

§ 1. This parliamentary act applies to foreigners who have a residence permit in the Faroe Islands. Subsection 2. The parliamentary act also applies to children under the age of 18 who have a permanent residence with parents or guardians covered by subsection 1.

§ 2. In the parliamentary act, a distinction is made between:

1. Immigrants who have a residence permit for employment purposes according to the ordinance for the implementation in the Faroe Islands of the Aliens Act, the law for the Faroe Islands on aliens' access to residence permits for certain types of employment, or the Fast-Track agreement, and their accompanying family
2. Immigrants who have a residence permit according to the rules on family reunification in the ordinance for the implementation in the Faroe Islands of the Aliens Act
3. Immigrants who have a residence permit according to the ordinance on the implementation in the Faroe Islands of the law on temporary residence permits for persons displaced from Ukraine.

Integration Authority

§ 3. The Immigration Office is the integration authority.

Integration Area

§ 4. Municipalities must appoint integration coordinators no later than January 1, 2026. Stk. 2. Municipalities must collaborate with other municipalities on integration. Stk. 3. The collaboration areas according to Stk. 2 must be organized in accordance with the parliamentary law on child protection. Stk. 4. The appointment Minister, in consultation with the municipalities, can set specific rules regarding the integration area and integration coordinators.

Information Meeting

§ 5. Immigrants covered by the parliamentary law will be asked to attend an informational meeting as soon as possible after their arrival in the Faroe Islands. Stk. 2. The integration area, where the immigrant has moved, organizes an informational meeting in consultation with the integration authority.

At the meeting, the immigrant will be informed about their rights and obligations in the Faroe Islands. Additionally, there will be information on how the integration authority, the integration area, and other relevant parties can assist, and where the immigrant can seek help if needed

Integration Interview

§ 6. Immigrants who are 18 years or older will be asked to attend an integration interview if they:

1. Have a residence permit under the rules of family reunification according to § 2, no. 2,
2. Have children under 18 years old with them in the Faroe Islands, or
3. Apply for a work permit for the third time. Stk. 2. It is mandatory for immigrants mentioned in Stk. 1 to attend the integration interview. Stk. 3. The integration authority

can also invite other immigrants to an integration interview. Stk. 4. The integration authority must ensure that the immigrant is informed that the integration interview under Stk. 1 and proficiency in the language and knowledge of the Faroese society and culture, according to § 7, are generally prerequisites for obtaining a permanent residence permit in the Faroe Islands according to the order for the entry into force of the Aliens Act for the Faroe Islands. Stk. 5. The integration authority informs the immigrant about their rights and obligations in the Faroe Islands, as well as integration-promoting measures and services that support the immigrant in learning Faroese and acquiring the knowledge and skills important for functioning and living in Faroese society on an equal footing with other citizens. Stk. 6. The Minister can set specific rules regarding the content of the integration interview.

Language Skills and Knowledge of Culture and Social Conditions

§ 7. Immigrants covered by the parliamentary law will be offered free instruction in Faroese according to the parliamentary law on Faroese as a second language. Stk. 2. Immigrants covered by the parliamentary law will also be offered free courses in Faroese culture and society Stk. 3. The Minister can set specific rules regarding the content and duration of the course on Faroese culture and society

Parental Course

§ 8. Immigrants who have children under 15 years old with them will be offered a course in parental guidance. Stk. 2. Courses can also be arranged for parents concerning other age groups than those mentioned in Stk. 1. Stk. 3. The Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Child and Education Affairs, can set specific rules regarding the content and duration of the course.

Sharing of Information

§ 9. The integration authority provides the residential municipality with necessary personal information so that the municipality can offer relevant courses to immigrants and inform them about leisure activities, public events, etc., in the area.

Integration of Children

§ 10. The integration area and the residential municipality must work to ensure the good integration of children.

§ 11. The residential municipality and Gigni must be informed about children of immigrants who are under 18 years old and have come to the Faroe Islands. Stk. 2. The residential municipality must provide guidance to parents and / or children who do not have Faroese as their Mother tongue, and organize language development programs at an age-appropriate level in daycare institutions

Home Visits by Health Nurses

§ 12. Immigrants with children below school age can be offered home visits by a health nurse according to the parliamentary law on preventive health services for children and youth.

Hearing Children in Relevant Matters

§ 13. When children need to be heard in matters concerning them, they should be heard in the language they are most comfortable with, whenever possible.

Interpreting

§ 14. Public authorities must use interpreters in their activities when deemed necessary.

Public Information and Integration-Promoting Measures

§ 15. Integration areas, together with the integration authority, must provide public information and guidance about relevant social conditions, the integration system, and the services and offers provided by the integration area, the integration authority, and others. Stk. 2. The Minister can, in consultation with the municipalities, set specific rules regarding the division of responsibilities between the integration area and the integration authority. Stk. 3. The integration authority must create and distribute informative material about Faroese society, customs, and culture in appropriate media.

§ 16. The integration authority provides guidance and advice to public authorities, institutions, integration areas, municipalities, companies, associations, non-profit organizations, voluntary organizations, and others on integration and integration-promoting measures. Stk. 2. The integration authority can, upon application, provide financial support for integration-promoting measures. Stk. 3. The Minister sets specific rules regarding integration-promoting measures under Stk. 1-2 and financial support under Stk. 4, including requirements for applications and documentation, and the circumstances under which support can be granted.

Commencement of Law

§ 17. This parliamentary law comes into force on January 1, 2025, and applies to immigrants who receive a residence permit after this date. Stk. 2. The offer of free instruction in Faroese as a second language applies to all immigrants who have received a residence permit in the Faroe Islands. Stk. 3. Immigrants who already have a residence permit have the opportunity to request an integration interview, according to § 6, and to participate in a parental course, according to § 8.

Chapter 1. General Comments

1.1. Reasons for the Proposal

In recent years, the number of immigrants has increased significantly. The composition of immigrants has also changed, increasing the need for an integration law.

There is no integration law in the Faroe Islands, making this a completely new piece of legislation.

Historically, the Faroe Islands have been a relatively homogenous society, and the significant increase in immigrants has occurred over just 10-15 years. Additionally, the country is small, remote, and socially close-knit, which affects how immigrants are able to become part of the society and whether the society can accommodate them.

However, integration is not an entirely unknown phenomenon. People who move to the Faroe Islands are integrated to some extent wherever they live and work. Now, with the immigrant population having grown substantially (from 1.5% in 2010 to 5.5% in 2023), there is a need to undertake a more structured integration process.

