

2015

31 December 2015

NUMBER OF
PERSONNEL

508

OF WHICH

203

NEW EMPLOYEES



EXPENDITURE

€ **207** M

REVENUE

€ **8.7** M

5
OFFICES

2 new opened at the beginning of 2015

IN SEPTEMBER,
A REGISTRATION
CENTRE WAS
OPENED IN TORNIO



88,273

SUBMITTED MATTERS

55,370

DECISIONS

58,219

ANSWERED
CUSTOMER CALLS

55

JUDICIAL EXPERT
OPINIONS

450

COUNTRY INFORMATION
ANSWERS

4

STUDIES BY
THE EUROPEAN
MIGRATION NETWORK



2015

During 2015, the Finnish Immigration Service made a total of **55,370** decisions.

MORE MATTERS WERE SUBMITTED
THAN IN 2014

+64%

21,246 
RESIDENCE PERMIT
DECISIONS

 **7,466**
ASYLUM DECISIONS

184
NEW
RECEPTION CENTRES


11,372
CITIZENSHIP DECISIONS

15,286
OTHER DECISIONS

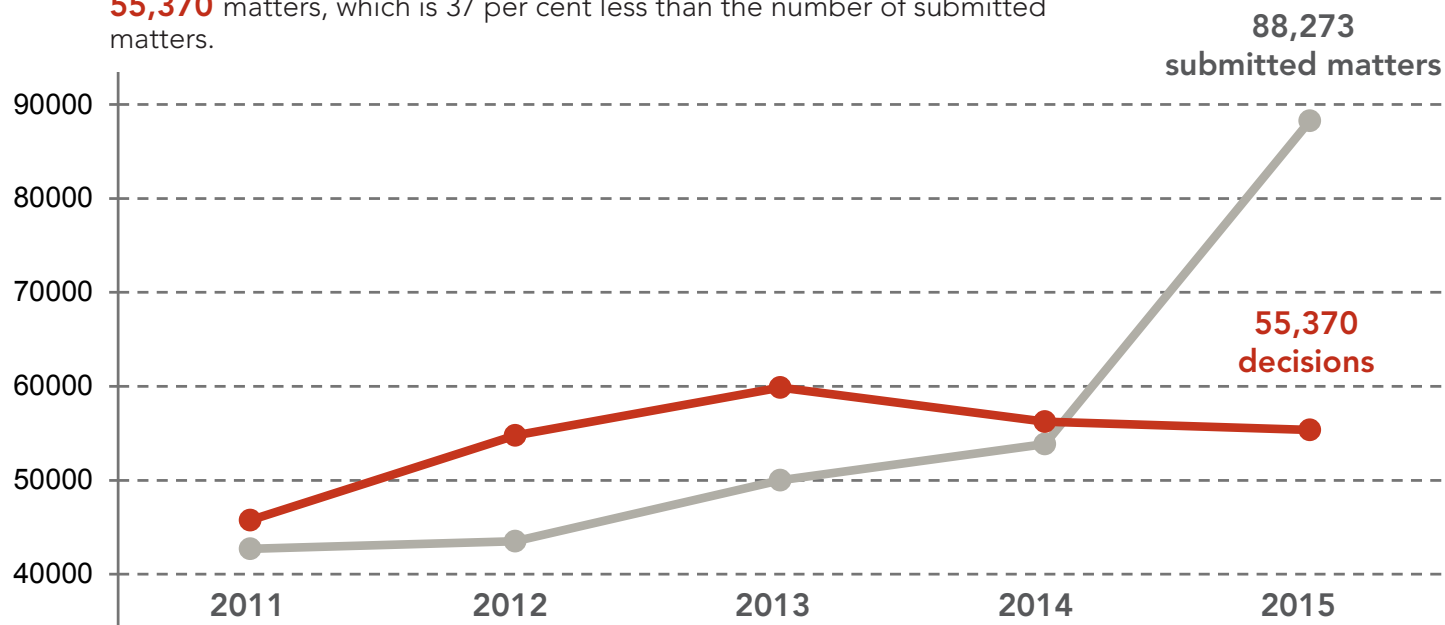


Over 30,000 more matters were submitted than the year before

In 2015, the number of submitted matters increased in particular because of the exceptionally high number of asylum seekers coming to Finland; **32,476** asylum seekers. This is about **890%** more than the year before.

