

Migration policy

The Government will promote work-related migration that enhances employment in Finland, boosts public finances, improves the dependency ratio and contributes to the internationalisation of the economy. The whole of Europe is ageing and will have to deal with the resulting problem of public deficits. Immigrants enhance our innovation capacity and increase our know-how by bringing their cultural strengths to Finnish society. More and more young people are leaving Finland to study abroad, and we will have to compete for our own youth as well.

The Government will encourage open debate about migration policy but will not tolerate racism. We will promote a tolerant and humane national discussion culture. An independent study of the costs of migration and its impact on Finnish society will be conducted to enable facts-based discussion, better integration policies and better decision-making.

Refugee policy

To participate in the international sharing of burdens, the number of quota refugees will be maintained at least at the same level. The central government will increase cooperation with municipalities and provide sufficient resources for that.

EU affairs

We will be actively involved in EU-level discussions on migration policies, including social security and human trafficking. The Finnish residence-based social security system will be clarified as part of the social security reform.

Non-EU and non-EEA migrants

Migration should be well managed. Procedures will be reviewed to speed up the processing of asylum applications, to ensure swift decisions and returns, and to prevent possible abuses. Participation in the activities of organisations designated as terrorist organisations by the UN or the EU will be criminalised.

Procedures will be reviewed to speed up removal from the country of those who have committed aggravated offences, those who pose a danger to public security, and any recidivists.

The Government welcomes work-related migration. As a general rule, testing for domestic availability of labour will continue as before. Availability testing for non-EU labour migration will be eased up when this supports employment and public finances, enables businesses to employ high skilled people more quickly, improves labour availability at a regional level and for different sectors, and facilitates practical processes. Collective agreements will be respected.

Measures should be taken to enhance integration, for example by increasing language teaching that takes better account of prior language skills of those integrated into Finnish society, by improving support person services and by encouraging children to attend early childhood education. Family reunification criteria will be reviewed to comply with the EU Family Reunification Directive.

Tuition fees will be introduced for non-EU and non-EEA students, and those who have completed their studies will be encouraged to stay and work in Finland, for example with a tax deduction. The employment opportunities of foreign students who have studied in Finland will be promoted and their knowledge of the Finnish language emphasised.

Activities should be cross-sectoral, and exchange of information between the authorities should be enhanced. The Government will encourage different actors in society to increase contacts between native Finns and immigrants. The risk of social exclusion among young immigrants, in particular, will be identified and special attention paid to the integration of uneducated women staying at home.