A Faroese integration law must be based on the Faroese society. This means that consideration must be given to the small size of the country and its limited resources. On the other hand, it is necessary to ensure that those who come to the country feel well-received and understand their rights. It is also important that immigrants, as far as possible, receive assistance in utilizing their education and work experience in the Faroe Islands, benefiting both themselves and Faroese society.

Furthermore, immigrants need to learn about Faroese society and culture and understand the expectations placed on citizens in the Faroe Islands. The Faroese language is an important part of this.

Lastly, it must be established what obligations the authorities have when people choose the Faroe Islands as their new home.

Immigrants highlight various issues that are not satisfactory when moving to the Faroe Islands. Among other things, they point out that it is very difficult to find comprehensive information on various matters and that it would be desirable if such information could be gathered in one place.

It is also pointed out that knowing the Faroese language is only a small part of integration. An equally important part is the opportunity to become part of the political, cultural, economic, labor market, and social networks in Faroese society. One tool to ensure this is an integration interview and an integration plan, which clearly shows the benefits of taking various steps to become part of Faroese society.

An integration law will not solve all problems, and not all aspects of integration can be regulated by legislation. The most important part of integration occurs in the interaction between people, and legislation can only support this.

It will be necessary to continuously adapt the parliamentary law so that it remains relevant over time.

1.2. Current Legislation

In the Integration Report from 2011, was recommended to appoint an integration coordinator to coordinate integration work, advise authorities, and create informative material for immigrants. The integration coordinator was appointed at the Immigration Office in 2015. In 2020, an integration advisor was also appointed. The integration advisor has primarily worked on directly contacting immigrants, including at evening schools, and has also offered integration interviews to immigrants.

The Immigration Office has produced some material on integration, such as brochures about the day-care sector and the school system, and has organized courses for professionals on culture, understanding, and child-rearing. Other integration-promoting activities have also been organized, such as networking and integration camps, and the Immigration Office has taken on the coordination of interpreting services.

Immigrants point out the lack of integration coordinators in the municipalities, a person they can go to with questions or for help with various issues.

1.3. Purpose of the Proposal

The overall purpose of the legislative proposal is to improve the integration of immigrants.

Integration is the mutual adaptation of different cultures so they can live side by side on a common foundation. This means that the immigrant retains their culture while embracing Faroese culture, and the Faroese society, in turn, embraces the culture of immigrants and sees diversity as a strength.

The question then is, what is good integration? Good integration is when the immigrant feels welcome in society. Similarly, they know their rights and obligations and know where to get help and information if necessary.

Good integration also means that the immigrant feels they can use their skills and education, and participate on an equal footing with other citizens and contribute to the society following the fundamental values and norms of Faroese society.

Good integration also involves the immigrant knowing the obligations and expectations that Faroese society places on them.

The number of immigrants in the Faroe Islands is steadily increasing, and with this growth comes the need to organize integration and set frameworks for both authorities and immigrants.

1.4. Summary of the New Scheme with the Proposal

Target Group

Many foreigners move to the Faroe Islands, and their circumstances can vary significantly. The main target group for the integration law are those immigrants who obtain a residence permit with the intention of permanent residency. These are primarily those who have a spouse here and thus move to the Faroe Islands in connection with family reunification. In some cases, these individuals are integrated by their family and close relationships, which introduce them to the society through various local activities such as work, sports, and community life. In other cases, there is no one other than the spouse to take care of this. In both cases, however, it is necessary to have appropriate integration programs and offers for them

Foreign Workers and Integration

Foreign workers who obtain work permits in the Faroe Islands primarily come to work. Thus, they are not the main target group for integration. However, it is a fact that many of these workers, who initially come to work, end up staying in the Faroe Islands, even if that was not the original intention. It is considered that when applying for a work permit for the third time, the likelihood of the immigrant remaining in the Faroe Islands is high, and therefore, they are also part of the target group.

Many workers also bring their families, and when children are part of the family, it is considered that the country has a special obligation to ensure good integration. Workers with children are therefore part of the target group.

Integration as a Condition for Permanent Residence

The intention is to set a condition for obtaining permanent residence in the Faroe Islands, which requires the applicant to demonstrate that they intend to be integrated into the society. The conditions for obtaining permanent residence are stipulated in the Aliens Act, and an

integration requirement as a condition for permanent residence will thus be set in a regulation, authorized by the Aliens Act.

According to § 11, Stk. 3, of the Aliens Act, an immigrant who has had legal residence in the Faroe Islands for three years under § 7 (refugees) or § 9, Stk. 1 and 2 (family reunification), can obtain permanent residence in the Faroe Islands.

Even if the conditions in § 11, Stk. 3, of the Aliens Act are not met, foreigners can obtain permanent residence in the Faroe Islands if significant considerations support this. In practice, foreigners who have a residence permit under § 9, Stk. 2, no. 3 (significant work or business considerations) or § 9, Stk. 2, no. 4 (priests, missionaries, etc., and those who have obtained family reunification for very special reasons), obtain permanent residence when they have been in the Faroe Islands for a continuous seven years on nearly the same basis, i.e., the foreigner must have had the same type of work throughout all the years. The police conduct an interview with the applicant and assess, based on this interview, whether the applicant has a strong connection to the Faroe Islands.

Permanent residence under § 11, Stk. 3 and 4, of the Aliens Act, is conditional on the foreigner having a residence permit that has not been revoked, expired, or otherwise lost, or that the residence permit has not been extended.

Unless special reasons speak against it, permanent residence under § 11, Stk. 3 and 4, of the Aliens Act is also conditional on the foreigner not having committed certain criminal offenses, cf. § 11, Stk. 5, no. 2, and not having debts to the public of 50,000 DKK or more (1998 level), cf. § 11, Stk. 5, no. 3, equivalent to 84,917.06 DKK at the 2022 level.

In January 2020, decree no. 67 on the entry into force for the Faroe Islands of the Act on Amendments to the Aliens Act (Authorization to set integration-relevant requirements as a condition for indefinite residence permit in the Faroe Islands, etc.) came into force. In the comments to the proposal (parliamentary case no. 104/2018), it is stated, among other things: The government wishes to strengthen the integration of newly arrived foreigners in the Faroe Islands. Therefore, it is proposed to provide authorization to set specific rules that indefinite residence in the Faroe Islands is conditional on the relevant foreigner having a linguistic connection to the Faroe Islands, or a connection that is otherwise relevant for integration in the Faroe Islands. This aims to ensure that the integration of newly arrived foreigners in the Faroe Islands is supported in the Aliens Act for the Faroe Islands so that access to obtain an permanent residence permit in the Faroe Islands can be conditional on the foreigner having a strong connection to Faroese society. The authorization can be used in connection with the government providing integration-promoting offers, such as teaching in Faroese, so that non-participation in such offers for integration reasons - as_in neighboring countries - can have consequences for the possibility of obtaining a permanent residence permit.

