Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration
(1386/2010)

Chapter 1
general provisions

Section 1
Purpose of the Act

The purpose of this Act is to support and promote integration and make it easier for immigrants to play an active role in Finnish society. The purpose of the Act is also to promote gender equality and non-discrimination and positive interaction between different population groups.

Section 2
Scope of application

(1) This Act applies to persons possessing a valid residence permit in Finland as referred to in the Aliens Act (301/2004). The Act also applies to persons whose right of residence has been registered or who have been issued with a residence card under the Aliens Act.

(2) The provisions on assigning persons to a municipality laid down in Chapter 5 of this Act and the provisions on the reimbursement of costs laid down in Chapter 6, sections 45-49, apply to persons

1) who are beneficiaries of international protection as referred to in the Aliens Act;
2) who, after having applied for international protection, have been issued with a residence permit under section 51, 52 or 89 of the Aliens Act;
3) who have been admitted to Finland on special humanitarian grounds or to fulfil international obligations under section 93 of the Aliens Act; and
4) who have been issued with a continuous residence permit under section 52a(2) or section 54(5) of the Aliens Act.

(3) Provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6, sections 45-49, of this Act also apply to family members or other relatives of the persons referred to in subsection 2, if the persons in question have had family ties with the persons referred to in subsection 2 before their entry into Finland.

Section 3
Definitions

For the purposes of this Act:

1) integration means interactive development involving immigrants and society at large, the aim of which is to provide immigrants with the knowledge and skills required in society and working life and to provide them with support, so that they can maintain their culture and language;
2) integration also means the multi-sectoral promotion and support of integration referred to in paragraph 1 using the measures and services provided by the authorities and other parties;
3) immigrant means a person who has moved to Finland, who resides in the country with a permit issued for purposes other than tourism or similar residence of short duration, whose right of residence has been registered or who has been issued with a residence card;
4) social empowerment means measures targeting immigrants that are aimed at improving their life skills and at preventing social exclusion;
5) **multi-sectoral cooperation** means cooperation between authorities in different sectors and other parties;
6) **immigrants in need of special measures** means immigrants who are in need of special integration measures on account of reduced functional capacity resulting from illness or disability in particular or other reasons, or on account of their age, family situation, illiteracy or other similar reason.

### Section 4

**Applying the Act to children**

(1) When this Act applies to a person under the age of 18, particular consideration shall be given to the interests of the child in question and his/her development. When assessing the interest of the child, consideration shall be given to what is laid down on the matter in section 4 of the Child Welfare Act (417/2007).

(2) When measures and services laid down in this Act are carried out, the opinion and wishes of the child shall be taken into account as befits his/her age and level of development. A child aged 12 shall be provided with an opportunity to be heard in matters concerning him/her, as provided in section 34 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). When determining a child’s opinion or hearing a child, the language used shall be one that the child understands.

(3) Only if determining the opinion of the child would endanger the health or development of the child in question or if it would otherwise be manifestly unnecessary may it be decided that the opinion of the child is not determined.

### Section 5

**Interpretation and translation**

(1) An authority shall arrange interpretation or translation in a matter if the immigrant does not possess any skills in Finnish or Swedish, which are the languages used before the authorities under the Language Act (423/2003) or if, on account of his/her disability or illness, he/she cannot make himself/herself understood in a matter referred to in this Act that may become pending at the initiative of an authority. Where possible, the authority shall also be responsible for arranging interpretation and translation in other matters concerning the rights and obligations of the immigrant.

(2) The matter may be interpreted or translated into a language that the immigrant may be deemed to know adequately in view of the nature of the matter.

(3) The obligation of an authority to arrange interpretation and translation does not apply to material that is not relevant to consideration of the matter.

### Chapter 2

**Measures promoting integration**

### Section 6

**Providing measures promoting integration**

Measures and services promoting integration are provided as part of basic municipal services and the services of the employment and economic administration and as other measures promoting integration.

### Section 7

**Basic information about Finnish society**

(1) Immigrants are provided with information about their rights and obligations in Finnish working life and society. Immigrants are also provided with information about the service system and the measures promoting integration laid down in this Chapter.
The basic information material is given to all persons moving to Finland in connection with the service of the decision on the residence permit, registration of the right of residence, issue of a residence card or the registration of the population information and information on the municipality of residence.

Each authority applying this Act is, for its part, responsible for the production and updating of the contents of the basic information material. The Ministry of Employment and the Economy is responsible for the coordination, translation and distribution of the basic information material.

Section 8
Guidance and provision of advice

Municipalities, employment and economic development offices and other authorities shall provide immigrants with appropriate guidance and advice concerning measures and services promoting integration and working life.

Section 9
Initial assessment

The initial assessment is the preliminary assessment of the immigrant’s preparedness concerning employment, study and other aspects of integration and the need for language training and other measures and services promoting integration. The initial assessment involves, to the extent necessary, the examination of the immigrant’s previous education, training, employment history and language skills and, if necessary, other matters influencing his/her employment prospects and integration.

If necessary, further provisions on the initial assessment and the arranging of the initial assessment are given by government decree.

Section 10
Arranging the initial assessment

The initial assessment of an immigrant who is an unemployed jobseeker under the Act on Public Employment and Business Service (916/2012) is initiated by an employment and economic development office. The initial assessment of an immigrant who is receiving social assistance under the Act on Social Assistance (1412/1997) on a non-temporary basis is initiated by a municipality. An employment and economic development office or a municipality may also initiate the initial assessment of other immigrants who request it, if they are deemed to need one. The initial assessment is initiated within two months of the start of the client relationship or the request concerning the initial assessment. (28.12.2012/919)

If necessary, the employment and economic development office or the municipality that has arranged the initial assessment shall refer the immigrant to the services offered by other authorities or service providers. This shall take place in cooperation with the service providers.

The employment and economic development office or the municipality uses the initial assessment as a basis for assessing whether the immigrant is in need of the integration plan referred to in section 11. When the need for an integration plan is being assessed, consideration is given to whether the immigrant is in need of integration training, should engage in self-motivated studies or needs the other measures referred to in this Chapter to support his/her integration.

Section 11
Integration plan

An integration plan is a personalised plan drawn up for an immigrant covering the measures and services, the aim of which is to support him/her in acquiring a sufficient command of the
Finnish or Swedish and other skills and knowledge required in society and working life and to promote his/her opportunities to play an active role in society as an equal member of society.

