



Ad-Hoc Query on migratory structures and on integration approach in the EU Member States

Requested by PL EMN NCP on 17th November 2008

Responses from: AT, BG (Q1), CZ, DE, EE, LV, LT, HU, MT (Q1), NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, UK (16 in Total)

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1. Background Information

The following two ad hoc queries were posed by the Director of Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of Interior and Administration. They should support the discussion on possible reorganisation of migration and integration structures in Poland.

2. Responses¹

		Wider Dissemination? ²	QUERY 1: Ad hoc query on migratory structures in the EU Member States 1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country? 2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)
	Belgium		
	Bulgaria		1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A clear "YES", your response may be circulated further (i.e. to national network members) or "NO" should be added here.

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		<p>Ministry - Ministry of Interior Specific Office for Foreigners - Migration Directorate</p> <p>2. <i>What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>The Migration Directorate is in charge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - control of observing the order and conditions of residence of foreign nationals in the country - the issuance of long-term residence permits; - detention and removal procedures of illegally staying foreigners; - collection and systematization of information, elaboration of comparative analyses about migration processes; - planning, elaboration and proposing of measures for managing migration and decision-making on improving the legal framework on administrative control over foreigners
	Czech Republic	<p>1. <i>Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i> Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>2. <i>What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i> Ministry of the Interior is responsible for international migration (including asylum matters, integration and coordination of implementation of Schengen convention) both at legislative and strategic levels and the level of implementation.</p>
	Denmark	
	Germany	<p>1. <i>Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i> 2. <i>What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>Federal Ministry of the Interior: Preparation and interpretation of legal provisions, enactment of ordinances and general administrative provisions, residence- and passport-related decisions pertaining to measures of interest to the Federation or of fundamental importance, fundamental issues relating to the visa process (together with the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs), supervision of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.</p>

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			<p>Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Fundamental issues relating to the visa process (together with the Federal Ministry of the Interior), supervision of the diplomatic missions abroad authorised by the Ministry to attend to passport and visa issues.</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Economics: Preparation and interpretation of legal provisions, enactment of ordinances and general administrative provisions on access to the labour market for foreigners (with the involvement of the Federal Ministry of the Interior).</p> <p>Interior ministries of the Länder: Supervision of foreigners authorities, residence-related decisions of fundamental importance.</p> <p>Foreigners authorities of the Länder: Implementation of residence-and passport-related measures in Germany:</p> <p>Federal Office for Migration and Refugees: Promotion of integration, asylum process, special (humanitarian) admission processes, promotion of voluntary return, national contact point for authorities of the EU Member States, research.</p> <p>Diplomatic missions abroad: Responsible for passport and visa matters abroad.</p> <p>Federal Employment Agency: Enactment of ordinances and administrative provisions on access to the labour market for foreigners, approval of employment in individual cases.</p> <p>Federal Police: Residence-related measures and passport and visa matters at the borders, measures to terminate residence.</p>
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		<p>Police authorities of the Länder: Measures to terminate residence.</p> <p>Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration: Promotion of the integration of immigrants and co-existence with the host society, provision of information and public relations work, involvement in legislative processes and other matters. (Comparable institutions exist in the respective Länder.)</p>
	<p>Estonia</p>	<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry: Estonian Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>Specific office for foreigners: Migration and Border Policy Department</p> <p>Other: Estonian Citizenship and Migration Board</p> <p><i>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>The main authority coordinating the migration and asylum policy in Estonia is the <u>Ministry of the Interior</u>. The main department what is involved in migration issues in the Ministry of the Interior and its area of administration is:</p> <p><u>Migration and border policy department</u>, what is developing the policies for aliens, citizenship and migration, asylum, issuing identity documents for Estonian citizens and aliens and prevention and combating illegal immigration and organises their realisation as well as developing visa policies together with the relevant ministries and carrying them out.</p> <p><u>Citizenship and Migration Board (CMB)</u> is a state authority in the area of government of the Ministry of the Interior. The main tasks of the CMB are: the issue of identity documents to residents of Estonia; receipt and processing of applications for acquiring and restoring Estonian citizenship, as well as for exempting from Estonian citizenship, receipt and processing of applications for residence and work permits of aliens who wish to settle or are living in Estonia, and making decisions on whether to grant or refuse to grant residence and work permits;</p>

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			processing of asylum applications and making decisions on whether to grant international protection or refuse to grant it; confirming visa invitations and extending the allowed period of stay in Estonia; processing of misdemeanours committed by aliens illegally staying or working in Estonia, issuing of precepts to leave Estonia or to apply for a residence permit in Estonia, organising the expulsion of aliens from Estonia; making decisions on the requests of foreign countries for the readmission of Estonian citizens and aliens whose habitual residence is in Estonia.
	Ireland		
	Greece		
	Spain		
	France		
	Italy		
	Cyprus		
	Latvia		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>Specific office for foreigners: Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs</p> <p>Other: State Border Guard</p> <p><i>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>Principle purpose of Ministry of the Interior is to implement the common policy regarding matters of border guarding and migration. The Ministry's central apparatus coordinates activities of institutions subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior, develops and implements public policy in the fields of safeguarding of state border, tackling issues regarding registration of private individuals, migration control and citizenship.</p> <p>The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs is a state institution under the supervision of the Ministry of</p>

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		<p>Interior of Republic of Latvia and is responsible for issue of identity documents and travel documents, maintenance of the Population Register, implementation of state migration policy, including development and implementation of repatriation and asylum policy.</p> <p>State Border Guard is a state institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Latvia. State Border Guard is armoured and it's main function is to safeguard the state's border's inviolability as well as prevention of illegal migration.</p>
	<p>Lithuania</p>	<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry: Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania; Migration department under the Ministry of the Interior</p> <p><i>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>Ministry of the Interior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organizes state's regulation of migration; - organizes the system of management of documents proving personal identity, management of immigration documents; - implements visa policy of the Republic of Lithuania; - organizes adoption of decisions on citizenship issues; - implements the policy of state borders' security; - assures the prevention of crime and public security. <p>Migration department under the Ministry of the Interior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - takes care of implementation and security of new identity documents and the compliance thereof with the European Union standards; - organizes the issuance of identity documents to citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, citizens of any other foreign states and stateless persons; - analyzes migration processes and execute control over them; - examines the documents of temporary residence permits in the Republic of Lithuania, permanent residence

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			<p>permits, residence permits for the citizens of the European Union, and takes decisions under these matters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - according to the laws examines and determines if there is reason to believe that a marriage between a foreign citizen and an alien living in the Republic of Lithuania is fictitious; - under its' competence deals with asylum matters, makes decisions on asylum questions and organizes the implementation of these decisions, issues and changes aliens' registration certificates; - examines the documents for getting/canceling Lithuanian visa, makes the decisions under these matters, issues/cancels visas of the Republic of Lithuania; - analyses the reasons of illegal migration and, together with the State Border Guard Service and Police Department implements the prevention of illegal migration; - collects, stores, analyses and summarizes records about forgery of documents of the Republic of Lithuania citizenship; - administers the data of Aliens register; - participates in arranging and implementing international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania; - consults and offers practical assistance under matters of Lithuanian citizenship for the diplomatic missions of Lithuania and consular institutions abroad; - implements other tasks determined by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania. <p>Institutional structure: see attachment:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  lenkija_final.doc </div>
	Luxembourg		
	Hungary		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry: Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement</p> <p>Specific Office for Foreigners: Office of Immigration and Nationality</p> <p>Other: Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs,</p>