With the amendments in § 11, Stk. 9, of the Aliens Act, the Foreign and Integration Minister is given the authority to set specific rules on integration as a condition for obtaining permanent residence: Stk. 9. The Foreign and Integration Minister, after negotiation with the Faroese government, can set specific rules that permanent residence in the Faroe Islands is conditional on the foreigner having an integration-relevant connection to the Faroe Islands.

The specific conditions for obtaining permanent residence will be set in a regulation. This means that the Faroese government and the Danish Minister for Foreign and Integration Affairs must agree on the conditions. A prerequisite is that there are relevant integration-

promoting offers in the Faroe Islands, such as integration interviews and teaching in the Faroese language, culture, and societal knowledge.

Successful integration is partly conditional on the immigrant learning the language, and it will be set as a condition for obtaining permanent residence that the immigrant has passed an exam in Faroese as a second language. This way, immigrants intending to reside in the Faroe Islands are encouraged to learn Faroese and get to know Faroese society. However, a prerequisite for this is that everyone has the opportunity to participate in language education. In certain special cases, according to the regulation for the entry into force of the Aliens Act for the Faroe Islands, exemptions from the requirement of passing an exam in Faroese can be granted. Special cases may include age, illness, psychological challenges, and learning difficulties.

On May 30, 2024, the Parliamentary Act on Faroese as a Second Language came into force. Education and training in Faroese as a second language are offered to all foreigners who have obtained a residence permit in the Faroe Islands and are of school age according to the Parliamentary Act on the Public School. Education and training under the Parliamentary Act are generally free, similar to other education at, for example, secondary schools. The intention is that the education will take place at a secondary school. However, it is also possible that the education can take place at another school approved by the Minister.

The education in Faroese as a second language is based on the education Faroese as a Second Language 1, 2, and 3 (FSA1, FSA2, and FSA3). The education, intended for adult immigrants, is organized according to the international CEFR framework (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and can therefore be compared with language education elsewhere. The curriculum is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (Council of Europe, June 2008).

In addition to Faroese as a second language, a course on Faroese culture and societal conditions will be offered

Education in Faroese Language and Culture

The education in the Faroese language and information about Faroese culture and society is intended for adult immigrants who do not have Faroese as their mother tongue. The education should, as much as possible, consider the culture and background of the immigrants and the realities they face in Faroese society.

The Ministry of Justice will request Danish authorities to stipulate in a regulation that permanent residence is conditional upon attending an integration interview with the integration authority, passing an exam in Faroese as a second language, and participating in a course on Faroese culture and society. These rules are aimed to take effect when this law comes into force on January 1, 2025.

Integration Challenges

Most immigrants come either for family reunification or to work, and many do not understand or speak a Nordic language. Many go straight into the labor market, where the challenge can be that they do not have the conditions to learn Faroese or understand Faroese society and culture. Therefore, it often happens that immigrants, despite having lived in the Faroe Islands for several years, face challenges and issues that good integration could have prevented. Examples include information about workplace safety and communication or cooperation issues between daycare and parents or between school and home. Additionally, there is a greater risk that immigrants will gradually be excluded from the labor market.

Recent labor market research shows that many educated immigrants, especially women, are stuck in unskilled jobs. A lack of proficiency in Faroese, and partially in Danish, along with limited opportunities to acquire solid language skills, is a barrier to mobility and integration in the labor market. Limited language skills, limited knowledge of society and culture, and limited access to the labor market can hinder good integration. It is therefore crucial for individual immigrants that these conditions are addressed as soon as possible to achieve the goal of immigrants thriving and having better opportunities to become part of Faroese society.

We must also be aware that Faroese society is not easy for immigrants to enter. This is partly because Faroese society has historically been quite homogeneous and socially close-knit. Moreover, there is some reservation against the unfamiliar. Therefore, it is also important that Faroese society increasingly recognizes the skills of immigrants.

It is crucial to work on the integration of immigrants as early as possible, but integration issues can also arise after a considerable time has passed. Therefore, it is important to work on integration even if the immigrant has lived in the Faroe Islands for several years. Most efforts should be focused where the need is greatest.

Successful integration is often a prerequisite for the children of immigrants to thrive and develop, and thus the integration of families with children should be a high priority. Faroese society also has a special responsibility towards children who come with parents who come to work here. Although these children may not stay in the Faroe Islands in the long run, society – by allowing the worker to bring children to the Faroe Islands – has a special responsibility to ensure that the children receive a good and enriching education that does not disadvantage them compared to children in their home country. The prerequisite for good and effective schooling is also that the children thrive, so it is essential to ensure that the children feel part of the society outside of school as well, such as in sports and other recreational activities.

Children and Youth Integration

Children and youth are naturally integrated in day-care institutions and schools because they spend a large part of their daily lives there. Therefore, it is crucial to have well-organized reception, relevant educational work, and targeted language development when children move to the Faroe Islands. In this context, it is proposed that the residential municipality and Gigni be notified by the relevant authority about children who have received residence permits in the Faroe Islands. The plan is for Gigni to visit foreign families with preschool children and offer the possibility of parent groups. Additionally, educators, assistants, and teachers responsible for children in daycare institutions and schools have the responsibility to ensure that children thrive and develop. The goal is to ensure that children do not fall behind but genuinely benefit from their stay in the Faroe Islands, including receiving a good education and participating in community life so that they are not behind other children of the same age, whether in the Faroe Islands or their home country. Therefore, it is stipulated that the residential municipality must provide organized language development at an age-appropriate level in daycare institutions for children who do not have Faroese as their mother tongue.

Inadequate integration can sometimes lead to poor well-being in children. While parents hold the primary responsibility for the well-being, health, and development of their children, other authorities and institutions also play a vital role in ensuring children's welfare. Therefore, this aspect requires special attention when families go through the integration interview to ensure that help will be given in case it is necessary.

Many Faroese live abroad for shorter or longer periods for education and work. When they return to the Faroe Islands, perhaps with a foreign spouse, it may be necessary to put extra

effort into teaching their children Faroese and helping them adjust to Faroese society. Therefore, it is also possible to offer these children integration-promoting measures, even though they are not directly the target group.

