</p>

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			<p>4. There are two separate tests, language and citizenship.</p> <p>5. Police is frequently present when identification of the applicants is made before entering the exam room.</p> <p>6. YES. Each of the two tests has a fee.</p>
	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	<p>1. No. Sweden currently has no requirements on foreigners to pass a citizenship test in order to acquire nationality. However, in September 2023, the Swedish Government tasked an inquiry chair with submitting proposals for more stringent requirements for acquiring Swedish citizenship. Among other things, the inquiry will look into the issues of:• proposing what additional knowledge about Swedish society and Swedish culture should be required to acquire citizenship, and;• determining whether a requirement of a citizenship interview, an oath of loyalty or some similar ceremonial element to conclude the process of acquiring citizenship should be introduced;• Subsequently, the inquiry will present necessary legislative proposals. The inquiry is required to submit its final report by 30 September 2024. A press release on this matter can be found on: https://www.government.se/press-releases/2023/09/more-stringent-requirements-for-swedish-citizenship/</p> <p>2. -</p> <p>3. -</p> <p>4. -</p> <p>5. -</p>

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