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		<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Municipalities and the Ministry of Health, Police Headquarters</p> <p>2. <i>What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>In Hungary it is the Department of Coordination in Justice and Home Affairs and Migration (in the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement) has the main responsibility for the implementation of the governmental migration policy. Within this competence this department is responsible for the establishment and representation of the Hungarian position in the working groups working within the Council of the European Union and in the Commission. This department also drafts the legal sources concerning immigration and supervises its implementation by the Office of Immigration and Nationality. Concerning integration, we are responsible for the coordination of governmental measures related to the promotion of the integration of foreigners.</p> <p>On the field of integration, several ministries are involved in the implementation of legal rules applying for foreigners, for example the Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Municipalities and the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>The <u>Office of Immigration and Nationality</u> has an overall responsibility the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decision-making in admission procedures (visas, resident permits and permanent resident permits); - decision-making in asylum procedures, implementing the Dublin regulation - handling illegal immigration (decision-making and implementation of removal, obligation to leave the country, removal by deportation) - reception of asylum-seekers, beneficiaires of international protection, persons authorized to stay - decision-making in naturalization procedures - operating the Country of Origin Information System and database, the central visa, asylum and immigration register - delegating International Liason Officers into third-countries
	<p>Malta</p>	<p>1. <i>Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry: - Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs</p>

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		<p>- Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs unit (Legal Migration) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Residence permits)</p> <p>2. <i>What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>The Citizenship and Expatriates (Legal Migration) is within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is responsible for citizenship matters, and residence permits (<i>since 2007</i>).</p> <p>The Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs is responsible for Immigration and Asylum:</p> <p>The following entities under the responsibility of the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs are involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police, • Detention Service, • the reception of Irregular Immigrants under the Organisation for the Integration and Welfare of Asylum Seekers. • Office of the Refugee Commissioner • Refugee Appeals Board • Immigration Appeals Board
	<p>Netherlands</p>	<p>1. <i>Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry: Ministry of Justice</p> <p>2. <i>What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p>

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			<p>In the current Cabinet that took office on 22 February 2007 the State Secretary of Justice, within the limits of the policies laid down by the Minister of Justice, is entrusted with the migration and asylum policy.³ The Minister of Justice fulfils the tasks associated with the Netherlands Nationality Act (<i>Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap</i>) (naturalisation) and with border control. The visa policy is the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The formulation of general official notices, which describe the situation in the major countries of origin of asylum seekers, and individual official notices, which are used to check facts or documents presented by asylum seekers for correctness and authenticity, also come under his responsibility.⁴ Not all foreign nationals who come to the Netherlands are also allowed to work in the Netherlands. The Minister of Social Affairs and Employment is responsible for the admission of foreign nationals to the Dutch labour market.</p> <p>A large number of organisations play a role in the implementation of the policy for asylum and migration. Below follows an overview of the main organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), which is an agency of the Ministry of Justice, is responsible for the implementation of the Aliens Act and the Netherlands Nationality Act. The IND evaluates all applications from foreign nationals who stay or want to stay in the Netherlands or become Dutch citizens. On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the IND also plays a role in the evaluation of visa applications.⁵ - The Repatriation & Departure Service (<i>Dienst Terugkeer & Vertrek (DT&V)</i>), which is also an agency of this Ministry, has been responsible since 1 January 2007 for humanely and professionally promoting the departure of foreign nationals who have been ordered to leave the Netherlands.⁶ - The National Agency of Correctional Institutions (<i>Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen (DJI)</i>), which is also an agency of the Ministry of Justice, is responsible, among other things, for the implementation of the freedom-restricting measures for the purpose of deporting foreign nationals from the Netherlands, including detention (the so-called aliens detention). - The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (<i>Centraal Orgaan opvang Asielzoekers (COA)</i>) is an
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³Ministerie van Algemene Zaken. (2007) *Samen werken, samen leven: Beleidsprogramma Kabinet Balkenende IV 2007-2011* (Working together, living together: 2007-2011 policy programme of the Balkenende IV Cabinet), The Hague: Ministerie van Algemene Zaken.

⁴De Nationale ombudsman. (2007) *Factsheet individuele ambtsberichten in asielzaken* (Fact sheet on individual official notices in asylum cases), retrieved 2 March 2007 from www.ombudsman.nl.

⁵Kuijjer, A. (Ed.). (2002) *Nederlands vreemdelingenrecht* (Dutch aliens law), The Hague: Boom Legal publishers.

⁶DT&V (2007) *Dienst Terugkeer & Vertrek* (Repatriation & Departure Service), retrieved 8 November 2008 from www.dienstterugkeerenvertrek.nl.

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		<p>independent administrative body that is financed by the Minister of Justice. The COA is responsible for the reception of asylum seekers.⁷</p> <p>- The Centre for Work and Income (<i>Centrum voor Werk en Inkomen (CWI)</i>) is an independent administrative body that operates by order of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. Among other things, the Minister has charged the CWI with issuing work permits to foreign nationals who want to work in the Netherlands.⁸</p> <p>The Royal Constabulary (<i>Koninklijke Marechaussee (KMar)</i>), which is part of the Armed Forces, and the regional police forces play a role in border control and the supervision of foreign nationals. The municipalities are responsible for providing accommodation for holders of an asylum residence permit and also play a role in the processing of naturalisation applications. In 2007 the municipalities also had a front desk function for people submitting applications for residence permits (with the exception of asylum applications), but in the second half of 2007 this task was gradually taken over by the IND.⁹</p> <p>A number of non-government organisations are also active in the area of asylum and aliens law. The most important of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which plays a role in the voluntary return migration and/or through-migration of foreign nationals; the Dutch Council for Refugees (<i>VluchtelingenWerk Nederland</i>), which provides practical support for asylum seekers; the NIDOS Foundation, a nationally operating guardianship institution, specifically for unaccompanied, minor refugees and asylum seekers; and, Asylum Seekers' Legal Aid Foundation (<i>Stichting Rechtsbijstand Asiel (SRA)</i>), which provides legal aid for asylum seekers.¹⁰
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⁷COA. (2005) *Over COA* (About COA), retrieved 1 November 2005 from www.coa.nl.

⁸CWI (2008) *Over CWI: Taken* (About CWI: Tasks), retrieved 2 January 2008 from www.werk.nl.

⁹Decision of the State Secretary for Justice dated 4 October 2007, number 2007/29, with respect to changes of the Aliens Act implementation guidelines 2000, *Netherlands Government Gazette* 198, p. 70.