Parental Guidance Courses

The role of the parents is crucial for good integration, and it is the parents who must encourage their children to learn Faroese and connect with other children in the neighborhood, for example, by playing with other children and supporting the child in recreational activities.

Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children's well-being and development, and when a child arrives in the Faroe Islands, it is often necessary for the parents to take steps to ensure the child adjusts well and feels at home. For children starting school in middle or upper primary grades, it is especially important to ensure that they get enough out of the education so that the possibility of further education is not hindered. In these cases, the child, the parents, and the school must work hard to ensure that the child learns the language so that they obtain a certificate that can be used for further education. Many children and youth are active in recreational, community, cultural, and sports activities, which can have a very positive impact on the child's and youth's well-being and integration by allowing them to join social communities.

When families with children arrive in the country, there can be significant differences in culture and child-rearing practices between their home country and the Faroe Islands. To ease the transition and explain the expectations for parents and child-rearing in Faroese society, it is planned to offer short parental guidance courses. Gigni is expected to be responsible for these courses. Gigni's primary expertise is working with, guiding, and advising individual families according to their needs and supporting the child's and family's development. It is also possible to organize other courses, such as parental courses on the challenges teenagers face in a new country.

Gigni also has the opportunity to offer parents with preschool children a parent group. A health nurse can then participate as needed and address various topics in consultation with the parents.

Municipalities Divided into Integration Areas

Municipalities must also work towards good integration. The municipality is the closest authority in the area where the immigrant resides, and it is largely the municipality that feels the consequences when integration is not successful and when there are challenges to well-being.

However, municipalities in the Faroe Islands vary greatly in size and resources, and it is therefore considered necessary for municipalities to collaborate with other municipalities on integration. The cooperation areas will be organized in the same way as the child protection areas.

It is also considered that integration coordinators should be appointed in all integration areas. An integration coordinator can develop the integration process and be responsible for integration-promoting activities in the integration area. The coordinator can reach out to individual immigrants and immigrants as a group, aiming for immigrants to feel part of the local community.

Integration-promoting activities can be advantageously organized in collaboration between integration areas, national authorities, and other relevant parties. This could include setting up integration councils, implementing a family friend system, organizing cultural exchanges, such as cooking, and providing free sports and leisure activities for children of immigrants. In this regard, it is planned to allocate a sum that can be used for integration-promoting activities upon application from various parties.

Society's Role in Promoting Good Integration

Although successful integration is largely the responsibility of the individual immigrant, it also involves goodwill, attitude, and collective responsibility. Therefore, family, friends, the local community, employers, workplaces, organizations, and citizens must take responsibility to ensure successful integration.

When Faroese people take steps to bring foreigners here, either through family reunification or employment, they should assume an even greater role in ensuring that the immigrant learns about society, customs, and culture, learns Faroese, develops a strong network, and finds something to engage in, such as work or education. This could also involve becoming active in sports, cultural, and recreational activities and other associations that promote democratic development and social cohesion in the local community.

Employers who bring foreign labor to the country should also take on the responsibility of helping their foreign employees and their families find suitable housing and offer language courses and other relevant courses, such as safety courses with an interpreter. Employers should also inform their foreign employees about their rights as workers in the Faroe Islands, the workplace culture, and other important matters. It can lead to dissatisfaction and integration problems for children if parents work too much or if they do not know that it is acceptable to ask for time off to visit a doctor, midwife, or dentist or to stay home with sick children.

Companies can have employees who guide and support newly arrived foreign staff with their integration at the workplace and in the local community through a mentoring program, language courses, or other professional courses, such as safety courses, where interpretation is provided.

The government should investigate the feasibility of creating a system similar to Legal Aid, but broader in scope. This could include not only lawyers but also social workers, economists, health professionals, educators/teachers, etc.

Such a service could be offered 1 to 2 times a week, for example, for 2 hours.

Many have pointed out that it is difficult to find help and information, and such a service could assist with this and help prevent misunderstandings and problems later on.

Informational Meeting

As a general rule, all newcomers need information about the society, educational opportunities, and an overview of their rights and obligations. Many have pointed out that it is difficult to find this information when they arrive in the Faroe Islands. They also do not know where to turn for help if needed.

To meet this need, regular informational meetings are organized around the country, which newcomers can attend as soon as possible after their arrival. The integration sector, in consultation with the integration authority, organizes these meetings. Other relevant parties,

such as Gigni, representatives from schools and kindergartens, and leisure clubs, can also participate.

At these meetings, information is provided about rights and obligations, educational opportunities, what the integration sector and integration authority can assist with, and where else one can find help.

Integration Interview

Newcomers to the country need detailed information about educational and integration opportunities. Skills and needs vary between the immigrants so integration programs must be available, particularly relevant for those coming through family reunification, as they have chosen to build a life in the Faroe Islands. Therefore, it is required that they attend an integration interview as soon as possible. For individuals and families with limited proficiency in Faroese and limited knowledge of Faroese society, a specific plan can be made to support the goal of integration, a so-called integration plan.

Additionally, some come to the Faroe Islands for work. Initially, these individuals come to the country only to work, but it is a fact that many of them end up staying in the country. If the integration process only begins after they have been in the country for seven years, there is a risk that they will never fully integrate into society. Therefore, it is required that those with work permits must attend an integration interview when they apply for a work permit for the third time.

Lastly, there are those who come to the Faroe Islands to work and bring their families with them. While their primary reason for coming to the country is work, it is crucial for the development, well-being, and learning of their children that they attend an integration interview immediately upon arrival. If the family then stays in the Faroe Islands, the integration process will have already begun.

In these cases, a specific plan can also be made, especially relevant for families with children. It is important for children that there is good cooperation between home and institution. Therefore, institutions need parents to be aware of the importance of integration and to know how best to help their child become part of the local community. The child thus becomes part of the parents' integration plan.

The integration plan, which should be based on the plans, wishes, skills, and circumstances of the newcomer, is drawn up together with the newcomer. This is done to ensure that the newcomer takes responsibility for achieving the set goals.

The interviews are intended for adult newcomers and their spouses, but it may also be relevant to discuss the integration of children and youth. In special cases, it may be appropriate to invite young people aged 15-17 to a separate integration interview.

If deemed necessary, multiple interviews can be held, and it is also possible to adjust or change an existing integration plan.

Public Information and Integration-Promoting Measures

To broadly support integration and ease the path into Faroese society, the integration sectors, in collaboration with the integration authority, should organize public information and guidance on relevant social issues, the integration system, and services provided by the integration sector, the integration authority, and other entities.