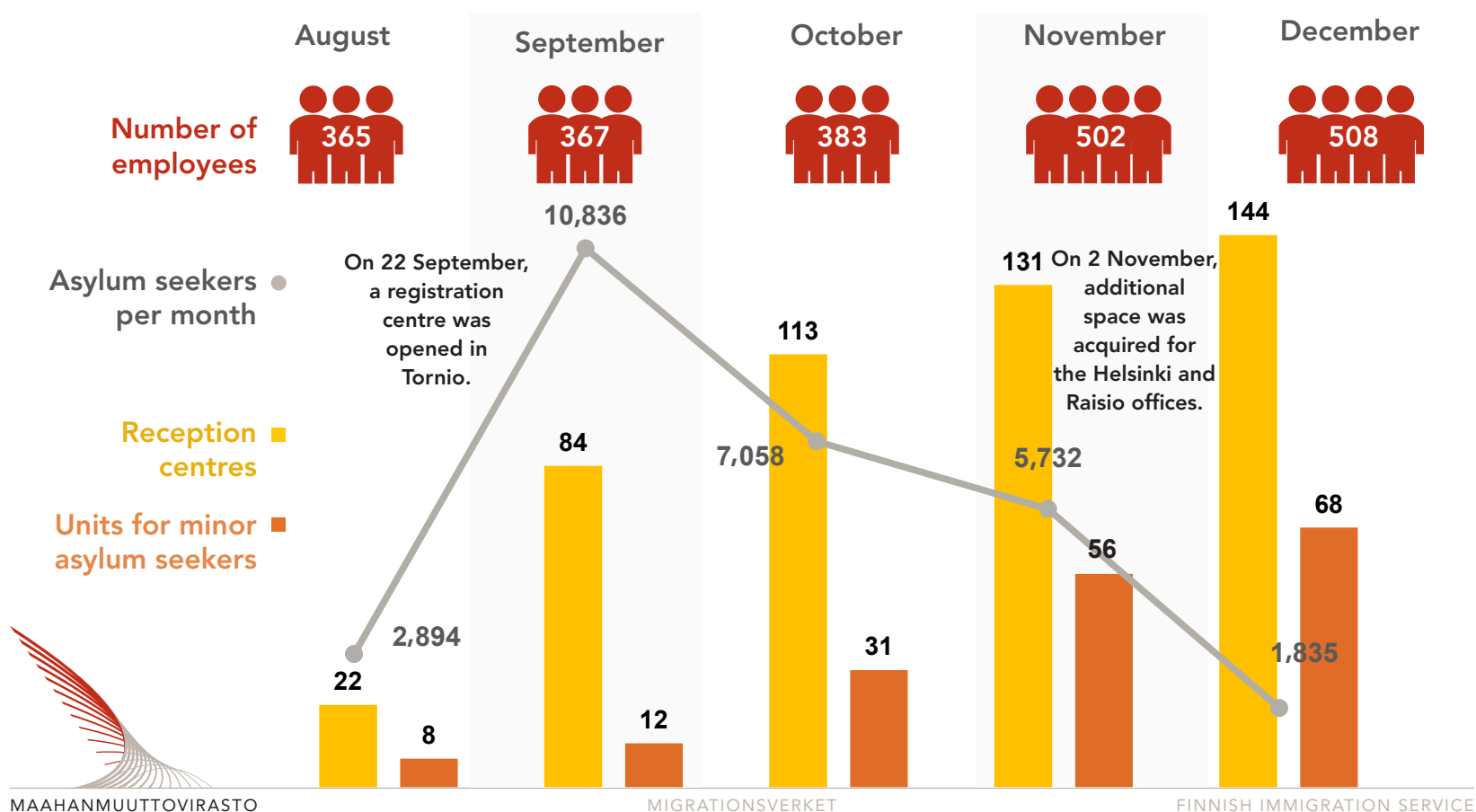
At the same time, the Finnish Immigration Service made decisions on **55,370** matters, which is 37 per cent less than the number of submitted matters.

! The highest number of asylum seekers arrived at the end of September during week 39: 3,939 persons. By way of comparison: in 2014, the total number of asylum seekers was 3,651.



Quick response to the increased number of asylum seekers

During the last third of the year, about **150 persons** were recruited to work at the Finnish Immigration Service.

