



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'INTÉRIEUR**

*Liberté
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THE REPUBLICAN INTEGRATION PROGRAM

THIS BROCHURE CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT:
www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr

JANUARY 2022 EDITION

A FOREIGNER ADMITTED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO STAY IN FRANCE AND WHO WISHES TO LIVE PERMANENTLY IN THE COUNTRY COMMITS TO BE EFFECTIVELY INVOLVED IN A PERSONALISED REPUBLICAN INTEGRATION PROGRAM.

THIS PROGRAM HAS THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- The understanding by the foreigner of the values and principles of the French Republic;
- Providing newly arrived foreigner's means to learn or improve their French language skills;
- Social and professional integration;
- Empowerment.



The republican integration process is regularly evaluated and is subject to ongoing improvements validated by an interministerial committee. A major reform occurred in 2019, and new provisions are entering in force on January 1, 2022.



PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL IN FRANCE

The « Vivre et accéder à l'emploi en France » (Living and accessing employment in France) MOOC, available free of charge on line (www.fun-mooc.fr/fr/cours/vivre-et-acceder-lemploi-en-france), lists all the useful information for foreigners preparing their arrival in France: the values and principles that characterise French society as well as all the administrative procedures to be completed before the departure and when settling in France.

THE REPUBLICAN INTEGRATION CONTRACT, A FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTEGRATION PROGRAM

The signing of a Republican Integration Contract (CIR) – that replaced since 1st July 2016 the Reception and Integration Contract (CAI), experimented in 2003 and generally applied in 2007 – signifies the commitment of the foreigner in the Republican integration program and is carried out by the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII).

CIR signatories

The CIR is signed by all foreigners, including refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, authorised for the first time to reside legally in France and who wish to settle there permanently. These foreigners are called “newly arrived foreigners”.

The following persons are exempt from signing the CIR:

- a foreigner holding one of the following residence permits provided for in the Code of Entry and Residence of Foreigners and Right of Asylum (CESEDA): visitor (Article L. 426-20), student (Article L. 422-1), trainee (Article L. 426-23), temporary worker (Article L. 421-3),

person born in France and having resided there for at least 8 years (Article L. 423-13), foreign patient (Article L. 425-9), highly qualified foreigner, foreign entrepreneur, or foreign artist eligible to the “passport talent” (Article L. 421-7 to L. 421-21), family member of a “passport talent” holder (passport talent famille) (Article L. 421-22), seasonal worker (Article L. 421-34) and intracompany international assignee (Article L. 421-26);

- a foreigner who has completed his schooling at a French secondary school in France or abroad for at least three academic years, or who has completed higher education in France for at least one academic year;
- foreigners aged 16 to 18 who are eligible for a residence permit and who meet the conditions for acquiring French nationality;
- a third country national from a Member State of the European Union, from another State party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or from the Swiss Confederation.

Foreigners who have not signed a CIR nor a CAI when entering French territory, either because they were exempt or because they arrived in France before these mechanisms were in place, may request to voluntarily sign a CIR. To do so, they must contact the OFII’s territorial directorate closest to their place of residence.

- In 2021, really 109,000 CIR have been signed, a majority of which by people who were admitted to stay for family reasons (51%) or humanitarian reasons (32%).



NEW On 1st January 2022, the CIR enters into force in Mayotte, with trainings adapted to specific local specificities. 5,000 signatures are expected this year.



THE PERSONALISED INITIAL INTERVIEW

Upon his/her arrival in the territorial platforms of the OFII, the newly arrived foreigner benefits from a personalised interview. This interview represents an actual stage of the assessment of the foreigner’s personal situation and needs, particularly those related to employment. It allows one’s social, family and professional situation to be taken into consideration, and helps to accordingly direct him towards the local services that correspond to his needs.

During this interview, two mandatory trainings courses are prescribed:

- civic training;
- language training to reach level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), if the need is identified after an evaluation of the language level (oral and written).

Based on the foreigner's situation and needs, he/she is directed to additional language training and to an employment public services operator for a in-depth interview for professional orientation, followed by appropriate support. If he is not looking for employment, or does not wish to benefit from this support, he may contact the officer to request for an exemption.



At the end of the interview, the CIR, which provides a summary of the prescribed training and guidance advice, is signed by the newly arrived foreigner.

CIVIC TRAINING

In order to better appropriate the principles of the French Republic and the values of French society, foreigners are required to participate in civic training.

In March 2019, the duration of this training doubled to four days.

It consists of five subjects:

- **The picture of France.** The main characteristics of France and the fundamental landmarks (geographical, historical, ways of life...) are given. The focus is on the principles and values that form the basis for life in France and the balance between rights and duties. These fundamental principles constitute the common theme for the training and all the subjects offered.
- **Health.** The objective is to help foreigners to quickly identify health professionals and to accompany them in the necessary steps to exercise their rights.



