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**Migrants and their Descendants:
Social Inclusion and
Participation in Society**

Bulgaria, 2015

FRANET contractor: Project One (Center for the Study of
Democracy)

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Executive summary

Bulgaria's traditional position as a transit country exerts a significant influence on the implementation of migration policies. The lack of motivation of migrants and refugees to remain in Bulgaria and the lack of adequate integration measures reinforce each other. On the one hand, the lack of support drives a number of migrants and beneficiaries of international protection to other countries in search of a better life. On the other hand, the emigration of migrants and beneficiaries of international protection from Bulgaria has been used as a political argument to justify the lack of investment in migrant integration measures.¹

1. Legislation and policy instruments

• Legal and policy instruments

Attempts for the formulation of coherent migration and integration policy in Bulgaria have been undertaken in a more consistent manner only after the country's EU accession. So far, three national migration strategies and one programme for integration of refugees and asylum seekers have been drafted.²

The practical implementation of these strategic documents is done through annual action plans.

The strategies and action plans are targeted towards immigrants from the EU and third countries as well as towards refugees and asylum seekers. The general public is not among the explicitly defined target groups of any of these documents.

Bulgaria's migration management policy is centralised and no regional variations of that policy exist.

• Drivers and barriers

The main migration policy drivers are the relevant EU benchmarks, the modern anti-discrimination legislation, the established institutional infrastructure, the available funding and the regular monitoring.³ Barriers also exist at both strategic and practical

¹ Yaneva, K. (2015), 'President of the State Agency for Refugees Nikola Kazakov: Refugees refuse to study Bulgarian, their final goal is Western Europe', *Europost*, 13 March 2015, available at: www.europost.bg/article?id=13026.

² Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2008), National strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration and integration 2008-2015 (*Национална стратегия на Република България по миграция и интеграция 2008-2015 г.*), 5 June 2008, available at: www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=462; Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf; Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf; Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, pp. 11-13, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

³ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, pp. 8-9, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf. According to the report, "the integration of

level, the most important of them being the control-oriented understanding of migration, the lack of effective monitoring, the country's restrictive labour market and the inadequate provision of information.⁴

- **Language learning and integration tests**

The need of Bulgarian language training for third-country nationals is acknowledged at the level of policy documents, but there is no systematic mechanism for its provision. A more structured approach with regard to language training exists only for refugees and humanitarian status holders.

Bulgarian language is not required for obtaining residence status but is a condition for Bulgarian citizenship. Integration courses and integration tests are not required for obtaining residence permits or Bulgarian citizenship.

The use and studying of mother tongue is a constitutional right. However, the provision of mother tongue training is subject to specific conditions and is relatively limited.

- **Monitoring and assessment**

Migration and integration policies are monitored by the National Council on Migration Policy⁵ under the Ministry of the Interior. However, the monitoring is not based on indicators for assessing the progress of integration. The most recent integration strategy foresees a set of such indicators but the latter have not been applied yet.

- **Funding**

European funds are managed by the Employment Agency⁶ (responsible for the European Integration Fund), the State Agency for Refugees⁷ (responsible for the European Refugee Fund) and the Ministry of the Interior (responsible for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund). The latter, however, has not been used yet.

2. Equal treatment and discrimination

- **Equal treatment and non-discrimination**

There have not been any outreach or awareness raising campaigns on the national anti-discrimination legal framework specifically targeting migrants or their descendants. No national polls, surveys or academic research have been conducted to examine the awareness of migrants or their descendants of the right to equal treatment as well.

The Commission for Protection against Discrimination⁸ has dealt with a number of cases related to discrimination of migrants and third-country nationals. However, the commission does not keep statistical data on the exact number of such cases and their outcome. None of these cases, however, was related to discrimination in the area of justice and law enforcement. There is no official interpretation as to whether justice and

migrants is only of second priority in the national migration policy which appears dominated by a security approach and considerations for the controlling of borders”.

⁴ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf; Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy.

⁵ Bulgaria, National Council on Migration Policy (*Национален съвет по миграционна политика*), <http://nsmp.mvr.bg>.

⁶ Bulgaria, Employment Agency (*Агенция по заетостта*), www.az.government.bg.

⁷ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*), www.aref.government.bg.

⁸ Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*), www.kzd-nondiscrimination.com.

law enforcement fall within the scope of the anti-discrimination legislation and the jurisdiction of the equality body.

There are no serious problems with the equal treatment of the holders of various residence permits.

Political and societal participation

- **Voting rights and political participation**

Third-country nationals are not allowed to vote at national and local elections, cannot participate in other forms of political participation, including membership in political parties and voting at national and local referendums.

Descendants of migrants, who are Bulgarian citizens, have the same rights as all other Bulgarian citizens, including in the field of political participation. However, there is no data about the actual level of participation of such persons in political life.

Only Bulgarian citizens can be elected or appointed to positions in the public administration, the law enforcement and the judiciary. The only exception in the public sphere is education, where foreigners, including third-country nationals, could be appointed as teachers. Migrants' descendants, who are Bulgarian citizens, can be elected and appointed to all positions irrespective of their migrant background.

- **Consultations**

There are no migrants' consultative bodies at national or local level. Both the National Council on Migration Policy and its successor, the National Council for Migration and Integration, which were established to serve as the link between public authorities and NGOs, included migrant associations among its members.

- **Participation in trade unions and professional associations**

There are no legal or practical barriers for migrants to become members of trade unions and craft associations. However, there is no information about the actual level of their involvement in such organisations. Due to the small number of migrants in the country, no initiatives have been implemented to encourage or support such membership. The same is relevant for the participation of migrants in professional and scientific associations.

- **Participation in social, cultural and public life**

There is very little information about the participation of migrants in social, cultural and public life. There are no legal or practical barriers for such participation, but nevertheless migrants are not actively participating in public.

Public electronic media are obliged to support the popularisation of the language and culture of different ethnic communities, but with a few exceptions, broadcasting of programmes in a language different from Bulgarian is not allowed. Migrant and ethnic minority media are not forbidden and limited financial support is provided to some of them.

There are several migrant associations, but most of them have limited public visibility. Targeted financial support for such organisations is not available and there is no mechanism for linking them at national level.

- **Civic and citizenship education**

School education reflects the diversity of cultures of Bulgaria's ethnic minority groups (Turkish, Roma, Jewish and Armenian). However, since current educational programmes have been developed before the increased presence of persons from the Middle East, references to cultures from this region are missing. Provisions are in place to facilitate the access to education for migrant children, but there are no targeted measures to facilitate the involvement of migrants' parents in the educational system or in the school activities. Equal access to education can be hindered due to the unaddressed fears and prejudice amongst the general population, in particular parents of ethnic Bulgarian students.

3. Social cohesion and intolerance

- **Citizenship acquisition**

Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation can be obtained through a standard procedure applicable to all foreigners or to a preferential procedure applicable only to foreigners of Bulgarian origin. In the majority of cases citizenship is granted on the grounds of Bulgarian origin. The granting of Bulgarian citizenship has been in the focus of public debates for different reasons: from concerns that Bulgarian citizenship is used for easier access to the EU rather than for staying in the country, to allegations of procedural violations and corruption. As a result, there is a growing support for comprehensive reforms in the field of citizenship acquisition.⁹

- **Social and community cohesion**

The national policy framework of migrant integration does not explicitly refer to social or community cohesion. Hence, social and community cohesion is not in the focus of integration measures and initiatives. Specific social cohesion measures were implemented mainly in the field of education focusing on facilitating the integration of refugees' children attending Bulgarian schools. At the same time, cases such as banning of scarfs in some schools can also have an impact on social cohesion.

None of the policy documents on migration and integration explicitly address the issues of racism, xenophobia and intolerance. With a few minor exceptions, specific measures to prevent and suppress these phenomena are not in place.

There are no legal limitations concerning mixed marriages, including marriages between Bulgarian citizens and third-country nationals. Statistics show that the highest number of mixed marriages of Bulgarian citizens is with citizens of Turkey and the Russian Federation.

⁹ Association of Bulgarian Media Around the World (*Асоциация на българските медии по света*) (2015), 'Vice President Popova: It is high time to start working on a modern national concept of Bulgarian citizenship' ('Вицепрезидентът Попова: Крайно време е да се започне работа по модерна национална Концепция за българското гражданство'), 21 January 2014, available at: <http://abma.bg/index.php/novini/item/3974>.

1. Legal and policy instruments for migrant integration

1.1. Description of existing instruments and target groups

	<p>This section should present the overall state of play concerning national and, where applicable, regional legal and policy instruments focusing on how they address fundamental rights, core EU values and principles, as well as international legal standards and related EU law and policies, such as the Common Basic Principles and the Common Agenda on integration of migrants. Please complete the template in Annex 2.¹⁰</p> <p>Please make sure the brief information you provide in the table includes the following aspects:</p>
<p>Does the national strategy on migrant integration contain a definition of integration? If so, please include it in the original language and full English translation.</p>	<p>Attempts for the formulation of coherent migration and integration policy in Bulgaria have been undertaken in a more consistent manner only after the country's EU accession. So far, three national migration strategies have been drafted: the National strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration and integration 2008-2015 (<i>Национална стратегия на Република България по миграция и интеграция 2008-2015 г.</i>)¹¹, the present National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>)¹²; and the most recently promulgated National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>)¹³. The last strategy was drafted in response to the significantly increased refugee wave from Syria, which started in 2013 and put pressure on Bulgaria's reception and integration structures calling for measures and reforms to assure adequate response to the needs of incoming asylum seekers. It is presently the subject of discussion in an inter-institutional working group chaired by one of the</p>

¹⁰ You can use and update the information as in the Table 1.7 of the FRA Annual Report 2012 (pp.62-63). You should add more detail, for example, instead of identifying 'education' under the category 'focus area' be more specific, e.g. review of curriculum in secondary education to address integration issues, etc, provided this level of detail is specifically mentioned in the relevant policy instruments

¹¹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2008), National strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration and integration 2008-2015 (*Национална стратегия на Република България по миграция и интеграция 2008-2015 г.*), 5 June 2008, available at: www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=462.

¹² Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

¹³ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

		<p>deputy ministers of the interior.¹⁴ The plan of the working group is to integrate this strategy with some modifications as integral part of National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>). However, as discussions are ongoing, no official information is available about the nature of modifications of the National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>). The present report is based on the original text of the strategy as adopted by the government on 2 July 2014.</p> <p>The present National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) was drafted in the context of economic crisis, high unemployment and the pursuit of external borders' control following the country's priority to enter the Schengen area.</p> <p>The National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) gives a secondary priority to the issue of migrant integration. Higher priority is given to the fields of: (1) border control, fight against illegal migration, return and human trafficking, and (2) asylum. This strategy iterates two main approaches to the management of migration: the security approach aiming to protect borders and prevent and counteract illegal migration perceived as a threat to the national security, and the integration approach that is justified with the need to improve the economy of the county and to compensate for the demographic decline of the Bulgarian population.</p> <p>There is no definition of integration in the National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>). What is closest to a definition is the following:</p> <p><i>"Република България провежда ефективна интеграционна политика насочена към успешно приобщаване на законно пребиваващите чужденци в страната, чрез предоставяне на равни права, отговорности и възможности."</i> ("The Republic of Bulgaria pursues an effective integration policy</p>
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¹⁴ Petrova, Tsv. (Петрова, Цв.) (2015), 'A single national council on integration and migration will be created' ('Създават Единен национален съвет за миграция и интеграция'), *BulgariaUtre.bg*, 3 March 2015, available at: www.bulgaria.utre.bg/2015/02/03/297866-suzdavat_edinen_natsionalen_suvet_za_migratsia_i_integratsia.

		<p><i>aiming to successfully integrate the foreigners residing legally in the country by granting to them equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.”)¹⁵</i></p> <p>The National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>) targets particularly the integration of refugees and persons granted humanitarian protection. It introduces for the first time a decentralised principle in the implementation of integration policy and programmes through the network of 263 municipalities of Bulgaria. It is not clear, however, if this approach will be preserved in the amended version of strategy that is now discussed by the inter-institutional working group).</p> <p>The National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>) gives the following definition of integration:</p> <p><i>“Интеграцията като двупосочен процес включва взаимното приспособяване и участие както от страна на получателите закрила, така и от страна на приемащото общество. Това е процес, в който бежанците се ангажират да спазват законите на страната, дала им закрила, и приемат ценностите и, като в същото време се отчитат националните им етнически и културни специфики.” (“The integration as a two way process includes mutual adaptation and participation by those who were granted protection and by the host society. This is a process in which refugees take the responsibility to comply with the laws and accept the values of the country which granted protection to them while at the same their national, ethnic and cultural specificities are being recognised.”)¹⁶</i></p>
	<p>Are there specific references in the national strategy or relevant legal or policy instruments to fundamental rights in relation to migrants?</p>	<p>The National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) makes no reference to anti-discrimination as an aspect or target of the integration of third-country nationals. The strategy lists eight priorities and the seventh priority is defined as “Guaranteeing the</p>

¹⁵ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 40, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

¹⁶ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, p. 3, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

		<p>fundamental rights of migrants – political, social, economic, etc.”.¹⁷ In addition, the strategy includes a statement that successful integration of foreigners is to be pursued by granting them equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.¹⁸ Consequently, no particular anti-discrimination measures were included in the three annual action plans for implementation of the strategy for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively.</p> <p>The first principle of the National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) is the principle of legality and protection of human rights. In relation to that principle, the strategy stipulates that:</p> <p><i>“In line with the legal norms, Bulgaria’s commitments under the EU Accession Treaty, and the international standards in the field – towards attainment of the objectives of national interest and adherence to the international commitments undertaken in the field of human rights protection.”¹⁹</i></p> <p>The sixth and last principle of the strategy is the principle of equal opportunities. In relation to that principle, the strategy stipulates:</p> <p><i>“Strict compliance with the anti-discrimination legislation provisions in implementing the migration policy with respect to third-country nationals and stateless persons residing legally in Bulgaria and adherence to the provisions on fundamental human rights with respect to illegally residing migrants.”²⁰</i></p> <p>Further references to fundamental rights in relation to migrants in the strategy include:</p> <p><i>“All Community acts on migration and asylum have been transposed in the national legislation and are being implemented. They are reflected in many legal acts of the national primary, secondary and tertiary</i></p>
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¹⁷ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 33, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntegrationENG.pdf.

¹⁸ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 40, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntegrationENG.pdf.

¹⁹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 5, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntegrationENG.pdf.

²⁰ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 6, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntegrationENG.pdf.

		<p><i>legislation. Fulfillment of the criteria laid down in fundamental EU directives is a key element for the implementation of a common migration policy aiming to ensure in all phases effective management of migration flows, fair treatment of third-country nationals residing legally in the Member States, and prevention and stronger combating of illegal migration and human trafficking.</i>"²¹</p> <p><i>"The existing Bulgarian legislation on equal opportunities and non-discrimination is modern and well developed. It is fully aligned with the European standards. The Law on Protection against Discrimination transposes in full the European equality directives, regulating the protection of all natural persons on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria against all forms of discrimination while contributing also to the prevention of discrimination and laying down equal opportunity measures."</i>²²</p> <p>In the area of migration, development and integration policies the strategy states:</p> <p><i>"There is a need to pursue an effective policy for protection of the fundamental rights of migrants by planning measures for legal assistance to the target group members, guaranteed right to interpretation and translation and prevention of discrimination and xenophobia."</i>²³</p> <p>The newly drafted National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>) is the first policy document in the area of migrant integration that refers directly to non-discrimination as a principle in the integration policy.</p> <p>The only reference in relation to the fundamental rights of refugees and humanitarian status holders is the following:</p> <p><i>"[The strategy] includes the main principles ingrained in the national, European and international Law and namely: The Constitution of the republic of Bulgaria,</i></p>
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²¹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, pp. 10-11, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

²² Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 26, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

²³ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 41, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

		<p><i>The UN Convention and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights, the regulations and directives relating to the Common European Asylum System, the Guidelines and Recommendations of UNHCR.</i>²⁴</p> <p>The National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>) defines a set of measures in the field of anti-discrimination. The set goal of these measures is "to secure the right of refugees of equality before the law, equal treatment and equal opportunities for participation in the public life and effective protection from discrimination".²⁵</p>
	<p>Which are the target groups of the national integration strategy? Please provide any definitions relevant or the determination of the persons that are entitled to or beneficiaries of the relevant action plans and policy measures (e.g. 'integration agreements': who signs them and what do they contain). Please specify any residence requirements (e.g. which migrant and/or residence status counts or not for "legally residing third country nationals" that eventually would be covered by these policies) for persons to be considered members of the targeted groups.</p>	<p>The National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) covers three main fields of management: (1) border control and visas, fight against illegal migration, return and human trafficking, (2) asylum, and (3) migration, development and integration policies. In the framework of these three fields of management the strategy defines seven target groups of Bulgaria's migration policy till 2020: (1) illegally present third-country nationals and stateless persons, (2) refugees and asylum seekers or persons granted subsidiary or temporary protection or humanitarian status, (3) legal third-country nationals and stateless persons, (4) foreign nationals of Bulgarian origin, (5) Bulgarians living outside Bulgaria (emigrants), (6) Bulgarian nationals – first and second generation migrants, and (7) highly skilled migrants.²⁶ The strategy's policy field of migration, development and integration involves management of both immigration and emigration processes and deals with three main target groups: (1) third country nationals (legally residing), (2) Bulgarian emigrants abroad and (3) foreign nationals of Bulgarian descent (who may be or may be not residing in Bulgaria).</p> <p>The National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република</i></p>

²⁴ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, p. 4, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

²⁵ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, pp. 11-13, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

²⁶ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 6, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

		<p>България 2014-2020 г.) is directed to the following target groups: persons who were granted international protection or asylum in Bulgaria with focus on recent status holders including vulnerable persons with special needs (pregnant women, single mothers, handicapped persons or persons who suffered from torture or from different forms of physical, sexual or gender related violence), unaccompanied minors and juveniles who are asylum seekers or were granted international protection.²⁷</p>
	<p>In reference to the CBP 1²⁸ 'Integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States': please specify if and how the majority population is explicitly targeted; distinguish, if possible, between policies or measures targeting the general population and specific target groups, such as public authorities, e.g. teachers, police, judiciary, etc.; outline the objectives of such policies and measures, and their duration.</p>	<p>No measures are foreseen in National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) that target the majority population as active player in the two-way process of migrant integration.</p> <p>Three consecutive annual action plans on the implementation of National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) were drafted for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013. The measures in the field of migrant integration outlined in them relate to two key goals: meeting the needs of the Bulgarian labour market (in the plans for 2011, 2012 and 2013) and providing quality education to migrant children (in the plans for 2012 and 2013). The issues of participation of members of the host society in the integration process or of the interaction of third-country nationals with the host society remain fully silent in the three documents.</p> <p>The National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>) outlines eight spheres of integration of refugees and humanitarian status holders: (1) provision of information, (2) education and Bulgarian language training, (3) employment, (4) recognition of professional qualifications, (5) social assistance, (6) health care, (7) housing, and (8) integration of refugees in the social, economic, cultural and civic life of the Bulgarian society. In the framework of the eight sphere the following measures are foreseen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of mutual programmes, projects and agreements with educational institutions

²⁷ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, p. 11, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

²⁸ Common Basic Principles for Migrant Integration Policy in the EU (2004) available at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/jha/82745.pdf

		<p>(universities, schools, institutes) for the organisation of common activities of Bulgarian citizens and refugees for their integration and regarding the issues of discrimination and equality;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of programmes, projects and agreements with Bulgarian and foreign media for popularisation of the image of foreigners in Bulgaria and two-way increase of awareness: refugees about Bulgarians and Bulgarians about refugees; • Implementation of programmes, projects and agreements with the Bulgarian business to shorten the route and the access to the labour market for third-country nationals; • Development of common activities and working dialogue with the local governance structures.²⁹ <p>Respective target groups of the majority population include: educational authorities, local governance authorities, national media and business structures.</p> <p>The National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>) envisaged a number of measures targeting specific target groups of the majority population.³⁰ These measures have the objective to facilitate the integration of refugees in the Bulgarian society.</p> <p>In the field of employment the programme foresees the conduct of trainings for officials from the employment bureaus about the specifics in the work with refugees. The target group of this activity are officials from the employment bureaus. The indicated period of implementation is ongoing with no deadline being set.³¹</p> <p>In the field of education the programme foresees the conduct for initiatives for informing pupils and students with the rights, culture and traditions of refugees. The target groups of this measure are the Bulgarian pupils in secondary schools and the Bulgarian students in universities. There is no indication, however, how these two target groups will be reached out. There is no deadline for the implementation of these measures. With regard to the period of implementation of the</p>
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²⁹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, p. 25, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

³⁰ The National programme for the integration of refugees 2011-2013 ended in 2013 and new programme was not drafted.

³¹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, pp. 6-8, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

		<p>measures the programme indicates that they are to be an ongoing activity.³²</p> <p>In the field of social assistance the programme foresees the conduct of training seminars with social workers about the specific aspects in the social work with refugees. The target group of this activity are social workers from respective departments of the Agency for Social Assistance (ASA) (<i>Агенция за социално подпомагане</i>, АСП). The indicated period of implementation of this activity is ongoing with no set deadline.³³</p> <p>In the field of health care the programme foresees the conduct of training seminars with general health care practitioners and dentists about the specific health problems and needs of refugees. The target group of this activity are doctors and dentists. The indicated period of implementation is ongoing and no deadline is set.³⁴</p> <p>In the field of anti-discrimination the programme foresees work and partnerships with media for the purpose of establishing favourable public space attitudes that are supportive to the integration of refugees and avoiding discrimination. The target group of this activity are Bulgarian journalists. The indicated period of implementation is ongoing with no set deadline. In the same field another activity is foreseen targeting Bulgarian pupils and students. The activity involves the development of training modules about the culture and the traditions of refugees.³⁵</p>
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1.2. Drivers & barriers in developing, implementing and assessing legal and policy instruments

	<p>On the basis of material collected, including past research, studies, assessments, evaluation and contacts with the authorities, public officials and key actors for social inclusion and</p>	<p>The main drivers for developing, implementing and assessing legal and policy instruments are the relevant EU benchmarks, the modern anti-discrimination legislation, the established institutional infrastructure, the available funding and the regular monitoring.</p>
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³² Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, pp. 8-9, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

³³ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, p. 9, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

³⁴ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, pp. 9-10, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

³⁵ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, pp. 11-12, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

<p>participation of migrants, outline the main drivers and barriers for social inclusion and integration policies in general. Please mention also any important differences at regional level. A more detailed outline of specific drivers and barriers for specific policy areas will be required in the following sections.</p>	<p>Barriers exist at both strategic and practical level. Relevant policy documents encompass border control, asylum and migrant integration together setting a more control-oriented understanding of migration. Strategic documents are too general and there is no monitoring on the action plans for their implementation. The labour market is restrictive to large groups of third-country nationals and professional training is not sufficient. Provision of information is also not adequate.</p> <p>Bulgaria’s migration management policy is centralised and no regional variations of that policy exist.³⁶</p>
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1.2.1. Drivers

<p>The key drivers for successful integration policies, therefore factors that are considered to contribute positively in the design, development, implementation, assessment and accomplishment of policy goals and in strengthening social inclusion and participation of migrants and their descendants. For example, are these policies mainstreamed in other public policies, for example in employment, education, housing, etc. and how is this achieved?</p>	<p>The different spheres of integration of third-country nationals such as employment, social inclusion, education, anti-discrimination and active citizenship are governed in the respective legal acts and policy documents regulating the rights and obligations of both Bulgarian citizens and third country nationals.</p> <p>The EU relevant benchmarks in the area of migrant integration serve as a driver in the formulation of adequate integration policy in Bulgaria. Attempts for the formulation of coherent migration and integration policy in the country have been undertaken in a more consistent manner only after the country’s EU accession.³⁷</p> <p>The availability in Bulgaria of high standard anti-discrimination legislation is a good basis for the formulation of policies that take into account the fundamental rights of migrants.</p> <p>The well set institutional structure and available funding with regard to refugees and humanitarian status holders serves as a driver for the development of more comprehensive integration policies for this group.</p> <p>The introduction of monitoring reports for the last three years (2012, 2013 and 2014) on the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>) could also be used as a driver for informed improvement of integration policies.</p>
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³⁶ The section on drivers and barriers is based on two studies: Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf; Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy.

³⁷ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, pp. 8-9, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf. According to the report, “the integration of migrants is only of second priority in the national migration policy which appears dominated by a security approach and considerations for the controlling of borders”.

1.2.2.Barriers

	<p>Barriers, limitations, constraints or resistance faced in designing, developing and implementing such policies and measures, therefore factors that may hinder their effectiveness and influence negatively their outcomes. For example, budgetary limitations, or problems of coordination of governance levels, priority of interventions, lack of training or lack of mainstreaming of relevant policies, lack of action by competent actors or limited data about the interested population, could be factors that may function as obstacles or affect negatively the implementation of selected migrant integration measures.</p>	<p>The integration of third-country nationals in Bulgaria is treated in policy documents on migration that encompass the issues of border control, asylum and migrant integration together.</p> <p>The leading priorities in the migration management policy for border control and fight of irregular migration do serve to obstruct the development of more comprehensive and informed migrant integration policy in the country as they set an understanding about migration management that is more control oriented.³⁸</p> <p>The priorities planned for in the National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) are too general and not substantiated by concrete measures with clearly delineated deadlines in the respective action plans. No monitoring is being conducted regarding the implementation of the action plans on the implementation of the national action plans on migrant integration.³⁹</p> <p>There is no monitoring of the integration of migrants. The migrant integration policy is thus being developed without knowledge of the levels of migrant integration and the integration challenges faced by migrants.</p> <p>There is a restrictive labour market policy with regard to the access of third-country nationals.⁴⁰ The issuance of work permits to temporary status holders is tied to a labour market test. Equal rights to Bulgarian citizens for participation into the labour market or social assistance programmes is given to holders of long-term and permanent residence permits only, who represent a tiny minority from the total number of third-country nationals in the country).</p> <p>There are no specialised programmes for job orientation and job placement of third-country nationals. The programmes targeting the general population are</p>
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³⁸ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, pp. 9-10, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf. According to the report, “the integration of migrants is only of second priority in the national migration policy which appears dominated by a security approach and considerations for the controlling of borders”.

³⁹ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, pp. 20-21, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf.

⁴⁰ Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 14.

		<p>accessible to long-term and permanent status holders but are conducted in the Bulgarian language only.⁴¹</p> <p>No targeted professional trainings for migrants are being conducted. The professional training programmes available for the general population are accessible to long-term and permanent residents but are conducted in the Bulgarian language only.⁴²</p> <p>There is no systematic policy with regard to providing information to migrants in Bulgarian or in their own language.⁴³ Instances of development and distribution of information materials are related more often to project funding and are not a sustainable activity. There are no standard procedures and practices for the provision of relevant information materials in third-country nationals' own languages at the main contact institutions for integration such as the Employment Agency (EA) (<i>Агенция по заетостта, АЗ</i>), the Agency for Social Assistance (ASA) (<i>Агенция за социално подпомагане, АСП</i>) and the network of labour bureaus.</p> <p>There is no systematic provision of Bulgarian language training for migrants, and since 2014 for refugees and humanitarian status holders too.⁴⁴</p> <p>The strategic migration management documents in Bulgaria make no explicit reference to anti-discrimination with regard to migrant integration. These documents set no explicit priorities or measures in this regard. This might be explained by the fact that Bulgaria has a comprehensive anti-discrimination legal framework both in sectoral spheres such as employment and social assistance and in a targeted anti-discrimination law. However, the lack of targeted reference to anti-discrimination in the migration management strategies leads to the absence of planning of policies in this field through the annual action plans on migration. This affects the absence of state monitoring in this field, which in turn leaves Bulgarian institutions without knowledge about the effectiveness of anti-discrimination policies with regard to third country nationals.⁴⁵</p> <p>Third country nationals compose a very small share of Bulgaria's population. They are not visible in the public</p>
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⁴¹ Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, pp. 15-16.

⁴² Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 18.

⁴³ Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 22.

⁴⁴ Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 28.

⁴⁵ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 20, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf.

		space and not by the respective integration institutions. The respective public institutions do not recognise legally residing third-country nationals as a group in need of integration. The assumption is that they do not have integration problems. When issues of migrant integration are discussed, the understanding of Bulgarian policy makers is that this topic relates to refugees and humanitarian status holders. ⁴⁶
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1.2.3. Language learning and integration tests

	Please provide information about:	
	<p>Main language learning support programmes and courses. Provide details about organisation of such programmes and actors implementing them, funding support, location, duration, frequency, numbers of beneficiaries, entitlements and limitations for accessing courses.</p>	<p>At the level of policy documents the need of Bulgarian language training for third-country nationals is acknowledged, however no systematic mechanisms for such training have yet been introduced.</p> <p>The National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) refers to the need of organising Bulgarian language courses not only for refugees (which was the case at the time of drafting of the strategy), but also for all legally residing immigrants to facilitate their integration.⁴⁷ Some of the declared measures for the integration of third-country nationals in the action plans under the strategy are focused on education. While remaining limited in scope and declarative in nature, the proposed measures target third-country children only. They include the establishment of multicultural environment at school and the achievement of good quality education for such children (in the plans for 2012 and 2013). These measures, however, are not supported through any concrete measures or programmes. There are no regulations or policy provisions stipulating conditions of language support for third-country nationals or of the levels of language to be achieved.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) (<i>Министерство на труда и социалната политика</i>, МТСП) has not been engaged and has no information about the number and the level of Bulgarian language courses organised for third-country nationals.⁴⁸</p> <p>Only since 2009, the information centres for migrants, run by International Organisation for Migration in</p>

⁴⁶ Mancheva, M. and Ivanova, S. (2015), ASSESS Assessing the Integration of Vulnerable Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 80.

⁴⁷ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 27, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyintheFieldofMigrationAsylumandIntegrationENG.pdf.