(2) In addition to studies of Finnish or Swedish, it may also be agreed that the integration plan includes teaching of the immigrant’s mother tongue, studies familiarising the immigrant with society, the teaching of reading and writing skills, studies complementing basic education, integration training and other personalised measures facilitating integration.

Section 12
Right to an integration plan and duration of the integration plan

(1) An immigrant has the right to an integration plan if he/she is an unemployed jobseeker as defined by the Act on Public Employment and Business Service or if he/she is receiving social assistance under the Act on Social Assistance on a non-temporary basis. An integration plan may also be drawn up for other immigrants if, on the basis of the initial assessment, they are deemed to be in need of a plan promoting integration. (28.12.2012/919)

(2) The first integration plan shall be drawn up no later than three years after the issue of the first residence permit or residence card or the registration of the right of residence. The first integration plan is drawn up for a maximum period of one year.

(3) The duration of the immigrant’s integration plan is determined on the basis of his/her own objectives and employment and training history and the measures planned and provided for him/her. The maximum period entitling the immigrant to an integration plan is, however, three years from the signing of the first integration plan.

(4) The period referred to in subsection 3 above may be extended by a maximum of two years, if there are grounds for doing so, because the immigrant needs special integration measures. If the implementation of the integration plan has been temporarily prevented on account of disability, illness or maternity, paternity or parental leave, or for other similar reasons, the maximum period entitling the immigrant to an integration plan may be correspondingly extended.

Section 13
Drawing up the integration plan

(1) The integration plan is drawn up jointly by the municipality, the employment and economic development office and the immigrant. The integration plan may also be drawn up by the municipality and the immigrant or the employment and economic development office and the immigrant if there are grounds for doing so.

(2) Using the initial assessment as a basis, the municipality or the employment and economic development office initiates the drawing up of the integration plan no later than two weeks after the initial assessment has been carried out on the immigrant.

(3) When the integration plan is being drawn up, consideration is given to the immigrant’s own objectives promoting integration. The integration plan and the other plans relating to the matter drawn up for the immigrant shall be coordinated with each other. If necessary, the measures that are in accordance with the integration plan are carried out as multi-sectoral cooperation.

(4) That which is stipulated in Chapter 2, Section 7 of the Act on Public Employment and Business Service shall also be applied to the integration plan, which is drafted with the participation of the employment and economic development office. (28.12.2012/919)

Section 14
Duties of the authority drawing up the integration plan
(1) In the integration plan, the employment and economic development office and the immigrant agree on training, jobseeking and its aims, and the measures and services supporting jobseeking and promoting employment.

(2) In the integration plan, the municipality and the immigrant agree on the municipal services or other measures promoting integration and employment if the immigrant is, on account of his/her health, age, or for family reasons or for similar reasons, unable to take part in labour market measures supporting integration.

(3) The immigrant is referred to training that reflects his/her individual needs or other measures promoting integration and employment within one month of the drawing up of the integration plan.

Section 15
Integration plan for a minor

(1) The municipality draws up an integration plan with a minor if circumstances specific to the minor in question so require. An integration plan is always drawn up for an unaccompanied minor entering Finland who has been issued with a residence permit.

(2) When the need for the plan is assessed and the plan drawn up, the wishes and opinions of the minor shall be determined and they shall be considered as provided in section 4. The plan is coordinated with the integration plan for the family and the other plans drawn up for the minor that relate to the matter.

(3) The integration plan is drawn up jointly with the child or the young person and his/her guardian or representative. The right of the minor to be heard is exercised by the guardian or representative, as provided in more detail in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 16
Integration plan for a family

(1) The municipality draws up an integration plan for a family if the overall situation of the family so requires.

(2) When the need for the plan is being assessed, special consideration is given to the requirements of parenthood supporting and guiding the development of the child or the young person and the need of the parents for support and training.

(3) The integration plan for a family is drawn up in multi-sectoral cooperation and coordinated with the individual integration plans and other plans relating to the matter drawn up for the family members.

Section 17
Obligations arising from the integration plan and the drawing up of the plan

(1) The municipality or the employment and economic development office that draws up the integration plan with the immigrant shall provide the immigrant with information about the rights and obligations arising from the plan and the measures connected with it in writing and, if the immigrant so requests, orally so that he/she can understand them.

(2) The municipality or the employment and economic development office that has drawn up the integration plan shall actively offer the immigrant measures and services contained in his/her integration plan within the limits of the appropriations allocated for the purpose.

(3) The immigrant shall adhere to the plan and regularly attend a Finnish or Swedish course provided as part of the immigration plan and participate in other measures and services agreed as part of the plan on a regular basis.
(4) If the immigrant refuses to take part in the drawing up or review of the integration plan or refuses to participate in measures specifically drawn up for him/her as part of the integration plan and has no valid reasons for his/her refusal, his/her right to the benefits paid as integration assistance may be restricted, as provided in the Unemployment Security Act (1290/2002) or curtailed as provided in the Act on Social Assistance.

Section 18  
Monitoring and review of the integration plan

(1) The municipality and the employment and economic development office shall monitor the implementation of the integration plan.

(2) The municipality shall review the integration plan in accordance with the service needs of the immigrant or at least once a year. The employment and economic development office shall review the integration plan, as provided in the Act on the Public Employment and Business Service. The plan may also be reviewed if specifically so requested by the parties.

Section 19  
Integration assistance

(1) Integration assistance is financial support paid to an immigrant so that he/she has secure means of support for the duration of the participation in the measures carried out as part of the integration plan.

(2) Integration assistance is paid as labour market support or social assistance. The right to integration assistance paid as labour market support is determined in accordance with the Unemployment Security Act, and the right to integration assistance paid as social assistance in accordance with the Act on Social Assistance.

Section 20  
Integration training

(1) Immigrants over the compulsory education age are provided with courses of Finnish or Swedish and are, if necessary, taught reading and writing skills and provided with other courses that promote access to employment and further training and social, cultural and life-management skills as part of integration training. Integration training may also include identification of previously acquired skills, recognition of qualifications and degrees and vocational planning and career guidance.

