Please cite as: EUAA, '4.14.4.1 Individual integration plans' in *EASO Asylum Report 2021*, Ιανουάριος 2022.

4.14.4.1 Individual integration plans

; amended the process of establishing and implementing individual integration plans and pathways for beneficiaries of international protection.

The integration process of beneficiaries of international protection was adjusted in Lithuania. An individual integration plan is proposed to each beneficiary while they are still accommodated at the Refugee Reception Centre. The plan is updated once beneficiaries settle in a municipality in cooperation with the municipal body responsible for integration. The support services are tailored to each person's specific needs and financial support is defined according to the person's progress and personal efforts.[1131] An AMIF-funded project, "Enhancing the competence of municipalities in providing services to third-country nationals", was launched to strengthen municipality competences and resources for integration.

The amendment of 15 April 2021 to the Social Assistance Act granted the right to individual integration programmes for beneficiaries of international protection who are married to Polish citizens.[1132] The amendment also facilitates the administrative requirements to enrol by providing an address rather than requiring participants to officially register at the place of their residence. The registration requirement was proven to be rather challenging for beneficiaries of international protection, and landlords were reluctant to let them officially register.[1133]
In Croatia, a new 3-year project for the integration of refugees into Croatian society was approved by the Directorate for European Affairs, International Relations and European Union Funds in early March 2020. The project "New Neighbours - Inclusion of persons under international protection in Croatian society" was launched in Croatia in April 2020. The AMIF-funded project is being implemented by the Centre for Culture of Dialogue, a Croatian civil society organisation.

The Norwegian government passed a law which provides the possibility to increase the length of introduction programmes and training by 6 months, to balance the consequences of the pandemic.

The Swedish government decided to finance the extension of labour market integration programmes for 12 months to support people whose programme would finish in the midst of the pandemic which would likely decrease their chances to find employment.[1134] The OECD found that initial data suggested that refugees and their family members did not show higher incidences of unemployment or non-employment while the overall unemployment rate was increasing in Sweden. Data from other countries, like Austria and Germany, showed that the increase of unemployment rates for nationals from the main countries of origin of refugees was three times higher than for nationals. The OECD noted that the surprising Swedish trend was possibly a result of the extension of support programmes, including wage subsidy schemes.[1135] In April 2021, the

Swedish Public Employment Service starts rolling out the “Intensive Year” programme for newly-arrived beneficiaries of international protection, which aims to get participants in employment within a year after the completion of the comprehensive, full-time integration programme.[1136]

The “Support measures for beneficiaries of international protection (refugees and persons with alternative status), reception and accommodation in Latvia” continued in 2020 with funding from AMIF, providing integration courses, Latvian language courses, as well as cultural, sports and recreational events and events fostering intercultural communication and co-operation with the local community. Following their establishment in 2016 with AMIF support, Information Centres for Newcomers (ICI) continued to operate in five different locations to help newcomers with administration and daily life.

JRS Romania implemented a support project for persons with tolerated status, with assistance from the General Inspectorate of Immigration.[1137]

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[1133] European Web Site on Integration. (2020, November 30). *Poland: Individual integration programmes for refugees married to Polish nationals*. https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/poland-individual-integration-programmes-for-refugees-married-to-polish-nationals

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[1137] Jesuit Refugee Service Romania. (2020, January 28). *Comunicat de Presă [Press Release].* https://www.jrsromania.org/post/comunicat-de-pres%C4%83

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