⁴⁸ Bulgaria, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (*Министерство на труда и социалната политика*) (2015), Letter No 25-22 of 6.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 25-22 от 6.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 6 March 2015.

		<p>Bulgaria, have been organising Bulgarian language courses for third-country nationals. Training are organised with the financial support of МТСП through the European Integration Fund. The information centre in Sofia refers third-country nationals for free of charge Bulgarian language training to the language department of the Sofia University. The information centre in Burgas organises Bulgarian language courses in its own premises.⁴⁹ The sustainability of this measure, however, is dependent on the provided funding, which is not always available.</p> <p>A more structured approach with regard to language training exists for refugees and humanitarian status holders. Such training is provided in the framework of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>).⁵⁰ Refugees or humanitarian status holders, who enrol in the programme, conclude individual integration agreements with the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>). The programme and the individual integration agreements include a set of measures among which 600 learning hours of Bulgarian language.</p> <p>In 2013, ДАБ provided twelve Bulgarian language courses: six courses for children and six courses for adults. The number of courses provided in 2014 was 60: 26 courses for children and 34 courses for adults. Courses took place in the registration and reception centres in Sofia (Ovcha Kupel), Banya and Harmanly, in the temporary accommodation centres in Sofia (Vrazhdebna and Voenna Rampa) and Kovachevtsi, and in the transit centre in Pastrogor. Courses for adults are 600-hour courses and those for children are 300-hour courses. A total of 98 children and 148 adults attended the courses in 2013, and 144 children attended the courses in 2014.⁵¹</p> <p>Since March 2014, following the expiration of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>), children accommodated in the ДАБ's registration and reception centres have access to UNHCR-funded Bulgarian language courses provided by</p>
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⁴⁹ Information obtained through interview with the Head of the IOM information centre for migrants in Sofia, 14 November 2014.

⁵⁰ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, available at: www.oref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

⁵¹ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

		<p>the non-governmental organisation CARITAS.⁵² The total number of persons enrolled in these courses is 1,114.⁵³ According to ДАБ, these courses are provided according to a curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката</i>, МОН).⁵⁴ According to UNHCR, the courses are informal and not certified under a programme approved by МОН.⁵⁵</p> <p>A total of 270 refugees successfully completed the Bulgarian language course and obtained the respective certificate. ДАБ issued 24 course completion certificates to children in 2013 and 54 in 2014. The children were from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and other countries.⁵⁶</p> <p>According to unofficial data, at the end of 2014, there were 837 refugee children in Bulgaria. Of them, 301 attended Bulgarian language classes and 74 were enrolled in school.⁵⁷</p> <p>The model for Bulgarian language training for refugees and humanitarian status holders was disturbed in 2014. This was the outcome of a process of transformation in the policy approach towards the integration of refugees in the context of the increased wave of asylum seekers in the country. While the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>) ended and a new one was not adopted. Instead, the new National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>) was passed, which introduced a decentralised approach in the integration of refugees. However, the strategy was not substantiated through action plans. Therefore, the integration measures for refugees and humanitarian status holders were suspended in the form they existed until 2013. With the adoption of the new strategy in July 2014 the Bulgarian language courses conducted in the reception centre of</p>
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⁵² UNHCR (2014), Bulgaria as a Country of Asylum: UNHCR Observations on the Current Situation of Asylum in Bulgaria, p.12, available at: www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/pdf/where-we-work/bulgaria/bulgaria-as-a-country-of-asylum.html.

⁵³ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

⁵⁴ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

⁵⁵ UNHCR (2014), Bulgaria as a Country of Asylum: UNHCR Observations on the Current Situation of Asylum in Bulgaria, p.12, available at: www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/pdf/where-we-work/bulgaria/bulgaria-as-a-country-of-asylum.html.

⁵⁶ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

⁵⁷ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 4, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

		<p>ДАБ were suspended. Between January and July 2014 a total number of 79 children took part in Bulgarian language courses.</p> <p>This rate of participation in Bulgarian language courses is very low in the context of the high wave of asylum seekers in the country in 2014. The main limitation to the wider participation in Bulgarian language courses on the part of asylum seekers, refugees and humanitarian status holders is that the courses are conducted within the existing registration reception centres only. Refugees and humanitarian status holders who live out of these centres do not have information about the courses. There is also lack of motivation for many refugees and humanitarian status holders to study Bulgarian, as they perceive Bulgaria as a transit country. There are no care facilities for children to allow mothers to attend the language courses. Another obstacle is the lack of educational materials and consumables.⁵⁸</p>
	<p>Knowledge level of the language achieved through such programmes (please use the <u>Common European Framework Reference levels - CEFR</u>).</p>	<p>The language level achieved at the end of the courses provided by the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>) is A1/A2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. A total of 98 children and 148 adults attended the courses in 2013, and 144 children attended the courses in 2014.⁵⁹</p>
	<p>Language tests required for migrants to access residence or other legal status affecting equal treatment and access to rights. Please provide information about their content and character, level of knowledge required, numbers of participants, and rates of success/failure.</p>	<p>Bulgarian legislation does not require Bulgarian language acquisition for access to residence status.</p> <p>Knowledge of Bulgarian language is one of the conditions for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by third country nationals.⁶⁰ The authority responsible for conducting the language tests is the Centre for Control and Assessment of the Quality of Secondary Education (ССАQSE) (<i>Център за контрол и оценка на качеството на училищното образование, ЦКОКУО</i>) at the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>).⁶¹</p> <p>ЦКОКУО is also authorised to issue certificates for knowledge of the Bulgarian language. A certificate for knowledge of the Bulgarian language can be issued if:</p> <p>(1) the applicant presents a document for completed</p>

⁵⁸ Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2014*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 26, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/monitoring_integration-refugees_2014-EN.pdf.

⁵⁹ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

⁶⁰ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 12, Par. (5), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

⁶¹ Bulgaria, Ordinance No 5 of 3 September 1999 on the procedure for assessing the knowledge of the Bulgarian language for the acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation (*Наредба № 5 от 3 септември 1999 г. за реда за установяване владението на български език при придобиване на българско гражданство по натурализация*), 14 September 1999, Art. 5, Par. (1) and Art. 6 Par. (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-549673984>.

		<p>levels of training in the Bulgarian language, or (2) the applicant passes a written test.⁶² The Bulgarian language tests are conducted by ЦКОКYO every month according to announced schedule. Sample language tests are uploaded on the centre's website (http://ckoko.bg/page.php?c=24&d=19). The level of knowledge of Bulgarian language is defined as "ability for normal communication at elementary level".⁶³ There are no other criteria for assessing the level of knowledge, including according to the CEFR.⁶⁴</p> <p>ЦКОКYO reported the following data on the numbers of participants and the levels of success at the language tests for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013: number of applications for Bulgarian language test – 255; persons who took the test – 237; persons who passed the test and received certificates for knowledge of the Bulgarian language – 191 (success rate of 80.6 %); number of persons who did not pass the test – 46 (rate of failure of 19.4 %). Of the total of 191 persons, who received certificates for knowledge of the Bulgarian language, 20 persons got them based on documents for completed level of training in the Bulgarian language. • 2014: number of applications for Bulgarian language test – 1,078; persons who took the test – 1,025; persons who passed the test and received certificates for knowledge of the Bulgarian language – 953 (success rate of 93 %); number of persons who did not pass the test – 72 (rate of failure of 7 %). Of the total of 953 persons, who received certificates for knowledge of the Bulgarian language, 254 persons got them based on documents for completed level of training in the Bulgarian language.⁶⁵
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⁶² Bulgaria, Ordinance No 5 of 3 September 1999 on the procedure for assessing the knowledge of the Bulgarian language for the acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation (*Наредба № 5 от 3 септември 1999 г. за реда за установяване владенето на български език при придобиване на българско гражданство по натурализация*), 14 September 1999, Art. 6, Par. (1) and (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-549673984>.

⁶³ Bulgaria, Ordinance No 5 of 3 September 1999 on the procedure for assessing the knowledge of the Bulgarian language for the acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation (*Наредба № 5 от 3 септември 1999 г. за реда за установяване владенето на български език при придобиване на българско гражданство по натурализация*), 14 September 1999, Art. 6, Par. (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-549673984>.

⁶⁴ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*), Centre for Control and Assessment of the Quality of Secondary Education (*Център за контрол и оценка на качеството на училищното образование*) (2015), Letter No 12-131 of 5.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 12-131 от 5.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 5 March 2015.

⁶⁵ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*), Centre for Control and Assessment of the Quality of Secondary Education (*Център за контрол и оценка на качеството на училищното образование*) (2015), Letter No 12-131 of 5.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 12-131 от 5.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 5 March 2015.

	<p>Integration tests for access to residence or other status affecting equal treatment and access to rights. Please provide information about their content and character, range of knowledge required, numbers of participants, and rates of success/failure.</p>	<p>Bulgarian legislation does not require the attendance of integration courses or the passing of integration tests for access to residence and other status.</p>
	<p>Mother tongue learning programmes for children of migrants.</p>	<p>According to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (<i>Конституция на Република България</i>), Bulgarian citizens for whom the Bulgarian language is not a mother tongue are obliged to study Bulgarian language but have the right to study and use their mother tongue as well.⁶⁶ This right is relevant to both members of the ethnic minorities in Bulgaria, such as Turks, and former third-country nationals, who acquired Bulgarian citizenship.</p> <p>Pupils, for whom the Bulgarian language is not a mother tongue, in addition to the compulsory study of the Bulgarian language, have the right to study their mother tongue in the Bulgarian public school under the guarantee and the control of the state.⁶⁷ However, this provision is not obligatory for the public school and training in mother tongues are be organised if there is a sufficient number of pupils willing to study the respective mother tongue and if there are qualified teachers at the school to conduct such training.⁶⁸ Thus, the right to mother tongue training is a declared right but is not an obligation of the Bulgarian state. The study of mother tongue is not among the compulsory subjects. If such training is provided by a particular public school, it can be part of the mandatory selectable classes or the freely selectable classes.</p> <p>The provision of mother tongue training for pupils, who are third-country nationals, is hindered due to the lack of school programmes for such training after 8th grade and due to the lack of officially approved textbooks. Another obstacle is the requirement for minimum number of pupils in training groups for the freely selectable subjects (not less than 13 pupils) and the mandatory selectable subjects (not less than 11 or 12 pupils).⁶⁹ In practice, children having the same mother</p>

⁶⁶ Bulgaria, Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (*Конституция на Република България*), 13 July 1991, Art. 36, Par. (2), available at: www.parliament.bg/en/const.

⁶⁷ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 8, Par. (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

⁶⁸ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015; Antonov, A. (*Антонов, А.*) (2012), 'Contrary to our Beliefs, Europe Encourages the Study of Mother Tongue' (*Обратно на представата ни, Европа поощрява изучаването на майчин език*), Sofia, Hermes Foundation – Liberal Library (*Фондация Хермес – Либерална библиотека*), available at: www.hermesbg.org/nova-biblioteka/book-41/1978-obratno-na-predstavata-ni-evropa-pooshtryava-izuchavaneto-na-maychin-ezik.html.

⁶⁹ Bulgaria, Ordinance No 7 of 29 December 2000 on setting the number of classes and groups and the number of pupils and children in the classes and the groups of the schools and the kindergartens (*Наредба № 7 от 29 декември 2000 г. за определяне броя на паралелките и групите и броя на учениците и на децата в паралелките и в групите на детските*

		<p>tongue can hardly reach the number of eleven or thirteen in any of the schools of the country. According to data from the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>), 1,142 pupils, third-country nationals, were enrolled in Bulgarian public and state schools in the school year 2013/2014. These pupils are dispersed across the public schools of the bigger cities of the country with no identified trend of accumulation of bigger groups of third-country children of the same mother tongue in one and the same school.</p> <p>Opportunity for mother tongue training is provided only in two schools located in the capital city of Sofia. Public school No 18 is a specialised primary and secondary school for the study of rare languages, including Arabic, Farsi, Chinese and Japanese. Therefore, third-country nationals of the respective nationalities are attending this. School No 76 provides training in the Arabic language as freely selectable subject. This is a private initiative and parents are paying for the Arabic language classes attended by their children.</p> <p>According to official statistics the following number of students were studying their mother tongue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School year 2010/2011: Turkish – 10,888; Romany – 17; Hebrew – n/a; Armenian – 127; • School year 2011/2012: Turkish – 9,912; Romany – 451; Hebrew – 269; Armenian – 138; • School year 2012/2013: Turkish – 9,064; Romany – 176; Hebrew – 80; Armenian – 115; • School year 2013/2014: Turkish – 8,463; Romany – 507; Hebrew – 343; Armenian – 102.⁷⁰
	<p>Please provide insights about key issues, debates, challenges or problems related to the implementation of the above measures and policies. The findings should be substantiated through existing assessments, research or studies and case law (use template in Annex 9).</p>	<p>There is no public debate in Bulgaria related to the exercise of the right to mother tongue training with regard to pupils who are third-country nationals. Such debate exists with regard to the exercise of that right by the pupils from the Turkish ethnic minority in Bulgaria. In practice, the applicable rules and conditions lead to the lack of mother tongue training in the Turkish language even in the regions with bigger shares of Turkish population. Problems in the implementation of the right to mother tongue training lead to significant decrease in the numbers of pupils who receive such training. While in the school year 1992/1993 a total of</p>

градини, училищата и обслужващите звена), 12 January 2001, Art. 26-27, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-549189118>.

⁷⁰ National Statistical Institute (2014), Education in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014, Sofia, National Statistical Institute, available at: www.nsi.bg/en/content/12474/%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F/education-republic-bulgaria-2014.

		<p>100,000 pupils in Bulgaria were studying their mother tongue, their number decreased to only about 7,000 in the school year 2010/2011.⁷¹</p> <p>The public debate is focused around claims for introduction of mother tongue training as a compulsory subject in the general curricular of the secondary public schools in the country.</p>
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1.2.4. Monitoring and assessment – Use of indicators

	<p>In this section please outline monitoring and evaluation procedures applied by public authorities at national and regional level, as applicable, for migrant integration. In particular, please present any indicators used for the monitoring, assessment and review of integration policies in the areas of political and social participation, social cohesion, and intolerance, inclusive and welcoming society. Please make sure to report here the link of such indicators with fundamental rights and the way their use reflects to the review of such policies.</p>	<p>In the context of moderate inflows of third country nationals in Bulgaria and of low interest on the part of institutions to the specific integration needs of third-country nationals, Bulgarian policy makers have not yet developed elaborate mechanisms for monitoring migrant integration.⁷²</p> <p>Monitoring activities in the field of migrant integration are formally entrusted to the National Council on Migration Policy (NCMP) (<i>Национален съвет по миграционна политика</i>, HCMП) under the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи</i>, МВР). Two of the six main tasks delegated to the HCMП concern monitoring: continuous monitoring of migration policy implementation and oversight and analysis of the implementation of migration policy's objectives. However, no further details are provided as to the mechanisms to be employed for the purposes of monitoring.</p> <p>A so-called "reporting mechanism" was introduced with regard to the implementation of National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>). It involves the drafting of annual action plans and reports on their implementation.⁷³ The three annual action plans for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 do not lay down any mechanisms for monitoring the planned activities. The action plans provide a list of activities in five policy fields with corresponding objectives, deadlines of implementation and responsible institutions. However, no indicators are provided for the measurement of the</p>
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⁷¹ Zhelyaskova, A., Avramov, O., Kosseva, A. and Petkashev, L. (2012), *Educational Problems of Turkish Children in Bulgarian Schools (Образователни проблеми на турските деца в българското училище)*, Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations, available at: http://imir-bg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Образование-на-malcinstvata_2.pdf.

⁷² The section on integrators is based on two studies: Kostova, M. and Yakimova, E. (2013), *Analysis of existing migratory data production systems and major data sources in Bulgaria. Enhancing data production systems of migration and human capital in the South-East European era*, Budapest, Hungarian Central Statistical Office, available at <http://seemig.eu/downloads/outputs/SEEMIGDataSystemsCountryReportBulgaria.pdf>; Mancheva, M. (2014), *ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria*, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf.

⁷³ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), *National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.)*, 23 February 2011, pp. 43-45, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

		<p>success or the effectiveness of the planned activities. Consequently, the reports on the implementation of the annual action plans cannot be regarded as a monitoring tool. Rather, they present a collection of the administrative information provided by the designated state institutions about the activities conducted under their auspices.</p> <p>The National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>) includes a set of indicators for assessing the progress of integration of persons under international protection.⁷⁴ The strategy lists a total of 46 indicators divided into six categories: access to education (nine indicators), access to employment (11 indicators), life-long learning (six indicators), access to housing (11 indicators), access to healthcare (seven indicators), and access to social assistance (two indicators). Some of the indicators are based on statistical data on participation (e.g. number of persons attending professional qualification courses) or costs (e.g. annual budget allocated for professional qualification courses), while others measure personal satisfaction (e.g. number of persons satisfied with the professional qualification course they have attended or completed). The indicators are not linked to fundamental rights and none of them covers the areas of political and social participation, social cohesion, tolerance, or inclusive and welcoming society. Besides, due to the lack of methodology for the application of these indicators, it is not clear how the necessary data will be collected and how often the indicators will be applied. It is also not clear whether this list of indicators will be preserved in its present form in view of the expected integration of the different strategic documents on migration.</p> <p>The policy documents in the area of child protection do not provide for targeted monitoring of the integration of immigrant children or unaccompanied children. The implementation of the National strategy on the child 2008-2018 (<i>Национална стратегия за детето 2008-2018 г.</i>) is assessed internally.⁷⁵ While the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) (<i>Държавна агенция за закрила на детето, ДАЗД</i>) is among the few institutions in Bulgaria, which have initiated a monitoring process of its programming and strategic documents, the monitoring of the strategy is still in a premature phase. Presently, the monitoring process relies primarily on the</p>
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⁷⁴ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, Annex 3, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

⁷⁵ Bulgaria, National Assembly (*Народно събрание*) (2008), National strategy on the child 2008-2018 (*Национална стратегия за детето 2008-2018 г.*), 31 January 2008, available at: www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=464.

		<p>annual reports on the annual national child protection programmes as a primary source of information and thus lacks a variety of perspectives and information resources, which could add wealth and objectivity to the analysis. There are no particular terms of reference for monitoring or a consistent data collection system beyond the review of the annual reports. There are no indicators to ensure the quality of the monitoring system.</p> <p>The National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) makes no reference to migrants' fundamental rights and anti-discrimination as an aspect or target of the integration of third country nationals, respectively no indication is made of the need to conduct monitoring in this field. There is no anti-discrimination monitoring mechanism apart from the annual reports of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>), which offer an overview of the complaints against acts of discrimination dealt with by the commission.</p> <p>In practice, no indicators for measuring integration progress are currently being applied. The two main public institutions working in the area of migration – the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, МВР</i>) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) (<i>Министерство на труда и социалната политика, МТСП</i>) both reported they do not use any indicators for assessing migrant integration policies.⁷⁶</p> <p>Data collection on migrants and migrant integration in Bulgaria is not centralised. Different institutions collect data for different purposes. Data on migrants is stored either in administrative or in statistical data banks. The register on foreigners kept by the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, МВР</i>) includes data on foreigners residing in Bulgaria. The population register maintained by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public works (MRDPW) (<i>Министерство на регионалното развитие и благоустройството, МРРБ</i>) includes data about Bulgarian citizens, persons with refugee or humanitarian status or asylum, and foreigners with long-term or permanent residence in Bulgaria. The information system "Demography" (<i>информационна система „Демография“</i>) of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) (<i>Национален статистически институт, НСИ</i>) includes statistical data on population, demographic events and</p>
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⁷⁶ Bulgaria, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (*Министерство на труда и социалната политика*) (2015), Letter No 25-22 of 6.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 25-22 от 6.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 6 March 2015; Bulgaria, Ministry of the Interior (*Министерство на вътрешните работи*) (2015), Letter No 812100-10222 of 16.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 812100-10222 от 16.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

		<p>migration. The National Statistical Institute (NSI) (<i>Национален статистически институт, НСИ</i>) collects also census data, data from labour force surveys, etc. The collected data is not used for monitoring purposes because there is no national monitoring system, no agreement for central storage of data and no harmonisation of the main terms and categories of data collection.</p> <p>The main limitations of the present data collection mechanisms for migrants are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data on migrants, available from administrative data sources, is mainly designed for administrative purposes and cannot always be fully adapted for wider statistical purposes; • The definitions used in administrative information systems do not fully correspond to those recommended by e.g. Eurostat and could not be fully utilised for comparative statistical purposes; • There is little coherence between the definitions and categories used by the data banks of different administrative registers. • Most of the Bulgarian institutions do not have automatic data collection systems and collect only rough data that can hardly be processed electronically, especially regarding aggregates on migrants. Information aggregates by gender, age, citizenship, employment, health status, education, etc. are not available.⁷⁷
<p>Provide full wording and translation in English of each indicator used per area and dimension covered as well as its full definition, legal basis, rationale, and link with fundamental rights or EU law (use table in the Annex 4).</p>		
<p>Please provide data and evidence about the adoption of related Zaragoza indicators, especially in the dimensions of active citizenship and welcoming society. Please consult the publication Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration (ESN, MPG) and report more detailed and updated specific descriptions and mapping of indicators used in the Member States.</p>		<p>In Bulgaria the Zaragoza indicators are not being used in data collection regarding migrants and not part of any monitoring mechanisms at national level.</p> <p>The National Statistical Institute (NSI) (<i>Национален статистически институт, НСИ</i>) provides data to Eurostat in accordance with Zaragoza indicators for assessment of migrant integration. To be able to meet the Eurostat standards in this area, the information cooperation between НСИ and the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, МВР</i>) was improved and the quality of provided statistical data to Eurostat was better guaranteed. The provision of fully reliable data on third-country nationals by НСИ was hampered due to the type of data provided by МВР. This problem was overcome in 2013 when the two institutions signed an annex to their data exchange cooperation agreement. According to this annex, МВР started to provide НСИ with individual data about all</p>

⁷⁷ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, pp. 27-29, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf.

		<p>third-country nationals and foreign EU citizens with permanent, long-term or prolonged residence in Bulgaria, registered in the register on foreigners kept by MBP. The new type of data provided by MBP contributes to the improvement of the quality of data on immigration in Bulgaria and brings the country closer to fulfilling the established standards for harmonisation of data in the sphere of international migration (Regulation (EC) 862/2007). The new data exchange rules will allow records received from MBP to be matched with those from the population register, allowing the coverage of the entire population of third country nationals. HСИ will therefore produce more reliable and correct data on international migration.</p> <p>However, for most of the migrant integration indicators, there are no reliable samples of the migrant population from Bulgaria. The samples on migrants from Bulgaria are very small due to the small share of the migrant population in the country. With a migrant population of 43,215 persons in 2013 it is not likely that many of them will fall within statistical inquiries covering the general country population of 7,245,677 people.⁷⁸ In such a context, it is even harder to provide Eurostat with reliable age and gender divides of the migrant population along the respective migrant integration indicators. This is the case for both the EU LFS and the EU SILC surveys.</p>
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1.2.5. Funding integration policies (EIF, ERF, EMIF)

	<p>Please provide information about the distribution of funds for integration of migrants, as well as their social inclusion and participation. In particular, provide specific breakdown of funding per general area of integration policies – with particular focus on active citizenship, participation, welcoming society, social cohesion - in the last year and for the period 2010-2014</p>	<p>The institution responsible for the administration of the European Integration Fund in Bulgaria is the Employment Agency (EA) (<i>Агенция по заетостта, АЗ</i>). АЗ funded 17 projects to the total amount of BGN 1,813,811,20 (€927,659.42) in 2012 ⁷⁹ and 20 projects to the total amount of BGN 1,420,131.19 (€726,314.88) in 2013.⁸⁰</p> <p>The institution responsible for the administration of the European Refugee Fund in Bulgaria is the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>). For the period 2010-2013, ДАБ spent €267,272.06 for funding projects aimed at integrating beneficiaries of international protection.⁸¹ Disaggregated figures are provided in Annex 5.</p>
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⁷⁸ National Statistical Institute (2014), *Population and Demographic Processes 2013*, Sofia, National Statistical Institute.

⁷⁹ Bulgaria, Employment Agency (*Агенция по заетостта*) (2014), Awarded contracts under Annual Programme 2012 of EIF (*Сключени договори по Годишна програма 2012 на ЕИФ*), 26 August 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/eif/default.asp?pid=146.

⁸⁰ Bulgaria, Employment Agency (*Агенция по заетостта*) (2015), Awarded contracts under Annual Programme 2013 of EIF (*Сключени договори по Годишна програма 2013 на ЕИФ*), 9 January 2015, available at: <http://www.mlsp.government.bg/eif/default.asp?pid=147>.

⁸¹ Bulgaria, Ministry of the Interior (*Министерство на вътрешните работи*) (2015), Letter No 812100-10222 of 16.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 812100-10222 от 16.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

	if available. (Use the table in the Annex 5).	The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund has not been used yet. The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, МВР</i>), which is in charge of its administration, is currently in the process of developing the national multiannual programme. It is expected that the fund will become operational in the second half of 2015. ⁸²
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2.Promoting equal treatment and non-discrimination

2.1.The implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and equal treatment

	Briefly provide information on the following:	
	Outreach and awareness raising campaigns, training schemes, etc. undertaken by national or regional public authorities (including national equality bodies) targeting migrants and their descendants on the national anti-discrimination legal framework.	<p>There have not been any outreach or awareness raising campaigns on the national anti-discrimination legal framework organised by national or regional public authorities specifically targeting migrants or their descendants.</p> <p>The national equality body, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>), organised general awareness raising campaigns in 2012⁸³ and 2013⁸⁴ at schools, colleges and universities targeting students, teachers and the administration.</p>
	Evidence through polls, surveys, academic research, etc. on the awareness of migrants and/or their descendants concerning the right to equal treatment. Please indicate differences between ethnic/ migrant groups, living in different geographic areas, gender and age, as well as trends in time.	<p>No national polls, surveys or academic research have been conducted examining the awareness of migrants or their descendants of the right to equal treatment.</p> <p>The only recent survey on the awareness of the right of equal treatment is the Eurobarometer survey on discrimination in the EU, conducted in 2012. This survey, however, examines the level of awareness among the entire population and not specifically among migrants. According to its results, 29 % of the Bulgarian population would know what their rights were if they became victims of discrimination or harassment.⁸⁵</p>

⁸² Bulgaria, Ministry of the Interior (*Министерство на вътрешните работи*) (2015), Letter No 812100-10222 of 16.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 812100-10222 от 16.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

⁸³ Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*) (2012), Annual Report 2012 (*Годишен доклад за 2012 г.*), pp. 65-66, available at: kzd-nondiscrimination.com/layout/images/stories/2015/otchet/annual_report_2012Final_25.03.2013year.doc.

⁸⁴ Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*) (2013), Annual Report 2013 (*Годишен доклад за 2013 г.*), p. 89, available at: kzd-nondiscrimination.com/layout/images/stories/2015/otchet/annual_report_kzd-2013.doc.

⁸⁵ European Commission (2012), *Eurobarometer: Discrimination in the EU in 2012. Factsheets for Bulgaria*, p. 2, available at: ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_393_fact_bg_en.pdf.

<p>Evidence of complaints lodged by migrants and/or their descendants - % of total complaints to equality bodies, % of admissible complaints, statistics about outcomes of investigation, % of cases establishing discrimination. Please indicate differences between ethnic/ migrant groups, geographic areas, gender and age, as well as trends in time.</p>	<p>A number of cases, dealt with by the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>), have been related to alleged discrimination on the grounds of citizenship or nationality different from that of EU Member States. There are cases where applicants have been citizens of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Nigeria and Syria. However, statistics on applicants from third countries is not being kept because КЗД is not obliged to ask for and record the applicants' nationality or citizenship. Furthermore, КЗД can open a case upon a complaint for alleged unequal treatment on the grounds of disability where the applicant is a third-country national. Such cases, as long as the alleged discrimination is not related to the applicants' citizenship, cannot be recorded in such statistics.⁸⁶</p>
<p>Tools, measures and positive initiatives aiming at facilitating reporting incidents of discrimination – e.g. translation facilities to report and submit complaints in multiple languages – and tackling under-reporting and low rights-awareness.</p>	<p>The Bulgarian Protection against Discrimination Act (<i>Закон за защита от дискриминация</i>) allows the lodging of complaints before the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>) in a foreign language, but requires that they be accompanied by a Bulgarian translation.⁸⁷</p> <p>According to ECRI, there are no translation facilities provided by the equality body with a view to facilitating reporting. The information leaflets explaining the anti-discrimination legal framework, published and disseminated by КЗД, are only available in Bulgarian and, some of them, in English.⁸⁸</p>
<p>In particular, provide information about any legal protection on grounds of nationality, which is not covered by the EU anti-discrimination Directives,⁸⁹ but is a prohibited ground in several Member States. Please explain how unequal treatment on the basis of nationality is treated and provide exemplary cases, if any. Please provide information on the relevant</p>	<p>The Bulgarian anti-discrimination legislation offers protection based on a wider range of grounds than the EU anti-discrimination directives. The Protection against Discrimination Act (<i>Закон за защита от дискриминация</i>) forbids direct and indirect discrimination "on the grounds of sex, race, nationality, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion or belief, education, opinions, political belonging, personal or public status, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, property status, or on any other grounds established by the law, or by international treaties to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party".⁹⁰</p> <p>Information on relevant case law is provided in Annex 9.</p>

⁸⁶ Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*) (2015), Letter to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 27 March 2015.

⁸⁷ Bulgaria, Protection against Discrimination Act (*Закон за защита от дискриминация*), 30 September 2003, Art. 51, Par. (1), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135472223>.

⁸⁸ Council of Europe, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (2014), *ECRI Report on Bulgaria (fifth monitoring cycle)*, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 16 April 2014, p. 25, available at: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Bulgaria/BGR-CbC-V-2014-036-ENG.pdf.

⁸⁹ As of Art. 3.2 of the Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin.

