



1 June 2013

The situation in the Netherlands regarding integration

The information in this document applies to those who are required by law to follow the civic integration trajectory (courses and exams) and who arrived in the Netherlands, applied for residence or received their residence permit after 1 January 2013.

Civic integration

The new civic integration law came into force on 1 January 2013. In this new law, the responsibility to follow civic integration courses and take the exam is placed with the newcomer. The newcomer is responsible for finding a school or other organisation where he can learn Dutch and follow the civic integration courses. The newcomer is also responsible for taking the exam and pass this one within 3 years. An extension of this 3 year period may be granted provided that the person who requests it has a reasonable justification (illiteracy, illness, etc). The government may provide the newcomer with a loan to pay and follow the courses. The loan will be granted if the newcomer follows the course in a quality approved school or establishment.

Finally, taking the exam costs euro 250. The locations where the exam can be taken have been reduced. Not every municipality has an examination location; these can be found in 5 municipalities. These are Amsterdam, Eindhoven, Rijswijk, Rotterdam and Zwolle.

Those people who have passed their exam will finally receive a letter with an invitation to their 'graduation ceremony', as well as information on where and when to pick up the diploma.

SOURCES

A number of websites have been published where this information can be found:

Information about the law, the process, the exam and the responsibilities of the newcomer:

<http://www.inburgeren.nl/nw/inburgeraar/default.asp>

Information about quality approved schools and other organisations that can provide civic integration courses, as well as information about the loan:

<http://www.blikopwerk.nl/inburgeren>