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Subject: Accordo di Integrazione (Integration Agreement) for residence permit applicants.

Legal ref.:

- *Art. 4-bis, paragraph 2 of decreto legislativo No 286/98 (Italian Immigration Act);*
- *Presidential Decree (DPR) No 179 of Sept. 14, 2011.*

Starting on March 10, 2012 those who apply for a residence permit **for the first time** and **for a period of at least 1 year** are required to sign the so-called '**Accordo di integrazione**' (Integration Agreement -> hereinafter 'Agreement') with the local Government Immigration Dept. (Prefettura, Sportello Unico Immigrazione).

By this Agreement non-EU applicants are required to develop a proper level of knowledge in Italian language, culture and civics in a 2-year period of time (max 1 additional year extension allowed). In fact, by this time, at least 30 educational credits must be achieved (for further info on this subject, refer also to 'Annex B' of DPR No 179 of Sept. 14, 2011).

In particular it is required:

- A2 level in Italian language as established by the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages;
- a fair level of knowledge of the Italian Constitution and of Italian Public Institutions functioning and organization, mainly referred to Italian Health/Educational/Social/Work/Tax systems and connected duties (like children education, tax payments and so on).

For a start, 16 credits are given to be verified soon in a free course in civics offered by the local Prefettura: no attendance at this course automatically brings to a 15-credit reduction.

If credits get equal or below zero or if the 30-credit goal is not achieved in due time, expulsion might occur.

Those who are concerned can get in touch with me (fantozzi@lngs.infn.it) for additional info and support or refer to the relevant literature posted on Ufficio Documentazione web folio on www.lngs.infn.it.

Kindest regards,

V. Fantozzi

