

# Language and Integration Denmark



In a number of European countries in recent years there has been a shift towards more rigorous conditions for those seeking to apply for citizenship and permanent residence. One of the new conditions for obtaining these is language proficiency. This poster illustrates the situation regarding language and integration in Denmark.

## POLICIES

### Recent legislation and regulations governing citizenship

#### Act on Danish Language Courses, 2003

- Purpose: Facilitating integration and social inclusion
- Principles:
  - Flexible and efficient
  - Tailored to the individual
  - Interaction with the labour market

### Consequences of language testing on residency rights

#### Integration exam: Permanent residence permit

- Political agreement on welfare and future immigration concluded in June 2006
- Danish Language Education 2 at level B1-B2 (verbal) and B1 (written) or Danish Language Education 1 at level B1 (verbal) and A2 (written) in combination with a test in English at level B1
- Ordinary occupation for 2½ years

#### Naturalisation test: Foreigners applying for Danish citizenship

- Political agreement concluded in December 2005
- Graduating Danish Language Education 3 at level B2 (verbal & written)
- Test on knowledge of Danish society, history and culture

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### What courses are available for migrants?

Approx. 60 providers of language courses located in all parts of the country

#### Types of providers:

- Municipal language centres
- Other public educational institutions or state approved educational institutions (requires a contract with the municipality)
- Private language centres (requires a contract with the municipality)
- Other private providers where the course is offered to foreigners as part of employment or activation in a private or public enterprise (requires a contract with the municipality).

#### Three courses on Danish language:

- Language and civic training
- Three years of duration (approx. 2,000 hours)
- Module & modular tests and final exams
- Mandatory (for foreign adults enrolled in the integration program)
- Free of charge (generally)
- Workplace oriented Danish language training – special language course for foreign employees

### Who are the course providers and participants?

Adult foreigners with a legal stay in Denmark

#### Danish Language Education 1

- Foreigners with no or a very short educational background & illiterate foreigners
- Approx.: 3,258 participants (8 percent)

#### Danish Language Education 2

- Foreigners with a short educational background
- Approx.: 14,915 participants (38 percent)

#### Danish Language Education 3

- Foreigners with middle or higher educational background
- Approx.: 20,728 participants (53 percent)

## LANGUAGE TESTING

### What tests are required or accepted for migration purposes?

- **Danish Language Education 1**
  - Oral: level B1
  - Written: level A2
- **Danish Language Education 2**
  - Oral: level B1-B2
  - Written: level B1
- **Danish Language Education 3**
  - Oral & written: level B2
  - Module 6 (access to education at university level): level C1

### Who provides the tests?

- **The Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs**
  - Producing and providing tests and exams
  - Pre-tests, item analysis & anchor tests
- **Expert Committees on language and test**
  - Counselling and cooperating with the Ministry with respect to producing tests and exams

### Who are the test takers?

