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2025.35 Incentives aiming at participation in integration activities

**European Migration Network
Ad-hoc query**

September, 2025

AD-HOC QUERY ON 2025.35 INCENTIVES AIMING AT PARTICIPATION IN INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES

REQUESTED BY EMN NCP NETHERLANDS ON 30 JULY 2025

Exported for: Unrestricted Dissemination

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 Germany, EMN NCP Greece, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Italy, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Malta, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Portugal, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain, EMN NCP Sweden **(25 in total)**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Dutch civic integration act contains various compulsory elements, such as various courses on Dutch language acquisition and courses on Dutch society as well as the participation in civic integration exams. Currently, the civic integration act includes various possibilities of imposing fines on third-country nationals who fail to attend the compulsory elements of the integration scheme. For example, they can be fined for not participating in mandatory integration activities or failing to complete the civic integration program on time.

However, the highest administrative Judge in the Netherlands (the Council of State) ruled on July 9th of this year that failure to pass the civic integration exam on time should not be systematically punished with a fine if it concerns refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. To arrive at this verdict, the Council of State referred preliminary questions to the Court of Justice of the

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European Union (CJEU) for a preliminary ruling (Case C- 158/23: EUR-Lex - 62023CJ0158 - EN - EUR-Lex). In its judgment, the CJEU stated that the Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU) allows Member States to require that beneficiaries of international protection participate in integration programs and pass exams. However, only in exceptional cases a fine can be imposed, such as in the case of a proven and persistent lack of willingness to integrate.

Due to this ruling, the Dutch civic integration law will lose part of its incentive system as far as beneficiaries of international protection are concerned, if fines are only allowed in very limited and exceptional cases as described by the CJEU. Consequently, the Netherlands must reconsider its current legislation. Therefore, the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment is currently exploring positive and negative incentives to ensure beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection participate in integration programs and complete the mandatory exams within the civic integration period.

The information of this query will be used to inform the Minister for Participation and Integration as part of a legislative proposition of the civic integration act to be in compliance with EU law. Therefore, the deadline of this query will be shortened to 4 weeks in order for the ministry to include this query in their proposition. This shortened deadline has been approved by the AHQ WG co-chair.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:


We would very much appreciate your responses by **27 August 2025**.

1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO
2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.


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3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.

RESPONSES

		Unrestricted Dissemination ?	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES. In Austria, the Integration Act regulates comprehensive integration measures in the areas of language and civic integration. Beneficiaries of international protection (from the age of 15 who were granted the respective status after 31 December 2014) must sign an integration declaration (Art. 6 Integration Act) which obliges them to comply with the fundamental values of the legal and social order and to participate in and conclude value and orientation courses as well as German language courses (target level B1) according to Art. 4 and 5 Integration Act.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p>

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			<p>NO.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>YES. The non-participation in the mandatory integration measures (see Q1) can lead to a reduction of social benefits (Art. 16c Integration Act) by the responsible authorities of the federal provinces (https://www.integrationsfonds.at/ueber-den-oeif/ueber-den-oeif/integrationsgesetz/).</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Belgium</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes. Beneficiaries of international protection (BIP) are part of the target group of integration programmes and are therefore required to follow them. Various exemptions are applied in the different federated entities. For instance, in the Walloon Region, there are various cases of exemption, such as medical reasons, assisting a family member with a medical certificate, working at least half-time for more than three months, assisting spouses, pursuing professional training, etc.</p> <p>The federated entity in which the BIP is required to follow the integration programme depends</p>

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on the municipality where they are registered. In the Flemish Community, the BIP are required to follow the civic integration programme, provided they reside in a Flemish community at the moment their status is granted, or if they move from Brussels or Wallonia to a Flemish municipality within five years after recognition (a certificate of integration obtained under other regulations – for example, from Brussels or Wallonia– does not grant an exemption). The same rules apply for family members of the BIP.

Integration policy in Belgium falls under the competence of four federated entities: the Flemish Community, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the German-speaking Community. Each entity has distinct legislation, policies and practice with regards to the integration of third-country nationals, and by extension their monitoring. In this query, answers to the questions will be provided for each region subsequently.

In the Flemish Community, the civic integration programme consists of four parts:

- The social orientation part, where the BIP learn about life, housing and work in Belgium;
- Dutch courses;
- The pathway to employment, where the BIP register with the Public Employment Service of Flanders;
- The participation programme, where the BIP engage in voluntary work, work placement or will take part in a buddy project.

In the Walloon Region, the civic integration programme consists of four parts:

- An introductory module including information on the rights and obligations of people residing in Belgium, a social assessment, a French language placement test, and assistance or guidance on administrative procedures;
- Citizenship courses, to acquire an in-depth understanding of how Belgium functions in terms of daily life (health, housing, culture, employment, etc.);
- French lessons (for individual who do not have at least level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference);

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			<p>- Socio-professional integration with the Public Employment Service of the Walloon Region (if a need has been identified during the social assessment).</p> <p>In the German-speaking Community, the civic integration programme consists of three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- German courses (from alphabetisation to the level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference);- Integration courses that cover information on the important values in our society and a citizen's rights and duties;- Social and professional information. <p>In the Brussels-Capital Region, BIP can choose between the Dutch-language civic integration programme or the bilingual programme offered by the Common Community Commission. The bilingual programme consists of following parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A welcome package which includes a social assessment, a language assessment and 10 hours of information on rights and duties in Belgium;- A training course on citizenship and society;- Language lessons if needed (Dutch or French lessons);- Individual support (finding suitable training or employment, recognition of the diplomas, leisure activities, residence status, ...) and socio-professional orientation suited to the needs of the person. <p>(Sources: Federated entities)</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p>
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No. Since participation in a civic integration programme is mandatory for adult BIP in all four federated entities of Belgium (from the moment they obtain their status), there are no positive incentives per se. However, the completion of an integration programme has definite advantages (other than just having the certificate of completion) as it may be required in some processes to prove integration into Belgian society (for example, as proof of integration in the context of applying for Belgian citizenship, or to enter the labour market, etc.).

