

Familia's General Elections 2027 Objectives

Familia's objectives for the 2027 general elections represent a total change of direction in the Finnish immigration and integration policies. Our goal is to transform Finland into an antiracist and just society rooted in equity, where people want to build their lives. For intercultural families building this kind of society is necessary. People can only build their lives in Finland, if immigrants and their children feel like they belong. At the present it is necessary for the Finnish society to meet them halfway.

Aging population, declining old-age dependency ratio, and a declining birth rate are all factors that necessitate net migration to Finland. At the same time, it is up to the Finnish people and society to ensure that Finland is country where immigrants can build a life. Finland needs to shift into antiracist politics and policies, increase integration funding, build a multilingual society, and actively take down structures that contribute to upholding an unjust society.

Even though Finland needs immigration because of national economy, immigration, immigrants, and people who have migrated to Finland need to be treated firstly as people, who deserve security and a good life based on human dignity.

Familia's goals are divided into three categories titled Antiracist Finland, multilingual and integrating Finland, and Finland needing immigration. The categories and goals are to be considered as holistic and interdependent, and they necessitate each other. Without Antiracist Finland there is no Finland needing immigration.

Antiracist Finland

Based on 2023 report "Being Black in EU"¹ Finland is one of the top countries when people from African backgrounds were asked about their experiences with racism in

¹ Being Black in EU https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2023-being-black_in_the_eu_en.pdf

Finland. Furthermore, according to the Migration Institute of Finland men from West Asia (also known as Middle East) are considerably more likely to get a negative decision when applying for a residence permit based on family reunification². It is time to reverse these kinds of developments and make Finland the most antiracist country in Europe. This means dismantling racist structures, and a more active approach to deal with the daily racism people who have been racialized as non-white face. Furthermore, we call for the de-colonization of Finnish politics. In 2025 the first steps were taken in the form of the new Act on the Sámi Parliament, the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Sámi was published, and prime minister Orpo stated that Finland needs to apologize to the Sámi. This development needs to continue and needs to be supported. De-colonization needs to be furthered in Sápmi (Sámi homeland), as well as in the Finnish foreign policy, and arms deals with Israel need to be cancelled. To build an antiracist Finland we propose the following actions:

- Longterm and index bound funding for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) doing antiracist work.
- Funding allocated to diversifying the imagery of Finnishness for the culture sector. Dismantling white normativity and the building of diverse imagery through different intersections.
- Create and enact a new national action plan against racism (NAPAR) with support from civil society and CSOs.
- The creation of an antiracism panel (cf. The Finnish Climate Change Panel) comprised of scientists and civil society representatives to monitor and guide in matters related to the NAPAR.
- For the Finnish national overall safety (kokonaisturvallisuus) it is imperative that the people living in Finland can trust the Finnish society, officials, and administration. Building an antiracist society from the top of the Finnish political

² Siim P.M. & Lyytinen E. Mixed-citizenship couples' emotional geographies of 'doing family'. CMS (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-025-00509-0>

decision making is therefore crucial so that the people who have dealt with racist discrimination can trust the Finnish administration. Trust on the other hand helps with the national overall safety.

- Ensuring funding for relevant research.
- Implementing a national campaign to further an antiracist society and recognizing racism in its different forms. The goal is for white Finns to better understand different forms of racism, how to dismantle people's own racist ideas, ideologies, ways of conduct, and to recognize all the good things immigrants bring to Finland. On the other hand, the goal is also to make sure that BIPOC people know their rights and know what to do in situations where they face racist behaviour or actions.
- Building an antiracist Finland also means dealing with discrimination. Experiences of discrimination affect people's sense of belonging negatively, meaning that the sense of belonging is weakened by experiences of discrimination.³
- Building an antiracist Finland is also important for the youth. In the 2025 Youth Barometer 9% of the youth had been discriminated against because of language, and it was the third most common reason for discrimination. Additionally, 7% had been discriminated against because of their ethnic background.
- The youth's sense of belonging influences their mental health⁴, and therefore building and fostering a sense of belonging is also mental health work.

³ Hussain, Maryam & Jones, James. (2019). Discrimination, Diversity, and Sense of Belonging: Experiences of Students of Color. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. 14. 63-71. doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000117.

⁴ Rekar Abdulhamed, Lauri Hietajärvi, Natalia Skogberg, Reija Klemetti, Kirsti Lonka, Sense of belongingness, discrimination, and mental health: Associations and buffering effects of sense of belonging on mental health among Finnish native and immigrant-origin youth, *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, Volume 103, 2024, 102081, ISSN 0147-1767, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2024.102081>.

- Building national channels where experiences of racism can be reported and the reports will lead to action, without making it a police case. For example, Tampere has made such a channel online.

Multilingualism and integration in Finland

The goal of multilingual and integrating Finland is to build a society in which all languages are treated equally and the people who have moved to Finland can integrate via a system based on two-way integration. People who have migrated to Finland are encouraged to learn national languages, but they are not required to take part in the society. People are able to have several official mother tongues. The goal of the integration is the two-way integration so that the person can build a good life in Finland, if they choose so. While our first concern is enabling a good life for people who have immigrated to Finland, well integrated people also benefit the Finnish society. This means that adequate resources are given to integration and language training in the beginning of the integration process. The goal is for the customers of the integration services the goal is to reach level B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). However, a successful integration process is not dependent on the acquired language level. The goal level functions as a guide for ensuring the adequate resources for integration and language training. Academic research suggests that investing in early language learning leads to better attachment in the labour market and higher income levels later. Ensuring the quality of language instruction throughout Finland. Additionally, ensuring that the formation of language instruction groups is based on, for example, previously acquired education, and not presumed cultural groups. Developing a national hybrid model of language learning while working, which allows people to work and study Finnish or Swedish at the same time. The state should incentivize the private sector to a model where people can combine working and language learning.

