

Migration policy of Finland

Anna Jeney



IVAN FRANKO
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
OF LVIV

History of Migration in Finland

- ◎ Swedish rule (c. 1250-1809)
 - > Swedish, Walloon, Romani, German, Norwegian, Danish, Swiss, Polish, Dutch and Scottish people's migration to Finland
- ◎ Russian rule (1809-1917)
 - > Russian, Jewish, Tatar people's migration to Finland
 - > Finnish people's migration to the United States

History of Migration in Finland

- ◎ First World War (1914-1918)
 - > Independence of Finland (1917)
 - > 1917-1922: immigrants from Russia (Finns and Russians)
- ◎ Second World War (1939-1945)
 - > Wars with the Soviet Union: Winter War and Continuation War
 - > Finnish war children were sent to Sweden
 - > Finnish people's migration from the areas occupied by the Soviet Union

History of Migration in Finland

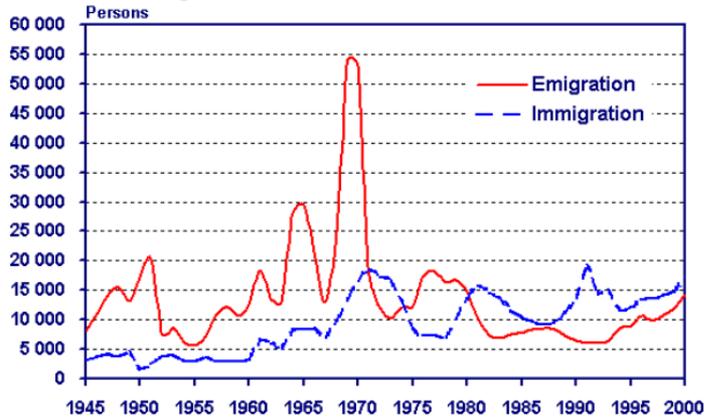
- ◉ Difficult geopolitical and economic situation in Finland
 - > → Almost no immigration to Finland after the Second World War
- ◉ Common Nordic Labour Market (1954)
 - > → Finnish people's migration to Sweden (1960s-1970s) and back (1980s)
- ◉ Early refugee waves
 - > From 1973: Refugees from Chile
 - > From 1979: Vietnamese „boat people“
 - > From 1990: Yugoslavian war's refugees

History of Migration in Finland

- ◎ Collapse of the Soviet Union
 - > More Finns living in Russia migrated to Finland
 - > Immigrants from the Baltic States and Russia
- ◎ Finland's Accession to the European Union (1995)
 - > Freedom of movement within the Schengen area
 - > European Union's common policy on immigration
 - > European Union's enlargements
 - > Migration Crisis in 2015

Statistics

Migration to and from Finland 1945–2000



Source: Statistics Finland; Figure: Jouni Korkiasaari, Institute of Migration 2001