Simultaneously, the integration authority should create and distribute informative materials about Faroese society, customs, and culture in appropriate media. It is crucial that these materials are accessible to the target audience, meaning they must be available in multiple languages and, whenever possible, in digital format. Digital materials can be easily updated, preventing them from becoming outdated and making it easier to use media that reach the target audience.

When creating informative materials, it's important to avoid overly text-heavy content. Instead, a balance of text and many images that support the text should be used.

Informative materials alone are not sufficient but can be part of a system including interviews, integration plans, and instruction in Faroese as a second language.

Interpretation

It is established that public authorities must use interpretation services in their operations if needed. The need for interpretation varies depending on the situation, and each authority must assess when an interpreter is necessary. The authority requesting the interpretation service is responsible for covering its cost.

For schools and daycares, it can be particularly important to use interpreters when communicating with parents about their children during their initial period in the Faroe Islands. This is especially relevant for difficult conversations, such as discussing children's well-being issues. Experiences, such as those from Eiði, show that using interpreters for parent meetings and in other informal contexts can prevent many misunderstandings and facilitate parent cooperation.

Since 2016, the Immigration Office has been testing a system where institutions order interpretation services through the Immigration Office. This service uses both interpreters in the Faroe Islands and telephone interpretation provided by a Danish company. In 2017, there were three interpretations done via the Danish interpretation service. In 2018, the number was ten, in 2019 it was eight, and in 2020 there were 13 interpretations. Additionally, a few tasks each year are solved with interpreters residing in the Faroe Islands. Midway through 2022, only four interpretation tasks had been performed through the Danish provider. This system has generally worked very well and continues to be used. Furthermore, several interpretations have been done in the Faroe Islands in connection with the arrival of refugees from Ukraine.

Most interpreters in the Faroe Islands are private individuals without formal interpreter training. They may find themselves in very personal and sensitive situations they are not equipped to handle. Therefore, consideration should be given to organizing short continuing education courses for private interpreters.

1.5. Comments and Comment Document The proposal will be sent directly for comment to the following parties:

Barna- og útbúgvingarmálaráðnum

Almanna- og Mentamálaráðnum

Heilsumálaráðnum

Uttanríkis- og vinnumálaráðnum

Umhvørvismálaráðnum

Fíggjarmálaráðnum

Útlendingastovuni

Undirvísingarástýrinum

Gigna

Almannaverkinum

Vinnuhúsinum

Kommunufelagnum

Kommununum

Integratióssamskiparanum í Tórshavnar kommunu og til fólk, sum arbeiða við integratióin í ymisku kommununum

Barnaverndarstovuni

Reyða Krossi

Fróðskaparsetur Føroya

Dátueftirlitinum

Barnabata

MEGD

Føroya Pedagogfelag

Føroya Lærarafelag

Samtak

Starvsfelagnum

Felagið Føroyskir Sálfrøðingar

Føroya Sosialráðgevarafelag

Føroya Kommunulæknafelag

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Furthermore, the proposal will be posted on the public consultation portal and on the website of the Ministry of Justice for public consultation.

In connection with the work to develop an integration law, consultation meetings have been held in Klaksvík and Tórshavn for immigrants, where approximately 80 immigrants participated. Therefore, an English summary will also be posted on the public consultation portal, on the website of the Ministry of Justice, on the website of the Immigration Office, and

on social media, so that immigrants who do not understand Faroese have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the proposal and provide comments.

Chapter 2. Consequences of the Proposal

2.1. Financial Consequences for the State and Municipalities

The legislative proposal has financial consequences for the state.

At the Immigration Office, an integration coordinator has been employed since 2015. The coordinator has, among other things, guided integration into public institutions, municipalities, voluntary organizations, etc., and has been responsible for producing various materials. Additionally, integration advisors have been employed, primarily tasked with creating procedures and materials for integration interviews. This proposal assigns more tasks to the Immigration Office, as the institution will have to provide more guidance to integration areas, conduct informational meetings, promote integration interviews, and broadly inform the public. The office will also produce various materials and manage the interpretation service. Therefore, the integration authority will need two additional full-time positions. Funds should also be allocated to the integration fund to finance integration initiatives. Additionally, money should be set aside for training courses for private interpreters.

The new integration law and integration in general require a lot of work. Therefore, it will also be necessary to strengthen the Ministry of Justice with an additional 0.5 to 1 full-time position. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice will organize courses on Faroese culture, customs, and society, which will require funding.

The legislative proposal also has financial consequences for Gigni. The plan is for Gigni to visit immigrants with preschool children. Additionally, Gigni will organize parental guidance courses, consisting of either 2-day courses with 2 x 8-hour sessions or 2-hour sessions over 8 days, as well as parent groups for immigrants. Gigni is also expected to collaborate with the integration authority on interviews with immigrants who have children. To provide these services, it will be necessary for two health nurses from Gigni to go abroad for training.

The legislative proposal has financial consequences for the municipalities because they must organize into integration areas, each with an integration coordinator.

Furthermore, municipalities will bear the expenses for day-care institutions, which according to the proposal, must ensure age-appropriate language development for children who do not have Faroese as their mother tongue. This expense is linked to the needs of each municipality, making it difficult to estimate more precisely. When municipalities are organized into integration areas, they may be able to share this expense.

Integration areas must also organize informational activities in consultation with the integration authority, which will also incur additional costs.

2.2. Administrative Consequences for the State and Municipalities

The proposal has administrative consequences for the state. More requirements will be set for integration offers, activities, and initiatives, necessitating an increase in administration.

The proposal has administrative consequences for Gigni, as Gigni will have to organize more integration activities for families.

The legislative proposal has administrative consequences for the municipalities, as they must be organized into integration areas with an integration coordinator. This means that municipalities must take on and organize more integration tasks.

2.3. Consequences for Business

The proposed law does not in itself have consequences for businesses.

However, it can be expected that responsibilities related to integration will be imposed on businesses. This includes ensuring that the integration process is successful, which may require businesses to allocate financial and administrative resources to achieve this goal. It is not possible to precisely determine the extent of these responsibilities, as the circumstances are constantly changing.

2.4. Environmental Consequences

The proposed law does not have any consequences for the environment.

2.5. Consequences for Specific Areas in the Country

The proposed law does not have any consequences for specific areas in the country.

2.6. Consequences for Specific Social Groups or Organizations

The proposal is expected to have positive social consequences for immigrants in the Faroe Islands.

