

Enhancing Migrant Integration: The Role of Competency Assessment, Online Tools, and the SMARTY Project

The assessment and orientation processes for migrants are crucial in facilitating their integration into new environments, particularly in terms of employment and social adaptation. These processes involve evaluating key competencies of adult migrants and providing tailored orientation programs to support their transition.

Key Competencies Assessment

Various tools and methodologies are employed to assess migrants' competencies, focusing on skills, qualifications, and areas for development. For example, Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research conducts vocational orientation projects that include competence assessments, practical workshops, and language training to prepare migrants for the labor market. However, these assessments can be challenging due to language barriers and cultural differences. Mixed-methods approaches, combining qualitative and quantitative evaluations, help provide a more comprehensive understanding of migrants' competencies and needs.

Online Assessment Tools

Online assessment tools have emerged as an increasingly important method for evaluating the competencies of migrants, offering several advantages over traditional methods. These tools are accessible from anywhere, allowing migrants to complete assessments at their convenience—especially beneficial for those facing mobility issues or residing in remote areas. Additionally, online assessments can be scaled to accommodate large numbers of participants, facilitating quicker integration processes. They are also cost-effective, reducing the need for physical infrastructure and personnel, and provide immediate feedback, which is crucial for helping migrants understand their strengths and areas for improvement. Furthermore, these tools often include data collection and analysis features, enabling organizations to tailor orientation and training programs more effectively. By being customizable to suit different migrant groups, these tools ensure relevant and fair assessments.

SMARTY Project

Recognizing the benefits of these online tools, educational centers **Aretes** and **SOLIDARCI SOCIETA' COOPERATIVA SOCIALE** from Italy, **SOKO Verein zur Förderung sozialer und kultureller Kompetenzen** from Austria, **Volkshochschule im Landkreis Cham**





from Germany, and **Folkuniversitetet i Uppsala** from Sweden have launched the "SMARTY- a digital tool to assess adult's migrant skills towards social integration" project. This initiative aims to accelerate the social and professional integration of adult migrants by assessing key European competencies essential for social, professional, and personal life. The SMARTY App, central to the project, will assess competencies in areas like communication, logical thinking, work, and democratic cultures. Through gamification, the app will engage migrants in the assessment process and motivate them for further development. The project began in January 2024, with app development ongoing until December 2025. The project is cofinanced within the programme Erasmus + Strategic Partnership.