¹⁰A decision was made in 2006 to organize legal aid to asylum seekers differently; this is due to be finalised in 2008. The Netherlands Foundation for Legal Aid in Asylum Cases (*Stichting Rechtsbijstand Asiel Nederland (SRAN)*) will be discontinued, and its tasks will be taken over by the legal profession. The organisation and coordination of legal aid to asylum seekers will become the responsibility of the Legal Aid Council (*Raad voor Rechtsbijstand*) (*Parliamentary Papers II* 2006/07, 19 637, no. 1108 (Letter)). Most of the regional SRAN offices were closed in 2007.

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	Austria	No	<p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country? 2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</p> <p>1) Ministry</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 403 1834 518"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 403 1225 518">Ministry of Interior</td> <td data-bbox="1225 403 1834 518"> - Political responsibility - Second instance for issuance of settlement permits </td> </tr> </table> <p>2) Specific office for foreigners</p> <p>In Austria no specific office (i.e. "Immigration Office") exists for foreigners. Although legislation in the field of migration belongs to the competence of the federal state, the execution of the same laws belongs to the competence of the provinces.</p> <p>In terms of asylum procedure, the Federal Asylum Office (Bundesasylamt) and the Asylum Court are the most important institutions. The Federal Asylum Office decides about asylum applications as first instance, while the Asylum Court (Asylgerichtshof) acts as second instance.</p> <p>3) Other</p> <p>Migration</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 1034 1834 1404"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1034 1225 1147">Public Employment Service Austria (Arbeitsmarktsevice)</td> <td data-bbox="1225 1034 1834 1147">- issuance of work permits</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1147 1225 1259">Governors of the Provinces (Landeshauptmann)</td> <td data-bbox="1225 1147 1834 1259">- issuance of settlement and residence permits</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1259 1225 1404">Municipalities and Regional Administrative Authorities (Magistrate and Bezirkshauptmanschafte) (i.e in Vienna the Municipal Department for</td> <td data-bbox="1225 1259 1834 1404">- issuance of settlement and residence permits mandated by the Governors of the Provinces -</td> </tr> </table>	Ministry of Interior	- Political responsibility - Second instance for issuance of settlement permits	Public Employment Service Austria (Arbeitsmarktsevice)	- issuance of work permits	Governors of the Provinces (Landeshauptmann)	- issuance of settlement and residence permits	Municipalities and Regional Administrative Authorities (Magistrate and Bezirkshauptmanschafte) (i.e in Vienna the Municipal Department for	- issuance of settlement and residence permits mandated by the Governors of the Provinces -
Ministry of Interior	- Political responsibility - Second instance for issuance of settlement permits										
Public Employment Service Austria (Arbeitsmarktsevice)	- issuance of work permits										
Governors of the Provinces (Landeshauptmann)	- issuance of settlement and residence permits										
Municipalities and Regional Administrative Authorities (Magistrate and Bezirkshauptmanschafte) (i.e in Vienna the Municipal Department for	- issuance of settlement and residence permits mandated by the Governors of the Provinces -										

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			<p>Immigration and Citizenship, Registry Office, MA 35)</p>	
			<p>Diplomatic authority abroad</p>	<p>- issuance of visas abroad</p>
			<p>Asylum</p>	
			<p>Initial Reception Centres (EAST)</p>	<p>- determining the admission of an asylum seeker to the substantive asylum procedure</p>
	<p>Poland</p>		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry: Ministry of Interior and Administration (www.mswia.gov.pl) Specific office for foreigners: Office for Foreigners (www.udsc.gov.pl)</p> <p><i>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>Minister of Interior and Administration is competent in the fields of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - border protection; - border traffic control; - coordination of activities related to Polish migration policy (via migration Policy Department). <p>With this regard, the Minister supervises the activities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Border Guards, - Police and National Center for Criminal Information, - Head of the Office for Foreigners. <p>In addition, the Minister chairs the meetings of Inter-ministerial Team on Migrations, where other major stakeholders are represented (among others, the Ministries of Labour and Social Policy, of Foreign Affairs, of Finance; Central Statistical Office, etc.)</p>	

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			<p>The Head of the Office for Foreigners, supervised by the Minister of Interior and Administration is the central governmental authority with regard to, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Entry, transit, residence and departure of foreigners from the territory of Poland (the Head of the Office coordinates activities carried out by the first instance authorities – voivods (governors of 16 provinces) in relation to residence permits, expulsion, carriers’ liability. In case of appeals from the decisions undertaken by the voivods in these matters, the Head of the Office acts as the second instance authority); 2) Granting and withdrawing refugee status, asylum, subsidiary protection, tolerated stay and temporary protection (all determination procedures are carried out in the Office [1st instance – the second instance belongs to Council on Refugees]) and cooperation under Dublin Convention and Dublin II Regulation; 3) Organisation and management of reception centres for asylum seekers; 4) Management of the central information system on foreigners (the system contains data of foreigners who became subjects to Polish procedure for granting the refugee status as well as procedures concerning the residence titles, issuance of the documents, removal orders or expulsions. It also includes the register of foreigners whose residence on the territory of the Republic of Poland is undesirable).
	<p>Portugal</p>		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p> <p>Specific office for foreigners: Borders and Aliens Office</p> <p><i>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>The Borders and Aliens Service is a Public Body within the Home Office, responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control of persons in border posts - Control the permanence and activities of foreigners throughout the country; - Investigating crimes that assist illegal immigration and other associated crimes; - Granting authorisation for residence; - Procedures on administrative expulsion and readmission; - Instructing asylum applications.
	<p>Romania</p>		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i></p>

