

The Netherlands

Self-study material civic integration

Level of implementation	National
Name(s) of implementing institutions Partners/Supporters	Different publishers
Main idea behind it, initial situation (why?)	<p>What follows here is a short and necessary description of the current situation of civic integration policy in The Netherlands. In the remainder of the table, the focus shifts to the good practice of the study materials.</p> <p>In the Netherlands, social orientation finds itself at a turning point. Despite the last major changes in 2013, there are still too many obstacles for <i>inburgering</i> (civic integration) to be a good start to life in Dutch society. According to the minister in charge, the system is too complicated and ineffective. There is no sufficient connection between <i>inburgering</i> and actual participation in society, for example through work. One of the 2013 changes concerned people paying for their own integration trajectory, for which people were able to take a loan. This led to a rise in demand for courses, and a decline in quality. The fact that people arrange their own trajectory and budget led to a rising amount of scroungers on the market causing trouble and even fraud. The loan system caused also course prices to rise. Despite many changes, the system is not deemed quick, adequate and effective enough for large populations.</p> <p>In the summer of 2018, the minister in charge published an extensive letter about intended changes. New policy is expected to enter into force in 2020. The letter proposes a new direction of thought for new policy, built along 6 topics that will completely reshape Dutch civic integration policy.</p> <p>The most important changes include:</p> <p>I Broad intake and continuance in the trajectory – the goal is to be more efficient and lose less time;</p> <p>II Personal plan for civic integration and participation – obligation to obtain results and proper management – the creation of a personal plan of integration and participation (PIP), made to measure for each individual;</p> <p>III Increasing language level to B1 and development of ‘learning routes’ - language demands will go up to B1 for those who are able, no easy distribution anymore of statements that people are unable (and thus exempted of civic integration), etc.</p> <p>IV Reshaping the market for integration courses - loan system will be abolished, municipalities will be back supervising integration trajectories and selecting</p>

	<p>course providers instead of the migrants themselves, regional cooperation between municipalities to provide best offer etc.</p> <p>V Modernising the exam system - the terms of the 'knowledge of Dutch society' exam will be revisited and if necessary, revised. Fundamental shared values and knowledge of the legal state and democracy maintain their leading importance.</p> <p>VI Better supporting asylum migrants - focus on activating asylum status holders and 'unburdening' them. Self-reliance, responsibility of status holders is important and the municipalities unburden status holders by paying their rent and other fixed costs from their social benefits. The status holder receives the remainder.</p>
Objective (what for?)	<p>Based on the existing solid terms of what civic integration should include, a variety of (self) study materials have been developed, allowing people to study for the civic integration exam, and thus improving their knowledge of Dutch society.</p> <p>Whereas in other countries, materials are sometimes created ad hoc by teachers and schools and not freely accessible, the Netherlands has a wide array of possibilities to choose from – both recently revised methodologies and online schooling possibilities (see below).</p>
Description of practice (what?)	<p>"De Graaf, Willemijn (2018) "TaalCompleet KNM Kennis van de Nederlandse Maatschappij"</p> <p>Gathier, Marilene (2015) "Welkom in Nederland, kennis van de Nederlandse maatschappij voor het inburgeringsexamen"</p> <p>Koot, Nelleke (2017) "Bagage"</p> <p>The latter book includes 18 months of online access to extra materials on the publisher's website. The code can also be bought separately.</p> <p>On the website of <i>ik wil naar nederland</i> (I want to go to The Netherlands) one is able to do self-study for 2.50 EUR per week. The materials are focused on studying Dutch and gathering knowledge of Dutch society. These materials are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese.</p> <p>The organisation in charge of examination, DUO, has several practice exams on their website for the different components of the exam (reading, writing, speaking, listening and knowledge of Dutch society).</p>
Managed/driven by	Publishers
Time-frame (start/end/ongoing)	<p>Ongoing, since the start of the civic integration policy</p> <p>Ever since the civic integration policy was put into place, a great variety of materials has been developed to assist teachers and participants in their (self) studies. They have all been based on the terms set by the ministry and their most</p>

	recent version dates back to 2013. It is likely that an update of these terms will come after the announced changes have been effected.
Stand-alone initiative or incorporated into other initiatives?	Stand-alone
Main target group (nationals, non-nationals - types)	Third country nationals, asylum seekers/international protection status holders - non-nationals who want or who have to participate in civic integration and who consequently have to train for the exams.
Promotion	Oral, Printed, Online Study materials are mostly in Dutch but some English books exist. Online materials are more often available in different languages.
Information provided on legal, practical and procedural aspects of protection against racism/hatred and discrimination	Yes
Methods of language/content teaching	Self-study, online teaching or teaching in class
Accessibility:	Costs: free up to around 40 EUR for the materials enlisted. Sometimes a small fee exists for online access. The online course mentioned above costs 2.50 EUR per week. The practice exams of DUO are freely accessible. Obligatory: No Eligibility criteria: accessible for anyone
Budget, sources of financing	Publisher finances
Sources and references (hyperlink(s))	'Ik wil naar Nederland' https://www.ikwilnaarnederland.nl/blijf-nederland/ , Online study material 'Inburgeren' https://www.inburgeren.nl/examen-doen/oefenen.jsp Free practice exams

Impact assessment foreseen?	n/a
Which actors of host communities are included?	Publishers and civic integration experts
Degree of inclusion:	institutionalized
How can racism and xenophobia be countered through this activity?	<p>It needs to be seen to what extent course materials can genuinely aid in combatting racism, discrimination and xenophobia, but the topics are superficially treated in the terms on which all these materials have been based. For example, theme 2 is about Dutch manners, norms and values, where four actions are important:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying and using different manners in the Netherlands; 2. Dealing with unusual or conflicting habits, norms and values; 3. Participating in social networks; 4. Engaging in and maintaining daily social contacts. <p>In theme 6 on agencies, actions 3 and 4 stand out.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Dealing with service and guidance from the police; 4. Using legal aid and social services. <p>In the creation of study material both online and in print, these terms have been at the basis since the exams that beneficiaries study for are based on these terms. The extent to which racism, discrimination and xenophobia are present in the study material is likely to slightly differ from publisher to publisher.</p>
How can the impact of this practice be measured/made measurable?	n/a
Elements of sustainability	Elements of sustainability lie in the resources of publishers engaged and the social integration expertise gathered to make these publications.
Elements of transferability	Other publishers or website developers could take up the idea to create content for non-nationals in integration trajectories in other countries or regions. In general, there is a rise in beneficiaries and a demand for qualitative information. If governments provide solid terms in which (obligatory) content is enlisted, the task is already partly executed.