

## Work-related language learning in

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# Finland

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### Majority language learning (L2) for newly-arrived migrants

State-provided integration courses for migrants last about one year. Every unemployed migrant has an individual integration plan. This is a personalized plan covering measures and services promoting Finnish/Swedish language learning ('sufficient command') and knowledge and skills required in Finnish society and working life. The plan may include integration training, basic education, vocational education, upper secondary education, studies leading to higher education, continuing education, further training. Integration policy aims to promote the integration of individuals and of family groups.

Entitlement to an integration plan extends to a maximum of three years following initial entry (with the possibility of a further two years in certain circumstances, e.g. the migrant is not literate, the migrant takes maternity/paternity leave, or suffers illness). Integration courses are state-funded. The personalised integration plan is agreed jointly by the migrant, the municipality and the employment office. The migrant is able to claim financial assistance from the state (min. 480 €/month).

#### *Practice examples of interest*

National Core Curriculum for Integration Training, 2012 (available in the Network's [resource centre](#))

### Work-related L2 provision for employees/workers

Finnish language courses are offered by a range of adult education providers (including adult education centres, university language centres; summer universities, in-service training centres, private language schools). These courses are offered on a self-financing basis. In some circumstances recruitment agencies and/or employers pay for courses; in others learners pay for themselves.

#### *Practice examples of interest*

The extensive on-line learning environment, [kotisuomessa.fi](http://kotisuomessa.fi) includes learning related to common occupations and essential skills needed in the workplace and also to Finnish working culture and work methods.

### Work-related L2 provision in vocational courses

L2 instruction is available as a part of studies in vocational education and higher education (universities of applied sciences, universities). Where the learner is studying on a free vocational/higher education course, this L2 instruction is free. University language centres have also self-financed students attending certain courses only.

### Work-related literacy provision for low-literate L1/L2 adults

Literacy courses are available as integration training; no specific work-related courses are available.

The *National core curriculum for literacy training for adult migrants* (available in the Network's [resource centre](#)) was published in 2012. Provision is state-funded.

### Practice examples of interest

Materials are available at the [kotisuomessa.fi](#) portal and from the [DigLin project pages](#) (a Grundtvig project funded through the European Commission's Lifelong learning programme).

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### **Further information**

[City of Helsinki website for migrants Infopankki](#)

[Finnish Integration Service](#)

[Finnish Ministry of the Interior](#)

[Council of Europe surveys](#) on member state policy and practice relating to the linguistic integration of adult migrants

[European Web Site on Integration country information sheets](#)

[German government information service \(Bundeszentrale für politischen Bildung/bpb\) country profiles](#) on migration in Europe and beyond

[CEDEFOP VET in Europe project country reports](#)

[European Migration Network country fact sheets](#)

[Migration Policy Institute](#)

[Global Forum on Migration and Development Migration Profiles Repository](#)

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### ***Finland profile acknowledgement: Minna Suni (LfW Network member and LfW Workshop participant, 2015)***

Participants at the Language for Work Workshop held at the ECML in Graz on 24-25 June 2015 were asked to prepare a brief review of policies and practice in their own country/region relevant to work-related language learning for migrant/ethnic minority workers and/or low-literate majority-language speaking workers. Reviews were completed for Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy (Emilia-Romagna), Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Norway, Romania (Bucharest), Sweden.