



Joint OECD-BMI-IRCC seminar for the launch of the OECD publication

Making Integration Work: Language Training for Adult Migrants

28 April, 15h30 – 17h30 (Central European Time)

Working knowledge of a host country's language is the tool that allows migrants to participate fully in host-country society, providing greater opportunity for social contact with native speakers and increased ability to access services. Immigrants who speak the host-country language also have significantly higher employment rates and are less likely to be over-qualified for their job than those who report language difficulties. However, while language training has been a main area of focus for integration programmes, it has also had only limited effects on labour market performance. Across the OECD, countries have increasingly recognized the need to tailor language programmes to meet the needs of working-age migrants. Against this background, the OECD has prepared the publication "Making Integration Work: Language Training for Adult Migrants," which summarises key lessons from the OECD's work in this area as well as the experiences of OECD countries in supporting adult migrants in learning the host-country language. The publication introduces twelve main policy lessons with supporting examples of good practice. It also provides a comprehensive comparison of the policy frameworks that govern strategies for the integration of adult migrants through language learning in OECD countries.

Agenda

15:30-15:50

Welcome

Stefano Scarpetta, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Markus Kerber, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

Fraser Valentine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

15:50-16:15

Presentation by the OECD Secretariat of Key Findings

Lauren Matherne, International Migration Division, OECD (15 minutes plus Q&A)

16:15-16:55

Country experiences: "Designing Language Programmes to Improve the Labour Market Outcomes of Migrants" (10 minutes each)

Canada: *Lessons learned: the best mix of services to improve outcomes*

Fraser Valentine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Germany: *Integrating vocational and language training*

Uta Saumweber-Meyer, Director General for Integration, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Austria: *The perspective of public employment services*

Christine Juen, Head of Public Relations and Labour Market Information, Public Employment Service

Finland: *Social impact bond as a catalyst for fast employment*

Susanna Piepponen, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

16:55-17:30

Question and answer period on the country experiences

17:30

Closing