



International seminar: Integrating migrant talents into Finnish society: Towards workable policies

Date: 4.4.2017 at Caisa

Organizer: International Cultural Centre Caisa, in collaboration with *The Institut français de Finlande*, *Goethe-Institut Finnland*, *Austrian Embassy in Helsinki* and *European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)*.

Place: Caisa, Mikonkatu 17 C / Vuorikatu 14, Helsinki

Target audience:

The seminar is primarily aimed at directors of cultural centres, cultural producers, coordinators and managers of projects, those responsible for different NGOs and associations active in the field of integration in Finland, volunteers working with immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, Helsinki City institutions, social workers in reception centres, and everyone interested in art and cultural integration.

Description:

During the past few years, global crises and conflicts have created a situation in which migrant issues acquire ever greater importance, also in Europe. The arrival of refugees and migrants during the past two years has led to serious and politically sensitive consequences in European societies.

This new situation has also created a major cultural integration issue. How can we integrate migrant talents into our projects and future policies? How can we unify efforts in Finland to integrate young migrant musicians, painters, dancers, actors and various other artists into our cultural activities? When we refer to migrant talents, we mean immigrants who are already possibly active in the cultural field (art, music, literature, theatre, painting...etc), or who might be suitable for an education in one of the different cultural domains. Migrant talents are ready to join workshops and cultural activities in order to develop their skills. This could be a basic step towards integrating future artists into European societies.

As a result, the issue of how to integrate migrant talents is now a central policy challenge across different cities in Finland. It has even become one of the utmost concerns of those responsible for cultural centres and NGOs.

The international seminar: *Integrating migrant talents into Finnish society: Towards workable policies* will take a comparative and multi-dimensional approach to the integration of migrant talents in certain European countries, such as France, Germany and Austria.

In addition, the event will examine meaningful policies that Finland should take into consideration in the future in order to integrate more migrant talents into Finnish society.

Experienced European activists in the fields of integration and multiculturalism will share mechanisms of integration with Finnish counterparts, so that they can be developed in cultural centres and various integration projects.

Methodology:

The seminar will be based on a set of presentations:

- 1- Boosting the international human capital in Finland: Empowerment, creativity and competitiveness: in the first part of the seminar, the audience will follow presentations and experiences of multiculturalism in Finland, the importance of inclusion and empowerment in integration programmes. This part also includes ways of supporting regional and local economies by promoting the inclusion of international human capital.
- 2- Cultural integration experiences: Experiences from EU-countries : France, Germany and Austria: the second part will be devoted to cultural integration experiences of European activists and institutions involved in multiculturalism. The audience will learn about success stories and case studies, stimulating deep analysis of integration attitudes in France, Germany and Austria. Background documentation will be provided.

Objectives:

The seminar will contribute to:

- Understanding the integration policies followed by cultural and youth centres in different European countries. This part is supported by *European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)*.
- Promoting the exchange of experiences in the field of integration between Finland and other European countries.
- Mainstreaming integration of migrant talents into future plans in Finnish cultural centres, projects and NGOs.
- Highlighting the value of launching powerful policies to integrate migrant talents into Finnish institutions.
- Creating modern solutions for integration in cultural institutions

For more information, please contact:

Hamza Amarouche

E-mail: hamza.amarouche@hel.fi

Tel +3589310 37519 +35845043889