(Sources: Federated entities)

3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.


Yes.

Regularly attending of the courses is mandatory (attendance of at least 80% of the integration and language classes). The duration of the programme is also regulated. A fine may be issued.

In the Walloon Region, individuals must demonstrate an attendance rate of at least 80% for French language courses and citizenship training, except in cases of duly justified absence.

In the Flemish Community, sanctions act as a compliance mechanism for those under mandatory integration obligation. Violations of the integration obligations may lead to administrative fines. Missed obligations entail, for instance, failing to register with the integration agency in time, not signing the integration contract, or not participating in parts of the programme. Participants receive warning and a chance to comply before fines are imposed.


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			<p>In the Brussels-Capital Region, an administrative fine is issued for failure to register for the programme within the specified time frame or for failure to complete the programme within the specified time frame. The third-country national may be fined between 100 and 2.500 euros (Sancties - Bewelcome). Paying the fine does not exempt you from completing the programme. The obligation remains even after the fine has been paid.</p> <p>(Sources: Federated entities)</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>According to Art.17 of the Regulation on the Conditions and Procedure for Conclusion, Implementation and Termination of the Agreement for Integration of Foreigners with Asylum or International Protection with the integration agreement, the foreigner undertakes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to fulfill the obligations specified in the integration agreement; 2. to enroll and ensure the attendance of kindergarten and state or municipal school of children who are subject to compulsory pre-school and school education; 3. to accept the suitable job offered to him and/or inclusion in programs and measures for employment and training of adults, as well as in programs and projects with an integration focus; 4. to participate in Bulgarian language training; 5. to use the housing provided to him with the care of a good owner; 6. to make efforts to integrate into the local community and to respect its traditions and customs;


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			<p>7. to comply with the laws and the legal order and not to commit illegal acts that violate public order. According to Art. 31(1) of the above mentioned Regulation, the integration agreement may be terminated unilaterally by the mayor of the municipality in the event of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. failure of the foreigner to fulfill his obligations under Art. 17;2. gross violation of public order, commission of indecent acts expressing obvious disrespect for society, as ascertained by the bodies of the Ministry of Interior;3. permanent departure by the foreigner from the territory of the municipality with which he has concluded an integration agreement. <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>According to Art. 16 of the Regulation, foreigner who wishes to conclude an integration agreement may submit an application to the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers during the proceedings for granting international protection and within 14 days after the delivery of the decision to grant asylum or international protection.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES. Pursuant to the provisions of the Law on International and Temporary Protection ("Official Gazette", number: 70/15, 127/17, 33/23, 17/25), an asylee and an alien under subsidiary protection have the right to assistance in joining the society for a maximum of three years from the service of the status decision. Integration assistance activities are carried out by the Ministry of the Interior directly and/ or through a selected partner organization with which it concludes agreements/ contracts on the implementation of integration activities.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p>


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			<p>YES Pursuant to Article 74 of the International and Temporary Protection Act ("Official Gazette", number: 70/15, 127/17, 33/23, 17/25), asylees and aliens under subsidiary protection are required to attend a course in Croatian language, history and culture in order to be included in Croatian society. In case of non-fulfillment of the obligation, the asylee and the alien under subsidiary protection will reimburse the costs of the course to the ministry in charge of education.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES, there are civic integration activities but not civic exams, just language exams. Civic integration in Cyprus has been challenging due to the absence of a comprehensive, mandatory, government-led program; instead, integration efforts have been driven by smaller-scale projects, EU-funded initiatives like the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), and projects by organizations like the Council of Europe, which foster local networks to promote intercultural integration and support migrants in areas like language, employment, and housing. Other civic activities (cultural and language) are carried out by other NGO's and local authorities. A comprehensive national integration strategy was developed in the past but not implemented, leaving significant gaps in language knowledge, employment access, and cultural understanding for international protection beneficiaries. However, Cyprus is about to launch its first and other official integration Strategy and Action Plan in the last quarter of 2025.</p>

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			<p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO (at present)</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO (at present)</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES. In the Czech Republic, civic integration activities are available; however, for applicants for international protection they are entirely voluntary. There are no positive or negative measures linked to participation, and no obligation to attend such courses applies to them.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage</p>

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			<p>beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>no</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>no</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes. The Integration Foundation’s 4-day adaptation programmes offer childcare for</p>

