



PELLAVATEHTAANKATU UL.
PELLAVATEHTAANKATU.
LINNESPINNERIGATAN.

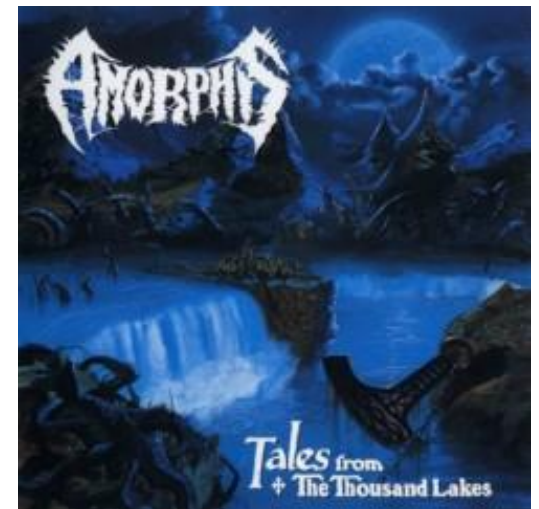
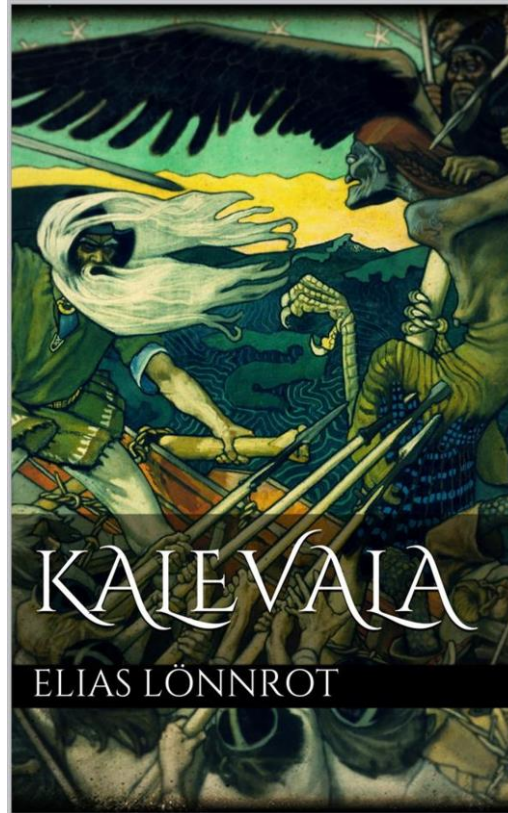
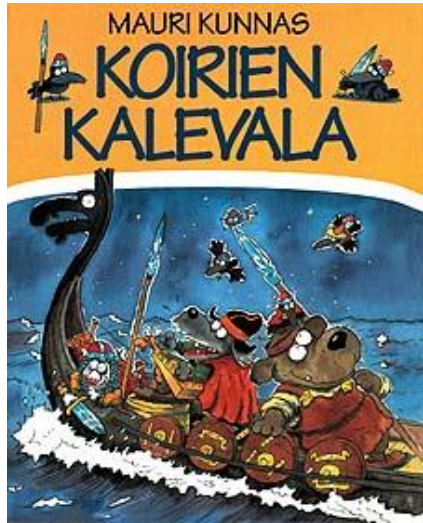
The past and present of linguistic diversity in Finland

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Why is linguistic diversity so interesting?

“Hallo! roligt att du skriver!!!!!! förstår finska väldigt väl, men att läsa det e jobbigt!!! måste konsentrera sig väldigt ju, pratar med min mamma konstant finska, men de e ju 60 tals finskan ju!!!!”





SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

Our Programs

Danish

Estonian

Finnish

Icelandic

Latvian

Lithuanian

Norwegian

Swedish

Monolingual Finland – myth or reality?