(2) Finnish or Swedish courses are provided in accordance with the national core curriculum for the integration training of adult immigrants drawn up by the National Board of Education. The teaching of reading and writing skills is provided in accordance with the national core curriculum for illiterate adult immigrants drawn up by the National Board of Education.

(3) The linguistic objective of integration training is to provide the immigrants with the basic language skills in Swedish or Finnish required in daily life.

Section 21 (28.12.2012/919)  
Arranging integration training and referring immigrants to training

(1) Integration training is usually implemented as labour market adult education as provided in the Act on Public Employment and Business Service. Integration training may also be arranged as self-motivated studies.

(2) Centres for economic development, transport and the environment are responsible for arranging integration training provided as labour market adult education in their sphere of activities.
Employment and economic development offices refer immigrants to integration training provided as labour market adult education or to seek self-motivated studies. Municipalities may provide integration training and refer immigrants to the integration training that they provide or to self-motivated studies offered by other providers.

Section 22
 Supporting self-motivated studies

Subject to the conditions laid down in this Act and the Unemployment Security Act, an immigrant engaged in self-motivated studies is entitled to labour market support paid as integration assistance if:
1) an employment and economic development office has determined that the immigrant is in need of training and the office is of the view that self-motivated studies support the immigrant’s integration and employment prospects;
2) the studies have been agreed upon as part of the integration plan; and
3) the other conditions laid down in this Chapter are met.

Provisions on the right to a maintenance allowance paid for the duration of the studies are laid down in Chapter 9 of the Act on the Public Employment and Business Service.

Section 23
 General requirements for supporting self-motivated studies

Self-motivated studies promoting the integration and employment of an immigrant may only be supported with integration assistance if it is a question of studies of Finnish or Swedish or if the studies are mostly in Finnish or Swedish. Integration assistance may also be used for supporting the studies of reading and writing skills.

In addition to studying, supported self-motivated studies may also include work practice or work in non-governmental organisations or other voluntary work. Studying or carrying out of study-related tasks shall account for at least half of the duration of the supported self-motivated studies.

Section 24
 Requirements concerning self-motivated studies

If the requirements laid down in section 23 are met, the following studies can be supported as self-motivated studies:
1) studies on which provisions are laid down in the Basic Education Act (628/1998) if the immigrant does not possess the knowledge and skills obtained as part of basic education;
2) studies on which provisions are laid down in the Upper Secondary Schools Act (629/1998) if a lack of education is a hindrance to vocational development;
3) studies on which provisions are laid down in the Act on Vocational Education (630/1998), the Act on Vocational Adult Education (631/1998), Polytechnics Act (351/2003) or the Universities Act (558/2009) and that lead to a vocational upper secondary qualification, further vocational qualification, specialist vocational qualification or a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree at a university or a university of applied sciences, or the aim of which is to take courses offered as part of the above-mentioned qualifications and degrees and take courses offered as part of further and continuing education provided under the above-mentioned acts and education at open universities and open universities of applied sciences;
4) studies on which provisions are laid down in the Act on Liberal Adult Education (632/1998) if the education provides the student with additional vocational skills and qualifications and a training or a study plan on the studies is presented;
5) studies that provide the immigrant with qualifications for his/her profession in Finland.

Studies other than those referred to in subsection 1 may also be supported as self-motivated studies if they meet the requirements laid down in sections 22 and 23.

Section 25 (28.12.2012/919)
Applying the Act on the Public Employment and Business Service to self-motivated studies

The provisions of Chapter 6, sections 4-9, of the Act on Public Employment and Business Service apply to the agreement on self-motivated studies, the period for which support is paid, the obligations of the immigrant, the monitoring and discontinuation of the studies and the obligation of the immigrant and the provider of the training services to provide information.

Section 26
Other measures and services supporting and promoting integration

In addition to what is provided above, measures and services promoting and supporting integration may also include the following:
1) measures and services promoting the integration of immigrant children and young immigrants;
2) child welfare aftercare measures and services for unaccompanied minors entering Finland who have been issued with a residence permit;
3) services and support measures for those in need of special measures;
4) other measures and services that encourage immigrants to acquire knowledge and skills needed in society at their own initiative.

Section 27
Support for unaccompanied minors and young persons residing in the country

(1) The care for and upbringing of unaccompanied minors or young persons who have been issued with a residence permit after they have applied for international protection in Finland as minors and who have been admitted to Finland under a refugee quota referred to in section 90 of the Aliens Act is organised in family group homes or using supported family placement or otherwise in an appropriate manner.

(2) Children and young persons referred to in subsection 1 above may be covered by support measures until they reach the age of 21 or until a guardian for them is appointed in Finland.

Section 28
Family group homes and other residential units

(1) A municipality may establish a family group home or other residential unit intended for children and young persons. The municipality agrees on the establishment of the family group home or other residential unit, placement of children and young persons in the unit, the arranging of services promoting integration and the reimbursement of the costs arising from the measures with the centre for economic development, transport and the environment.

(2) Provisions contained in sections 58-60 of the Child Welfare Act apply to the facilities of group family homes or other residential units, the circumstances in which the residents are brought up in them, the number of children and young persons cared for together in them and their personnel.

(3) Provisions contained in sections 60-62 and 63(1-3) of the Act on the Reception of Persons applying for International Protection apply to the seizing of substances and objects and the inspection of the facilities available to the residents in family group homes or other residential units. A copy of the records on the seizing of the substances and objects and the inspection of facilities available to the residents is submitted to the municipality and the centre for economic development, transport and the environment supervising the operations.

Chapter 3
Promoting integration at local level

Section 29
General objectives concerning the promotion of integration at local level

(1) The aim of the measures to promote integration taken by municipalities and other local-level authorities is to support internationalisation, gender equality and non-discrimination at local or regional level and to promote positive interaction between different population groups. The aim is also to promote good ethnic relations and dialogue between cultures and participation of immigrant groups and to support the opportunities of immigrants to preserve their own language and culture.

(2) The needs of the immigrant population and the promotion of integration shall be considered in the general planning, action and monitoring carried out by municipalities and other local-level authorities.

Section 30
Duties of the municipalities

(1) Municipalities have overall and coordination responsibility for the development, planning and monitoring of integration at local level.