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			<p>participants. Communication activities also play an important role in motivating people to participate in adaptation programme – in addition to general information efforts, positive experience stories from participants are shared, and outreach is conducted towards communities.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes. According to the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens (AGIPA), participation in the adaptation programme and Estonian language training is mandatory for persons granted temporary or international protection in Estonia.</p> <p>According to Article 75 of AGIPA:</p> <p>(4 1) A beneficiary of international protection at the age of 18 to the retirement age who is fit for work is required to participate in the Estonian language training organised on the basis of subsection 4 of § 73 of this Act.</p> <p>(4 3) A beneficiary of international protection who is living in Estonia may be required to refund the amounts spent on provision of language learning in the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) a person eligible for subsidiary protection has not acquired language proficiency level A1 provided for in the Language Act within one year as of the grant of international protection;2) a person who has been granted a refugee status has not acquired language proficiency level A2 provided for in the Language Act within two years as of being granted international protection;3) a person eligible for subsidiary protection has not acquired language proficiency level A2 provided for in the Language Act within two years as from the extension of the residence permit pursuant to subsection 2 of § 39 of this Act;4) a beneficiary of international protection has not acquired language proficiency level A2
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			<p>provided for in the Language Act within five years as of being granted international protection. (4 5) A beneficiary of international protection is required to: 1) participate in the international protection theme module of the adaptation programme if the Police and Border Guard Board has referred him or her thereto; (4 6) The compliance with the obligations provided for in § 741 of this Act and subsections 41 and 45 of this section shall be taken into account upon deciding on the extension of the residence permit or upon deciding on the grant of a new residence permit. (4 7) When a beneficiary of international protection has failed to perform the obligation provided for in subsection 41 or 45 of this section without good reason, the payment of support on the basis of this Act and other acts may be connected to the performance of the obligations specified above. These provisions are included in the law but have not been applied in practice. A person's law-abiding behaviour and willingness to cooperate may influence the decision regarding the application for another residence permit.</p>
+	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO YES. Civic orientation courses and integration training.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p>

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			<p>YES. If a beneficiary of international and subsidiary protection is registered as unemployed job seeker and participates in the civic orientation course and/or integration training which is a part of his/her personal integration plan, he/she will receive reimbursement of expenses during the course. The reimbursement of expenses is intended to cover the costs incurred for attending the course (travel ticket etc). The reimbursement of expenses is paid in addition to unemployment benefit. It's good to know that this is not a special reimbursement for migrants or for beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection; the same system is for all unemployed job seekers who participate in the employment services/courses. A special incentive is for migrant parents who have received home care allowance and participated part-time in the services included in the integration plan: for these migrants the maximum duration of the integration plan may be extended according to the time they received home care allowance.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>YES. If a migrant who is registered as unemployed jobseeker and receives unemployment benefit doesn't participate in the civic orientation course and/or integration training which has been agreed upon in the integration plan, he/she may lose his/her unemployment benefits for a fixed period. This concerns all migrants who are registered as unemployed jobseekers and have a personal integration plan (regardless of his/her type of residence permit so this is not a specific incentive for beneficiaries of international or subsidiary protection). (Beneficiaries of temporary protection, e.g. Ukrainians are not entitled to unemployment benefit, but they can receive social assistance under certain conditions.) If a person who receives social assistance (for example persons outside the labour force and beneficiaries of temporary protection) does</p>
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			not participate in the civic orientation course and/or integration training which has been agreed upon in the integration plan, the level of social assistance may be reduced.
	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES. A civics training scheme is compulsory for all newly-arrived foreign nationals, including beneficiaries of international protection (BIP), as part of the Republican Integration Contract, in application of article L. 413-2 of the French code for the entry and stay of foreign nationals and right of asylum (CESEDA). The organisation and content of this civic training are defined by the decree of 22 July 2025 relating to the civic and linguistic training prescribed for signatories of the Republican Integration Contract in France. The civics training, provided by a selected service provider chosen by the French office for immigration and integration (OFII), comprises four sessions lasting a total of 24 hours, the content of which covers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the principles and values of the Republic: the motto (liberty, equality, fraternity), secularism and the symbols of the Republic ; - France's institutional and political system: democracy and the right to vote, the organisation of the French Republic, the European Union and its institutions; - the rights and duties associated with life in France: fundamental rights, the obligations of people living in France; - history, geography and culture: main historical periods, territories, demography and economy, French heritage; - life in French society: settling in France, working in France, access to healthcare, parental authority and the education system.


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			<p>At present, this training is subject to regular and serious participation by foreign newcomers, including BIP, which is considered to have been complied with when they have participated in all the days of civic training prescribed. In application of article 20 of law of 24 January 2024 'to control immigration and improve integration', known as the 'CIAI' law, codified in article L. 433-4 of the CESEDA, from 1 January 2026, the issuance of a multi-annual residence permit will be conditional on passing a civic examination.</p> <p>This condition does not apply to BIP whose right to residency is derived from supranational provisions and granted as of right.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>BPI, like other foreign newcomers, sign a republican integration contract in which they undertake to take the training. At present, the training attendance rate is relatively high. The introduction, as of 1 January 2026, of a civics test to assess sufficient knowledge of French history, culture and society, as well as the rights and duties conferred by nationality, for third-country nationals wishing to acquire French nationality by naturalisation, may constitute an incentive for BPI. BPI, who are not required to pass the civic examination in order to obtain their residence permit (see Q1), could therefore be encouraged to follow this civic training course in anticipation of their possible application for naturalisation .</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration</p>
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			<p>activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Germany</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes. Civic integration courses are part of the general integration course (language and orientation course). The system is subject to constant changes. Originally passing the civic integration exam could reduce the amount of time a person needed to reside in Germany before they could apply for citizenship. As the minimum duration of residence needed to be eligible to apply for German citizenship has been reduced during the last legislature, the advantage of having participated in the integration course and having passed the exam is not as strong an incentive as it once was. Nevertheless, since the exam of the civic integration course is identical with the naturalisation test, it is possible to use the results of the civic</p>


