

Publications of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment  
Enterprises • 2025:4

# Government Integration Programme 2024–2027

Government Resolution



Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment of Finland

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# Government Integration Programme 2024–2027

## Government Resolution

Anna Bruun

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland Helsinki 2025

**Publication distribution**

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for the Government  
of Finland Valto**

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Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland  
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ISBN pdf: 978-952-327-754-0  
ISSN pdf: 1797-3562

Layout: Government Administration Department, Publications

Helsinki 2025 Finland

## Government Integration Programme 2024–2027 Government Resolution

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**Publications of the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs and Employment 2025:4**

**Subject**

Integration

**Publisher**

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

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**Author(s)**

Anna Bruun

**Language**

English

**Pages**

37

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### Abstract

In accordance with the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration, the Government decides on the national development of the promotion of integration by drawing up a government integration programme that contains the objectives and measures for the promotion of integration during the government term. The Government Integration Programme was prepared according to the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government and it covers the period of 2024–2027. The quotations from the Government Programme are in italics.

As per the Government Programme, integration policy is based on the learning of Finnish or Swedish, employment, familiarisation with Finnish society and compliance with its rules. Finland is an open society that provides help and encouragement to newcomers to the country. The Government will ensure that there are opportunities for integration by imposing greater responsibility on immigrants for their integration and by introducing requirements into the system. The focus of the system will be shifted away from the rights of newcomers towards their obligations and own responsibility.

The objectives for integration during the government term are 1. Integration in Finland through work, 2. Immigrants to take more responsibility for their integration with an increased focus on their obligations, 3. Combating the emergence of parallel societies, and 4. Integration is in the interests of the whole family. The Programme includes 32 measures to achieve these objectives.

The implementation of the Government Integration Programme will be funded within the limits of the Budget and the General Government Fiscal Plan. The Programme was prepared in cross-sectoral cooperation. At the level of public officials, the preparation was guided by a cooperation group on the promotion of integration.

**Keywords**

integration, integration (immigrants), immigration, employment, language learning

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**ISBN PDF**

978-952-327-754-0

**ISSN PDF**

1797-3562

**Reference number**

VN/33128/2023

**Project number**

TEM119:00/2023

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**URN address**

<https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-327-754-0>

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## Valtion kotoutumisen edistämishjelma 2024–2027 Valtioneuvoston periaatepäätös

**Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriön julkaisuja 2025:4** **Teema** Kotoutuminen

**Julkaisija** Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö

**Tekijä/t** Anna Bruun

**Kieli** englanti

**Sivumäärä** 37

### Tiivistelmä

Kotoutumisen edistämisestä annetun lain mukaisesti valtioneuvosto päättää valtakunnallisesta kotoutumisen edistämisen kehittämisestä laatimalla hallituskaudelle kotoutumisen edistämisen tavoitteet ja toimenpiteet sisältävän valtion kotoutumisen edistämishjelman. Valtion kotoutumisen edistämishjelma on valmisteltu pääministeri Petteri Orpon hallitusohjelmakirjausten mukaisesti ja se kattaa vuodet 2024–2027. Ohjelmaan sisältyvät hallitusohjelmataatit on merkitty kursivilla.

Hallitusohjelman mukaisesti kotoutumispolitiikka perustuu suomen tai ruotsin kielen oppimiseen, työntekoon sekä suomalaisen yhteiskuntaan perehtymiseen ja sen sääntöjen noudattamiseen. Suomi on avoin yhteiskunta, joka auttaa ja kannustaa alkuun uudessa yhteiskunnassa. Hallitus varmistaa kotoutumisen mahdollisuuksia lisäämällä maahanmuuttajan omaa vastuuta kotoutumisestaan ja muuttamalla järjestelmää velvoittavaksi. Painopistettä siirretään tulijan oikeuksia painottavasta järjestelmästä tulijan velvollisuuksia ja omaa vastuuta painottavaan järjestelmään.

Hallituskauden kotouttamisen tavoitteet ovat 1. Suomeen kotoudutaan työllä, 2. Maahanmuuttajan oma vastuu kotoutumisestaan lisääntyy ja järjestelmä on velvoittavampi, 3. Torjutaan rinnakkaisyhteiskuntien syntyminen ja 4. Kotoutuminen on koko perheen etu. Ohjelma sisältää 32 toimenpidettä näiden tavoitteiden saavuttamiseksi.

Ohjelman toteuttaminen rahoitetaan valtion talousarvion ja julkisen talouden suunnitelman rajoissa. Valtion kotoutumisen edistämishjelmaa on valmisteltu poikkihallinnollisena yhteistyönä. Valmistelua on virkamiestasolla ohjannut kotoutumisen edistämisen yhteistyöryhmä.

**Asiasanat** kotouttaminen, kotoutuminen (maahanmuuttajat), maahanmuutto, työllisyys, kielen oppiminen

**ISBN PDF** 978-952-327-754-0

**Asianumero** VN/33128/2023

**ISSN PDF** 1797-3562

**Hankenumero** TEM119:00/2023

**Julkaisun osoite** <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-327-754-0>

## Statens program för integrationsfrämjande 2024–2027 Statsrådets principbeslut

**Arbets- och näringsministeriets publikationer 2025:4** Tema Integration

**Utgivare** Arbets- och näringsministeriet

**Författare** Anna Bruun

**Språk** engelska

**Sidantal** 37

### Referat

I enlighet med lagen om främjande av integration beslutar statsrådet om det nationella utvecklandet av integrationsfrämjande genom att för regeringsperioden utarbeta ett statligt program för integrationsfrämjande där målen och åtgärderna för integrationsfrämjandet anges. Statens program för integrationsfrämjande har beretts i överensstämmelse med föresatserna i regeringsprogrammet för statsminister Petteri Orpos regering, och det omfattar perioden 2024–2027. De regeringsprogramavsnitt som ingår i programmet har markerats med kursiv stil.

I enlighet med regeringsprogrammet grundar sig integrationspolitiken på arbete och det att personer som integreras lär sig finska eller svenska samt att de kommer in i det finländska samhället och följer samhällets regler. Finland är ett öppet samhälle som hjälper och uppmuntrar under den första tiden i det nya samhället. Regeringen säkerställer möjligheterna till integration genom att öka invandrarnas eget ansvar för sin integration och göra systemet förpliktande. Systemet går från att betona den nyanländas rättigheter till att betona den nyanländas eget ansvar och skyldigheter.

Regeringsperiodens mål för integrationsfrämjande är 1. Nyckeln till integration i Finland är arbete, 2. Invandrare har ett större ansvar för sin integration i ett mer förpliktande system, 3. Parallella samhällen förebyggs och 4. Integration är i hela familjens intresse. Programmet innehåller 32 åtgärder som syftar till att målen ska nås.