(2) Municipalities shall ensure that the municipal services also suit the needs of the immigrants. Municipalities shall also ensure that the measures and services intended for the immigrants referred to in this Act are, in terms of their contents and scope, arranged in accordance with the demand for them in the municipality.

(3) Municipalities shall ensure the development of the expertise of their own personnel as part of integration.

(4) Measures and services intended for immigrants may also be arranged jointly by municipalities.

Section 31
Multi-sectoral cooperation at local level

(1) Local-level authorities shall develop integration as multi-sectoral cooperation. Cooperation involves the municipality, the employment and economic development office, the police and organisations, associations and bodies providing measures and services promoting integration.

(2) A municipality or more that one municipality jointly may, in cooperation with local labour market, entrepreneur and non-governmental organisations, appoint a local-level advisory board for the development of the planning and implementation of integration and for the promotion of good ethnic relations.

(3) The municipality and the employment and economic development office are jointly responsible for the arranging of the measures and services promoting and supporting integration, for referring immigrants to them and for monitoring them. They may also draw up local or regional cooperation agreements on providing measures and services in their areas.

Section 32
Municipal integration programme

(1) A municipality or more than one municipality jointly shall draw up an integration programme for promoting integration and for strengthening multi-sectoral cooperation that is approved by the municipal council of each municipality and that is reviewed at least once every four years. The programme is taken into account in connection with the drawing up of the budget and financial plans under section 65 of the Local Government Act (365/1995).

(2) The centre for economic development, transport and the environment, the employment and economic development office, the Social Insurance Institution and other authorities
operating in the area of the municipality shall, at the initiative of the municipality, take part in the drawing up and implementation of the programme and the monitoring of its implementation in their own sectors. Local immigrants’ organisations, non-governmental organisations, employees’ and employers’ organisations and religious communities may, to the extent required, take part in the drawing up and implementation of the integration programme and the monitoring of its implementation.

Section 33

Contents of the municipal integration programme

(1) The municipal integration programme may contain:
1) a report on how the programme is linked with the strategic planning and monitoring of the municipality;
2) a plan on how the general services provided by the municipality can be adjusted to the needs of the immigrants and a plan specifically covering measures promoting and supporting integration;
3) details of the municipal authority responsible for the coordination of the integration and parties responsible for the different measures;
4) a plan on the promotion of the integration and social empowerment of children and young persons;
5) a plan on the promotion of the integration and social empowerment of groups outside the workforce;
6) a multi-year plan on the assigning of the persons referred to in section 2(2-3) to the municipality and on the promotion of integration;
7) a plan on the promotion of good ethnic relations and a dialogue between cultures;
8) a plan on the monitoring and updating of the municipal integration programme.

(2) The forms of cooperation between the municipality and civil society may also be laid down in the municipal integration programme.

Chapter 4

Government measures promoting integration

Section 34

Government integration programme

(1) The government decides on the development of integration at national level by drawing up a government integration programme containing the integration objectives for four years at a time.

(2) The Ministry of Employment and the Economy is responsible for the preparation of the programme. Each of the ministries central to the development of integration determines, for its own administrative branch, the objectives and measures concerning the development of integration as part of the operational and financial planning of its own administrative branch.

(3) The government integration programme is funded within the limits of the state budget.

Section 35

Duties of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy

(1) The Ministry of Employment and the Economy is responsible for:
1) the overall development, planning and steering of the integration policy;
2) the coordination between the integration policy and the promotion of good ethnic relations;
3) the assessment and monitoring of the integration policy and the promotion of good ethnic relations at national level.
The Ministry of Employment and the Economy guides centres for economic development, transport and the environment in tasks concerning integration and the promotion of good ethnic relations.

Section 36
Cooperation body between ministries

A cooperation body with representatives of the ministries central to integration assists the Ministry of Employment and the Economy with the purpose of promoting cooperation and the flow of information in integration-related matters between ministries and in the coordination of measures.

Section 37
Duties of the centres for economic development, transport and the environment

(1) The centres for economic development, transport and the environment are responsible for the following duties concerning the integration of immigrants and the promotion of good ethnic relations in the areas coming under them:
   1) regional development, coordination and monitoring of integration and regional cooperation in integration matters;
   2) provision of municipalities with support and advice in the promotion of integration;
   3) provision of employment and economic development offices with guidance, advice and support in integration and promotion of employment and the development of their expertise in these areas;
   4) planning, procurement, and supervision of the integration training implemented as employment training; (28.12.2012/919)
   5) drawing up and implementation of the regional strategy covering the assigning the persons referred to in section 2(2-3) to the municipality;
   6) agreement on the establishment of family group homes and other residential units intended for unaccompanied minors and young persons residing in the country and the supervision of their operations;
   7) promotion of good ethnic relations and a dialogue between cultures;
   8) other duties specifically laid down for it in this Act.

(2) The centres for economic development, transport and the environment support the drawing up of the integration plans of the municipalities in the areas coming under them and monitor their implementation. The centres for economic development, transport and the environment provide the Ministry of Employment and the Economy with details of the integration plans in the areas coming under them and their implementation each year.

(3) Centres for economic development, transport and the environment shall cooperate with the regional state administrative agencies in the areas coming under them when carrying out the duties laid down for them in this Act.

Section 38
Duties of the regional state administrative agencies

(1) Regional state administrative agencies are responsible for the planning, steering and supervision of the measures and services promoting and supporting integration in matters coming under them and ensure that the needs of the immigrants are taken into account in the planning and arranging of other measures and services coming under regional state administrative agencies.

(2) Regional state administrative agencies shall cooperate with the centres for economic development, transport and the environment in the areas coming under them when carrying out the duties laid down for them in this Act.

Section 39
Regional committee for immigration matters
A centre for economic development, transport and the environment may appoint a regional committee for immigration matters. The task of the committee is to develop and plan the integration of immigrants and to promote non-discrimination. The committee may also have other tasks connected with immigration.

Section 40 (28.12.2012/919)

Duties of the employment and economic development offices

(1) Employment and economic development offices are responsible for the employment services promoting and supporting the employment and integration of immigrants, and for other measures targeting immigrants who have registered as jobseekers, and for other duties laid down for them in this Act.

(2) Employment and economic development offices shall make sure that their services also suit the needs of the immigrants.