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			<p>integration exam instead of a naturalisation test in case the person applies for German citizenship. For a small number of participants there is another incentive: it is possible to receive compensation for part of the course costs in case the person passes both exams. However, this is only relevant for those participants who are obliged to pay a part of the course costs themselves. The majority of the participants are exempt from the course costs anyway.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes. Participants may be required to attend the integration courses (language and orientation course) by government employment offices (job centers). Attendance at these courses is then reported to the relevant authority. Sanctions may be imposed on migrants who do not attend if it seems appropriate for the individual case.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Greece</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes. According to the contribution by the Social Integration Directorate of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greece provides civic integration activities for beneficiaries of international and temporary protection. Within the framework of the HELIOS+ program, designed and overseen</p>


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			<p>by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (Directorate of Social Integration), beneficiaries participate in civic orientation courses aimed at familiarizing them with Greek history and culture, the institutional framework, civic rights and obligations, everyday practices, as well as the European way of life. Greek language courses are also offered on a regular basis. In addition, similar content is delivered through other voluntary integration initiatives, such as the Migrant Integration Centers operated by municipalities, through Action 16688 "Promote integration of the refugee population into the labor market," which provides training on topics including the prevention of human trafficking, environmental protection, and political participation, as well as through the "Bridging the Skills Gap" and "Cultivating Futures for Migrants" programs.</p> <p>All civic integration activities in Greece are voluntary in principle, and no civic integration examinations are foreseen or required. However, under HELIOS+, regular participation in language and civic orientation courses constitutes a necessary condition for beneficiaries to receive and continue receiving the rental subsidy provided by the program.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Participation in all the programs mentioned in Q1 is voluntary; however, specific financial and practical incentives are provided to encourage active engagement. A key incentive is the coverage of expenses related to obtaining official certifications and documents — such as language proficiency certificates, official translations, and recognition of foreign qualifications — as well as the costs for participating in relevant examinations, including recognized Greek language tests. In the case of the HELIOS+ program, these costs are reimbursed regardless of examination outcome and include transportation expenses to the examination venue. Within the framework of Action 16688, an additional incentive consists of</p>
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			<p>the facilitation of beneficiaries’ transportation by the implementing partner to the locations where the project’s activities are carried out, taking into account that a significant number of beneficiaries are residing in large urban areas.</p> <p>In addition, beneficiaries may receive coverage for relocation expenses when moving from previous accommodation to a newly rented apartment within the program’s independent living support scheme. These measures aim to reduce financial and logistical barriers, thereby facilitating participation in civic integration activities and enabling beneficiaries to acquire formal proof of language skills and other qualifications, which in turn supports their active participation in Greek society.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>-</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Hungary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>No such integration exams are required from beneficiaries of international protection.</p>


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			<p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Ireland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes, there are limited voluntary civic integration activities in Ireland for specific group of beneficiaries. However, there are no exams.</p> <p>Resettled refugees under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) are the only group offered civic orientation courses or training. National integration funds, ESF+ and AMIF fund initiatives that provide relevant information, supports, and training, however a national civic orientation programme is not in place.</p> <p>Resettled refugees under the IRPP are offered training, both before their arrival, as well as following resettlement in Ireland.[1] The IRPP was established in 2015 in response to the</p>

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			<p>humanitarian crisis that developed in Southern Europe as a consequence of forced displacement from areas of conflict in the Middle East and Africa. The IRPP offers a distinct programme of tailored supports for persons who have been recognised as refugees by UNHCR prior to arrival in Ireland. Orientation programmes are delivered at the local level through Reception and Orientation Centres[2] and local communities.[3]</p> <p>The Community Sponsorship Ireland programme was established in 2018 as a complementary integration and resettlement stream. The unique feature of this programme is that it enables a willing population to engage locally by directly supporting a refugee family. Community Sponsorship Groups (CSGs) are supported by Regional Support Organisations (RSOs) to offer orientation to new arrivals. However, the orientation supports offered to arrivals are tailored to each group and therefore, would not be considered an orientation programme within the definition of the 2023 EMN Inform on civic integration.</p> <p>[1] See Department of Children, Disability and Equality, Irish Refugee Protection Programme, available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/irish-refugee-protection-programme/)</p> <p>[2] https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/resettlement-programme-in-ireland/</p> <p>[3] Correspondence with IRPP, Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, August 2025</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No. The positive incentives are the inherent benefits to the migrant such as language acquisition which is beneficial for social and economic integration and for navigating the systems in a new country and expanding their network of formal and informal supports.</p>
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			<p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Italy</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Beneficiaries of international protection are hosted in reception centres that are part of the so-called Reception and Integration System (SAI), consisting of projects proposed by local authorities that join on a voluntary basis and rely on third-sector organisations. The SAI is coordinated by the Central Service, established by the Ministry of the Interior and entrusted by agreement to the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI). Financial support is ensured by resources allocated to the National Fund for Asylum Policies and Services (FNPSA), established by Law n. 189 of 2002 amending Law decree n. 416 of 1989, into which flow both national resources, from the budget of the Ministry of the Interior, and annual allocations from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The integration objectives set out in the Ministerial Decree of 18 November 2019 (DM 18/11/2019), which regulates the Reception and Integration System, are detailed in the Guidelines annexed to the decree. Among these objectives are civic and linguistic education, through the promotion of knowledge of the Italian language and constitutional values via language courses and civic training.</p>