The Foreign Population in Finland 1980–2000

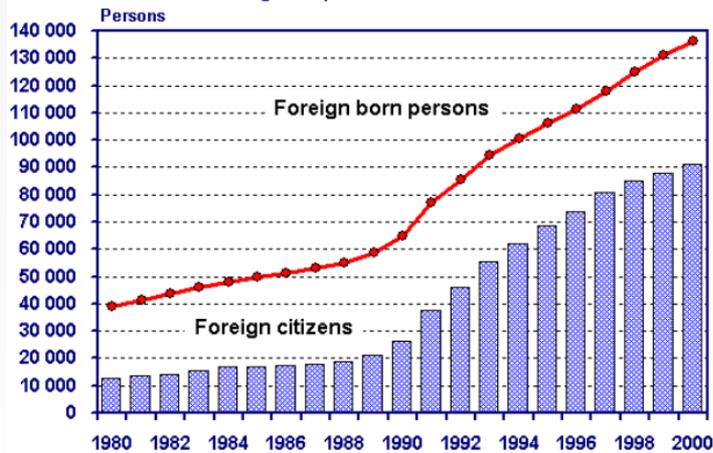
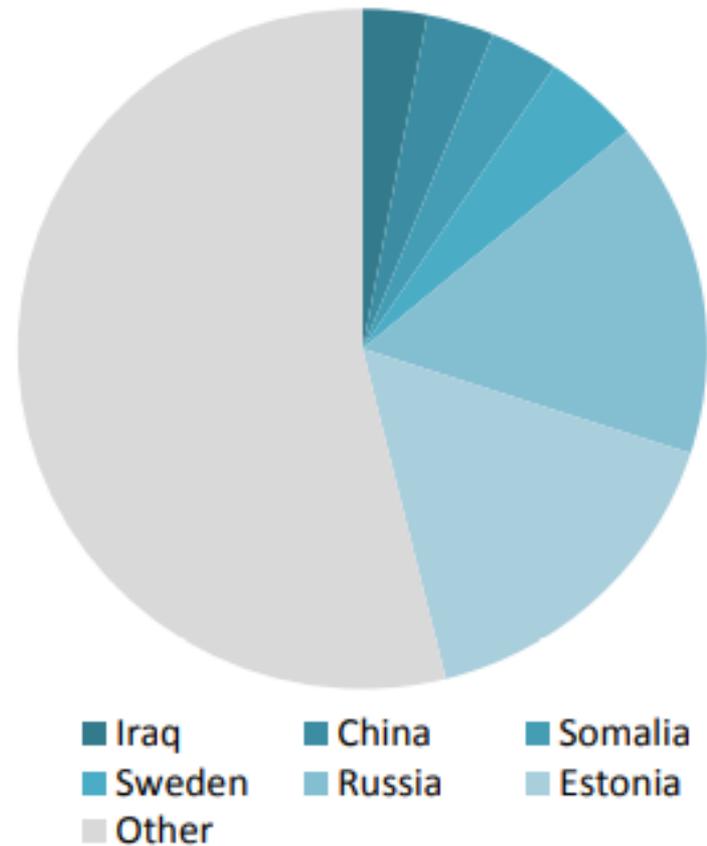


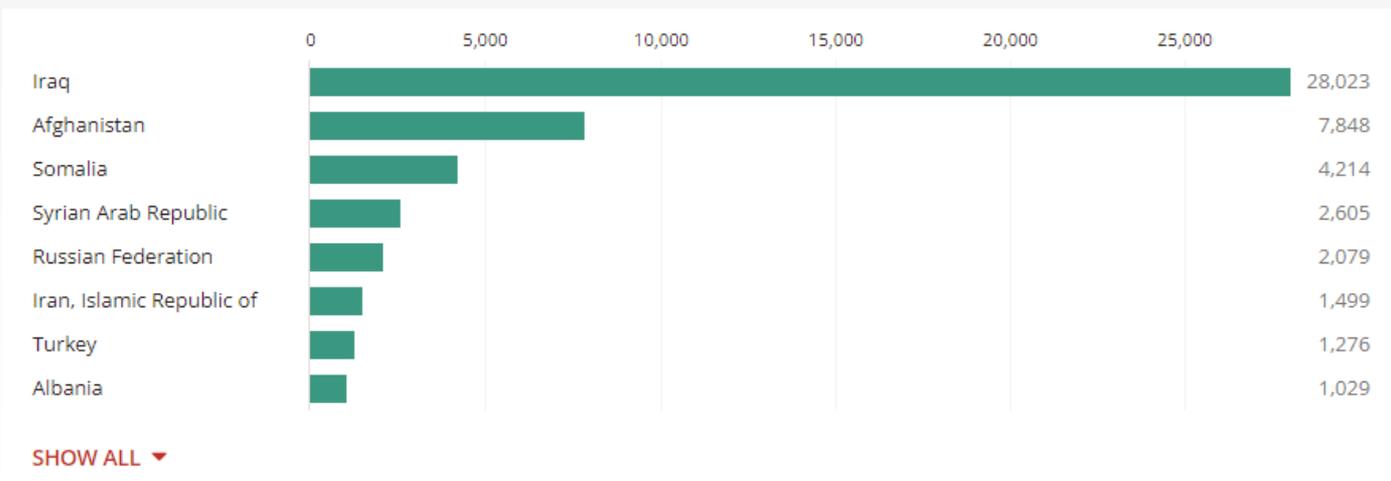
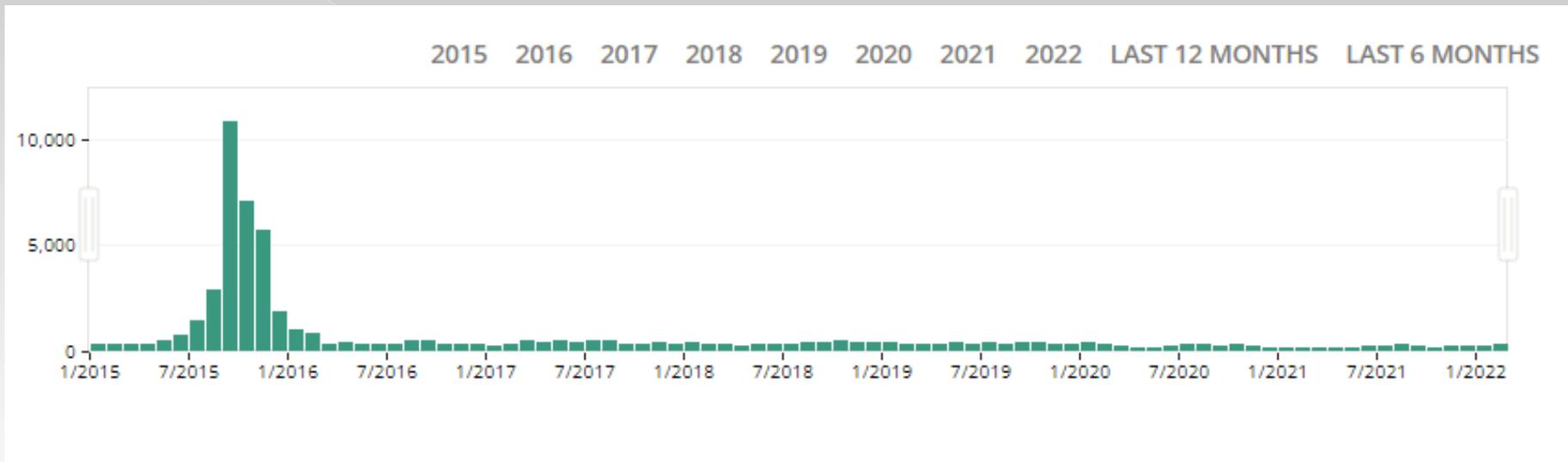
Figure 1. Composition of the Finnish foreign-born population