Chapter 5

Assigning immigrants to a municipality

Section 41

Agreement on assigning immigrants to a municipality and on promoting their integration

(1) A municipality may conclude an agreement with a centre for economic development, transport and the environment on assigning persons referred to in section 2(2-3) to the municipality and on promoting their integration.

(2) The agreement is concluded on a multi-year basis and it is reviewed each year.

Section 42

Plan on assigning immigrants to a municipality and on promoting their integration

(1) After having concluded the agreement referred to in section 41, the municipality draws up, on its own or jointly with other municipalities, a multi-year plan on promoting the integration of the persons referred to in section 2(2-3) and assigned to the municipality as part of the integration programme.

(2) In the plan, consideration is given to the identification of the special needs of the persons referred to in subsection 1 and the arranging of the measures and services required by them in the municipality.

Section 43

Assigning immigrants to a municipality

The centre for economic development, transport and the environment assigns persons referred to in section 2(2-3) to the municipality with which the agreement referred to in section 41 has been concluded.

Chapter 6

Reimbursement of costs

Section 44

Reimbursement paid by the state to a municipality

(1) Centres for economic development, transport and the environment provide municipalities with reimbursement for the costs arising from the arranging of the measures referred to in this Act within the limits of the state budget and as provided in this Chapter.

(2) The costs are reimbursed on the basis of a given formula or in accordance with actual costs.
Reimbursement is paid from the date on which the person whose municipal residence is used as the basis for the reimbursement is entered in the population information system in his/her first municipality of residence.

If a person whose residence in the municipality is used as the basis for the reimbursement has no residence permit when entering the country and he/she cannot obtain a municipality of residence as provided in the Municipality of Residence Act (201/1994) after having been issued with a residence permit, the reimbursement is paid from the date on which he/she is issued with a residence permit.

Reimbursement for the costs incurred by a municipality for the persons referred to in section 2(2-3) of this Act is only paid if the municipality has drawn up the municipal integration programme referred to in section 32 and has concluded the agreement referred to in section 41 with the centre for economic development, transport and the environment.

Further provisions on the reimbursement paid by the state are given by government decree.

Section 45 (16.12.2011/1313)

**Imputed reimbursement for the persons assigned to a municipality**

1. A municipality is provided with an imputed reimbursement from state funds for assigning persons referred to in section 2(2) or (3) to the municipality and for the guidance and advice provided to them and for the arranging of other activities supporting integration.

2. The reimbursement is paid for three years starting on the date laid down in section 44(3) or (4). However, the imputed reimbursement shall be paid for four years for persons accepted into Finland as part of the refugee quota under Section 90 of the Aliens Act.

Section 46

**Reimbursement for the integration assistance and social assistance paid by the municipality**

Municipalities are reimbursed for the costs arising from the integration assistance paid under section 19 to persons referred to in section 2(2-3) and from the social assistance paid under the Act on Social Assistance, for a maximum period of three years.

Section 47

**Reimbursement for return assistance**

Municipalities are reimbursed for the costs arising from the support of the return migration referred to in section 85.

Section 48

**Reimbursement for arranging interpretation**

Municipalities are reimbursed for the costs arising from the interpretation arranged for persons referred to in section 2(2-3).

Section 49

**Reimbursement for special costs**

1. Municipalities are reimbursed for the following costs concerning the persons referred to in section 2(2-3):
   1) costs incurred by the municipality for the placement of an unaccompanied minor to a family group home or other residential unit referred to in section 28 and for family care, residential support services and other measures similar to child welfare services, until the young person in question is 21 years old;
   2) substantial costs incurred by the municipality for the provision of long-term social and health care resulting from a disability or an illness if the person concerned has been in need of care or treatment on his/her entry to Finland;
3) other special costs incurred by the municipality.

(2) An additional requirement for the reimbursement is that the centre for economic development, transport and the environment and the municipality have concluded a separate agreement on the reimbursement for the costs.

(3) Reimbursement for the costs referred to in this section is paid for a maximum of ten years.

Section 50

Reimbursement for arranging the initial assessment

Municipalities are paid a formula-based reimbursement for the costs arising from arranging the initial assessment under section 9.

Section 51

Reimbursement for the costs arising from the persons coming from the former Soviet Union

(1) Municipalities are reimbursed for the following costs arising from the persons coming from the former Soviet Union that have been issued with a residence permit under section 48 or 49(1)(1) of the Aliens Act:
   1) costs arising from the integration assistance paid under section 19 and social assistance paid under the Act on Social Assistance, for a maximum period of six months;
   2) substantial costs incurred by the municipality for the provision of long-term social and health care resulting from a disability or an illness, for a maximum period of five years.

(2) If the municipality provides the person with means of support because he/she is not, on account of his/her immigrant status, entitled to a pension or other social benefits, the municipality may be reimbursed for the costs arising from this for a maximum period of five years.

Section 52

Reimbursement for the costs arising from persons who have done voluntary service during conflicts

(1) Centres for economic development, transport and the environment and municipalities may agree on the reimbursement for the costs arising from the initial health checks, housing, securing of the means of support and the provision of social and health care of persons coming from the former Soviet Union who did voluntary service in the conflicts in which Finland was involved in 1939 – 1945 and their spouses.

(2) Reimbursement for the costs is paid for the whole duration of the period during which the persons referred to in subsection 1 reside in Finland.

Section 53

Reimbursement for the costs arising from the services and support measures provided to victims of trafficking in human beings

(1) Municipalities are reimbursed for the costs arising from the provision of victims of trafficking in human beings referred to in Chapter 4 of the Act on the Reception of Persons applying for International Protection with social and health care services, interpretation and the guaranteeing of personal safety resulting from the special needs that arise from their status and with other measures and services resulting from the special needs that arise from the victim status.

(2) The centre for economic development, transport and the environment shall request an opinion from the director of the reception centre assisting victims of trafficking in human beings on whether the costs for which reimbursement is applied have resulted from the provision of measures and services arising from the status of a victim of trafficking in human beings.

Section 54
Paying the reimbursement

A municipality shall apply for the reimbursement referred to in this Chapter on an application addressed to the centre for economic development, transport and the environment no later than two years from the end of the calendar year during which the activities for which reimbursement is applied for took place.