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			<p>Those who benefit from this second phase of reception and are hosted within a SAI project commit themselves to respecting the terms of the "personalised integrated reception plan", agreed with the operators upon entering the centre through the signing of the reception agreement, which is in line with the National Integration Plan. Local authorities make use of the National Fund for Asylum Policies and Services in order to submit project proposals to the Ministry of the Interior - Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration - for the activation of reception services.</p> <p>In particular, the local authority (and the managing body along with it) undertakes to provide reception and to deliver a range of services. The beneficiary, for his or her part, undertakes to comply with the rules of the facility, to learn the Italian language, to actively engage in the implementation of his or her integration project, to respect the terms and conditions of reception and to actively participate in the integrated reception programme.</p> <p>The National Integration Plan for beneficiaries of international protection, promoted by the Ministry of the Interior, establishes that those who are received undertake to learn the Italian language; to share the fundamental values of the Constitution; to respect the laws; and to participate in the economic, social and cultural life of the territory. In particular, with regard to civic integration activities, participation and active citizenship processes are envisaged to support beneficiaries in taking part in public life and in decision-making processes that concern them. Such participation can take different forms, through various channels and methods, involving individuals, social groups and institutions alike, including opportunities for socialisation such as sporting, artistic and cultural events, as well as forms of association and volunteering, which foster integration as a process involving both beneficiaries of international protection and the entire host community.</p> <p>Therefore, as previously outlined, the national system provides for various civic integration activities linked to second-level reception projects for beneficiaries of international protection; however, it does not foresee any mandatory examinations, either at the local or national level.</p>
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			<p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Should the beneficiary refuse to sign the reception agreement, linked to the principles and activities contained within the National Integration Plan, their stay within the SAI could not continue, and the individual must be aware of this. Once the reasons for such a choice have been ascertained and the possibility of overcoming them excluded, the reception process within the SAI should be considered terminated. In this way, the applicant would expressly renounce the continuation of the reception measures that would provide them with specialized and individualized support aimed at their social and work integration within the community in which they are located.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Latvia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p>


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			<p>YES, there are voluntary project-based integration courses available for all third-country nationals (one of the target groups of the courses is beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection).</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Lithuania</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes to activities; no to exams. In Lithuania, beneficiaries of international protection take part in civic-orientation/social-orientation activities as part of the state integration program,</p>

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			<p>typically starting at the Reception and Integration Agency and continuing in municipalities. These include Lithuanian language and culture courses and sessions on everyday life, rights, duties, and access to services. There is no separate national “civic integration exam” for beneficiaries of international or subsidiary protection; exams in Lithuanian and on the Constitution apply later only for those who seek Lithuanian citizenship and are not part of the initial integration support.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No. Lithuania does not apply additional rewards or privileges that would qualify as positive incentives for participation in civic integration activities. Beneficiaries are entitled to a standard integration package, which includes language courses, civic orientation, and social services. These are provided as part of the state integration program and are not conditional bonuses or extra benefits granted in return for participation.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes. Lithuania uses statutory conditionality that operates as negative incentives for participation in civic integration. Government Resolution No. 998 (as amended on 2022-09-10) expressly allows termination of integration support if a beneficiary, without justification, misses 40% or more of Lithuanian language and/or Lithuanian culture classes, both while</p>
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			<p>living at the reception center (§39.1.1) and later in the municipal phase (§40.1.1). This same resolution sets out the consequences of termination (e.g., the date from which support stops and timelines to vacate reception housing), which reinforces the deterrent effect (§41–§43). In addition, monthly cash support in municipalities is explicitly calibrated to the beneficiary’s progress in implementing the Individual Integration Plan (IIP): during months 8–12 the allowance is reduced to 50–100% of the initial level depending on demonstrated progress (§24.2), and if the integration period is extended beyond 12 months the allowance is further reduced to 50–70% (months 13–18) or 30–50% (months 19–36), again based on IIP progress (§19).</p> <p>Order of the Minister of Social Security and Labor on IIP monitoring and progress assessment (as amended on 2024-02-23) complements this by requiring regular six-monthly progress reviews, submission of standardized progress forms, and Commission decisions on whether to continue, extend, adjust the amount of support, or terminate it, using an algorithm that factors in risk and measured progress (sections III–IV; points 17–21, 24–28). The same order confirms that “cultural orientation / civic education” is one of the assessed IIP areas, so failure to engage in these activities directly affects continuation and level of support.</p>
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes, but they do not specifically target beneficiaries of international protection. Civic integration activities are offered within the Biergerpakt (citizen’s pact for intercultural living together) an instrument introduced by the law on intercultural living together of 23 August 2023.</p>