Permanent arrivals by nationality, 1990-2015

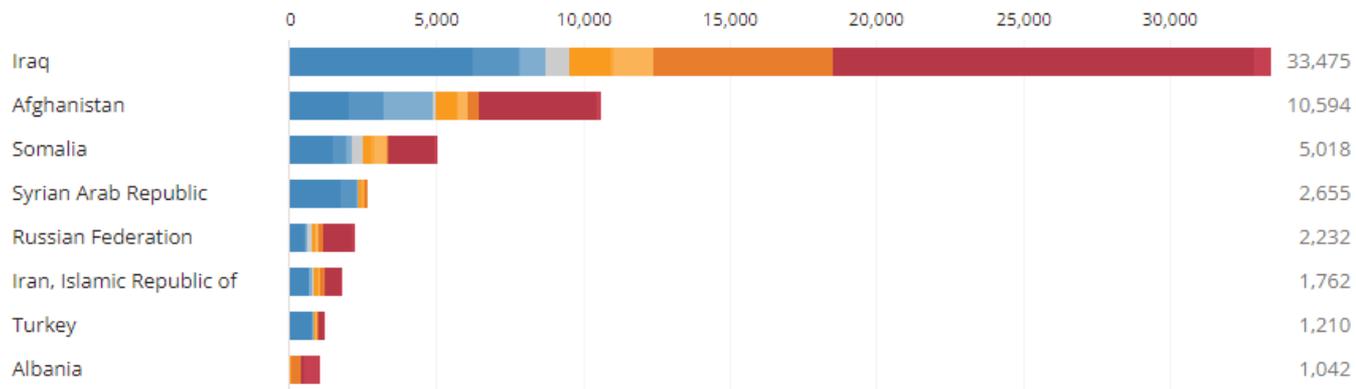
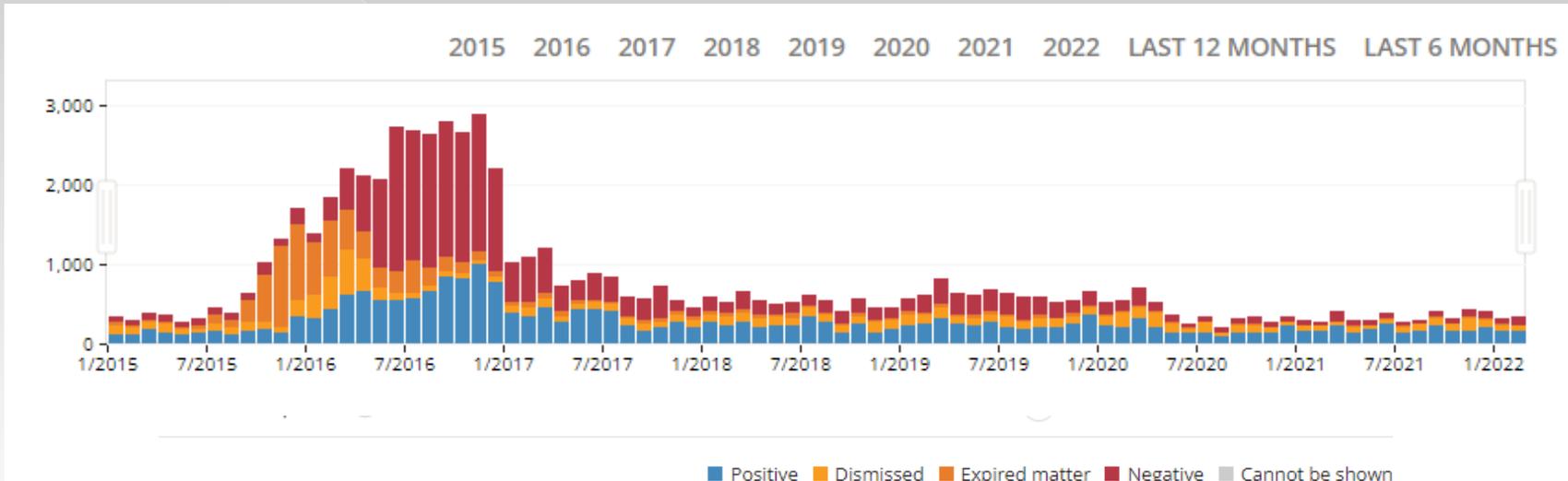


