

# Civic Integration Act 2022

As of January 1, 2022, the new Civic Integration Act has entered into force. This concerns an expansion of the Civic Integration Act that has been in force since 2013 and has the objective of integrating 'new' Dutch citizens or foreigners / refugees from the age of 16 to state pension age. There is a difference between status holders and family migrants. For churches it is relevant to know that there is also an integration requirement for spiritual leaders with a temporary residence status.

[The plan of the government](#) is to have the persons with a duty of civic integration quickly and fully participate in Dutch society. A pilot program, supported by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, consisting of several components, has been distributed among the municipalities to implement this plan. The program offers municipalities the means to implement the new integration law. This means that the municipality will be in charge of implementing the civic integration.

The new Civic Integration Act applies to migrants who will receive a residence status on 1 January 2022. For this group of persons integrating, the costs of integration will be fully taken over by the municipality.

Because the municipality now has full control as of 1 January 2022, the municipality also has control over the old civic integration act. Migrants who fall under this Act have to follow a civic integration programme via DUO, whereby they take out a loan. If the civic integration is completed within 3 years, this loan is converted into a grant. In exceptional cases, where a newcomer, due to circumstances, is unable to complete the civic integration process within those three years, the new Act now looks at how to compensate for this. No firm policy has yet been formulated and it will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Learning routes have been formulated for the new Civic Integration Act. The municipality looks at which route fits best during a broad intake interview with the newcomer. [Here](#) you will find a step-by-step description of the regulations.

1. B1 learning route, the newcomer must pass the civic integration examination to master the Dutch language at B1 level. In principle, the municipality decides in consultation what is best suited to the capacities, possibilities and wishes of the newcomer.
2. Education route, this route is aimed at mastering the Dutch language at B1 level and enrolling in regular education (from MBO).

3. Z-route, this route concerns the self-reliance route, whereby low-literacy newcomers are taken into account. They only need to master the Dutch language at B1 or A2 level, enough to be able to participate in society.

What is further different in this new law is that the newcomers who get a residence status on January 1, 2022 must achieve a language level of B1, this is a level increase compared to the old law. [DIVOSA](#), in cooperation with various parties, has made handbooks available.