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			<p>Ministry: Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform Specific office for foreigners: Romanian Immigration Office</p> <p>2. <i>What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>The Romanian Immigration Office has as main responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulates and decides upon granting the legal right of staying for third countries nationals • decides, according to law's provisions, upon granting of the work permit for the purpose of obtaining the right of staying for work purpose; • regulates the staying and residence in Romania of EU/EEA, as well as of family members • decides upon granting a form of protection on the part of the Romanian state to persons in need of international protection; • manages the National System for Aliens Registration, ensuring the custody, maintenance and performance of the registrations, according to the provisions of the law • sends and analyse take charge/take back requests and operates, in collaboration with the General Inspectorate of Border Police, the transfer of the asylum seekers to third safe countries • coordinates the activity of public institutions, authorities of public administration and non-governmental organisations that activates in the field of social integration of aliens beneficiaries of a form of protection, of the legal right of staying or are EU/EEA citizens; • co-operates with other MoIRA subordinated bodies and public institutions with competencies in the field of migration and asylum, and collaborates with citizens, in the conditions established by Law; • co-operates with similar foreign institutions and with other international bodies with competencies in the field of migration, asylum and social integration of aliens, on the basis of the international arrangements Romania is part to; • exercise any other attribution granted by Law. <p>Among the medium and long time objectives of the Office are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an asylum system of protection based on criteria of efficient and qualitative procedures in the field, so as the continuous approximation of the EU Acquis (including the provisions of "Priorities of the Solidarity and Management of the Migration Flows Programme for 2007-2013") by permanently ensuring the observance of the fundamental human rights, as well as preventing and countering illegal migration within
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			<p>the EU;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining the Romanian capacity to commit its responsibilities and obligations as EU Member State • to maximize the positive aspects of immigration and to limit the negative ones for our country and, subsequently, for Romanian citizens. For that reason the Office will act to clear establish the categories of migrants who can be admitted and can stay on the national territory, according to the national interests but in correlation with the policies and programmatic documents adopted at European Union level, as well as guarantying the migrants' rights • to decrease the contribution of the illegal factor within the migratory phenomenon by preventing the immigration of those categories of persons who don't satisfy the conditions stipulated by law, as well as combating illegal stay, illegal work and migrants trafficking. • to secure free access to the national asylum procedure while respecting the principle of non-refoulment according to international standards enforced and ratified by Romania through the treaties and conventions to which is party • to back up for an active involvement of aliens residing or having legal stay on the Romanian soil to the country's economic, social and cultural life preserving in the same time their cultural identity • to prepare in the view of the accession to Schengen area • to take on an active role for regional and international cooperation in the field of migration and asylum and to promote the development of effective asylum and migration systems in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe
	<p>Slovenia</p>		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</i> Ministry of the Interior</p> <p><i>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</i></p> <p>Regarding the immigration issues, Ministry of the Interior is responsible for all asylum, integration and illegal migration issues. Ministry of the Interior also decides on appeals relating to the citizenship, residence of an alien in Slovenia, border control, refusing aliens at the border, issuing visas at the border, annulling visas, removing aliens, permitting a stay in the country, and for other measures and decisions relating to aliens at the border and inside the country.</p>

EMN Ad-Hoc Query: Migratory structures/integration approach

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	Slovak Republic		
	Finland		
	Sweden		<p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</p> <p>Ministry: Ministry of Justice Specific office for foreigners: Swedish Migration Board</p> <p>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</p> <p>The Migration Board is the central administration within migration. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the whole migration chain functions efficiently. The Board makes decisions on work permits, residence permits, asylum and citizenship. The Board is responsible from the border through to citizenship or repatriation.</p>
	United Kingdom		<p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to immigration issues / structures in your country?</p> <p>The UK Border Agency, which is an agency of the Home Office (government department)</p> <p>2. What is the scope of competence of this institution(s)? (briefly)</p> <p>The UK Border Agency is responsible for securing the United Kingdom borders and controlling migration in the United Kingdom. We manage border control for the United Kingdom, enforcing immigration and customs regulations. We also consider applications for permission to enter or stay in the United Kingdom, citizenship and asylum. See: http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/</p>

		Wider Dissemination? ¹¹	<p>QUERY 2: Ad hoc query on integration approach in the EU Member States</p> <p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</p>
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¹¹ A clear "Yes", your response may be circulated further (i.e. to national network members) or "No" should be added here.

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			<p>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</p> <p>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</p> <p>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</p> <p>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</p>
	Belgium		
	Bulgaria		
	Czech Republic		<p>1. <i>Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>The leading competence is in the hands of the Ministry of Interior (Department for Asylum and Migration Policy).</p> <p>2. <i>What does the "integration package" offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>Integration programmes for foreigners are realized as a part of projects (for example language courses, social and legal counselling, assistance with entrance into the labour market, assistance with communication with local and state authorities, social-culture orientation courses, etc.) provided by NGOs and local authorities and subsidized from the state budget, EU funds and other resources. Furthermore, persons granted asylum are included in the State integration programme, which includes a one-time offer of integration housing, language courses, and help with securing employment.</p> <p>3. <i>Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p> <p>In general, third country nationals who reside in the territory of Czech Republic legally at least for a period of one year are the target group of integration policies in the Czech Republic. Since the year 2009, the integration measures will be addressed to newcomers from third countries as well.</p> <p>Persons granted asylum can benefit from all integration measures in the framework of the State Integration Programme.</p> <p>4. <i>Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p>

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			<p>The participation of persons in integration programs and courses for third country nationals is voluntary (except language examinations for granting of a permanent residence status - see below). A person may be included in the programme only on the basis of his/her request.</p> <p><i>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>At present, there are no mandatory integration requirements that one has to fulfil when applying for any of the forms of residence permits.</p> <p>However, from January 1, 2009 new regulations come into force. Under these regulations, applicants for permanent residence will have to supply a document issued by an authorised educational institution that proves a required level of knowledge (corresponding to the A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) of the Czech language. Exceptions for certain vulnerable groups exist. The first examination is paid for by the state.</p>
	Denmark		
	Germany		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>Policy on foreigners, asylum and integration is a key issue for the <u>Federal Ministry of the Interior</u>. The Federal Government is working hard on behalf of a joint European policy on refugees and migration. The cornerstones of its policy on foreigners are integrating foreigners who have lived here for a long time, improving international cooperation and controlling further immigration.</p> <p>The <u>Federal Office for Migration and Refugees</u> (BAMF) is the superior federal authority within the remit of the Federal Ministry of the Interior responsible for asylum applications, protection of refugees, international tasks, promotion of integration and voluntary returns. In order to optimize performance, the BAMF maintains an information centre on asylum and migration containing a comprehensive collection of information on countries of origin and transit, world-wide refugee and migratory movements and their causes. These resources are available to help BAMF staff carry out their tasks efficiently and effectively.</p>

