



**From status holder
to Drechtsteden
citizen!**

**This is
how it
works.**



**Sociale Dienst
Drechtsteden**

**Samen werken
aan zelfstandigheid**

What does my civic integration process¹ look like?

Welcome to the Drechtsteden. You will live in Alblasterdam, Dordrecht, Hardinxveld-Giessendam, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Papendrecht, Sliedrecht or Zwijndrecht. The Drechtsteden Social Services (SDD) is working on your civic integration for all these municipalities. Below we will step by step explain your journey to civic integration!



I am getting a residence permit and am staying in the asylum seekers' centre (AZC) until I get a house.



In the AZC, I hear that I will be given a house in one of the Drechtsteden municipalities.



Drechtsteden

¹ Civic integration is compulsory in the Netherlands. This applies to every newcomer aged 16 and older who has a residence permit for a definite period of time. To integrate you must complete the following within 3 years:

1. A learning route (with the Knowledge of Dutch Society component)
2. The Participation Declaration Procedure (PVT)
3. The Labour Market & Participation (MAP) component

2

I have a digital conversation with my COA (Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers) supervisor, someone from social counselling and with the civic integration consultant of the municipality where I will be living.

In this conversation:

- I will get to know my social counsellor and my civic integration consultant².
- I will tell them about myself and where I come from.
- I will receive an explanation about my upcoming move.
- I will hear how I will pay my fixed costs and how I will receive money to live on (financial relief).



Sharing my data

The civic integration consultant, my social counsellor and the municipality where I live share my personal data in order to be able to support me as well as possible. They do not share this with anyone else.

3

I have an arranging day (so-called ‘regeldag’) in my new municipality.

On the arranging day:

- I will register with the municipality where I will be living.
- I will open a Dutch bank account (if I do not already have one).
- I will sign my rental agreement.
- I will apply for housing benefits.
- I will sign the contract so that I have gas, water and electricity in my house.
- I will apply for my health insurance.
- I will apply for health care allowance.
- I will visit my new house and get the key.
- I will apply for benefits and money to furnish my house.
- I will receive an explanation about financial relief³.



² The civic integration consultant will guide you during your civic integration process. He or she is your regular contact person, but also that of the language providers, social counsellors and the municipality.

³ The Drechtsteden Social Service (SDD) pays the bills for gas, water, electricity and health insurance from your benefits. So you do not have to worry about this yourself. Your social counsellor will also teach you how best to handle your money in the Netherlands. By unburdening financially, we prevent you from getting into debt.

- 4 Social counselling helps me with my practical questions. I also get help with getting to know the municipality where I live.



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- 5 The SDD ensures that my fixed costs are paid.



- 6 I am moving to the Drechtsteden. The social district team from my municipality gives me extra help if necessary.



- 7 **After your move, you will have an initial meeting with the SDD. We call this the General Intake. During the General Intake:**

- I will talk to my civic integration consultant and social counsellor.
- I will follow the regional and local welcome programme.
- I will take tests to determine which learning route I will follow.
- I will make a personal Integration and Participation Plan (PIP⁴).

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⁴ A PIP is a personal Integration and Participation Plan. The PIP contains clear agreements about your civic integration process, such as agreements about which learning route you will follow and how you will participate in Dutch society.

More explanation about steps 7 to 10: the General Intake

- I have a **kick-off meeting** with my civic integration consultant and with my social counsellor. In this kick-off meeting:
 - a. I will talk about who I am.
 - b. I will hear what I have to do during my civic integration process.
 - c. I will get an explanation about the welcome programme.
 - d. I will hear which tests I have to do.
- I will start with the regional welcome programme in Dordrecht. This Welcome Programme lasts eight weeks and I participate two mornings a week. Every week I learn something different about the Netherlands. This welcome programme is mandatory. This way I am well prepared for my learning route. In the welcome programme I learn about:
 - a. Living in the Netherlands.
 - b. Handling money in the Netherlands (Eurowijzer).
 - c. The Dutch norms, values and culture.
 - d. Education and upbringing of children.
 - e. Health and care.
 - f. History and the map of the Netherlands.
 - g. Participating in the Netherlands (working and participating).
 - h. Working with computers.
- I also attend the local welcome programme in the municipality where I live. Here I get to know my new municipality. This is given by the social counselling and I follow it on two afternoons a week.
- I take the tests in the Labour Research Centre (AOC).
- After 4 weeks, I have a progress meeting with my civic integration consultant to discuss how I am doing at that moment.
- I make my PIP with my civic integration consultant and my social counsellor. The PIP states which learning route I will follow and how I will participate in the Netherlands.

The start of the learning route

11 I'm starting my integration learning route! Also meet my teacher at the language school. I get a curriculum. This states when I have to go to school and which classes I will take.

12 Which learning routes are there?

- 13**
- **B1 learning route:** The B1 route is aimed at mastering the Dutch language at B1 level. Within the B1 learning route, the participation component can be fleshed out in various ways. The municipality will discuss with you which interpretation best suits your qualities, possibilities and wishes.
 - **Education route:** The education route is aimed at mastering the Dutch language at a minimum level B1 and the entry into regular education (MBO, HBO or WO). The aim of the education route is that you will then follow a course. This route is only for young immigrants up to the age of 30.
 - **Z-Route:** The Self-reliance route is aimed at mastering the Dutch language at a minimum of A1 level and at being able to participate independently in Dutch society.

B1 route + Knowledge
of the Dutch Society

Education route + Knowledge
of the Dutch Society

Z-route + Knowledge of the
Dutch Society



More information about steps 11 to 13: the Labour Market and Participation Module (MAP)

During the learning route, I also follow the **Labour Market and Participation Module (MAP)** at PERSPECT. The MAP is mandatory for my civic integration. In the MAP, I learn about:

- What I can become in the Netherlands (professions).
- How I am a good employee in the Netherlands.
- Which jobs there are in the Netherlands (available work).
- How I can develop myself to get a good job.
- How to find work (apply).
- What standards and values exist among Dutch employers.
- How I can build a network that increases my chances of getting a job.

In the MAP, I will also practice in a practical situation. This takes 40 hours in total. At the end of the MAP, I have a meeting with my consultant. I show if I have achieved my goals, and that I have participated in the programme for 40 hours. During the learning route, I also follow the Participation Declaration Procedure (PVT) in social counselling. The Participation Declaration Procedure is also mandatory for my civic integration. Here, I get acquainted with the Dutch core values of equality, freedom, solidarity and participation. I also go on an outing that focuses on one of the core values.





14 After I have fully completed the learning route and completed all the components of my PIP, I will take my **civic integration exam**.

15 I have passed my civic integration exam and have successfully completed all components of my PIP. **I am integrated!**

16



The civic integration process is partly made possible by:



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