

Language Policy Division – Migration Division

Preliminary Information Note

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The linguistic integration of adult migrants: Ways of evaluating policy and practice



1. Date and place

Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 24 - 25 June 2010

2. Organisation

The Conference is being held under the joint auspices of the Steering Committee for Education (CDED) and the European Committee on Migration (CDMG). It is jointly organised by the *Language Policy Division*, Directorate Education and Languages (DG IV) and the *Migration Division*, Directorate General of Social Cohesion (DG III).

3. Aims and themes

This event will provide a forum for discussion and sharing experiences on key issues relating to language policy for the linguistic integration of adult migrants, in particular language requirements for residence and citizenship, quality in language training, testing and alternative approaches to assessment.

The conference is a follow-up to the 2008 Seminar on the same topic, where there was a particular focus on Council of Europe principles and specific tools designed to support member states in developing and implementing policy in these areas. The 2008 [seminar report](#) and documents are available on the website of the Language Policy Division (www.coe.int/lang - section Minorities and Migrants). Participants requested a follow up event, and this Conference is designed to respond to that request.

The 2010 Conference will address:

- *language issues related to family reunification, permanent residence, nationality/citizenship, and access to the labour market*, all of which play a crucial role in facilitating integration.
- *evaluation of policy and practice in these areas* - participants will be requested to contribute information concerning how evaluation is carried out, or may in the future be carried out, in their own contexts.

In addition to a number of plenary sessions, there will be opportunities in group discussion to debate and evaluate key issues relating to the effectiveness of policies and practice, and to share responses to the challenges that arise in providing support for the integration of adult migrants. Issues to be addressed will include the role of language support in integration programmes - needs, approach and content, language tests and quality assurance.

In addition, there will be a report on current developments and trends based on the results of a recent survey carried out among Council of Europe member states, following up the one reported on at the 2008 Seminar. The survey aimed to obtain an overview of the main developments and trends concerning language requirements, tests, language training, and use of information and communication technologies (ICT).

Time and a meeting room will be available for an 'open forum' during breaks so that delegates can offer short presentations and discussion can take place on national or regional projects.

4. Participants

Profile

This seminar is intended for national and regional government officials concerned with language policies for adult migrants, and who are concerned with one or more of the following areas:

- access to the labour market
- family reunification
- residence
- nationality/citizenship.

Participants may therefore be nominated from any of the appropriate ministries or other bodies responsible for these matters, e.g. Justice, Integration, Home Affairs, Labour, Social Affairs, Education.

Travel and accommodation expenses

Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Council of Europe for a limited number of participants upon request. Other participants may attend the seminar at their own expense within the limits of available places.

While the conference is open to all member states, priority will be given to covering the costs of delegates from those states which are considered most directly concerned by the topic of the conference.

Participants should be able to work in English or French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during plenary sessions and two of the working groups.

5. Nominations

Authorities are invited to submit their nominations
by **26 April 2010** at the latest to the
Language Policy Division - DGIV
Council of Europe - F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
e-mail : decs-lang@coe.int Fax: (33) (0)3 88 41 27 88

6. Further information

Delegates are advised to book a hotel room as early as possible due to a large number of events taking place in Strasbourg at the end of June including a session of the Parliamentary Assembly. Practical information and an indicative list of hotels are offered on the [website](#) (see section Events / Practical Information)

Further details, including the programme and conference documents will be made available in due course on the Language Policy Division website: www.coe.int/lang

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