



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

Immigrant Affairs Act, No. 116/2012, as amended by Act No. 61/2014.

Where mention is made in this Act of ‘the minister’ or ‘the ministry’ without further definition, the reference intended is to the Minister of Social Affairs and Equality or to the Ministry of Welfare, which is responsible for the implementation of this Act. Information on the division of responsibilities between ministries according to a presidential decree may be found [here](#).

Chapter I

Aim.

Article 1

Aim.

The aim of this Act is to promote a community in which all persons are able to be active participants, irrespective of their nationality and origin. This aim is to be achieved by means including:

- a. having immigrants’ interests mainstreamed in all policymaking, administration and public services;
- b. promoting broad collaboration and integration of measures and projects by entities involved in immigrant affairs;
- c. stimulating awareness-raising, education and the sharing of information regarding immigrant affairs and a community that is free of prejudice, and
- d. encouraging and supporting studies and developmental projects in the sphere of immigrant affairs.

Chapter II

Administration.

Article 2

The Multicultural and Information Centre.

A special body, the Multicultural and Information Centre, shall be operated under the supervision of the minister.

The minister shall appoint the director of the Multicultural and Information Centre for terms of five years at a time.

Article 3

Role of the Multicultural and Information Centre.

The tasks of the Multicultural and Information Centre include:

- a. to provide the government, institutions, enterprises, associations and individuals with advice and information in connection with immigrant affairs;
- b. to give the local authorities advice on the reception of immigrants who move into their local government areas;
- c. to compile and share information on immigrants’ rights and obligations;
- d. to monitor developments in immigrant affairs in society by means including the gathering, analysis and sharing of information;
- e. to bring to the attention of the minister, the Immigrant Council and other government bodies, tips and proposals for measures aimed at enabling all individuals to be active participants in the community irrespective of their nationality and origin;