Genomförandet av programmet finansieras inom ramen för statsbudgeten och planen för de offentliga finanserna. Statens program för integrationsfrämjande har beretts i ett förvaltningsövergripande samarbete. Beredningen har på tjänstemannanivå styrts av samarbetsgruppen för integrationsfrämjande.

**Nyckelord** integration, integration hos invandrare, invandring, sysselsättning, språkinläring

**ISBN PDF** 978-952-327-754-0

**Ärendenummer** VN/33128/2023

**ISSN PDF** 1797-3562

**Projektnummer** TEM119:00/2023

**URN-adress** <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-327-754-0>

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# 1 Principles of the Government Integration Programme 2024–2027

In accordance with the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration (1386/2010; hereinafter also the *'Integration Act'*), the Government decides on the national development of the promotion of integration by drawing up a government integration programme that contains the objectives and measures for the promotion of integration during the government term. The Government Integration Programme was prepared according to the entries of the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government and it covers the period of 2024–2027.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment was responsible for the preparation of the Programme. The preparation was guided by a cooperation group on the promotion of integration headed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, and the Programme was discussed by the ministerial working group on internal security and administration of justice on 26 November 2024, the ministerial working group on employment and entrepreneurship on 11 December 2024, and the ministerial working group on children, youth and families on 10 December 2024. The Programme was adopted in a government plenary session with a Government Resolution on 16 January 2025.

A hearing was held on the Government Integration Programme with the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations on 28 November 2023 and another hearing with the integration partnership programme on 14 December 2023. In total, these hearings had approximately 250 participants representing municipalities, Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres), educational institutions, wellbeing services counties, immigrant organisations and research institutions. A summary of the stakeholder discussions was published in the Hankeikkuna service (TEM119:00/2023; only in Finnish).

The implementation of the Programme will be funded within the limits of the Budget and the General Government Fiscal Plan. The Ministries central to the promotion of integration have defined objectives and measures for the promotion of integration in their administrative branch as part of their operational and fiscal planning in their respective branches.

The first Government Resolution on the Government Integration Programme was approved during the term of Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen's Government on 7 June 2012, and it covered the period 2012–2015<sup>1</sup>. The second Government Integration Programme was prepared during the term of Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Government, and it covered the period 2016–2019<sup>2</sup>. During the term of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government, the Report of the Finnish Government on the need for a reform in integration promotion<sup>3</sup> replaced the Government Integration Programme.

The Government Integration Programme takes into account the structural changes in the service system that will occur during the Programme period, and in particular, the employment service reform that will transfer the responsibility for organising employment services from the central government to the municipalities.

During the programme period, on 1 January 2025 the new Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration (681/2023) will enter into force and repeal the previous Act of the same name. With the Act's entry into force, the main responsibility for integration promotion will extensively transfer to municipalities, and the availability, cost levels, effects and equality of the services promoting integration provided by the municipalities must therefore be monitored. The Government Integration Programme takes the following into account as required by the new Integration Act:

- the promotion of equal and sufficient accessibility of services promoting integration in municipalities and wellbeing service counties,
- the national employment promotion objectives referred to in the act on the organisation of employment services (*Laki työvoimapalveluiden järjestämisestä 380/2023*), and
- the national objectives for referral to municipalities.

The purpose is to ensure that services promoting integration are available in Finnish municipalities, whose total population and immigrant population sizes vary.

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1 [Valtion+kotuttamisohjelma+21092012.pdf \(tem.fi; PDF in Finnish, summary in English\)](#)  
 2 [Government Integration Programme for 2016–2019 and Government Resolution on a Government Integration Programme – Valto \(valtioneuvosto.fi\)](#)  
 3 [Report of the Finnish Government on the need for a reform in integration promotion \(only summary in English\)](#)

## 2 Objectives for the promotion of integration for the period 2024–2027

In accordance with the Integration Act, the Government Integration Programme includes objectives for the promotion of integration for the government term. The integration objectives are defined in the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government.

### 2.1 Integration in Finland through work

*Integration policy will be based on learning Finnish or Swedish, work, familiarisation with Finnish society and compliance with its rules. Finland is an open society that provides help and encouragement for getting started in a new society.*

The aim of the Government is to increase employment by 100,000 people and to strengthen public finances. *Working-age people who are able to work have an obligation to participate in the labour market.* The employment rate in all population groups will be raised by reforming the labour market and removing welfare traps.

According to studies, the employment of immigrants increases with their period of residence in Finland. The reason an immigrant arrives in Finland affects their employment, and immigrants arriving for work have a higher employment rate than refugees or immigrant women who arrive for family reasons, for example. The Government promotes steering immigrants outside the labour force to services promoting integration and employment, and the participation in the labour market of groups that are currently underrepresented.

Employment promotes the integration of immigrants. Increasing employment also alleviates the labour shortage of businesses and strengthens public finances. The employment focus of services promoting integration has long been strengthened. The Government promotes integration and employment by highlighting the immigrants' own responsibility, activeness and obligations, and the integration system will be developed to encourage employment.

In addition to employment, the integration policy emphasises learning Finnish or Swedish, familiarisation with Finnish society and compliance with its rules. Learning Finnish or Swedish promotes integration and increases employment opportunities.

## 2.2 Immigrants' responsibility for integration will increase and obligations will be introduced to the system

*The Government will ensure that there are opportunities for integration by increasing immigrants' own responsibility for integration and by introducing obligations into the system. The focus of the integration system will be shifted from an emphasis on the rights of immigrants to an emphasis on their obligations and responsibilities.*

The purpose of increasing incentives and immigrants' responsibilities is to ensure that immigrants learn Finnish or Swedish, learn about Finnish society and find work.

The integration measures have been proved effective in studies and it pays to invest in integration. The identified obstacles to integration include the low employment rate of immigrant women and those with a refugee background, learning Finnish or Swedish, and discrimination in different areas of the society.

The aim is that more immigrants than currently participate in integration services at the earliest possible stage, as this would promote integration. This would also enable monitoring integration and providing support for it. Information exchange between authorities will be increased and participation in integration services under integration plans will be more closely monitored, among other matters. An incentive for integrating and learning Finnish or Swedish will be included in the benefits granted to immigrants. It will be required for the continuation of benefit payments that the immigrant participates in services promoting integration.