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			<p>The Biergerpakt is open to anyone of legal age who lives or works in Luxembourg. It gives access to the intercultural living together programme.</p> <p>The registration for the Biergerpakt is voluntary. By joining it, the person can actively participate in intercultural living together in Luxembourg. Through the Biergerpakt, they may discover Luxembourg, its languages, customs, values, associations and much more.</p> <p>The intercultural living together programme is free of charge and gives access to three introductory modules to life in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and to a catalog of advanced modules on key topics of living together in Luxembourg :</p> <p>The introductory modules include an Orientation day, a module called Discovering the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and a language module: free access to an online platform that allows participants to get in contact with the country's official languages in a non-formal way by following one or more modules that allow to achieve at least introductory level A.1.1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in at least one of Luxembourg's administrative languages (Luxembourgish, German and French). Within the advanced modules, the person will have a choice from a wide range of courses and activities according to the personal situation, needs and interests. The catalogue will be further developed over time and includes the following areas, among others: combating racism and all forms of discrimination, civic engagement and active participation, language learning and practice, understanding administrative procedures, learn more about life in Luxembourg.</p> <p>Furthermore, in order to be eligible for Luxembourg citizenship, the beneficiary of international protection must meet several conditions, including passing a Luxembourgish language test and having taken a 24 hour civic education course "Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" or having passed the test covering the three topics taught in this course (the fundamental rights of citizens, the state and local institutions of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the history of Luxembourg and European integration).</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage</p>
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			<p>beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>The intercultural living together programme is free of charge.</p> <p>The completion of the three introductory modules of the Biergerpakt is taken into consideration, under certain conditions, for an application to obtain long-term resident status and for an application to acquire Luxembourg nationality by option.</p> <p>As part of the procedure for acquiring Luxembourg nationality, holders of a certificate of participation for at least 6 hours in the module on life in Luxembourg, organized as part of the citizens' pact, are exempted from taking the module History of Luxembourg and European integration. The exemption is recognized automatically, there is no procedure to be carried out.</p> <p>In case beneficiaries of international protection are not registered for the Biergerpakt, they have to complete the entire 24 hour civic education course "Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg".</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No.</p>
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<p>• EMN NCP Malta</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes, voluntary for those who plan on eventually applying for a Long-Term Residency Permit (LTRP) (Laws of Malta- Subsidiary Legislation 217.05), as one of several other criteria.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>The "I Belong" (National Integration Programme) certificate is required for LTRP application.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Currently, the "I Belong" (National Integration Programme) is free. Repeating may be subject to a cost, as determined by a Board of Appeals set up in accordance with the law.</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Netherlands</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>The Dutch civic integration system includes several positive incentives to ensure that beneficiaries of international protection participate in the civic integration activities. For example, all of the beneficiaries of international protection are assisted by the municipality throughout the civic integration period. As part of this assistance, the municipality is obliged to organise these civic integration activities for the beneficiary of international protection. Furthermore, the municipality has regular meetings with the beneficiary of international protection throughout the civic integration period to check the progress within the civic integration activities. Furthermore, municipalities are obliged to offer financial support during the beginning of the civic integration period, to prevent financial worries that could hinder the integration. Passing the civic integration test is also a prerequisite to obtain Dutch citizenship if the beneficiary of international protection wishes to do so. Additionally, when assisting the beneficiaries of international protection throughout the civic integration period, municipalities are in theory also free to "reward" those who are actively involved in their civic integration period, for example by offering them the opportunity to take an (additional) course or an internship. It is unknown how often this happens in practice.</p>
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			<p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>The Netherlands is currently reviewing its legislative framework regarding fines and the conditions under which they can be imposed.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Poland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>The main systemic integration instrument in Poland is the Individual Integration Program (IIP), which is aimed at third-country nationals who are beneficiaries of international protection granted in Poland. The scope and method of implementation of this form of support are regulated by the Act of 12 March 2004 on Social Assistance and the accompanying Regulation of the Minister of Labor and Social Policy on Providing Assistance to Foreigners. Persons eligible for IIP are foreigners who have been granted refugee status, subsidiary protection and temporary residence permit granted due to being a family member of a person who has refugee status or subsidiary protection in Poland. Assistance for foreigners also extends to minor children for the duration of the IIP implemented by their legal representative.</p> <p>Support provided under IIP implementation is agreed upon between the District Family Support Center (PCPR) and the foreigner. Assistance is provided for a period of no longer than 12 months, depending on the justified, individual needs of the foreigner, determined based on a background interview and included in the IIP. Assistance is provided in the form of: cash</p>

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			<p>benefits to cover living expenses, housing costs, and costs related to learning Polish, social work, specialist counseling (legal, psychological, and family), information and support in contacts with other institutions, particularly labour market institutions, the local community, and non-governmental organizations, as well as other activities supporting the foreigner's integration process. Assistance under an individual integration program is provided based on a voluntarily submitted application within 60 days of the foreigner obtaining the appropriate form of protection. The program is agreed upon between the District Family Assistance Center (PCPR) and the foreigner. The program specifies the amount, scope, and forms of integration assistance, as well as the mutual obligations of the foreigner and PCPR. A social worker (the program implementer) is appointed to agree on the program with the foreigner, support the foreigner throughout the program, and monitor and evaluate the foreigner's progress in the degree and effectiveness of the integration process in areas such as language education, professional functioning, and social well-being. Progress in the integration process is assessed through memos. If gaps or insufficient progress are identified in any integration area, the parties modify the program to adapt it to the specific needs of the foreigner and address implementation issues.</p> <p>In addition to this tool, numerous initiatives are organized at the local level to support the integration of beneficiaries of international protection. Various language and orientation courses are also organized by non-governmental organizations, and participation is completely voluntary and free of charge.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Participation in the IIP is entirely voluntary and covers key areas of support for the integration process. Furthermore, it also provides financial support for a period of 12 months.</p>
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3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.