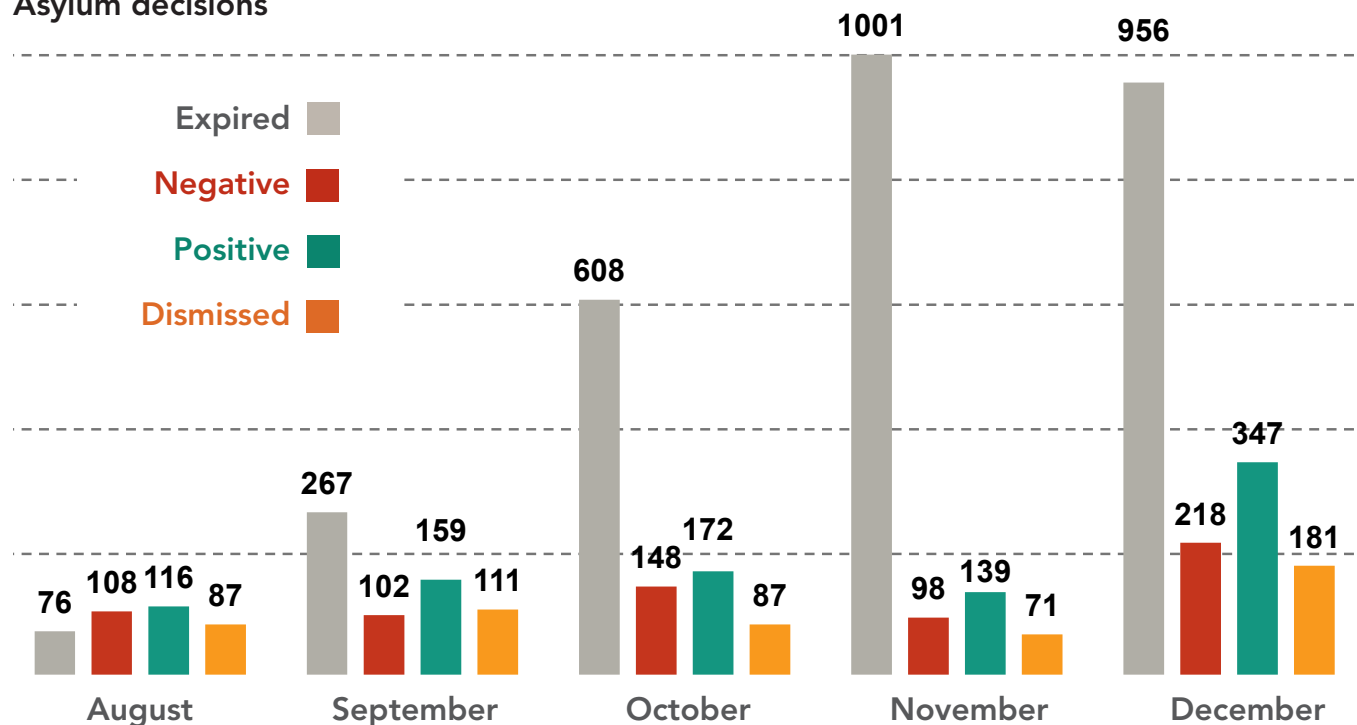


Faster decision-making in asylum matters

In the autumn, we updated the **guidelines** concerning the countries from which most asylum seekers come to Finland, Iraq, Somalia and Afghanistan. The guidelines emphasised individual grounds more than before. At the end of the year, a large part of the decisions were expiry decisions.

At the beginning of the year, the average processing time for asylum applications was about 6 months. At the end of the year, the time decreased to 5 months.

Asylum decisions

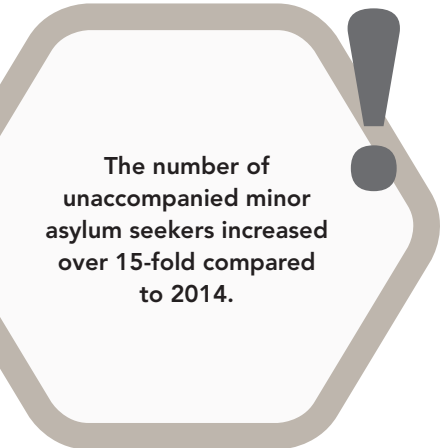


A roof over the head for everyone

At the end of the year, there were **144** units for adults and families and **68** units for unaccompanied minors.