## 2.3 Combatting the emergence of parallel societies

*Finland is determined to combat the emergence of parallel societies.*

The term 'parallel society' does not have a commonly accepted definition. The term is used to refer to groups or communities that have become segregated or marginalised from the surrounding society and have fallen outside the structures and opportunities provided by that society. In combatting the emergence of

parallel societies, it is important to prevent development paths that could lead to their creation and the creation or expansion of the negative phenomena associated with them.

Identified risk factors of parallel societies include an increase in wellbeing gaps in society, narrow perspectives, and the socioeconomic and ethnic segregation of neighbourhoods. Various forms of deprivation develop in socioeconomically weaker areas, and activities violating the law, rules or common practices and values may occur fuelled by the inequality, such as crimes. The segregation or deprivation of neighbourhoods does not automatically result in a development path resulting in a parallel society, but the risks should be acknowledged.

Socioeconomic segregation and marginalisation amplified by an increasing wellbeing gap can strengthen negative phenomena, which include (youth) crime, radicalisation, and issues relating to gender equality, such as social control and honour-based violence. Segregation of neighbourhoods is not the cause but the result of the unequal distribution of income, employment, wellbeing and education in society, and of these differences being seen more in certain neighbourhoods than others as an effect of the housing market. The most effective way to prevent segregation is to address its root causes and to promote employment, education and wellbeing, and to develop the neighbourhoods.

## 2.4 Integration benefits the whole family

The employment rate of women will be increased in line with the Government Programme. Women's participation in integration training and their employment will be incentivised by reforming the benefit systems and increasing the obligations relating to integration. The employment of immigrant mothers will be promoted as part of the overall reform of integration services with an annual appropriation of EUR 5 million. Gender equality will be promoted as part of the efforts to combat honour-based violence and female genital mutilation.

The Finnish and/or Swedish language skills, school performance and degree completion of the children of immigrant families will be improved. Finnish or Swedish language skills and the successful integration of parents have a significant effect on the education and employment opportunities of their children. Support provided by schools to foreign-language-speaking children will be increased.

Families' opportunities to be responsible for their children will be increased. Families play a key part in creating opportunities for their children to integrate. The purpose of the measures promoting integration is to strengthen the resources and responsibilities of families to ensure opportunities for their children to grow.

Equal integration opportunities for children will be secured in early childhood education. This will improve their Finnish and Swedish language skills and their integration into Finnish society. The starting points for children of immigrant families will be improved by stabilising the level of appropriations for positive discrimination funding in early childhood and basic education. Measures that prevent and combat youth crime will be used to prevent young people from becoming criminals.

## 3 Measures for the promotion of integration in 2024–2027

In accordance with the Integration Act, the Government Integration Programme includes development measures for the promotion of integration for the government term. The integration development measures are defined in the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government. Direct quotations from the Government Programme are highlighted in italics.

### 3.1 Introducing incentives and obligations to the integration system

*The Government will ensure that there are opportunities for integration by increasing immigrants' own responsibility for integration and by introducing obligations into the system. The focus of the integration system will be shifted from an emphasis on the rights of immigrants to an emphasis on their obligations and responsibilities.*

#### 3.1.1 Incentives and obligations related to social assistance and the labour market support

*To promote integration, the Government will differentiate the social security system and social benefits of immigrants and permanent residents of Finland from each other, taking into account the constitutional requirements. The differentiation will be implemented as part of measure 1 (integration support), measure 2 (language allowance in labour market support) and measure 8 (Norwegian model for child home care allowance). More extensive changes to social security will be prepared separately (e.g. preparing a general social security benefit, the Social Security Committee and reforming social assistance).*

**Measure 1. The Government will implement the replacement of social assistance and labour market support with integration support for immigrants, which will include an incentive and an obligation to integrate** (integration support).

The Government Programme entry on *shortening the duration of integration support* will also be taken into account in the preparations.

*Implementation:* The measure requires legislative amendments. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is responsible for starting the preparations and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will participate in the preparations. The measure will be prepared in connection with the language allowance in labour market support (measure 2).

*Timeline:* A working group was established on 9 April 2024 to prepare the legislative amendments. The working group will draft its report in the form of a government proposal. The working group will draft the proposals by the mid-term policy review session, and the plan is to submit the government proposal to Parliament as a finance and expenditure act in autumn 2025, which means the act could enter into force at the start of 2026.

*Responsibility:* Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, main responsibility; Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, partial responsibility.

**Measure 2. The net level of labour market support will be brought into line with the basic component of basic social assistance. Sufficient and verified knowledge of Finnish or Swedish will increase labour market support to the current level (language allowance in labour market support).**

*Implementation:* The measure requires legislative amendments and it will be prepared in connection with the integration support (measure 1). The measure also requires preparing a process for testing and demonstrating language skills (measure 4).

*Timeline:* This measure will be implemented on the same schedule as measure 1 (integration support).

*Responsibility:* Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, main responsibility; Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will collaborate. In addition, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Finnish National Agency for Education will contribute to the development related to testing language skills.

**Measure 3. The Government will step up the use of reductions of social assistance and labour market support as a sanction if an immigrant fails to comply with their integration plan, participate in language training or pass the final test within the prescribed time limit.**

*Implementation:* Labour market support can be reduced and unemployment security consequences can be imposed currently as well. For increasing effectiveness, the preparations are connected to the integration support (measure 1) and the development of language training and language skill testing (measure 4). The need for legislative amendments will be assessed.

*Timeline:* Kela started reducing the basic component of basic social assistance again in the autumn of 2023. Any required legislative amendments will be implemented in connection with reforming social assistance and partly in connection with

measures 1 and 2. A government proposal on reforming social assistance is planned for submission in the autumn of 2025. The need for legislative amendments in relation to labour market support will be examined in connection with preparing the integration support.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (esp., social assistance and the amount of the labour market support) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (esp. unemployment security consequences) have the main responsibility for assessing the need for legislative amendments.

Kela and the Employment and Economic Development Offices (TE Offices) are responsible for implementation. From the start of 2025, municipalities and the Development and Administrative Services Centre (the KEHA Centre) of the ELY Centres will be responsible for the implementation instead of the TE Offices.

#### **Measure 4. Testing Finnish and Swedish skills and demonstration of language skills.**

The Government Programme includes several entries related to the testing and demonstration of the Finnish and Swedish skills of adult immigrants, such as measure 1 (integration support), measure 2 (language allowance in labour market support), measure 3 (reducing benefits as a sanction), measure 10 (conditions for a permanent residence permit and naturalisation), and measure 11 (integration services reform project). The entries are connected to the administrative branches or legislation of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of the Interior at the least.