⁹⁰ Bulgaria, Protection against Discrimination Act (*Закон за защита от дискриминация*), 30 September 2003, Art. 4, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135472223>.

	<p>practice and case law (use template in Annex 9)</p> <p>Please provide information about the application of the legislation concerning discrimination against migrants – on any ground – in accessing law enforcement and judiciary services. In particular please clarify whether and when the latter are considered and treated, or not, as services available to the public, therefore falling within the scope of the directives and the jurisdiction of Equality Bodies.⁹¹</p>	<p>There is no case law concerning migrants’ access to law enforcement or judiciary services.</p> <p>There is no case law interpreting the issue of whether law enforcement and judiciary services as such fall within the scope of the anti-discrimination legislation and the jurisdiction of the equality body.</p> <p>In a case on discrimination on the grounds of age, the Sofia Regional Court (SRC) (<i>Софийски районен съд, CPC</i>), provided the following interpretation of the term ‘service’ within the meaning of the Protection against Discrimination Act (<i>Закон за защита от дискриминация</i>): ‘given that the law affirms the equality of treatment as a precondition for effective participation in public life, the term [service] should include any offer targeted at an unlimited number of recipients of the public and designed to satisfy an interest typical of a wide range of entities’.⁹² However, this interpretation does not explicitly refer to judiciary and law enforcement services. Moreover, it is provided only as a justification to the court’s decision and has no binding effect on any other institutions or courts.</p> <p>Judiciary services are considered and treated as services available to the public most often in cases of discrimination on the grounds of disability, where the inaccessible architectural environment of public buildings, including courts, has been interpreted as direct discrimination.⁹³</p>
	<p>Please provide statistical data about numbers of discrimination cases/complaints submitted to competent bodies (Equality Bodies, Administrative Courts), as well as about their outcomes (use the tables in the Annex 8)</p>	
<h2>2.2.Implementation of equal treatment of various permit holders</h2>		
	<p>Please summarize <u>briefly</u> in this section any key issues affecting the implementation of equal treatment of permit holders, as defined by the following EU legislation; these could</p>	

⁹¹ Please note that these are considered non-economic services by the EU Commission (Services of general interest, including social services of general interest: a new European commitment, COMM 725 (2007) of 20 November 2007, yet not always they are considered by Equality Bodies to fall in the areas of application of the anti-discrimination directives.

⁹² Bulgaria, Sofia Regional Court (*Софийски районен съд*), Decision on civil case No 4041/2006 (*Решение по гр.д. № 4041/2006*). The decision is cited in: Bulgaria, Commission for Protection Against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*) (2010), Collection of case law on the application of the Protection against Discrimination Act (*Сборник съдебна практика по приложението на Закона за защита от дискриминация*), Sofia, Commission for Protection Against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*), pp. 73-74, available at: www.kzd-nondiscrimination.com/progress2009_2010/images/stories/products/18-10-2010HANDBOOK2010FINAL1_BG.pdf.

⁹³ See for example: Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*), Decision No 2 of 3.1.2011 on case file No 233/2009 (*Решение № 2 от 3.1.2011 г. по преписка № 233/2009*), 3 January 2011; Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*), Decision No 180 of 30.7.2010 on case file No 88/2009 (*Решение № 180 от 30.7.2010 г. по преписка № 88/2009*), 30 July 2010; Bulgaria, Administrative Court – Sofia City (*Административен съд – София град*), Decision No 4871 of 14.7.2014 on administrative case No 2294/2014 (*Решение № 4871 от 14.7.2014 г. по административно дело № 2294/2014 г.*), 14 July 2014, available at: <http://legalacts.justice.bg/Search/GetActContentByActId?actId=cFGDa81BSQ8%3D>.

	<p>be, for example, practical issues and bottlenecks, administrative delays, coordination and cooperation of public authorities, etc.</p> <p>Please substantiate findings, as far as possible, through formal evaluations, as well as research or studies and case law (use template in Annex 9). Please bear in mind that no assessment of the legal transposition process is required. In regard to the five categories below, please provide <u>statistical data</u> issued in 2014 or valid on 31.12.14. (use annex 3)</p>
<p>2.2.1. <u>Long Term Residence (LTR) status holders</u> (Art.11 of the Directive 2003/109/EC)</p>	<p>There is no evidence of obstacles for the equal treatment of long-term residence (LTR) status holders. LTR holders are employed under the same rules as Bulgarian citizens and enjoy the same social benefits. They are not required to fill in different forms because standard forms in Bulgaria usually contain fields for foreign nationals (incl. country of birth and personal foreigner's number).</p> <p>Once they have obtained their status, LTR status holders are by law informed on their rights and obligations deriving from this status.⁹⁴</p> <p>LTR status holders can apply for universities on an equal basis with Bulgarian citizens and their children can benefit from free secondary education in state and municipal schools.⁹⁵</p> <p>In the area of taxation, persons, who have resided in Bulgaria for at least 183 days per year, except for the purpose of medical treatment or education, are subject to taxation irrespective of their status or citizenship. They are treated equally irrespective of their origin, including in terms of tax relief.⁹⁶</p>
<p>2.2.2. <u>Single-permit procedure</u> permit holders (Art.12 and 13 of the Directive 2011/98/EU)</p>	<p>In Bulgaria, the institution issuing single permits is the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи</i>, МВР). МВР obtains the work permit component <i>ex officio</i>. There is no evidence of delays due to lack of coordination between authorities.</p> <p>Work permits are issued to third-country nationals only if their remuneration would not be lower than the remuneration for a Bulgarian citizen with the same profession.⁹⁷ When a Bulgarian company files a request to employ a third-country national by single permit, it should make sure the profession the applicant will practice does not require additional recognition. If it does, the recognition is made on an equal basis as for</p>

⁹⁴ Bulgaria, Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (*Закон за чужденците в Република България*), 23 December 1998, Art. 24г, Par. (11), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134455296.

⁹⁵ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

⁹⁶ Bulgaria, Income Tax of Natural Persons Act (*Закон за данъците върху доходите на физически лица*), 24 November 2004, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135538631>.

⁹⁷ Bulgaria, Employment Promotion Act (*Закон за насърчаване на заетостта*), 29 December 2001, Art. 71, Par. 1, Item 3, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/-12262909>.

	<p>Bulgarian citizens who have received their qualification abroad and for EU nationals.</p> <p>Children of single permit holders can benefit from secondary education in state-owned schools after paying a fee specified by the Minister of Education and Science.⁹⁸</p>
2.2.3. <u>Blue card holders</u> (Art.14 and 12 of the Directive 2009/50/EC)	Bulgarian legislation provides for the equal treatment of blue card owners in all aspects of Articles 12 and 14 of Directive 2009/50/EC. ⁹⁹ There is no evidence for practical obstacles hampering equal treatment.
2.2.4. <u>Family reunification permit holders</u> (specifically in terms of access to labour market - Art. 14 of Directive 2003/86/EC)	Family reunification decisions for family members of refugee status holders result in an up to one year permit to reside in Bulgaria with the option for extension. ¹⁰⁰ There is no evidence showing any lack of equal treatment with the sponsors.
2.2.5. Beneficiaries of international protection long term residence status holders ¹⁰¹	<p>In September 2014, volunteers assisting refugees and media reported that refugee children, who have the right of free education in municipal schools, were obstructed to exercise their right. They were required to present documents certifying their previous education in the country of origin. Such documents were usually not available and difficult to obtain in time of war. Moreover, fees for postal services and for the translation and legalisation of documents are often difficult to meet by for international protection status holders. A volunteer reported that the sum requested for obtaining a ninth grade completion documents from a school in Syria was about USD 600. Some of the money were allegedly asked for bribing ministry officials and gunned people escorting the documents.¹⁰²</p> <p>For the same reasons, beneficiaries of international protection often fail to provide proof of their education and work experience when applying for a job in Bulgaria. Thus, they practically are forced to accept lower-skilled employment.¹⁰³</p>

⁹⁸ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

⁹⁹ Bulgaria, Employment Promotion Act (*Закон за насърчаване на заетостта*), 29 December 2001, Art. 71, Par. 1, Item 3, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/-12262909>.

¹⁰⁰ Bulgaria, Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (*Закон за чужденците в Република България*), 23 December 1998, Art. 256, Par. (2), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134455296.

¹⁰¹ As per recitals 6 and 7 of Directive [2011/51/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2011 amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection Text with EEA relevance

¹⁰² Staykova, L. (2014), 'Will refugee children start school in Bulgaria?', *Lydia Staykova's blog*, 28 August 2014, available at <https://lydblog.wordpress.com/2014/08/28/sr/>.

¹⁰³ Good Governance Institute Foundation (*Фондация "Институт за добро управление"*) (2013), Handbook for officials and employees from the public administration, local government and NGOs on working with refugees with special needs (*Наръчник за работа на служителите от държавната администрация, органите за местно самоуправление и неправителствените организации за бежанци със специални нужди*), Sofia, Good Governance Institute Foundation (*Фондация "Институт за добро управление"*), p. 49, available at: www.aref.government.bg/ebf/docs/Handbook%20for%20refugees_GGI_26_08_2013.doc.

	<p>In November 2014, the government presented to the parliament draft amendments to the Asylum and Refugees Act (<i>Закон за убежището и бежанците</i>) aimed to solve the problem of missing documents.¹⁰⁴ The bill passed first reading on 20 March 2015. According to the proposed provisions, international protection status holders who cannot provide documents proving their qualification and want to practice a regulated profession in Bulgaria can gain access to practicing such profession according to the provisions of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Act (<i>Закон за признаване на професионални квалификации</i>). The draft envisages also that the right to education of asylum seekers and international protection status holders in state and municipal schools shall be exercised according to conditions specified by the Minister of Education and Science and in consultation with the chairperson of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR), (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>). By the end of March 2015, the amendments have not passed second reading.</p>
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2.3.Key developments and trends

<p>Please include in this section key developments in the area of equal treatment and anti-discrimination that concern only migrants and/or their descendants. Key developments may be new legislation or policies, abolition, update, improvement or reform of existing ones, as well as important case law, court, equality body or administrative cases, that have had or may have an impact on the implementation of the anti-discrimination</p>	<p>In 2011, the government adopted a new National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) laying down the national migration management policy framework.¹⁰⁵ It is implemented through annual action plans. The strategy targets all migrants in Bulgaria, including beneficiaries of international protection, third country nationals, stateless persons and migrants' descendants. It includes as aims the implementation of anti-discrimination law and fundamental rights policy, which are to be realised through the provision of legal aid and translation services and measures combating discrimination and xenophobia.¹⁰⁶ The annual plan for 2011 did not include any equal treatment and anti-discrimination measures.¹⁰⁷ The plans for 2012 and 2013 included a</p>
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¹⁰⁴ Bulgaria, National Assembly (*Народно събрание*) (2014), Draft Law on amending and supplementing the Asylum and Refugees Act (*Закон за изменение и допълнение на Закона за убежището и бежанците*), Par. 21, available at: <http://www.parliament.bg/bg/bills/ID/15049/>.

¹⁰⁵ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyintheFieldofMigrationAsylumandIntegrationENG.pdf.

¹⁰⁶ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, p. 43, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyintheFieldofMigrationAsylumandIntegrationENG.pdf.

¹⁰⁷ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), Action plan for 2011 on the implementation of the National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*План за действие за 2011 г. по изпълнението на Националната стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), available at: www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=670.

<p>legislation and equal treatment policies that related to the rights of migrants and/or their descendants (for presentation of case law, use template in Annex 9). Such developments may also affect the actual situation on the ground, including public debates and perceptions among the native population and migrants.</p>	<p>measure on ensuring migrants' equal access to education.¹⁰⁸ The plan for 2012 included also a measure on ensuring migrants' equal access to the labour market through registration at the labour bureaus.¹⁰⁹ These measures remain limited in effect, and are not supported by any clear budgetary commitments or measurement indicators.¹¹⁰</p> <p>Refugees have been the main focus of the migrant integration policy in Bulgaria, in particular after 2013 when the country experienced an unprecedented increase in the number of asylum applications. In 2014, the government adopted a National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>).¹¹¹ It does not mention explicitly equal treatment or anti-discrimination among its objectives. The strategy is not yet operational because the government has yet to adopt a national action plan and a budget for its implementation. Besides, in February 2015, the government established National Council on Migration and Integration (NCMI) (<i>Национален съвет по миграция и интеграция, НСМИ</i>), which has to integrate the two strategies (the one migration and asylum, and the one on persons under international protection) into one updated strategic document.¹¹²</p> <p>The National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>) includes five activities in the area of equality and non-discrimination:</p>
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¹⁰⁸ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*), Annual report on the action plan for 2012 on the implementation of the National strategy in the field migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Годишен доклад по плана за действие за 2012 г. за изпълнението на Националната стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020*), pp. 9-10, available at: www.strategy.bg/FileHandler.ashx?fileId=3995. Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2013), Action plan for 2013 on the implementation of the National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*План за действие за 2013 г. по изпълнението на Националната стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), p. 15, available at: www.strategy.bg/FileHandler.ashx?fileId=3996.

¹⁰⁹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*), Annual report on the action plan for 2012 on the implementation of the National strategy in the field migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Годишен доклад по плана за действие за 2012 г. за изпълнението на Националната стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020*), p. 28, available at: www.strategy.bg/FileHandler.ashx?fileId=3995.

¹¹⁰ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 16, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf.

¹¹¹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

¹¹² Bulgaria, Decree of the Council of Ministers № 21 of 5 February 2015 establishing a National Council on Migration and Integration (*Постановление на Министерския съвет № 21 от 5 февруари 2015 г. за създаване на Национален съвет по миграция и интеграция*), 13 February 2015, Art. 3, Par. (1), available at: dv.parliament.bg/DVWeb/showMaterialDV.jsp?jsessionid=1B94521B1833042B47E2F7FA3128963D?idMat=91965.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awareness raising on the anti-discrimination legal framework through seminars and information materials; • partnership with media with a view to creating a welcoming and non-discriminatory attitude in Bulgarian society; • regular updates of the website of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>) with a view to providing actual and comprehensive information on opportunities for refugee integration; • cooperation with the ombudsman in the protection of the rights of refugees; • encouragement of the development and introduction of educational modules and programmes in schools' and universities' curricula with a view to introducing students with the rights, culture, traditions and life of refugees.¹¹³ <p>A recent report by the National Audit Office (NAO) (<i>Сметна палата, СП</i>) on the implementation of the programme concludes that no results have been achieved under the programme's section on protection from discrimination, the reported actions have not been in accordance with the ones planned and have not been relevant to the right of refugees to effective protection against discrimination.¹¹⁴</p> <p>According to a monitoring report on the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013, ДАБ does not cooperate with the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>) and has not implemented effectively any of the abovementioned five measures apart from the organisation of educational seminars in cooperation with NGOs.¹¹⁵</p> <p>The National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 expired at the end of 2013. However, the new programme covering the period 2014-2016 is still not adopted.</p> <p>In 2011, the amendments to the Penal Code (<i>Наказателен кодекс</i>), transposing Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and</p>
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¹¹³ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, pp. 12-13, available at: www.oref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

¹¹⁴ Bulgaria, National Audit Office (*Сметна палата*), Audit report for audit of the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Одитен доклад за одит на изпълнение на Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 8 January 2015, pp. 46-47, available at: www.bulnao.government.bg/bg/articles/download/8358/od-bejanzi-220115.doc.

¹¹⁵ Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, pp. 39-40, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

		<p>xenophobia by means of criminal law, came into effect. According to the amended provisions, incitement to discrimination, violence or hatred based on race, nationality or ethnic belonging, and violence and damage of property on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or political belief are punishable by one to four years of imprisonment, a fine between BGN 5,000 and 10,000 (approximately €2,500 – 5,000) and public reprimand.¹¹⁶ In addition, racist and xenophobic motives have been added as aggravating factors to the offences of murder and bodily injury.¹¹⁷</p>
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3.Participation of migrants and their descendants in society

3.1.Political rights at national level

3.1.1.Citizenship acquisition

	<p>In this section please provide information about the specific requirements and criteria for citizenship acquisition, if any, that relate to the applicants active participation in society, genuine links or bond to the society or the country, schooling period or other 'socialization' requirements. -Path to citizenship for foreign born third country nationals (the so-called '1st generation')</p>	
	<p>Please provide information about the specific requirements and criteria for citizenship acquisition, if any, that relate to the applicants active participation in society, genuine links or bond to the society or the country, schooling period or other 'socialization' requirements. - Path to citizenship for country-born (so-called '2nd generation') and country-grown migrant children (so-called '1,5 generation').</p>	<p>The current legal regime of citizenship in Bulgaria is based on the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (<i>Конституция на Република България</i>) and Bulgarian Citizenship Act (<i>Закон за българското гражданство</i>).</p> <p>According to the general regime a person, who is not a Bulgarian citizen, can acquire Bulgarian citizenship if, by the date of filing the application for naturalisation, he or she meets the following requirements: the person has become of age, holds a permanent stay permit obtained at least five years before, has not been convicted by a Bulgarian court for and is not under investigation in relation to intentional crime of general nature unless he or she has been rehabilitated, has income or occupation enabling his or her support in Bulgaria, has command of the Bulgarian language certified according to rules adopted by the Minister of Education and Science, and is already released from his or her previous citizenship</p>

¹¹⁶ Bulgaria, Criminal Code (*Наказателен кодекс*), 2 April 1968, Art. 162, Par. (1) and (2), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/1589654529.

¹¹⁷ Bulgaria, Criminal Code (*Наказателен кодекс*), 2 April 1968, Art. 116, Par. (1), Item 1, and Art. 131, Par. (1), Item 12, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/1589654529.

	<p>or will be released by the moment of acquiring Bulgarian citizenship.¹¹⁸</p> <p>If a person meets all the above requirements, but has obtained a permanent stay permit at least three years before the date of filing the application, he or she can acquire Bulgarian citizenship if one of the following additional requirements is satisfied: the applicant has been legally married to a Bulgarian citizen for at least three years, has been born in Bulgaria or has obtained a permanent stay permit as a juvenile.¹¹⁹</p> <p>Persons who have obtained refugee or protection status at least three years before the date of filing the application can acquire Bulgarian citizenship according to the rules and conditions applicable for permanent stay permit holders. The same applies to persons, who have been granted humanitarian status at least five years before the date of submission of the application.¹²⁰</p> <p>Persons without citizenship can acquire Bulgarian citizenship if they meet the same requirements and have obtained their permanent stay permit at least three years before the date of filing the application.¹²¹</p> <p>The preferential regime applies to persons meeting one of the following requirements: the applicant is of Bulgarian origin, is adopted by a Bulgarian citizen under the conditions of full adoption, or one of his or her parents is Bulgarian citizen or passed away as a Bulgarian citizen.¹²² The conditions included in the general regime do not apply to the preferential regime.</p> <p>The law provides no path to citizenship to country-born (so called second generation or 1,5 generation) migrant children. This is only possible if the child is born in Bulgaria and does not automatically obtain another citizenship on the grounds of origin.¹²³</p> <p>Children under 14 years of age acquire Bulgarian citizenship if their parents, or their sole living parent, accept Bulgarian citizenship, or if only one of the parents does it if the other parent is already a Bulgarian citizen. The same rules apply to children between 14</p>
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¹¹⁸ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 12, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹¹⁹ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 13, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹²⁰ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 13a, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹²¹ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 14, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹²² Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 15, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹²³ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 10, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

		<p>and 18 years of age if they wish to acquire Bulgarian citizenship.¹²⁴</p> <p>Children under 14 years of age, of whom only one of the parents is a Bulgarian citizen and who have not obtained Bulgarian citizenship on other grounds, can become Bulgarian citizens irrespective of any other conditions if the two parents or the sole living parent agree in writing. The same rule applies to children between 14 and 18 years of age if they wish to acquire Bulgarian citizenship.¹²⁵</p>
	<p>Debates, issues and challenges concerning the implementation of citizenship policies</p>	<p>The main debates concerning the design and implementation of citizenship policies in Bulgaria relate to two main issues. The first one is the effect of citizenship policies on the electoral process and political representation in Bulgaria, which concerns in particular the case of Bulgarian Turks in Turkey, who have dual citizenship. The second issue concerns the privileged regime of naturalisation of Bulgarians by origin and its impact on the development of Bulgarian society, particularly in the case of citizens from Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).</p> <p>Several hundred thousand ethnic Turks left Bulgaria by 1989 as result of the forceful policies for changing their names during the communist regime. The new citizenship legislation of 1998 allowed these migrants to regain their Bulgarian citizenship while keeping their Turkish one. The right of such persons to vote in national and local elections in Bulgaria, while living permanently in Turkey, has been subject to debates through the years because it allegedly diverted the electoral process and contributed to higher political representation of the Turkish minority Party Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) (<i>Движение за права и свободи, ДПС</i>).¹²⁶ At the same time, members of the Turkish community in Bulgaria have been claiming that Bulgarian Turks in Turkey should be given preferential regime for naturalisation similar to third-country nationals of Bulgarian origin.¹²⁷</p> <p>The majority of persons granted Bulgarian citizenship are naturalised based on Bulgarian origin through a facilitated preferential procedure. However, observers claim that for most of them Bulgarian citizenship is attractive as it provides entry into other EU countries.</p>

¹²⁴ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 17, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹²⁵ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 18, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹²⁶ See for example: Leviev-Sawyer, C. (2014), 'Bulgarian populist BWC party blocks Turkish border', *Independent Balkan News Agency*, 1 October 2014, available at: www.balkan.eu.com/bulgarian-populist-bwc-party-blocks-turkish-border/.

¹²⁷ Legal World (*Правен свят*) (2012), 'MP from MRF wants facilitated procedure for restoration of Bulgarian citizenship of the migrants' (*Депутат от ДПС иска облекчен ред за възстановяване на българско гражданство на изселниците*), 6 August 2012, available at: www.legalworld.bg/27551.deputat-ot-dps-iska-oblekchen-red-za-vyzstanoviavane-na-bylgarsko-grajdanstvo-na-izselnicite.html.

		<p>Many of these people do not in fact move to or live in Bulgaria. According to data presented cited by the Vice President of Bulgaria, Margarita Popova, between 10 % and 23 % of those, who received Bulgarian citizenship, stayed in Bulgaria. The figures question the contribution of such persons to Bulgarian society.¹²⁸</p> <p>In relation to the preferential regime of naturalization, there is also a debate with regard to alleged violations and corruption practices related to the provision of certificates for Bulgarian origin to citizenship applicants.¹²⁹</p> <p>In the beginning of 2015, the Vice President of Bulgaria, Margarita Popova, announced an idea for the development of new and modern concept paper on Bulgarian citizenship.¹³⁰</p> <p>Recent and ongoing debates regarding Bulgarian citizenship policies do not relate directly to the group of third-country nationals.</p>
	<p>Key developments and trends – case law (please use the template in the Annex 9 to provide information about the cases – here only a simple reference to the case name is required) or new provisions and reforms.</p>	<p>The number of third-country nationals applying for and acquiring Bulgarian citizenship is too small to allow for the identification of any significant trends and developments.</p> <p>The increased inflow of asylum seekers started recently and trends in terms of provision of citizenship would be visible once the time periods, required by the law, during which these persons have to reside in the country, start to expire. This is expected to occur in the next two years.</p>
	<p>Please indicate key and/or milestone dates – e.g. of major reforms - regarding citizenship acquisition for migrants and/or their descendants.</p>	<p>In 1991, Bulgaria adopted its new Constitution. It grants citizenship to all persons born on the territory of Bulgaria, unless they acquire another citizenship by origin, and to those whose parents, or at least one of them, is a Bulgarian citizen. The Constitution also declared that persons of Bulgarian origin should acquire Bulgarian citizenship through a facilitated procedure.¹³¹</p> <p>In 1998, the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (<i>Закон за българското гражданство</i>) was adopted establishing four principles of Bulgarian citizenship: by origin, by</p>

¹²⁸ See for example: Encheva, E. (Енчева, Е.) (2014), ‘Only 3 % of the “new” Bulgarians stay in the country’ (‘Само 3 % от “новите” българи остават у нас’), *Pressa Daily (Преса)*, 10 April 2014, available at: <http://presa.bg/article/archive/40730/3/29>.

¹²⁹ Georgiev, O. (Георгиев, О.), Bosev, R. (Босев, Р.) and Manolova, M. (Манолова, М.) (2014), ‘Citizenship: Bulgarian. Price: 3,000 Euro (transport costs not included)’ (‘Гражданство: Българско. Цена: 3000 евро (без транспорта)’), *Capital Daily (Капитал)*, 1 November 2014, available at: www.capital.bg/politika_i_ikonomika/bulgaria/2014/11/01/2410680_grajdanstvo_bulgarsko_cena_3000_evro_bez_transporta/.

¹³⁰ Association of Bulgarian Media Around the World (*Асоциация на българските медиуми по света*) (2015), ‘Vice President Popova: It is high time to start working on a modern national concept of Bulgarian citizenship’ (‘Вицепрезидентът Попова: Крайно време е да се започне работа по модерна национална Концепция за българското гражданство’), 21 January 2014, available at: <http://abma.bg/index.php/novini/item/3974>.

¹³¹ Bulgaria, Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (*Конституция на Република България*), 13 July 1991, Art. 25, Par. (1) and (2), available at: www.parliament.bg/en/const.

		<p>place of birth, by naturalisation and by restoration. The law also governed multiple citizenships.¹³²</p> <p>In 2001, the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (<i>Закон за българското гражданство</i>) was amended. Amendments were aimed to facilitate the citizenship acquisition procedures for ethnic Bulgarians. They also introduced the requirement that persons of non-Bulgarian origin acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation have to be released of their previous citizenship.¹³³</p> <p>In 2013 the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (<i>Закон за българското гражданство</i>) was amended again to provide a direct route to citizenship for foreign investors. According to these changes, Bulgarian citizenship through naturalisation could be granted to persons with permanent residence status for at least a year, received on the basis of the investment clauses in the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (<i>Закон за чужденците в Република България</i>), who have increased their investment by at least BGN 2 million or have invested more than BGN 1 million in a Bulgarian company, engaged in a high-priority investment project.¹³⁴ This provision provides for an accelerated route to naturalisation (one year from the date of issuance of the permanent residence permit) as opposed to the usual qualifying period of five years. The failure to maintain the investments for two or more years was introduced as a ground for revocation of the naturalisation.¹³⁵</p> <p>Another set of amendments to the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (<i>Закон за българското гражданство</i>), adopted in 2013, allowed the spouses of Bulgarian citizens, citizens of EU Member States, EEA states and Switzerland, as well as citizens of countries, with which Bulgaria has relevant treaties, to keep their previous citizenship if they acquire Bulgarian citizenship through naturalisation.¹³⁶</p>
	<p>Naturalisation rate - % of migrants that have been naturalized compared to migrant stock and to general population – listing the most numerous groups on the basis of their previous nationality,</p>	<p>Since 2000, the great majority of those, who have acquired Bulgarian citizenship through naturalisation, did so using the preferential regime for foreign citizens of Bulgarian origin.</p> <p>Between 2002-2011, 96 % of the persons granted Bulgarian citizenship came from seven countries, which</p>

¹³² Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹³³ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹³⁴ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 14a, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹³⁵ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 22, Par. (1), Item 3, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

¹³⁶ Bulgaria, Bulgarian Citizenship Act (*Закон за българското гражданство*), 18 November 1998, Art. 12, Par. (2), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134446592.

by gender and age-group if available. **Please provide the latest available data.** The most recent data provided by Eurostat concern the year 2012.

are considered to traditionally host Bulgarian minorities (ethnic Bulgarians).

Persons granted Bulgarian citizenship by country of origin (2002-2011)

Country of origin	Persons granted Bulgarian citizenship	% of the overall number of persons granted Bulgarian citizenship
FYR of Macedonia	56,784	52.8 %
Moldova	27,545	25.6 %
Serbia	4,810	4.4 %
Ukraine	4,427	4.1 %
Russia	4,239	3.9 %
State of Israel	3,448	3.2 %
Albania	2,013	1.87 %

Source: Ministry of Justice (2012) and President of the Republic of Bulgaria (2014)

Most numerous groups on the basis of previous nationality by gender (2013)

Previous Nationality	Numbers			
	Total	Men	Women	Share of women (%)
Total	7,954	5,414	2,540	31.93 %
Macedonian	4,852	3,707	1,145	23.60 %
Moldovan	1,621	864	757	46.70 %
Ukrainian	375	192	183	48.80 %
Russian	207	105	102	49.28 %
Serbian	190	136	54	28.42 %
Albanian	124	76	48	38.71 %
Turkish	66	45	21	31.82 %
Armenian	57	30	27	47.37 %
Viet Nam	31	16	15	48 %
Without citizenship	19	8	11	58 %
Afghan	20	11	9	45 %
Syrian	17	10	7	41.18 %
Lebanese	16	10	6	37.50 %
Other	111	70	41	36.94 %

Source: Ministry of Justice, Directorate Bulgarian Citizenship

In 2013, a total of 5,281 persons were granted Bulgarian citizenship on the grounds of Bulgarian origin,

which is 66 % of all persons, who received Bulgarian citizenship.

Most numerous groups on the basis of previous nationality (2014)

Previous Nationality	Total
Total	5,615
Macedonian	1,874
Moldovan	1,135
Ukrainian	964
Russian	352
Serbian	304
Israeli	266
Turkish	130
Albania	98
Armenia	49
Lebanon	27
Syrian	24
Without citizenship	20
Other	186

Source: President of the Republic of Bulgaria

In 2014, a total of 3,015 persons were granted Bulgarian citizenship based on Bulgarian origin, which is 54 % of all persons who received Bulgarian citizenship.