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		<p>Due to the fact, that Germany is a Federal State, the fundamental objective of the integration policy of the 16 Federal Regions is to enable the relevant immigrants to take part in the social, political, cultural and commercial life of their new home on an equal footing. For this purpose, the Federal Regions are, within their areas of jurisdiction, not only creating the legal framing conditions but also making available funding from out of their budgets. The respective points of emphasis within each Federal Region may differ somewhat, but they also exhibit parallels.</p> <p>Beside this, other ministries (e.g. for Labour and Social Affairs, for Education and Research, for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Young Persons) are also offering integration measures for migrants and have their own budgets for this purpose.</p> <p><i>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>The “integration package” essentially contains three elements: an integration course, consultation and integration projects.</p> <p>The integration course comprises a basic and an advanced language course with 300 teaching units each, aimed to develop sufficient language skills, and an orientation course of 45 teaching units, aimed to develop knowledge of the legal order, the culture and the history of Germany. With 645 teaching units in total, the integration course is set to provide language training up to the competence level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Level B1 of the CEFR is considered to be the first step of independent use of a language. As a rule, this level is sufficient to deal with most situations of everyday life without assistance. Language competence at level B1 is confirmed by passing the standardized language test “Zertifikat Deutsch”.</p> <p>A national course system of approximately 2,000 parties accredited to provide the course makes sure that interested parties can find a place on the course, promptly and locally. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees has only been in possession of statistical data since it took over this function when the German Immigrations Act came into force on January 01, 2005. In each of the respective financial years 2006 and 2007, approximately 140 million euros were available for the implementation of the integration courses, and in 2008 approximately 155 million euros are available.</p> <p>There are special integration courses (comprising 945 teaching units) for parents, young persons, women and</p>
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		<p>illiterates, as well as intensive courses comprising 430 teaching units for participants who are capable of attaining the objective of the integration course more quickly by reason of their previous knowledge. In addition, with the coming into force of the amended Integration Course Regulation on December 08, 2007, a support course for immigrants of long standing has been created comprising 945 teaching units (for those who speak German fluently but incorrectly).</p> <p>As an integral ingredient of the integration course, it is intended that the 45 teaching units of the orientation course should awaken in immigrants an understanding of the German political system. In particular, the significance of the democratic constitutional structure based on the principle of liberty, of the party system, of the federal structure of Germany, of the theory of the welfare state, of equal rights, of tolerance and of freedom of religion should be imparted. The objective is to make it easier for immigrants to orient themselves within German society, and to create opportunities for them to identify with it.</p> <p>Co-ordination and Consultation Mechanisms</p> <p>The integration courses are not the only element that has constituted an integrated nationwide mechanism for providing initial support for newly-arrived immigrants – the same can also be said of the restructuring of the system for providing initial advice on migration. This demand-oriented, case by case provision of advice at the beginning of the subject's stay in the country is intended to initiate the process of integration and to put immigrants in a position to structure their lives within Germany themselves.</p> <p>Advice on migration for newly-arrived immigrants up to the age of 27 is handled by the Youth Migration Services (YMS), working through the Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Young Persons. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees takes over the Migration Advice Service (MAS) in respect of the remaining immigrants, assigning commissions to the German Welfare Associations. Since 2005, the number of persons given advice by the MAS has been averaging out at around 50,000 persons per quarter. In the budget for 2005, approximately 28 million euros of public funding were made available to the MAS - in 2006 and 2007 respectively, approximately 27 million euros, and in 2008 approximately 26 million euros.</p> <p>Social activities</p> <p>In 2008, in collaboration with federations, associations, foundations, initiatives, migrant organisations and official bodies on the state level, the regional level and the local authority level, the Federal Office for Migration and</p>
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		<p>Refugees supports up to 500 projects, related both to integration measures with no age restriction and to measures targeted specifically at young person. Since 2005, approximately 22 million euros have been made available for these purposes each year. The emphasis here is on providing support integration projects with a resource-oriented approach to the reinforcement of skills and abilities acquired by the immigrants in their countries of origin.</p> <p>There also exist special low-threshold seminars aimed at the integration of foreign women (so-called “women’s courses”), designed to make allowances for the specific circumstances of female immigrants. Women have a key role to play in the success of the integration process, because it is mothers, first and foremost, who pass on their social and cultural imprints to their children.</p> <p>The Federal Republic is also supporting integration projects designed to prevent addiction, violence and criminality. These projects include measures for young immigrants with behavioural problems. Social educational assistance is provided in order to encourage them to seek outreach centres and to learn about available treatments. This is accomplished through increasing the involvement of the parents in the work of the project and through encouraging them to develop their parenting skills.</p> <p><i>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p> <p>The Immigration Act guarantees a uniform intergration programme, regulated by federal law, to all newly arrived third-country nationals who reside in Germany on a legal and stable basis.</p> <p><i>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>Principally, participation in integration projects and counselling programmes is voluntary. Also, all immigrants residing in Germany on a legal and stable basis, are free to participate in the integration course. If a minimum level of German language skills is not reached, the Aliens’ Authority obliges the foreigner to participate in the integration course. The bodies responsible for social services can also require participation in the integration course, if the foreigner in question receives unemployment benefits. Additionally, long-term residents in Germany may be obliged to participate, if a special need for integration is established, e.g. if parents of children in school age are not able to communicate in basic German.</p> <p><i>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a</i></p>
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		<p><i>residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>Pursuant to the Immigration Act, a connection between residence title and integration efforts exists only when it comes to granting the settlement permit (<i>Niederlassungserlaubnis</i>). This residence title, being of a permanent nature, can only be granted if the foreigner has an adequate knowledge of the German language and if he or she possesses a basic knowledge of the legal and social system and the way of life in Germany. These requirements are fulfilled with the successful participation of an integration course.</p> <p>Since the Immigration Act entered into force, access to language assistance is no longer tied solely to the legal status of an immigrant, but rather to the actual and concrete need for integration. At the same time, legal entitlement to participation in an integration course was established for the following persons: newly arrived foreigners who were granted a residence permit after January 1, 2005 for the first time and who are living permanently in Germany, repatriates of German ancestry who entered the Federal territory after January 1, 2005 or who, before January 1, 2005, had not yet participated in a language course pursuant to the Social Act III. Additionally, also Union citizens and foreigners who have been living in Germany for some time, may be admitted to these courses.</p> <p>With the introduction of new legislation on August 19, 2007 to implement EU directives on residence and asylum, German citizens with insufficient knowledge of the German language and a special need for integration may now also be admitted to integration courses. Taken together, the Immigration Act of 2005 and the amendments of 2007 constituted important steps to facilitate access to the integration courses for a wider group of persons with a migratory background needing assistance in language acquisition.</p>
	<p>Estonia</p>	<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>Office of the Minister for Population and Ethnic Affairs</p> <p><i>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>In Estonia we don't have such “package”, but at that moment Estonian government is working out the integration strategy for adult third country nationals for they better integration to Estonian society.</p>

