
Work-related language learning in

Iceland

Majority language learning (L2) for newly-arrived migrants

No legislation or regulation exists, but the government developed policy on the integration of immigrants in 2007: Knowledge of Icelandic is the key to society. Registered migrants are entitled to instruction in Icelandic subsidised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and provided by public and private organisations. The ministry's subsidy covers approximately half the cost, requiring learners to pay the other half themselves. Fees for asylum seekers and refugees are paid by Social Services (Ministry of Welfare). Courses are offered by Lifelong Learning Centres, vocational schools and private sector schools.

Work-related L2 provision for employees/workers

Lifelong Learning Centres offer courses in tourism, catering, health, child care, etc. Some colleges and educational centres for the labour market also offer this. Learners pay for courses but get part-reimbursement from their labour union.

Work-related L2 provision for job seekers, unemployed

The Directorate of Labour funds registered job seekers to attend the vocationally-oriented courses offered by Lifelong Learning Centres, as described above.

Work-related L2 provision in vocational courses

As noted in section 1 above, Lifelong Learning Centres and vocational schools offer courses. Learners generally pay course fees themselves, but fees for the unemployed are paid by The Directorate of Labour or Social Services (Ministry of Welfare).

Work-related literacy provision for low-literate L1/L2 adults

There are no work-related courses of this kind. Literacy learners are taught according to a curriculum published by the Education & Training Service Centre.

Further information

[Council of Europe surveys](#) on member state policy and practice relating to the linguistic integration of adult migrants

[European Web Site on Integration country information sheets](#)

[German government information service \(Bundeszentrale für politischen Bildung/bpb\) country profiles](#) on migration in Europe and beyond

[CEDEFOP VET in Europe project country reports](#)

[European Migration Network country fact sheets](#)

[Migration Policy Institute](#)

[Global Forum on Migration and Development Migration Profiles Repository](#)

Iceland profile acknowledgement: Vala S. Valdimarsdóttir (LfW Workshop participant, 2015)

Participants at the Language for Work Workshop held at the ECML in Graz on 24-25 June 2015 were asked to prepare a brief review of policies and practice in their own country/region relevant to work-related language learning for migrant/ethnic minority workers and/or low-literate majority-language speaking workers. Reviews were completed for Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy (Emilia-Romagna), Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Norway, Romania (Bucharest), Sweden.