Numbers of naturalisations and citizenship acquisitions in the last 2 years (in 2013 and in 2014) by mode of acquisition, by gender and age-group if available, and for the 10 most numerous groups on the basis of their previous nationality *Please provide the latest available statistics - (please use the relevant table in the Annex 6)*

3.1.2. National elections voting rights - turnout

Third county nationals are allowed in exceptional cases to vote in national elections. In this section please provide the specific requirements and criteria for participation of citizens of migrant background (and third country nationals in the very few cases where this is foreseen) in national elections, as well as any available data on their

In Bulgaria, only Bulgarian citizens at the age of 18 and above have the right to vote in national elections.¹³⁷ Third country nationals have no voting rights. Bulgarian citizens have equal voting rights irrespective of their origin or background.

There is no data on voting turnout of citizens of migrant background.¹³⁸ However, the number of this group is insignificant, taking into account the number of third-country nationals who are usual residents and the numbers of naturalised persons since the year 2001.

¹³⁷ Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 3, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

¹³⁸ Data is not collected because the law does not require that the electoral registers include information on the voters' background. See Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 52, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

	<p>voting turnout. Please specify any differences in different geographic areas or by type of national level voting circumstances (e.g. parliament, referendum, president of the republic etc.). In addition to official data and also if such data are not available, make reference to any relevant quantitative or qualitative academic research concerning the exercise of the right to vote and related drivers and barriers.</p>	
	<p>Please indicate any programmes or information campaigns aiming at informing citizens of migrant background about their political rights and encouraging the exercise of the right to vote.</p>	<p>No programmes dealing with the voting rights of citizens of migrant background have been implemented in Bulgaria. The share of this category of in Bulgaria is very small.</p> <p>Programmes of similar type have been implemented with regard to Bulgarian emigrants abroad, including Bulgarian emigrants in Turkey, who are holders of double citizenship (both groups form considerable shares of voters).</p>

3.1.3. National level election – representation

	<p>The number of candidates with migrant background (where available, specify own or parent's country of birth) at the latest national level elections (specify date).</p>	<p>There is no available data on the number of candidates with migrant background.¹³⁹</p>
	<p>The number of elected representatives with migrant background at national level (e.g. parliament, senate).</p>	<p>There is no available data on the number of elected representatives with migrant background.¹⁴⁰</p>
	<p>Those appointed to public office (e.g. ministers, secretaries of state, etc.) by end of 2014.</p>	<p>There is no available data on the number of persons with migrant background appointed to public office.¹⁴¹</p>

¹³⁹ Data is not collected because, according to the law, candidates are not obliged to present information about their background when they are registered for the elections. See Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 108, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

¹⁴⁰ Data is not collected because, according to the law, candidates are not obliged to present information about their background when they are registered for the elections. See Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 108, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

¹⁴¹ Data is not collected because, according to the respective laws, candidates are not obliged to present information about their background when they are appointed to positions in the government or the public administration.

3.2. Political rights at regional/local level

3.2.1. Regional/Local elections voting rights – turnout

	Specify what regional/local voting rights are given to third country nationals and any different entitlements according to residence status, permit type or length of stay etc	In Bulgaria, only Bulgarian citizens at the age of 18 and above, who have lived for the last six months in the respective municipality, have the right to vote in local elections. ¹⁴² Third country nationals cannot vote at local elections. Bulgarian citizens of migrant background have the same voting rights as all other Bulgarian citizens.
	Key and/or milestone dates regarding the voting and/or election rights for migrants and/or their descendants at regional/local level	There are no key or milestone dates regarding the voting and election rights of migrants and their descendants.
	Please indicate any programmes or information campaigns aiming at informing citizens of migrant background about their political rights and encouraging the exercise of the right to vote.	There are no programmes or campaigns specifically targeting citizens of migrant background.
	In addition to official data and also if such data are not available, make reference to any relevant quantitative or qualitative academic research concerning the exercise of the right to vote and related drivers and barriers.	There is no data or research on the voting rights of migrants and their descendants at local level. ¹⁴³

3.2.2. Regional/local level election – representation

	The number of candidates that were third country nationals and/or with migrant background at the latest	Third-country nationals could not run as candidates at local elections. ¹⁴⁴ Information about the background or origin of candidates is not collected. ¹⁴⁵
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¹⁴² Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 3, Par. (4), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

¹⁴³ Data is not collected because the law does not require that the electoral registers include information on the voters' background. See Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 52, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

¹⁴⁴ Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 3, Par. (4), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

¹⁴⁵ Data is not collected because, according to the law, candidates are not obliged to present information about their background when they are registered for the elections. See Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 126, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

regional/local level elections (specify date)	
The number and % of elected representatives with migrant background at regional/local level (e.g. municipalities, regions, prefectures etc.)	Information on the origin and background of elected representatives at local level is not collected. ¹⁴⁶ At the same time, the overall share of Bulgarian citizens with migrant background is very small.
Those who were elected or appointed to a high public office (e.g. mayor, vice mayor etc.) by end of 2014.	Third-country nationals cannot be elected or appointed to high public offices at local level. Information about the background and origin of persons appointed to such positions is not collected. ¹⁴⁷
Please identify related limitations and challenges or public debates, as well as relevant research, studies and assessments.	The issue of granting voting rights to third-country nationals has never been a subject of the public debate in Bulgaria.

3.3.Consultation

3.3.1.Consultative bodies at national/regional/local level

Are there any migrants' consultative bodies in place at national / regional/ local level foreseen and/or operational in practice? Since when and on which legal basis (please provide reference). Please specify whether migrants' consultative/advisory/representative bodies are established by law or other type of normative regulation, policy or practice.	<p>There are no migrants' consultative bodies in Bulgaria at national or at local level.</p> <p>The National Council on Migration Policy (NCMP) (<i>Национален съвет по интеграционна политика, НСИП</i>), established under the National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>) is responsible for the coordination of the national migration policy.¹⁴⁸ НСИП existed between 2011 and July 2014 and was chaired by the Minister of the Interior. НСИП functioned as a linking unit between the respective ministries, the local authorities and NGOs engaged in the management of migration processes. However, no migrant associations were invited to the council in consultative or observer function.</p> <p>In February 2015, the government re-instated the НСИП as National Council for Migration and Integration</p>
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¹⁴⁶ Data is not collected because, according to the law, candidates are not obliged to present information about their background when they are registered for the elections. See Bulgaria, Electoral Code (*Изборен кодекс*), 28 January 2011, Art. 126, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135715515.

¹⁴⁷ Data is not collected because, according to the law, candidates are not obliged to present information about their background when they are appointed to a public office in the local administration. See Bulgaria, Local Self-Government and Local Administration Act (*Закон за местното самоуправление и местната администрация*), 17 September 1991, Art. 41, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2132580865>.

¹⁴⁸ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

		<p>(NCMI) (<i>Национален съвет по миграция и интеграция, НСМИ</i>).¹⁴⁹ The new council will serve as a consultative body for formulation and co-ordination of the implementation of state policies in the area of migration and integration of foreigners, seeking or having received protection in Bulgaria. Again, in the new council no migrant associations or organisations have been invited in a consultative function.</p> <p>The National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>) foresees the organisation of regular information meetings of representatives of the executive and local authorities with non-governmental organisations and opinion leaders in the refugee community. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the forms of cooperation and support with regard to assisting refugees in the different spheres of social life. This provision may be regarded as rudiment of what may become effective and more structured involvement of third-country nationals and refugees in the processes of formulation of migration integration policies.¹⁵⁰</p>
	<p>What is the mandate of the body – duration and procedures? In particular specify if and by which modalities these bodies are competent to participate in consultations only on migration or integration issues or if they participate also in consultations on other issues? How do these bodies work in practice?</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
	<p>Frequency of convening of the body/-ies/ meetings with competent public authorities. What is foreseen and how is it implemented in practice?</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
	<p>Role in relation to other public or private bodies. Is there a statutory role of coordination and cooperation with other public or private stakeholders</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

¹⁴⁹ Bulgaria, Decree of the Council of Ministers of 5 February 2015 on the establishment of a National Council for Migration and Integration (*Постановление № 21 на Министерския съвет от 5 февруари 2015 г. за създаване на Национален съвет по миграция и интеграция*), 13 February 2015, available at:

<http://dv.parliament.bg/DVWeb/showMaterialDV.jsp;jsessionid=1B94521B1833042B47E2F7FA3128963D?idMat=91965>.

¹⁵⁰ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, p. 3, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

	foreseen? How is this implemented in practice?	
	Participation in decision-making (consultative, observer status, voting right etc.). Are such bodies competent to participate in decision-making at national/regional/local level in regard to the design, implementation, assessment and/or review of integration-specific, migration or other policies of general interest? Are such bodies and/or their representatives participating in any way to allocation, distribution, monitoring, evaluation or management of funding social inclusion and integration policies, measures and programmes at national level?	Not applicable.
	What are the modalities for representation and participation of migrants, e.g. elections, designation etc.? What is foreseen and how is it implemented in practice?	Not applicable.
	On which criterion are migrant groups represented (migrant status, foreign-born, foreign nationality etc.)? What is foreseen and how is it implemented in practice?	Not applicable.
	Is there any evidence through formal evaluations or academic research on awareness about such national level consultative bodies among migrants and their descendants, and among the general public?	Not applicable.

3.4. Participation in trade-unions and professional association

	In this section based on available data, research, surveys, studies, etc. please provide information about:	
	Membership and participation of migrant workers in <u>workers' unions and craft associations</u> :	
	Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership	There are no legal limitations for the participation of migrant workers in trade unions. All employees have the right to establish trade unions and to voluntarily

	<p>of migrant workers in trade unions and craft associations?</p>	<p>join or leave such unions.¹⁵¹ As there is no reference to citizenship, nationality or background, the law applies to all persons working legally on the territory of the country.</p> <p>On practical level, trade unions are free to lay down the conditions for memberships. However, there is no information about trade unions restricting membership on the grounds of citizenship, nationality or background.</p> <p>There are no legal barriers to membership of migrants in crafts associations. The Crafts Act (<i>Закон за занаятите</i>) does not require Bulgarian citizenship for obtaining the status of craftsmen or for joining a craft association.¹⁵² Migrants, including third-country nationals, can be recognised as craftsmen and exercise their craft under the same conditions as Bulgarian citizens.</p>
	<p>Do workers' associations encourage and support membership and participation of migrant workers? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.</p>	<p>There is no information about specific initiatives or campaigns undertaken by workers' associations to encourage membership and participation of migrant workers.¹⁵³</p>
	<p>What is the rate of participation (figures and % of association members, figures and % of migrant professionals as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available) of migrant workers in the most representative workers' unions and associations? Please specify the geographic and workforce range/type of associations (referring to national, regional, local and to the range of workers represented and degree of association).</p>	<p>There is no publicly available information about the number of migrants and third-country nationals participating in trade unions.</p> <p>One two main trade unions in Bulgaria, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (CITUB) (<i>Конфедерация на независимите синдикати в България, КНСБ</i>), reported that there are no third-country nationals among its members. The total number of members of КНСБ was 190,000 in 2013 and 195,000 in 2014.¹⁵⁴</p> <p>Data about the participation rate of migrants and third-country nationals in craft associations is also not publicly accessible. The data provided upon request by the National Crafts Chamber (NCC) (<i>Национална занаятчийска камара, НЗК</i>) is not exhaustive. НЗК</p>

¹⁵¹ Bulgaria, Labour Code (*Кодекс на труда*), 1 April 1986, Art. 4, Par. (1), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/1594373121>.

¹⁵² Bulgaria, Crafts Act (*Закон за занаятите*), 27 April 2001, Art. 23, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135184905>.

¹⁵³ The two biggest trade unions – Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (CITUB) (*Конфедерация на независимите синдикати в България, КНСБ*) and Confederation of Labour Подкрепа (*Конфедерация на труда Подкрепа*) – were asked about measures encouraging the participation of migrant workers. None of them reported about any such measures being implemented. According to the interviewed representative of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (CITUB) (*Конфедерация на независимите синдикати в България, КНСБ*) the reason for the lack of such measures is the small share of migrant workers in the country.

¹⁵⁴ Bulgaria, Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (*Конфедерация на независимите синдикати в България*) (2015), Letter No 92-00-15 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 92-00-15 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

		unites 20 regional crafts chambers and nine national branch crafts associations. According to the data provided by three regional crafts chambers, there is one third-country national (citizen of Syria) participating in the regional crafts chamber in Sofia, one third-country national (citizen of Macedonia) in the chamber in Veliko Tarnovo and three third-country nationals (two Russians and one Armenian, all having dual citizenship) in the chamber in Montana. ¹⁵⁵
Are migrant workers elected as representatives of trade unions and workers' or craft associations? Please provide figures if available, and report the related legal or practical limitations or barriers, eventually faced by migrant workers.		There is no information about migrant workers having been elected as representatives of trade unions or craft associations. The main trade unions and the National Crafts Chamber (NCC) (<i>Национална занаятчийска камара</i> , НЗК) do not have migrants or third-country nationals among their representatives.
Are there differences between associations for high and low skill workers, different industries and trades, and/or different geographic area of country of origin, citizenship or birth or gender?		There is no available data allowing for the identification of any differences between different categories of associations.
Membership and participation of migrant entrepreneurs and expert professionals to professional and scientific associations:		
Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrant workers in professional, employer and scientific associations (such as medical, engineer, bar associations)?		There are no legal limitation or barriers for the participation of migrants in professional associations. Each professional association can introduce membership criteria, but there is no information indicating that citizenship or background has been included among such membership criteria.
Do professional associations encourage and support membership and participation of migrant professionals? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.		There is no information about specific initiatives or campaigns undertaken by professional associations to encourage membership and participation of migrants and third country nationals. ¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ Bulgaria, National Crafts Chamber (*Национална занаятчийска камара*) (2015), Letter No 150306-1 of 6.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 150306-1 от 6.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 6 March 2015.

¹⁵⁶ Several of the biggest unions and associations were asked about specific initiatives or campaigns, including the Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA) (*Българска стопанска камара*, БСК), the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) (*Българска търговско-промишлена палата*, БТПП) and the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB) (*Съюз на учените в България*, СУБ). All of the contacted organisations reported that they have not organised or participated in such campaigns.

<p>What is the rate of participation and membership (figures and % of association members, figures and % of migrant professionals as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available) of migrant professionals in the most representative professional, employers' and scientific unions and associations? Please specify the geographic and workforce range/type of associations (referring to national, regional, local and to the range of professional represented and degree of association).</p>	<p>There is no available information about the rate of participation and membership of migrants and third country nationals in professional associations.¹⁵⁷</p>
<p>Are migrants elected as representatives of professional, employers' and/or scientific associations? Please provide figures if available, and report the related legal or practical limitations or barriers, eventually faced.</p>	<p>There is no information about migrants or third-country nationals having been elected as representatives of professional associations. The main professional associations currently do not have migrants or third-country nationals among their representatives.</p>
<p>Are there differences between associations for different professions, different skill levels and/or types of enterprise, different industries and trades, and/or different geographic area of country of origin, citizenship or birth or gender?</p>	<p>There is no available data allowing for the identification of any differences between associations of different professions.</p>

3.5. Participation in social, cultural and public life

	<p>In this section based on available data, research, studies, etc. provide information about the membership and participation of migrants and their descendants in media, cultural organisations and public life:</p>	
	<p>Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrants in professional associations related to the media, sports and culture?</p>	<p>There are no legal barriers before migrants to establish or be members of professional associations. According to the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (<i>Закон за юридическите лица с нестопанска цел</i>), under which professional associations are registered, any Bulgarian or foreign natural person or legal entity can be a</p>

¹⁵⁷ Several of the biggest unions and associations were asked about data on the share of migrants among their members, including the Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA) (*Българска стопанска камара*, БСК), the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) (*Българска търговско-промишлена палата*, БТПП) and the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB) (*Съюз на учените в България*, СУБ). All of the contacted organisations reported that they do not keep record of the nationality or background of their members.

	founder of a non-profit entity. ¹⁵⁸ There are no restrictions on the membership in such entities as well. The law does not explicitly restrict the right of non-profit legal entities to introduce criteria for membership. The main professional associations in the fields of media, sports and culture have not introduced membership criteria that would limit the membership of migrants. The only significant exception is the Union of Bulgarian Journalists (UBJ) (<i>Съюз на българските журналисти</i> , СБЖ), whose statute explicitly limits membership to Bulgarian citizens. ¹⁵⁹
Do media, sports, culture professional associations encourage and support membership and participation of third country nationals as members? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.	None of the major media, sports and culture organisations reported any measures specifically aimed at encouraging or supporting migrants' participation or membership. ¹⁶⁰
What is the rate of participation in the most representative professional associations? (figures and % of association members, figures and % of migrant professionals as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available)	None of the major media, sports or culture organisations keeps records on the number of migrants among their members. ¹⁶¹
Are migrants elected as representatives of professional associations related to the media, sports and culture? Please provide figures if available, and report	There are no legal barriers for migrants to be elected as representatives of professional associations. However, none of the main professional associations related to the media, sports and culture have elected migrants as

¹⁵⁸ Bulgaria, Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (*Закон за юридическите лица с нестопанска цел*), 6 October 2000, Art. 5, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134942720.

¹⁵⁹ Bulgaria, Union of Bulgarian Journalists (*Съюз на българските журналисти*), Statute of the Union of Bulgarian Journalists (*Устав на съюза на българските журналисти*), Art. 14, Par. (1), available at: www.sbj-bg.eu/index.php?t=57.

¹⁶⁰ Several of the biggest media, sports and culture organisations were asked about specific measures, including the Bulgarian Basketball Federation (BBF) (*Българска федерация по баскетбол*, БФБ), Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation (BWF) (*Българска федерация по вдигане на щанги*, БФВЩ), Bulgarian Wrestling Federation (BWF) (*Българска федерация по борба*, БФБ), Association of Bulgarian Football Players (ABFP) (*Асоциация на българските футболисти*, АБФ), Bulgarian Music Association (BMA) (*Българска музикална асоциация*, БМА), Union of Bulgarian Artists (UBA) (*Съюз на българските художници*, СБХ), Union of Bulgarian Film Makers (UBFM) (*Съюз на българските филмови дейци*, СБФД), Union of Bulgarian Artists (UBA) (*Съюз на артистите в България*, САБ), Union of Bulgarian Journalists (UBJ) (*Съюз на българските журналисти*, СБЖ). None of the contacted organisations reported about such measures.

¹⁶¹ Several of the biggest media, sports and culture organisations were asked about data regarding the participation of migrants, including the Bulgarian Basketball Federation (BBF) (*Българска федерация по баскетбол*, БФБ), Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation (BWF) (*Българска федерация по вдигане на щанги*, БФВЩ), Bulgarian Wrestling Federation (BWF) (*Българска федерация по борба*, БФБ), Association of Bulgarian Football Players (ABFP) (*Асоциация на българските футболисти*, АБФ), Bulgarian Music Association (BMA) (*Българска музикална асоциация*, БМА), Union of Bulgarian Artists (UBA) (*Съюз на българските художници*, СБХ), Union of Bulgarian Film Makers (UBFM) (*Съюз на българските филмови дейци*, СБФД), Union of Bulgarian Artists (UBA) (*Съюз на артистите в България*, САБ), Union of Bulgarian Journalists (UBJ) (*Съюз на българските журналисти*, СБЖ). None of the contacted organisations reported that it collects or keeps such data.

the related legal or practical limitations or barriers, eventually faced.	their representatives or as members of their governing bodies. ¹⁶²
Is there a visible or notable presence (or absence) of migrants and their descendants as media professionals?	There is no notable presence of migrants and their descendants as media professionals. ¹⁶³
Are migrants and/or their descendants present, visible and actively participating in public? (E.g. in public events, TV and electronic media, cultural events). Please substantiate on the basis of existing data or contacts with relevant authorities, actors and stakeholders, making sure to cover a wide spectrum and obtain as much as possible objective information.	Migrants and their descendants are not actively participating in public. However, there has been heightened media interest in refugees in Bulgaria since 2013, when the numbers of asylum seekers entering the country increased significantly. ¹⁶⁴ According to a study by the Association of European Journalists (AEJ), media coverage of refugees in 2013 was preoccupied above all with reception conditions, security threats and illnesses. ¹⁶⁵ There have also been a limited number of programmes covering migrants' national and religious holidays, ¹⁶⁶ migrant organisations' initiatives, ¹⁶⁷ and protests in support of migrants' rights. ¹⁶⁸
Are there legal or practical limitations for the media, culture or other type of public events by migrants and/or their descendants? (E.g. are there national language requirements for TV or radio stations, bureaucratic and representation requirements, etc.).	According to the Bulgarian Radio and Television Act (<i>Закон за радиото и телевизията</i>) there are two types of TV and radio stations: public and commercial. The law governs in detail only the operation of the public TV and radio stations. Public TV and radio stations are obliged to protect, through their programmes, the culture of all Bulgarian citizens irrespective of their ethnicity. ¹⁶⁹ There are no provisions laying down similar requirements regarding foreigners, including third country nationals.

¹⁶² Several of the biggest media, sports and culture organisations were asked about migrants elected in their governing bodies, including the Bulgarian Basketball Federation (BBF) (*Българска федерация по баскетбол*, БФБ), Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation (BWF) (*Българска федерация по вдигане на щанги*, БФВЩ), Bulgarian Wrestling Federation (BWF) (*Българска федерация по борба*, БФБ), Association of Bulgarian Football Players (ABFP) (*Асоциация на българските футболисти*, АБФ), Bulgarian Music Association (BMA) (*Българска музикална асоциация*, БМА), Union of Bulgarian Artists (UBA) (*Съюз на българските художници*, СБХ), Union of Bulgarian Film Makers (UBFM) (*Съюз на българските филмови дейци*, СБФД), Union of Bulgarian Artists (UBA) (*Съюз на артистите в България*, САБ), Union of Bulgarian Journalists (UBJ) (*Съюз на българските журналисти*, СБЖ). None of the contacted organisations reported about such representatives.

¹⁶³ The information was collected through desk research covering the authors, reporters and hosts of the most influential printed and electronic media.

¹⁶⁴ Manolova, M. (*Манолова, М.*) (2013), 'Battlefield: Internet' (*Бойно поле: интернет*), *Capital Weekly* (*Капитал*), 15 November 2013, available at: www.capital.bg/politika_i_ekonomika/bulgaria/2013/11/15/2183068_boino_pole_internet/.

¹⁶⁵ Cheresheva, M. (*Черешева, М.*) (2013), 'How do we cover the refugee issue in the media?' (*Как отразяваме темата за бежанците в медиите?*), 14 October 2013, available at: www.aej-bulgaria.org/bul/p.php?post=2837.

¹⁶⁶ Atanasov, I. (*Атанасов, И.*) (2015), 'Refugees thanked Bulgarians for accepting them in their country' (*Бежанци благодариха на българите, че страната им ги е приела*), *Sakar News*, 21 March 2015, available at: <http://sakarnews.info/bezhantsi-blagodariha-na-balgarite-che-stranata-im-gi-e-priela/>.

¹⁶⁷ Tsvetkova, R. (2015), 'Baba Marta Initiative in Support of Refugees', *Bulgarian National Radio*, 28 February 2015, available at: <http://bnr.bg/en/post/100526656/baba-marta-initiative-in-support-of-refugees>.

¹⁶⁸ Dnevnik (*Дневник*) (2015), 'Citizens will protest against violence against refugees at the border' (*Граждани ще протестират срещу пограничното насилие над бежанци*), 23 March 2015, available at: www.dnevnik.bg/bulgaria/2015/03/23/2497004_grajdani_shte_prottestirat_sreshtu_pogranichnoto/.

¹⁶⁹ Bulgaria, Radio and Television Act (*Закон за радиото и телевизията*), 24 November 1998, Art. 6, Par. (2), Item 3, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134447616>.

		<p>Additional requirements apply to the two state-owned public media – Bulgarian National Radio (BNR) (<i>Българско национално радио, БНР</i>) and Bulgarian National Television (BNT) (<i>Българска национална телевизия, БНТ</i>). They are obliged to support the development and popularisation of the language and culture of citizens of different ethnic origins.¹⁷⁰</p> <p>The law does not regulate in such detail the operation of the commercial TV and radio stations.</p> <p>All radio and TV stations are obliged to broadcast their programmes in Bulgarian, which is the official language in the country according to the Constitution. The law allows programmes to be broadcasted in another language in four cases: (1) when the programmes have educational purposes, (2) when the target audience are Bulgarian citizens for whom Bulgarian language is not their mother tongue, (3) when the programmes are aimed at an audience abroad, or (4) when the broadcasted programmes are foreign.¹⁷¹</p>
	<p>Are there positive measures for promoting or restrictions/barriers to the operation of migrant and ethnic minority (owned, directed or audience specific) media?</p>	<p>There are no legal barriers to the operation of migrant and ethnic minority media other than the abovementioned language requirements.</p> <p>Ethnic minority media receive financial support from the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues with the Council of Ministers (NCCEII) (<i>Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етническите и интеграционните въпроси към Министерския съвет, НССЕИВ</i>). Financial support is provided primarily to newspapers and magazines as well as radio and TV programmes targeting people of Turkish, Russian, Armenian, Jewish, Moldovan and Aromanian origin.¹⁷²</p>
	<p>Are there practical measures encouraging and promoting the visibility, voice and public presence of migrants and/or their descendants in the media, culture or other type of public events? (E.g. are there programmes and information provided by the</p>	<p>The only programmes currently broadcasted on Bulgarian media in a language other than Bulgarian are the 10-minutes-long afternoon Turkish language news broadcasts on БНТ and a 3-hour Turkish language slot on БНР. БНТ started broadcasting Turkish language news bulletins in 2001, two years after Bulgaria ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Rights of Minorities.¹⁷³ БНР broadcasts Turkish programmes only in regions with a larger Turkish</p>

¹⁷⁰ Bulgaria, Radio and Television Act (*Закон за радиото и телевизията*), 24 November 1998, Art. 6, Par. (3), Item 2, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134447616>.

¹⁷¹ Bulgaria, Radio and Television Act (*Закон за радиото и телевизията*), 24 November 1998, Art. 12, Par. (1) and (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134447616>.

¹⁷² Bulgaria, National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues with the Council of Ministers (*Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етническите и интеграционните въпроси към Министерския съвет*) (2015), Letter No 08-10-46 of 16.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 08-10-46 от 16.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

¹⁷³ Bedrov, I. (2014), 'New Inflammations Surrounding the Turkish Language News' ('*Нови възпаления около новините на турски*'), *Deutsche Welle Bulgaria*, 14 November 2014, available at: www.dw.de/нови-възпаления-около-новините-на-турски/a-18062034.

	<p>media in other than the country official language, and migrants' languages, quotas for journalists and public programmes reflecting the diversity in society etc.?)</p>	<p>population. Although they are not easily accessible as they are transmitted on Medium Frequency waves, they are available online and are highly popular.¹⁷⁴</p> <p>At the end of 2014, as part of a political agreement related to the formation of the new government involving the right-wing party Patriotic Front (PF) (<i>Патриотичен фронт</i>, ПФ), it was announced that the TV news bulletin in Turkish would be moved from БНТ 1 (the television's main channel) to БНТ 2 (the television's less popular second channel).¹⁷⁵ However, the change did not happen and the news programme is still broadcasted on БНТ 1.</p> <p>In general, the broadcasting of programmes in Turkish is often politicised. According to a survey, done in 2009 by a Bulgarian online law magazine, the majority of respondents (79 %) opposed the broadcast of Turkish language news in the country.¹⁷⁶</p> <p>There are currently no quotas for journalists of migrant origin.</p> <p>The weekly programme 'Known and Unknown' (<i>Познати и непознати</i>), broadcasted on the national radio, is the only one specifically dedicated to the promotion of tolerance and the raising of awareness of the different ethnicities in the country.¹⁷⁷ The 'Akrani's show' (<i>Шоуто на Акрани</i>), broadcasted on БНТ, presents the culture, especially dance and music, of the different ethnicities living in the country.¹⁷⁸</p> <p>The most popular programme giving visibility to migrants in the media was a talent/reality show for migrants living in the country entitled 'Welcome to Bulgaria' (<i>Добре дошъл в България</i>), which aired in 2010 on one of the most viewed private channels bTV.¹⁷⁹</p>
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¹⁷⁴ Bulgaria, National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues with the Council of Ministers (*Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етническите и интеграционните въпроси към Министерския съвет*) (2015), Letter No 08-10-46 of 16.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 08-10-46 от 16.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

¹⁷⁵ bTV (2014), 'The Turkish Language News Taken Off the Bulgarian National Television 1 in Exchange for the Support of the Patriotic Front to the Government' (*Новините на турски език слизат от БНТ 1 срещу подкрепата на ПФ за кабинета*), 5 December 2014, available at: <http://btvnovinite.bg/article/bulgaria/novinite-na-turski-ezik-slizat-ot-bnt1.html>.

¹⁷⁶ Legal World (*Правен свят*) (2009), 'Should there be news in Turkish language on the Bulgarian National Television?' (*Трябва ли да има новини на турски език по БНТ?*), Online survey, 16 December 2009, available at: www.legalworld.bg/show_poll.php?pollid=28332&show_mode=1.

¹⁷⁷ Bulgarian National Radio (*Българско национално радио*), 'Known and Unknown' (*Познати и непознати*), available at: http://bnr.bg/hristobotev/poznati_i_nepoznati/broadcast.

¹⁷⁸ Bulgarian National Television (*Българска национална телевизия*), 'Akrani's Show' (*Шоуто на Акрани*), available at: www.bnt.bg/predavaniya/shouto-na-akrani.

¹⁷⁹ bTV (2010), 'Welcome to Bulgaria' (*Добре дошъл в България*), available at: www.slavishow.com/category/шоу/проекти/добре-дошъл-в-българия/page/2/.