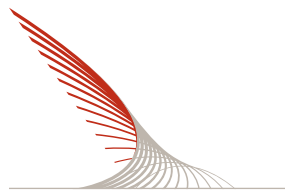
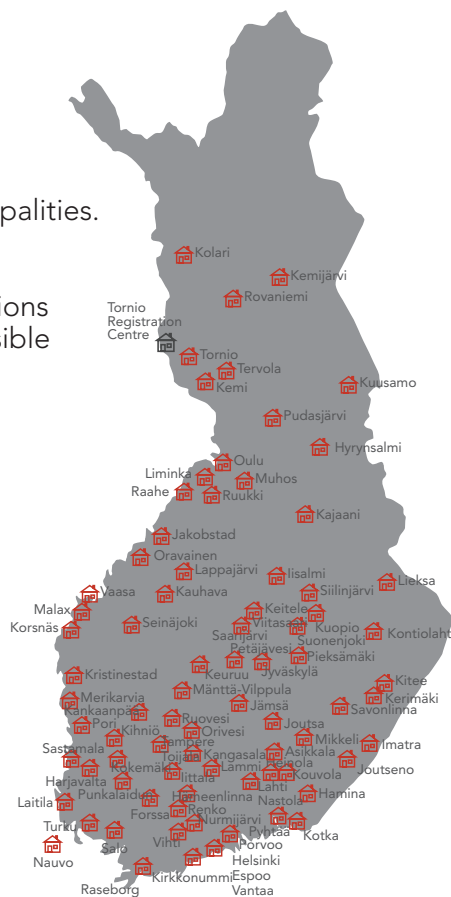
33 of these units were run by the state and municipalities.
105 units were run by the Finnish Red Cross.

33 units were operated by organisations, associations and parishes, and commercial actors were responsible for the operation of **41** units.



The number of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers increased over 15-fold compared to 2014.

Reception centres
31 December 2015




Reception centres were the hottest topic in the media concerning the agency

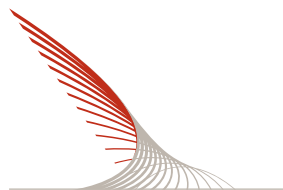
The agency communicated actively with the media and the public also on Twitter, which has become one of our most important service channels. The number of our followers increased quickly from 1,000 in the beginning of June to over **4,300** at the end of December.

 **@Maahanmuuttovir**

- We published **69** press releases and **50** customer bulletins.
- **94 percent** of media enquiries concerned asylum and reception matters.
- The Migri.fi website had about **1.9 million** visits. The number of visits almost tripled from the year before.



In September, we had about 30 to 40 enquiries from the media per day.