*Implementation:* To consistently promote the different entries, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education and Culture set up a working group whose task is to support the two Ministries as well as the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in the language testing and language skill demonstration of adult immigrants, and in the implementation of the Government Programme entries related to a citizenship test. In addition, the working group is tasked with identifying the Government Programme entries related to the language training of adult immigrants by considering questions related to how extensively language training must be made available to ensure sufficient language skills, for example. The working group's tasks also include drawing up proposals for solving any identified risks. The working group's work can be used by different Ministries in legislative drafting and other project work. In addition, the entry on a citizenship test will be implemented with a dedicated project of the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry has established a separate working group whose task is to look into the implementation of the testing. More information on the citizenship test is under measure 10.

*Schedule:* The working group related to language testing was established in

October 2023 for a term of 31 October 2023–31 March 2027. The working group will produce solution proposals in the schedule required by the integration support (measure 1) and the language allowance (measure 2).

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Finnish National Agency for Education are partially responsible. The Ministry of the Interior has the main responsibility over the citizenship test.

**Measure 5. The Government will explore the possibilities to tighten the provisions of the act on residence-based social security in cross-border situations** (Laki asumisperusteisesta sosiaaliturvasta rajat ylittävissä tilanteissa 16/2019) to extend the required period of residence and raise the required income level.

*Implementation:* The measure requires legislative amendments. Setting up a working group is under consideration. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health would head the group and the preparatory work would be tripartite.

*Schedule:* Autumn 2024–spring 2025.

*Main responsibility:* Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

**Measure 6. The exchange of information on support granted by Kela to prevent misuse will be improved. The supervision carried out by Kela will be made more robust to detect misuse.**

*Implementation:* The implementation of the measure requires legislative amendments. Improving information exchange will most likely be implemented with support from a coordination project focusing on broad-based information exchange.

*Schedule:* The implementation will be carried out as part of the development of digitalisation and information exchange that will be carried out during the government term. Whether any legislative amendments are required will be assessed during the project.

*Responsibility:* Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and Kela have the main responsibility.

**Measure 7.** The Government will ensure that obligations concerning jobseeking and acceptance of work enter into force immediately after a person receives a residence permit and that these obligations are not suspended for the duration of services provided during the integration period.

*Implementation:* An obligation to apply for and accept work already exists, except for immigrants in full-time literacy training. There are also derogations from the obligation to apply for and accept work that correspond to the requirements laid down for the right to benefits of other jobseekers. The measure requires legislative amendments.

*Schedule:* The measure will be prepared as part of a larger-scale reform of employment services with the aim of submitting a government proposal to Parliament in the autumn of 2025. Might have connections to measures 1 and 2.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

### 3.1.2 Inventiveness and conditionality of benefits paid to immigrant parents, encouraging participation in the labour market

**Measure 8. We will implement the introduction of the Norwegian model so that the right to child home care allowance will begin after several years of residence.**

*Implementation:* This measure requires legislative amendments. The measure will likely be prepared in a working group focusing on a broader theme. The measure is related to measure 17 (increasing participation in early childhood education) and the theme of section 3.4 (improving the position of immigrant mothers) as well as the planned reforms to social assistance and labour market support. The measure is also related to the other social security reforms (measures 1–3).

Initial preparations were started in the autumn of 2023 by examining available options.

*Schedule:* Initial preparations started in autumn 2023. Required legislative amendments would be submitted to Parliament in autumn 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has the main responsibility. The Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment are partially responsible.

**Measure 9. We will ensure that the parents who have children under school age and who receive social assistance are directed to the labour market.**

*Implementation:* The preparations for this measure are related to the reform of social assistance and labour market support.

*Schedule:* The measure will progress according to the schedule enabled by measure 1 (integration support), measure 2 (language allowance) and measure 8 (Norwegian model for child home care allowance). Any required legislative amendments would be submitted to Parliament in the autumn of 2025 in connection with the social assistance reform.

*Responsibility:* Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, main responsibility; Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will contribute.

### 3.1.3 Increasing incentives for permanent residence permits and naturalisation

*The Government will tighten the requirements for permanent residence. The aim is to encourage integration and provide a view of a future in Finnish society. Finnish citizenship is not something that will be granted automatically. It will require successful integration.*

**Measure 10. The conditions for obtaining a permanent residence permit and naturalisation will be changed to encourage integration. The Government will reform the Nationality Act by tightening the requirements for naturalisation.**

#### **Project to reform the requirements for granting a permanent residence permit**

*Implementation:* The project to reform the requirements for granting a permanent residence permit requires legislative amendments. The project will implement the objectives of the Government Programme that relate to tightening the requirements for a permanent residence permit in terms of the period of residence, work history, higher education degree, income level, non-reliance on unemployment benefits or social assistance, sufficient language skills demonstrated in a language test, and integrity. In addition, the residence permit requirements for long-term residents related to language skills, employment and financial resources will be tightened within the limits of the relevant EU Directive in line with the changes made to permanent residence permits.

*Schedule:* The project was started in February 2024. The related government proposal is planned for submission to Parliament during the spring session of 2025, and the new legislation would enter into force on 1 January 2026.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of the Interior.

#### **Projects related to the Nationality Act**

*Implementation:* Three projects will be set up to amend the Nationality Act in line with the Government Programme. The first stage was related to the Government Programme entries on the period of residence. The key change implemented was that the period of residence required for Finnish citizenship was extended from five years to eight years.

*Schedule:* The legislative amendments on the period of residence entered into force on 1 October 2024.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Interior has the main responsibility.

The second stage of amending the Nationality Act relates to the income and integrity requirements, a person's obligation to contribute to the determination of their identity, and the revocation of citizenship.

*Schedule:* The government proposal is planned to be submitted to Parliament in the spring session of 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Interior has the main responsibility.

The third amendment stage of the Nationality Act relates to the introduction of a citizenship test. Among other matters, the Ministry of the Interior will examine different options for the citizenship test to be introduced in Finland and which party would be responsible for its organisation. A cross-administrative working group was set up for this work that was active from 29 November 2023 to 31 May 2024. The participants of the working group included the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, and the Finnish National Agency for Education. Based on the working group's report, the Ministry of the Interior will draft the required amendments to the Nationality Act. In addition, the project will review the dual citizenship system in accordance with the Government Programme.

*Schedule:* A government proposal on the citizenship test is planned to be submitted to Parliament in 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Interior, main responsibility; the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education and Culture will contribute.

## 3.2 Integration services reform project

### **Measure 11. A reform of integration services will be implemented.**

The purpose of the project is to reform integration services to be in line with the Programme of Prime Minister Petter Orpo's Government, according to which *integration in Finland is realised through work and the integration system will be reformed to encourage integration*. An immigrant's responsibility for their own integration will be increased and obligations will be introduced to the system. The basis of the project is the integration policy of the Government that is *based on language learning, work, familiarisation with Finnish society and compliance with its rules. Finland is an open society that provides help and encouragement for getting started in a new society*.