In conjunction with the investments put towards integration efforts to build a multilingual Finland must be made. The people who have moved to Finland vary, and not everyone is equally equipped to learn a new language. Regardless of the reason and the language

skills, everyone has the right to take part and be a part of the Finnish society. Developing ways to support employers' multilingual working environments, so that Finnish skills are not a reason not to hire someone if the work itself does not require a specific level of Finnish. Increasing the possibility to use English and machine translators in public services. For example, HUS uses AI-based translators. At the same time enabling multiple mother tongues in the Digital and Population Data Services Agency database and increase possibilities for learning heritage languages.

To reach these goals we suggest the following actions:

- Multilingualism as mother tongue. Enabling people to register several languages as mother tongues in the Population Information System. According to a Ministry of Justice report⁵ the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has given Finland a recommendation to ease marking multiple languages in the Population Information System. In the same report a proposal for registering multiple mother tongues in a non-hierarchical way⁶. The equal treatment of a person's all

⁵ Oikeusministeriön julkaisuja, Selvityksiä ja ohjeita 2020:8

⁶ Vaihtehto A, Oikeusministeriön julkaisuja, Selvityksiä ja ohjeita 2020:8, s.40

languages must be at the centre of registering multiple languages as mother tongues, and therefore we advocate for the registering multiple mother tongues.

- Discrimination because of language was the third most common experience of discrimination among youth⁷. Therefore, building a multilingual Finland supports the youth's feelings safety, sense of belonging, and mental health.
- Ensuring funding for Liberal Adult Education.
- Secure sufficient funding for integration services. This includes early services such as language teaching, but also long-term integration supporting actions.
- Integration related language teaching must be available year-round and close to the people in the integration services.
- Building a hybrid model that allows integration services customers to move partly into work while continuing to learn a national language. Creating an economic incentive for people to continue learning a national language.
- The integration services must centre the needs of the immigrants. This could mean funding the CSO sector, which has a lot of integration related knowhow.
- In language teaching there have been positive experiences from Social Impact Bond based language teaching, and possibilities to expand these kinds of services should be explored. At the moment Springhouse offers language teaching, where the company gets paid when students get employed.
- Residence permit costs made tax deductible
- Ensuring the availability and accessibility of integration services. Integration services must be available where they are needed. Integration services must be

⁷ Nuorisobarometri 2025, Laine Sofia (toim.), Laine Konsta (toim.), <https://doi.org/10.57049/nts.1883>

accessible for all the people using them and this can mean that they must be available in person.

- Ensuring heritage language teaching availability and quality for children across Finland. Hybrid teaching models could be used in sparsely populated areas.
- Increase the teaching of national languages in early childhood education.
- Facilitating language learning for children whose mother tongue is not a national language in the form of language showers. Using expertise within the CSO sector through funding initiatives.
- Developing teaching materials so that a parent not speaking a national language can support their child in homework and learning. Utilizing electronic learning materials, that can be translated electronically.
- The everyday realities at workplaces play significant roles in whether the integration and employment of a person who has moved to Finland are successful⁸. Therefore, we should incentivize the private sector to hire and to integrate people who have migrated to Finland.

Finland needing immigration

Finland needs migration. People move to Finland for various reasons and we have a moral responsibility to support them as they build their lives in Finland. All the people deserve a good life and a future to believe in. For us, giving those things to the people who live in Finland is the easiest way to impact the lives of people.

The government of Petteri Orpo has made changes to the Aliens Act and Nationality Act that have made the legislation significantly stricter. Additionally, it has changed the

⁸ EMN Suomi (2025), Työvoimapula ja työperusteinen maahanmuutto – Suomen kansallinenraportti, Haettu 16.3.2026, Saatavilla: <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-7427-63-7>

ideology of Finnish immigration policy in a profound way. These changes must be cancelled, and we propose the following changes:

All residence permits where applicable:

- Removing the effects of social security and other benefits on the required time of being a resident when applying for a permanent residence permit or naturalization.
- Recognizing that relationships and families come in many forms. Removing the requirement of monogamy in family reunification residence permits.
- Removing the age requirement of 21 years from family reunification residence permits.
- Recognizing that people who are part of sexual or gender minorities might not have the possibility to live together in either of their home countries, and therefore the requirement of having lived as a couple for two years cannot be applicable to them.
- Removing the requirement of two years of cohabitation from unmarried couples in family reunification residence permits. Technically they would then be treated the same as married couples.
- If a non-Finnish parent moves to Finland to be with their underaged child or children, they should be given a fast track to a permanent residence permit and to building a life in Finland.
- Change the look for work time limit of workers residence permits from the current three and six months to six and twelve months.
- In the fall of 2025, there was significant news coverage that non-EU students are recruited to Finland with false promises. Higher education institutions must be made responsible to inform incoming non-EU students about the realities of living in Finland.
- Remove the requirement of having 9600 euros in a bank account from non-EU students in situations where their studies last at least a year. A clarification of how



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a student means to fund their life in Finland must be enough. The requirement for funds is unreasonable as most Finnish students do not have that.

- Removing the requirement of two years of cohabitation in situations where one party of an unmarried couple has a refugee status, has a residence permit based on temporary protection, or is under subsidiary protection. This would mean returning to previous legislation.
- Roll back the residency requirement, and increase the allowed time spent abroad to the prior levels regarding permanent residence permit requirements.
- Roll back the residency requirement, and increase the allowed time spent abroad to the prior levels regarding naturalization.
- Roll back the integrity requirements for naturalization. Cancel the changes that took effect on 17.12.2025.