



Dynamic Reinforcement for
European Adaptation of Migrants



Erasmus+

NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

THE NETHERLANDS





Immigration policy in The Netherlands

- Immigrants are people who come from other countries to reside in the Netherlands for employment, family reunification, seeking asylum or other purposes.
- Not all foreign nationals are automatically allowed to settle in the Netherlands.
- To settle here, you may require a residence permit, which you can obtain under certain conditions.
- The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) assesses applications for residence permits.



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Conditions for getting a residence permit by asylum seekers:

- In your country of origin, you have real reasons to fear persecution because of your race, religion, nationality, political convictions or because you belong to a particular social group.
- You have real reasons to fear the death penalty or execution, torture or other inhuman or humiliating treatment in your country of origin.
- You have real reasons to fear that you will be a victim of random violence due to an armed conflict in your country of origin.
- Your husband/wife, partner, father, mother or minor child has recently received an asylum residence permit in the Netherlands.



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Statistics about asylum seekers

- In 2015 from January till October, 45,000 asylum seekers came to our country.
- For 2016 the total number was 31,200.



Statistics about asylum seekers

- In March 2016 nearly 45,000 asylum migrants lived in asylum seekers centers.
- Nearly 16,000 of these inhabitants are refugees with a residence permit.
- Almost half of these asylum seekers come from Syria.
- 90 percent of the asylum seekers from Syria and Eritrea receive a residence permit.
- About 50 percent of the asylum seekers from Iraq and Afghanistan receive a residence permit.



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Wet Inburgering = Law on Integration

The **Law on Integration** obliges most immigrants to learn and pass an exam within 3 years of their arrival in the Netherlands.

The law was put into effect on January 1st, 2007.

It laid the groundwork for the current program, which is known as *Inburgering*.



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Compulsory integration and learning Dutch

If you come to live in the Netherlands for a longer period of time from outside the European Union, the European Economic Area, Switzerland and Turkey, and you are between 18 and state pension age, you **are obliged** to learn Dutch.

This rule also applies to clerics, such as imams and pastors.

Learning the language is part of the compulsory integration process.



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Integration period

During the integration period migrants have to show that:

- they know enough about the Netherlands
- speak the Dutch language
- know what life is like in The Netherlands



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Integration diploma

They can demonstrate this with the integration diploma.

They have 3 years to complete the integration and pass the exam.

The integration period begins:

- when they receive a residence permit
- at the time they turn 18 and already have a residence permit, and are not in education

If they do not pass the integration exam in time, they may receive a fine.

It may also have consequences for their residence permit.



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Arranging your own integration

- In the Netherlands you have to arrange your own integration process.
- You must also arrange the integration exam yourself.
- If you do not know enough about the Dutch language or about life in the Netherlands, you can take an integration course.
- You can search for courses via: www.ikwilinburgeren.nl



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Loans available for integration and language courses

If you are obliged to integrate, you may be eligible for a government loan to take a civic integration or language course.



Loan

- You can take out a loan with DUO (Executive Education Agency) to pay for the course and the examination.
- You can borrow a maximum of €10,000 from DUO.
- DUO will use your loan to pay the invoice for your course (at a certified school).
- You will repay this money to DUO later with interest.



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Sections of the integration exam

1. Knowledge of Dutch Society
2. Speaking Skills
3. Listening Skills
4. Reading Skills
5. Writing Skills
6. Orientation in the Dutch Labour Market



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New policy: Participation Statement

- The Participation Statement will become per 1st of July this year an obligatory part of integration.
- All newcomers as part of their integration degree must first go through a participation route.
- Through this route, municipalities will make newcomers aware of their rights and duties and the fundamental values of Dutch society.
- The process is concluded with signing of a statement.



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Watch the video

<https://www.inburgeren.nl>