

## Work-related language learning in

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# Norway

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### Majority language learning (L2) for newly-arrived migrants

Regulation is based on the Law of Introduction (2003). Migrants' rights and/or obligations to free Norwegian language tuition and social studies are determined by residence permit and age. Migrants who want to apply for residence permit and subsequently, for Norwegian citizenship, must complete 600/300 hours of tuition in Norwegian language and social studies depending on certain criteria. The training ends with final examinations. Of the 600/300 hours, 50 are set aside for social studies taught in a language the participant can understand. The municipality should provide tuition within three months of settlement. The 600/300 hours must be completed within three years. It is possible to be exempted from the obligation if the immigrant can document sufficient knowledge of the Norwegian or Sami language.

Newly arrived refugees, their family members and persons who have been granted family reunification with a Norwegian or Nordic citizen are entitled to 600 hours tuition free of charge. Migrants who come from outside the EEA-/EFTA area with a work permit are entitled to take part in 300 hours of tuition, but they have no legal right to free provision. EU citizens, students and au-pairs have to pay for their tuition and for the Norwegian language test.

Participants who need more than 600 hours of tuition can get up to 2400 hours in addition to the initial 600. The municipalities have an obligation to offer additional training. Tuition must be completed within five years.

Municipalities are responsible for this language provision as a public service. Instruction is provided by public adult training centres. The municipality is responsible for the quality of the teaching offered.

### Work-related L2 provision for employees/workers

Typically, L2 courses are arranged in adult training centres in the evening for workers who are occupied in the daytime. Big companies with many migrant workers sometimes offer courses at the workplace. These courses may be offered both by public and by private educational institutions.

### Work-related L2 provision for job seekers, unemployed

Courses may be offered through the social welfare system by NAV (Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration). These courses may be commissioned from the regular public training centre or from private educational institutions. Alternatively, NAV may organise courses within their own system.

### Work-related L2 provision in vocational courses

This provision is rare in Norway. Public adult training centres might integrate work-related L2 courses in their regular curriculum. This mostly happens in the larger adult training centres, where there are 250 students or

more. Otherwise the number of students interested in the language of a particular occupation are too few, making costs per group too high.

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

Most public adult training centres offer literacy courses. Some deliver these courses at the centre; some deliver them at work. Municipalities are responsible for this literacy provision as a public service. Instruction is provided by public adult training centres. The municipality is responsible for the quality of the teaching offered. Courses typically attract both native Norwegians and migrants.

### **Further information**

[Vox](#) the Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning, part of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research

[NAV](#), the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration

[Law of Introduction](#) (2003)

[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](#)

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### **Norway profile acknowledgement: Aud Kristin Aastorp (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.