Finnish Immigration Service became responsible for assisted voluntary return

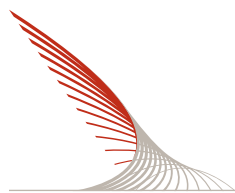
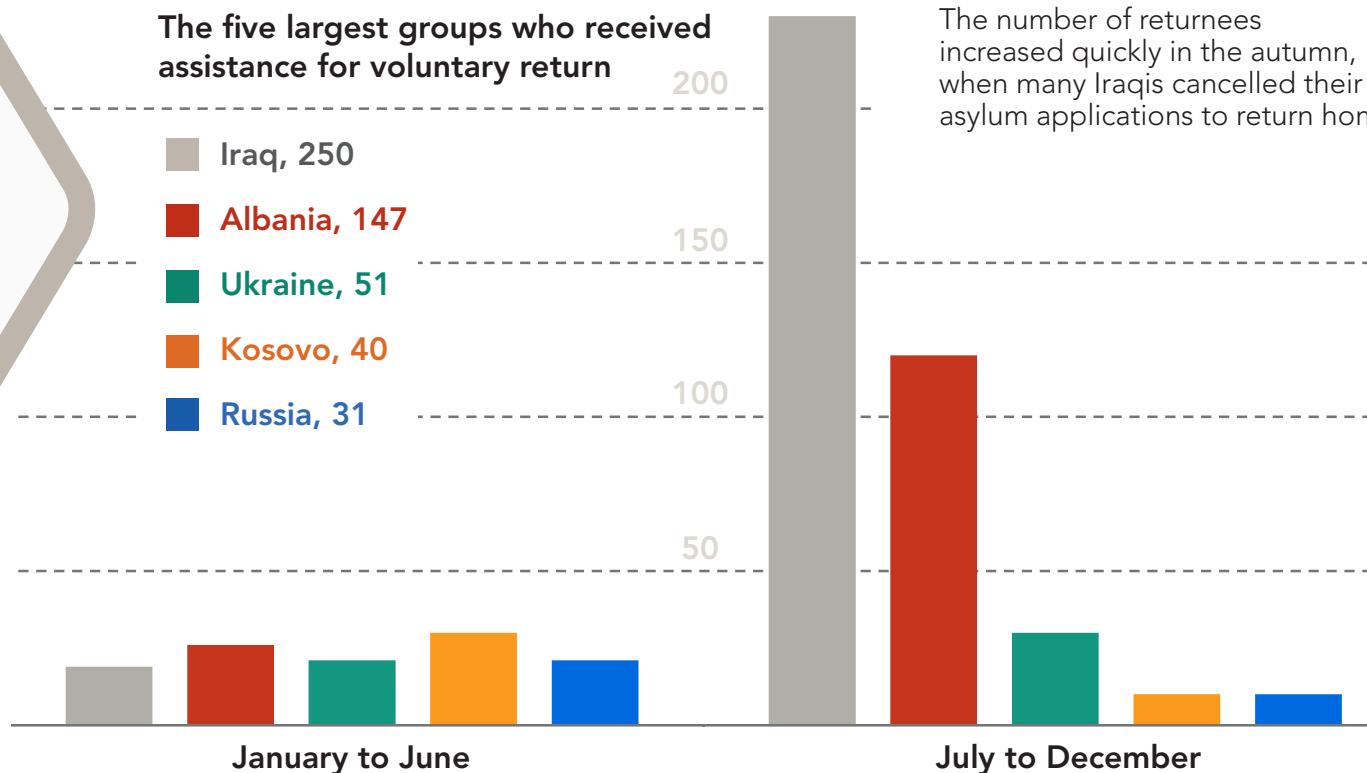
As of July, reception centres and the Finnish Immigration Service have had the statutory responsibility for assisted voluntary return. Before this, assisted voluntary returns were organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

! About a total of 440 people returned home voluntarily with assistance after the law was amended. At the beginning of the year, about 195 persons received assistance.

The five largest groups who received assistance for voluntary return

- Iraq, 250
- Albania, 147
- Ukraine, 51
- Kosovo, 40
- Russia, 31

The number of returnees increased quickly in the autumn, when many Iraqis cancelled their asylum applications to return home.



Our e-service was redesigned and named Enter Finland

The renewal of the Enter Finland e-service made applying for a residence permit and Finnish citizenship easier than before. The user interface and design were totally renewed. This led to the work of the authorities becoming more automated.

42% of the Finnish Immigration Service's applications, which can be submitted through the Enter Finland e-service, are submitted online.

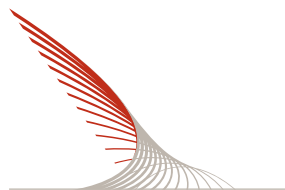
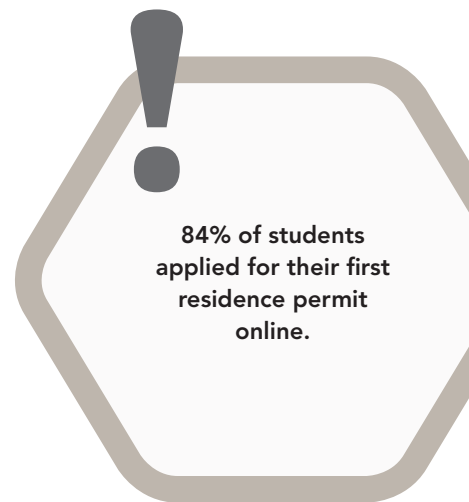
13,768
online
applications



