

BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING BARRIERS: A DIALOGUE ON MIGRANT INTEGRATION

Helsinki City Hall, March 7, 2025

Moderated by Jonna Louvrier, Founder & CEO of Includia Leadership

13:50 - 14:00 - Introductory Speech

14:00 - 15:00 - Breaking the silence: Language as the key to integration (in French)

The discussion will explore the role of language-based integration programs in fostering inclusion. Additionally, insights from research at the intersection of linguistics and social sciences will highlight integration strategies tailored to the unique multilingual landscape of Helsinki.

Speakers:

- Mehdi Chergui – Director of Foreign Language Studies, French-Finnish School of Helsinki
- Natacha Bozilovic – French Teacher & Head of FLS Curriculum, Jean-Baptiste Corot Vocational School, France
- Plamedi & Ali – Former “French as a Schooling Language” Students
- Dr. Mandira Halder – Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki



15:30 - 16:25 - Building inclusive communities in Helsinki, Vihti and beyond: strategic planning, shared responsibility, and the power of belonging (in English)

As Helsinki and its surrounding municipalities work to integrate immigrant communities, strategic planning becomes essential. This session will offer a chance to reflect on solutions that could improve integration processes both in the capital and in surrounding areas.

Speakers:

- Elina Vanamo – Immigration Coordinator, City of Vihti
- Seida Sohrabi – VTM, Inspector-General, Deputy Commissioner of Helsinki

16:30 - 17:15 - From vision to reality: The impact of KOTO24 on integration in Helsinki (in English)

This session will focus on KOTO24 and recent reforms to Finland's integration policies. Experts will discuss how these changes impact Helsinki's migrant communities and how the new act has been implemented.

Speakers:

- Glenn Gassen – Head of Migration Affairs, City of Helsinki
- Nasima Razmyar – Helsinki MP, City Councilor, 1st Vice Chairman of the Social Democratic Party