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		<p>At the moment we are able to provide Estonian language courses and adaptation courses (the courses are free of charge). Estonian Migration Foundation has organized (in collaboration with Estonian Labour Market Board and NGO Civil Training Centre) since 02.04.2007 a project called “New Home”, that offers languages courses (6x 8 h) and adaption coursed (6 x8 h) for returnees and new immigrants. This course is free of charge to the participants (there is a registration fee 250 kroons/per person or 500 kroons/per family for these participants who started they courses on 27.09.2008). For more information visit www.migfond.ee .</p> <p>Integration Foundation is an NGO, who has based its activities on the Estonian national integration programmes, which are worked out by the Office of the Minister for Population and Ethnic Affairs. Integration Foundation is organizing different language and civic courses for new immigrants and also for these people who have lived in Estonia for a long time. More information about these projects you can find on www.meis.ee and Office of the Minister for Population www.rahvastikuminister.ee .</p> <p><i>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i> The above-mentioned courses are mainly for new-immigrants but if foreigner will need any assistance then the local governmental institution will help him, if possible.</p> <p><i>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i> The participation is voluntary.</p> <p><i>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i> According to the Aliens Act for obtaining a long-term resident residence permit, an alien must pass the elementary language exam (required as a condition of integration from 1 June 2007). Freed from the requirement of passing the language exam are: - individuals below the age of 15 and over the age of 65; - individuals who obtained their basic, secondary or higher education in Estonian; - adults with limited legal competence; - individuals incapable of passing the exam due to their health (although if an individual is capable of passing a certain part of the exam, requirements in this case shall be decided upon by an expert committee as per the procedure for passing the citizenship exam).</p>
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	Ireland		
	Greece		
	Spain		
	France		
	Italy		
	Cyprus		
	Latvia		<p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</p> <p>According to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers till the December 31, 2008, leading institution regarding to the immigrant integration issues is the Secretariat of the Special Assignment minister for Social Integration (hereafter – the Secretariat). Taking into account the decision of government to reorganize above mentioned institution and to add its functions to the Ministry for Children and Family affairs, issues about the immigrant integration will be overtaken by the new institution – Ministry of Children, Family and society integration affairs ministry.</p> <p>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</p> <p>Secretariat is responsible state institution for the development of the policy planning documents regarding immigrant’s integration issues (policy guidelines on society integration in Latvia, concept paper regarding immigrant’s integration). Policy planning document will contain the description of the current problems and will define integration activities and measures. The Secretariat is also leading state institution responsible for the implementation of the activities stated in the European Integration fund for 3rd country nationals. Main activities implemented within this fund will be – development of national and regional integration centers, development of special integration programs for immigrants, development of special education programs for adolescents of immigrants, training activities on intercultural competence and work with 3rd country nationals for civil servants, teachers and other stakeholders, as well as different studies on immigrant’s integration issues in Latvia and development of recommendations for policy makers.</p> <p>Right now integration package is linked to the residence permits and the holders of the permanent residence permits and the long-term resident status are obliged to take Latvian language test and have access to publicly</p>

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		<p>funded social support and health care, access to publicly funded education.</p> <p>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</p> <p>The holders of the permanent residence permits and the long-term resident status are obliged to take Latvian language test and have access to publicly funded social support and health care, access to publicly funded education.</p> <p>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</p> <p>The holders of the permanent residence permits and the long-term resident status are obliged to take Latvian language test.</p> <p>Participation in all other integration measures is voluntary. Planned integration activities for immigrants for the period 2007. – 2013. are included in the multiannual program of the European integration fund for third country nationals.</p> <p>Detailed information (in Latvian language) can be found:</p> <p>http://www.integracija.gov.lv/doc_upl/Daudzgradu%20programma_3v.pdf</p> <p>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</p> <p> PL_migration and integration_2.doc</p>
	<p>Lithuania</p>	<p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</p> <p>Ministry of Social Security and Labour</p>

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		<p>2. <i>What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>As of today there is no “integration package” for foreigners. Integration is only provided for refugees (education and training of Lithuanian language; employment assistance; accommodation; social security; health services).</p> <p>3. <i>Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p> <p>Foreigners who received asylum according to the “Law on the legal status of the aliens”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) who received refugee status; b) who received subsidiary protection; c) who received temporary protection. <p>4. <i>Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>N/A</p> <p>5. <i>If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>A temporary residence permit may be issued or replaced to an alien if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the alien has retained his right to citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania in the manner prescribed by the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania ; 2) the alien is a person of Lithuanian descent; 3) is a case of family reunification; 4) the alien intends to take up employment in the Republic of Lithuania; 5) the alien intends to engage in lawful activities in the Republic of Lithuania; 6) the alien intends to get access to education, to study at an educational establishment, to participate in
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		<p>internship, training, to take part in vocational training;</p> <p>7) the alien has been put under guardianship/curatorship or has been appointed guardian/curator;</p> <p>8) the alien may not be expelled from the Republic of Lithuania according to the procedure established by this Law on the legal status of aliens;</p> <p>9) the alien has been granted subsidiary protection in the Republic of Lithuania in the manner prescribed by the Law on the legal status of aliens;</p> <p>10) the alien has been granted temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania in the manner prescribed by the Law on the legal status of aliens;</p> <p>11) the alien is unable to leave because he is in a dangerous state of health and needs immediate emergency medical aid. The list of such states of health shall be drawn up by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania;</p> <p>12) he shall be allowed to remain in the Republic of Lithuania as he is or has been a victim of human trafficking and cooperates with the pre-trial investigation body or with the court in the fight against trafficking in human beings or in combating the offences of trafficking in human beings. The provision shall be applied only to adult aliens;</p> <p>13) he intends to carry out research and/or experimental development works as the researcher under employment contract concluded with the research institution registered in the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>An alien is issued a temporary residence permit provided that he has been granted subsidiary protection in the Republic of Lithuania upon having filed an asylum application. An alien who has been granted subsidiary protection in the Republic of Lithuania is issued a temporary residence permit for a one-year period.</p> <p>An alien is issued a temporary residence permit provided that he has been granted temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania. A temporary residence permit is issued to an alien for the period set by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for which temporary protection in the Republic of Lithuania has been granted.</p> <p>An alien is issued a permanent residence permit if he has been granted refugee status in the Republic of Lithuania.</p>
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	Luxembourg		
	Hungary		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>In Hungary it is the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement which has the main responsibility for the harmonization of governmental measures related to the promotion of the integration of foreigners and for the coordination of implementation of such measures.</p> <p>For enhancing its commitment to the integration of foreigners, the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement set up a <u>working group dealing with integration</u> issues in June 2008. All the relevant stakeholders dealing with integration issues have been taking part in the work of this expert team, including international organizations (UNHCR, IOM, Hungarian Helsinki Committee), other ministries (Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Municipalities), the Office of Immigration and Nationality, the Central Statistical Office and its research institutes and relevant NGO's (Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants, Demos Foundation). The working group gives an excellent opportunity to discuss all the important issues in the field of integration, to coordinate the measures taken in this field and to harmonize the management of all the national and European funds avoiding overlapping among them. It is also a forum for distribution and discussion of the documents of the National Contact Points on Integration.</p> <p><i>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>For the time being integration package is not offered for legally resident third-country nationals. The reason of the lack of overall integration policy is that the proportion of migrants in relation to the host population is very low (1, 74%) comparing with other European countries¹², according to the data of the Central Statistical Office on 1st of January there were 174 694 legally resident migrant in territory of Hungary, from which 90 714 were EU citizens and <u>83 982 third country nationals</u>. The data show that Hungary is considered to be a transit country in which foreigners usually stay for a short period and travel towards the Western countries.</p> <p><i>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p>

¹² According to the current statistical data of the Central Statistical Office there are 174 694 immigrants legally residing in Hungary (data of 1st of January 2008)