EnterFinland

18,759
corresponding
paper
applications

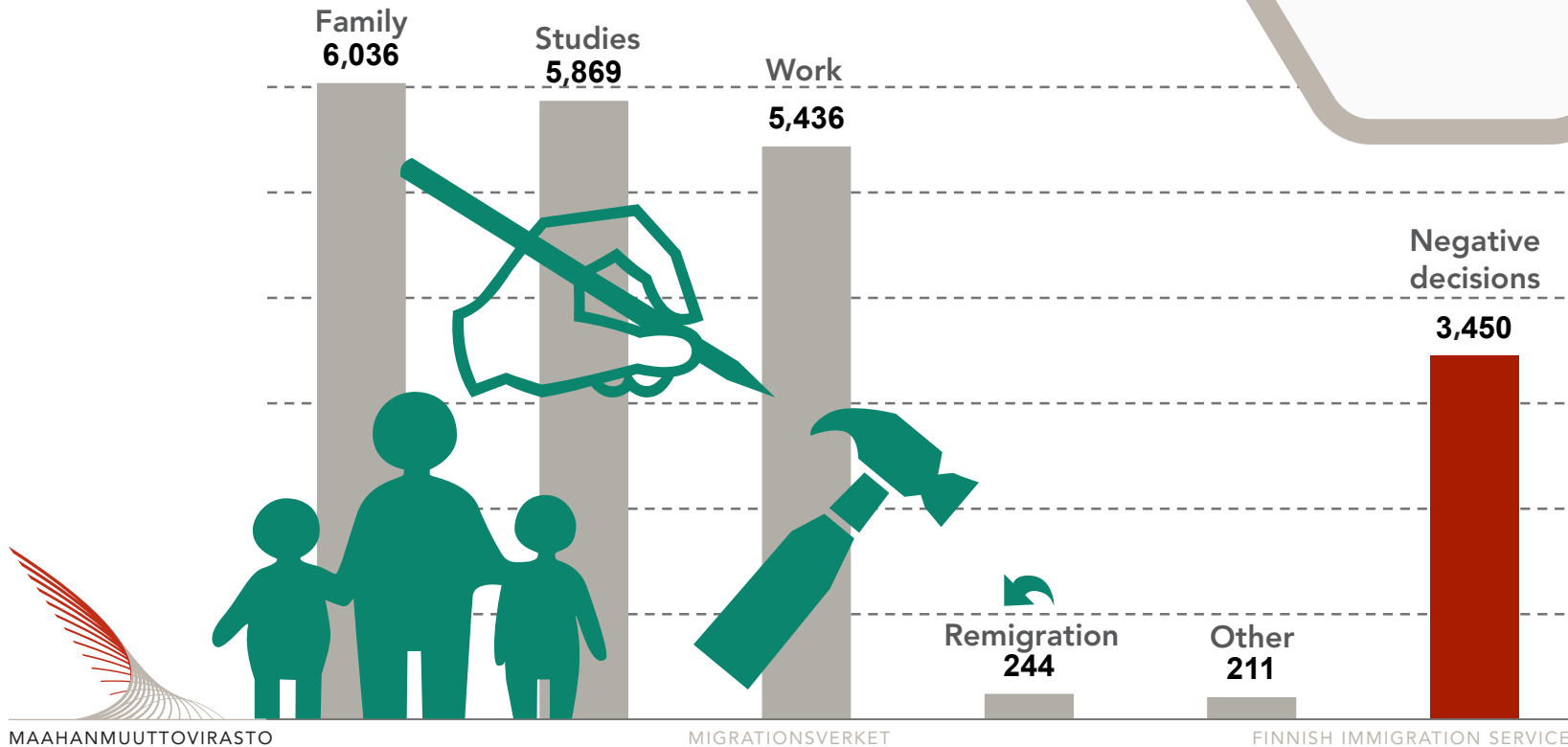
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Family, studies and work attract to Finland

For the first time, more applications for asylum (32,476) were submitted than applications for a residence permit (22,876). **17,796** residence permits were granted in 2015.

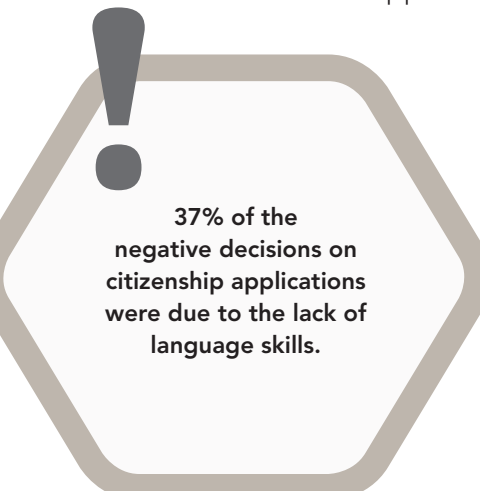
Granted residence permits



The highest number of residence permits was issued to Russians.

