



Social Inclusion and Access to Basic Services of Third-Country Nationals (AccessIN)

AccessIN Policy Survey Codebook: Social Assistance *AccessIN Deliverable D2.1 (Work Package 2)*



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Policy Area 4: SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Short description: This codebook aims to capture the conditions under which third-country nationals (TCNs) can access **social assistance and especially guaranteed minimum resources** in your country. By guaranteed minimum resources, we mean the cash benefits that do not depend on previous contributions to social insurance systems (usually, means-tested benefits conceived as the last resort of social protection or the ultimate “safety net” aiming to prevent extreme hardship and protect individuals/households from severe poverty). Note on terminology: in some countries, the term “guaranteed minimum income” exists as such, while in others it may be referred to as “integration/insertion income”, “social assistance”, “public assistance”, “welfare allowance”, etc.

We primarily focus on the eligibility conditions for accessing social assistance in the country in general, as defined in the national legislation of the EU Member State. However, some questions also enquire about additional schemes of social assistance available in specific cities (two per country).

As described in the *General Coding Guidelines*, before you start coding, please remember that:

- We recommend you to use the [MISSOC database](#), the chapters of [this book](#) and the [MiTSoPro indicators](#) as a departing point.
- In answering the questions below, please refer only to the policies/regulations that are in place at the time of coding, unless otherwise specified (e.g. for questions on recent policy developments over the past 10 years, the COVID-19 pandemic, or the war in Ukraine).
- The survey aims to capture the conditions of access to social assistance for different categories of third-country nationals, including: single permit holders authorized to work in the EU, seasonal workers, individuals with refugee status or subsidiary protection, family members of TCNs, and long-term residence permit holders. Any other group of TCNs (tourists, individuals with short stays up to 90 days, students and researchers, family members of EU citizens, unaccompanied minors, civil servants posted abroad, undocumented migrants, etc.) are NOT covered in this study and should therefore not be considered for the purposes of the data collection.
- When asking about specific schemes/programs to ensure the access of TCNs to specific services, please note that we refer specifically to programs/schemes adopted by public authorities (our survey hence does NOT cover services provided by non-governmental actors).
- The survey is divided into several sections. Section A includes general questions on the legal framework regulating access to social assistance in your country. You will then be asked specific questions on the eligibility conditions that TCNs must meet to access such benefits (Section B). Finally,

Section C will ask about your assessment of the strengths/weaknesses of the current policy framework regulating TCNs' access to social assistance and the main public authorities and civil society organisations that could offer assistance to TCNs in this matter.

Section A. General questions regarding the legal framework and basic principles regarding social assistance

Q1: Please specify the country you are coding.

Answer:

Q2: Please specify the most relevant pieces of legislation regulating access to social assistance in your country.

Please include the full name and the date of the laws/regulations in English and the national language(s).

Answer:

Q3: Please specify the terminology (in English and in the national language(s)) used in your country to refer to the scheme of guaranteed minimum resources and explain if this scheme is organised centrally, regionally, or locally.

Please also mention here who has the main responsibility in regulating this benefit (if this is a shared responsibility, please specify it as such). If applicable, please also specify the name in English and in the national language(s) of the national institution in charge of granting guaranteed minimum resources in your country (if there are several institutions, please list them all).

Answer:

Section B. Questions regarding the access of third-country nationals to social assistance

Section B.1 Questions on access to social assistance IN THE COUNTRY IN GENERAL (please note that the questions on specific schemes applicable in particular cities are included in Section B.2 below)

Q4: Please describe the general conditions under which TCNs can access guaranteed minimum resources in your country.

Please discuss here the conditions of access to the *non-categorical scheme* of guaranteed minimum resources providing a minimum income to all those who do not have sufficient resources to support themselves (see question below for categorical schemes). If such scheme exists in your country, please mention any requirements that may be of relevance (e.g., if applicants can be single persons and/or families; any residence period required; when means-tested, if income/properties in your country and/or abroad are considered; the procedure and documentation required for claiming the benefit; the duration for which the benefit can be received; if TCNs can leave the country while receiving this benefit, etc.). If different requirements apply for different categories of TCNs from

the ones covered in this study (single permit holders authorized to work, seasonal workers, individuals with refugee status or subsidiary protection, family members of TCNs, and long-term residence permit holders), please distinguish between the conditions applied for each category.

Answer:

Q5: In addition to the non-categorical scheme of guaranteed minimum resources mentioned above, is there any categorical scheme of guaranteed minimum resources specifically designed for elderly TCNs or for TCNs who are unemployed in your country? If so, please describe the conditions under which such schemes can be accessed.

If different non-categorical schemes exist for different categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study (single permit holders authorized to work, seasonal workers, individuals with refugee status or subsidiary protection, family members of TCNs, and long-term residence permit holders), please distinguish between the conditions applied for each category.

