



FACT SHEET

Information about a new integration benefit in Denmark

September 10, 2015

Changes to social benefits

As per 1 September 2015 a new integration benefit has been introduced for foreigners as well as Danish citizens who have not lived in Denmark for at least 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 give newly arrived refugees and immigrants a greater incentive 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. A single person without children will receive 5,945 DKK [797 €] in integration benefit per month compared to 10,849 DKK [1,454 €] in social security allowance per month whereas a married couple with children will receive 16,638 DKK [2,230 €] per month in integration benefit in total compared to 28,832 DKK [3.864 €] in social security allowance.

In addition, it is possible to be granted support for housing and getting settled, and in the course of the first two years, families will gradually be eligible for the full child and youth benefits.

Newly arrived refugees will - as has been the case up till now - still be assigned a place to live by the municipality, where they are settled, and the right to a three years integration programme, including job training and intensive language courses remains unchanged.

Furthermore, foreign nationals who have been granted a residence permit can make full use of the free Danish school, education and health system on the same level as everyone else in Denmark.