2.7. International Agreements in the Area

The proposed law is considered to be in accordance with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, cf. Act No. 289 of June 9, 1971, on the prohibition of discrimination based on race, etc., and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, cf. Decree No. 6 of January 16, 1992, on the UN Convention of November 20, 1989, on the Rights of the Child.

2.8. Cross-Border International Agreements

The proposed law is considered to be in accordance with the Hoyvík Agreement (Agreement between the Government of Iceland, on one side, and the Government of Denmark and the Faroese Government, on the other), the European Convention on Human Rights, cf. Decree No. 136 of February 25, 2000, on the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the Faroe Islands, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, cf. Decree No. 20 of November 15, 2017, on the UN Convention of December 13, 2006, on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2.9. Border Barriers

There are no known border barriers in the area. It is not expected that the proposed law will create border barriers.

2.10. Penalties, Administrative Fines, Liens, or Other Major Interventions

The proposed law does not contain provisions on penalties, administrative fines, liens, or other major interventions.

2.11. Taxes and Duties

The proposed law does not contain any provisions on taxes and duties.

2.12. Fees

The proposed law does not contain any provisions on fees.

2.13. Does the Proposed Law Impose Obligations on Physical or Legal Persons?

The proposed law imposes obligations on immigrants who have a residence permit under the family reunification rules in § 9, subsection 1, no. 2, on immigrants applying for a work permit for the third time, and on immigrants who have a work permit and have children, according to the decree on the implementation of the Aliens Act in the Faroe Islands, to attend an integration interview. The integration authority must ensure that the immigrant is informed about the requirements that language skills and knowledge of Faroese society are necessary for obtaining permanent residence in the Faroe Islands.

2.14. Does the Proposed Law Grant Powers to the Government, an Institution under the Government, or Municipalities?

The proposed law authorizes the government to set detailed rules on the integration area and integration coordinators in consultation with the municipalities. The proposed law also authorizes the government to set detailed rules on the integration interview. The government can also set detailed rules on the content and duration of the course on Faroese culture and social conditions, on integration-promoting measures, and on financial support for these measures.

The proposed law authorizes the government, in consultation with the government on children and education matters, to set detailed rules on the parental guidance course.

2.15. Does the Proposed Law Grant Public Authorities Access to Private Property?

The proposed law does not grant public authorities access to private property.

2.16. Does the Proposed Law Have Other Consequences?

The proposed law is not considered to have other consequences than those mentioned above.

2.17. Talvan: Yvirlit yvir avleiðingarnar av lógaruppskotinum

	Fyri landið ella landsmyndugleikar	Fyri kommunalar myndugleikar	Fyri pláss ella øki í landinum	Fyri ávísar samfelagsbólkar ella felagsskapir	Fyri vinnuna
Fíggjarligar ella búskaparligar avleiðingar	Ja	Ja	Nei	Nei	Nei
Umsitingarligar avleiðingar	Ja	Ja	Nei	Nei	Ja
Umhvørvisligar avleiðingar	Nei	Nei	Nei	Nei	Nei
Avleiðingar í mun til altjóða avtalur og reglur	Nei	Nei	Nei	Nei	Nei
Sosialar avleiðingar			Nei	Ja	

Chapter 3. Specific Remarks

On § 1

The Act of the Faroese Parliament applies to all foreigners who obtain a residence permit in the Faroe Islands after January 1, 2025. This includes foreigners who receive a residence permit under the following regulations: Decree on the Implementation of the Aliens Act in the Faroe Islands, Faroese Act on Aliens' Access to Residence Permits for Certain Forms of Employment, Decree on the Implementation of the Act on Temporary Residence Permits for Persons Displaced from Ukraine, and the fast-track agreement.

The rights established by the law also apply to foreigners who already have a residence permit. See also the comments on § 18.

Nordic citizens, which include nationals of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland, can freely and without special permission move to the Faroe Islands, settle, and work. Thus, the Act of the Faroese Parliament does not apply to them.

The Act also covers children whose parents or guardians have a residence permit under the aforementioned legislation. Children where one parent is Faroese are also included in the Act, meaning that integration-promoting measures can also be offered to these children if they need help to settle into Faroese society.

On § 2

The Act distinguishes between different groups of residence permits. These groups are:

- Immigrants with commercial residence permits, such as work permits, sports permits, au pairs, interns, researchers, doctors, missionaries, etc.
- Immigrants who are family reunified with spouses, children, parents, and adopted children, and therefore have obtained residence permits with the intention of permanent residence
- Persons displaced from Ukraine

The Act is mainly intended for immigrants who have obtained temporary residence permits with the intention of permanent residence. The reason for this is that this group intends to stay in the Faroe Islands.

However, it is noted that many of those who obtain work permits choose to remain in the Faroe Islands, and it is therefore considered that they should also receive various offers to ensure a good integration process for them.

Persons displaced from Ukraine do not know how long they will stay in the Faroe Islands. Some will likely stay in the Faroe Islands even after the war ends, as they have built a life here. Since it is unknown how long they will stay, it is necessary to give them the opportunity to be integrated into Faroese society.

The purpose of the categorization is to offer different services depending on how likely it is that the immigrant will stay in the Faroe Islands.

On § 3

It is established that the Immigration Office is the integration authority.

On § 3

The Immigration Office was established in 2008 and administers immigration legislation. The Immigration Office is also responsible for integration, and in November 2015, an integration coordinator was employed at the Immigration Office. The provision confirms that the Immigration Office is the integration authority. The proposal entails that the administration needs to be expanded. This also means that necessary funding must be secured for this area in the future.

On § 4

The number of foreigners obtaining residence permits in the Faroe Islands has significantly increased in recent years. This is particularly noticeable in the municipalities. The municipality is the nearest authority in the area where the immigrant resides, and it is largely the municipality that feels the consequences when the integration of citizens is not successful, and when there are challenges with well-being. Therefore, it is very important that immigrants feel like a part of the local community.

An integration coordinator can work on integration-promoting measures in cooperation with national authorities and other relevant parties. The integration coordinator should monitor the challenges in the integration area so that these can be addressed as quickly as possible.

Many municipalities are working on integration, some have an integration committee, but only Tórshavn Municipality has employed an integration coordinator.

It is considered necessary to have more integration coordinators, and it is therefore stipulated that municipalities must have employed an integration coordinator by January 1, 2026, if they do not already have one.

Many municipalities are small, and the plan is for several municipalities to collaborate on having an integration coordinator.

