



FACT SHEET

Information for foreign media about changes to the Danish regulations governing residence in Denmark

September 7, 2015

The Danish immigration authorities are currently carrying out an information initiative to explain recent and future changes to the regulations regarding social benefits and residence in Denmark.

The sender of this information initiative will be the Danish immigration authorities, and the content will be a short, factual description of recent changes to legislation or the processing of applications for residence permits.

The primary target group is people smugglers, middlemen, carriers and others who arrange trips for potential asylum seekers. The ambition is for this information to spread to a larger group and area.

It is the assessment of the Ministry that one way to secure a rapid spread of information is to target the information at asylum seekers already in Denmark and via social media. Consequently, the information will be communicated on the Ministry's homepage and will be made public at asylum centres in Denmark.

The information initiative includes:

1. Information for asylum seekers in Denmark
2. Text published on the Ministry's homepage in several languages
3. Advertisement published in Lebanese newspapers
4. Information on social media

The decision to publish advertisements in Lebanese media was based on the assumption that information will spread quickly via social media.

Changes to social benefits

As per 1 September 2015, a new integration benefit will be introduced for non-Danish citizens as well as Danish citizens who have not lived in Denmark for seven of the past eight years. EU citizens are exempt from this regulation due to EU regulations.

The introduction of the integration benefit is intended to make it less attractive to seek asylum in Denmark and to make sure that individuals receiving this benefit will have greater incentives to work and become integrated into the Danish society.

This new regulation results in benefits being reduced by up to 50 percent for the group in question.

Future changes to Danish immigration regulations

As stated in the government platform, it is the government's intention to:

- Introduce new, flexible rules for family reunification. Among other things, these rules will lead to a tightening in the requirements for foreign nationals with poor conditions for integrating into the Danish society.
- Impose new and increased requirements of foreign nationals applying for a permanent residence permit or Danish citizenship.
- Ensure a firm processing of asylum cases including, among other things, a more thorough verification of asylum seekers' identities.
- Eliminate refugees' possibility of obtaining a permanent residence permit without speaking Danish and without having a job.