3.5.1. Diversity in the public sector

	<p>In this section based on available data, research, studies, etc. please provide information about recruitment of migrants and their descendants in the public sector:</p> <p>Please describe how legal provisions allow or prevent the recruitment of third country nationals in the public sector. Please indicate specific areas, requirements, quotas if any, upward mobility and promotion limitations if any, as well as if and how these provisions are applied in practice.</p> <p>Please indicate if citizens of migrant descent can also be affected by limitation – e.g on the basis of their ethnic origin or migrant background or naturalisation - in public sector recruitment, for example in education, law enforcement, judiciary, etc.</p> <p>Please indicate proportion of recruitment (% on the total of posts for this category or service) for the interested categories of third country nationals, if any.</p>	<p>Bulgarian law does not allow the recruitment of third country nationals, beneficiaries of international protection and stateless persons in the civil service, including in the police¹⁸⁰. The same restriction applies on attorneys-at-law¹⁸¹, judges, jurors, prosecutors and investigators.¹⁸² Only Bulgarian citizens are allowed to take such positions.</p> <p>The law does not impose citizenship restrictions with regard to teacher recruitment in the public education sector.¹⁸³ However, there are certain limitations laid down in secondary legislation. Foreigners with permanent residence status can be employed as teachers if they present a legalised translation of their diploma and of a document certifying they can practice the profession of teacher.¹⁸⁴ Other foreigners can be employed as teachers only in the framework of intergovernmental agreements and after consulting the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>).¹⁸⁵</p> <p>There are no legal limitations for Bulgarian citizens of migrant background to be recruited in the public sector. All Bulgarian citizens, irrespective of their origin or background, have equal rights in terms of public sector recruitment.</p> <p>Third country nationals cannot be recruited in the public administration, the judiciary and law enforcement. The only public sector where no citizenship restrictions apply is public education. However, the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>) does not keep records on the citizenship of teachers and their relatives.¹⁸⁶</p>
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¹⁸⁰ Bulgaria, Civil Servants Act (*Закон за държавния служител*), 27 July 1999, Art. 7, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134673408>.

¹⁸¹ Bulgaria, Attorneys Act (*Закон адвокатурата*), 25 June 2004, Art. 4, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135486731.

¹⁸² Bulgaria, Judiciary Act (*Закон съдебната власт*), 7 August 2007, Art. 67 and Art. 162, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135560660.

¹⁸³ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 39, Par. (1), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

¹⁸⁴ Bulgaria, Rules on the Implementation of the Public Education Act (*Правилник за прилагане на Закона за народната просвета*), § 7, Par. (3) of the transitional and concluding provisions, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-12809727>.

¹⁸⁵ Bulgaria, Rules on the Implementation of the Public Education Act (*Правилник за прилагане на Закона за народната просвета*), § 7, Par. (2) of the transitional and concluding provisions, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-12809727>.

¹⁸⁶ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

		<p>Statistics concerning migrants' descendants are not available.</p> <p>According to studies, published by NGOs, representatives of migrant communities are not recruited in the integration institutions in the country.¹⁸⁷</p>
	<p>Please indicate any affirmative action and positive action either for third country nationals or citizens with a migrant background, if any, e.g. quotas, reserved posts for people of migrant background etc. as well as promising practices in this area. Please provide information specifically for law enforcement, judiciary, and education.</p>	<p>There are currently no affirmative or positive action measures targeting either third country nationals, or citizens of migrant background.</p>

3.6. Political activity – active citizenship

	<p>Membership and participation of migrants in migrant and/or diaspora organisations and associations:</p>	
	<p>Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the self-organisation membership of migrants in migrant and or diaspora associations and organisations?</p>	<p>There are no legal barriers preventing migrants from establishing or becoming members of associations and organisations. According to the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (<i>Закон за юридическите лица с нестопанска цел</i>) associations can be established by any Bulgarian or foreign natural person or legal entity.¹⁸⁸ A potential barrier could be the Bulgarian language of the registration procedure, but there are no reports indicating that this requirement creates problems in practice.</p>
	<p>Are there notable cases of active migrant and/or diaspora associations and organisations? Please indicate the most known, active or representative ones on the basis of existing data about membership – please include size/numbers of members - and through contacts with competent actors and stakeholders. Please specify</p>	<p>The Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria (<i>Съвет на жените бежанки в България</i>) (http://crw-bg.org/), founded by refugee women, engages in advocacy and lobbying, provides legal and administrative consultations, social services, art groups, as well as distribution of basic goods to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in Bulgaria. The organisation does not have membership but involves beneficiaries of international protection in its work as employees and volunteers.</p>

¹⁸⁷ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 16, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf;

Vankova, Z. (2012), 'Bulgaria in the International Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)' (*България в международния индекс за политиките на интеграция на мигранти MIPEX*), *Sociological Problems (Социологически проблеми)*, Vol. 1-2/2012, pp. 203-221.

¹⁸⁸ Bulgaria, Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (*Закон за юридическите лица с нестопанска цел*), 6 October 2000, Art. 5, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134942720.

	<p>their character and eventual differences, including aspects concerning their religious, culture or geographic scope.</p>	<p>The Union of Compatriots Federation (<i>Федерация "Съюз на съотечествениците"</i>) is the biggest organisation of the Russian diaspora. It has 35 clubs throughout the country. The federation carries out cultural and educational activities, monitors the teaching of Russian, helps elderly people and war veterans, etc. The House of Moscow in Sofia (<i>Дом на Москва в София</i>) (www.mkdc-dms.bg/i/bg/sootech/) works for creating conditions for the unification of the Russian diaspora in Bulgaria, the largest in the country, with the aim of protecting their rights and interests. Other organisations of the Russian diaspora include the Russian Compatriots Form (<i>Форум на руските съотечественици</i>), Coordination Council of Organisations of Citizens of Russian Origin in Bulgaria (<i>Координационен съвет на организациите на гражданите с руски произход в България</i>), Russian Club Association (<i>Сдружение "Руски клуб"</i>), Union of Russian Persons with Disabilities in Bulgaria (<i>Съюз на руските инвалиди в България</i>), etc.</p> <p>The Bulgarian branch of the Armenian General Benevolent Union "Parekorzagan" (www.agbubg.org/en/) works towards the popularisation of the Armenian cultural and historic heritage and strengthening of the Armenian diaspora. It has centres in Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna and associated branches in other Bulgarian cities.</p> <p>The Association of Ukrainian Organisations in Bulgaria "Matti Ukraine" (<i>Сдружение на украинските организации в България "Мати-Украйна"</i>) is an umbrella organisation uniting all local Ukrainian diaspora associations in Bulgaria.¹⁸⁹</p> <p>There are also Association of Syrians in Bulgaria (<i>Сдружение на сирийците в България</i>) and Kurdish National Council in Bulgaria (<i>Кюрдски национален съвет в България</i>).</p>
	<p>Please provide any data on the participation of migrants and their descendants in the most representative migrant and/or diaspora organisations and associations? (figures and % of migrants and/or persons with the specific ethnic or other background as members, or descriptive data</p>	<p>Statistical data on the participation of migrants and their descendants in diaspora and migrant organisations is not available.</p> <p>The Council of Refugee Women (<i>Съвет на жените бежанки в България</i>) is chaired by an Iraqi refugee and works through a network of volunteer women with refugee or humanitarian status.¹⁹⁰</p>

¹⁸⁹ UB Vesti (*УБВести*), 'The court registered the Association of Ukrainian Organisations in Bulgaria' (*Съдът регистрира сдружението на украински организации в България*), 13 March 2013, available at: www.consulukr-plovdiv.bg/?step=module_action&modname=blog&modaction=view&blog_id=133&template=consul&lang=2.

¹⁹⁰ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 16, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf. See also the official website of the Council of Refugee Women <http://crw-bg.org/>.

if statistical data is not available).	
<p>Are such associations and organisations encouraged and/or supported financially or in other means (e.g. offices) by the national, regional or local authorities? Is there in place a mechanism linking such associations at national level? (e.g. network of migrant associations).</p>	<p>There is no financial support specifically allocated to migrant and diaspora organisations. Such organisations are allowed to apply for funding, together with all other eligible NGOs, under the existing financial instruments granting funds to NGOs.</p> <p>There is no special mechanism at national level for linking such organisations. One such mechanism could be the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues (NCCEII) (<i>Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етнически и интеграционни въпроси</i>, НССЕИВ), which is open for membership to NGOs. However, the current composition of the council includes only several migrant associations, while the majority of them are not represented.¹⁹¹</p>
<p>Membership and participation of migrants in civil society organisations and voluntary work:</p>	
<p>Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrants in civil society organisations?</p>	<p>There are no legal barriers preventing migrants from becoming members of civil society organisations. According to the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act, both foreigners and foreign legal entities can be founders of a non-profit entity.¹⁹² The law does not provide for any restrictions in terms of membership.</p>
<p>Do civil society organisations encourage and support membership and participation of migrants and/or their descendants? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations working with refugees and immigrants, like Caritas Bulgaria (<i>Каритас България</i>) encourage the participation of volunteer migrants as translators and interpreters.¹⁹³ Similarly, the Centre for Legal Aid "Voice in Bulgaria" (<i>Център за правна помощ "Глас в България"</i>) encourages and the membership and support of migrants and their descendants by providing free legal aid in English and French, creating and distributing information pamphlets regarding migrants' rights in English, French, Arabic and Farsi. It also hires migrants as translators in projects, involving migrants as volunteers in the organisation's work.¹⁹⁴</p> <p>The refugee and migration service of the Bulgarian Red Cross (<i>Български червен кръст</i>) is employing refugees</p>

¹⁹¹ Bulgaria, National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues with the Council of Ministers (*Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етническите и интеграционните въпроси към Министерския съвет*) (2015), Order No P-40 of 10 February 2015 on the approving the members of the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues with the Council of Ministers (*Заповед № Р-40 от 10 февруари 2015 г. за утвърждаване на поименния състав на Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етническите и интеграционните въпроси към Министерския съвет*), available at: http://www.nccedi.government.bg/upload/docs/zapoved_NSSEIV_2015.pdf.

¹⁹² Bulgaria, Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (*Закон за юридическите лица с нестопанска цел*), 6 October 2000, Art. 5, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134942720.

¹⁹³ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 16, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf. See also the official website of the Council of Refugee Women <http://crw-bg.org/>.

¹⁹⁴ Centre for Legal Aid "Voice in Bulgaria" (*Център за правна помощ "Глас в България"*) (2015), E-mail to the Center for the Study of Democracy, 6 March 2015.

		<p>and third country nationals as mediators, social workers and interpreters.¹⁹⁵</p> <p>The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (<i>Български хелзинкски комитет</i>) applies neither positive nor negative measures concerning the admission of new members.¹⁹⁶</p> <p>The Multi Kulti Collective (<i>Мулти Култи Колектив</i>) encourages and supports membership and participation of migrants and their descendants through providing logistical and other support to the latter for organising culinary events through which to present their culture and history.¹⁹⁷</p> <p>The Refugee Support Group Foundation (<i>Фондация "Група за подкрепа на бежанци"</i>) is one of the most active civil society organisations working with refugees. The foundation collects and distributes donations, and organise fundraising events, children's activities, and the provision of medical care in the refugee centres. The foundation's founder and chairman of the board is a Syrian citizen. The organisation does not have membership but cooperates with the residents of the refugee registration-reception centres in the country, as well as with other NGOs whose representatives are third-country nationals, refugees or their descendants. The foundation provides interpreters and disseminates information materials translated at least in the main languages spoken by refugees in Bulgaria (Arabic, Pashto and Farsi), as well as in Bulgarian, English and French.¹⁹⁸</p>
	<p>Please provide any data on the participation and membership of migrants and their descendants in the most representative civil society organisations? (figures or % of organisation members, % of migrants and/or with migrant background as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available).</p>	<p>There are no data available concerning the participation of migrants and their descendants in civil society organisation, because these organisations do not collect data related to the origin of their members.¹⁹⁹</p>

¹⁹⁵ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 16, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf. See also the official website of the Council of Refugee Women <http://crw-bg.org/>.

¹⁹⁶ Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (*Български хелзинкски комитет*) (2015), E-mail to the Center for the Study of Democracy, 5 March 2015.

¹⁹⁷ Multi Kulti Collective (*Мулти Култи Колектив*) (2015), E-mail to the Center for the Study of Democracy, 15 March 2015.

¹⁹⁸ Refugee Support Group Foundation (*Фондация "Група за подкрепа на бежанци"*) (2015), E-mail to the Center for the Study of Democracy, 24 March 2015.

¹⁹⁹ None of the abovementioned civil society organisations reported collecting data on membership of migrants in their responses.

Membership and participation of migrants in political parties:	
Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrants in political parties, initiatives (e.g. petitions, signature collections) and movements?	<p>According to the Political Parties Act (<i>Закон за политическите партии</i>), only Bulgarian citizens with voting rights under the Electoral Code (<i>Изборен кодекс</i>) can become members of political parties.²⁰⁰ Third-country nationals do not have voting rights, hence are excluded from party membership. In addition, parties are only allowed to conduct public events, make statements and publish documents in Bulgarian.²⁰¹</p> <p>The Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government Act (<i>Закон за пряко участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление</i>) restricts the participation of third-country nationals in certain political initiatives. Third-country nationals are not allowed to vote at national and local referendums, and at the so-called "general assembly of the population".²⁰² They cannot sign petitions for national referendums²⁰³, local referendums²⁰⁴, national citizens' initiatives²⁰⁵, local citizens' initiatives²⁰⁶ and general assemblies of the population²⁰⁷</p>
Do political parties encourage and support membership and participation of migrants and/or their descendants in their activities? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.	Political parties do not encourage or support the membership of migrants because of the ban for third-country nationals to join political parties. There are no political party initiatives targeting migrants' descendants.
Please provide any data on the participation and membership of migrants and their descendants in the political parties, initiatives and	In Bulgaria, membership of third-country nationals in political parties is not allowed. There is no available data on the membership of migrants' descendants

²⁰⁰ Bulgaria, Political Parties Act (*Закон за политическите партии*), 1 April 2005, Art. 2, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135501352.

²⁰¹ Bulgaria, Political Parties Act (*Закон за политическите партии*), 1 April 2005, Art. 6, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135501352.

²⁰² Bulgaria, Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government Act (*Закон за пряко участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление*), 12 June 2009, Art. 4, Par. (1) and (2), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135636485.

²⁰³ Bulgaria, Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government Act (*Закон за пряко участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление*), 12 June 2009, Art. 10, Par. (1), Item 5, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135636485.

²⁰⁴ Bulgaria, Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government Act (*Закон за пряко участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление*), 12 June 2009, Art. 27, Par. (1), Item 3, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135636485.

²⁰⁵ Bulgaria, Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government Act (*Закон за пряко участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление*), 12 June 2009, Art. 45, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135636485.

²⁰⁶ Bulgaria, Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government Act (*Закон за пряко участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление*), 12 June 2009, Art. 47, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135636485.

²⁰⁷ Bulgaria, Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government Act (*Закон за пряко участие на гражданите в държавната власт и местното самоуправление*), 12 June 2009, Art. 57, Par. (1), Item 3, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135636485.

	movements? (figures or % of party members, % of migrants and/or with migrant background as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available).	because political parties do not collect data on the origin of their members.
	Are migrants elected as representatives of political parties, initiatives and movements? Please provide figures if available, and report the related legal or practical limitations or barriers, eventually faced.	Migrants are not elected as representatives of political parties and initiatives because they are not allowed to participate in them as members.

3.7.Civic and citizenship education

The participation of migrants and their descendants (with a distinct linguistic, cultural background) in education:		
	Have teachers of migrant background equal access to employment in education, as teachers? If yes, what is the rate of participation (% of teachers with migrant background at national level)? Are they represented in professional teacher associations? Please identify limitations, challenges and promising practice.	<p>Third-country nationals can be employed as teachers in all Bulgarian state, municipal, religious and private schools if they have permanent residence status and present a legalised translation of their diploma and of a document certifying they can practice the profession of teacher.²⁰⁸ Other foreigners can be employed as teachers only in the framework of intergovernmental agreements and after consulting the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>).²⁰⁹</p> <p>All Bulgarian citizens can be employed as teachers irrespective of their origin or background.</p> <p>There are no official statistics on the number of teachers of migrant descend. The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>) keeps records neither on the citizenship of teachers nor on their origin.²¹⁰</p> <p>The two major teachers' associations – the Bulgarian Union of Teachers (<i>Синдикат на българските учители</i>) and the Bulgarian Association of Primary Teachers (<i>Сдружение на българските начални учители</i>) do not impose any limitations on the membership of third-country nationals. Information on the citizenship or origin of their members is not available.</p>

²⁰⁸ Bulgaria, Rules on the Implementation of the Public Education Act (*Правилник за прилагане на Закона за народната просвета*), § 7, Par. (3) of the transitional and concluding provisions, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-12809727>.

²⁰⁹ Bulgaria, Rules on the Implementation of the Public Education Act (*Правилник за прилагане на Закона за народната просвета*), § 7, Par. (2) of the transitional and concluding provisions, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-12809727>.

²¹⁰ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

<p>Are there any particular gender issues?</p>	<p>Due to the secular character of public education teachers cannot wear the veil in public schools.²¹¹ In addition, according to the Chair of the Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria (<i>Съвет на жените бежанки в България</i>), parents of female students are hesitant to enrol their daughters in mixed schools.²¹²</p>
<p>Are parents of migrant background actively participating in the school life? Please provide evidence concerning their participation in parents associations, school and community events and extracurricular activities, consultations etc.²¹³</p>	<p>There is no publicly available information indicating the level of participation of migrants' parents in school life.</p> <p>According to experts from the Integration Centre (<i>Интеграционен център</i>) of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>), there is a lack of connection between the schools and the parents. The centre only provides support to parents accommodated at the reception and registration centres in Sofia.²¹⁴</p>
<p>Are there extracurricular activities involving and engaging with children and parents of migrant background and/or focussing on civic and citizenship education? Please identify limitations, challenges and promising practice.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education and Science organised special training for school directors and teachers on working in multicultural environment. The training was aimed at improving the skills of school directors and teachers to communicate with different ethnicities and enhance tolerance through understanding different cultures. MOH also organises regular experience sharing seminars where teachers working with children with international protection status share their experience with teachers from other schools.²¹⁵</p> <p>There are no extracurricular activities particularly targeting children and parents of migrant background.</p>
<p>Are there provisions for bilingual education? If yes, is it supported by trained teachers and training programmes, curriculum provisions and dedicated school manuals and books?</p>	<p>Bilingual education is only available in some private schools, public foreign language schools and embassy schools in the bigger towns of the country.</p> <p>The right to study one's mother tongue is a constitutional right.²¹⁶ Students have the right to study their mother tongue in municipal schools.²¹⁷ Mother</p>

²¹¹ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 5, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>; Bulgaria, Rules on the Implementation of the Public Education Act (*Правилник за прилагане на Закона за народната просвета*), Art. 135, Par. (1) and (3), available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-12809727>; Bulgaria, Sofia City Administrative Court (*Административен съд – София град*), Decision No 5531 in administrative case No 6671/2013 (*Решение № 5531 по административно дело № 6671/2013 г.*), available at: <http://legalacts.justice.bg/Search/GetActContentByActId?actId=%2F1q4JziNrQM%3D>.

²¹² SIRIUS Network (2014), Bulgaria: Council of Refugee Women, 29 January 2014, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/bulgaria-council-of-refugee-women/.

²¹³ For more information about involving the community in the school life and vice versa please refer also to the findings of the SIRIUS Network <http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/>

²¹⁴ Vankova, Z. (2013), Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 35, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

²¹⁵ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (Министерство на образованието и науката) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията), 9 March 2015.

²¹⁶ Bulgaria, Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (Конституция на Република България), 13 July 1991, Art. 36, Par. (2), available at: www.parliament.bg/en/const.

²¹⁷ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 8, Par. (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

		<p>tongue may be taught for three academic hours a week as part of the mandatory selectable curriculum,²¹⁸ or for four hours a week as part of the freely selectable programme from the first until the last grade.²¹⁹</p> <p>In practice, mother tongue classes are conducted only when there is sufficient number of students who wish to enrol and there is a qualified teacher.²²⁰ No efforts are made by the authorities to facilitate students' access to mother tongue classes.²²¹</p> <p>According to official statistics the following number of students were studying their mother tongue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School year 2010/2011: Turkish – 10,888; Romany – 17; Hebrew – n/a; Armenian – 127; • School year 2011/2012: Turkish – 9,912; Romany – 451; Hebrew – 269; Armenian – 138; • School year 2012/2013: Turkish – 9,064; Romany – 176; Hebrew – 80; Armenian – 115; • School year 2013/2014: Turkish – 8,463; Romany – 507; Hebrew – 343; Armenian – 102.²²²
	<p>Is there evidence of school segregation and/or policies of separate/distinct schooling of migrants?</p>	<p>There are no public policies of separate schooling or segregation of migrants.</p> <p>For several years there has been pressure by the increasing Russian population in the city of Burgas for the opening of a Russian school, but due to lack of state support there has not been any progress.²²³</p> <p>With regard to refugee children, the approximately 65 Syrian children beneficiaries of international protection in Sofia are enrolled in three state schools in the capital city. The school that has accepted the highest number</p>

²¹⁸ Currently, only classes in Turkish, Romani, Armenian and Hebrew are available as part of the mandatory curriculum.

²¹⁹ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (Министерство на образованието и науката) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията), 9 March 2015.

²²⁰ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (Министерство на образованието и науката) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията), 9 March 2015; Antonov, A. (Антонов, А.) (2012), 'Contrary to our Beliefs, Europe Encourages the Study of Mother Tongue' ('Обратно на представата ни, Европа поощрява изучаването на майчин език'), Sofia, Hermes Foundation – Liberal Library (Фондация Хермес – Либерална библиотека), available at: www.hermesbg.org/nova-biblioteka/book-41/1978-obratno-na-predstavata-ni-evropa-pooshtryava-izuchavaneto-na-maychin-ezik.html.

²²¹ Antonov, A. (Антонов, А.) (2012), 'Contrary to our Beliefs, Europe Encourages the Study of Mother Tongue' ('Обратно на представата ни, Европа поощрява изучаването на майчин език'), Sofia, Hermes Foundation – Liberal Library (Фондация Хермес – Либерална библиотека), available at: www.hermesbg.org/nova-biblioteka/book-41/1978-obratno-na-predstavata-ni-evropa-pooshtryava-izuchavaneto-na-maychin-ezik.html.

²²² National Statistical Institute (2014), Education in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014, Sofia, National Statistical Institute, available at: www.nsi.bg/en/content/12474/%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F/education-republic-bulgaria-2014.

²²³ Savateva, D. (Саватева, Д.) and Raikov, D. (Райков, Д.) (2013), 'The Russians have arrived, establishing their own School' ('Руснаците дойдоха, правят си училище'), 24 chasa (24 часа), 5 July 2013, available at: www.24chasa.bg/Article.asp?ArticleId=2121921.

		of refugee children has organised a separate first grade class that is attended by approximately 20 refugee children. ²²⁴ There they receive specialised language support and when they attain the necessary language skills, they join the regular classes with other Bulgarian students. ²²⁵
	Is there evidence of modifying school curricula and teaching materials can be modified to reflect the diversity of the school population? Is the teacher regular curricula/training dealing with specific reference to immigrants or ethnic minorities and respect/promotion of diversity?	All stages of school education reflect the diversity of cultures of Bulgaria's ethnic minority groups (Turkish, Roma, Jewish and Armenian). ²²⁶ The current educational programmes were developed before the increased presence of persons from the Middle East in Bulgaria; hence references to cultures from this region were not included. The curriculum has not been modified in 2014. ²²⁷ According to the latest MIPEX report, Bulgaria occupies the second last place in Europe in terms of migrants' access to education, including due to the lack of materials aiming to encourage respect for diversity among Bulgarian students. ²²⁸
	Are all students – not only of migrant background – targeted and/involved by civic education and activities related to migrant integration at schools?	All students are involved in civic education.
The implementation of specific measures and initiatives aiming at (the following is an indicative and non-exhaustive list):		
	Improving the way civic and citizenship education reflect diversity in society through curricular and extracurricular activities. Are there specific programmes helping young people to learn how to live in a society with people from different cultures and religions?	Civic education is compulsory for one school year in the course of secondary education. The subject is called 'World and Personality' ('Свят и личност') and includes one module on minority rights, multicultural dialogue, EU law and policies on combating racism and xenophobia, international human rights treaties to which Bulgaria is party, and identifying racist and xenophobic ideologies. ²²⁹ There have also been project-based extra-curricular activities organised by the State Agency for Refugees

²²⁴ Portal Kultura (Портал Култура) (2014), 'What Happens to Syrian Children in Bulgaria?' ('Какво се случва със сирийските деца у нас?'), 1 April 2014, available at: <http://kultura.bg/web/какво-се-случва-със-сирийските-деца-у-н/>.

²²⁵ Portal Kultura (Портал Култура) (2014), 'What Happens to Syrian Children in Bulgaria?' ('Какво се случва със сирийските деца у нас?'), 1 April 2014, available at: <http://kultura.bg/web/какво-се-случва-със-сирийските-деца-у-н/>.

²²⁶ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (Министерство на образованието и науката) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията), 9 March 2015.

²²⁷ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (Министерство на образованието и науката) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията), 9 March 2015.

²²⁸ Vankova, Z. (2012), 'Bulgaria in the International Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)' ('България в международния индекс за политиките на интеграция на мигранти MIPEX'), *Sociological Problems (Социологически проблеми)*, Vol. 1-2/2012, pp. 203-221, p. 216.

²²⁹ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (Министерство на образованието и науката) (2010), World and Personality Teaching Programme (Учебна програма по Свят и личност), available at: www.mon.bg/?h=downloadFile&fileId=831.

		(SAR) (Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ) ²³⁰ , the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД) ²³¹ and NGOs. ²³²
	Improving the way formal curriculum subjects, e.g. literature, history, etc. promote mutual understanding, respect for ethnic and religious diversity and the common democratic and pluralist values?	School education reflects the diversity of cultures of Bulgaria's ethnic minority groups (Turkish, Roma, Jewish and Armenian) but since current educational programmes have been developed before the increased presence of persons from the Middle East they do not include references to cultures from this region. ²³³ According to the latest MIPEX report, in Bulgaria there is a lack of materials aiming to encourage respect for diversity among students. ²³⁴
	Facilitating equal opportunities in education for children with migrant background?	In addition to the provision of language-learning support described below, there are also other measures facilitating equal opportunities in education for migrant children. All pupils in the first to the fourth grade receive one free set of textbooks and manuals, and all pupils in the fifth to the seventh grade are provided with one free set of textbooks. ²³⁵ School education is free of charge for beneficiaries of international protection ²³⁶ , third country nationals in possession of a permanent residence permit, and students under the age of 17 who are children of long-term residents. ²³⁷ Holders of continuous residence permits and undocumented migrants are currently not eligible for

²³⁰ Bulgaria, National Audit Office (*Сметна палата*), Audit report for audit of the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Одитен доклад за одит на изпълнение на Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 8 January 2015, pp. 38-40, available at: www.bulnao.government.bg/bg/articles/download/8358/od-bejanzi-220115.doc.

²³¹ Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*), Discrimination Free Schools Project (*Проект "Училища без дискриминация"*), available at: <http://kzd-nondiscrimination.com/proektuchilista/>.

²³² SIRIUS Network (2014), Bulgaria: Council of Refugee Women, 29 January 2014, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/bulgaria-council-of-refugee-women/; Bedrosyan, D. (*Бедроян, Д.*) (2015), 'Burgas Says "No" to Racism' (*'Бургас казва "не" на расизма'*), *Darik News*, 8 January 2015.

²³³ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

²³⁴ Vankova, Z. (2012), 'Bulgaria in the International Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)' (*'България в международния индекс за политиките на интеграция на мигранти MIPEX'*), *Sociological Problems (Социологически проблеми)*, Vol. 1-2/2012, pp. 203-221, p. 216.

²³⁵ Bulgaria, Decree of the Council of Ministers No 104 of 10 May 2003 on the adoption of Ordinance on the textbooks and education manuals (*Постановление № 104 на Министерския съвет от 10 май 2003 г. за приемане на Наредба за учебниците и учебните помагала*), 20 May 2003, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135467354>.

²³⁶ Bulgaria, Asylum and Refugees Act (*Закон за убежището и бежанците*), 31 May 2002, Art. 26, Par. (1), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135453184>; Bulgaria, Ordinance No 3 of 27 July 2000 on the admission procedure for refugees to state and municipal schools in the Republic of Bulgaria (*Наредба № 3 от 27 юли 2000 г. за реда за приемане на бежанци в държавните и общинските училища на Република България*), 8 September 2000, Art. 3, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/-549415424>.

²³⁷ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, § 4, Par. (2) of the additional provisions, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

	<p>free school education. However, in 2014, the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>) repealed the order of the Minister of Education and Science defining the amount of school education fees for migrants²³⁸ because it considered it discriminative on the grounds of nationality and violating migrants' right to education under Art 14 ECHR.²³⁹ Nevertheless, there have not been any legal or political consequences of this decision and the Public Education Act (<i>Закон за народната просвета</i>) was not amended accordingly. Because of that, in a later case the Administrative Court of Burgas (<i>Административен съд – Бургас</i>) rejected an appeal of the parents of a third-country national against a decision of school director to ask for the payment of school fees.²⁴⁰ The Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>) upheld the lower court's decision.²⁴¹</p> <p>Migrant children from 1st to 6th grade, who have a duly translated and legalised certificate, are exempt from sitting an entrance exam. The school director can recognise or reject the certificate. In comparison, students in upper grades need to present a transcript of records for all subjects and the number of hours. The authority making the decision for their recognition is the respective regional education inspectorate.²⁴²</p> <p>A new draft refugee integration plan presented in March 2015 by the Deputy Prime Minister for European Policies Coordination and Institutional Affairs, Meglena Kuneva, targeting beneficiaries of international protection, is currently being finalised. In her words, it would provide children and adult refugees with more opportunities to</p>
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²³⁸ Bulgaria, Order No ПД-09-698/07.05.2009 (*Заповед № ПД-09-698/07.05.2009*) 7 May 2009.

²³⁹ Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (*Върховен административен съд*), Decision No 627 of 17.01.2014 in administrative case No 1158/2013 (*Решение № 627 от 17.01.2014 г. по административно дело № 1158/2013 г.*), available at:

www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d038edcf49190344c2256b7600367606/690070f5ad2b8900c2257c620040daca?OpenDocument.

²⁴⁰ Bulgaria, Burgas Administrative Court (*Административен съд – Бургас*), Ruling No 585 of 04.04.2014 in case No 575/2014 (*Определение № 585 от 04.04.2014 г. по дело № 575/2014 г.*), available at:

<http://legalacts.justice.bg/Search/GetActContentByActId?actId=pDXe5M1uZqg%3D>; Bulgaria, Burgas Administrative Court (*Административен съд – Бургас*), Ruling No 680 of 23.04.2014 in case No 573/2014 (*Определение № 680 от 23.04.2014 г. по дело № 573/2014 г.*), available at:

<http://legalacts.justice.bg/Search/GetActContentByActId?actId=XWo5Q0B9R%2FQ%3D>; Bulgaria, Burgas Administrative Court (*Административен съд – Бургас*), Ruling No 671 of 22.04.2014 in case No 574/2014 (*Определение № 671 от 22.04.2014 г. по дело № 574/2014 г.*), available at:

<http://legalacts.justice.bg/Search/GetActContentByActId?actId=9Rn9BaIM6n8%3D>.

²⁴¹ Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (*Върховен административен съд*), Ruling No 8610 of 23.06.2014 in case 7418/2014 (*Определение № 8610 от 23.06.2014 г. по дело № 7418/2014 г.*), available at:

www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d6397429a99ee2afc225661e00383a86c9f52c228f3507b0c2257cfc00577c09?OpenDocument.

²⁴² Bulgaria, Ordinance No 2 of 14 April 2003 on the recognition of completed school degrees and professional qualification certificates issued by foreign countries (*Наредба № 2 от 14 април 2003 г. за признаване на завършени етапи на училищно обучение или степени на образование и професионална квалификация по документи, издадени от училища на чужди държави*), 29 April 2003, available at: <http://www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135466587>.

		learn Bulgarian, and would facilitate the recognition of education degrees obtained abroad. ²⁴³
	Facilitating the involvement, participation and support of parents with migrant background in the educational system and in the school activities?	There are no targeted measures aiming to facilitate the involvement of migrants' parents in the educational system or in the school activities. According to experts from the Integration Centre (<i>Интеграционен център</i>) of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>), there is a lack of connection between the school and the parents. The centre only provides support to parents accommodated at the Reception-Registration centres in Sofia. ²⁴⁴
	Providing language learning support to students of migrant background?	<p>The introduction of free compulsory two-year pre-school education²⁴⁵ aims to facilitate the successful integration of every child in the education system, especially for children whose mother tongue is not Bulgarian.²⁴⁶</p> <p>Schools are obliged to provide additional specialised Bulgarian language education to children whose mother tongue is not Bulgarian.²⁴⁷ Students, enrolled in first grade without a pre-school education certificate, are eligible for additional support, including Bulgarian language education (Art 114(2) Implementing Regulations of the Law on Public Education).²⁴⁸ The national programme 'Caring for Every Student' (<i>'С грижа за всеки ученик'</i>), implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>), provides funding for additional Bulgarian-language classes for students who need additional support in pre-school and primary school.²⁴⁹ In addition, there is a possibility for students between the 1st and the 5th grade to remain at school for the whole day and participate in extracurricular activities in a Bulgarian-speaking environment, which helps them to improve their command of the</p>

²⁴³ Focus News Agency, 'Bulgaria Deputy PM: We have new plan for refugees integration', 6 March 2015, available at: www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/06/365185/bulgaria-deputy-pm-we-have-new-plan-for-refugees-integration-roundup.html; Novinite online, 'Bulgaria Drafts New Plan for Integration of Refugees, Deputy PM Kuneva Says', 5 March 2015, available at:

www.novinite.com/articles/167003/Bulgaria+Drafts+New+Plan+for+Integration+of+Refugees.+Deputy+PM+Kuneva+Says+#sthash.b3u55KqJ.dpuf.

²⁴⁴ Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 35, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

²⁴⁵ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 20, Par. (1), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

²⁴⁶ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

²⁴⁷ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 20, Par. (5), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

²⁴⁸ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 114, Par. (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

²⁴⁹ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

	<p>language.²⁵⁰ Migrant students in secondary school at risk of dropping out can also receive additional educational support by the school, including additional Bulgarian language classes (Art 43(2) Law on Public Education).²⁵¹</p> <p>With regard to beneficiaries of international protection, between 2011 and 2013 preparatory Bulgarian language classes were provided only to the beneficiaries of international protection participating in the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>) developed and implemented by the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>). However, according to a recent audit of the programme, only a limited number of refugee children could take advantage of the programme, because it was available only to children accommodated in one registration and reception centre in Sofia.²⁵²</p> <p>In 2013, ДАБ provided twelve Bulgarian language courses: six courses for children and six courses for adults. The number of courses provided in 2014 was 60: 26 courses for children and 34 courses for adults. Courses took place in the registration and reception centres in Sofia (Ovcha Kupel), Banya and Harmanly, in the temporary accommodation centres in Sofia (Vrazhdebna and Voenna Rampa) and Kovachevtsi, and in the transit centre in Pastrogor. Courses for adults are 600-hour courses and those for children are 300-hour courses. The language levels achieved at the end of the courses are A1 and A2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. A total of 98 children and 148 adults attended the courses in 2013, and 144 children attended the courses in 2014.²⁵³</p> <p>Since March 2014, following the expiration of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>), children accommodated in the ДАБ's registration and reception centres have access to UNHCR-funded Bulgarian language courses provided by</p>
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²⁵⁰ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

²⁵¹ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 43, Par. (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

²⁵² Bulgaria, National Audit Office (*Сметна палата*), Audit report for audit of the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Одитен доклад за одит на изпълнение на Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 8 January 2015, pp. 37-39, available at: www.bulnao.government.bg/bg/articles/download/8358/od-bejanzi-220115.doc.

²⁵³ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

		<p>the non-governmental organisation CARITAS.²⁵⁴ The total number of persons enrolled in these courses is 1,114.²⁵⁵ According to ДАБ, these courses are provided according to a curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>).²⁵⁶ According to UNHCR, the courses are informal and not certified under a programme approved by МОН.²⁵⁷</p> <p>A total of 270 refugees successfully completed the Bulgarian language course and obtained the respective certificate. ДАБ issued 24 course completion certificates to children in 2013 and 54 in 2014. The children were from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and other countries.²⁵⁸</p> <p>According to unofficial data, at the end of 2014, there were 837 refugee children in Bulgaria. Of them, 301 attended Bulgarian language classes and 74 were enrolled in school.²⁵⁹</p>
	<p>Improving attendance and reducing drop-out of students with migrant background?</p>	<p>There is a Strategy on prevention and reducing the number of drop-out students 2013-2020 (<i>Стратегия за превенция и намаляване дела на отпадащите и преждевременно напусналите образователната система 2013-2020</i>), but it does not identify children with migrant background as a target group.²⁶⁰</p>
	<p>Improving school and teachers' capacity to embrace, build on and/or manage diversity?</p>	<p>There have been a number of project-based teacher training initiatives dedicated to respecting diversity and working with migrant and ethnic minority students organised by the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>)²⁶¹, the</p>

²⁵⁴ UNHCR (2014), Bulgaria as a Country of Asylum: UNHCR Observations on the Current Situation of Asylum in Bulgaria, p.12, available at: www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/pdf/where-we-work/bulgaria/bulgaria-as-a-country-of-asylum.html.

²⁵⁵ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

²⁵⁶ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

²⁵⁷ UNHCR (2014), Bulgaria as a Country of Asylum: UNHCR Observations on the Current Situation of Asylum in Bulgaria, p.12, available at: www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/pdf/where-we-work/bulgaria/bulgaria-as-a-country-of-asylum.html.

²⁵⁸ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

²⁵⁹ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 4, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

²⁶⁰ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2013), Strategy on prevention and reducing the number of drop-out students 2013-2020 (*Стратегия за превенция и намаляване дела на отпадащите и преждевременно напусналите образователната система 2013-2020*), 30 October 2013, available at: www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=35&id=2130.

²⁶¹ Bulgaria, National Audit Office (*Сметна палата*), Audit report for audit of the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Одитен доклад за одит на изпълнение на Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 8 January 2015, pp. 38-40, available at: www.bulnao.government.bg/bg/articles/download/8358/od-bejanzi-220115.doc; Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the*

		<p>Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>)²⁶² and NGOs.²⁶³</p> <p>The regional education inspectorates have sent materials and letters to school directors with recommendations for fostering positive attitudes towards refugees.²⁶⁴ The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОИ</i>) organises seminars for exchange of experience and promising practice between education experts, school directors and teachers working with children asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.²⁶⁵ As part of the 2014 work programme implementing the Bulgarian Communication Strategy for the European Union МОИ organised training for teachers on how to work in a multicultural environment and develop skills for communication with persons of different ethnic backgrounds.²⁶⁶</p>
	<p>In particular, please specify if there are promising practices, including affirmative action / positive action practices designed to tackle structural inequalities</p>	<p>The European Refugee Fund-funded project “Access”, implemented by CARITAS in cooperation with the regional education inspectorate in Sofia developed two curricula for Bulgarian language teaching, one for adult and one for school-age refugees, a handbook for non-formal education techniques, an analysis of the existing practices for access to the education systems for refugee and migrant children in various European countries and an assessment test for determining the grade in which the child should be enrolled.²⁶⁷ The project’s outputs were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОИ</i>) for approval and potential replication at national level.²⁶⁸</p>
	<p>Other...</p>	<p>Equal access to education for migrant students can be hindered as a result of discrimination and unaddressed fears and prejudice amongst the general population, in particular parents of ethnic Bulgarian students. In 2014,</p>

Republic of Bulgaria in 2013, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 35, available at:

http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

²⁶² Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*), Discrimination Free Schools Project (*Проект “Училища без дискриминация”*), available at: <http://kzd-nondiscrimination.com/proektuchilista/>.

²⁶³ SIRIUS Network (2014), Bulgaria: Council of Refugee Women, 29 January 2014, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/bulgaria-council-of-refugee-women/.

²⁶⁴ Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 35, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

²⁶⁵ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

²⁶⁶ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

²⁶⁷ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 9, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

²⁶⁸ SIRIUS (2014), Conclusions and recommendations from the national meeting of the European Network for Education and Migrant SIRIUS: Challenges in the education of migrants and refugees in Bulgaria, p. 4.

	<p>parents of Bulgarian children protested against the enrolment of refugee students in the local school. Parents' concerns were related to the lack of Bulgarian language preparation of the refugees. As a result, the refugee children and their families were forced to move to another town, where they were enrolled in school.²⁶⁹ This has been an isolated case, but such incidents have happened before to Roma students, and could potentially impact a greater number of migrant children in the future, especially if their number rises in and no measures mitigating Bulgarian parents' attitudes are taken.</p> <p>There have also been cases of school directors refusing to admit refugee children on the grounds of alleged lack of capacity. In practice, their actions were due to xenophobic motives or concerns that if refugee students move to another country with their parents, the school would lose its state subsidy.²⁷⁰</p> <p>Amendments adopted in 2007 made the rules on education of Bulgarian children applicable on refugee children as well. Before that, the minister of education and science had the right to lay down different rules for the education of refugee children.²⁷¹ However, the rules, issued by the minister of education and science based on the old provision²⁷², continue to be applied in practice leading to a situation of legal uncertainty. According to these rules, unless refugee students are to be enrolled in first grade, they need to: (1) pass an assessment test, identifying which grade they should be placed in, and (2) have successfully completed a state-licensed Bulgarian language course provided by the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>).²⁷³ ДАБ, however, does not provide licensed Bulgarian language classes since June 2014. According to UNHCR data, schools no longer refuse access to refugee students solely on the grounds of not having completed a state-licensed Bulgarian language course.²⁷⁴ In addition, the assessment test has been criticised for failing to adequately assess the student's knowledge and skills, as it can only be sat in</p>
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²⁶⁹ Leviev-Sawyer, C., 'Refugee children barred from Bulgarian village still not placed in school', *Independent Balkan News Agency*, 22 September 2014, available at: www.balkan.eu.com/refugee-children-barred-bulgarian-village-school/; Vladkova, V. (2014), 'Disgraceful act casts shadow over first day of school at Bulgarian village', *Bulgarian National Radio*, 21 September 2014, available at: bnr.bg/en/post/100462381/disgraceful-act-casts-shadow-over-first-day-of-school-at-bulgarian-village.

²⁷⁰ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 8, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

²⁷¹ Bulgaria, Asylum and Refugees Act (*Закон за убежището и бежанците*), 31 May 2002, Art. 26, Par. (1), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135453184>.

²⁷² Bulgaria, Ordinance No 3 of 27 July 2000 on the admission procedure for refugees to state and municipal schools in the Republic of Bulgaria (*Наредба № 3 от 27 юли 2000 г. за реда за приемане на бежанци в държавните и общинските училища на Република България*), 8 September 2000, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-549415424>.

²⁷³ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 4, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

²⁷⁴ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 7, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

		<p>Bulgarian and covers all subjects in the curriculum.²⁷⁵ As a result, older children are placed in lower classes with younger students, which poses significant problems to their integration in school.²⁷⁶</p> <p>Despite the provision of free textbooks and materials, parents of children beneficiaries of international protection face difficulties in covering their children's education costs, including transportation, clothes and school materials.²⁷⁷</p>
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3.8. Drivers, barriers for the implementation, monitoring and assessment of legislation & policy measures

	<p>Previous paragraphs indicated in detail aspects about the actual implementation of participation policies, normative framework and measures. In this section briefly summarize the most important drivers, positive factors and the barriers, resistance or negative factors that have been identified regarding the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of policy measures and normative framework for the political and social participation of migrants and their descendants. Please base the analysis on governmental and non-governmental reports, as well as research and studies.</p>	<p>The debate has been focused on the social inclusion of refugees due to their increasing number in Bulgaria, while the integration of other third country nationals residing in the country has not been subject to either political, or public interest.</p> <p>Political participation of migrants and their descendants has not been part of the public and policy debates on migrant integration. Although Bulgaria occupies one of the last places in relation to the inclusion of migrants in national and local decision-making processes (17 %),²⁷⁸ these results have not caused any debate or momentum for change.</p> <p>Bulgaria's traditional position as a transit country exerts a significant influence on the implementation of integration measures. The lack of motivation of refugees to remain in Bulgaria and the lack of adequate refugee integration measures reinforce each other. On the one hand, the lack of support drives a number of beneficiaries of international protection to other countries in search of a better life.²⁷⁹ On the other hand, the emigration of beneficiaries of international protection from Bulgaria has been used as a political argument to justify the lack of investment in migrant integration measures, for instance in Bulgarian language classes.²⁸⁰</p>
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²⁷⁵ SIRIUS Network (2014), Bulgaria: Council of Refugee Women, 29 January 2014, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/bulgaria-council-of-refugee-women/.

²⁷⁶ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 7, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

²⁷⁷ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 8, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

²⁷⁸ Vankova, Z. (2012), 'Bulgaria in the International Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)' ('България в международния индекс за политиките на интеграция на мигранти MIPEX'), *Sociological Problems (Социологически проблеми)*, Vol. 1-2/2012, pp. 203-221, p. 215.

²⁷⁹ SIRIUS (2014), SIRIUS National Meetings 2014: Reports – Bulgaria, p. 7, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-Meetings-2014-reports.pdf.

²⁸⁰ Yaneva, K. (2015), 'President of the State Agency for Refugees Nikola Kazakov: Refugees refuse to study Bulgarian, their final goal is Western Europe', *Europost*, 13 March 2015, available at: www.europost.bg/article?id=13026.

	<p>The Paris attacks of the beginning of 2015 have served as a driver to framing migrant integration as an issue of national security, which requires investment. The attacks resulted in a series of public statements of senior government officials linking social integration of migrants and prevention of crime and terrorism. Politicians have publicly acknowledged that avoiding social exclusion and ghettoisation through migrant integration measures is key to preventing organised crime and terrorism.²⁸¹ As a result, Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister for European Policies Coordination and Institutional Affairs, Meglena Kuneva, announced the drafting of a new refugee integration plan, which would include measures to support the integration of refugees.²⁸² Deputy Prime Minister Kuneva has also proposed the imposition of penalties on refugees who refuse to integrate, e.g. by refusing to send their children to school or to accept jobs offered to them.²⁸³ It is yet unclear what measures would be included in the final version of the plan.</p> <p>Discriminatory attitudes, prejudice and xenophobia on the part of the majority population also pose a significant barrier to migrant participation. A sociological survey done in 2013 revealed a dramatic increase in xenophobic attitudes: 33 % of respondents wanted refugees to be expelled; 20 % displayed a highly critical attitude and believed that "we should not help the refugees", and 42 % supported the isolation of refugees in special camps.²⁸⁴</p> <p>Similarly, according to a report following the refugee crisis in Bulgaria, 'foreigners' and 'Muslims' appeared to be the new target group of hate speech. In 2013, these groups were the Roma, the Turkish and the homosexuals. The percentage of people who witnessed hate speech against foreigners in 2014 was 20 %,</p>
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²⁸¹ Bulgaria for Citizens Movement (*Движение "България на гражданите"*) (2015), 'Meglena Kuneva: If We Don't Integrate Refugees They Are One Step Away from Criminality' (*Меглена Кунева: Ако не интегрираме бежанците те са на крачка от престъпността*), 9 January 2015, available at: www.grajdani.bg/?p=6238; Novinite Online (2015), 'Bulgaria Unable to Receive More Refugees - Deputy PM Kalfin', 12 January 2015, available at: www.novinite.com/articles/165899/Bulgaria+%27Unable+to+Receive+More+%3Cb%3ERefugees%3C/b%3E%27+-+Deputy+PM+%3Cb%3EKalfin%3C/b%3E. In his statement, Deputy Prime Minister Kalfin made a direct reference to the Paris attacks saying that there is social exclusion of people in the country who are therefore susceptible to certain influences such as "change of religion and outlook", a topic currently on the agenda.

²⁸² Focus News Agency, 'Bulgaria Deputy PM: We have new plan for refugees integration', 6 March 2015, available at: www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/06/365185/bulgaria-deputy-pm-we-have-new-plan-for-refugees-integration-roundup.html; Novinite online, 'Bulgaria Drafts New Plan for Integration of Refugees, Deputy PM Kuneva Says', 5 March 2015, available at: www.novinite.com/articles/167003/Bulgaria+Drafts+New+Plan+for+Integration+of+Refugees,+Deputy+PM+Kuneva+Says#sthash.b3u55KqJ.dpuf.

²⁸³ Novinite Online (2015), 'Bulgarian Deputy PM Calls for Sanctions on Migrants Refusing Integration', 12 January 2015, available at:

www.novinite.com/articles/165914/Bulgarian+Deputy+PM+Calls+for+Sanctions+on+Migrants+Refusing+Integration.

²⁸⁴ Vesti.bg (2013), 'Xenophobia and aggression towards foreigners on the rise in our society' (*В обществото расте ксенофобията и агресията спрямо чужденци*), 22 November 2013, available at: www.vesti.bg/temi-v-razvitiie/tema-bezhancite-ot-siriia/mediana-raste-agresiiata-spriamo-chuzhdenci-5999095.

		which was 15 % more than in 2013. ²⁸⁵ Violent attacks against migrants have also increased since 2013. ²⁸⁶ Such attacks have not been subject to either public condemnation by political leaders, nor to adequate investigations and criminal sanctions. ²⁸⁷
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3.9. Use of funding instruments (EIF, ERF, EMIF)

		<p>The institution responsible for the administration of the European Integration Fund in Bulgaria is the Employment Agency (EA) (<i>Агенция по заетостта, АЗ</i>). АЗ funded 17 projects to the total amount of BGN 1,813,811,20 in 2012²⁸⁸ and 20 projects to the total amount of BGN 1,420,131.19 in 2013.²⁸⁹</p> <p>The institution responsible for the administration of the European Refugee Fund in Bulgaria is the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>). For the period 2010-2013, ДАБ spent €267,272.06 for funding projects aimed at integrating beneficiaries of international protection.²⁹⁰ Disaggregated figures are provided in Annex 5.</p> <p>The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund has not been used yet. The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, МВР</i>), which is in charge of its administration, is currently in the process of developing the national multiannual programme. It is expected that the fund will become operational in the second half of 2015.²⁹¹</p>
	Please provide briefly information and documented insights about the allocation and distribution of funds aimed at supporting political and social participation, and active citizenship measures for migrants and/or their descendants.	
	In particular provide a breakdown of funding for the relevant actions and measures by area (political participation, social participation and membership, indicating the source of funding (EIF, ERF, national, regional, other funding source) by using the Annex 5	

²⁸⁵ Open Society Institute – Sofia (*Институт Отворено общество - София*) (2014), Public Attitudes Towards Hate Speech in Bulgaria in 2014 (*Обществени нагласи спрямо речта на омразата в България през 2014 г.*), Sofia, Open Society Institute – Sofia (*Институт Отворено общество - София*), p. 9, available at: http://osi.bg/?cy=10&lang=1&program=1&action=2&news_id=654.

²⁸⁶ Amnesty International (2015), Missing the point: Lack of adequate investigation of hate crimes in Bulgaria, New York, Amnesty International, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR15/001/2015/en/02c4a8d6-b8f8-4bdd-9cf3-acaf82c19ef3/eur150012015en.pdf>.

²⁸⁷ Amnesty International (2015), Missing the point: Lack of adequate investigation of hate crimes in Bulgaria, New York, Amnesty International, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR15/001/2015/en/02c4a8d6-b8f8-4bdd-9cf3-acaf82c19ef3/eur150012015en.pdf>.

²⁸⁸ Bulgaria, Employment Agency (*Агенция по заетостта*) (2014), Awarded contracts under Annual Programme 2012 of EIF (*Сключени договори по Годишна програма 2012 на ЕИФ*), 26 August 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/eif/default.asp?pid=146.

²⁸⁹ Bulgaria, Employment Agency (*Агенция по заетостта*) (2015), Awarded contracts under Annual Programme 2013 of EIF (*Сключени договори по Годишна програма 2013 на ЕИФ*), 9 January 2015, available at: <http://www.mlsp.government.bg/eif/default.asp?pid=147>.

²⁹⁰ Bulgaria, Ministry of the Interior (*Министерство на вътрешните работи*) (2015), Letter No 812100-10222 of 16.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 812100-10222 от 16.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

²⁹¹ Bulgaria, Ministry of the Interior (*Министерство на вътрешните работи*) (2015), Letter No 812100-10222 of 16.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 812100-10222 от 16.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

3.10.Key legal and policy developments, and relevant case law

<p>In this section, please provide information about developments regarding the above legal and policy instruments concerning participation (political, consultation, membership and association, active citizenship and civic education), including any new legislative or policy initiatives in the framework of migrant integration in the country. Key developments may be new legislation or policies, abolition, update, improvement or reform of existing ones, as well as important case law, court, equality body or administrative cases, that have had or may have an impact on the implementation of legal and policy instruments and on the actual situation on the ground, including public debates and perceptions among the native population and migrants. (Use template in Annex 9).</p>	<p>After the Paris attacks at the beginning of 2015 and as a result of the renewed concern with refugee integration, the Deputy Prime Minister for European Policies Coordination and Institutional Affairs, Meglena Kuneva, announced that a new refugee integration plan is being drafted.²⁹² The plan is expected to include new measures to support the integration of refugees, including the opening of new information-consultative centres, the provision of Bulgarian language classes for children and adults, and the recognition of foreign education certificates and qualifications with a view to facilitating refugees' access to the labour market.²⁹³ No further details of the plan have been made public yet.</p> <p>Relevant case law is provided in Annex 9.</p>
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²⁹² Focus News Agency, 'Bulgaria Deputy PM: We have new plan for refugees integration', 6 March 2015, available at: www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/06/365185/bulgaria-deputy-pm-we-have-new-plan-for-refugees-integration-roundup.html; Novinite online, 'Bulgaria Drafts New Plan for Integration of Refugees, Deputy PM Kuneva Says', 5 March 2015, available at:

www.novinite.com/articles/167003/Bulgaria+Drafts+New+Plan+for+Integration+of+Refugees,+Deputy+PM+Kuneva+Says#sthash.b3u55KqJ.dpuf.

²⁹³ Focus News Agency, 'Bulgaria Deputy PM: We have new plan for refugees integration', 6 March 2015, available at: www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/06/365185/bulgaria-deputy-pm-we-have-new-plan-for-refugees-integration-roundup.html; Novinite online, 'Bulgaria Drafts New Plan for Integration of Refugees, Deputy PM Kuneva Says', 5 March 2015, available at:

www.novinite.com/articles/167003/Bulgaria+Drafts+New+Plan+for+Integration+of+Refugees,+Deputy+PM+Kuneva+Says#sthash.b3u55KqJ.dpuf.

4. Social cohesion and community relations

4.1. Social cohesion policies

	<p>Does the national integration legal and policy framework refer to social/community cohesion? Is there a clear definition of social/community cohesion? Please report it here – in original language and in full English translation.</p>	<p>The national integration framework does not refer to social or community cohesion. Social and community cohesion is not explicitly included among the priorities or the activity areas of the main strategic documents on migration: the National strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration and integration 2008-2015 (<i>Национална стратегия на Република България по миграция и интеграция 2008-2015 г.</i>)²⁹⁴, the National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>)²⁹⁵, and the National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>)²⁹⁶</p> <p>Social cohesion is explicitly referred to only in the already expired National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>). Even in this document, however, social cohesion is not defined as a priority, but is mentioned only in the section on education in relation to the very specific issue of integration of refugees' children. The programme includes social cohesion between Bulgarian children and children of refugees as one of the activities aimed to improve the integration of refugees' children in the education system.²⁹⁷</p>
	<p>Are there any specific measures in place to strengthen social cohesion? Please refer to promising practices and examples of</p>	<p>Specific social cohesion measures were implemented mainly in the field of education and were primarily aimed at facilitating the integration of refugees' children attending Bulgarian schools. Most of these measures were in the form of training of teachers to work with</p>

²⁹⁴ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2008), National strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration and integration 2008-2015 (*Национална стратегия на Република България по миграция и интеграция 2008-2015 г.*), 5 June 2008, available at: www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=462.

²⁹⁵ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

²⁹⁶ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

²⁹⁷ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, p. 8, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

<p>challenges. Use the template for promising practices in Annex 7 highlighting the most important and/or successful.</p>	<p>children of different background. Such training were organised by the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците</i>, ДАБ)²⁹⁸, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация</i>, КЗД)²⁹⁹, the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката</i>, МОН)³⁰⁰, and NGOs.³⁰¹ The regional education inspectorates provided school directors with instructions and supporting materials for fostering positive attitudes towards refugees.³⁰²</p>
<p>Are there indicators used by authorities to assess, monitor and support social cohesion policies? E.g. social distance, social interaction, intergroup relations, etc. Please provide available relevant data, figures and findings, if any, and present them briefly in the relevant table of the Annex (4).</p> <p>There are no indicators used by authorities to assess, monitor or support social cohesion policies. However, there are occasional studies of NGOs, which might potentially serve as such indicators.</p> <p>According to a sociological survey done in 2013 on the attitudes towards refugees, 33 % of respondents wanted refugees to be expelled; 20 % displayed a highly critical attitude and believed that "we should not help the refugees", and 42 % supported the isolation of refugees in special camps.³⁰³</p> <p>Another study on the refugee crisis in Bulgaria showed that in 2014 'foreigners' and 'Muslims' were becoming the new target group of hate speech. In 2013, these groups were the Roma, the Turkish and the homosexuals. The percentage of people who witnessed hate speech against foreigners in 2014 was 20 %, which was 15 % more than in 2013.³⁰⁴</p>	
<p>Please outline available research, studies, and surveys about the sense of belonging and identification of migrants</p>	<p>Research on the sense of belonging and identification of migrants and their descendants is scarce. According to a comprehensive overview of migration research in Bulgaria, covering the period 1990-2010, immigration</p>

²⁹⁸ Bulgaria, National Audit Office (*Сметна палата*), Audit report for audit of the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Одитен доклад за одит на изпълнение на Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 8 January 2015, pp. 38-40, available at: www.bulnao.government.bg/bg/articles/download/8358/od-bejanzi-220115.doc; Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 35, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

²⁹⁹ Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (*Комисия за защита от дискриминация*), Discrimination Free Schools Project (*Проект "Училища без дискриминация"*), available at: <http://kzd-nondiscrimination.com/proektuchilista/>.

³⁰⁰ Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (*Министерство на образованието и науката*) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 9 March 2015.

³⁰¹ SIRIUS Network (2014), Bulgaria: Council of Refugee Women, 29 January 2014, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/bulgaria-council-of-refugee-women/.

³⁰² Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 35, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

³⁰³ Vesti.bg (2013), 'Xenophobia and aggression towards foreigners on the rise in our society' (*'В обществото расте ксенофобията и агресията спрямо чужденци'*), 22 November 2013, available at: www.vesti.bg/temi-v-razvitiie/tema-bezhancite-ot-siriia/mediana-raste-agresiiata-spriamo-chuzhdenci-5999095.

³⁰⁴ Open Society Institute – Sofia (*Институт Отворено общество - София*) (2014), Public Attitudes Towards Hate Speech in Bulgaria in 2014 (*Обществени нагласи спрямо речта на омразата в България през 2014 г.*), Sofia, Open Society Institute – Sofia (*Институт Отворено общество - София*), p. 9, available at: http://osi.bg/?cy=10&lang=1&program=1&action=2&news_id=654.