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			<p>Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are entitled to several language training facilities. Refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to free language training course of 520 hours which can be pursued on intermediate and advanced level. Free language training course can be pursued in 2 years from the date of granting of international protection status in the institution assigned by the refugee authority. Beside the language training opportunities, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to free language exam both at intermediate and at advanced level. They are also entitled to free special pre-school language training course for being able to attend elementary school, secondary school, trade school, vocational school, boarding school, school for the handicapped, elementary art school, pedagogical special services if they are subject to mandatory schooling. Persons belonging to these groups can also participate in pre-integration courses which contain civic orientation programme beside the language course. They are also entitled to several benefits and provisions.</p> <p><i>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>For the time being introduction programmes are not organized in Hungary.</p> <p><i>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>The conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals do not contain any provisions in relation to the successful integration into the Hungarian society. However, the scope of several sectoral acts (for example on the field of education, housing, employment etc.) aiming at facilitating the integration of third-country nationals extend to immigrants too.</p>
	<p>Malta</p>		
	<p>Netherlands</p>		<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i> The directorate Citizenship and Integration, part of the Housing, Communities and Integration Ministry, does.</p> <p><i>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p>

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		<p>See attachment.</p> <p>3. <i>Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p> <p>The local government/municipality can offer an integration programme to integration candidates for whom integration is mandatory. This concerns both newly arrived immigrants (newcomers) and non-Western immigrants that have lived in the Netherlands for a prolonged period of time but are still insufficiently in command of the Dutch language (the so-called ‘oldcomers’). However, the local government can also offer an integration course to persons that are not subject to integration measures, but who would like to integrate on a voluntary basis, like EU residents.</p> <p>4. <i>Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>See attachment and question 3. For newcomers and oldcomers the integration measures are <u>obligatory</u>.</p> <p>Some categories are exempted from taking the test <u>in the Netherlands</u> (note that for the civic integration examination abroad other exemptions apply):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underage people, • People older than 65 years, • People who lived in the Netherlands for eight years or longer, when he was still of school age, • People who have a certificate or other proof that their Dutch and knowledge of Dutch society is good, • People who passed a so called ‘Short Exemption test’, • People from the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland, • People who are not staying permanently in the Netherlands. <p>5. <i>If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>Passing the civic integration examination abroad is one of the conditions for obtaining a provisional residence permit (visa) before coming to the Netherlands.</p>
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			<p>In the Netherlands integration candidates must pass the civic integration examination consisting of a central examination that holds three tests (computer test on practical situations, language test and test on Dutch culture, society and history) and a practical examination.</p> <p>Established migrants (oldcomers) are expected to have an A1 level command of written linguistic skills (reading and writing) and an A2 level of oral skills. The language level newcomers have to command is level A2 of the Common European Framework (all linguistic components).</p> <p>From January 2010 the passing of the civic integration examination in the Netherlands will be a condition for obtaining a permanent residence permit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  Query on integration approach.doc </p>
	<p>Austria</p>	<p>No</p>	<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>For integration issues, the Ministry of Interior is the central institutions. However, in terms of competences, integration is a horizontal task, touching also competencies of the federal provinces and the municipalities of Austria. Consequently the integration measures vary from establishing integration mission statements for whole provinces or cities to a lower offer in other regions.</p> <p>Additionally, the Austrian Integration Fund (OEIF), which has been established by the Ministry of Interior and the UNHCR, provides integration assistance to recognised asylum seekers and migrants. The assistance involves areas such as finding accommodation, job-seeking or language learning.</p> <p>The Integration Fund is also in charge of certifying institutions that can provide language courses which is foreseen in the Integration Agreement.</p> <p><i>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>Due to the extensive competencies of the provinces in the field of integration, no Austria-wide “integration</p>

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		<p>package” exists. Only the fulfillment of the Integration Agreement, which consists of an alphabetization course and a German language course, is regulated Austria-wide. For details please confer to question 5.</p> <p><i>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p> <p>The fulfillment of the Integration Agreement is foreseen only for third country nationals applying for a settlement permit.</p> <p>In principle all other measures, especially the assistance provided by the Austrian Integration Funds are open to both recognized asylum applicants and migrants.</p> <p><i>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>Only the fulfillment of the Integration Agreement is obligatory for third country nationals applying for a settlement permit.</p> <p><i>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>The Integration Agreement consists of two modules: a first module focusing on the “acquisition of the ability to read and write”(75h) and a second module providing a German language course (300h) in order to become able to participate in the social, economic and cultural life in Austria. The final exam has to be passed within five years after the issuance of the residence title.</p>
	<p>Poland</p>	<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Social Policy</p> <p><i>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>Individual integration programmes (1 year long) are offered only to recognized refugees and persons granted</p>

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<p>subsidiary protection. The programme contains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial assistance (as of 23.12.1008 from 446 to 1.175 PLN monthly per person) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - subsistence costs – in principle, alimentation, clothing, hygienic products and rent, - Polish language classes; 2. Payment of health insurance premiums; 3. Social work; 4. Special consultations (legal, psychological, familial); 5. Information and assistance with other institutions (e.g. labour market institutions, local environment and NGOs); 6. Other activities fostering integration of a foreigner <p>The parties managing the programme (Regional Centers for Family Assistance) are obliged to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all necessary information; - assistance in contacts with local environment; - assistance with finding accommodation; - social work and other activities resulting from foreigner's specific situation; <p>3. <i>Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p> <p><u>Individual integration programmes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognized refugees - persons granted subsidiary protection <p><u>*Social security assistance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holders of a permit to settle/long-term EC resident's residence permit¹³, recognized refugees, persons granted (in result of refugee proceedings) subsidiary protection – on the same conditions as Polish citizens; - Persons granted tolerated stay status (national form of protection) – in a form of shelter, alimentation, necessary clothing and financial allowance.
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¹³ Also in cases of holders of long-term EC resident's residence permit granted by another EU Member State if s/he intends to legally work (or manage legal economic activity) in Poland or take up or continue studies or professional training or internship in Poland or manifests that other conditions justify his/her residence in Poland.

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		<p>4. <i>Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>Participation in individual integration programmes is voluntary. However, in case of beneficiaries of individual integration programmes – once qualified - the person is obliged to register in the place of residence appointed by voivode [local authority], to register in local labour office and actively search for a job, to participate in language courses (if necessary), to cooperate and stay in touch with a party managing the programme (at least twice a month) and to perform the activities effecting from his/her particular situation (as agreed with the party managing the programme).</p> <p>5. <i>If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>The issuing of residence permits is not dependent on integration conditions.</p>
	<p>Portugal</p>	<p>1. <i>Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>This subject falls within the portfolio of the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, Public Institute (ACIDI, I.P)¹⁴, run by the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue. ACIDI's mission is to collaborate in defining, implementing and evaluating relevant public policies for the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities, as well as enhance dialogue between religions, cultures and ethnicities and develop actions towards fighting racism and xenophobia.¹⁵</p> <p>2. <i>What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>Portugal does not provide newcomers with an “integration package” as such. Nevertheless, legal immigrants have full access to social rights and the Migrant Integration Policy Index’s¹⁶ analysis of the national legal system shows</p>

¹⁴ <http://www.acidi.gov.pt> .

¹⁵ Art 20 Decree-Law No. 202/2006, October 27 – Organic Law for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Available at: http://www.portugal.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/607D5616-DC5F-453B-B58F-D918523537A1/0/LO_PCM_2006.pdf .

