

## Consolidation of socio-linguistic and territorial integration processes The Asylum Migration Integration Fund 2016-18

AMIF, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, is one of two financial tools by which the European Commission supported the immigration policies of its member states in the 2014-20 period. The Bilingualism and Foreign Languages Office of the Italian Culture Section, in partnership with the Ongoing Education Office of the German Culture Section and the Italian School Intendancy, has once again signed up to the notice published in 2016 with the **Consolidation of socio-linguistic and territorial integration processes** project, following on from similar previous experiences funded by EIF.



Following on from the approval of the project designed to foster integration of migrant citizens, free Italian, German and literacy courses for migrants aged over 16 from non-EU countries including those qualifying for international protection, subsidies and humanitarian assistance, are being launched. Completion date, March 2018. 40 Italian language (levels A1 and A2), 9 German language (levels A1 and A2) and 7 literacy courses for adults are planned. The

objective of the courses is to develop all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) via educational methods which prioritise a communication approach.

Elements of civic-language education are included in the courses, supported by territorial encounters provided by the Donne Nissà Association on the occasion of which bodies in various sectors, such as the labour inspectorate, the social and health units, the counselling services and the job centre will be visited.

Lessons are three times a week at different times of day in order to meet participants' needs, while the language levels and locations will cover the whole of the province on the basis of emerging demands. For courses to be approved, at least 12 participants must have signed up to it, with exceptions applying to peripheral areas.

Italian courses for mothers of primary age children in the province are also planned (Istituti Comprensivi Bolzano II Don Bosco and Firmian, Bolzano IV Oltrisarco, Bassa Atesina and Vipiteno) for the purposes of offering them minimum support skills with which to accompany their children through school and also improve their understanding of organisational and administrative school practices.

As in earlier editions, in conjunction with lesson hours, a baby sitting service will be offered to enable parents with underage children to attend. Provision of courses for Italian and German as a second language teachers is also continuing, with five professional training and refresher courses on plurilingualism and trans-nationalism (three for Italian L2 teachers and two for L2 German teachers).

Some new features as compared to earlier programmes have also been introduced, one of which is

training courses for language volunteer work co-ordinators within reception centres. A second new feature is designed to facilitate access by immigrants to permanent education courses, making 20 course coupons available to eligible participants for a course of their choice. Lastly, in Laives social district spaces an information and assistance desk will be set up for immigrants, designed to support and consolidate the existing service network.

The language courses will be offered by local language agencies whose activities will be monitored by expert quality assessment staff in the form of inspection and observation visits to classrooms. Feedback will thus be supplied to the administration and those assessed, and strengths and weaknesses evaluated for service improvement purposes.

The Bolzano and Merano Centri Multilingue will work alongside the language initiatives with material, online platforms and audio-visual resources, useful independent and complementary learning activities and individual language consultancy.

**INFO**

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