Source: OECD International Migration Database

Applications for International Protection



Decisions about International Protection



SHOW ALL ▾

Agencies of Migration in Finland

- ◉ Ministry of Interior
- ◉ Finnish Immigration Service (“Migri”)
- ◉ Police
- ◉ Finnish Border Guard
- ◉ Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- ◉ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
- ◉ Ministry of Justice
- ◉ Administrative Courts and Supreme Administrative Court
- ◉ Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
- ◉ Ministry of Education and Culture
- ◉ Finnish National Agency for Education
- ◉ Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- ◉ Municipalities
- ◉ NGOs
- ◉ Non-Discrimination Ombudsman

Finland's Migration and Asylum Policy

- Based on government objectives, European Union's legislation and international agreements.
- Common European Union Asylum System
 - > Finland wants it to be reformed
 - > Uniformized and well-functioning system
 - > For fair and sustainable solutions

Finland's Migration and Asylum Policy

- “An asylum seeker is a person who seeks asylum and the right to reside in a foreign nation.”
- “A refugee is someone who has been granted asylum or arrives in Finland as a quota refugee.”
- “Asylum seekers become refugees if they are granted asylum.”
- International protection
 - > Refugee status
 - > Subsidiary protection
 - > Temporary protection
- Assistance for voluntary return / Forced return

Finland's Migration and Asylum Policy

- ◉ Labour migration legislation
 - > „Finland invests in labour migration”
 - > Finland's needs
 - Finnish population is ageing and the birth rate is insufficient to maintain the welfare society -> Lack of workers in the society.
 - Lack of workers in specific sectors.
 - > Competition for the best foreign entrepreneurs and other top talents
 - > The aim is work-based residence permits

Finland's Migration and Asylum Policy

◎ Nationality

- > „Finnish citizenship can be acquired by birth, on the basis of the parents' citizenship, by application or by declaration.”
- > Inheritance principle