Section 55
Obligation to return the reimbursement paid

(1) A centre for economic development, transport and the environment may order a municipality to return a reimbursement paid by the state in part or in full if erroneous or misleading information has been submitted for receiving the reimbursement or if it otherwise transpires that there were no grounds for paying the reimbursement.

(2) An interest for late payment that equals the interest rate determined under section 4(1) of the Interest Act (633/1982) shall be paid on the returned amount.

(3) The decision of the centre for economic development, transport and the environment on the return of the reimbursement paid to the municipality without grounds shall be made no later than on the fifth calendar year from the end of the year for which the reimbursement was paid.

Chapter 7
Representing an unaccompanied minor

Section 56
Appointing a representative

(1) A representative shall be appointed without delay for a child that has been issued with a residence permit under a refugee quota and a child that is a victim of trafficking in human beings and has a residence permit if the child in question is residing in Finland without a guardian or other legal representative. Representatives may also be appointed for other children that have been issued with a residence permit and that are residing in Finland without a guardian or other legal representative.

(2) The application for appointing the representative is submitted by the body of the municipality in which the child is residing referred to in section 6(1) of the Social Welfare Act (710/1982). Before the application is submitted the child shall be heard and the interests of the child taken into consideration, as provided in section 4.

(3) Otherwise, the provisions of section 39(3) of the Act on the Reception of Persons applying for International Protection apply to the appointment of the representative. Provisions of section 44 of the same act apply to the notification obligation of the district court.

Section 57
Competence and duties of the representative

Provisions of sections 40 and 41 of the Act on the Reception of Persons applying for International Protection apply to the competence and duties of the person appointed as a representative under this Act.

Section 58
Relieving the representative of his/her duties and termination of the representative’s duties

(1) Provisions of section 42(1)(3) of the Act on the Reception of Persons applying for International Protection apply to the relieving of the representative of his/her duties. Provisions in section 44 of the same act apply to the notification obligation of the district court.
The application for the relieving of the representative of his/her duties may be submitted by the representative, the child in question if he/she is at least 15 years old, the body of the municipality in which the child is residing referred to in section 6(1) of the Social Welfare Act or the child’s guardian.

Provisions in section 43 of the Act on the Reception of Persons applying for International Protection apply to the termination of the representative’s duties.

Section 59 (9.12.2011/1251)
Remuneration paid to the representative and expenses

The centre for economic development, transport and the environment pays, on application, the remuneration of the representative appointed for the child on the basis of the time spent on the representative’s duties, and a reimbursement for the expenses arising from the representative’s duties when the representative has been appointed under this Act or under the Act on the Reception of Persons applying for International Protection (746/2011) and the child has been issued with a residence permit. Further provisions on the grounds for paying the remuneration, the size of the remuneration, expenses to be reimbursed and the procedure concerning the payment of the remuneration, and the reimbursement for the expenses are given by a Government decree.

Chapter 8
Register provisions

Section 60
Register of designated municipalities

The register of designated municipalities is a personal data file maintained for the purpose of assigning persons referred to in section 2(2-3) to municipalities.

The data on which municipality the person has been assigned to is entered into the register. The following data on the persons assigned to the municipality referred to in section 2(2-3) may also be entered into the register:
1) case number or client number, names, gender, date, place and country of birth, personal identity number, personal identity number issued in a foreign country or other code issued for identifying the immigrant, citizenship data and the details of the marital status and family relations;
2) information on the mother tongue, language skills, education and training, vocational skills and work experience.

The register of designated municipalities is maintained by the centre for economic development, transport and the environment.

Section 61
Disclosing data from the register of designated municipalities

A centre for economic development, transport and the environment may disclose to the Finnish Immigration Service, Social Insurance Institution, municipal authorities and the employment and economic development office data from the register of designated municipalities that are necessary for carrying out the immigration-related duties laid down for them in this Act, the Aliens Act or other acts.

The data may also be disclosed in machine language or using a technical interface.

Section 62
Removing data from the register of designated municipalities and storage of the data
The data on the registree entered into the register of designated municipalities are removed when they are no longer needed for any purpose and no later than five years from the last entry concerning the registree.

The National Archives Service decides on the permanent storage of the register of designated municipalities and the data contained in it, as provided in section 8(3) of the Archives Act (831/1994). Otherwise, the provisions of section 8(2) of the Archives Act on document storage apply.

Chapter 9
“Participative Integration in Finland” pilot scheme


Section 63
Contents of the pilot scheme

This Chapter contains provisions on the “Participative Integration in Finland” pilot scheme. During the scheme, a municipality or a municipality and an employment and economic development office jointly may pilot new integration training entities, the purchasing and arranging of integration training and the referring of immigrants to training as provided in this Chapter. More than one municipality may also jointly participate in the pilot scheme. Centres for economic development, transport and the environment may purchase integration training provided during the pilot scheme, as provided in this Chapter.

A municipality may also pilot measures promoting the integration of immigrant children and young immigrants in basic education and day care, as provided in this Chapter.

The measures of the “Participative Integration in Finland” pilot scheme are planned and arranged for the following groups as customer-oriented training entities:
1) immigrants entering the labour market and immigrants on the labour market (integration path 1);
2) immigrants in need of special support (integration path 2); and
3) immigrant children and young immigrants (integration path 3).

Section 64
Relationship between the pilot scheme and other legislation

Unless otherwise provided in this Chapter, the provisions of this Act, the Act on the Public Employment and Business Service, the Act on Children’s Day Care (36/1973), the Act on Child Home Care Allowances and Private Care Allowances (1128/1996), the Basic Education Act and the Act on Public Contracts (348/2007) apply to the pilot scheme.

Section 65
Purpose of the pilot scheme

The purpose of the pilot scheme is to pilot integration training covering a substantial number of persons and to pilot new ways of purchasing and arranging integration training. The purpose is also to make integration training more effective by piloting new customer-oriented training contents. Particularly the teaching of Finnish or Swedish, training familiarising immigrants with the functioning of society and training supporting employment and participation in working life are made more effective.

Concerning immigrant children and young immigrants, the purpose of the pilot scheme is to make the teaching of Finnish or Swedish as the second language and the teaching of the mother tongue more effective. The purpose is also to pilot new models for teaching young immigrants who are over the basic education age and do not have a basic education certificate.
Section 66
Scope of the pilot scheme

This Chapter applies to persons referred to in section 2(1) at employment and economic development offices in the municipalities taking part in the pilot scheme.

