

Language Policy Division – Migration Division

Preliminary Information

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

The Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants



Organisation

A Seminar on the linguistic integration of adult migrants will be organised at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 26-27 June 2008.

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

The Seminar is supported by contributions from Ireland and Luxembourg.

Aims and themes

A growing number of member States are defining specific language requirements for persons seeking residence or citizenship status and applicants are increasingly required to take language - and knowledge of society - tests. Requirements relating to language training and tests are usually based on the competence levels of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR) of the Council of Europe and the level(s) required can vary across States.

The seminar is being organised to facilitate broad discussion on language policies for integration, and to examine how the principles contained in the CEFR can best support the requirements of member States, particularly for language testing and training. The seminar will examine the key issues relating to decisions on language requirements, offer guidance on ensuring quality in language training, address the issues and fundamental principles concerning testing and will also explore alternative or complementary approaches. Consideration will be given to how best to respond to the needs of the migrant learners, their situation in the host community, the multilingual reality that surrounds them, and the constraints to which their language learning is subject.

This event will offer member States an opportunity to share experiences in this rapidly developing area and to discuss key issues relating to language policy for integration. Relevant Council of Europe principles and tools will be presented and guidance will be offered with a view to supporting authorities in developing and implementing their policies for the linguistic integration of adult migrants.

A survey was carried out among member states in order to obtain an overview of the main developments and trends concerning language requirements, including tests and language training. An analytical overview will be presented during the Seminar.

Working documents, policy tools and case studies for the seminar will be made available online before the event.

Participants

This seminar is intended for officials concerned with language policies for adult migrants, such as requirements for entry, residence, citizenship, language levels and tests.

Participants will be nominated by relevant authorities.

Contact

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