

Now the Government of Catalonia will help you to access the social settlement scheme, extend the temporary residence permit and prove the adequate housing conditions in order to be able to carry out the family reunification procedure.

What is the reason for the introduction of this new system?

Since 30 June 2011, the Government of Catalonia assumes new powers in foreign affairs. Specifically, since the entry into force of the new Regulation of the Law of rights and duties of foreigners, the Department of Social Welfare and Family can issue the reports that prove:

- your degree of integration in order to access the social settlement scheme,
- the adequacy of your housing conditions to apply for family reunification and
- your integration effort to renew the temporary residence permit.

The Government of Catalonia will also issue the integration reports in order to obtain residence-based Spanish citizenship.

To produce these reports, the Government of Catalonia is collaborating with local councils, the nearest level of government, where you would have to submit your request. Once all the documents are collected and evaluated, the Government will make a favourable or unfavourable decision in the reports, which then would be sent to the Immigration Offices of the Government of Spain, where immigration cases are resolved.

New reports for foreign citizens

The administration of the State Government and local authorities has recognized the "mandatory and determining" character of the reports on family reunification and social integration. Regarding the renewal of temporary residence permit, the reports are optional, but recommended for those who wish to renew their permits but do not meet all the requirements.

Why should I request the reports?

These reports are issued in order to:

- · carry out the family reunification procedure,
- access the temporary residence permit based on social settlement
- renew temporary residence if you do not meet all the requirements.

The Government of Catalonia will also issue the integration reports in order to obtain residence-based Spanish citizenship.

How can one prove the integration in Catalonia?

The Government of Catalonia will consider:

- knowledge of the country's official languages, Catalan and Spanish (plus Aranese in the Aran Valley),
- knowledge of the host society (basic rules of coexistence, fundamental rights and duties, tax obligations, the country's history, its identity ...),
- knowledge of the labour market (the basic rights and duties of workers, the role of trade unions, employment for an employee or self-employment...)..

Your effort counts!

The Immigration Law of Catalonia will bring about a first reception service around the country that will provide training for immigrants in these three areas. Those who attend these courses will receive the corresponding certificate of attendance, which will be useful when applying for the reports for foreign citizens.

But while this Immigration Law has not been deployed yet, one can provide other appropriate documents to prove the degree of integration (Catalan courses attendance, information sessions attendance, social and labour integration, etc.).

Where should one go?

We make it easy for you. You should submit your application **preferably** in the city council of the municipality where you are registered. This will simplify the processing of your application for the report.

How does the new system work?

The Government of Catalonia works together with city councils and the Spanish State, to provide the best service to the citizens interested in obtaining these reports.

The first step is to present the request to the city council you are registered, which will enable the transfer it to the Government of Catalonia. No later than in 30 working days, counting from the date in which the request

New reports for foreign citizens

has entered the Registrar of the General Directorate for Immigration, the applicant will be notified if the report is favourable or unfavourable.

At the same time, the Government will transfer the reports to the Immigration Offices of the Government of Spain, where the main proceedings on family reunification, social settlement and the residence permit renewal are solved.

Further information:

- Your city council or local council.
- Calling 012, telephone number for immigration matters.
- The website of the **Directorate General for Immigration**: www.gencat.cat/benestarsocialifamilia/immigracio/estrangeria.
- In the office of the Department of Social Welfare and Family Affairs of the Government of Catalonia: www.gencat.cat/benestarsocialifamilia/informacio.



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