7,444 persons acquired Finnish citizenship on application

837 persons acquired Finnish citizenship by declaration. The agency made **9,392** citizenship decisions, of which **79** per cent were positive. During the year, a total of **11,881** citizenship applications and declarations became pending.

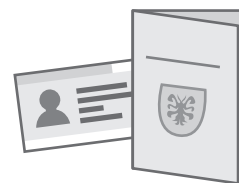


37% of the negative decisions on citizenship applications were due to the lack of language skills.

The requirements for acquiring citizenship on application:



Language skills



Established identity



Period of residence



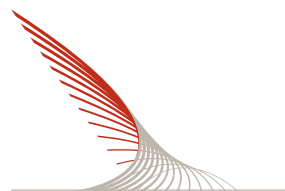
Integrity



Means of support



Fulfilled payment obligations

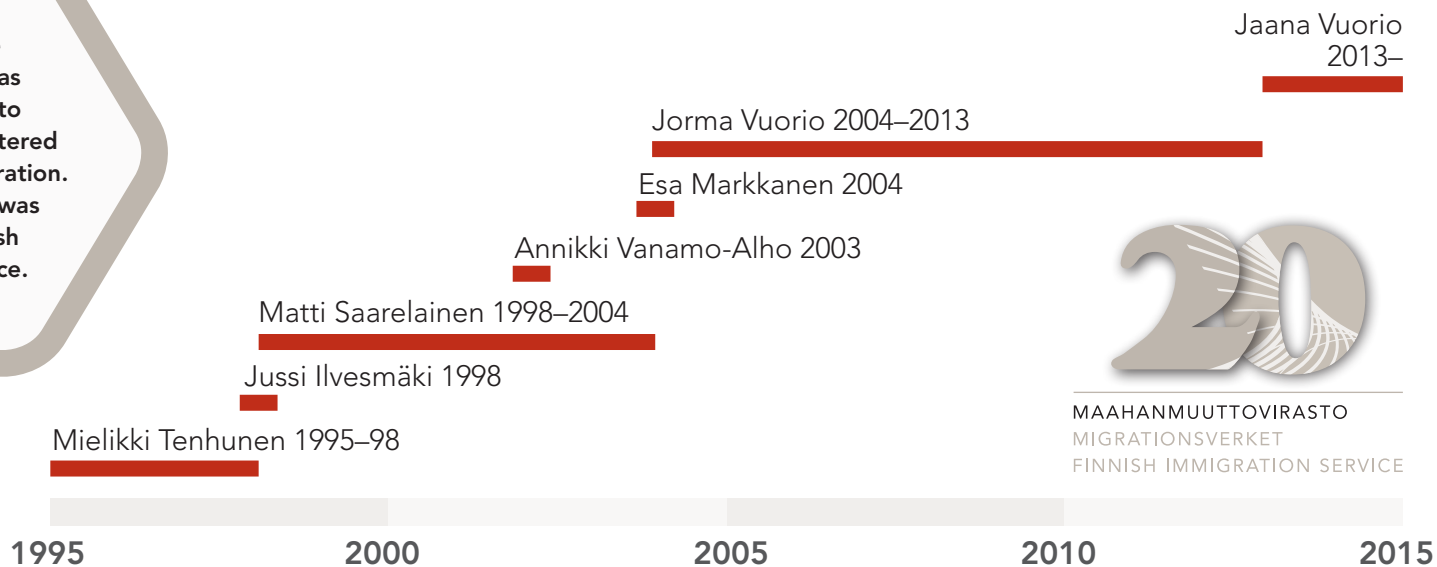


20 years of the Finnish Immigration Service

The different stages of the Finnish Immigration Service, previously known as the Directorate of Immigration, were celebrated at an anniversary seminar, staff events, on the Migri.fi website and on Twitter.

! The Directorate of Immigration was founded in 1995 to concentrate the scattered immigration administration. In 2008, the name was changed to Finnish Immigration Service.

Directors of the Finnish Immigration Service



MAAHANMUUTTOVIRASTO
MIGRATIONSVERKET
FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE

