2017

31 December 2017

- **873** employees
  - **88** of whom were new employees

- **€353.3 million** expenditure
- **€19.0 million** revenue

**122,957** matters became pending

**124,770** decisions

**85,623** customer calls answered

- More than **350** country information requests answered
- **5** studies by the European Migration Network

*Several decisions can be made on a single submitted application.*
2017

The Finnish Immigration Service made a total of **124,770** decisions in 2017.

**85,218** residence permit decisions

**9,418** asylum decisions

**56** reception centres on 31 December 2017

**14,849** citizenship decisions

**10,991** other decisions

**+35%**

THE NUMBER OF DECISIONS ROSE FROM 2016
In 2017, the number of new asylum applications was historically low, while the number of subsequent applications was higher than before.

About 9,459 asylum decisions were made

Asylum means refugee status or subsidiary protection. Humanitarian protection was removed from the Aliens Act in May 2016.
More than 18,790 fewer asylum decisions than in the previous year

The number of applications and decisions associated with international protection declined in comparison to the years 2015 and 2016. However, the asylum application situation of 2015 could still be seen in the number of pending matters.

In 2017, a total of 5,046 persons applied for asylum, which is approximately 10% less than in the previous year (2016: 5,646).
Family, studies and work are reasons for coming to Finland

26,349 first residence permit applications were submitted in total. 21,340 permits were granted.

91 % of residence permit decisions were positive.
11,687 persons became Finnish citizens on application

913 persons became Finnish citizens by declaration. The Finnish Immigration Service made 13,910 decisions on citizenship applications, of which 84 % were positive. A total of 13,016 citizenship applications and declarations became pending in 2017.

The requirements for acquiring citizenship on application:

- Language skills
- Established identity
- Period of residence
- Integrity
- Means of support
- Fulfilled payment obligations

The number of decisions rose by 22 % from 2016.
Over 28,031 decisions more than in the previous year

A total of 122,957 matters became pending at the Finnish Immigration Service in 2017, while the corresponding number in the previous year 2016 was 86,686. The number of matters that became pending increased because of the processing of extended residence permits and the registration of EU citizens. These matters were previously handled by the police, but were assigned to the Finnish Immigration Service as of January 2017.

The number of decisions (excluding travel documents) grew 35% from the previous year.
Registration of EU citizens assigned to the Finnish Immigration Service

As of the beginning of 2017, the reception of applications regarding the registration of EU citizens as well as the registration of EU citizens were assigned from the police to the Finnish Immigration Service. The total number of EU registrations was **7,800**. A citizen of an EU member state, Liechtenstein or Switzerland does not need a residence permit to stay in Finland. If the stay lasts over three months, the right of residence has to be registered. A family member of an EU citizen who is not an EU citizen himself or herself needs a residence card.

![Chart showing 7,800 decisions in 2017, with 433 positive and 7,367 negative decisions on registration of an EU citizen.](chart.png)