The project will prepare the legislative amendments required for the implementation of the entry in the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government, according to which *amendments will be made to the Integration Act and the integration system to shift the focus of the system from an emphasis on the rights of immigrants to an emphasis on their own obligations and responsibilities*. The government proposal to be drawn up will also implement the Government

Programme entry according to which *the Government will implement a reform of integration services, which will make the system more efficient and will bring funding under a single umbrella*. The funding under a single umbrella will secure the role of folk high schools in integration services. The project will also take into account the Government Programme entries on shortening the duration of integration support and on making the funding granted to organisers of integration training partly performance-based.

The objectives, content and monitoring of integration training will be determined in connection with the reform to make the system simpler and more efficient and to increase employment of immigrants. Funding for the training will also be brought under a single umbrella. The reform will be provider-neutral, meaning municipalities can procure the integration training from any organisation they deem fit, including private service providers, education institutions and liberal adult education providers.

In addition, the project will take into account the following Government Programme entries:

- The Government will explore ways to amend the Integration Act so that only one integration plan will be drawn up. For example, the practice of carrying out a separate initial assessment will be discontinued.
- The position of immigrant mothers will be improved as part of the overall reform of integration services.
- We will promote the flexible availability of language training included in integration services, including at workplaces.
- The expertise and experience of educational institutions will be put to use in implementing education and training in the country of origin, as well as in language training and integration training.
- Provision of integration training in Swedish will be increased.
- The Government will ensure that integration is possible in both national languages. The aim is for about 5–10 per cent of people to integrate in Swedish. The public authorities must provide clearer information on the possibility to integrate in Swedish. Immigrants must be able to choose the language in which they will integrate.
- Employment, level of education and the use of social benefits will be used as indicators of integration.

*Implementation:* The purpose of the working group is to support the drawing up of a government proposal for the implementation of the objectives and measures that are in line with the Government Programme. The working group will draw up

proposals for the implementation of the Government Programme entries advanced in the project for the use of political decision making. The aim is to establish a mutual understanding of the situation, produce options for solutions and prepare a government proposal.

*Schedule:* The term of the working group is 20 August 2024–31 December 2025. The government proposal will be drawn up with the aim that it will be submitted to Parliament during the autumn session of 2025.

*Responsibility:* Composition of the working group: chair and vice chair from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Members: the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of Finance, the Association of Finnish Cities and Municipalities, and representatives of the C6 and C23 cities and small municipalities.

**Measure 12. As part of addressing the shortage of personnel in healthcare and social welfare, international talents will be identified and wellbeing services counties will be supported in recruitment and in ensuring their personnel's language skills. We will explore the possibilities for creating language training that is uniform across the country.**

*Implementation:* A report will be commissioned that provides an overall understanding of the organisation of language training as part of the licensing processes for healthcare professionals that arrive from outside the EU/EEA. The Report will also include proposals for developing language training and organising uniform language training for different professionals, and it will be related to the broader Good Work Programme for the period 2024–2027. The expert group on the licensing process for international recruitment in healthcare and social welfare and on education supporting it (term 20 Feb–31 Dec 2023) assisted in drawing up the commission for the report on language training.

*Schedule:* The implementation plan for the Good Work Programme was published in December 2023 and the related work was started in the autumn of 2023. Work on the report was started in early 2024 and will be completed by the end of the year.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has the main responsibility. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Education and Culture/the Finnish National Agency for Education, and the Ministry of Finance will participate.

### 3.3 Ensuring that immigrants can integrate in both Finnish and Swedish

**Measure 13.** The Government will ensure that integration is possible in both national languages. The aim is for about 5–10 per cent of people to integrate in Swedish. The public authorities must provide clearer information on the possibility to integrate in Swedish. Immigrants must be able to choose the language in which they will integrate.

*Implementation:* Additional funding was allocated in the Government Proposal for the development of services provided in Swedish. Appropriations under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment's administrative branch have been allocated to the KEHA Centre for coordinating the development of integration services in Swedish, and to the ELY Centres of bilingual regions for procuring integration training provided as labour market training and other services in Swedish promoting integration and employment.

As a result of the budget negotiations of 2024, EUR 1 million in additional funding was allocated to liberal adult education with the purpose of increasing integration training provided in Swedish.

The monitoring of integration training in Swedish will be developed as part of information system development.

*Schedule:* The KEHA Centre recruited a person in the spring of 2024 who is responsible for the coordination and the development of the services. The activities are continuous. The ELY Centres of bilingual regions will procure integration training in Swedish and any other necessary services during 2024, after which the funding and responsibility will be transferred to the municipalities. Half of the funding (EUR 500,000) allocated to liberal adult education in the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture was distributed in connection with decisions on central government transfers to municipalities, and half (EUR 500,000) was distributed through a call for applications published by the Finnish National Agency for Education in February 2024 with the purpose of targeting funding at those who have exceeded their integration period. The additional funding will be directly targeted at providing training.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the KEHA Centre and the ELY Centres have the main responsibility. The Ministry of Education and Culture.

*Effects on the Budget:* An increase of EUR 1 million per year to appropriations in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment's administrative branch from 2024 onwards. In addition, it was agreed in the 2024 budget negotiations that EUR 1 million will be allocated to liberal adult education in 2025 and EUR 0.5 million in 2026. In addition, the provision of integration training in Swedish will be increased and developed as part of the integration services reform project (measure 11).

**Measure 14. Efforts to seek the placement of quota refugees in Swedish-speaking municipalities will be improved.**

*Implementation:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment sets regional municipal placement targets for ELY Centres annually. The Government Programme entry will be taken into account when setting the targets. The ELY Centres will agree with the municipalities in their region on municipal placements and the aim is to place refugees in Swedish-speaking or bilingual municipalities as well. This will be taken into account in the guidance letter sent to ELY Centres. The KEHA Centre's role in the development of guidance and advice skills of authorities will be strengthened. Referral to municipalities will be monitored regularly.

*Schedule:* The municipal placement targets will be set annually in the allocation letter on the appropriations allocated for specified government transfers paid for the promotion of integration, and the guidance letter sent to ELY Centres at the start of each year.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

### 3.4 Improving the status of immigrant mothers

**Measure 15. Promoting the integration and employment of immigrant mothers.**

*Implementation:* According to the Government Programme, EUR 5 million in additional investments will be allocated to promoting the integration and employment of immigrant mothers from the start of 2025.