<p>and/or their descendants with diverse types of local, regional and national identities. Please summarise briefly key findings and any differentiations by nationality or ethnic origin, gender, age and geographic area.</p>	<p>studies are much less in number compared to emigration ones. The most often researched topics related to immigration are the legal and institutional framework, the respect for immigrants' human rights, the public perception of the majority population towards the immigrants, etc.³⁰⁵</p> <p>The only comprehensive study on immigrant communities in Bulgaria was published in 2005. It studies the communities of immigrants from the Middle East, Africans, Vietnamese, Chinese, Kurds and Russians.³⁰⁶</p> <p>The study found that immigrants from the Middle East preferred to live in towns and neighbourhoods with no local Muslim population. The majority of people coming from the Middle East had chosen to live either among Bulgarians (58.2 %) or in a mixed environment (37 %) and few of them were living among Turks (2.8 %) or Roma (2 %). The majority of immigrants from the Middle East (67.6 %) had chosen to live in neighbourhoods occupied by immigrants from other countries. Some of those, who had chosen to live with Roma or Turks, did so in order to practice their religion.³⁰⁷</p> <p>The analysis of the immigration from Africa concluded that this group of immigrants relied on racial solidarity within the group instead of searching to identify themselves with local identities.³⁰⁸</p> <p>The immigrants from Viet Nam did not identify with a particular local identity, but maintained close relations with the Chinese immigrants.³⁰⁹ Due to the religious diversity within their own community, Chinese</p>
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³⁰⁵ Mancheva, M. (Манчева, М.) and Troeva, E. (Троева, Е.) (2011), 'Migrations to and from Bulgaria: the State of Research' ('Миграции от и към България: състояние на изследванията'), in: Hajdinjak, M. (Хайдиняк, М.) (ed.), *Migrations, gender and intercultural interactions in Bulgaria* (Миграции, пол и межкултурни взаимодействия в България), Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), pp. 17-68, available at: http://imir-bg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Migracii_PRESS.pdf.

³⁰⁶ Krasteva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (ed.), *Immigration in Bulgaria* (Имиграцията в България), Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), available at: <http://ruslantrad.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/imigraciata-v-bulgaria1.pdf>.

³⁰⁷ Zhelyazkova, A. (Желязкова, А.), Grigorov, V. (Григоров, В.) and Dimitrova, D. (Димитрова, Д.) (2005), 'Immigrants from the Middle East' ('Имигрантите от Близкия и Средния Изток'), in: Krasteva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (ed.), *Immigration in Bulgaria* (Имиграцията в България), Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), pp. 24-25, available at: <http://ruslantrad.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/imigraciata-v-bulgaria1.pdf>.

³⁰⁸ Kamenova, D. (Каменова, Д.) (2005), 'African community in Bulgaria' ('Африканската общност в България'), in: Krasteva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (ed.), *Immigration in Bulgaria* (Имиграцията в България), Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), pp. 59-60, available at: <http://ruslantrad.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/imigraciata-v-bulgaria1.pdf>.

³⁰⁹ Mitseva, E. (Мицева, Е.) (2005), 'Vietnamese' ('Вьетнамци'), in: Krasteva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (ed.), *Immigration in Bulgaria* (Имиграцията в България), Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), p. 77, available at: <http://ruslantrad.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/imigraciata-v-bulgaria1.pdf>.

		<p>immigrants had not identified with a particular local identity as well.³¹⁰</p> <p>The study found that many Kurdish immigrants in Bulgaria regarded Bulgarians as their historic neighbours, claiming there was a distant “kinship” between the Bulgarian and the Kurdish peoples. Kurdish immigrants also shared the opinion that there was certain proximity between their manners and customs and those of the Bulgarians. Kurds who had immigrated to Bulgaria for political reasons had slightly different attitudes. For them, the most common feature between Kurds and Bulgarians was their common history of being part of the Ottoman empire.³¹¹</p> <p>Finally, the study found that, of all analysed immigrant communities, the Russian one was the most integrated. Some Russians, particularly those married to Bulgarians, self-identified as Bulgarians despite the lack of Bulgarian citizenship.³¹²</p>
	<p>Please indicate legal measures and case law affecting social cohesion and community relations, for example the banning of specific religious or ethnic dress, such as the ‘burqa’³¹³.</p>	<p>According to the law, education in Bulgaria is secular.³¹⁴ The law does not explicitly ban the use of specific religious or ethnic clothing or symbols, but allows schools to introduce mandatory uniforms.³¹⁵ Schools are generally allowed, through their internal rules, to ban the use of certain clothing. A complaint against a school, which has banned the use of religious clothing, was submitted to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>). Both КЗД and subsequently the first-instance court rejected the applicant’s claims. The case is now pending before the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>).</p>
	<p>Does the action plan or strategy on integration and inclusion of migrants and their descendants address</p>	<p>None of the three consecutive migration strategies, the National strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration and integration 2008-2015 (<i>Национална стратегия на Република България по миграция и</i></p>

³¹⁰ Krastva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (2005), ‘Chinese’ (‘Китайците’), in: Krasteva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (ed.), *Immigration in Bulgaria (Имиграцията в България)*, Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), pp. 86-87, available at: <http://ruslantrad.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/imigraciata-v-bulgaria1.pdf>.

³¹¹ Mitseva, E. (Мицева, Е.) (2005), ‘Kurds’ (‘Кюрди’), in: Krasteva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (ed.), *Immigration in Bulgaria (Имиграцията в България)*, Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), pp. 112-116, available at: <http://ruslantrad.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/imigraciata-v-bulgaria1.pdf>.

³¹² Anastasova, E. (Анастасова, Е.) (2005), ‘Russians’ (‘Руснаци’), in: Krasteva, A. (Кръстева, А.) (ed.), *Immigration in Bulgaria (Имиграцията в България)*, Sofia, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Международен център за изследване на малцинствата и културните взаимодействия), pp. 120-121, available at: <http://ruslantrad.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/imigraciata-v-bulgaria1.pdf>.

³¹³ Cfr. The notable ECHR case European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), *S.A.S. v. France*, No. 43835/11, 1 July 2014, available at [http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-145466#{"itemid":\["001-145466"\]}](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-145466#{)

³¹⁴ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 5, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

³¹⁵ Bulgaria, Rules on the Implementation of the Public Education Act (*Правилник за прилагане на Закона за народната просвета*), 30 July 1999, Art. 135, Par. (1) and (3), available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-12809727>.

	<p>combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance?</p> <p>Are there specific integration/inclusion actions related to racism and intolerance for education and/or for young people? If yes, how are such actions linked to general integration and/or social inclusion and/or cohesion policy? Please provide information on implementation and impact of such plans and refer to any assessment of their impact?</p>	<p>интеграция 2008-2015 г.),³¹⁶ the National strategy in the area of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.</i>)³¹⁷, and the National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in Bulgaria 2014-2020 (<i>Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014-2020 г.</i>)³¹⁸, explicitly addresses the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance.</p> <p>There is no explicit reference to these issues in the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (<i>Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.</i>) as well.³¹⁹ However, the programme's anti-discrimination component envisages some measures related to the prevention of and fight against racism and intolerance. These measures include working with the media to establish favourable environment among the Bulgarian society in support of integration of refugees and against discrimination and development of training modules and programmes to familiarise high school and university students with refugees' rights, culture, traditions and life.</p> <p>The measures against racism and intolerance in education consisted primarily of various trainings of teachers and school managers on how to work with migrants and refugees. Different institutions and organisations provided such trainings, including the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>)³²⁰, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от</i></p>
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³¹⁶ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2008), National strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on migration and integration 2008-2015 (*Национална стратегия на Република България по миграция и интеграция 2008-2015 г.*), 5 June 2008, available at: www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=462.

³¹⁷ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National strategy in the field of migration, asylum and integration 2011-2020 (*Национална стратегия в областта на миграцията, убежището и интеграцията 2011-2020 г.*), 23 February 2011, available at: www.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/EBCD864F-8E57-4ED9-9DE6-B31A0F0CE692/0/NationalStrategyinthefieldofMigrationAsylumandIntgrationENG.pdf.

³¹⁸ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2014), National strategy for integration of persons under international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014–2020 (*Национална стратегия за интеграция на лицата, получили международна закрила в Република България 2014–2020 г.*), 9 July 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Refugees%20Integration%20Strategy-FINAL-July2014.pdf.

³¹⁹ Bulgaria, Council of Ministers (*Министерски съвет*) (2011), National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Национална програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 5 January 2011, p. 8, available at: www.aref.government.bg/docs/NP_2011_190111.doc.

³²⁰ Bulgaria, National Audit Office (*Сметна палата*), Audit report for audit of the implementation of the National programme for the integration of refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2013 (*Одитен доклад за одит на изпълнение на Националната програма за интеграция на бежанците в Република България 2011-2013 г.*), 8 January 2015, pp. 38-40, available at: www.bulnao.government.bg/bg/articles/download/8358/od-bejanzi-220115.doc; Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 35, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

		дискриминация, КЗД) ³²¹ , the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН) ³²² , and NGOs. ³²³
Please provide information about state and non-state responses via positive measures, campaigns, partnerships involving migrants and communities. Please provide information only about those actions that focus on migrants and on <u>prevention</u> and promotion of peaceful living together and integration as mutual accommodation combatting racism and intolerance. Please outline any assessment about their impact and identify any relevant promising practice. (Use the template for promising practices in Annex 7).	No positive measures, campaigns or partnerships have been implemented targeting specifically the prevention of racism and intolerance or the promotion of peaceful living together. ³²⁴	

4.2. Combatting racism and intolerance

Are there any policy measures, initiatives and practices to accommodate for ethnic or religious differences, for example in regard to sharing public space, such as swimming pools at local level? Identify any promising practices encouraging social interaction and contacts of people of different backgrounds at local level (use the template for promising practices in annex 7).	There are no policy measures and initiatives specifically aimed at accommodating ethnic and religious differences, including ones in regard to sharing public space.
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³²¹ Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Комисия за защита от дискриминация), Discrimination Free Schools Project (Проект "Училища без дискриминация"), available at: <http://kzd-nondiscrimination.com/proektuchilista/>.

³²² Bulgaria, Ministry of Education and Science (Министерство на образованието и науката) (2015), Letter No 16-52 of 09.03.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (Писмо № 16-52 от 09.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията), 9 March 2015.

³²³ SIRIUS Network (2014), Bulgaria: Council of Refugee Women, 29 January 2014, available at: www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/bulgaria-council-of-refugee-women/.

³²⁴ The equality body organised awareness raising campaigns in 2012 and 2013, but they did not target migrants or their descendants specifically. Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Комисия за защита от дискриминация) (2012), Annual Report 2012 (Годишен доклад за 2012 г.), pp. 65-66, available at: http://kzd-nondiscrimination.com/layout/images/stories/2015/otchet/annual_report_2012Final_25.03.2013year.doc; Bulgaria, Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Комисия за защита от дискриминация) (2013), Annual Report 2013 (Годишен доклад за 2013 г.), p. 89, available at: http://kzd-nondiscrimination.com/layout/images/stories/2015/otchet/annual_report_kzd-2013.doc.

<p>Please indicate concrete measures, initiatives or programmes targeting migrants and/or descendants aiming at building trust in public institutions, especially at local level. E.g. campaigns, opening doors and reaching out to citizens, social centres, informal collective bodies, cultural events etc.</p> <p>Please provide notable examples of promising practice (use the template for promising practices in annex 7).</p>	<p>The International Organisation for Migration in Bulgaria operates three information centres in the towns of Sofia, Plovdiv and Burgas. The centres provide consultations to third country nationals with regard to their social and labour rights, professional orientation and training courses, Bulgarian language courses, and mediation with state institutions.³²⁵</p> <p>The new refugee integration plan, currently in process of drafting, is expected to provide for the opening of new information-consultation centres.³²⁶</p> <p>The international Human Rights Day, 10 December, is the open doors day of the national equality body – the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>). The President of the Republic too has hosted an open day for the last three years.³²⁷ The Employment Agency (EA) (<i>Агенция по заетостта, АЗ</i>) organises open days targeting young people across the country. However, neither of these initiatives targets migrants or their descendants specifically.</p>
<p>Are there any specific ethical or other guidelines or rules concerning the language used by media or journalists, when writing about migrants and/or their descendants? In this case please provide briefly information about actual application of such rules and challenges.</p>	<p>The Ethical Code of Bulgarian Media (<i>Етичен кодекс на българските медии</i>) prohibits the incitement to hate, violence and discrimination, but does not contain any specific guidelines concerning the language to be used by media professionals when discussing migrants and/or their descendants.³²⁸</p> <p>The Radio and Television Act (<i>Закон за радиото и телевизията</i>) prohibits the incitement to and the permission of incitement to hatred on the grounds of race, religion or nationality and makes electronic media accountable for the content of their programmes.³²⁹ An independent authority, the Council for Electronic Media (CEM) (<i>Съвет за електронни медии, СЕМ</i>), monitors radio and television broadcasters' compliance with the law and can impose sanctions in cases of violation ranging from fines to withdrawal of broadcasting</p>

³²⁵ Mancheva, M. (2014), ASSESS Review of Existing Monitoring Mechanisms for the Integration of Migrants in Bulgaria, Sofia, Center for the Study of Democracy, p. 16, available at: www.assess-migrantintegration.eu/uploads/1/2/3/3/12339284/national_report_-_bulgaria.pdf.

³²⁶ Focus News Agency, 'Bulgaria Deputy PM: We have new plan for refugees integration', 6 March 2015, available at: www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/03/06/365185/bulgaria-deputy-pm-we-have-new-plan-for-refugees-integration-roundup.html; Novinite online, 'Bulgaria Drafts New Plan for Integration of Refugees, Deputy PM Kuneva Says', 5 March 2015, available at:

www.novinite.com/articles/167003/Bulgaria+Drafts+New+Plan+for+Integration+of+Refugees,+Deputy+PM+Kuneva+Says#sthash.b3u55KqJ.dpuf.

³²⁷ Presidency of the Republic of Bulgaria (2014), 'Almost 2000 persons visited the presidential institution on open doors day' (*'Близо 2000 души посетиха президентската институция в Деня на отворени врати'*), Press release, 17 May 2014, available at: www.president.bg/news1942/blizo-2000-dushi-posetiha-prezidentskata-institutsiya-v-denya-na-otvoreni-vrati.html.

³²⁸ National Council for Journalistic Ethics (*Национален съвет за журналистическа етика*) (2004), Ethical Code of Bulgarian Media (*Етичен кодекс на българските медии*), available at: www.mediaethics-bg.org/index.php?do=17&lang=bg.

³²⁹ Bulgaria, Radio and Television Act (*Закон за радиото и телевизията*), 24 November 1998, Art. 8, Art. 10 and Art. 17, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2134447616>.

		<p>licences. In November 2013, as a reaction to the negative portrayal of refugees, CEM began to monitor the way refugees were being portrayed in the media and issued a warning to media service providers that they would be held responsible for broadcasting hate speech against refugees.³³⁰</p> <p>According to ECRI data, 25 administrative procedures for breaches of the law were initiated between 2010 and 2013, mostly against two right-wing TV channels, on the grounds of religious or ethnic intolerance, resulting in fines.³³¹ ECRI concludes that the current system is ineffective given the limited number of initiated procedures and the low amount of the fines.³³²</p> <p>According to civil society monitoring, the media have significantly contributed to the rising xenophobia, racism and fascism in Bulgarian society in the last two years.³³³</p>
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4.3. Mixed marriages

	<p>Mixed marriages is often used as an index for social distance and integration or, even, assimilation. Mixed (citizenship) marriages are defined as those where one of the spouses has foreign citizenship and the other has national citizenship (including registered partnerships, common-law marriages). Please indicate legal limitations, if any, for marriages between nationals and foreigners, e.g. for asylum seekers, third country nationals, etc. Do these</p>	<p>There are no legal limitations concerning marriages between Bulgarian citizens and third-country nationals.</p> <p>The foreign spouse needs to certify before the Bulgarian authorities that his or her national law: (1) would recognise the marriage and (2) does not present an obstacle to the marriage.³³⁴ Even if the foreign spouse's national law poses an obstacle to the marriage, but this obstacle is considered incompatible with the freedom of marriage under Bulgarian law, the marriage will be permitted.³³⁵</p>
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³³⁰ Council of Europe, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (2014), *ECRI Report on Bulgaria (fifth monitoring cycle)*, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 16 October 2014, p. 17, available at: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Bulgaria/BGR-CbC-V-2014-036-ENG.pdf.

³³¹ Council of Europe, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (2014), *ECRI Report on Bulgaria (fifth monitoring cycle)*, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 16 October 2014, p. 17, available at: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Bulgaria/BGR-CbC-V-2014-036-ENG.pdf.

³³² Council of Europe, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (2014), *ECRI Report on Bulgaria (fifth monitoring cycle)*, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 16 October 2014, p. 17, available at: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Bulgaria/BGR-CbC-V-2014-036-ENG.pdf.

³³³ Vankova, Z. (2013), *Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the 2011-2013 National Program for the Integration of Refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2013*, Sofia, Bulgarian Council of Refugees and Migrants, p. 40, available at: http://multikulti.bg/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Monitoring_Integration_Refugees_2013_EN.pdf.

³³⁴ Bulgaria, International Private Law Code (*Кодекс на международното частно право*), 17 May 2005, Art. 77, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135503651>.

³³⁵ Bulgaria, International Private Law Code (*Кодекс на международното частно право*), 17 May 2005, Art. 76, Par. (2), available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135503651>.

	limitations result in practical barriers?	
	Are there any official or non-official data and information on mixed marriages (between nationals and people with another citizenship)? Please provide % proportions on the total number of marriages in a given period, as well as data – where available - about ages, country of origin/birth of migrant spouses.	Directorate General Civil Registration and Administrative Services (DG CRAS) (<i>Главна дирекция "Гражданска регистрация и административно обслужване"</i> , ГД ГРАО) of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) (<i>Министерство на регионалното развитие и благоустройството</i> , МРРБ) keeps official statistics on the number of mixed marriages. For the period 1010-2014 the share of marriages between Bulgarians and third-country nationals of the total number of marriages in the country was 10.18 %. By country of origin, the highest number of marriages for the same period is with citizens of Turkey (38.47 % of all mixed marriages), the Russian Federation (12.76 %), Ukraine (6.68 %), United States (5.17 %) and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (4.79 %). ³³⁶

³³⁶ Bulgaria, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Directorate General Civil Registration and Administrative Services (*Министерство на регионалното развитие и благоустройството, Главна дирекция "Гражданска регистрация и административно обслужване"*), E-mail to the Center for the Study of Democracy, 10 March 2015.

Annex 2: National and regional level action plans on integration

National / regional level (specify region)	Year of the first edition and Year of latest update (e.g. First edition: 2004, Most recent update: 2011)	Responsible ministry – public authority – reference details (URL – links)	Target groups identify migrant and refugee groups as beneficiaries (e.g. on the basis of their residence status)	Main aims, actions and activities foreseen in the focus areas – link to fundamental rights [provide both key dimensions and specific actions and aims of the policy instruments in each focus area (use a different row for each focus area if needed)]	Targeting general population? Yes/No – explanatory comments where needed	Insert here definition of integration (in EN) if any. Alternative: Indicate the core aim/objective of the NAP related to social inclusion and/or integration of migrants
National	2011, no updates	Ministry of Interior https://www.mvr.bg/default.htm	Holders of long-term and permanent residence permits; holders of temporary residence permits	The main actions foreseen include: analysis of the needs of the labour market of highly qualified specialists that are permanently unavailable in the country through surveys among employers; provision of assistance for the employment of migrants registered at the labour bureaus; development and dissemination of information materials explaining the rights of migrants in the area of employment.	No	No definition of integration. The core objective related to the integration of migrants is defined as: “achieving and implementing adequate policy on admission and integration of foreigners and exercising effective control over migration processes”.
National	2012, no updates	Ministry of Interior https://www.mvr.bg/default.htm	Holders of long-term and permanent residence permits; holders	The main actions foreseen include: provision of assistance for the employment of migrants registered at the labour bureaus; development of a	No	No definition of integration. The core objective related to the integration of migrants is defined

			of temporary residence permits	national system for inclusion in education of students excluded or dropping out from the education system, including migrants' children.		as: "achieving and implementing adequate policy on admission and integration of foreigners and exercising effective control over migration processes".
National	2012, no updates	Ministry of Interior www.mvr.bg/	Holders of long-term and permanent residence permits; holders of temporary residence permits	The main actions foreseen include: provision of assistance for the employment of migrants registered at the labour bureaus; development of multi-cultural environment for the practical implementation of intercultural education and re-integration of students dropping out from school with a special focus on children of immigrants for whom Bulgarian is not their mother tongue.	No	No definition of integration. The core objective related to the integration of migrants is defined as: "achieving and implementing adequate policy on admission and integration of foreigners and exercising effective control over migration processes".
National	2011	State Agency for Refugees State Agency for Refugees www.aref.government.bg	Refuges; humanitarian status holders; special attention to vulnerable persons (pregnant women, single mothers,	Measures are divided into nine policy areas. Integration of newly recognised refugees Aim: to create conditions for efficient integration of newly recognised refugees for a period	Yes The anti-discrimination component of the programme includes partnership	The programme cites in full the Common Basic Principles on Migrant Integration. The closest to a definition on integration is the following:

			<p>children and unaccompanied minors)</p>	<p>of up to one year after the granting of the status.</p> <p>Activities: integration package for the integration of newly recognised refugees (one-off assistance for issuance of identity cards, financial assistance for housing and living expenses, social assistance, health insurance, Bulgarian language training, social and cultural orientation, professional and vocational training, transportation expenses, translation services and assistance for realisation of basic rights and opportunities); integration package for newly recognised refugees from vulnerable groups (one-off assistance for issuance of identity cards, financial assistance for housing and utility costs, social assistance, health insurance, flexible forms of Bulgarian language training, social and cultural orientation, professional and vocational training, transportation expenses, translation services and assistance for realisation of basic rights and opportunities); integration of minor and underage refugees (payment of fee for kindergarten, targeted monthly allowance for kids</p>	<p>with the media to establish favourable environment among the Bulgarian society in support of integration of refugees and against discrimination</p>	<p>“Integration of refugees is one of the indicators measuring the democratisation of development and affirmation of human rights and freedoms. It is a continuous, dynamic and multifaceted process requiring the efforts of all parties involved: readiness of refugees to adapt to the host society without having to give up on their cultural identity and readiness of the host community and public institutions to accept the refugees as equal, respectively.”</p>
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				<p>attending Bulgarian municipal and state schools, additional education in Bulgarian language and social and cultural orientation, translation services and assistance for realisation of basic rights and opportunities); and programmes for migration and realisation of basic rights and opportunities of refugees.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Aim: to ensure housing conditions for refugees.</p> <p>Activities: provision of housing services to refugees (information, assistance with administrative services, address registration, legal assistance and advice); research of best European practices for housing of refugees and opportunities for their involvement in housing projects for disadvantaged people; inclusion of refugees as a vulnerable social group in strategies and programmes for securing access to housing for low-income families; inclusion of refugee housing as a priority in the ERF annual programme; exploring the possibilities for cooperation and development of joint projects with municipalities, ministries,</p>	
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				<p>administration and non-governmental organisations for the accommodation of refugees in existing housing, which is uninhabited and there are opportunities for renovation.</p> <p>Employment:</p> <p>Aim: to improve the access of refugees to employment and professional realisation</p> <p>Activities: intermediation for the realisation on the labour market (programmes for literacy, qualification, employment and promotion of independent business activities); inclusion of refugees in the examinations for verification of the level of professional qualification at the National Chamber of Crafts; encouragement, motivation, support and training of refugees in their job search; training of refugees to develop and implement small business projects; organisation of training seminars with officials of employment bureaus on how to work with refugees; targeted programmes to support the access of refugees to the labour market through development of professional skills in a real working environment;</p>		
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				<p>development of database about the education and vocational qualification of refugees to be used when planning measures for enhancement of their professional qualification, vocational training and search of employment; specialised job fairs with the participation of potential employers to help refugees' access to employment.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Aim: to improve the access of refugees to the public education system.</p> <p>Activities: research identifying the difficulties faced by refugees in their school integration and measures for overcoming them; annual education fairs for teachers working with refugee children; educational integration of minor and underage refugees by motivating and advising their parents, encouraging and supporting contacts between parents and teachers, creating social and cultural relationships between refugee children and Bulgarian children; standardized tests determining the grade, stage and level of education of children receiving protection in Bulgaria who can not produce</p>	
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				<p>documents for completed education in their country of origin; activities to familiarise high school and university students with the rights, culture, traditions and life of refugees.</p> <p>Social support</p> <p>Aim: to improve the access of refugees to social assistance and services.</p> <p>Activities: inclusion of social intermediaries in activities for social support of refugees; information materials on the rights and obligations of refugees in the area of social assistance; training seminars with social workers on the specific aspects of social work with refugees.</p> <p>Healthcare</p> <p>Aim: to improve the access of refugees to healthcare.</p> <p>Activities: inclusion of refugees in health strategies for disadvantaged minorities; inclusion of refugees in national health prophylaxis and prevention programmes; inclusion of refugees in screening campaigns for</p>	
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				<p>prevention of oncological diseases; involvement of intermediaries to facilitate the access of refugees to healthcare services; training seminars with general practitioners and dentists on specific health issues and needs of refugees.</p> <p>Anti-discrimination</p> <p>Aim: to ensure the right of refugees to equality before the law, equal treatment and opportunities for participation in public life, and effective protection against discrimination.</p> <p>Activities: training seminars, drafting and dissemination of information materials for refugees for their protection in case of discrimination; partnership with media to establish favourable environment among the Bulgarian society in support of integration of refugees and against discrimination; ongoing update of the specialised web site of the State Agency for Refugees and of the section dedicated to integration of refugees to provide information on all measures and possibilities for integration in Bulgaria;</p>	
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				cooperation with the ombudsman for the protection of refugees' rights; training modules and programmes to familiarise high school and university students with refugees' rights, culture, traditions and life.		
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Annex 4: Indicators monitoring migrant integration - social inclusion/cohesion

N/A.

Annex 5: Use of funding instruments

Table 1 - European Integration Fund (EIF)

	European Integration Fund (EIF) - TOTAL	Own funds	Funds distribution / Thematic areas							
			Participation	Social Cohesion / social inclusion	Active citizenship	Welcoming society	Employment	Education	Healthcare	Other
2010	N/A	N/A								
2011	N/A	N/A								
2012	BGN 1,813,811,20 (€92,756,267.50) ³³⁷	N/A								
2013	BGN 1,420,131.19 (€726,239.14) ³³⁸	N/A								
2014	N/A	N/A								

* *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund was not used for 2014.*³³⁹

³³⁷ Bulgaria, Employment Agency (*Агенция по заетостта*) (2014), Awarded contracts under Annual Programme 2012 of EIF (*Сключени договори по Годишна програма 2012 на ЕИФ*), 26 August 2014, available at: www.mlsp.government.bg/eif/default.asp?pid=146.

³³⁸ Bulgaria, Employment Agency (*Агенция по заетостта*) (2015), Awarded contracts under Annual Programme 2013 of EIF (*Сключени договори по Годишна програма 2013 на ЕИФ*), 9 January 2015, available at: <http://www.mlsp.government.bg/eif/default.asp?pid=147>.

³³⁹ Bulgaria, Ministry of the Interior (*Министерство на вътрешните работи*) (2015), Letter No 812100-10222 of 16.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 812100-10222 от 16.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

Table 2 - European Refugee Fund (ERF) aiming at integration of beneficiaries of international protection

	European Refugee Fund (ERF) TOTAL ³⁴⁰	Own funds (national/regional)	Funds distribution / Thematic areas							
			Participation	Social Cohesion / social inclusion	Active citizenship	Welcoming (host targeted) society	Employment	Education	Healthcare	Other
2010	€48,828.15	€12,201.04		€48,828.15					€19,999.00	
2011	€58,310.28	€14,577.57		€19,999.00				€23,333.33	€14,977.95	
2012	€116,135.76	€29,033.80		€31,657.56					€84,478.20	
2013	€43,997.87	€10,999.47		€23,998.87						
2014										

* Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund was not used for 2014.³⁴¹

³⁴⁰ Bulgaria, State Agency for Refugees (*Държавна агенция за бежанците*) (2015), Letter No 02-1183 of 24.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 02-1183 от 24.03.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 24 March 2015.

³⁴¹ Bulgaria, Ministry of the Interior (*Министерство на вътрешните работи*) (2015), Letter No 812100-10222 of 16.3.2015 to the Center for the Study of Democracy (*Писмо № 812100-10222 от 16.3.2015 г. до Центъра за изследване на демокрацията*), 16 March 2015.

Annex 7: Promising practices

Thematic area	Social cohesion and community relations
Title (original language)	Проект Бежанци
Title (EN)	The Refugee Project
Organisation (original language)	Си Ви Ес – България Каритас София
Organisation (EN)	CVS Bulgaria CARITAS Sofia
Government / Civil society	Civil society
Funding body	UNHCR Bulgaria and Bulgarian Red Cross until 1 January 2015; since 2015 – self-funded.
Reference (incl. url, where available)	http://refugeeproject.eu/en
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	2010 – ongoing
Type of initiative	Education and training
Main target group	Third country nationals in the refugee centres
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	Local level
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The project recruits Bulgarian nationals – volunteers to dedicate at least two hours weekly for a period of four months in teaching Bulgarian, English, IT skills and organising various workshops for asylum seekers in the refugee centres in Sofia. The activities stress upon informal intercultural communication, which assists foreign nationals in their social orientation. These are often asylum seekers' first contacts with Bulgarians. Volunteers have the opportunity to hear at first-hand the experiences of refugees coming to Bulgaria and to have an active role in their adaptation to the education system and their social

	integration. Both sides gain experience of intercultural communication, knowledge of different cultures, experience of working with people of all ages, and with leading and participating in workshops.
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	The entire initiative is transferable. It can be modified in accordance with the country-specific needs or features by adding different types of activities in which volunteers are involved.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')	This practice is less dependent on centralised funding and, being implemented in cooperation with educational institutions providing language courses to foreign nationals, it can exist practically as long as it is needed.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	Although institutions generally meet the foreign nationals' need in education, social services, etc., the migrants are usually capsulated in cultural communities without being able to informally communicate with host country nationals. Such communication can have many advantages for both sides in terms of, among all, hate speech/crime prevention. Impact can be measured based on the number of third country nationals involved in the project activities.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferrable to other settings and/or Member States?	This practice is not nationality-specific. It is realisable with a minimum of financing due to the volunteer work of its main force.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.	N/A
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Thematic area	Social cohesion and community relations
Title (original language)	Преход с изкуство и познание
Title (EN)	Transition with art and learning
Organisation (original language)	Фондация „Мисия Спасение“

Organisation (EN)	Foundation Mission Salvation
Government / Civil society	Civil society
Funding body	EEA Grants
Reference (incl. url, where available)	http://www.missionbg.org/bg/projects/artandknowledge
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	December 2014 – ongoing
Type of initiative	Education and training
Main target group	Third country nationals in the refugee centres
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	Local
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The project aims at providing asylum seekers with an opportunity for social inclusion and empowerment by strengthening the integration processes. It promotes multicultural dialogue through training.
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	The entire initiative is transferable. It involves refugees and asylum seekers in educational activities by which they can easily integrate in the host society – an universal approach in involving newcomers to the social life of their new home country.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')	This practice is implemented in cooperation with an educational institution where educational programmes can easily adapt to the foreign nationals' needs. The need of additional qualification and extracurricular activities in an international environment is constant.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	Although institutions generally meet the foreign nationals' need in education, social services, etc., the migrants are usually capsulated in cultural communities without being able to informally communicate with host country national. Such communication can have many advantages for both sides in terms of, among all, hate speech/crime prevention. Impact can be measured based on the number of participating representatives of the target group.

Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferrable to other settings and/or Member States?	This practice is not nationality-specific. It can be applied in any state or community.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.	N/A
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Thematic area	Combating racism and intolerance
Title (original language)	Мулти Култи карта
Title (EN)	Multi Kulti map
Organisation (original language)	Мулти Култи Колектив
Organisation (EN)	Multi Kulti Collective
Government / Civil society	Civil society
Funding body	Sofia Municipality, UNHCR, Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation
Reference (incl. url, where available)	http://multikulti.bg/project/map
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	2013 – ongoing
Type of initiative	Cultural activity, intercultural dialogue, awareness
Main target group	Migrants and refugees, general public
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	Local
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The Multi Kulti map of 'ethnic' restaurants and food stores owned by Bulgarians, refugees, EU and non-EU nationals from more than 20 countries shows the cultural and culinary

	diversity of the capital city, Sofia. It supports the participating locals and migrants by giving visibility to their businesses and stories. The owners of small businesses, who wish to participate in the Multi Kulti map project, share a piece of their personal story.
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	The whole action is transferrable to any city with food stores and restaurants offering dishes and products from different parts of the world.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')	The practice is sustainable since it provides a long-term product, which does not require much maintenance once it is launched.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	Businesses can measure the difference in number of customers they receive before and after their inclusion in the map.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferrable to other settings and/or Member States?	The whole action is transferrable to any city with food stores and restaurants offering dishes and products from different parts of the world.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.	When they agree for their business to be included in the map, owners share a piece of their personal story, their favourite childhood dish, what they like about Sofia or what they miss from their country.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Thematic area	Combating racism and intolerance
Title (original language)	Мулти-култи кухня
Title (EN)	Multi-Kulti kitchen
Organisation (original language)	Мулти Култи Колектив
Organisation (EN)	Multi Kulti Collective
Government / Civil society	Civil society
Funding body	Self-funding through sale of tickets

Reference (incl. url, where available)	http://multikulti.bg/project/kitchen
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	2011 – ongoing
Type of initiative	Cultural activity, intercultural dialogue, awareness
Main target group	Migrants and refugees, general public
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	Local
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Multi Kulti kitchen organises public events at which migrants present the cuisine, culture, and history of their country of origin, as well as their story and life in Bulgaria as a migrant. The events include presentations and activities that encourage interaction. The events aim to: (1) introduce the locals to the different migrant cultures in Bulgaria and to life in the country as a migrant, (2) to stimulate the interaction between migrants and the host society, (3) to empower migrants by providing them with an opportunity to organise their event, and to present their story and their culture.
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	The whole action is fully transferrable, as it is not tied to any particular national or local context.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')	Since their establishment in 2011, the culinary events hosted by migrants and beneficiaries of international protection, with the help of the Multi Kulti team, have been regular and with a high turnout of attendees. The successful format has created constant interest towards the events, as demonstrated by the rapid selling out of tickets.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	The impact that can be measured is: (1) the number of people who attend the culinary events; (2) the participants' attitudes towards and level of knowledge of the culture being presented and Bulgaria as a migrant, before and after the event.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferrable to other settings and/or Member States?	The practice is based on the universal human activity of sharing food, which can bring people together and break down barriers.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review	Migrants and refugees are invited to take the lead and decide on the format of the events. The role of the Multi Kulti's team is rather supportive (logistics, communication,

assessment and implementation of the practice.	mentoring), aiming to empower the target groups to be leaders of their own initiatives.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Thematic area	Combating racism and intolerance
Title (original language)	Обиколка на София за бежанци
Title (EN)	Sofia Tour for Refugees
Organisation (original language)	Мулти Култи Колектив Фрий София Тур
Organisation (EN)	Multi Kulti Collective Free Sofia Tour
Government / Civil society	Civil society
Funding body	The State Agency for Refugees provides an interpreter, Free Sofia Tour provides a volunteer guide.
Reference (incl. url, where available)	www.multikulti.bg/project/tour
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	2013 – ongoing
Type of initiative	Cultural activity
Main target group	Migrants and refugees
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	Local
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The free walking tours for refugees and asylum seekers in Sofia aim to increase refugees' and asylum seekers' knowledge of Bulgaria and Sofia with a view to assisting their cultural orientation and integration in the city and country. Asylum seekers and refugees often do not have the opportunity to explore the city on their own.

Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	The whole action can be transferred.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')	The practice stands on the shoulders of an already well-established project, Sofia Free Tour, and has the institutional support of the State Agency for Refugees, which provides it with stability. Moreover, given that it is run by volunteers, it requires limited funds.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	The organisers can measure the number of refugees and asylum seekers that express interest to participate in the Free Sofia Tour, as well as their attitudes and feelings towards the city before and after the tour.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferrable to other settings and/or Member States?	The action can be transferred in any city that has a Free City Tour branch (www.freecitytour.com/destination/europe/), or can find volunteers with knowledge of the city and foreign languages.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.	N/A
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Annex 8: Discrimination complaints submitted to Equality Bodies

Table 3 – Numbers of discrimination cases on any ground submitted by third country nationals (TCNs) in 2014*

N/A.

Table 4 - Outcome of discrimination cases on grounds of ethnic origin submitted by third country nationals*

N/A.

Annex 9: Case law – max 5 leading cases

Thematic area	Equality and non-discrimination
Decision date	13 March 2013
Reference details	Bulgaria, Sofia City Administrative Court (<i>Административен съд – София-град</i>), Decision No 1730 of 13.03.2013 on case No 14429/2012 (<i>Решение № 1730 от 13.03.2013 г. по дело № 14429/2012</i>), available at: http://legalacts.justice.bg/Search/GetActContentByActId?actId=FNF%2BRZpP0ms%3D
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	The applicant appeals a decision of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>) finding him guilty of discrimination against Ms G. on the grounds of nationality. He harassed the woman in a work meeting at the local municipality by urging her, as a Russian, to go back to the Soviet Union. The applicant claims that some evidence was not taken into account and that calling somebody by their nationality did not constitute discrimination.
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	The court accepts that there was conflict between the applicant and Ms G, but that did not justify the existence of a protected ground or a claim of discrimination. The applicant was not aware that there was not any more a state or nation of Soviet Union, against which to discriminate. He also made a general statement of not knowing 'the laws of the Soviet Union', but that did not constitute attitude, discriminating by nationality, either.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	No unequal treatment of Ms G was proven, provoked by her characteristics, constituting protected grounds. No aim was established to put Ms G in a more unfavourable situation than others under comparable circumstances. For harassment to be established, there has to be undesirable treatment, insulting the dignity of the person and creating hostile environment, all because of the victim's protected characteristic. Moreover, the aim of treatment should be established and the direct link with its reason.
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The court concluded that the decision appealed was taken in contradiction of substantive law. It annulled the decision of КЗД and ordered the Commission to pay the applicant's expenses related to the case.
Key quotation in original language and translated	"Освен това явно жалбоподателят не знае, че към момента на срещата не съществува държава „Съветски съюз“, нито

<p>into English with reference details</p> <p>(max. 500 chars)</p>	<p><i>такава народност, по отношение на която да допусне дискриминация.</i>"</p> <p><i>"Besides, the applicant clearly did not know at the time of the meeting, that there does not exist a state or nationality of Soviet Union, in relation to which to discriminate."</i></p> <p>Bulgaria, Sofia Administrative Court (<i>Софийски административен съд</i>), Decision No 1730 of 13.03.2013 on case No 14429/2012 (<i>Решение № 1730 от 13.03.2013 г. по дело № 14429/2012</i>), p. 5.</p>
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<p>Thematic area</p>	<p>Equality and non-discrimination</p>
<p>Decision date</p>	<p>23 October 2012</p>
<p>Reference details</p>	<p>Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>), петчленен състав, II колегия (5-member panel, second college), Decision No 13241 on administrative case No 3345/2012 (<i>Решение № 13241 по административно дело № 3345/2012</i>), available at: http://www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d038edcf49190344c2256b7600367606/e3748271730dcd64c2257a9f002f3701?OpenDocument</p>
<p>Key facts of the case</p> <p>(max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>During a pre-trial investigation, a Turkmen refugee was provided with a Russian language interpreter. The applicant insisted on receiving one in Turkmen. The investigator refused, allegedly stating that in Bulgaria there are different ethnicities that define themselves as Turks or 'Gypsies', but the official language is Bulgarian. The applicant interpreted the comparison with 'Gypsies' as an insult and claimed harassment on the grounds of nationality and ethnicity. Both КЗД and the first-instance panel of BAC rejected the applicant's claim.</p>
<p>Main reasoning/argumentation</p> <p>(max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The second-instance panel of BAC upheld the previous decisions. The evidence did not point to discrimination, since the parallel made between Turkmen and 'Gypsies' was not an offence and did not mean to create a hostile environment. The decision to employ a Russian-language interpreter was taken for objective reasons: the applicant's Russian nationality and his use of the language in previous cases. The other party to the case, also a Turkmen national, was provided a Russian-language interpreter too.</p>
<p>Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case</p> <p>(max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The key issue clarified by the case is related to the choice of interpreter in cases of bilingual speakers and how courts assess the fluency of a party to the case in making decisions concerning interpretation. The court also analyses in what circumstances the name 'Gypsy' is used as a neutral or a loaded term.</p>

Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The second-instance panel of upheld the decision of the first-instance one.
Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)	<p><i>"С оглед данните, че [преводач от руски език] е бил осигурен и на другата страна по процесното дело, която е от същата националност (туркмен) и гражданин на Туркменистан, не е налице твърдяното нееднакво отношение [...] Установените по случая релевантни факти не сочат на по-неблагоприятно третиране на [А.Х.] в сравнение с други лица при сравними сходни обстоятелства във връзка с предоставянето на преводач от съответния език."</i></p> <p><i>"In view of the fact that [a Russian language interpreter] was provided also to the other party to the case, who is of the same nationality (Turkmen) and a citizen of Turkmenistan, there is no evidence to support the alleged unequal treatment [...] The established relevant facts do not indicate less favourable treatment of [A.H.] compared to others in comparable circumstances in connection with the provision of an interpreter from the respective language."</i></p> <p><i>"От фактическа страна е установено, че А.Х. владее български, руски и туркменски език, на които общува свободно. "</i></p> <p><i>"It has been established as a fact that [A.H.] has a command of Bulgarian, Russian and Turkmen languages in which he communicates freely."</i></p> <p>Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>), петчленен състав, II колегия (5-member panel, second college), Decision No 13241 on administrative case No 3345/2012 (<i>Решение № 13241 по административно дело № 3345/2012</i>)</p>

Thematic area	Equality and non-discrimination
Decision date	5 August 2011
Reference details	Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>), Seventh division (<i>Седмо отделение</i>), Decision No 11055 on administrative case No 13338/2010 (<i>Решение № 11055 по административно дело № 13338/2010</i>), available at: http://www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d6397429a99ee2afc225661e00383a86/083336d3ae14d126c22577c3002c8737?OpenDocument

<p>Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) (<i>Комисия за защита от дискриминация, КЗД</i>) found the director of Migration Directorate (<i>Дирекция „Миграция“</i>) of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, МВР</i>) guilty of direct discrimination on the grounds of nationality and legal status for refusing to issue a valid travel document to the applicant Mr K. Mr K. is a stateless person of Palestinian origin, permanent residence status holder and member of the family of a EU citizen. The motive was 'lack of legal possibility to provide the required service'. The director appealed against the decision.</p>
<p>Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>After shifting the burden of proof, the court confirmed that the director could not prove that he had not violated the principle of equal treatment. It concluded that the unjustified restriction of Mr K.'s right to free movement in the EU and right to appeal the prohibition to leave the country due to the non-issuance of a 'prohibition order' under the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (<i>Закон за чужденците в Република България</i>), constituted direct discrimination on the grounds of nationality and legal status.</p>
<p>Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The case elaborated on the national and EU legislation regulating the equal right to freedom of movement of stateless persons holders of long-term residence permits and family members of EU citizens in the EU. Those were the acts the Migration Directorate's refusal violated. The Court also discussed the procedural rules that need to be respected in issuing restrictive administrative measures. Relevant legislative measures were also recommended.</p>
<p>Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The court upheld the КЗД decision, which, among others, recommended the Migration Directorate to terminate the violation by issuing the requested travel document. It ordered the Migration Directorate to reimburse Mr K. with the expenses of the case. It also reiterated the equality body's recommendations to MBP to introduce proportional administrative measures so as to achieve the results of Directives 2004/38/EC, Directive 2003/109/EC and Regulation 265/2010, as well as to initiate ratification of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.³⁴²</p>
<p>Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p><i>"Безспорно се установява от писмените доказателства, приобщени към административната преписка, че спрямо [С.К.] е осъществена дискриминация от страна на жалбоподателя, посредством необоснованото ограничаване на гражданските му права, в противоречие с нормите на националното ни и общностно законодателство и несъответствие с общочовешки принципи и норми, като това поведение на жалбоподателя се характеризира с постоянство и продължителност."</i></p>

³⁴² Currently Bulgaria has only acceded to the Convention.

	<p><i>"Undoubtedly the written evidence involved in the administrative file proves that the applicant perpetrated discrimination against Mr K through unjustified restriction of civil rights, in contradiction to our national and EU legislation and non-compliance with universal principles and norms, as the applicant's conduct is characterised by persistence and duration. "</i></p> <p>Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>), Seventh division (<i>Седмо отделение</i>), Decision No 11055 on administrative case No 13338/2010 (<i>Решение № 11055 по административно дело № 13338/2010</i>)</p>
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Thematic area	Equality and non-discrimination
Decision date	7 July 2011
Reference details	Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>), Decision No 10223 on administrative case No 10490/2010 (<i>Решение № 10223 по административно дело № 10490/2010</i>), available at: http://www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d038edcf49190344c2256b7600367606/3fa8f943bc6f2764c22578c50053d909?OpenDocument
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	Returning to work after 6 months' leave due to illness, the applicant, a schoolteacher and Russian citizen, felt that she was subject to harassment by Mr P, the school's director, on the grounds of her nationality and origin. She filed a complaint against the director before КЗД but could not prove prima facie discrimination. She appealed on the grounds that the equality body did not correctly evaluate the evidence.
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	The court examined the evidence and confirmed that there was insufficient proof to establish prima facie discrimination in order to shift the burden of proof.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	The key issue clarified by the case was the shift of burden of proof.
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The court dismissed the appeal and ordered the applicant to reimburse the equality body its legal services costs.
Key quotation in original language and translated	<i>"Комисията направила обоснован извод за липсата на факти, които да обосноват prima facie дискриминация, за да</i>

<p>into English with reference details</p> <p>(max. 500 chars)</p>	<p><i>се прехвърли доказателствената тежест на заинтересованата в настоящото производство страна.”</i></p> <p><i>"The Commission made a reasoned conclusion about the lack of evidence to justify the prima facie discrimination, to transfer the burden of proof of the interested party in these proceedings."</i></p> <p>Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) (<i>Върховен административен съд, ВАС</i>), Decision No 10223 on administrative case No 10490/2010 (<i>Решение № 10223 по административно дело № 10490/2010</i>)</p>
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Thematic area	Equality and non-discrimination
Decision date	21 August 2014
Reference details	Bulgaria, Sofia City Administrative Court (<i>Административен съд – София-град</i>), Decision No 5531 on case No 6671/2013 (<i>Решение № 5531 по дело № 6671/2013</i>), available at: http://legalacts.justice.bg/Search/GetActContentByActId?actId=%2F1q4JziNrQM%3D
Key facts of the case	The applicant, a Muslim student, was removed from a public school for a week for wearing a headscarf and religious attire in violation of the school’s internal rules. The internal rules implemented the national educational legislation, ³⁴³ forbidding students from expressing any ethnic or religious affiliation at public schools. КЗД found that the ban was ‘objectively justified’, and that the removal did not constitute direct, or indirect discrimination, or harassment on the grounds of religion. The student and her parents appealed against the decision.
Main reasoning/argumentation	The school’s internal rules did not violate the Constitution or international human rights treaties, as they permit the right to manifest one’s religion to be limited in the public interest. ³⁴⁴ The removal was not discriminatory, as it pursued legitimate aims: to protect the secular character of state education and public order, and to prevent unequal treatment of other students. The means to achieve the aims were also necessary and the student could otherwise exercise her rights to education and religion in private schools.

³⁴³ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, Art. 5, available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>. See also: Bulgaria, Rules on the Implementation of the Public Education Act (*Правилник за прилагане на Закона за народната просвета*), 30 July 1999, Art. 135, Par. (1) and (3), available at: <http://lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/-12809727>.

³⁴⁴ Bulgaria, Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (*Конституция на Република България*), Art. 37, Par. (2), available at: www.parliament.bg/en/const. The court also referred to Article 9(2) of the ECHR and Article 18(3) of the ICCPR.

<p>Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The key issue clarified is how the right to religious expression is to be balanced against the public interest, in particular the principle of secular public education. The court referred to ECtHR case law,³⁴⁵ and to rulings of the Bulgarian Constitutional Court (<i>Конституционен съд</i>)³⁴⁶ stating that higher order rights have priority over personal rights. The decision also elaborates on how the proportionality test is to be applied.</p>
<p>Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The court dismissed the appeal. The applicant, however, appealed against this decision before the BAC. The case before the BAC is still pending and the next hearing is scheduled for 25 January 2016.</p>
<p>Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p><i>„Следователно това право [на вероизповедание] може да бъде ограничено при необходимост от мерки, обезпечаващи обществения ред, разбран като система от установен с нормативни актове ред, осигуряващ нормално спокойствие и сигурност, както и възможност да се упражняват съответните граждански права. [...] при наличие на конкуренция на лични права и на обществен интерес, Конституцията дава предимство на правата от по-висок порядък, като допуска ограничение на личните права.“</i></p> <p><i>"Therefore, this right [to religion] may be restricted when measures are necessary to ensure public order, understood as a system of order established by legislation, ensuring normal peace and security, and the opportunity to exercise the respective civil rights. [...] In the case of competition between personal rights and public interest, the Constitution gives priority to the rights of a higher order, and allows restricting personal rights."</i></p> <p>Bulgaria, Sofia City Administrative Court (<i>Административен съд – София-град</i>), Decision No 5531 on case No 6671/2013 (<i>Решение № 5531 по дело № 6671/2013</i>), p. 4</p>

<p>Thematic area</p>	<p>Equality and non-discrimination</p>
<p>Decision date</p>	<p>17 January 2014</p>
<p>Reference details</p>	<p>Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (<i>Върховен административен съд</i>), Decision No 627/2014 on administrative case No 1158/2013 (<i>Решение № 627/2014 по административно дело № 1158/2013</i>), available at:</p>

³⁴⁵ European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), *Karaduman v. Turkey*, No. 16278/90, Commission Decision adopted on 3 May 1993, p. 93; European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) (GC), *Leyla Şahin v. Turkey*, No. 44774/98.

³⁴⁶ Bulgaria, Constitutional Court (*Конституционен съд*), Decision No 5 of 11.06.1992 on constitutional case No 11/92 (*Решение № 5 от 11.06.1992 г. по конституционно дело № 11/92 г.*); Bulgaria, Constitutional Court (*Конституционен съд*), Decision No 4 of 23.02.2001 on constitutional case No 15/2000 (*Решение № 4 от 23.02.2001 г. по конституционно дело № 15/2000 г.*).

	www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d038edcf49190344c2256b7600367606/690070f5ad2b8900c2257c620040daca?OpenDocument
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	A number of third country nationals holding continuous residence permits filed a complaint against an order of the Minister of Education and Science defining the amount of school fees for migrants. ³⁴⁷ Applicants claimed the order constituted discrimination on the grounds of nationality and violated their children's right to education under Article 14 of the ECHR in conjunction with Article 2 of Protocol No 1 to the ECHR.
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	The court found the applicants' claims justified and repealed the minister's order. The court argued that the issuing of the order had breached the applicable procedural rules and allowed for unequal treatment on the grounds of the applicants' nationality denying the children of continuous residence permit holders the right to free education in violation of Article 14 of the ECHR and Article 2 of Protocol 1.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	The key issues clarified in the case are the supremacy of the ECHR over national law, the application of the relevant procedural rules when issuing an order, the right to education, and the unequal treatment on the grounds of nationality. However, the court did not discuss the provision in the law providing the legal basis for the minister to issue such an order. ³⁴⁸
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The court repealed the order and instructed the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) (<i>Министерство на образованието и науката, МОН</i>) to pay to the applicants some of the expenses incurred in relation to the case.
Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)	<i>„В конкретния случай, от съдържанието на процесната заповед се установява, че единствената причина, поради която жалбоподателите следва да заплатят такса за провеждане на обучението е обстоятелството, че са чужди граждани. Това безспорно представлява дискриминация по признак "национален произход", с което са нарушени и правата им, залегнали в чл. 14 от ЕКПЧ във връзка с чл. 2 от Протокол № 1 към същата конвенция.“</i> <i>"In this case, the content of the order leads to the conclusion that the only reason why the applicants should pay a school fee is the fact that they are foreign nationals. This undoubtedly constitutes discrimination on the grounds of "national origin" which violates their rights pursuant to Art. 14 ECHR in conjunction with Art. 2 of Protocol № 1 of the same Convention."</i>

³⁴⁷ Bulgaria, Order No РД-09-698/07.05.2009 (*Заповед № РД-09-698/07.05.2009*) 7 May 2009.

³⁴⁸ Bulgaria, Public Education Act (*Закон за народната просвета*), 18 October 1991, § 4, Par. (2) of the additional provisions, available at: <http://lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2132585473>.

	Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (<i>Върховен административен съд</i>), Decision No 627/2014 on administrative case No 1158/2013 (<i>Решение № 627/2014 по административно дело № 1158/2013</i>)
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Thematic area	Equality and non-discrimination
Decision date	19 March 2014
Reference details	Bulgaria, Sofia City Administrative Court (<i>Административен съд – София-град</i>), Decision No 1761/2014 on administrative case No 328/2014 (<i>Решение № 1761/2014 по административно дело № 328/2014</i>), available at: http://domino.admincourtsofia.bg/BCAP/ADMC/WebData.nsf/ActsByCaseNo/162B8021C600A9B2C2257CA1004C3780/\$FILE/tem4171865090277782A614FD0A5314D72C2257CA10042FF81.pdf
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	A stateless mother of a disabled child with Bulgarian citizenship appealed against an order issued by the local social assistance directorate, terminating the child benefit payments she received. Payments were stopped on the grounds that neither the Asylum and Refugees Act (<i>Закон за убежището и бежанците</i>) nor the Family Benefits for Children Act (<i>Закон за семейни помощи за деца</i>) provided legal basis for granting child benefit payments to “families of foreigners”.
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	The court argued that the social assistance directorate wrongly treated the family as a “family of foreigners”, given that the child was a Bulgarian citizen. Hence the court found the order to be inconsistent with the purpose of the law to support parents in raising their children. The court also regarded the order as placing the child at an unfavourable position due to the parents’ origin, which constituted an unlawful restriction of the child’s rights in violation of the principle of equality.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	The key issues in the case are the interpretation of the “family of foreigners” concept within the meaning of the Family Benefits for Children Act (<i>Закон за семейни помощи за деца</i>), the third-country nationals’ rights to child benefit payments, and the discrimination on the grounds of foreign origin.
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The court repealed the order of the local social assistance directorate.
Key quotation in original language and translated	<i>„Същественото в разглеждания случай е, че детето е български гражданин, живее и е отглеждано в Б. То не може да бъде поставено в по-неблагоприятно положение само</i>

<p>into English with reference details</p> <p>(max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>поради обстоятелството, че родителите му са лица без гражданство. Българското гражданство на детето изключва приложимостта на чл. 3, т.5 ЗСПД, защото не е налице "семейство на чужди граждани". Налице е семейство, което се състои от родители - лица без гражданство и дете - български гражданин."</p> <p>" The essence of the case is that the child is a Bulgarian citizen, who has lived and been raised in B. S/he cannot be placed in a more unfavourable position only because of the fact that his/her parents are stateless persons. The child's Bulgarian citizenship excludes the applicability of Art. 3, p. 5 of the Family Benefits for Children Act as there is no "family of foreigners." There is a family consisting of parents - stateless persons - and a child - a Bulgarian."</p> <p>Bulgaria, Sofia City Administrative Court (Административен съд – София-град), Decision No 1761/2014 on administrative case No 328/2014 (Решение № 1761/2014 по административно дело № 328/2014)</p>
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Thematic area	Citizenship
Decision date	27 April 2012
Reference details	<p>Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (Върховен административен съд), Decision No 14637/2012 on case No 9141/2012 (Решение № 14637/2012 по дело № 9141/2012), available at:</p> <p>http://www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d038edcf49190344c2256b7600367606/063a4eea864c202bc2257ab40030603f?OpenDocument</p>
<p>Key facts of the case</p> <p>(max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The director of the Migration Directorate (MD) (Дирекция Миграция, ДМ) of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) (Министерство на вътрешните работи, МВР) appealed against a court decision,³⁴⁹ which had annulled his refusal to issue a long-term residence permit to T.S., a third-country national of Armenian origin. The ground for the refusal was the fact that T.S. was a de jure Armenian citizen and thus did not meet the long-term residence permit requirement, addressed at persons originating from the former Soviet states, to not have been recognised as citizens of their country of origin.³⁵⁰</p>
Main reasoning/argumentation	<p>The court argued that the refusal was disproportionate. Although T.S. was an Armenian citizen de jure, he was not</p>

³⁴⁹ Bulgaria, Sofia City Administrative Court (Административен съд – София град), Decision No 62327/2012 on administrative case No 1347/2012 (Решение № 62327/2012 по административно дело № 1347/2012), available at: [http://domino.admincourtsofia.bg/BCAP/ADMC/WebData.nsf/ActsByCaseNo/437B54AC5C18B782C22579F20049ABCF/\\$FILE/temp4103168156250ECF769733A12547C22579F2002CD658.pdf](http://domino.admincourtsofia.bg/BCAP/ADMC/WebData.nsf/ActsByCaseNo/437B54AC5C18B782C22579F20049ABCF/$FILE/temp4103168156250ECF769733A12547C22579F2002CD658.pdf).

³⁵⁰ Bulgaria, Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (Закон за чужденците в Република България), 23 December 1998, Art. 25, Par. (1), Item 12, available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2134455296.

(max. 500 chars)	registered with the Armenian authorities, had grown up in Bulgaria, lived with his family and did not pose a threat to the state or society. While the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (<i>Закон за чужденците в Република България</i>) did not oblige authorities to take into account an applicant's level of social integration, they were under a procedural obligation by national ³⁵¹ and EU law ³⁵² to assess the act's impact on T.S.'s private and family life enshrined in the ECHR.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	The key issues clarified by the case are the authorities' obligation to take into account the length of residence, social status and family ties when assessing an applicant's eligibility for long-term residence status pursuant to the national Administrative Procedure Code (<i>Административнопроцесуален кодекс</i>) and Council Directive 2003/109/EC and the supremacy of the ECHR over national law.
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The court confirmed the lower court's decision repealing the order and sent the case back to the Migration Directorate for reconsideration.
Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)	<p><i>„... събрани [са] относими доказателства [...], които не са обсъдени като релевантни факти, свързани със зачитането на личния и семеен живот на адресата, с продължителността на престоя в страната, с връзката с държавата по произходи и други. Органът не действа в условията на обвързана компетентност [...] защото е длъжен да извърши съвкупна преценка на множество факти, които в своята цялост могат да обосноват пропорционалността и съразмерността на конкретната мярка. Това [...] прави оспорената заповед незаконосъобразна.“</i></p> <p><i>"... evidence was collected, [...] that was not discussed as relevant facts, concerning the addressee's private and family life, the length of residence in the country, the relationship with the country of origin and others. The Authority does not exercise its circumscribed powers [...] because it is obliged to make an aggregate assessment of a number of facts, which in their entirety can justify the proportionality of the measure. This [...] makes the disputed order unlawful."</i></p> <p>Bulgaria, Supreme Administrative Court (<i>Върховен административен съд</i>), Decision No 14637/2012 on case No 9141/2012 (<i>Решение № 14637/2012 по дело № 9141/2012</i>)</p>

³⁵¹ Bulgaria, Administrative Procedure Code (*Административнопроцесуален кодекс*), 11 April 2006, Art. 168, Par. (1), available at: www.lex.bg/bg/laws/ldoc/2135521015.

³⁵² Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents, OJ 2004 L 16, Preamble.