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EMN Finland Conference 2026

A long-term vision and strategy for immigration? – Aiming for a more uniform and efficient immigration administration in Finland

Helsinki 12.11.2026, Scandic Helsinki Hub

Conference languages: Finnish and English (interpreting Finnish-English and English-Finnish)

8.45 – 9.15	Registration and morning coffee
9.15 – 9.30	Welcome remarks, ***Rafael Bärlund***, Head of EMN Finland Opening of the conference, ***Anna-Kaisa Ikonen***, Minister of Local and Regional Government
9.30 – 10.45	Keynote: *Whole-of-government approach to migration*, ***Jean-Christophe Dumont***, Head of International Migration Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD Commentary, ***Seppo Orjasniemi***, Senior Ministerial Adviser**,** Head of Unit**,** Fiscal Forecasting & Macro Fiscal Policy analysis, Ministry of Finance
10.45 – 11.00	**Break**
11.00 – 12.15	Panel discussion: Effects of immigration on the Finnish economy – The need for a common vision and strategy on immigration? ***Rasmus Aro,*** Lead Specialist, Demographic Development and Migration, MDI ***Antti Kauhanen*****,** Research Director, Etla ***Seppo Orjasniemi*****,** Senior Ministerial Adviser**,** Head of Unit**,** Fiscal Forecasting & Macro Fiscal Policy analysis, Ministry of Finance ***Suvi Pulkkinen***, Lead Specialist, the Finland Chambers of Commerce ***Aini Räisänen*****,** Specialist, Future of work-based immigration project, Sitra
12.15 – 13.15	**LUNCH**
13.15 – 14.15	Panel Discussion: Challenges and Good Practices in the Initial Phase of Immigration.

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Introduction: Initial Phase of Immigration in Norway

Katja Luopajärvi, Director, Visa Unit, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Pavel Maksimenko, Entrepreneur, Chair of Migrant Entrepreneur Committee

Harriet Mallenius, Director, Customer Relations Unit, Finnish Immigration Service

Katri Niskanen, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Labour Migration and Integration Unit, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Marina Velikova, CEO, Finland Relocation Services

14.15 – 15.15 Panel Discussion: Challenges and Good Practices in Return Procedures

Introduction: Return Procedures in the Netherlands

Olli Koskipirtti, Process Owner, Control and Monitoring Department, Finnish Immigration Service

Tuomo Kurri, Director, Return Affairs, Ministry of the Interior Finland

Elina Nurmi, Director, Reception Services Department, Finnish Immigration Service

Mikko Sivola, Chief Inspector, Helsinki Police Department

Tuula Svinhufvud, Senior Adviser, Department for Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

15.15 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 16.30 Concluding discussion

Minna Hulkkonen, Head of Department, Director General, Migration Department, Ministry of the Interior

Sonja Hämäläinen, Migration Director, Labour Migration and Integration Unit, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland

Jussi Tanner, Director General of Consular Services, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Moderator: ***Johannes Hirvelä,*** Director, Information Services and Performance Guidance Unit, Finnish Immigration Service

16.30 Closing words, ***Rafael Bärlund***, Head of EMN Finland

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