Although it is not stipulated in the law, it is recommended that an integration committee be established alongside the integration coordinator, with representatives from the immigrant community in the municipality. Such a committee can assist the integration coordinator and highlight needs in the area, ensuring that immigrants have a voice and that measures implemented have support among immigrants.

Several municipalities are small, and it is therefore necessary for municipalities to collaborate on integration. This way, more knowledge about the integration area and what works well can be built up.

It is stipulated that municipalities must collaborate with other municipalities on integration.

It is stipulated that integration areas should be organized in the same way as child welfare areas. This ensures that the areas have a certain size and that the integration area and child welfare area can more easily collaborate.

The government minister can, in consultation with the municipalities, set detailed rules about the integration area and integration coordinators. This means that municipalities must be consulted in the development of regulations or other rules, but the government minister makes the final decision on how the rules should be.

On § 5

Many immigrants report that it is difficult to find information when they arrive in the country. Although there is now more information online and information is also available in English, it is not available in one place. Societies are organized in different ways, and as an immigrant, it can be difficult to understand which authority is responsible for what.

This applies to all immigrants, regardless of the type of residence permit they have.

To address this need, it is stipulated that immigrants who have obtained a residence permit in the Faroe Islands should be invited to an informational meeting as soon as possible.

These meetings are expected to be organized in groups, in the area where the immigrant moves to. The number of meetings per year depends on the number of immigrants in the area. However, it should not take too long before one receives such an invitation, preferably no more than 3 months.

The integration area, in consultation with the integration authority and the integration coordinator, will organize the informational meeting. This means that the integration area is responsible for the informational meeting, but the integration authority provides guidance on the content, ensuring that the meetings are consistent throughout the country.

The meeting should inform immigrants about their rights and obligations in the Faroe Islands. Information can be provided on how the country and the integration area are organized, where to get medical help, what language teaching and other courses are available, what leisure activities are available in the area, and if there are special social events for immigrants.

Information can also be provided on what services are available for children and families and how the child and youth sector is organized in the Faroe Islands.

Other parties can also participate in the informational meeting. This could include representatives from Gigni, schools/daycare centers, sports clubs, etc.

The most important thing is to provide broad information and ensure that the immigrant knows where to turn if they need help.

On § 6

It is stipulated that the integration authority must ask immigrants who are 18 years and older to attend an integration interview. The purpose is to inform immigrants about matters important for their stay in the Faroe Islands, both for temporary and permanent residence. It is a requirement that the immigrants mentioned in the provision participate in the interview unless they have a legitimate reason for being absent.

If the immigrant does not attend, this can be taken into consideration when assessing how well the immigrant is integrated unless there is a legitimate reason for their absence.

The integration authority must specifically inform the immigrant about their rights and obligations in the Faroe Islands and about integration-promoting measures and services that help immigrants, among other things, learn Faroese and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to function and live in Faroese society on an equal footing with other citizens. The information should be easy to understand, and an interpreter should be used if necessary. Special emphasis should be placed on informing about the conditions for obtaining permanent residence in the Faroe Islands. It is important that the immigrant immediately understands the conditions for obtaining permanent residence in the Faroe Islands, so they start developing their language skills, gaining insight into social conditions, culture, etc., as soon as possible. The goal is to get the immigrant to start the integration process immediately.

The integration authority, together with the immigrant, can create a plan for the initial period in the Faroe Islands if deemed appropriate. The purpose is to give the immigrant good opportunities to settle in and thrive. Such a plan is individual and should be based on an assessment of the needs of the individual immigrant.

The integration authority can also assess the skills and work experience of the immigrant and how these can best be utilized in the Faroe Islands. In these cases, the integration authority can collaborate with entities like the Vocational Center and the Guidance Office.

If it concerns a family with children, the plan should also outline the steps parents can take to give their children a good start in the Faroe Islands. It should also explain the expectations for children's participation in daily activities at daycare and school and, in general, the expectations for child-rearing in Faroese society.

The integration authority can also refer immigrants to Faroese language courses if needed. Teaching Faroese as a second language is offered but not mandatory, but it is important to clarify that those who intend to obtain permanent residence in the Faroe Islands must pass an exam in Faroese as a second language. See also the comments on § 7 and the Act on Faroese as a Second Language.

It is also stipulated that the government minister can set detailed rules about what the integration interview should include.

On § 7

Immigrants covered by the Act of the Faroese Parliament who are of compulsory school age according to the Act on Public Schools will be offered free instruction in Faroese according to the Act on Faroese as a Second Language. However, this does not apply to requested courses according to § 5 of the Act on Faroese as a Second Language.

It is stipulated that the same immigrants will be offered a free course on Faroese culture and social conditions. The purpose of this is for immigrants to know their rights and obligations in society, to become active participants in democracy with influence and responsibility, and to be active participants in cultural life and cultural offerings.

The main goal of the Integration Act is to ensure that immigrants have the opportunity to utilize their skills and abilities and to participate in society on an equal footing with other citizens, in accordance with the fundamental values and norms of society. The courses are expected to be organized in consultation with the Ministry of Children and Education, and a curriculum will be developed.

Attendance is mandatory for the course on Faroese culture and social conditions, but there is no requirement for an exam.

The government minister is authorized to set detailed rules about the content and duration of the course on Faroese culture and social conditions.

On § 8

It is stipulated that immigrants covered by the law who have children under the age of 15 will be offered a course in parenting guidance.

When families with children arrive in the country, there can be significant differences in culture and child-rearing practices between the country they come from and the Faroe Islands. To ease this transition and to explain the expectations for parents and child-rearing in Faroese society, the plan is to offer a short parenting guidance course. It is expected that Gigni will conduct these courses. Gigni's primary expertise is working with, guiding, and advising individual families according to their needs and supporting the development of the child and family.

After completing the course, participants can be offered the opportunity to join a "parent group."

It will also be possible to offer parenting courses covering other age groups, such as courses for parents of teenagers.

The course is an offer to immigrants, and it is up to the immigrant to decide whether to accept this offer.

The government minister is authorized, in consultation with the government minister responsible for children and education, to set detailed rules about the content and duration of the course.

On § 9

It is stipulated that the integration authority provides the residential municipality with necessary information so that the municipality can offer relevant courses to the immigrant and inform them about leisure activities, public events, etc., in the area. The necessary information

primarily includes basic identity and contact information, i.e., name, address, phone number, and email. This does not involve sensitive personal information.

If the integration authority deems that the immigrant needs specific or special integration services, the integration authority can provide the residential municipality with sensitive personal information, such as ethnicity, significant social issues, health information, or other private matters. This is conditional upon the immigrant providing explicit consent for these specific details to be shared with the residential municipality.

