2015

31 December 2015

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL
508
OF WHICH
203
NEW EMPLOYEES

EXPENDITURE
€207 M
REVENUE
€8.7 M

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

IN SEPTEMBER, A REGISTRATION CENTRE WAS OPENED IN TORNIOS

5 OFFICES

FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE IN 2015
During 2015, the Finnish Immigration Service made a total of 55,370 decisions.

MORE MATTERS WERE SUBMITTED THAN IN 2014

+64%
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of employees</th>
<th>Asylum seekers per month</th>
<th>Reception centres</th>
<th>Units for minor asylum seekers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>10,836</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>2,894</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>7,058</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>5,732</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>1,835</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 22 September, a registration centre was opened in Tornio.

On 2 November, additional space was acquired for the Helsinki and Raisio offices.
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.

Asylum decisions

- Expired
- Negative
- Positive
- Dismissed

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.
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 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.

@Maahanmuuttopir

- 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.
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).

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

The five largest groups who received assistance for voluntary return

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

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.

- January to June
- July to December

From 50 to 200 people received assistance.
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 lead 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.

84% of students applied for their first residence permit online.

13,768 online applications

18,759 corresponding paper applications
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.

The highest number of residence permits was issued to Russians.

The graph shows the number of granted residence permits in 2015:
- Family: 6,036
- Studies: 5,869
- Work: 5,436

The negative decisions are as follows:
- Remigration: 244
- Other: 211
- Total: 3,450
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

- Mielikki Tenhunen 1995–98
- Jussi Ilvesmäki 1998
- Matti Saarelainen 1998–2004
- Annikki Vanamo-Alho 2003
- Esa Markkanen 2004
- Jorma Vuorio 2004–2013
- Jaana Vuorio 2013–