**Notes accompanying Deliverable A**

This deliverable covers the following modes of naturalisation:

**TAB 1:** ***Ordinary naturalisation*** – residence-based naturalisation, which does not foresee any waivers of conditions normally envisaged for applicants.

**TAB 2:** ***Discretionary naturalisation on grounds of national interest*** – fully discretionary naturalisation, where authorities waive all or almost all naturalisation conditions.

**TAB 3:** ***Discretionary facilitated naturalisation on grounds of national interest*** –discretionary naturalisation, where authorities waive some but not all naturalisation conditions.

*Additional types of acquisition of citizenship:*

In addition to these three modes, there are further 24 types of acquisition of citizenship in the European Union, which include the facilitation of conditions for certain ethnic groups (e.g., Sephardic Jews in Spain and Portugal; ethnic kin in Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, etc.; citizens of other EU Member States); on grounds of family links (e.g., full or partial adoption); on humanitarian grounds (e.g., refugees, stateless, etc.); on grounds of socialisation (e.g., completion of school), etc. Each of these 24 modes is accompanied by specific conditions, waivers, and procedures. They are **not** included in the scope of this analysis.

In the future and for another project, the European Commission might be interested in investigating in detail the programmes directed towards the naturalisation of ethnic kin. For instance, in Hungary, since the opening of the programme in 2010, one million of people have been naturalised in this way.

*Note on provisions related to marriage:*

In Tab 2 and Tab 3, provisions related to marriage have been marked as N/A when they were the same as in ‘ordinary naturalisation’ (Tab 1). Information was added when there were special naturalisation provisions applying to spouses of applicants admitted through these types of naturalisation.

*Note on scrutiny mechanisms:*

In the column ‘scrutiny mechanisms or reporting obligations’ (cell H3) there is normally no direct scrutiny over naturalisation by state institutions. However, there might be possibilities for judicial review (the onus is on the applicant, not the state), and these have been inserted in the column.

*Statistical data:*

Statistical data provided in January 2018: Statistical data, which are available through national statistical agencies and Eurostat are marked as ‘cumulative’. This means that such data include information on the number of all naturalised people in a given Member State and are not disaggregated by naturalisation mode. Requests for free access to information have been sent to national statistical agencies and governments for disaggregated data by naturalisation type (see below).

Statistical data updated in September 2018: The Table has been completed by the data provided by the competent authorities responsible for granting naturalisation. The data was obtained through the stakeholder consultation completed in March 2018. This data is identified by the preceding ‘Data from CA’ indication. In some instances (e.g. BG, CY, CZ, EE, FR, EL, ES, IE, PT) the number of filed applications in a year does not correlate with the number of successful/unsuccessful applications (marked in red font). Some competent authorities indicate that this is due to the fact that the number of successful/unsuccessful applications may also reflect applications pending from other years. Although this has not been indicated in all instances where this is the case, it is assumed that the lack of correlation is due to the same cause.

The request for statistical information was not answered by the Italian and Polish authorities.

*Some procedures are set out in internal documents:*

As naturalisation is a highly discretionary power of the state (often referred to as ‘the bastion of the state’s sovereignty’), many procedures, especially those related to security checks are regulated by internal administrative rules and procedures, which are not available to the public.

*Note on checking criminal records:*

In most Member States, checking the criminal records of the naturalisation applicant is a discretionary power of the competent national authorities. Therefore, in all three tabs of the Excel table Deliverable A, in most instances, column X (check of EU and international databases when carrying out the check of criminal records) indicates that this is a discretionary power of the competent authorities. There is, however, no source indicating the specific databases that national competent authorities consult in checking the criminal records of the naturalisation applicant.

*Note on definitions of habitual, continuous and legal residence:*

Furthermore, the definitions of what constitutes “habitual”, “continuous”, “legal” residence under the national legislations have not been included as this varies across Member States and it will be further analysed in Deliverable B and Deliverable D.

*Cross-references where legal provisions are extensive:*

In instances where the legal provision is extensive, only a cross-reference to the referred legal provision has been included. This relates mainly to exceptions to the requirement of renunciation of another nationality and the cases in which individuals can be excluded from their eligibility to naturalisation due to a criminal record.

*Note on the Maltese entry (discretionary naturalisation):*

Finally, in Tab 2 (discretionary naturalisation), there seems to be a contradiction in the Maltese legislation regarding the requirements on residence, criminal record checks and marriage. However, this is due to the fact that there are two legal provisions regulating discretionary naturalisation in Malta: Article 10(9)(a) of the Maltese Citizenship Act which grants naturalisation to individuals who have rendered the services listed therein and Article 10(9)(c) of the same Act, which was recently added, and which refers to different services. These provisions simply regulate different cases and therefore set out distinct requirements. This has been explained in the comments column (cell AG22 of the Excel document).