

## **1.1 Integration Agreement**

### **47. What is the integration agreement?**

As from 10 March 2012, with the coming into force of the regulation defining the integration agreement, foreign nationals aged over sixteen that enter Italy for the first time and file an application for the issuance of the residence permit with a duration of at least one year, shall sign an agreement with the Italian State.

By signing such agreement, foreign nationals undertake to obtain specific integration objectives in the period of validity of their permit, and the State undertakes to support the integration process of foreigners through the adoption of any suitable initiative in agreement with the Regions and Local Authorities.

### **48. Who shall sign the integration agreement?**

The integration agreement is destined to foreigners aged more than sixteen years that enter Italy for the first time and submit an application for a residence permit with a duration of at least one year.

The agreement, involving a minor aged between sixteen and eighteen, is also signed by the parents or by subjects exercising parenthood regularly residing in the national territory.

### **49. Who shall not sign the agreement?**

- a) Foreign nationals affected by diseases or disabilities severely limiting their self-reliance or determining difficulties in language and cultural learning. Such condition shall be certified by a public healthcare facility of a doctor of the National Health Service.
- b) Unaccompanied minors that are object of foster care under art. 2 of law 4 May 1983, no. 184, as subsequently amended;
- c) Victims of trafficking of people, violence and severe exploitation, for which the agreement is replaced by the completion of the social integration programme under art. 18 of the Consolidated Law on immigration.

### **50. Where signing the agreement?**

At the one stop shop for immigration of the prefecture in case foreign nationals enter for work or family reunification reasons, or at the police headquarters for other reasons.

The agreement is signed at the same time as an application for residence permit with a duration of at least one year. When signing the agreement, two copies are drafted, one of which is given to the foreign national in the language that he/she selected. On the side of the State, the agreement is signed by the Prefect or by one of his/her clerks.

### **51. How many credits are initially given to foreign nationals?**

By signing the agreement, 16 initial credits are given. The confirmation of such 16 credits takes place following the attendance of one free training session on civic activities and life in Italy, held at the One Stop Shops for immigration of Prefectures. On such occasion, information is also received on the “initiatives supporting the integration process” (such as free courses of Italian) active in the Region. The non-participation in the training sessions will lead to the loss of 15 out of the 16 credits assigned.

### **52. How many credits shall be obtained and within how much time?**

According to the Agreement, foreigners shall obtain 30 credits within two years. Credits can be obtained through the acquisition of specific knowledge (Italian language, civic culture and civil life in Italy) and the performance of some activities, such as:

- Italian language courses
- Vocational training
- Formal qualifications
- Training programmes abroad
- Registration in the National Healthcare Service and selection of a General Practitioner.
- Signing of a rental agreement or certificate of the taking out of a mortgage for the purchase of a residential property.
- Carrying out of economic-entrepreneurial activities, etc.

[Check the Table](#) to see the list of activities that allow the acquisition of credits.

### **53. Can the credits obtained be lost?**

The credits accrued can be lost in the following cases:

- a) criminal convictions;
- b) enforcement – also not final – of detention orders;
- c) final infliction of pecuniary penalties exceeding 10 thousand Euros, in relation to administrative and tax offences.

Check the [Table](#) to see the list of cases that can lead to the loss of credits.

### **54. When is the Agreement checked?**

One month before the expiration of the two-year term, the One-Stop-Shop for Immigration at the Prefecture begins the assessment phase through the documents filed by the applicant or acquired by the Office. Failing such documentation, the applicant may ask to be tested on his/her level of knowledge of the Italian language, civic culture and civil life in Italy through a free-of-charge test administered by the One-Stop-Shop.

### **55. What does it mean “knowledge of the Italian language at level A2”? How is the certification obtained?**

The minimum level of knowledge required to comply with the integration agreement corresponds to level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, issued by the Council of Europe. **A2 – It is a basic level of knowledge that allows to communicate in activities requiring a simple exchange of information on ordinary subjects and to describe in simple words the aspects of one’s live and of the surrounding environment.**

The A2 knowledge of the Italian language may be proven in different ways:

- Through a certificate of knowledge of Italian at level A2 issued by one of the four Certification Authorities recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Ministry of Education and University (University for Foreigners of Perugia, University for Foreigners of Siena, University Roma Tre, Società Dante Alighieri);
- Through an educational title obtained in Italy (Junior High School degree, High School Diploma, University Graduation);
- By showing that a course is being attended at an Italian university (being it either public or private and legally recognised), a PhD or a university master course;

- By attending or showing the attendance of an Italian course at a Permanent Territorial Centre (CTP), at the end of which a title is issued certifying the knowledge of the Italian language at a level of at least A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Failing the certificate of knowledge of the Italian language, an **Italian Language test** shall be made at **a CTP**.

### **56. What are CTPs?**

The Permanent Territorial Centres for Education and Training in Adult Age – CTP - are public institutions where teachers from public schools work, supported – according to the different needs – by experts and external collaborators, to provide cultural, education and training activities destined to adults.

The Italian Language courses of the Permanent Territorial Centres (CTP) also include civic education or information on the rights and duties of citizens.

Enrolment in the courses of CTPs is available to all foreign citizens aged at least 16. At the end of the course, the certificate of Italian language may be obtained.

**The courses organised by CTPs are free of charge.**

### **57. How is the Integration Agreement assessed?**

The assessment ends with the granting of final credits and with one of the following decisions:

a) final credits exceeding 30 and obtainment of level A2 of the knowledge of the Italian spoken language, knowledge of the civic culture and of civil life in Italy: settlement of the agreement due to full compliance.

If credits are equal to or higher than forty, rewards are granted for specific cultural and training activities.

b) final credits exceeding zero but lower than 30 (that is to say, the level required in terms of knowledge of the spoken Italian language, civic culture and civil life in Italy was not achieved), a one-year extension of the Agreement is granted, upon the same conditions. The assessment is made one month before the expiration of the year of extension. In case the Agreement is not fulfilled, the Prefect rules a partial non-fulfilment, which the competent authority takes into consideration for the adoption of discretionary measures on immigration.

c) final credits equal to or lower than zero, the termination of the Agreement is decided on the grounds of non-fulfilment, with the annulment of the residence permit or the rejection of its renewal, and the expulsion of the foreigner from the national territory. In case the foreigner cannot be expelled, the non-fulfilment is taken into consideration for the adoption of discretionary measures on immigration.

In case the One-Stop-Shop determines the non-participation in the session, fifteen credits are cut back. The non-fulfilment of the obligation to provide education to minor children determines the total loss of the credits granted at the signing of the Agreement and of those subsequently obtained, as well as the termination of the agreement on the grounds of the breach of the provisions thereof.

### **58. Which foreign nationals are excluded from the assessment of the Integration Agreement?**

Foreign nationals that signed the Integration Agreement but that at the moment of the assessment own one of the following types of residence permits: for asylum purposes, pending application for asylum, subsidiary protection, humanitarian reasons, family reasons, EC residence permit for long-term residents, residence card for a foreign family member of EU citizens, foreigners owning another residence permit exercising one's right to family reunification.

In any case, the force of the Agreement can be either suspended or extended, upon request of foreign nationals, in case of severe health reasons, family reasons, work reasons, attendance of training courses, vocational training or study abroad.