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## Welcoming Programme

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Amended by the following acts

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22.05.2015	RT I, 27.05.2015, 2	01.08.2015
25.07.2016	RT I, 29.07.2016, 1	01.08.2016
25.05.2017	RT I, 31.05.2017, 1	03.06.2017

This Regulation is established on the basis of subsection 223<sup>1</sup>(1), of the Aliens Act, subsection 49<sup>1</sup>(2) of the Citizen of the European Union Act, and subsection 47<sup>1</sup>(2) of the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens.

[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]

## Chapter 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### § 1. Scope of application

This Regulation establishes the welcoming programme for citizens of the European Union and his or her family member, the conditions of participation in the welcoming programme, and the procedure of referral to participate in the welcoming programme.

[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]

### § 2. Definitions

(1) For the purposes of this Regulation, a newly arrived immigrant is a person who has resided legally in Estonia for less than five years and who is:

- 1) an alien who has been granted a temporary Estonian residence permit under the Aliens Act or the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens;
- 2) a European Union citizen who has acquired a temporary right of residence in Estonia pursuant to the Citizen of the European Union Act;
- 3) a family member of a European Union citizen who has been granted a temporary right of residence in Estonia pursuant to the Citizen of the European Union Act.

[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation, a welcoming programme is an action plan for supporting the adaptation of newly arrived immigrants in Estonia, which contains the welcoming programme training modules established in this Regulation and basic Estonian language training.

### § 3. Purpose of the welcoming programme

The purpose of the welcoming programme is to support the migration and subsequent integration of newly arrived immigrants by providing them information on the functioning of the state and society, daily life, working, studying and family matters, and by facilitating the acquisition of Estonian language skills.

## Chapter 2

# REFERRING PERSONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME, AND THE PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFYING THEM THEREOF

## § 4. Referring persons to participate in the welcoming programme

(1) The Police and Border Guard Board shall refer to participate in the welcoming programme a person who has resided legally in Estonia for less than five years and who is:

- 1) an alien who has been granted a temporary Estonian residence permit;
- 2) a citizen of the European Union who has acquired a temporary right of residence in Estonia and has been issued an identification document;
- 3) a family member of a citizen of the European Union, who has been granted a temporary right of residence in Estonia.

[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]

(2) The Police and Border Guard Board shall refer the persons specified in subsection (1) to participate in the welcoming programme if they have been granted a temporary Estonian residence permit or they have acquired or have been granted a temporary right of residence in Estonia after 1 August 2015.

[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]

(3) Where the persons specified in subsection (1) have been granted a temporary Estonian residence permit or they have acquired or have been granted a temporary right of residence in Estonia before 1 August 2015, the Police and Border Guard Board shall refer them to participate in the welcoming programme at their own request.

[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]

(3<sup>1</sup>) Where any person specified in subsection (1) has been granted a temporary Estonian residence permit under clause 118 9) of the Aliens Act, the Police and Border Guard Board shall refer such person to participate in the welcoming programme at the person's own request.

[RT I, 29.07.2016, 1 – entry into force 01.08.2016]

(3<sup>2</sup>) An alien, referred to in Subsection (1) of this Section, who has been referred to participate in the welcoming programme by the Police and Border Guard Board, may participate in the programme either during the effective term of his or her residence permit, or during the period of stay referred to in clause 42(1) 8) of the Aliens Act, provided that the person has resided legally in Estonia for less than five years.

[RT I, 31.05.2017, 1 – entry into force 03.06.2017]

(4) Where an alien has not participated in the welcoming programme after having been granted a temporary residence permit, the Police and Border Guard Board shall refer them to participate in the welcoming programme when extending their temporary residence permits, taking into account the provisions of subsections (2) and (3).

(4<sup>1</sup>) Where a family member of a European Union citizen has not participated in the welcoming programme after having been granted a temporary right of residence, the Police and Border Guard Board shall refer the family member of the European Union citizen to participate in the welcoming programme when extending their temporary right of residence in accordance with the provisions of subsections (2) and (3).

[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]

(5) The Police and Border Guard Board shall not refer a newly arrived immigrant under the age of seven to participate in the welcoming programme, if such request is submitted by the child's legal representative.

[RT I, 31.05.2017, 1 – entry into force 03.06.2017]

(5<sup>1</sup>) The Police and Border Guard Board shall not refer a newly arrived immigrant under the age of three to participate in the welcoming programme.

[RT I, 31.05.2017, 1 – entry into force 03.06.2017]

(6) The Police and Border Guard Board shall not refer a newly arrived immigrant under the age of 15 to participate in the welcoming programme, if at least one of his or her legal representatives has resided in Estonia legally for more than five years.

[RT I, 31.05.2017, 1 – entry into force 03.06.2017]

(7) The provisions of subsection (6) of this section shall not apply, if the legal representative of a newly arrived immigrant under the age of 15 is his or her guardian.