On § 10

It is stipulated that the integration area and the residential municipality must work to ensure good integration for children. This work is primarily done by communicating with the parents and collaborating with and between the authorities and institutions responsible for or working with children's well-being and development. The integration area and the residential municipality are not experts in pedagogy, and it is therefore important that they consult with individuals who have expertise and experience in working with children regarding their well-being and learning.

The integration authority can inform and guide the integration area and the residential municipality on cultural differences and intercultural collaboration. Additionally, the integration authority can facilitate the collection and dissemination of knowledge and experiences related to the reception and integration of children to those working with children.

According to § 8 of this law, parents with children under the age of 15 are offered a parenting guidance course. See also the comments on § 8.

Overall, the integration area, the residential municipality, and the integration authority should prioritize immigrants with children in their guidance and advisory work. The guidance should particularly emphasize what parents can do to help their children learn Faroese and become active participants in leisure activities in the local community, such as encouraging them to form friendships with other children.

Emphasis should also be placed on the importance of parents learning Faroese, maintaining good communication and cooperation with daycare centers and schools, attending parent meetings, social events, etc.

On § 11

It is stipulated that the integration authority must notify the relevant municipality when immigrants with children arrive in the Faroe Islands. The municipality informs the school and daycare center, which must then take the necessary steps to ensure the children receive appropriate linguistic, social, and cultural development.

It is also stipulated that the integration authority must notify Gigni when immigrants with children arrive in the Faroe Islands. The purpose is to ensure that all children in the Faroe Islands have access to a health visitor and that the health visitor is aware that these families may need additional support to ensure the children's well-being and development.

It is recommended that special "mother" groups be offered to families with preschool-aged children, as this can be a good support for the family to settle into Faroese society.

Notification will be given without parental consent.

On § 12

It is stipulated that immigrants with children of preschool age can be offered a home visit by a health visitor. This is already specified in § 5 of the Act on Preventive Health Services for Children and Youth, which states that all children of preschool age can receive this offer. Usually, the offer is made at birth, and Gigni has not had information on which immigrants are coming to the country, making it impossible to offer the service.

The intention of this provision is to ensure that immigrants with children receive information about the services available to children in the municipality/integration area and what parents can do to ensure their children's well-being in a new country. Information can also be provided about the expectations for parents in the Faroe Islands, such as packed lunches, parent meetings, and leisure activities.

On § 13

To ensure that children are heard in important matters that concern them, it is stipulated that children, whenever possible, should be heard in the language they find easiest.

According to the Administrative Procedures Act and the general administrative principle of party consultation, children over 12 years old must always be heard in matters that concern them. Children younger than 12 years should be appropriately heard in matters that concern them unless it is deemed harmful to the child. Only in very special cases can decisions concerning children be made without the children being heard in advance.

On § 14

It is stipulated that public authorities must use interpreters in their operations when deemed necessary. The duty to use interpreters is part of the guidance obligation of administrative authorities under the Administrative Procedures Act. The purpose of the guidance obligation is to ensure that citizens receive the necessary information about their legal status, thus preventing them from being disadvantaged due to lack of knowledge, errors, or misunderstandings. The authority must generally ensure that the recipient is able to understand the guidance.

In addition to the guidance obligation under the Administrative Procedures Act, authorities may also have guidance obligations under special legislation. This is particularly relevant in the social services sector, where the Social Assistance Act imposes an extended guidance obligation.

It follows from legal principles that the more intrusive a decision is, the greater the obligation to provide guidance.

However, there is no interpreting service in the Faroe Islands. The 2011 integration report indicated a need for such a service and recommended establishing an interpreting service. When an interpreter is necessary, a private individual knowledgeable in Faroese, Danish, or English and the language to be interpreted is usually used. These private individuals typically do not have formal education or training in interpreting, especially for highly personal matters.

It is considered necessary to further investigate the possibility of establishing an interpreting service. At a minimum, individuals used as interpreters should receive some training to better equip them for the task.

The authority requesting the interpreting service pays for it.

On § 15

It is stipulated that the integration areas, together with the integration authority, must provide public information and guidance on relevant social conditions, the integration system, services and offerings provided by the integration area, the integration authority, and others. This means that the integration area has the primary responsibility for information and guidance in its area.

The integration authority should provide overarching information and guidance and also inform and guide the integration areas, produce, and distribute informational materials about Faroese society, customs, and culture in appropriate media.

It is also stipulated that the government minister, in consultation with the municipalities, can set detailed rules about the division of responsibilities between the integration area and the integration authority.

On § 16

It is stipulated that the integration authority must guide and advise authorities, institutions, integration areas, municipalities, and voluntary organizations working on integration. The purpose is, among other things, to ensure that integration services across the country are at the same level, as much as possible, and that measures and initiatives are continuously developed.

This also acknowledges that integration happens throughout society and that the entire society is responsible for ensuring that immigrants become part of Faroese society on an equal footing with other citizens.

The integration area and the municipality may need to receive personal data in connection with various activities under the integration law. In accordance with data protection requirements (GDPR), necessary information can only be shared with the consent of each individual. Initially, this does not involve sensitive information, but rather details such as name, address, phone number, and email.

If it is exceptionally necessary to collect and share sensitive personal data, such as information about ethnicity, significant social issues, health information, or other private matters, this should only be done with the individual's consent and only if the information can be shared in accordance with data protection regulations. Reference is made to the Act on Data Protection.

It is also stipulated that authorities, institutions, municipalities, organizations, etc., can apply for support for integration-promoting measures and initiatives. These can include activities specifically aimed at children or immigrants from certain countries. Such measures and initiatives should be deemed suitable to promote integration for both larger and smaller groups of immigrants. A crucial condition for receiving support for integration-promoting measures and initiatives is that the activity or initiative is suitable to promote integration.

The integration authority provides support according to rules set by the government minister. The rules should describe when an activity is considered integration-promoting, when and how support can be provided, requirements for applications, documentation of expenses, reporting on the activity, and oversight of the allocated support.

The idea is also that reports on successful activities can be included in an idea bank so that more people can get ideas for integration-promoting activities.

On § 17

The plan is for the proposal to come into force on January 1, 2025. The proposal will apply to immigrants who receive a residence permit after this date. However, the offer of free instruction in Faroese as a second language applies to all immigrants who have obtained a residence permit in the Faroe Islands.

Immigrants who already have a residence permit can request to participate in an integration interview and attend the parenting guidance course.