Answer:

Q6: Are TCNs who receive guaranteed minimum resources obliged to actively seek work or do community work?

If such obligations exist, please also mention here if any sanctions (benefit refund, suspension or revocation) apply if TCNs fail to fulfil these obligations. If different obligations apply for different categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please distinguish between the ones applied for each category.

Answer:

Q7: Are TCNs who receive guaranteed minimum resources also entitled to additional allowances (e.g. for housing costs, healthcare, transportation, etc.)?

If applicable, please briefly describe here such additional allowances. If different allowances exist for different categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please distinguish between the ones applied for each category.

Answer:

Q8: In addition to the social assistance cash benefits mentioned above, are there any non-financial social assistance provisions that TCNs can access in your country (e.g. services or advice or accompaniment, etc.)?

If several such non-financial services exist in your country, please mention here the ones that you consider most relevant. If different non-financial services exist for different categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please distinguish between the services applied for each category.

Answer:

Q9: Can claiming or receiving social assistance benefits affect in any way the access of TCNs to residence permits (or their renewal), their applications for citizenship or their applications for family reunification in your country?

If different conditions apply for different categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please distinguish between the conditions applied for each category.

Answer:

Q10: During the COVID-19 pandemic, have there been any specific initiatives/programs in the area of social assistance for TCNs living in your country?

If several initiatives/services/programs were implemented at the national level, please briefly describe here the ones that you consider most relevant, while specifying their duration, scope, content and which authorities initiated them. If such initiatives focused only on specific categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please specify it as such, while also briefly describing such schemes.

Answer:

Q11: Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have there been any targeted initiatives/programs in your country for the social assistance of Ukrainians fleeing the war?

If several initiatives were implemented at the national level, please briefly describe here the ones that you consider most relevant.

Answer:

Q12: Over the past 10 years, have there been any important policy developments at the national level aiming to either facilitate or restrict TCNs' access to social assistance?

Please mention any policy development that you did not already code in the questions above. If several policy developments were implemented at the national level over the past 10 years, please briefly describe here the ones that you consider most relevant. If such policy developments focused only on specific categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please specify it as such, while also briefly describing them.

Answer:

Section B.2 Questions on access to social assistance IN SPECIFIC CITIES (see Appendix 1 with the specific cities to be coded for each country).

Q13: In addition to the policies/programs/initiatives implemented in the country in general that you coded in Section B.1 above, are there any other additional initiatives in the area of social assistance for TCNs in any of the 2 specific cities identified in your country? If these are policies/programs/initiatives that were adopted by the subnational entity (region/province/community...) in which these cities are located, please make sure to include them here.

If several additional initiatives exist in any of the 2 selected cities, please briefly describe here the ones that you consider most relevant for each city. If such initiatives focus only on specific categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please specify it as such, while also briefly describing such schemes adopted at the city level. If any specific city-level initiatives were adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic or for Ukrainians fleeing the war, please also briefly mention them here.

Answer:

Q14: Over the past 10 years, have there been any important policy developments in any of the 2 selected cities aiming to either facilitate or restrict the access of TCNs to social assistance?

Please mention here only policy developments specifically designed at the city level. If several policy developments were implemented over the past 10 years in any of the 2 selected cities, please briefly describe here the ones that you consider most relevant for each city. If such policy developments focused only on specific categories of TCNs from the ones covered in this study, please specify it as such, while also briefly describing them.

Answer:

Section C. General questions regarding your assessment of the policy framework and the institutions/organizations that can assist TCNs in this area

Q15: In your expert opinion, which are the main strengths and weaknesses of the current policy framework regulating TCNs' access to social assistance described above?

Please reflect on the situation in your country in general and, if relevant, also in the 2 selected cities coded above.

Answer:

Q16: Are there any good practices for facilitating TCNs' access to social assistance in your country in general and/or in the two selected cities coded above that you would like to emphasize and which may be shared in the future in other contexts across the EU?

Please provide examples of any relevant good practices that you have identified in your country and/or in the two selected cities coded above.

Answer:

Q17: What kind of measures would you recommend to address existing gaps and challenges in TCNs' access to social assistance in your country?

Please reflect on possible remedies (potential legal/policy reforms, funding, preparedness/adequateness of institutions, etc.) to the gaps that currently exist in this area in your country in general and, if relevant, also in the 2 selected cities coded above.

Answer:

Q18: Please list here the main public institutions that can assist TCNs in accessing social assistance in the country in general and in the two selected cities coded above.

Please provide the names of such institutions in English and in the national language(s), while also adding the link to their respective website(s).

Answer:

Q19: Please list here the main civil society organisations that can assist TCNs in accessing social assistance in the country in general and in the two selected cities coded above.

Please provide the names of such institutions in English and in the national language(s), while also adding the link to their respective website(s).

Answer:
