FINLAND

Institutional Framework for migration and asylum*

Ministerial working group on migration
Compiles and maintains situational awareness of the asylum seeker situation and monitors integration.

Ministry of the Interior
• Directs immigration policy and its administration following the targets set in the Government programme and approved Government Resolutions.
• Guides and develops the immigration administration.

Ministry of Employment and Economy
• Directs integration and labour migration policy
• Monitors the volume and structure of labour migration
• Responsible for the residence permit procedure for workers, students and researchers

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
• Directs visa policy.
• Finnish diplomatic missions abroad grant visas and accept citizenship declarations and residence permit applications.

Ministry of the Interior
• Drafts legislation on migration.

Migration Department
• Formulates Finland’s migration policy
• Drafts legislation on migration and citizenship.
• Coordinates activities related to migration between various branches of administration and represents Finland in migration issues in the European Union and on other international fora.

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Ministry of Education and Culture

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Ministry of Finance

Regional State Administrative Agencies
Steer municipal education, social, health care services and other cultural services.

Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
Handles tasks related to immigration, integration and good ethnic relations on a regional basis.

The Centre of Expertise on Integration
• Maintains a network of integration-related actors
• Compiles research, statistical and monitoring information for integration effectiveness evaluation

Employment and Economic Development Offices
Make preliminary decisions on applications for a residence permit for an employed person before Finnish Immigration Service.

Finnish Immigration Service
• residence permits
• asylum applications
• steers the work of reception centres
• decisions on refusal of entry and deportation
• citizenship applications
• alien’s passports

The Finnish Border Guard
• Monitors entry to Finland/exit from Finland
• Visa decisions at the border
• Receives asylum applications, when necessary

Police Department
• Strategic guidance and supervision of the police sector,
• Monitors compliance with the Aliens Act
• Police departments receive asylum applications and serve decisions.
• Enforces decisions on deportation and refusal of entry

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