



OAJ'S PROPOSALS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS THROUGH EDUCATION

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Integration Compass

How do we ensure that every immigrant has access to education and working life?



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Goals

- The Finnish education system supports flexible and individual education tracks for immigrants.
- Every child, young and adult has an equal and highquality opportunity to study Finnish or Swedish and their own mother tongue .
- Multicultural competence is a defined part of teachers' professional skills and it is promoted through educational methods.
- The social exclusion of immigrant youth from education will decrease and their employment rates will increase.

Few proposals from Integration Compass

1. Educational integration for adults has to start immediately when arriving to Finland.
2. Mothers' possibility to participate in language and cultural learning has to be ensured.
3. Early childhood education is very important concerning language development.



OAJ proposes that there should be more teachers of Finnish/Swedish as a second language already in early childhood education, and the group size of pupils should be adjusted to support learning and development of children's language most effectively.

4. All, whose mother tongue is not one of the national languages of Finland, should be entitled to learn Finnish or Swedish as a second language from early childhood education until the end of secondary education.

5. Teaching of immigrants on their own mother tongue should be provided for everyone from early childhood to the end of the secondary education.

6. Preparatory instruction for initial education must be an individual right of the pupil regardless where they start living in Finland. Now in Finland the municipality has a freedom of choice whether to organize it or not.



7. Teacher education needs to be improved. Teachers should be better prepared with skills for multicultural education and language consciousness in basic and continuous teacher training.

8. Finnish education system also needs more qualified teachers with immigrant background.



Experiences of teaching of immigrants - what to do

- Children should participate in the preparatory instruction for basic education as soon as possible.
- Children under age of six should be provided early childhood education.
- It is worthwhile to interview the whole family to find out the background and previous school history.
- Use the interpreter services.
- Handouts on early childhood education and basic education are worth translating into different languages.

- Adults should be provided language and cultural education immediately, preferably already during their stay in reception center for asylum seekers.
- Integration of immigrants, and the training is worth investing in, as it is an investment in the future.

- Kindness and the helpful attitude of the majority population has a very great significance in the integration of immigrants.



- The media plays a significant role in influencing the opinions of the majority population.





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