¹⁶ <http://www.integrationindex.eu/>

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		<p>that Portugal has adopted political measures that reveal a clear interest in integrating immigrants. According to this index, when compared to the EU25, Canada, Switzerland and Norway, Portugal ranks second in terms of approaching best practices in integration policies with regards to access to the labour market, family reunion, political participation, nationality and antidiscrimination legislation. The services available to foreigners that fit best with the notion of an “integration package”¹⁷ include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National and Local Immigrant Support Centres, which are managed by ACIDI and work as a one stop shop for immigrants living in Portugal. These centres bring several government offices and different support offices together in the same space (e.g. work, education, social security, legislation). All foreigners can benefit of this support, regardless of their legal status; - The Immigrant Information System, also managed by ACIDI, provides information on a variety of aspects regarding immigrants’ life in Portugal. This system is available through various platforms (paper, telephone, Internet, face-to-face) and in different languages. - Language and civic courses available to – but not required of – all willing immigrants. These courses are provided by the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP).¹⁸ IEFP courses operate on the basis of the Portuguese state budget only. Not only are the courses free of charge to the immigrant, but trainees may even be eligible for subsidized travel and meals. The sole requirement for the courses ministered by IEFP is to be a legal immigrant. - Info Imigrante.pt¹⁹ – A web page managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MAI)²⁰ which provides useful information about immigrants rights. - ACIDI’s and Aliens and Borders Service (SEF)²¹ call centres in different languages. <p>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</p>
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¹⁷ Here understood as a set of hospitality measures aimed at newcomers, which include but are not limited to language training and cultural orientation.

¹⁸ <http://iefp.pt> .

¹⁹ <http://www.imigrante.pt>.

²⁰ www.mai.gov.pt.

²¹ <http://www.sef.pt>.

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		<p>It varies on a measure by measure basis. The role of the ACIDI is chiefly to inform and to provide guidance to all categories of foreigners, but this is nuanced by the fact that not all the services about which ACIDI will be able to inform foreigners – most notoriously, from an integration package perspective, the IEFP courses mentioned above – will be available to the latter regardless of their legal status.</p> <p><i>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>All integration measures are voluntary for foreigners.</p> <p><i>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>The issuing of residence permits is not dependent on integration conditions.</p>
	<p>Romania</p>	<p><i>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>Romanian Immigration Office within Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform</p> <p><i>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>According to the Government Ordinance no. 44/2004 on social integration of aliens who were granted a form of protection in Romania (with further amendments), the „integration package” contains acces to social rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acces to a job and to a place for accommodation; - acces to medical assistance, public system for pensions and other social insurance rights and to national system of social assistance; - acces to education system; - acces to specific activities of cultural adaptation, counselling and learning Romanian language. <p>The Government Emergency Ordinance no.149/2002 on aliens regime in Romania states that Romania ensures the necessary conditions for the integration of aliens into the cultural, social and economic life of Romania.</p>

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		<p>For this purpose the following activities may be organized and implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Romanian languages courses; b) courses or other forms of professional training; c) information on the right and obligations of aliens, as well as on the opportunities offered for integration into the Romanian society; d) courses on Romanian law system, civilization, culture and history. <p>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</p> <p>Refugees and other categories of aliens legally residing in Romania</p> <p>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</p> <p>Aliens who qualify are included into integration programmes based on their individual applications and on a protocol between the person requesting inclusion into the programme and Romanian Immigration Office.</p> <p>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</p> <p>According to The Government Emergency Ordinance no.149/2002 on aliens regime in Romania, one condition to be fulfilled by the applicants for a permanent residence right is to speak Romanian at a satisfactory level.</p>
	<p>Slovenia</p>	<p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</p> <p>Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brochure, providing the relevant information to aliens - Language course - Civic course (course on Slovene history, culture and constitution)

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			<p>3. Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Third country nationals that reside in Slovenia on the basis of permanent residence permit and their family members that reside in Slovenia on the basis of family reunification - Third country nationals that reside in Slovenia on the basis of temporary residence permit at least two years and have the permit extended for at least another year and their family members that reside in Slovenia on the basis of family reunification <p>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</p> <p>Participation is entirely voluntary.</p> <p>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</p> <p>None.</p>
	Slovak Republic		
	Finland		
	Sweden		<p>1. Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</p> <p>The Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality</p> <p>2. What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</p> <p>Foreigners are offered courses in the Swedish language. There are also certain measures to make it easier for foreigners to enter the labor market. When it comes to the implementation of the rest of specific integration measures that is up to the local governments which means that it differs a lot between different local governments. In some cases different non-governmental organizations are also involved. It is very hard to say something general that applies for the whole country.</p>

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		<p>Besides that the same rules apply to everyone living in Sweden with the same rights and obligations.</p> <p>3. <i>Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p> <p>All categories.</p> <p>4. <i>Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>All participation is voluntary.</p> <p>5. <i>If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>There are no integration conditions connected to any type of residence permit in Sweden.</p>
	<p>United Kingdom</p>	<p>1. <i>Which institution has the leading competence with regard to integration of foreigners in your country?</i></p> <p>The UK Border Agency takes the lead on naturalization and citizenship. The Department of Communities and Local Government is also involved, and has recently established an Immigration Directorate. Local Authorities deliver the integration strategies set out by the UK Border Agency and the Department of Communities and Local Government.</p> <p>2. <i>What does the “integration package” offered to foreigners contain?</i></p> <p>The course offered is entitled “ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) with Citizenship”. Taking this course enables an immigrant (a) to reach the correct language level (ESOL Level 3 or the B1 threshold on the Council of Europe Scale) and (b) to learn enough knowledge about life in the UK, to apply for residency (or Indefinite Leave to Remain, as it is known in the UK). Individuals wishing to apply for residency can also self-study and take a test entitled “Life in the UK”.</p> <p>3. <i>Which categories of foreigners can benefit from the integration measures?</i></p>

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			<p>The course is voluntary and anyone (EEA or non-EEA) can attend. However, as discussed above, if an immigrant wants to become a British citizen, he or she must reach ESOL Entry 3 level, or pass the Life in the UK test.</p> <p>In the near future, short-term migrants (working in the UK for less than five years) will be issued with a booklet entitled “Living and Working in Britain”, which gives necessary information about Britain, working in Britain, healthcare, education and so forth.</p> <p><i>4. Participation in which integration measures is obligatory / voluntary for the foreigner?</i></p> <p>As above (i.e. participation is voluntary, but obligatory if permanent residency is sought).</p> <p><i>5. If and which integration conditions should be fulfilled by a foreigner in order for him to be eligible for a residence permit of a given type?</i></p> <p>An immigrant must make sufficient progress in the language and citizenship course and must pass the life in the UK test in order to be granted indefinite leave to remain or citizenship. At the moment, spouses of immigrants have to sign an undertaking that they will take a language course in the UK(at the appropriate level, which is a lower level than is required in the Life in the UK test), in order to be given entry clearance to join their spouse.</p>
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