



FOLKETINGET  
STATSREVISORERNE



FOLKETINGET  
RIGSREVISIONEN

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# The integration effort for refugees and reunited families

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose and conclusion

1. This report concerns the efforts to integrate refugees and reunited families. The Integration Act states that refugees and reunited families must have the opportunity to make use of their abilities in Denmark so that they can support themselves and participate in Danish society on an equal footing with others.

Refugees and reunited families are to be integrated through a municipal integration effort. If they receive public income support, the most important efforts are meetings, Danish language training and employment-oriented programmes. Danish language training must teach them about Danish culture and the Danish language. Employment-oriented programmes, which take place as internships or similar at workplaces, must provide them with experience of the Danish labour market.

Municipalities must organise the integration effort in accordance with deadlines laid down in legislation so that refugees and reunited families are quickly equipped to find employment.

In recent years, municipalities have faced a considerably greater task than before. This is due to the influx of people fleeing from Ukraine. This group constitutes the vast majority of the refugees and reunited families arriving in Denmark in recent years. To account for this, the Danish parliament has granted municipalities longer deadlines for providing the various efforts. The municipalities have also been financially compensated.

If municipalities do not provide the statutory efforts to refugees and reunited families, there is a risk that they will find it more difficult to obtain work and support themselves and to participate actively in Danish society.

2. The Ministry of Immigration and Integration has the overall responsibility for the Integration Act, which sets out the efforts that municipalities are obliged to provide. The ministry is also responsible for ensuring that the state reimbursement for the integration effort is used as intended. In 2024, the state expenditure for the municipal integration effort amounted to approx. DKK 1.1 billion.

3. The purpose of the study is to assess whether municipalities have provided refugees and reunited families with the statutory efforts on time, and whether the Ministry of Immigration and Integration has supported this.

The study is limited to the efforts that municipalities must provide to refugees and reunited families who receive public income support. Municipalities must also provide a range of other efforts, such as housing, schooling and day care. These are not examined.

We examine the period from September 2021 to December 2024. The legislation has been amended for a small part of the target group as of January 2025. The new legislation tightens the requirements for the municipal effort.

Rigsrevisionen initiated the study in March 2024.

## Conclusion

**The Ministry of Immigration and Integration has not supported the municipal integration effort to a sufficient degree, and municipalities have not ensured that refugees and reunited families receive the statutory efforts on time. Rigsrevisionen does not find this satisfactory. The consequence is that, for some refugees and reunited families, it may take longer than necessary before they are able to support themselves. This may have both personal and socioeconomic consequences.**

### **Municipalities have not sufficiently provided refugees and reunited families with the statutory efforts on time**

The vast majority of all refugees and reunited families receive early in their programme a contract that must describe, among other things, the objectives and content of the effort. Municipalities also ensure that they are categorised as either job-ready or activity-ready. However, 17% of refugees and reunited families do not receive all statutory meetings on time.

There are significant shortcomings in the employment-oriented effort. Fifty per cent of job-ready refugees and reunited families do not receive the first employment-oriented programme with an employer within the statutory deadline. Job-ready refugees and reunited families must receive new programmes if they do not obtain employment. According to the law, no more than six weeks may pass in which they are not in a programme. However, 71% of the job-ready experience breaks of more than six weeks.

Municipalities have to a greater extent complied with the rules regarding Danish language training. Ninety per cent of all refugees and reunited families are referred to Danish language training within the statutory deadline.

### **The Ministry of Immigration and Integration has not sufficiently supported the municipal integration effort**

The Ministry of Immigration and Integration has received various indications that some municipalities do not provide refugees and reunited families with the statutory efforts on time. However, the ministry has not obtained systematic knowledge of the problems. As a consequence, the ministry has neither identified the scale of the problems nor taken initiatives to address them.

In the same way that Rigsrevisionen has done in this study, the ministry can relatively easily assess whether municipalities are providing the statutory efforts on time. Rigsrevisionen recommends that they do so going forward. The ministry has stated that it will initiate this work if it can be done without imposing additional tasks on municipalities. Rigsrevisionen notes that municipalities will not, in principle, be assigned an additional task, as all data already exist - either in the Ministry of Immigration and Integration, the Ministry of Employment or in Statistics Denmark.

### **Categorisation**

During categorisation, the municipality must assess whether a refugee or reunited family member is able to work. A person is job ready if the municipality assesses that the person can take on a job enabling him or her to support themselves within three months. If the municipality assesses that this is not possible, the person is instead activity-ready.