Yes, negative consequences are foreseen, such as the suspension of assistance or the revocation of the decision to grant integration assistance for beneficiaries of international protection who:


- fail to fulfill the obligations assumed in the program, including unjustified failure to participate in Polish language courses (for a period of 30 days);
- use the assistance in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which it was granted (for a period of 30 days);
- provide false information about their life situation (until the circumstances of providing such information are clarified);
- stay in a healthcare facility (30 days of stay) - until they leave the facility;
- criminal proceedings are initiated against the foreigner - until the proceedings are finally concluded.

If information is obtained that the above-mentioned conditions have ceased, the foreigner's assistance will be reinstated.


The decision to grant assistance may also be revoked in the following cases:

- when the foreigner for whom the previously suspended assistance is continued re-engages in the actions referred to above;
- when the foreigner was convicted of an intentional crime during the program; - when the foreigner was deprived of international protection.


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	<p>EMN NCP Portugal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>NO.</p>

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	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>YES.</p> <p>The Slovak Republic has civic integration activities for beneficiaries of international protection, implemented by a non-governmental organization within an integration project. This organization is a contractual partner of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, and participation in these activities is voluntary. Currently, there are no civic integration exams. A new Act on International Protection is being prepared, which plans to make the disbursement of a one-time allowance conditional upon completing a cultural orientation course. While participation in the course will remain voluntary, beneficiaries will be positively motivated to attend through the financial incentive.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Currently, no. See also response to question 1.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>No.</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>Yes. Article 90 of the International Protection Act stipulates that a beneficiary of international protection, provided that he or she has concluded an agreement on integration activities (also stipulated in the Act) within one month of obtaining the status, has the right to: a course on getting to know Slovenian society, a Slovenian language course, an exam in Slovenian language (only one exam is free of charge, if a person fails the exam, he/she needs to pay for the next ones). The contract on integration activities is concluded between the office responsible for the support and integration of migrants and beneficiary of international protection. It includes the determination of activities intended to facilitate and speed up the integration of beneficiaries of international protection into the environment, the obligations of these persons and the definition of the obligations of the office. The contract is prepared in cooperation with beneficiary of international protection and taking into account the individual's needs, knowledge, abilities and skills, and in a language that beneficiary of international protection understands.</p> <p>If a beneficiary of international protection is prevented from performing the obligations and activities from the contract on integration activities due to force majeure, these rights and obligations are extended for a period equal to the time during which these obligations and activities were prevented.</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage</p>

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			<p>beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>By signing the contract/agreement on integration activities mentioned above, a beneficiary of international protection undertakes to participate in the agreed integration activities. Measures or sanctions in the event of failure to meet obligations in terms of reimbursement of financial resources or financial sanctions are not prescribed. However, the extension of the period of eligibility for the stay of a beneficiary of international protection in an integration house or other accommodation capacity of the office is linked to a certain percentage of his/her participation in the Slovenian language course and the course on getting to know Slovenian society (to which beneficiaries of international protection is entitled if they have concluded a contract on integration activities).</p> <p>The International Protection Act thus stipulates in Article 93 that the office, until the available capacities are filled, shall provide accommodation in an integration house or other accommodation facilities of the office to a beneficiary of international protection who has concluded an agreement on integration activities, but for a maximum of one year from the date of acquisition of the status. Notwithstanding this, the office may extend the accommodation in an integration house or other accommodation facilities of the office for a beneficiary of international protection after one year of residence in an integration house or other accommodation facilities of the office, provided that in the last year after signing the agreement on integration activities, the person has participated in at least 80% of the Slovenian language course and the course on getting to know Slovenian society and has been present at the interview with an integration counsellor at least once a month. The Office decides on the extension based on the application made by a beneficiary by means of a decision. Beneficiaries of international protection who have sufficient means of subsistence in the amount of the basic minimum income in the Republic of Slovenia or whose subsistence is otherwise guaranteed, otherwise cover a proportional share of the costs of accommodation in an integration house or other accommodation capacity of the office.</p> <p>A positive incentive for beneficiaries of international protection to participate in a Slovenian</p>
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			<p>language course and a course on getting to know Slovenian society is also the reimbursement of the costs of the cheapest monthly public transport ticket. Namely, a beneficiary of international protection is entitled to the cheapest monthly public transport ticket for at least 80% participation in a course on getting to know Slovenian society or 80% participation in a Slovenian language course to which they are referred by the office, for the duration of the courses.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Apart from measures explained above there are no negative incentives used to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Spain</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>In accordance with the provisions of Article 2.d of the “Reglamento por el que se regula el sistema de acogida en materia de protección internacional”, approved by the Royal Decree 220/2022, of 29 March, the reception itinerary is defined as the process aimed at promoting the gradual acquisition of autonomy by the beneficiaries, through access to the benefits and resources of the system.</p>

