



## Language Support for Migrants *A Council of Europe Toolkit*

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### Tool 66 – Scenario: Finding accommodation

**Aims: To inform migrants about housing in the host country and enable them to communicate about accommodation.**

#### Communicative situations

- Understand advertisements for apartments and houses to let.
- Understand and be able to give simple information.

#### Materials

- A) Pictures related to housing.
- B) Floorplans of apartments.

#### Language activities

##### Activity 1

Use the pictures related to housing to get learners to talk about:

- Accommodation and housing in their own country.
- Similarities and difference between homes in the host country and in their own countries.

##### Activity 2

Use the pictures to introduce some key-words related to housing (e.g. *flat, apartment, house, bedroom etc.*).

- Ask participants to write these words on cards.
- Check comprehension by asking them to match the words with pictures.

##### Activity 3

Show migrants one of the floorplans and introduce or check their knowledge of keywords by asking e.g. *Where is the kitchen? And the bathroom?* Then ask them to point to these rooms on the floorplan.

##### Activity 4

Ask migrants to draw a floorplan by following simple instructions, e.g. *an apartment with one large bedroom, a kitchen, a big living room, and a very small bathroom.*

### Activity 5

- Hand out the two floorplans and describe one of the apartments.
- Ask learners to indicate which is the apartment you described.
- Then, allowing time for preparation, ask them to describe the other floorplan in a simple way.

### Activity 6

Find some advertisements (with pictures) of flats or houses to let in the area.

- Ask questions such as: *Have you ever tried to find an apartment or house to rent? Where did you look for advertisements? Was it hard/easy to find one? Why? etc.*
- Invite participants to exchange information in pairs about the advertisements: the price, the location, the description of the apartment etc., recycling language from the previous activities.

### Activity 7

Migrants practice language they may need for speaking to an estate agent or a letting agent

A. *Hello, I'm looking for a house/apartment to rent. Do you have anything suitable for me?*

B. *Where do you want to live and what sort of accommodation do you need?*

A. *I'd like an apartment near the centre with two bedrooms.*

B. *We have a number of properties that might suit you – have a look at these details.*

A. *I'll take these away and look at them. I'll come back tomorrow. Thank you.*

## Sample materials

### A) Pictures related to housing



### B) Floorplans of apartments