The funding will be allocated to municipalities, and the required legislative amendments were made as part of the Government Proposal that was submitted to Parliament during the spring session of 2024. The legislative amendments entered into force on 1 January 2025. In addition, the development of training and services will be taken into account in the integration services reform project (measure 11). In addition to the above-mentioned funding, the employment opportunities of women with an immigrant background will be increased in the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture by creating a new training model to which EUR 5 million in government grants will be allocated annually to cover the costs of using liberal adult education institutions.

*Schedule:* The legislative amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility; the Ministry of Education and Culture will collaborate.

### 3.5 Promoting the integration of persons under temporary protection

**Measure 16.** An action plan will be drawn up to help people who have fled Ukraine to support their participation in Finnish society and to help them enter the labour market. As part of the action plan, the employment of Ukrainians will be promoted by increasing workplace education and training, the identification and recognition of qualifications, continuing education, license card training as well as by increasing career coaching and online job search training in Ukrainian.

*Implementation and schedule:* Work on the action plan was started in the autumn of 2023, and a working group to support the work was set up in December 2023.

[The Action Plan to Help People Who Have Fled Ukraine 2024–2027](#) was approved in June 2024.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, main responsibility; the Ministry of the Interior, partly responsible.

### 3.6 Promoting the integration of children and young people

**Measure 17.** The Government will raise the participation rate of children with an immigrant background in early childhood education and care.

We will increase the participation rate in early childhood education and care especially among children over the age of three. Although it has risen in recent years, the participation rate in early childhood education and care in Finland is still lagging behind the rest of the Nordic countries. We will target special measures at raising the participation rate of children with immigrant backgrounds in early childhood education and care. This will improve their Finnish and Swedish language skills and their integration into Finnish society.

*Implementation:* This measure is related to measure 8 (Norwegian model for child home care allowance), measure 9 (parents who have children under school age and who receive social assistance are directed to the labour market), measure 11 (integration services reform project) and measure 15 (promoting the integration and employment of immigrant mothers).

*Schedule:* As official work during the government term. Includes service coordination and making information provision more effective at child health clinics, for example. A working group was set up to carry out these tasks in collaboration with the Finnish National Agency for Education and municipalities.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Education and Culture, main responsibility; the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will participate.

**Measure 18. The Government will formulate clear objectives and testing for preparatory education for primary and lower secondary education, the completion of which will be a prerequisite for transitioning into general teaching. The funding for preparatory education will be extended to a maximum of two years.**

**In addition, we will make it possible to pursue preparatory education over the course of two years in situations where it is deemed necessary to ensure sufficient language skills. Sufficient funding will be reserved for this purpose.**

*Implementation:* Preparations have been started: The Ministry of Education and Culture has started a project focusing on the development of a language skill evaluation tool for pupils starting basic education. The development of preparatory education will be discussed in the KIEPPI project focusing on the basic education study paths of pupils with an immigrant background. The Ministry of Education and Culture has the main responsibility. EUR 3.5 million was reserved in the Government Programme.

*Schedule:* As official work during the government term.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Education and Culture.

**Measure 19. The Government will assess the effectiveness of teaching Finnish or Swedish as a second language and literature.**

*Implementation:* An extensive report on teaching Finnish or Swedish as a second language ('S2 education') was completed in 2022. S2 education is developed as part of the KIEPPI project focusing on developing the study paths of pupils with an immigrant background. One of the sub-groups focuses on the S2 education pupil selection and their transfer from S2 education to the basic 'Mother tongue and literature' syllabus. National guidelines will be drawn up in the project for the selection of the syllabus.

*Schedule:* During the government term.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Education and Culture has the main responsibility.

**Measure 20. The system of representatives for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers will be reformed. The role of the representative as the guardian of the child will be clarified.**

*Implementation:* The Act on the Reception of Persons Applying for International Protection and on the Identification of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (746/2011) and the Integration Act will be reformed as required.

*Schedule:* Preparations will start in the summer of 2024, and the government proposal is planned for submission during the autumn session of 2025, in which case the legislative amendments would enter into force on 1 January 2026.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Interior has the main responsibility. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has partial responsibility.

**Measure 21. Sports clubs instil a sense of community and belonging. Physical activity also plays an important role in the integration of immigrants.**

*Implementation:* The Ministry of Education and Culture supports equality work in sports and physical activities as part of the support provided to organisations promoting physical activity as well as with special grants within the limits of available resources.

*Schedule:* 2024–2027

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Education and Culture, organisations promoting physical activity.

### 3.7 Developing the integration system by targeting resources purposefully

**Measure 22. The Government will shorten the payment period for compensation paid to municipalities and wellbeing services counties for promoting integration of different types of integration clients from three to two years and from four to three years.**

*Implementation:* Prepared as part of the Government Proposal that was submitted to Parliament during the spring session of 2024, and the legislative amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2025. The measure will also be taken into account in the drafting of a decree in 2023–2024. The decree is planned to enter into force on 1 January 2025. The changes to funding were taken into account in the General Government Fiscal Plan 2024–2027 published on 9 October 2023.

*Schedule:* The legislative amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

**Measure 23. The level of compensation for interpretation costs will be lowered.**

*Implementation:* Prepared especially as part of the drafting of a decree in 2023–2024. More detailed provisions on the compensation of interpretation costs and the related compensation level are laid down by a government decree. The decree is proposed to enter into force on 1 January 2025. The changes to funding were taken into account in the General Government Fiscal Plan 2024–2027 published on 9 October 2023.

*Schedule:* The legislative amendments would enter into force on 1 January 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

**Measure 24. We will examine limiting the long-term right to interpretation services to three years, except in special cases.**

*Implementation:* A report will be drawn up on limiting the long-term right to interpretation services to three years, and further measures will be decided based on the report. This applies extensively to activities and services in all administrative branches, and more broadly to immigrants than just the integration clients. Provisions on compensating interpretation costs to municipalities and wellbeing service counties relating to the persons referred to in section 2, subsections 3 and 4 of the Integration Act are laid down in the Integration Act.

*Schedule:* The report will be drawn up as official work and the plan is to complete the work by the end of 2024.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility for drawing up the interpretation report. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of the Interior will participate.

**Measure 25. We will lower the Integration Act's age limit for receiving after-care in adulthood to the same level as in child welfare after-care.**

*Implementation:* Prepared as part of the Government Proposal that was submitted to Parliament during the spring session of 2024. The legislative amendments entered into force on 1 July 2024. The proposed amendments also apply to the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration that will enter into force on 1 January 2025. The changes to funding were taken into account in the General Government Fiscal Plan 2024–2027 published on 9 October 2023.