- **Employment.** Access to employment is, along with fluency in French, the key factor for full integration. The training explains the legal framework of the French labour market, its main support structures, provides advices for an effective job search and have one's experience recognised. It also explains the code of life at work, and the opportunities for skill development that become accessible with vocational training.
- **Parenting.** This new subject emphasises the concept of parental authority and the rights of children. It also deals with issues related to childcare and schooling. The courses help to instil French principles and values in a school setting (equal opportunity, gender equality, secularism, contribution to school life, etc.).
- **Accommodation.** This remains one of the major concerns for foreigners, more particularly those benefiting from international protection. Several courses are dedicated to housing to help foreigners find an accommodation adapted to their circumstances and to remind them of the regulatory conditions and of the criteria for living in a proper accommodation.

NEW In order to facilitate the understanding of the contents of the training, the summary booklet given to trainees that contains the main messages of the training days is now available in 10 languages (English, Arab, Pashto, Dari, Tamil, Mandarin Chinese, Bengali, Russian, Tigrinya and Turkish).

To make the training more interactive, works in small groups are suggested, with quizzes, scenarios, role plays and digital tools, to generate interest and involve the trainees in the training programs.

The training package is constantly improved and an action training plan helps them to better understand the teaching method and the new tools provided.

NEW To address the health crisis and diversify the conditions for granting access to the civic training, a distance learning package has been created and will be implemented for the two first days from the year 2022 onwards.

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Learning French is an essential requirement for integrating French society.

Thus, from his first appointment in the territorial platform of the OFII, the foreigner takes a test in order to assess his written and oral skills in French. Depending on the results and the needs identified thereof, six language training courses may be required.

A1

To reach or improve towards the CECRL A1 level, four mandatory programs can be required, consisting of respectively 100h, 200h, 400h and 600h, according to an adjustable number of hours per week so that the personal circumstances are taken into account. 400h and 600h trainings are destined to people that have had little to no education in their country of origin and that have little to no proficiency over reading and writing in their mother tongue.

A2 B1

To reach or improve towards the A2 and B1 levels, two additional – and optional – trainings of 100h each can be required. These trainings are available without any time limit after the signature of the CIR.

The A2 level is required for a ten-year residence permit.

The B1 level is required for French citizenship.

The training methodology focuses on interactivity, the use of new technologies and field visits. French language training focuses on professional and everyday life, to facilitate integration through employment.

Language level certification

As soon as the language level is assessed at the time of signing the CIR, but also at the end of the A1, A2 and B1 trainings, the foreigner can, within a certain time limit, have his language level certified by a specialised agent and use this certification to help his integration and search for a job. This certification fee is covered by the State.

Digital offer for the integration of foreigners

The digital mode in teaching and learning is a useful and necessary addition to classroom learning in order to meet the needs of a diverse and increasingly mobile audience.

In addition to the trainings organized in the field of the CIR, the French Ministry of the Interior supports the development of digital projects including MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) promoting the learning of the French language, the adoption of the values of the French Republic and the functioning of French society, such as the collection of MOOC titled “Vivre en France” – living in France – and “Travailler en France” – working in France, all available on the FUN platform (www.fun-mooc.fr).



NEW

FINAL CIR INTERVIEW



Since 2019, the OFII invites the foreigner to another interview at least three months after the end of his trainings. This interview allows to make an assessment about the followed trainings and his personal situation, so that he can be oriented towards the available local services that are the most appropriated for the rest of his process.

THE CIR AS A BALANCE BETWEEN RIGHTS AND DUTIES

By signing the CIR, the foreigners can benefit from trainings, guidance and advice adapted to their situation, provided free of charge by the State.

In return, the foreigners are to follow with diligence and commitment the trainings and not to express any reject of the core values of the French society and the French Republic.

Compliance with these obligations along with the other conditions required for a residence permit, is the requirement for the issue of a multi-year residence permit of 2 to 4 years after one year of legal residence.

The contract may be terminated by the Prefect on the OFII's proposal if it finds that the foreigner, with no valid reason, does not participate in a required training, or doesn't respect its commitments in accordance with the framework of the Republican Integration Contract, without prejudice to any measures that might be taken by the Prefect regarding the right to stay.



NEW From 1st January 2022 onwards, any foreigner that signed a CIR and asks for a multiyear residence permit will have to sign an agreement engaging him to respect the principles of the French Republic. This signature takes place at the end of the civic training during which these principles have been presented to him.

IN ADDITION AND BEYOND THE CIR: ACTIONS FOR SUPPORT ON THE TERRITORIES

In addition and beyond the CIR, the State will mobilise in 2022 a €83M envelope to facilitate the integration of newly arrived foreigners during their first years as lawful residents on French territory.

These loans are in large part decentralised (about 75%). The regional and departmental Prefects, entrusted with these, extend at the local level the national strategic orientations addressed each year by the Minister of the Interior, in line with local needs, around the following priorities.

1) Proficiency over the French language

Within the framework of the CIR, trainings aimed at helping to reach the CECRL B1 level are offered by the OFII.

Additional training can be offered on the territories:

- for people with the most difficulties to master the language and in need of an appropriate educational method to reach the A1 level;
- to meet the needs identified when it comes to learning French for professional purposes, to better meet the needs of the local job market.

The development of cohesive language programs is also a key when it comes to mastering French language. As such, language assessment and orientation platforms are supported in the territories and rely on a mapping offer of the language training that has been taken to the national level.



National mapping of the language training offer:
<https://reseau.intercariforef.org/formations/recherche-formations-dian.html>

2) Integration of the foreigners through employment

This priority shall concentrate 60% of the assigned funds, based on specialised actions and on a better consideration of foreigners by the employment public services, as part of the framework-agreement signed between said service, the State and the OFII for the 2020-2024 period.

Integration on the labour market of foreign women must be the object of particular attention, given the fact that their activity rate is lower than the French average and that their unemployment rate is higher than newly arrived male immigrants, although their qualification level is higher upon their arrival in France.

The acknowledgement of the newly arrived foreigners' qualifications, diplomas and experiences is also central to combat the social and occupational downward mobilities that too often comes with immigration, and to better meet the needs of the French economy.

3) Building a partnership with the territorial authorities

Territorial authorities have key competencies in the fields of accommodation, social action and integration, health, mobility or even training, which are likely to support the integration of the foreigners on their territory. In line with the dynamic launched since 2019 by the Ministry of the Interior and the interdepartmental delegation for the reception and integration of refugees (DIAIR), the "territoires d'intégration" (territories for integration), to which the State has given €10M in 2022, shall act as a leverage to facilitate the direct mobilisation of these competences by the authorities.

TERRITOIRES
d'INTÉGRATION

The reception and integration territorial contracts, signed between the authority or authorities concerned and the State, shall systematically include, when the signatory authority is competent, a clause regarding access to accommodation.

4) Mobilising the local civil society

Integration, as an approach in which everyone, foreigner as well as representative of the local civil society, meets the other person halfway, also requires to multiply the possibilities for foreigners and locals to meet.

As such, Prefects implement the Volont'R program, which allows, on the one hand, young foreigners to commit to a contract of civic service to bring their dynamism and their skills for missions of general interest, and on the other hand, young French citizens to commit for the integration of foreigners.

Mentoring actions are also promoted, for example the mechanism implemented on refugies.info to support and enable French people and refugees that might be interested to reach each other, while benefiting from the help of recognised associations.

The promoting of successful paths of integration and the provision of reference tools, including statistical tools, allows to make the perceptions more complete and to change the outlook on foreigners.

5) Implementing a single desk dedicated to help those benefiting from international protection on their path towards employment and accommodation

The overall and individual support program for refugees ("AGIR") aims at dedicating one single departmental desk for the integration of those benefiting from international protection ("BPI") via access to lasting employment and accommodation.

This program will gradually develop in 2022 (27 departments covered) and 2023, with the aim of covering the whole mainland territory in 2024. Additional adequated offers will also be implemented in the overseas departments.

The provider, AGIR, is in charge of building consistent integration pathways for the "BPI", using when needed common law and specialised integration mechanisms, for instance in the fields of training, of learning French for professional purposes or mental health. The provider will also support the Prefect and the decentralised State services in the coordination of the local integration policy, while also forming privileged partnerships with the local actors of the access to rights, employment and accommodation.

6) Assessing the implemented actions

The assessment of the implemented actions is particularly important to measure the effectiveness of the policy implemented and to make the adjustments that might be necessary: thereby, any action funded shall come with adequate indicators and be closely monitored, which will also allow to share experiences.



REFERENCES:

Articles L. 413-1 et seq., articles R. 413-1 et seq. of the code of entry and residence of foreigners and the right to asylum

Order of 21 February 2018 establishing the list of diplomas and certifications justifying the required standard in French for obtaining a resident card or a resident card bearing the mention "EU long-term resident card"

Order of 12 March 2020 establishing the list of diplomas and certifications justifying the required standard in French for candidates wishing to acquire French nationality according to Decree No 93-1362 on 30 December 1993 amended on nationality declarations, naturalisation, loss, deprivation or withdrawal of the French nationality

Decree No 2021-1241 of 28 September 2021 amending the regulatory section of the Code of Entrance and Stay of Foreigners and the Right of Asylum for the implementation of the Republican Integration Contract in the department of Mayotte

Order of 16 December 2021 related to the standard form of the Republican Integration Contract specific to Mayotte

Order of 16 December 2021 related to civic and language training required of foreigners who signed the Republican Integration Contract in the department of Mayotte

Order of 30 December 2021 related to civic and language trainings required of foreigners who signed the Republican Integration Contract created by law No 2016-274 of 7 March 2016 related to foreigners rights in France

Order of 30 December 2021 related to the standard form of the Republican Integration Contract created by law No 2016-274 of 7 March 2016 related to foreigners rights in France



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