



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Violence prevention and sexual education courses to migrants

Requested by EE EMN NCP on 16th March 2016

Summary prepared by NO EMN NCP from responses from

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Norway

Disclaimer: The responses were provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs did provide, to the best of their knowledge, information that was up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided did not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

The recent attacks in Cologne have sparked a heated debate about arriving migrants' understanding of sexual behaviour and their lack of sexual education. Migrants' values, behaviour and attitudes towards women are often not in correspondence with European values and cultural norms. Additionally, the lack of (sexual) education and knowledge of host country's laws and norms have often been coupled with other risk factors, which are connected to migrant's background, possible traumatic experiences and current life situation.

The large influx of migrants has also increased tensions within migrant groups' uncertain and unforeseeable future, limited rights, uncertain economic situation, language barriers, little or no knowledge at all about local customs and norms etc. can all increase violent behaviour.

There are several Member States which already have implemented programmes/courses for migrants to educate and increase their awareness about sexual and violent behaviour and Member States that are considering implementing similar programmes/courses in the near future.

So far in Estonia has not been any sexual or violent misconduct related to migrants. However, Estonia is currently considering to pro-actively design and implement sexual education and violence prevention courses for refugees and asylum seekers. The courses are expected to be a part of the

recently launched *Welcoming programme* and embedded in the training module specifically designed for beneficiaries of international protection. Therefore, we would like to know more about other Member States' practices and, if applicable, relevant sexual education and/or violence prevention programmes/courses.

Questions asked

1. Are there any violence prevention and/or sexual education courses/trainings designed for all newly arrived immigrants or for specific type (country of origin, age, gender, etc.) of migrants?
2. If yes, are the courses/trainings compulsory or voluntary?
3. If yes, what are the methods of notifying immigrants about the opportunity/obligation to take part in the courses/trainings?
4. If yes, what are the reasons of implementing the courses/trainings in your Member State (increased sexual harassment by immigrants, prevention of sexual, domestic abuse, notifying new arrivals of legal norms regarding violent behaviour in order to prevent misconduct etc.)?
5. If yes, who is responsible for implementing, carrying out and monitoring the courses/trainings (state, local government, NGO etc.)?
6. If no, whether your Member State has considered the organization of such courses to migrants?

Summary of responses

- Only in one response (NL) was it stated that there was “violence prevention and/or sexual education/trainings designed for **all newly arrived immigrants**” (emphasis added), but a number of other responses stated that such education/training was available to some third country citizens on the territory: asylum seekers or persons who have been granted international protection being mentioned most frequently. Where offered such education/training was most frequently part of a more general introduction to the host country's culture and norms.
- The education/training offered to persons who have been granted international protection was compulsory in ES, FI and NO, as well as in NL. Elsewhere participation in courses offered on these themes was voluntary.
- Some responses mentioned that information about such education/training would be given in an introductory orientation as well as through posters in reception centres, advertising and solicitation.
- Prevention of conflicts and incidents, as well as easing adjustment to life in a new country were mentioned as the main reasons for offering such education/trainings.
- Central and local authorities responsible for asylum and integration did have overall responsibility for ensuring that education/training was offered and for the specification of issues to be covered. In most of the (Member) States with such education/training the actual implementation would be through different NGOs. The most detailed presentation of this can be found in the NO response.
- The responses from 7 (Member) States indicated that plans to introduce or significantly expand such education/training were being considered.