

SUMMARY

Representatives from several organizations in Central Finland such as the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment; the Regional Council; the Jyväskylä Employment and Economic Development Office; municipalities; the Chamber of Commerce; trade unions; non-governmental organizations and many others have joined forces to put together the Central Finland immigration political program. The objective of the program is to suggest measures on how to improve the involvement of immigrants, develop immigrant services and promote work-related immigration. Two distinct areas of development that are present in several of the suggested priorities can be recognized:

- **offering Finnish language instruction and finding appropriate teaching practices for different types of learners and**
- **developing a campaign for attitude change aimed at the entire population.**

The program introduces seven priorities with different activities.

1. Immigrant employment and making use of the skills and knowledge of immigrants

- Starting employment projects that are innovative and involve immigrants themselves
- Developing the co-operation between employment and economic development offices, educational institutions, trade unions and immigrant organizations
- Developing entrepreneurship guidance for immigrants
- Speeding up the employment of immigrants by developing educational services

2. Promoting immigrant integration

- All municipalities in Central Finland have current integration programs in 2011
- All municipalities in Central Finland have immigration contact persons in 2011
- Increasing the skills and knowledge on immigrant integration of people who work in different services
- Establishing a consultant service to support the integration work being done by employment and economic development office employees across Central Finland
- Developing the facilities and coordination of integration work
- Investing in families, children and young people in immigration service development
- Improving the resources and involvement of immigrant organizations and making use of the skills and knowledge found in them
- Developing the availability and functioning of low threshold support services, mental health services and other special services to meet the special needs of refugees and facilitate their integration

3. Developing humanitarian immigration

- All municipalities in Central Finland make an official decision during the years 2010 and 2011 on whether or not to receive refugees in the future
- Developing the refugee reception facilities of municipalities in such fashion that all subregions in Central Finland will be able to participate in receiving refugees in 2011

4. Promoting work-related immigration

- Making sure that an adequate workforce will be available in the future by using public and private international recruitment services
- Making a description of the recruitment process of foreign workforce as a part of the service of employment administration
- Involving business life in providing services for work-related immigrants
- Promoting multicultural education and training to achieve attitude change in business life, companies and public services
- Further developing the guidance system for work-related immigration
- Participating in the national program "Increasing European co-operation in workforce, educational economical policy by promoting work-related immigration" started by the Ministry of Employment and Economy

- Ensuring and developing systematic and continuous proactive measures for working life and economic needs

5. Developing the employment opportunities of international students

- Improving the employment opportunities of international students to enable them to stay and work in Central Finland after completing their studies

6. Increasing the attractiveness of Central Finland and ensuring the availability of competent workforce

- Developing community planning and housing policy in such fashion that the needs of multicultural population will be taken into account
- Promoting equality by arranging multicultural education and training to achieve attitude change in the whole population
- Developing multiculturalism as a strength of the creative industry
- Increasing the attractiveness of Central Finland

7. Strengthening the structures supporting an active immigration

- Coordination and follow-up of immigration policy
- Developing research and proactive measures related to immigration
- Influencing national integration policy