Section 67
Pilot scheme municipality

A pilot scheme municipality is a municipality approved to take part in the pilot scheme on the basis of an application submitted to the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

The new section 67, which was altered on the basis of 1251/2011, took effect on 1.1.2012.

Section 68
Selection requirements

Pilot scheme projects are approved by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy on application. The geographical distribution of the projects is taken into account in the selection. Consideration is also given to the following factors:
1) the project is in accordance with the contents of the pilot scheme referred to in section 63 and the purpose of the pilot scheme referred to in section 65;
2) the project involves cooperation across administrative branches;
3) the project plan is in accordance with the general objectives of the “Participative Integration in Finland” pilot scheme, specifies project objectives, lists project measures and participants, gives the project timetable and contains a budget detailing the costs for which funding is sought.

The new section 68, which was altered on the basis of 1251/2011, took effect on 1.1.2012.

Section 69
Obligations of the pilot scheme municipalities

(1) A pilot scheme municipality is responsible for the planning, coordination and implementation of the measures that are in accordance with the pilot scheme, as provided in this Chapter in more detail. The municipality may pilot integration training or measures strengthening the teaching of children and young persons using one or more of the training entities referred to in section 63(3).

(2) The pilot scheme municipality appoints a party responsible for carrying out the tasks referred to in subsection 1.

Section 70
Provisions concerning the employment and economic development offices taking part in the pilot scheme

(1) An employment and economic development office taking part in the pilot scheme may purchase integration training referred to in section 63(3) for clients of the employment and economic development office taking part in the pilot scheme.

(2) An immigrant taking part in the training provided under the pilot scheme has the right to become a client of the employment and economic development office regardless of whether his/her integration training is provided in accordance with section 63(3)(1) or 63(3)(2).

(3) The provisions of this Act apply to the integration training provided by the employment and economic development office during the pilot scheme unless otherwise provided in the Act on the Public Employment and Business Service.

Section 71
Coordinating the measures carried out during the pilot scheme
The tasks referred to in section 69 above are, to the extent necessary, planned, implemented and coordinated with the municipality, the employment and economic development office, the centre for economic development, transport and the environment or other authorities or the providers of the training or other service providers.

Section 72
Purchasing integration training provided during the pilot scheme

(1) By way of derogation from the provisions of the Act on Public Contracts and the provisions on the purchase of labour market training laid down in Chapter 5 of the Act on the Public Employment and Business Service, an employment and economic development office or a centre for economic development, transport and the environment may, subject to the conditions laid down in subsections 3 and 4, purchase integration training during the pilot scheme as labour market training. (28.12.2012/919)

(2) By way of derogation from the provisions of the Act on Public Contracts, a municipality or a centre for economic development, transport and the environment may, subject to the conditions laid down in subsections 3 and 4, purchase integration training during the pilot scheme that is not provided as labour market training. (28.12.2012/919)

(3) When selecting the economically most advantageous tender for the training provided during the pilot scheme, the price and particularly the manner in which the objectives, continuity, contents and quality of the training offered are in agreement with the training entities referred to in section 63(3) shall be used as the comparison criteria.

(4) When deciding on the purchase of the training provided during the pilot scheme, the municipality, the employment and economic development office or the centre for economic development, transport and the environment shall ensure the transparency and proportionality of the purchasing procedure, equal and non-discriminatory treatment of the tenderers, functioning of the markets, efficiency of the purchasing operations and the principles of good governance.

(5) A municipality purchases the integration training provided during the pilot scheme with the appropriation allocated for the purchase of training in the state budget or funding otherwise allocated to the municipality.

Section 73
Referring immigrants to integration training provided during the pilot scheme and the guiding of immigrants during the training

(1) In addition to what is provided in section 9 on the initial assessment of an immigrant by a municipality or an employment and economic development office and the referring of the immigrant to training and services provided by other authorities or service providers, the municipality or the employment and economic development office that has carried out the initial assessment refers the immigrant to integration training suitable to him/her taking into consideration the training entities referred to in section 63(3).

(2) The municipality, the employment and economic development office or the training provider guides the immigrant during the integration training in such a manner that moving from one training period to another takes place in a target-oriented manner without prolonged waiting times. When necessary, the immigrant is referred to different training periods and to the training entities referred to in section 63(3) in a flexible manner.

Section 74
Selection to the integration training provided during the pilot scheme

(1) If the integration training offered during the pilot scheme is provided as labour market training, student selection is the responsibility of the employment and economic
development office, or it is the joint responsibility of the employment and economic
development office and the training provider. (28.12.2012/919)

(2) If the integration training offered during the pilot scheme is provided or purchased by the
municipality, student selection is the responsibility of the municipality or the joint
responsibility of the municipality and the training provider.

(3) An immigrant may only be selected to integration training if he/she is deemed to be suitable
for the training provided under the pilot scheme and for other measures.

Section 75
Rights and obligations of the students during the integration training provided by a municipality

Provisions on the rights and obligations of the students during labour market training, as laid
down in Chapter 5, section 4 of the Act on Public Employment and Business Service, apply
to the rights and obligations of the students during integration training provided by the
municipality. When the regular participation of the student in the training is assessed,
consideration is given to how the situation of the immigrant affects his/her opportunity to
take part in the training.

Section 76
The amount of integration training provided during the pilot scheme

The teaching and other measures promoting integration provided as part of the integration
training correspond to a maximum of 60 credits.

Section 77
Certificate of the completion of the “Participative Integration in Finland” integration training

The educational institution or other training provider gives the immigrant a certificate of the
completion of the “Participative Integration in Finland” integration training if the immigrant
in question has completed a training entity.

Section 78
Paying integration assistance during the pilot scheme

(1) The immigrant is entitled to integration assistance paid by the municipality as social
assistance under the Act on Social Assistance for the period during which he/she takes part
in integration training provided or purchased by the municipality.

(2) The municipality also pays maintenance allowance for the duration of the training in
accordance with the provisions on maintenance allowance in Chapter 9 of the Act on the

Section 79
Pilot scheme measures involving basic education

Pilot scheme municipalities shall develop new operating models for basic education so that
the instruction preparing for basic education, the teaching of Finnish or Swedish as the
second language and the teaching of the mother tongue of the immigrants themselves in
particular can be more effectively utilised.