*Schedule:* The legislative amendments entered into force on 1 July 2024 and 1 January 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

**Measure 26. In the new Integration Act, we will cancel additional tasks to be assigned to municipalities, such as assistance with shopping.**

*Implementation:* An immigrant's responsibility over their integration will be increased. Prepared as part of the Government Proposal that was submitted to Parliament during the spring session of 2024, and the legislative amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2025.

*Schedule:* The legislative amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2025.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

**Measure 27. Employment, level of education and the use of social benefits will be used as indicators of integration.**

*Implementation:* This measure will be implemented as part of the implementation of the employment service reform and the Integration Act reform and the related employment service and integration monitoring and evaluation tasks of the KEHA Centre as well as part of the activities of the Centre of Expertise in Immigrant Integration of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The system for monitoring integration will be developed by introducing elements that monitor reliance on social benefits. The main aspects of the monitoring will be taken into account when the monitoring of services promoting integration is developed.

*Schedule:* continuous.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the KEHA Centre and the ELY Centres have the main responsibility.

**Measure 28. The Government will recognise and acknowledge the key role of the third sector in the diverse field of integration measures.**

*Implementation:* The measure will be implemented as part of the activities of the Centre of Expertise in Immigrant Integration of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the integration partnership programme.

*Schedule:* continuous.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

### 3.8 Finland is determined to combat the emergence of parallel societies.

**Measure 29. Honour-based violence will be identified and combated. Awareness of honour-based violence will be raised and the penalties related to honour-based violence will be increased.**

**The Government will take various measures to help persons who have been forced into so-called religious or cultural marriages not provided for in the Marriage Act. It is particularly important to try to influence attitudes within the religious and cultural communities in question. Other significant measures include raising awareness and helping victims to receive support and assistance.**

*Implementation:* The measure will be implemented as part of the work of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare on preventing honour-based violence. The provision of training to professionals and increasing awareness of honour-based violence will be continued, the ability to recognise and intervene with the phenomenon will be improved, collaboration with communities will be increased,

and the knowledge base of the phenomenon will be strengthened.

The Government Programme includes entries that relate to crimes endangering the life, health or liberty of another person and to punishments. In line with the Government Programme, the Government will take the necessary measures to clarify the punishability of coercion into marriage in the Criminal Code. The Government Proposal on the punishability of coercion into marriage (HE 65/2024) was submitted to Parliament on 6 June 2024. Related to this theme are also the Government Programme entries according to which taking a minor girl abroad to undergo female genital mutilation will be criminalised, and female genital mutilation will be more explicitly criminalised in the Criminal Code. The Government Proposal on amending the Criminal Code to more explicitly criminalise female genital mutilation (HE 69/2024) was submitted to Parliament on 13 June 2024. The implementation of these entries is also related to implementing the entries related to honour-based violence. The need to criminalise coercive control will be examined during the government term (2026–2027).

*Schedule:* Work to prevent honour-based violence 2024–2027.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare have the main responsibility for issues related to recognising, preventing and increasing awareness. For the legislative amendments, the Ministry of Justice is also responsible. Cooperation with organisations.

**Measure 30. The capability of the public authorities to identify female genital mutilation as a phenomenon and exchange information will be improved. The Government will step up measures to prevent female genital mutilation.**

*Implementation:* The implementation of the Action plan for the prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM) published in 2019 will be continued. An interim assessment of the Action Plan will be made. The provision of training to professionals and increasing awareness of themes related to female genital mutilation will be continued, the ability to recognise and intervene with the phenomenon will be improved, and collaboration with communities will be increased. The Government action plan to combat racism and promote equality approved on 5 September 2024 includes a measure for training professionals and boosting awareness of preventing honour-based violence. Recognition of the phenomenon and intervention will also be improved, collaboration with communities will be increased, and the role of the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations in boosting awareness will be strengthened. The measure will be implemented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations in 2024–2027.

*Schedule:* The interim assessment of the Action Plan will be published in 2024. The

other work is continuous in 2024–2027.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare have the main responsibility.

**Measure 31. The Government is committed to taking the necessary measures to resolutely combat and reduce youth and gang crime. To solve the problem, the Government will take a wide range of hard and soft measures. Intervention in the issue requires a multidisciplinary approach. The change will involve the whole of society, supporting the educational responsibilities of homes and parents or guardians, work against social exclusion and discrimination, as well as integration and immigration policies, and everything in between. By the end of 2023, the Government will draw up an extensive action plan to halt the rise in youth and gang crime in Finland.**

*Implementation:* The Government approved the Government Resolution on a cross-administrative action plan to prevent and combat youth and gang crime on 25 April 2024. The Action Plan includes 43 measures to prevent youth and gang crime, stop escalating criminal behaviour, investigate crimes, enforce criminal liability and make punishments stricter. The Action Plan recognises that more investments are required to promoting the integration and employment of stay-at-home immigrant parents.

In line with the Government Programme, the Government will ensure that there are opportunities for integration by increasing immigrants' responsibility for their integration and by introducing obligations into the system (measures under section 3.1). The additional investments, which are in line with the Government Programme, to the integration of stay-at-home parents (measures 8, 9 and 15) and to the education, early childhood education and other support of children with an immigrant background (measures 17–19) are also important.

The implementation of the Action Plan has been started. Each Ministry and authority are responsible for the preparation and implementation of the measures falling under their responsibility. Municipalities, wellbeing services counties and organisations also play an important part in preventing crime and stopping criminal behaviour. A total of EUR 2 million in annual funding has been allocated for the implementation of the Action Plan.

*Schedule:* The Action Plan was completed in April 2024.

*Responsibility:* Ministry of Justice, main responsibility; Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture, and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, partial responsibility.

### 3.9 Developing the receptiveness of working life

**Measure 32.** The reception capacity of working life will be strengthened to improve the employment of people with impaired capacity to work, immigrants, older people and those engaged in tasks requiring a low level of education, for example. The Government will assess the necessary measures and prepare a development programme.

An action plan will be implemented to increase the participation of under-represented groups in working life, such as persons with disabilities, the Roma, various immigrant groups, and immigrant women.

The Government will examine the models used to support the hiring of people with challenges finding employment in different European countries.

*Implementation:* To implement the entries, a working group was set up whose participants include ministries, labour market organisations, other organisations, municipalities and wellbeing service counties. The working group will prepare reports on measures that improve the receptiveness of working life and on the models used in different European countries to support the employment of people with challenges in finding employment. The working group will also summarise the results of action plans and projects on the same theme implemented previously and their results; prepare an action plan for increasing the participation in working life of people in a disadvantaged position in the labour market and monitor the implementation of the action plan; examine whether promoting the employment of this group of people requires any legislative amendments; and carry out any other tasks that would advance the targets of the working group.

