

English Summary of the Integration Agenda

Source: Rijksoverheid/ Government of the Netherlands

<http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/szw/documenten-en-publicaties/notas/2013/02/19/agenda-integratie.html>

Date: 19-02-2013

The new government has presented its vision on Integration. Together with this vision a new Integration Agenda has also been drafted. In this summary, the main targets and activities are described shortly. This summary is NOT an official government document.

The main points of the Integration Agenda are:

1 Participate and be self-reliant

1.1 Language and Integration: Participation requires minimal knowledge of the Dutch language. Migrants are self-responsible to learn the Dutch language needed to participate in Dutch society.

1.2 Participation Agreement for newcomers: Everyone needs to know one's rights and obligations in the Netherlands and gain knowledge about Dutch society.

1.3 Integration EU migrants: With the immigration of EU migrants new integration problems arise. Many EU workers and migrants from Turkey do not speak Dutch. Although they are not required to learn the language, they should be stimulated to do so.

1.4 Tackling unemployment of young migrants and second generation Dutch youths: Youngsters should remain in or connected to the labour market. Youths are, themselves, required to take the initiative in solving this problem. And the government has thought of a large number of measures to aid them, such as improving the functioning of the labour market and the transition from education to the labour market. Give attention so that youths make career choices that meet the needs of the labour market, combat school drop-out and discrimination.

1.5 Encourage social entrepreneurship: Social entrepreneurs can activate citizens with a distance to the labour market, including people with language and integration problems. They can contribute to the quality of life in neighbourhoods.

2 Make limits clear and educate

2.1 Tackling crime and disorder: Boys and young adult men of Moroccan and Antillean-Dutch origin are largely over-representation in crime and disorder. Psychiatric or other disorders often go unnoticed or are noticed too late, causing behaviour problems. Dealing with (youth) crime is one of the priorities of this government.

2.2 Improve parent involvement

Parents should educate and support their children in familiarize themselves with Dutch society. They have the responsibility of helping prepare their children to lead a self-reliant life.

3 Dealing with others and internalization of values

3.1 Knowledge of social rules and internalise values: To participate effectively in our society, everyone needs to be able to deal with diversity and know the codes and unwritten rules of society.

3.2 Tackling discrimination: People have the right to be protected against discrimination. As announced in the anti-discrimination agenda, dialogue between the national and local government, together with other (social) partners and stakeholder will take place to see whether, and if so, what measures are needed to tackle discrimination effectively.

3.3. Promoting gay acceptance among ethnic minorities: A majority of the migrants, and especially Turkish and Moroccan-Dutch, have negative opinions about homosexuality. Tolerance and equality, core values within the Dutch society, mean that people should not be excluded on the basis of their sexual orientation.

3.4 Tackling forced marriages: The plan prevention of forced marriages will continue during this government's term. This plan tackles forced marriages, honour-related violence and abandonment.

For more information, please visit:

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