Section 80
Reimbursement for the costs arising from the pilot scheme

The state reimburses municipalities separately for the costs arising from the provision and
purchase of the integration training provided under this Chapter and for the planning,
steering and coordination of other measures during the pilot scheme.

Section 81
Monitoring and assessment of the pilot scheme

The pilot scheme municipalities and employment and economic development offices are responsible for the monitoring and assessment of the pilot scheme. They have the obligation to provide the centres for economic development, transport and the environment of their areas and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy with the information on the pilot scheme requested by these two bodies. Each centre for economic development, transport and the environment draws up an assessment of the pilot schemes in their areas and submits them to the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. The Ministry of Employment and the Economy is responsible for drawing up the final report of the pilot scheme.

The new section 81, which was altered on the basis of 1251/2011, took effect on 1.1.2012

Chapter 10
Miscellaneous provisions

Section 82
Appeal

(1) Unless otherwise provided in the law, an appeal against a decision referred to in this Act may be lodged in an administrative court, as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996).

(2) Provisions on appeal against a decision made by an employment and economic development office under the Act on Public Employment and Business Service are laid down in Chapter 14 of the Act on the Public Employment and Business Service. (28.12.2012/919)

(3) Provisions on appeal against a decision on integration assistance that concerns labour market support are laid down in Chapter 12 of the Unemployment Security Act.

(4) Provisions on appeal against a decision on social assistance are laid down in Chapter 7 of the Social Welfare Act.

Section 83
Prohibition of appeal

(1) The integration plan referred to in sections 11-18 of this Act may not be appealed against.

(2) The decision on assigning to a municipality made by a centre for economic development, transport and the environment referred to in section 43 may not be appealed against.

Section 84
Insurance cover of persons participating in measures promoting integration

(1) A person receiving labour market support as integration assistance who is involved in an accident or who contracts an occupational disease while engaged in self-motivated studies promoting integration referred to in section 22 above or participating in other individually agreed measures receives a compensation from state funds on the same basis as a person involved in an accident is compensated under the Employment Accidents Insurance Act (608/1948). However, the compensation is only paid if the injured party is not entitled to a compensation of at least equal amount under other acts.

(2) Matters concerning the payment of the compensation from state funds under subsection 1 are considered by the State Treasury. Decisions made by the State Treasury under this section may be appealed against as provided in Chapter 5 of the Employment Accidents Insurance Act.

(3) The Ministry of Employment and the Economy provides persons taking part in measures promoting integration referred to in subsection 1 with a group liability insurance.
Section 85  
Supporting return migration

(1) A municipality may provide a person referred to in section 2(2-3) who is voluntarily returning to his/her home country or country of origin for reasons other than temporary stay with reasonable compensation for his/her travel and relocation costs. The municipality may also provide a single person with return assistance corresponding to a maximum of two months’ basic amount of social assistance and a family with return assistance corresponding to a maximum of four months’ basic amount of social assistance.

(2) The compensation for travel and relocation costs and the return assistance are granted on application by the municipality where the person referred to in subsection 1 resides.

(3) The municipality may recover the compensation for travel and relocation costs and the return assistance it has granted if it transpires that the compensation or the assistance has been paid on false grounds or without grounds. The application on the recovery of the benefits is submitted to the administrative court in the judicial district of which the municipality is located.

Section 86  
Reimbursement for costs arising from travel to Finland

(1) The Finnish Immigration Service reimburses for the costs arising from the travel to Finland of a person admitted to Finland under a refugee quota referred to in section 90 of the Aliens Act and his/her family members.

(2) The Finnish Immigration Service may, in individual cases and on application, decide to reimburse for the costs arising from travel to Finland of family members of beneficiaries of international protection other than those referred to in subsection 1 if the failure to reimburse for the costs would be unreasonable considering the serious disability or serious illness of the beneficiary of international protection or his/her family member or other similar exceptionally weighty reason.

Section 87  
Right of access to information

(1) Notwithstanding any secrecy provisions, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, regional state administrative agencies, centres for economic development, transport and the environment, employment and economic development offices, municipal authorities and the Social Insurance Institution have the right to access, free of charge, the information necessary for carrying out the duties laid down in Chapters 2, 5 and 6 of this Act from each other, the Finnish Immigration Service, reception and organisation centres, providers of measures and services supporting integration and representatives appointed for unaccompanied minors.

(2) Notwithstanding any secrecy provisions, providers of measures and services supporting integration whose services immigrants are referred to have the right to access, free of charge, the information necessary for arranging the measures and services referred to in Chapter 2 of this Act from employment and economic development offices and municipal authorities.

(3) Notwithstanding any secrecy provisions, representatives appointed for unaccompanied minors have the right to access, free of charge, the information necessary for carrying out the duties referred to in section 57 of this Act from employment and economic development offices, municipal authorities, the Finnish Immigration Service and reception and organisation centres.

(4) The information may also be disclosed in machine language or using a technical interface.

Section 88
Secrecy obligation

The information and documents obtained for the purpose of carrying out the duties laid
down in this Act shall be kept secret as provided in the Act on the Openness of Government
Activities (621/1999).

Chapter 11
Entry into force

Section 89
Entry into force

(1) This Act enters into force on 1 September 2011. However, Chapter 9 and section 86 of the
Act enter into force on 1 January 2011. Chapter 9 of the Act will remain in force until 31
December 2013.

(2) Section 9 of the Act applies from 1 January 2011 to those persons referred to in section 2(1)
to whom Chapter 9 applies.

(3) This Act repeals the Act on the Integration of Immigrants and Reception of Asylum Seekers
(493/1999).

Section 90
Transitional provision

(1) Provisions of section 86 are applied to the reimbursement for costs of travel to Finland of
persons admitted to Finland under a refugee quota and issued with a residence permit on the
basis of family ties if the decision on the residence permit of the person admitted under a
refugee quota or issued with a residence permit on the basis of family ties has been made on
1 January 2011 or after that date.

(2) Integration plans drawn up under the act in force at the time of the entry into force of this
Act are observed until their expiry.

(3) Provisions in force at time of the entry into force of this Act apply to appeals against
decisions made before the Act’s entry into force.

(4) Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be undertaken before the Act’s
entry into force.