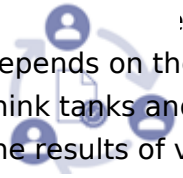
Please cite as: EUAA, '4.14.3.5 Evaluation of integration plans and integration support' in *EASO Asylum Report 2021*, janvier 2022.

4.14.3.5 Evaluation of integration plans and integration support

4.14.3.5 Evaluation of integration plans and integration support



ed policy-making for the revision and adaptation of integration strategies largely depends on the evaluation of previous initiatives. Different actors, national authorities, academia, think tanks and civil society organisations have undertaken a growing number of evaluations on the results of various integration programmes and their different components.

The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism published its first evaluation report comparing refugee integration legislation, policies and practices across 14 EU Member States, following the publication of the baseline report in 2019. The report underlined that only a few significant changes happened and conditions were rarely favourable to support the integration of beneficiaries of international protection.[1096] Summary reports were published for France,[1097] Latvia,[1098] Lithuania,[1099] Romania,[1100] Slovenia,[1101] Spain[1102] and Sweden.[1103] The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), which measures the integration of migrants in general, was updated for 30 countries in 2020.[1104]

The RESPOND project published an overview report[1105] and country reports of integration trends and challenges in Austria,[1106] Germany,[1107] Greece,[1108] Iraq, Italy,[1109] Poland,[1110] Sweden,[1111] Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The Austrian Expert Council for Integration released the 10th edition of its annual Integration Report, including changes, trends and the current state of integration-related fields, such as education, employment, social affairs and health, and cultural aspects.[1112]

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) commissioned the evaluation of the language programme reform which took place in 2017 and re-focused language instruction on employment.[1113] The report acknowledged that the reform's aims were achieved and expenses had significantly dropped. However, it also noted some of the unintentional side effects, such as administrative burdens, increased drop-out rates and price competition, making it more difficult to maintain quality education.[1114] The Rockwool Foundation looked into the impact of the reduction of refugees' social benefits, which was introduced in 2015. The report observes only a small effect on finding a job and only for men, and notes that there was no impact on women's employment, while at the same time petty crime (such as shoplifting) rates went slightly up for women.[1115] In addition, Danish integration experts observed many inequalities in the

integration process of refugee women.[1116]

In Finland, a survey was carried out on integration services and concluded that 72% of respondents felt they acquired sufficient language skills and understanding of Finland as part of the process.[1117]

The Directorate for Integration and Diversity in Norway, in cooperation with municipalities, carried out for the first time a national survey on the user experiences of participants in the introduction programme.[1118] In addition, the directorate published a report on municipality expenditure on supporting the integration of refugees. It noted that municipalities managed to adapt their capacity and expenses to fluctuations in arrivals, but it seemed to be challenging for some areas to retain Norwegian language courses throughout the whole year when there are relatively few participants.[1119]

Statistics Sweden analysed the moving patterns of newly-arrived beneficiaries of international protection and found that after 3 years around two-thirds had remained in the same municipality where they were originally allocated, but those who arrived in larger cities were more likely to stay there, while persons in small towns close to larger cities typically moved away.[1120]

UNHCR Malta launched a survey to explore how it can improve its communication with applicants, beneficiaries of international protection and stateless persons.[1121] The Slovak Department of Migration and Integration of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior organised informal meetings with refugees in September 2020 in Bratislava and Košice to discuss various challenges in integration.

The German Integration Barometer, which measures attitudes towards integration, found that men without a migratory background had a slightly more positive attitude towards social coexistence. The survey also provided a glance at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and underlined that trust in national authorities and institutions, and especially in schools and police, was at a high level, but migrants still tended to feel discriminated more often and trust these authorities less.[1122]

Various initiatives analysed public attitudes towards applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, for example in Bulgaria,[1123] Norway[1124] and Slovakia.[1125] Many reports assessed the impact of COVID-19 on beneficiaries on international protection, for example in Cyprus,[1126] Denmark,[1127] Poland,[1128] Slovenia[1129] and Sweden.[1130]

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