



Asylum seekers – Challenge and Chance for the City

Sari Kanervo / 15.3.2016



32 476 Asylum seekers arrived Finland year 2015

- More than 120 new refugee centers and 60 units for under aged were established around Finland.
- The cost was 128,7 million euros
- 2016: So far only few people has arrived as asylum seekers.
- Big questions: General development in European Union and because of long shared border - the Russia



Integration law and costs

- The Integration law (2010) defines the basic lines and duties for municipality.
- The state carries economical obligation of costs of refugee centres.
- The municipality gets state compensation for the costs of those how get "the residence place of the municipality" about three years.

- Challenge: " There are 1700 agreed residence access to municipalities, but the need is approximately 10 000 -15 000



Refugee center (Transit unit)

In Turku there has been one Refugee center for years, maintained by Finnish Red Cross.

Last autumn Finland experienced "a flow of asylum seekers" like other European countries



Turku city provided several buildings (Old schools, hostel, hospital building) for Emergency Accommodation to Red Cross.



Housing and territorial segregation

Challenges:

- There is not enough apartments for a big number of new comers.
- The city owned apartments are centralized in the scattered suburbs.
- "Uncontrolled moving" to the city



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Social and health care services

- "Alien office" take cares the social and heath care of refugees for three years.
- Same benefits than unemployed Finns.
 - In discussion: Benefit should bet combined on learning, "Integration benefit"
 - Challenge: Tuberculosis (and other contagious diseases) and mental problems



Inclusion

- Individual "Integration plan" = Agreement made by "employment office" and/or municipality and migrant him/herself
- Family reunion
 - In discussion: Tighten rules for the family reunions
 - Reunion of spouse: demanded income 1700 euros /month
 - Reunion of Family: demanded income 2600 euros/month



Integration education

- "Preparatory studies" (one year) for children and youth. After that attend "normal class" of own age.
- For adults: "Integration education" (Finnish language and Social studies)
- "Cultural integration"



- Challenge: Illiterate and those without schooling or interruption of the Basic school, House wives



Employment

- Big unemployment rates also in General labor market
- Approval of foreign certificate and professions
- Discrimination in Labor market
 - Challenge: Adults who lack “western style” profession and skills
 - New courses and methods needed: combination of language studies and profession learning.



Safety and tolerance work

- The general atmosphere has been tight after "the flow of Asylum seekers" and a feeling of insecurity
- "Close the borders" -demonstrations and hate speech in the social media
- Isolated attacks against Refugee centers and individual asylum seekers
- Crimes made by Asylum seekers and arrestments



- The police carry general responsibility of safety
- Public hearings, Campaigns "like One Turku" etc.



Co operation with ethnic communities

- Official: Diversity advisory board
- Working group with Muslim communities
- Every divisions of municipality do separate cooperation with migrant NGOs in their own field



Chance

- Answer for the ageing population
- Answer for the becoming lack of work force
- New skills to the economic life and connection to the Middle east

Turku – without migrants?

- We might use only salt and pepper as spices
- Skeleton houses and unfinished ships
- We might have only one kebab-place, and not eat pizza or Chinese or Himalayan food
- Half of the buses wouldn't run
- Some patient or senior would be left without care
- The cultural life would be less diverse and football teams worse



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