

# Language and Integration Netherlands



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 the Netherlands.

## POLICIES

### Recent legislation and regulations governing citizenship

- 1998 **First act on integration**  
Integration courses for newcomers and first official language tests. Participation was obligatory
- 2003 **New act on citizenship**  
A2-level required; naturalisation tests
- 2006-7 **New acts on entrance and integration**  
Not only newcomers; also oldcomers  
Test are obligatory; Entrance A1-; integration A2

### Consequences of language testing on residency rights

- Entrance test
  - Permission to immigrate and temporary residence permit
- Integration tests
  - Permanent residence permit
- Citizenship test
  - Citizenship
- Possible sanctions:
  - Not getting permits, cuts in social security payments

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### What courses are available for migrants?

- Local authorities buy courses by tenders
- Courses can be delivered by public institutions as well as private companies
- Content and duration of courses are free
- Courses are directed to the exams (language and knowledge of society)
- Fees for courses for large groups of immigrants, depending on local authorities' policies

### Who are the course providers and participants?

- Public education institutions for adult education
- Private companies
- Target population oldcomers and newcomers about 700,000
- Number of participants on integration courses
 

2005	30,000
2006	30,000
2007	10,000
2008	48,000
future yearly targets	60,000 each year
- Entrance exams abroad 10,000 in 2007

## LANGUAGE TESTING

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

#### 1 Decentralised

- 1.1 Practical language skills assessments
- 1.2 Portfolio + panel conversation

#### 2 Centralised

- 2.1 Electronic practical examination
- 2.2 Test Spoken Dutch (Phone pass)
- 2.3 Electronic test for knowledge of society

#### 2 Profiles

Examinations are developed for the following contexts:

- Education and health
- Workplace
- Entrepreneurship
- Social participation
- Pastoral and social work

#### Level of language tests

Entrance	A1; only 2.2 and 2.3
Integration new comers and citizenship	A2
Integration old comers	A2 oral proficiency A1 written proficiency
Citizenship	A2

#### Who are the test takers?

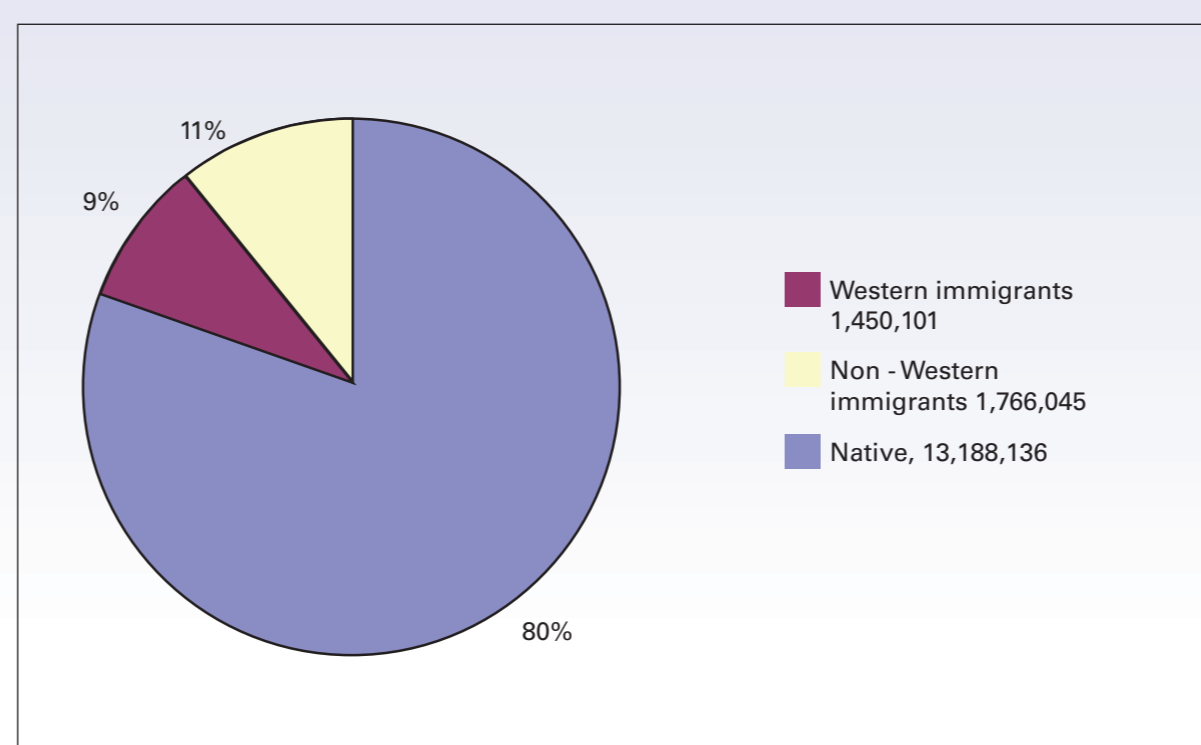
- Entrance test ± 10,000 (2007)
- Integration tests ± 18,000 (Feb. 2007 – Feb. 2009)
- Requests for citizenship ± 24,476 (2008).  
Not number of test participants.

### Who provides the tests?

- Test developers: Consortium Bureau ICE, Cito, University of Amsterdam, CINOP (Phone Pass Test)
- Logistics: IBG
- Test administration: Accredited centres
- Commissioners and users of results:
 

Entrance and citizenship	Ministry of Justice
Integration	Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

### Population of the Netherlands



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Conference organised by



ALTE