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			<p>In Spain, the reception itinerary includes Spanish language learning activities, information about public or private social resources and services, and cultural orientation sessions. These cover the reception context, basic regulations and the structure of the state, how education and healthcare systems operate, access to housing and the employment system in Spain, society relations, gender equality, family dynamics, and family planning, among other topics. Finally, it is important to highlight that, from the moment of the arrival, individuals in the Spanish reception system are involved in fulfilling established tasks to ensure their participation in the said system. This arrangement is signed through a specific document when they arrive. Among other obligations, they must comply with the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply with the agreed itinerary.• Notify in advance any change that could affect the initial itinerary, particularly related to social integration and job placement to justify any non-attendance at scheduled activities. <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Certain elements could be identified not as direct incentives but rather as indirect enablers and motivators that support engagement in integration activities.</p> <p>Regarding to Spanish language learning activities, after each step of the training process, a compulsory test is conducted in order to evaluate the knowledge and use of Spanish language through two different methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once participation in the Spanish language learning activities is completed, a mandatory evaluation test is needed to assess the level of attainment within, the levels described in the 'Common European Framework of Reference for Languages'. If this standard cannot be applied, the evaluation follows the corresponding NGO's criteria.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to official Spanish test will be provided when considered necessary to get a certificate in accordance with the levels described in the 'Common European Framework of Reference for Languages'. These certificates are officially recognized and lead to new opportunities for their holder, which makes language learning and certification itself a motivating factor. Additionally, individuals participating in the reception system who demonstrate significant progress in learning Spanish are given preference in recruitment processes, as language proficiency improves job performance and reduces the risk of failure in both obtaining and keeping employment. <p>The activities described so far are mandatory components of the reception process, so they are not associated with any material incentives. Nevertheless, part of the NGO's role in the field of reception is to raise awareness about the importance of participating in these activities, encouraging voluntary and positive engagement.</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Order ISM/922/2023, of July 6, which outlines the disciplinary framework of the reception system in the context of international protection, establishes that failure to comply with the itinerary activities is considered an infringement that may be subject to sanctions.</p> <p>Article 6. Minor Offenses. The following actions or omissions occurring at any stage of the reception system shall be considered minor offenses:</p> <p>a) Repeated or unjustified absence, on at least three occasions, from classes, workshops, interviews, activities, appointments, or commitments established within the reception itinerary.</p> <p>Article 7. Serious Offenses. The following actions or omissions occurring at any stage of the</p>
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			<p>reception system shall be considered serious offenses: a) The commission of a third minor offense, when, within the previous year, the allegedly offending person has been sanctioned for two minor offenses by a final administrative resolution.</p> <p>Article 8. Very Serious Offenses. The following actions or omissions occurring at any stage of the reception system shall be considered very serious offenses: a) The commission of a second serious offense, provided that within the previous year the allegedly offending person has been sanctioned for a serious offense by a final administrative resolution.</p> <p>Sanctions for the Offenses Described in the Previous Articles: 1. Minor offenses may be sanctioned with a reduction of financial assistance ranging from 10% to 50%, for a period of one to three months. 2. Serious offenses may be sanctioned with any of the following measures: a) A reduction of financial assistance ranging from 50% to 90%, for a period of four to twelve months. b) Relocation to another reception facility. c) Temporary suspension of all or part of the material reception conditions for a period of one to three months. 3. Very serious offenses may be sanctioned with any of the following measures: a) Temporary suspension of all or part of the material reception conditions for a period of three to six months. b) Permanent and mandatory withdrawal of all or part of the reception conditions, without prejudice to access to any other social assistance to which the person may be entitled and which ensures dignified living conditions.</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Sweden</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Does your country have civic integration activities and/or civic integration exams (voluntary as well as obligatory) for beneficiaries of international protection? YES/NO</p> <p>In Sweden beneficiaries of international protection are offered a civic orientation course. Civic orientation courses are free of charge and are offered to people who have recently been granted a residence permit in Sweden, in order for them to learn about Swedish society. The course is organised by the municipality where the person lives and has a duration of at least 100 hours.</p> <p>The course includes sections on: Human rights Fundamental democratic values Rights and obligations How Swedish society is organised Practical everyday life</p> <p>The course is voluntary and the participant will receive a certificate when the course is completed.</p> <p>The details of the course and how it is organised can vary locally between different municipalities.</p> <p>The purpose of civic orientation is to make it easier to get into Swedish society. For more information please see: Civic orientation Informationsverige.se</p> <p>2. If yes to Q1, are there any positive incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Once a beneficiary of international protection has been granted a residence permit to Sweden the person shall register with the Swedish Public Employment Service and can get an</p>

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			<p>introduction programme. The introduction programme consists of individually tailored initiatives and support, activities and training that will help the person to learn Swedish quickly, find a job, and manage to support themselves financially as quickly as possible. The content of the introduction program is personalised based on previous education and experiences of the person.</p> <p>The civic orientation course can be part of that introduction program. Participation in the introduction program is connected to Introduction benefit (etableringsersättning) which is money for which the person can apply from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) when the person has received a decision on participation in the introduction programme (etableringsprogrammet). If that is the case then participation in the course is a basis for receiving financial allowance since the compensation from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency may be impacted if the person do not follow his/her plan and do not participate in the initiatives decided.</p> <p>For more information please see: Etableringsprogrammet - Arbetsförmedlingen</p> <p>3. If yes to Q1, are there any negative incentives that your country uses to encourage beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection to participate in the civic integration activities? YES/NO. If yes, please explain.</p> <p>Please see answer to question 2.</p>
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