◎ Irregular entry

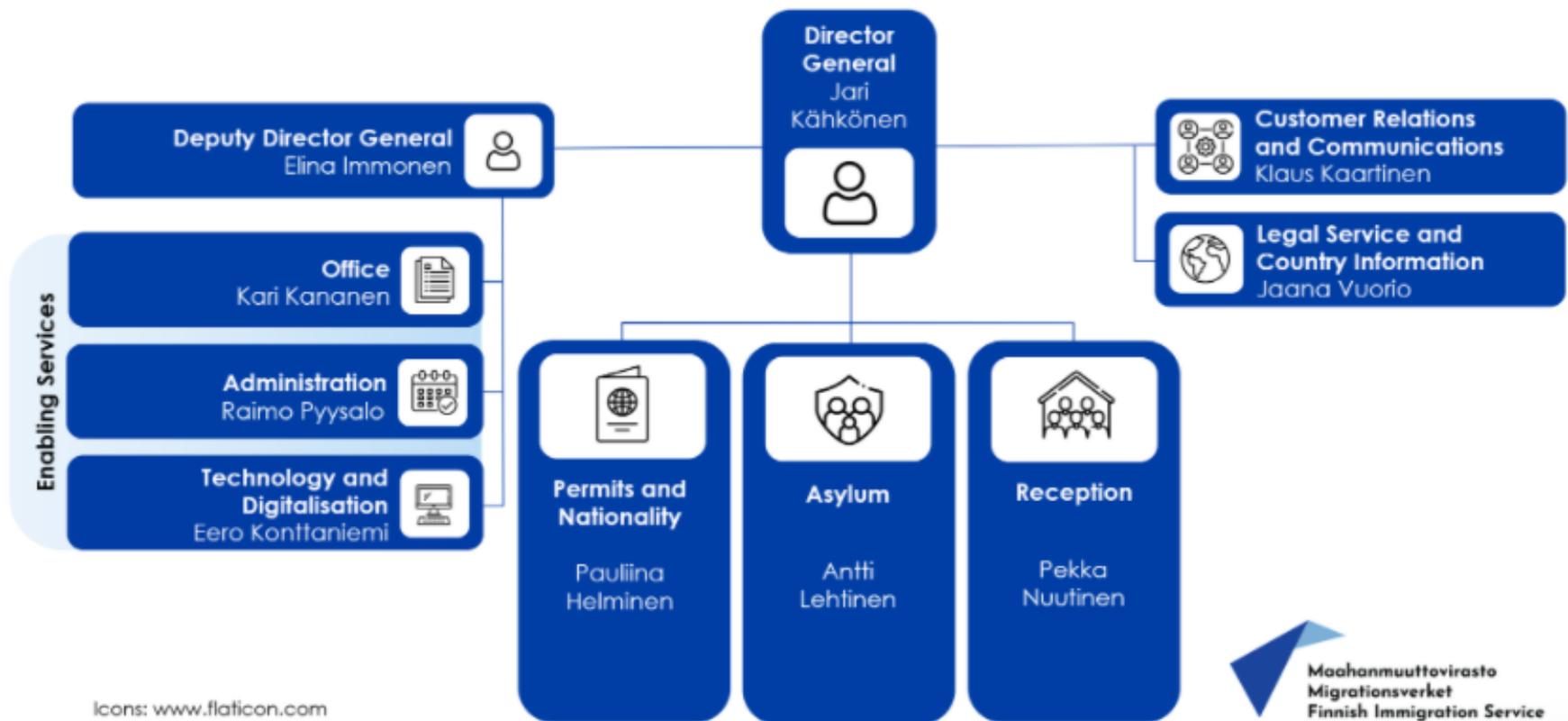
- > „Irregular entry means entering the country without complying with the conditions laid down in the law of the country of destination.”
- > Finland's action plan based on prevention and the cooperation of authorities.

Finnish Immigration Service („Migri“)

- „The Finnish Immigration Service is a decision-making organisation in matters related to immigration, asylum, refugee status and citizenship and maintains the reception system.”
- Migri works together with the mentioned institutes.
- It also has the Advisory Board and the European Migration Network (EMN).

Finnish Immigration Service („Migri“)

