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## Join us in building an inclusive integration approach in Finland!

### *What?*

The project "[Building an inclusive integration approach in Finland](#)", jointly implemented by the European Commission and the Council of Europe together with the Ministry of Justice of Finland, aims to improve community relations and support better integration of migrants in society. It covers areas such as participation, education, cultural and social life, urban planning, business, labour market, anti-discrimination and multilingualism. To achieve this goal, the project will support all levels of government to review and implement inclusive integration policies based on the Finnish [Good Relations](#) concept and the Council of Europe's [Intercultural Integration](#) model.

The joint project will review current policies, present recommendations for the national and local level and bring together relevant stakeholders to build capacity, design and implement local integration strategies. A pool of experts will be trained to provide support to local and national stakeholders during and after the project. Peer learning will form an important element. Furthermore, a national coordination mechanism will be designed to ensure continuous dialogue and co-management of the integration policies between all levels of government.

### *Why?*

The project will work with up to seven municipalities from across Finland to promote the implementation of local integration strategies which reflect the Good Relations principles. The project aligns with the ongoing changes in the responsibilities of municipalities in relation to integration and Good Relations and aims to provide the participating municipalities with practical tools and guidance to support policymaking and service provision within the new areas of their responsibility. The participating municipalities will receive support and guidance to:

- Set up a cross-sectorial working group
- Complete the [Index](#) analyses which assesses policy areas relevant to the Good Relations concept and receive recommendations through the [Index Report](#)
- Receive a visit from an expert to follow good practices and recommendations from the Index Report
- Draft a local integration strategy reflecting the Good Relations concept and following up the recommendations

All participating municipalities will benefit from several training sessions which will be tailored to the needs of the participants, a study visit to another EU or Council of Europe member state as well as support through in creating structures and policies for the implementation of the Good Relations concept at the local level.

Participating municipalities will also be invited to contribute to the multilevel multistakeholder coordination mechanism, which will work to enhance multilevel cooperation within the field of integration and Good Relations.

## *When?*

The project runs for 24 months from 15 September 2022 until 14 September 2024.

Interested municipalities are expected to take active part in the project as of 1 January 2023 until the end of the project on 14 September 2024.

The main working language of the project will be **English**. However, several materials will be made available in Finnish and Swedish throughout the project.

## *How?*

Interested municipalities are invited to submit a short application in English signed by a decision-maker from within the municipality by **7 December 2022** through a questionnaire available on the website.

The application should detail the following:

- The motivation for applying.
- The challenges the municipality wishes to address through its participation in the project for example within the policy areas participation, education, cultural and social life, urban planning, business, labour market, anti-discrimination and multilingualism. The list of challenges mentioned below can serve as an indication of potential challenges municipalities can raise, however, the list is not to be considered exhaustive.
- The staff resources which will be made available to the project during its whole duration.
- Some socio-demographic or economic data such as the size and composition of the population, if possible disaggregated by age, gender and language, and any other data or information the municipality may wish to provide in support of its application.
- Signed by a decision-maker from within the municipality.

When assessing applications, the Steering Committee of the joint project will place particular importance on the following aspects:

- Diversity in sizes and language of participating municipalities.
- Geographical spread of the participating municipalities. Ideally the project will have participation from each of the seven Regional Advisory Boards for Ethnic Relations.
- Motivation of the municipality to mainstream the Good Relations approach throughout its policies.
- Challenges related to participation and building participatory methods.
- Challenges related to segregation, trust and sense of belonging.
- Challenges related to the reception of refugees from Ukraine.
- Challenges related to hate speech and hate crimes towards certain population groups.
- Challenges related to forced labour.

Municipalities eligible to participate in the joint project will be notified by 23 December 2022.

The project is co-funded by the European Commission via the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) 2022 and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe's [Intercultural Cities programme](#) in co-operation with the European Commission and the Ministry of Justice of Finland.