



orientation
free
integration
course
language
training



Newcomers' welcome



Integrating, what does it mean?

We oftent talk about immigrants integration. What does it mean ?

First of all, it is a **two-way process** :

- **For migrants**, integration requires efforts to understand and adapt to the host country and lead their owns lives in it independently. This especially implies learning French.
- **For the host-society**, to ensure respect for rights and equal treatment for immigrants and belgians alike, especially in their relations with the administration and the labor market, and to develop



a policy aimed at encouraging the integration efforts through the organization of trainings, guidances or continuing education programs amongst others.

Integration therefore means **to fully participate in cultural, economic and social life** in Belgium.

There are no “models” to follow, but a set of principles to respect, on both sides: individual freedom, equality - including that of women and men - and non-discrimination, freedom of sexual orientation, right to privacy, religious freedom, child rights, observance of the rules which govern social life (highway code, roadway systems regulations or neighbourhood relations...), equality of treatment when dealing with the administration...

The knowledge of French is essential in order to participate in the civic and cultural life, to facilitate your social relationships and to carry out your professional projects.



French classes are organized in Wallonia and Brussels by many organizations (schools, municipalities, associations,...). Registration conditions and contents vary from one organization to another. Classes are sometimes free.

Since 2013, public authorities in Wallonia and Brussels have been organizing reception programs in order to accompany migrants recently arrived in French-speaking Belgium in their steps.

Eventually, these reception programs should be made mandatory in French-speaking Belgium.

Why an accompaniment service for newcomers?

While contacting the Administration, you will receive the contact details of a support service for newcomers in your region. The accompanying services inform you and guide you as soon as you arrive in Belgium. They help you find the services you need. You have to make an appointment with this service.

And the program, what is it?

Accompaniment services have designed a program. This program helps you solve difficulties related to your recent arrival and orientates you towards different services that can help you integrate. There are some of them in your region.





What happens during the program ?

The journey begins with an individual reception with a service advisor.



The advisor of the accompaniment services often speak several languages. Some of them have also been newcomers. They have experienced the same difficulties as you.

During these meetings, they will help you to :

- make an update of your situation and make a list of your needs: housing, income, health care, school for children
- make your steps
- make a list of your needs, including training
- inform you about the rights and duties of each person who lives in Belgium.



With this program, you learn a lot about Belgian society : for example, where and how to look for work, where you go when you are sick, where your children can go to school.



The program is free.



Accompanying services do offer tests in order to assess your level in French. They guide you, if necessary, towards a training in french language organized by structures recognized by public authorities.

In Brussels, the services will be called the “BAPA” (Bureau d’accueil pour primo arrivants, that is Reception office for new arrivals). **In Wallonia**, they are called “CRI” (Centres régionaux d’intégration, that is Regional integration centers). According to the region, programs can be organized somewhat differently.

In Brussels, there is also a Flemish program. The Flemish program is organized by the Reception office BON (Brussel Onthaal).

It includes:

- basic dutch class
- first contact with flemish and belgian societies
- help to find a job or a training program
- information on culture and hobbies
- individual meetings with an advisor.

Will this program help you find a training?

Service advisors are helping you find the classes that will suit you.

Your training needs will be registered in the agreement you sign with the service.

This agreement foresees the individual monitoring and the training content. Depending on your situation, it foresees, for example, a training in French, a citizenship training and guidance about a occupation or vocational training.

Service advisors will guide you towards organizations that satisfy your requirements.

At the end of the program, you will receive a certificate of attendance



If you do not understand French well, the interview may take place in the company of an interpreter.

Under what conditions can you take part in the program?

- you have to be registered at the municipality
- you must have been living in Belgium for less than three years
- you must have a residence permit for more than three months

→ The local authority will inform you about these services. You will also find a list of a service close to you in the chapter Advisory Informations