Organisation of the Finnish Immigration Service



Icons: www.flaticon.com

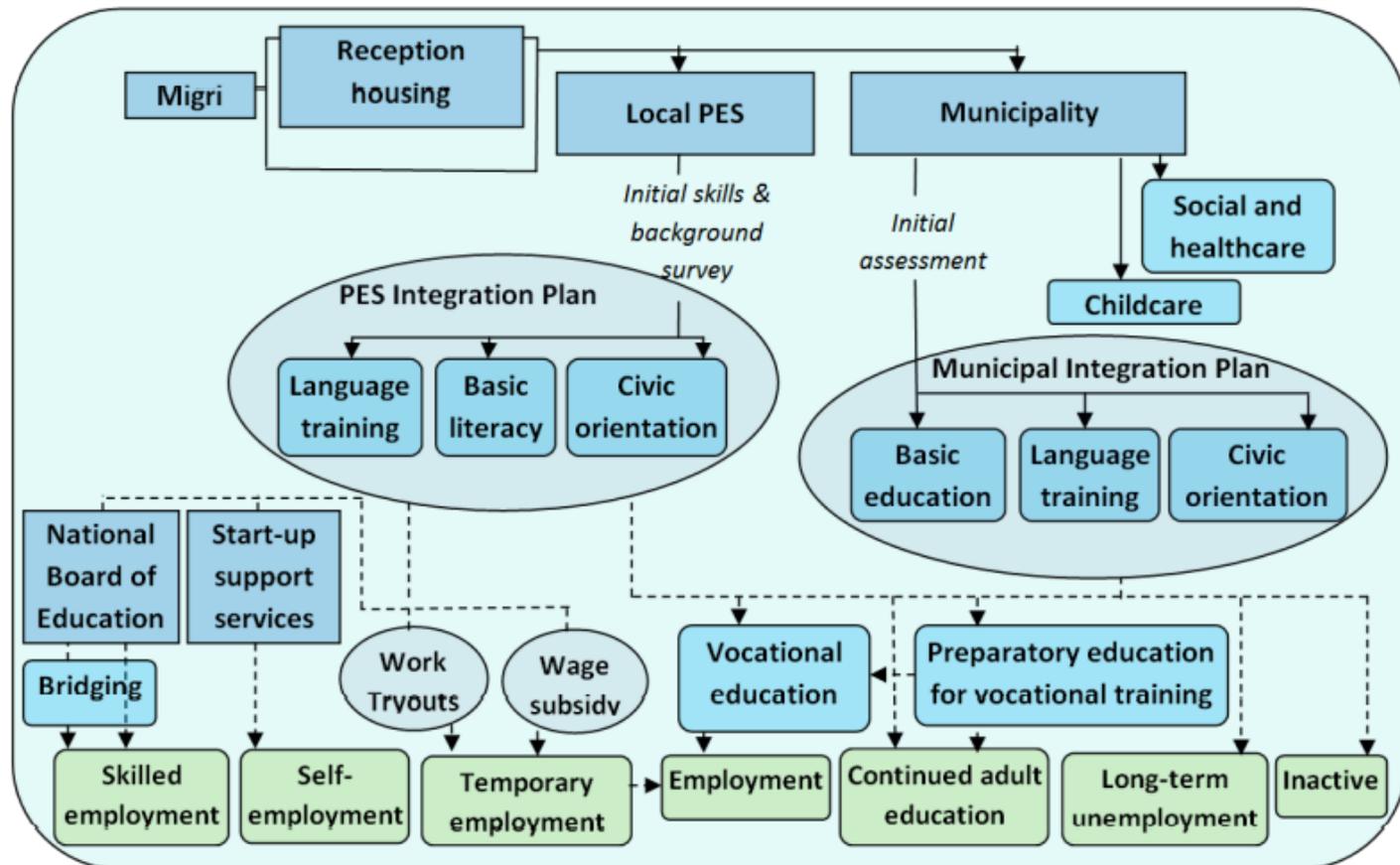
 Maahanmuuttovirasto
Migrationsverket
Finnish Immigration Service

Integration

- ⦿ Finland's limited experience with migration
- ⦿ Finnish Integration System tries to be holistic.
- ⦿ Integration into the labour market and society
 - > Many unemployed immigrants -> waste of valuable skills

Finnish Migrant Integration System

Figure 5: The integration path of new arrivals in Finland



Finnish Migrant Integration System

◉ Challenges

- › Co-ordination among integration actors at the national, regional, and municipal level
- › Language training and early integration support
- › Validation and recognition of migrant skills
- › Contact with employers and social partners
- › Integration in School
- › Discrimination

Immigrants in the Finnish Society

- The most common reasons to immigrate to Finland were family reasons, work and study.
- Most immigrants live in cities and their surroundings (especially all the Middle Eastern and Africans). Only a few live in the countryside (mostly Europeans)
- Immigrants employment (2017): 1. real estate cleaner, 2. restaurant jobs 3. labour hire
- Crime (alcohol and drug traffick, sexual violence)

The Requirements for Acquiring Citizenship on Application



Language skills



Established identity



Period of residence



Integrity



Means of support



Fulfilled payment obligations

Recent Challenges

- ◉ Promotion of legal migration
- ◉ Attraction of workers
- ◉ Integration challenges
- ◉ Consequences of Brexit
- ◉ Coronavirus outbreak
- ◉ Russia's attack in Ukraine
 - > EU decision
 - > Temporary protection

„Finland is an open and safe country”, where „everyone can find a role” and „diversity is the part of everyday life”.