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Labour Market Outcomes among Refugee Youth in the Nordic countries

Coming of Age in Exile (CAGE) — Health and Socio-Economic Inequities in Young Refugees in the Nordic Welfare Societies has been a multidisciplinary research project funded by NordForsk during 2015–2020. One focus of this research has been labour market outcomes among refugee youth. The position in the labour market is often used as the primary indicator of integration among adults.

In terms of labour market participation, young refugees had a more disadvantaged labour market position at ages 25 and 30 relative to their native-born majority peers in the quantitative register study conducted in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Gender differences in labour market attachment among refugees were also observed, with 39–51 percent of male refugees having a core labor market attachment at age 30, compared to 27–40 percent among female refugees. However, there was substantial heterogeneity within the refugee group by origin. Refugees from former Yugoslavia stood out as a group with core employment rates that were the most similar to those of their native-born majority population counterparts.

In the group with completed upper secondary education, employment differences between refugees and their native-born majority peers were considerably smaller than those observed among the group with no

upper secondary education. The lack of an upper secondary educational qualification was a strong predictor for NEET (not in education, employment nor training) in refugees and the native-born majority in all countries. As many as 18–31 percent of refugees were NEETs at age 30. In particular, refugees from Somalia resident in Denmark and Sweden stood out in comparison to other countries of origin and destination.

A qualitative Finnish study on employment revealed that refugee youth face a double challenge of unemployment by being both young and refugees. Their life was characterized by periods of employment, unemployment, work traineeships, volunteer work and education. The perception of these young people was that they were unable to find employment for various reasons, such as insufficient work experience, interrupted education, unrewarding traineeships or a lack of social networks.

From the interviewed employers' point of view, the barriers determining recruitment were often related to a lack of Finnish language skills, and for most of them, it was the main reason for not hiring refugees or immigrants. Sometimes they also saw that cultural features prevented the recruitment of refugees; for example, in some places attending prayer times during the working day and

wearing a hijab have been barriers to recruitment. When employers were asked about the key factors that support staying in the labour market after a successful entry, the most common answer was simply that when the employees do a good job, it will help them stay in the labour market. The employers had mostly positive experiences with their refugee and immigrant employees.

Sources

Coming of Age in Exile (CAGE) – Health and Socio-Economic Inequities in Young Refugees in the Nordic Welfare Societies. Final Report. Available: (<https://cage.ku.dk/>. Accessed 2.12.2020.

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Uudistettu Siirtolaisrekisteri julkaistaan joulukuussa

Siirtolaisrekisteri palaa joulukuun aikana sukututkijoiden sekä muiden asiasta kiinnostuneiden käytettäväksi nettisivuillemme oltauan teknisten uudistustoimenpiteiden vuoksi lähes vuoden ajan poissa julkisesta käytöstä. Täysin uudistettu käyttöliittymä sisältää useita parannuksia hakutoimintoihin, joista merkittävin on mahdollisuus kohdistaa haku haluttuun määrään tietokantoja; vanhasa rekisterissä haku onnistui vain yhdestä tietokannasta kerrallaan.

Uuteen Siirtolaisrekisteriin sisältyy alkuvaiheessa yksi kokonaan uusi tietokanta, FT Antero Leitzingerin koostama ”Kansalaistamiset Suomessa 1832–1946”. Rekisteriä on suunniteltu täydennettävän myöhemmin Göteborgin kautta 1869–1900 kulkeneiden suomalaisten siirtolaisten tiedoilla.

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