

## MIPEX 2015: Finland ranks 4th out of 38 countries



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The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) is a unique tool which measures policies to integrate migrants in different countries. MIPEX was first published in 2004 as the European Civic Citizenship and Inclusion Index. The second edition of it was conducted in 2007, and the third one in 2011. The fourth edition, *Integration Policies: Who Benefits?* (MIPEX 2015) has been recently published. This project was led by the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) and the Migration Policy Group (MPG). Institute of Migration was the partner from Finland.

MIPEX 2015 is covering 38 countries, i.e. all EU Member States, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. There are included eight policy areas: labour market mobility, education, political participation, access to nationality, family reunion, permanent residence, anti-discrimination, and health (a new addition this year). 167 policy indicators have been developed to create a rich, multi-dimensional picture of migrants' opportunities to participate in society. Finland ranks the fourth in MIPEX 2015 as does Norway, while Sweden is the first. Portugal is the second and New Zealand the third. Turkey ranks the 38<sup>th</sup>, Latvia 37<sup>th</sup> and Cyprus 36<sup>th</sup> in the other end of the list.

Labour market integration of immigrants is one of the major components for measuring successful integration. According to results, Finland ranks the sixth in labour market mobility. Labour market integration is improving, but there is still clearly higher unemployment rate for immigrants compared to native Finns. These levels also vary by citizenship: unemployment rate for example for Germans was

12 percent, which is same level as for native Finns, Estonians 15 percent, Russians 38 percent, and Somalis 69 percent in 2013. Finland does not delay labour market access, making integration a priority. Potential gaps and difficulties are in recognizing the academic and professional non-EU qualifications.

In education, Finland ranks the eighth among 38 countries. Finland's slightly favourable targeted policies are reaching and helping immigrant pupils. MIPEX 2015 -report evaluates that piloting new ideas could make Finland a world-leader on social integration and mobility not only for Finnish pupils, but also for immigrant pupils. Immigrant pupils in Finland, according to report, certainly have a great need for support, both language and catch-up at school, and potentially encouraging levels of participation in these extra support measures.

MIPEX 2015 -report emphasis the strong link between integration policies and public opinion, as they help the public to trust migrants and see benefits, while restrictive policies hardens distrust and perceptions of threat. Political will may matter more than a country's tradition of immigration, since more inclusive integration policies may both encourage more immigrants to settle permanently and the public to trust immigrants more.

### Sources

Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX 2015): <http://www.mipex.eu>  
 MIPEX 2015, International Press Release 30.6.2015: [http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/files/pdf/news/MIPEX\\_Final\\_Press\\_Release.pdf](http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/files/pdf/news/MIPEX_Final_Press_Release.pdf)