*Schedule:* A working group was set up in March 2024 to support the preparation of the programme. The term of the working group is from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027. The work on the reports and preparations for the programme were started in 2024.

*Responsibility:* The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has the main responsibility.

## 4 Monitoring

Key monitoring indicators will be set for the Government Integration Programme that will be used to monitor employment, the level of education, language skills, reliance on benefits and the other objectives of the Programme, including integration in Swedish.

### Employment

- Employment rate of people with a foreign background born outside Finland (%)
- Employment rate of women with a foreign background born outside Finland (%)
- Employment rate of people with a foreign background born outside Finland categorised by background country group (%)
- Employment rate of people under international protection (%) if this can be monitored.
- Employment rate of Ukrainians under temporary protection (%)
- Share of employed people 1/3/5 years after registering as a client of employment services (information available from 2026 onwards)
- Participation rate: share of people who are part of the labour force, categorised by gender, of all working-age people with a foreign background born outside Finland (%)

### Education and language skills

- Share of people with a foreign background born outside Finland who have at least completed upper secondary education (%)
- Improvement of Finnish or Swedish skills (results of final tests; data collected from 2025 onwards)

## Income transfers

- The average net income transfers of people with a foreign background (over 15-year-olds) (€). In addition, reliance on integration support, social assistance, labour market support, earnings-related daily allowance and basic unemployment allowance.
- Number of reductions to the basic component of basic social assistance.
- Number of unemployment security consequences imposed on recipients of labour market support because of neglect related to services.

## Services under integration plans

- Number of women participating in services under their integration plan
- Number of women outside the labour force participating in services under their integration plan
- Average duration of participating in services under an integration plan
- Share of employed people 1/3/5 years after participating in integration services under an integration plan (information available from 2026 onwards)
- Participation of Ukrainians under temporary protection in integration services under their integration plan

## Children

- Number of children with a foreign background in early childhood education
- Share of foreign-language-speaking children, between 1 and 6 years of age, in early childhood education of the total amount of foreign-language-speaking children in the same age group

## Integration in Swedish

- Number of agreed municipal placements of refugees, incl. municipal placements in Swedish-speaking and bilingual municipalities.
- Number of people who integrate in Swedish

## **5 Preparation for the employment services and Integration Act reforms and the national objectives for referral to municipalities**

During the Government Integration Programme period, on 1 January 2025, the new Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration (681/2023) will enter into force and repeal the previous Act of the same name. At the same time, the responsibility for the organisation of employment services will be transferred from the central government to municipalities.

In line with the Integration Act entering into force in 2025, the Government Integration Programme takes into account the promotion of equal and sufficient accessibility of services promoting integration in municipalities and wellbeing service counties, the national objectives for the promotion of employment set in the act of the organisation of employment services, and the national objectives for referral to municipalities.

The Government Integration Programme will be coordinated with the plan for the implementation of the TE24 and KOTO24 reforms that support the reforms mentioned above.

### **5.1 Promotion of equal and sufficient accessibility of services promoting integration in municipalities and wellbeing service counties**

In line with the Integration Act entering into force in 2025, the Government Integration Programme takes into account the promotion of equal and sufficient accessibility of services promoting integration in municipalities and wellbeing service counties.

According to the Integration Act entering into force in 2025, the task of the KEHA Centre is to monitor and assess the effectiveness and functioning of integration promotion measures and to produce information on this. The monitoring of

integration clients includes both jobseekers and integration clients outside the labour force, about whom information is received through the client information system (KOTO-digi) currently under development. In the monitoring, attention will be paid to the use of employment services, the service process, resources, waiting times, development of language skills and employment, among other matters. The impact assessment of services promoting integration will be developed as part of the impact assessment of other employment services. The Incomes Register will be used in assessing the results of the services.

A working group was set up for the implementation of the Integration Act entering into force in 2025 whose tasks include monitoring and supporting the national preparations for the implementation. The steering group's mandate will end on 31 May 2025. The implementation of the reform will also be monitored by an inter-ministerial cooperation group on the promotion of integration.

## **5.2 National employment promotion objectives referred to in the act of the organisation of employment services**

According to the Integration Act entering into force in 2025, the Government Integration Programme must take into account the national employment promotion objectives.

The Government confirms the national employment promotion objectives once per government term. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for preparing the objectives with support from an advisory board. A report is commissioned on the state of employment services once per government term. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment monitors and evaluates the achievement of the objectives annually. The KEHA Centre is responsible for creating the knowledge base. The objectives and the report also pertain to integration clients using employment services as well as the services promoting integration provided to these clients. The national employment management objectives are strategic in nature and they will be approved for the first time in the government plenary session held in December 2024.

### 5.3 National objectives for referral to municipalities

According to the Integration Act entering into force in 2025, the Government Integration Programme must take into account the national objectives for referral to municipalities.

From the start of 2025, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for the national planning and development of the referral to municipalities, and for setting the national objectives for referral to municipalities for the regions of ELY Centres every year. The overall objective for referral to municipalities is set based on the assessments the Ministry of the Interior carries out in the context of the asylum procedure, and on the number of people who have been granted a residence permit based on temporary protection, and the annual refugee quota.

ELY Centres are responsible for the regional planning of referral to municipalities, which they carry out in collaboration with municipalities, wellbeing services counties, the Finnish Immigration Service, and the reception centres, family group homes and other authorities and third-sector operators in their region that are important for the referral to municipalities. ELY Centres will agree with the municipalities in their region on municipal placements and support the municipalities and wellbeing services counties in their region in preparing to host refugees. Municipal placements to Swedish-speaking and bilingual municipalities will also be negotiated.

The target groups of referral to municipalities based on agreements between ELY Centres and municipalities are quota refugees and unaccompanied minors and other groups in a vulnerable position. If necessary, other people can also be referred to a municipal placement. Most people living in reception centres who receive a residence permit move to a municipality independently. The Finnish Immigration Service supports those who independently move to a municipality from a reception centre to find an apartment and settle in the municipality, for example.

The costs the municipalities and wellbeing service counties incur from the organisation of the services required by the Integration Act are compensated to them. In addition to compensation paid under the Integration Act, municipalities and wellbeing services counties are supported with additional subsidies funded with a supplementary resettlement appropriation from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Commission. The Ministry of Economic

Affairs and Employment manages the resettlement appropriation through the action plan for the referral of refugees to municipalities and integration support that will be implemented in 2022–2027.

Electronic publications  
ISSN 1797-3562  
ISBN 978-952-327-754-0

Electronic version: [julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi](http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi)