

# Language Testing and Access

## Germany



ALTE has engaged in discussions on issues in language testing and integration for a number of years. In the past, language testing was generally used to ensure that an individual had the necessary language skills to work or study in another country. However, in recent years, increasing migration has led to more and more countries placing a greater emphasis on language ability for those wishing to apply for citizenship or as a requirement for obtaining a visa to first enter a country to study, work or for family reasons. This poster illustrates access from a variety of perspectives in a migrant's journey, including access to the country, access to language courses and language tests, and access to civil society.

### Brief overview of the migrant population in the country

2009: Total population: 81.9 m. Population without German citizenship: 6.7 m (8.2%). Population either with or without German citizenship, of non-German origin: 15.7 m (19.2%).

Main Nationalities:

European Union: 4.69 m (largest groups: Poland (1.3 m), Italy (0.8 m), Romania (0.4 m), and Greece (0.38 m))

Rest of Europe: 5.6 m (Turkey 2.5 m, Russ. Federation 1.1 m, Croatia 0.37 m, Bosnia and Herzegovina 0.24 m, Serbia and Montenegro 0.3 m, Ukraine 0.25 m)

Africa: 0.48 m

America: 0.39 m

Asia, Australia, and Oceania: 2.06 m (largest group: Middle East, 1.3 m)

### POLICIES: Access to the country and educational institutions

#### Recent legislation and regulations governing citizenship

01/01/2005

Ordinance on the Implementation of Integration Courses for Foreigners and Ethnic German Repatriates (in accordance with section 43, Residence Act) comes into effect: provision of courses for migrants (600 language lessons, 30 knowledge of society lessons, knowledge of society test, language test level B1)

28/08/2007

Evidence of a basic knowledge of the German Language is required in the event of the subsequent immigration of spouses from abroad because of changes to the German Residence Act resulting from the Guidelines Implementation Act

06/12/2007

Changes in the Ordinance on Integration Courses comes into effect (up to 900 language lessons for special target groups, max. duration 1200 lessons, 45 knowledge of society lessons, language test A2/B1, B1 remains target level)

03/2009

Publication of the revised "Concept for a Nationwide Integration Course"

Spring 2011

Plan of changes in the Residence Act, Section 8, Paragraph 3 (government draft and report of the Commission on Interior Affairs): unlimited residence permit should only be granted when integration course has been completed successfully

#### Language requirements for those seeking citizenship, permanent residence or first entry

Application for	since	CEFR
German Nationality	2004	B1
Permanent Settlement	2005	B1
Marriage visas for spouses of German citizens or settled individuals	2007	A1

#### Consequences of language testing on access and residency rights

If level B1 is achieved

- Permanent Residence, Citizenship

If level B1 is not achieved

- Possibility of retaking language course modules up to 300 lessons
- Possibility of retaking the final language test free of charge

### TEACHING AND LEARNING: Access to language courses

#### What courses are available for migrants?

##### 1. Primary integration courses in country of origin

Course providers can apply for support from the European Integration Fund

- Language course at level A1 (in Goethe Institutes: 160 lessons)
- Other courses provided by the Goethe Institute:

##### 2. Integration courses in Germany

Language course	+ Knowledge of society course
600 lessons (plus 300 lessons if level B1 is not achieved after 600 lessons)	45 lessons
400-1200 lessons for special target groups (e.g. women, parents, illiterate persons)	

Remedial teaching, counselling on learning; social, pedagogical and psychosocial counselling, information on life in Germany

Courses are not obligatory. Participants have to pay the course fee.

Course participants pay 1 Euro per lesson (dispensation in special cases)

Course attendance is compulsory:

- when a person speaks little or no German, and the local foreign affairs office decides that a course has to be attended
- when a person receives unemployment benefit II and the local unemployment office decides that a course has to be attended

#### Who are the course providers and participants?

##### 1. Primary integration courses in country of origin (2008 – 2010)

- Primary integration courses of the Goethe Institute have been attended by 37,500 participants since 2008
- 25% of immigrant spouses took part in primary integration courses provided by the Goethe Institute
- 75% learned German on their own, with private teachers or with other course providers

##### 2. Integration courses in Germany (2005 – 2010)

- More than 850,000 persons were entitled to participate in a course
- approx. 650,000 course participants attended a course
- approx. 360,000 participants have completed the course
- Courses taught by approx. 15,700 teachers

### LANGUAGE TESTING: Access to language tests

#### What tests are required or accepted for migration purposes?

##### 1. Proof of language competence at level A1 for spouses

The following examinations are recognised by German representations abroad:

- Goethe-Zertifikat A1 – Start Deutsch 1
- Start Deutsch 1 - telc Deutsch A1
- ÖSD
- TestDaF

##### 2. Tests in connection with integration courses in Germany:

- Placement test for integration courses
- Achievement tests at levels A1 + A2 possible (to check on learning progress)
- Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer A2 – B1: Curriculum-based final test Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer A2 – B1

### IMPACT: Access to civil society (where people can have their say)

#### Political participation of people without German citizenship:

MIPEX (Migrant Integration Policy Index) Index III:

- not at national level
- in some political parties, people without German citizenship are not accepted as functionaries; party membership is possible

At municipal and Länder level there are Councils of Foreigners/Migrants or Integration Councils which are democratically elected. Their objective is to further the legal, social and political equality of migrants to national citizens. The Bundeszuwanderungs- und Integrationsrat (Federal Migration and Integration Council) is the head organisation at national level. It has an advisory function.

#### Participation in society/ Feedback:

MIPEX Index III:

- Migration counselling at municipal/regional level
- Scope for improvement in official recognition of vocational qualifications

- Dual citizenship possible only for EU nationals
  - Citizenship is acquired through a test, succeeding is not too difficult, courses and tests provided
- The Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) is charged with research in the area of migration and integration. Focal points are:

Migration: Development of immigration to and emigration from Germany, Migration for employment purposes: analysis of motivation to migrate, intention to stay, socio-economic profiles

Integration: Empirical data on integration, integration reports on various aspects, impact and sustainability of integration measures, process of integration for various groups of migrants