



LANGUAGE AND INTEGRATION TESTS FOR NEWCOMERS AND FUTURE CITIZENS

Radboud University Nijmegen
CPO-room A.00.09
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Seminar
15 February 2008

Language and integration tests are a topical issue in various European Union Member States. Several Member States have introduced language and integration courses in their domestic legislation. Immigrants have to pass language and integration tests in order to prove that they have obtained a certain level of knowledge, sometimes even before entering the country. Though the modalities of the integration tests and courses vary between the Member States, the introduction of the tests reflects a change in ideas on the relationship between legal status and integration. Furthermore, there appears to be a trend in several Member States towards formalisation of the language and integration tests before naturalisation. Between 2002 and 2006, Austria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, several German *Länder* and the UK introduced knowledge of the society as a condition for naturalisation. In certain Member States, the informal language test upon naturalisation has been recently replaced by a formalised test prepared and conducted by language institutions.

Since these developments are rather recent, little is known about the effects of the introduction of the formalised testing schemes on the behaviour of potential applicants and on the selective effects of those new tests. Whether the introduction of such new ways of testing has in fact contributed to the integration of immigrants in the host society, often the official aim of these policies, or whether the tests function as a mechanism for selection and exclusion is unknown. Knowledge of these effects is all the more relevant since the formalisation of the tests often coincided with a raise of the level of required knowledge of the language and of the host society (e.g. Denmark and some *Länder* in Germany) or with the introduction of other obstacles, such as high fees or a six months waiting period after a candidate has failed the test (e.g. Netherlands). The aim of the seminar is to exchange information concerning the reasons for introduction, the content and the effects of the language and integration tests. Experts from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands will present a paper regarding the policies concerning the integration of newcomers and/or future citizens in their respective countries.

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PROGRAMME

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09:30-10:00	<i>Registration and Welcome</i>	
Chair:	Kees Groenendijk	Sociology of Law, chair Centre for Migration Law, Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
10:00-10:20	Dora Kostakopoulou	University of Manchester (UK)
	<i>Matters of Control: Integration Tests and Naturalisation Reform in Western Europe</i>	
10:20-10:50	Kristine Kruma	Judge of the Constitutional Court of Latvia, Lecturer Public International Law, Riga Graduate School of Law, (LV)
	<i>Latvian integration policy: lost in translation.</i>	
10:50-11:10	Judit Tóth	University of Szeged, (H)
	<i>Test of integration in an ethnic citizenship country: Hungary</i>	
11:10-11:40	<i>Comments by</i> Leonard Besselink	University of Utrecht (NL)
	<i>and discussion</i>	
11:40-12:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
12:00-12:20	Ines Michalowski	University of Münster (D)
	<i>Do integration tests require cultural assimilation? Evidence from the German case.</i>	
12:20-12:40	Ricky van Oers	Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
	<i>Justifying Citizenship Tests in the Netherlands and the UK.</i>	
12:40-13:10	<i>Comments by</i> Dora Kostakopoulou	University of Manchester (UK)
	<i>and discussion</i>	
13:10-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
Chair:	Roel Fernhout	Migration Law and Legal Protection, Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
14:00-14:20	Eva Ersbøll	Danish Institute for Human Rights (DK)
	<i>Danish integration and naturalisation exams</i>	
14:20-14:40	Bernard Perchinig	Austrian Academy of Sciences (AU)
	<i>From Constitution to Kärntner Reindling: All you need to know to become an Austrian.</i>	
14:40-15:10	<i>Comments by</i> Betty de Hart	Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
	<i>and discussion</i>	
15:10-15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:30-15:50	Marie-Claire Foblets, Johan Wets, Zeynep Yanasmayan & Abdallah Himmet	Catholic University of Leuven (B)
	<i>Language and integration requirements in Belgium. Discordances between the Flemish policy of 'inburgering' and the federal legislators' view(s) on integration of newcomers and migrants.</i>	
15:50-16:10	Yves Pascouau	University of Pau (F)
	<i>France</i>	
16:10-16:40	<i>Comments by</i> Judit Tóth	University of Szeged, (H)
	<i>and discussion</i>	
16:40-17:00	Kees Groenendijk	Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
	<i>Closing Remarks</i>	
17:00-19:00	<i>Reception and buffet dinner</i>	



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REGISTRATION FORM

Please return the completed form *before 25 January 2008*

to Ricky van Oers

by email: r.vanoers@jur.ru.nl

or by fax: +31-24-3611423

PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS

LAST NAME:		
FIRST NAME:		
POSITION:		
ORGANIZATION:		
E-MAIL:		
TELEPHONE:		
ADDRESS:		
I WILL ATTEND THE <u>SEMINAR</u> ON 15 February:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
I WILL ATTEND <u>LUNCH</u>:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
I WILL ATTEND THE <u>BUFFET</u>:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>