



Linguistic Integration
of Adult Migrants (LIAM)
www.coe.int/lang-migrants

Language Support for Adult Refugees: a Council of Europe toolkit

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. As part of its project on Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants (LIAM) it has developed a toolkit to support member states in their efforts to respond to the challenges posed by unprecedented migration flows.

The toolkit is designed to assist organisations that provide language support for refugees, and especially the volunteers working for them. In due course it will be made available on a dedicated website in 7 languages: English and French – the Council of Europe's official languages – Dutch, German, Greek, Italian and Turkish.

The Council of Europe (47 member states; headquarters in Strasbourg, France) aims to create a common democratic and legal area throughout the continent where respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law are ensured. All the Council of Europe's actions are shaped by these values and by an enduring concern to promote social inclusion, social cohesion and respect for diversity.

For the past five decades one of the Council's major education programmes has focused on language policy; more recently it has also addressed the linguistic integration of adult migrants (LIAM). Migrants' acquisition of competence in the language(s) of the host country is a focus for political debate and policy initiatives in a growing number of Council of Europe member states.

The LIAM project (www.coe.int/lang-migrants) offers support to policy makers and practitioners who are working to facilitate migrants' integration into civil society



Flanders
State of the Art

with the support of the
government of Flanders

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

List of tools composing the toolkit:

1. Geopolitical context of migration
2. What is involved in providing language support for refugees?
3. The rights and legal status of the refugees
4. Ethical and intercultural issues to be aware of when working with refugees
5. Describing what someone can do in a range of communicative situations
6. Arabic: some information
7. Kurdish: some information
8. Persian: some information
9. Somali: some information
10. Refugees as language users and learners
11. Supporting refugees with low literacy
12. Challenges in learning to read and write in a new language
13. Engaging adult refugees as language learners
14. Approaches to language teaching and learning
15. Diversity in working groups
16. Responding appropriately to cultural difference and managing intercultural communication
17. Plurilingual portrait: a reflective task for refugees
18. Plurilingual portrait : a reflective task for volunteers
19. Identifying refugees' most urgent needs
20. Refugees' linguistic profiles
21. First steps in the host country language
22. Finding out more about refugee's own resources and capacities
23. What are the most important things to teach? The refugees' point of view
24. Observing situations in which refugees need to use the target language
25. Selecting situations to focus on in language support – a checklist
26. Selecting communicative functions that are useful for beginners – a checklist
27. A list of expressions for everyday communication
28. Handling initial meetings with refugees: some guidelines

29. Acquiring a very elementary ability to use a new language
30. Preparing an environment for offering language support
31. Mapping the local area: an activity for refugees
32. Starting to socialise
33. Finding out about social services
34. Using health services
35. Shopping: buying clothes
36. Shopping – buying credit for a mobile phone
37. Food – inviting someone to a meal
38. Finding your way in town: the local library
39. Looking for training opportunities
40. Using a mobile phone
41. Looking for a job
42. Finding accommodation
43. Using postal and banking services
44. School and college
45. Socialising with the local community
46. Using apps like Google Maps
47. Ideas for learning basic vocabulary: everyday life
48. Basic vocabulary to express opinions and emotions
49. Planning language support activities in the community
50. Techniques for learning vocabulary
51. Helping refugees to think about their learning
52. Reflecting on your language support work - some ideas
53. Selecting pictures and 'realia' for language activities
54. Organising writing practice at elementary level
55. Selecting and using texts for reading at elementary level
56. Practising language in the real world
57. Breaking the ice and building group confidence

The website will be provided in

Deutsch (de)
Ελληνικά (el)
English (en)
Français (fr)
Italiano (it)
Nederlands (nl)
Türkçe (tr)

A website is currently being developed to host the Council of Europe toolkit.

The practical resources in its three main sections will offer:

- Important information on cultural and language awareness and language learning
- Guidance on finding out about refugees' language needs and planning language support
- Learning activities that range from breaking the ice, learning vocabulary and thinking about language and learning, to a series of scenarios that focus on real-life communication and suggestions for interacting with the local community

The website will be launched in autumn 2017.

Contact: Language Policy Programme / LIAM Project
Education Policy Division / Education Department
Council of Europe, Strasbourg
language.policy@coe.int
www.coe.int/lang-migrants