[RT I, 31.05.2017, 1 – entry into force 03.06.2017]

## § 5. Notification

The Police and Border Guard Board shall notify a person of the referral to participate in the welcoming programme and inform them of the options for registering for training provided thereunder, when:

- 1) an alien is notified of the decision to grant or extend their temporary residence permit;

- 2) a European Union citizen is notified of having been issued an identity card;
- 3) a family member of a European Union citizen is notified of the decision to grant or extend their temporary right of residence;  
[RT I, 27.05.2015, 2 – entry into force 01.08.2015]
- 4) a newly arrived immigrant has not satisfied the conditions of passing in the welcoming programme, set forth in Subsection 7 (1) of this Regulation.  
[RT I, 31.05.2017, 1 – entry into force 03.06.2017]

## **Chapter 3**

# **CONTENTS OF THE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME AND PARTICIPATION THEREIN**

### **§ 6. Components and scope of the welcoming programme**

(1) The welcoming programme consists of the basic module (Annex 1), language training, and the following thematic modules:

- 1) working and entrepreneurship (Annex 2);
- 2) studying (Annex 3);
- 3) research (Annex 4);
- 4) family life (Annex 5);
- 5) international protection (Annex 6);
- 6) children and young people (Annex 7)

(2) The objective of the welcoming programme is for the person to acquire the general required competence of the modules they have taken, in accordance with annexes 1–7 to this Regulation.

(3) The objective of language training is for the person to acquire Estonian language skills corresponding to the description of language skill level A1, established in Appendix 1 to the Language Act.

(4) The estimated volumes of the modules are established in Annexes 1–7 to this Regulation.

(5) The estimated volume of language training is 80 academic hours.

### **§ 7. Participation in the welcoming programme**

(1) Newly arrived immigrants shall pass the basic module and language training, unless otherwise established in this section.

(2) Newly arrived immigrants who have been granted temporary residence permits pursuant to the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens shall pass the basic module, the module on international protection and instead of the language training established under this Regulation, language training pursuant to subsections 75(4<sup>1</sup>), (4<sup>2</sup>) and (4<sup>4</sup>) of the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens.  
[RT I, 29.07.2016, 1 – entry into force 01.08.2016]

(3) Newly arrived immigrants under 15 years of age shall pass the module “Children and young people”.

(4) Newly arrived immigrants under 15 years of age who have been granted temporary Estonian residence permits pursuant to the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens shall pass the basic module, the module “International protection” and instead of the language training established under this Regulation, language training pursuant to clause subsections 75(4<sup>1</sup>), (4<sup>2</sup>) and (4<sup>4</sup>) of the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens.  
[RT I, 29.07.2016, 1 – entry into force 01.08.2016]

(5) Persons shall not be entitled to participate in the modules or language training that they have already passed.

(6) Persons who, due to a health condition or disability, are unable to participate in the program without assistance may choose the parts and the extent of the welcoming programme they wish to pass.

### **§ 8. Selecting additional modules**

(1) In addition to complying with the provisions of subsections 7(1) and (2), newly arrived immigrants may choose to participate in any thematic module referred to in clauses 6 (1) 1–4) of this Regulation.

(2) In addition to complying with the provisions of subsection 7 (3), newly arrived immigrants aged between seven and 15 years may choose to participate in the basic module, language training and any thematic module referred to in clauses 6 (1) 1–4) of this Regulation.

(3) In addition to complying with the provisions of subsection 7 (4), newly arrived immigrants aged between seven and 15 years who have been granted temporary Estonian residence permits pursuant to the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens may choose to participate in the basic module and any thematic module referred to in clauses 6 (1) 1–5) of this Regulation.

(4) In addition to the provisions of subsections 7(1) and (2) and subsection 8(1), newly arrived immigrants aged between 15 and 18 years may choose to participate in the thematic module referred to in clause 6 (1) 6) of this Regulation.

[RT I, 31.05.2017, 1 – entry into force 03.06.2017]

### **§ 9. Certification of passing the modules of the welcoming programme and language training**

When a newly arrived immigrant has passed a welcoming programme module or language training, the person contracted by the Minister of the Interior under civil or public law to perform the task established in the welcoming programme, shall issue him or a digital certificate or, at the request of the newly arrived immigrant, a hard copy of the certificate, which evidences of the passing of the same, and shall immediately notify the Police and Border Guard Board of the fact that the newly arrived immigrant has passed the corresponding module or language training.

## **Chapter 4 IMPLEMENTING PROVISION**

### **§ 10. Entry into force of the Regulation**

The Regulation shall enter into force on 1 August 2015.

[Annex 1](#) Basic Module

[Annex 2](#) Working and Entrepreneurship

[Annex 3](#) Studying

[Annex 4](#) Research

[Annex 5](#) Family Life

[Annex 6](#) International Protection

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[Annex 7](#) Children and young people