*“Finland is a relatively ethnically homogeneous
country.” (Wikipedia 2023)*

Outline of the lecture

Finns abroad

Linguistic minorities in Finland

- established minorities
- more recent minorities

Linguistic rights of the minorities

Discussion

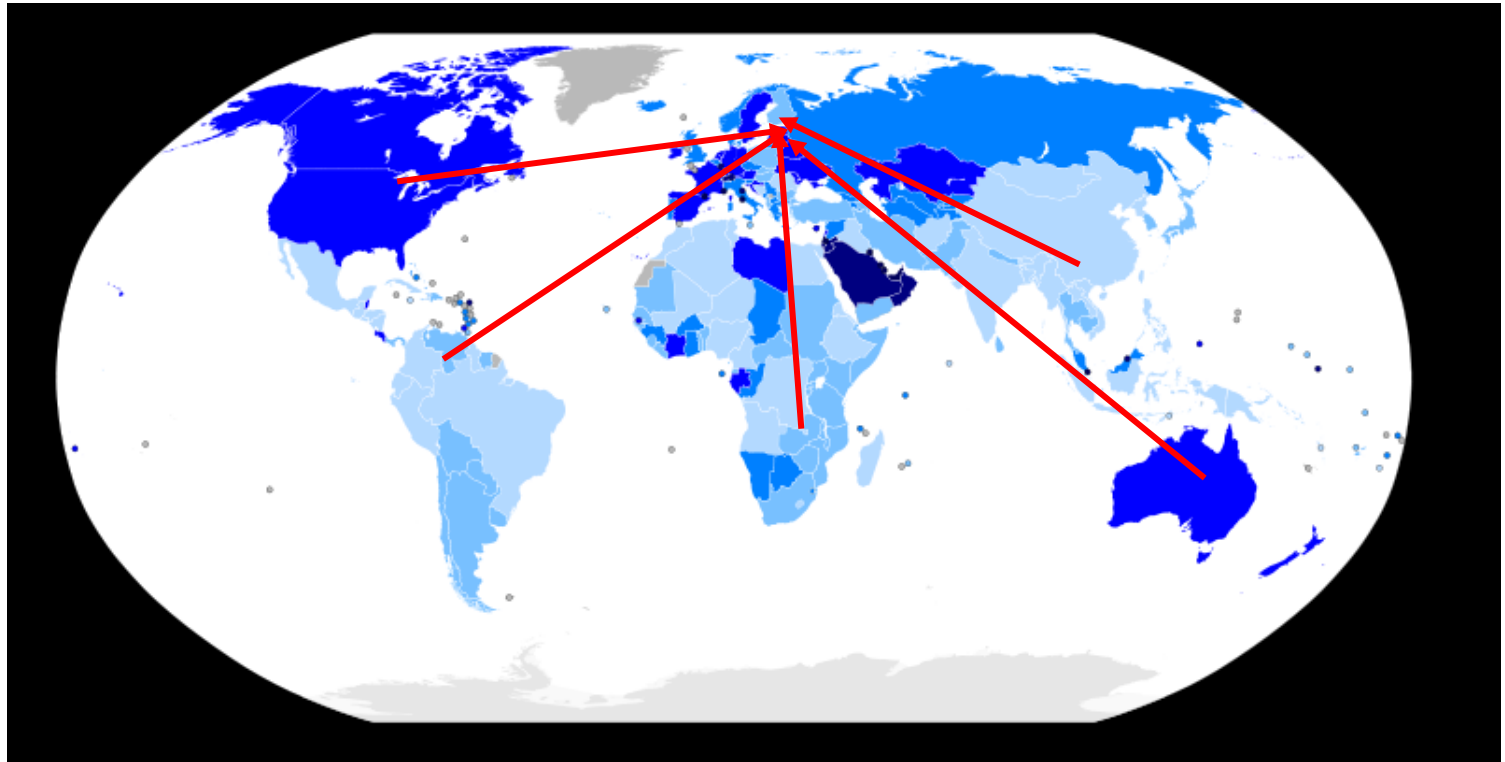


Migrating world





https://plus.yle.fi/2017-05-suomi_imperiumi/img/kartat.png



Let's discuss!

Where have people moved
from Lithuania?

Finns Abroad

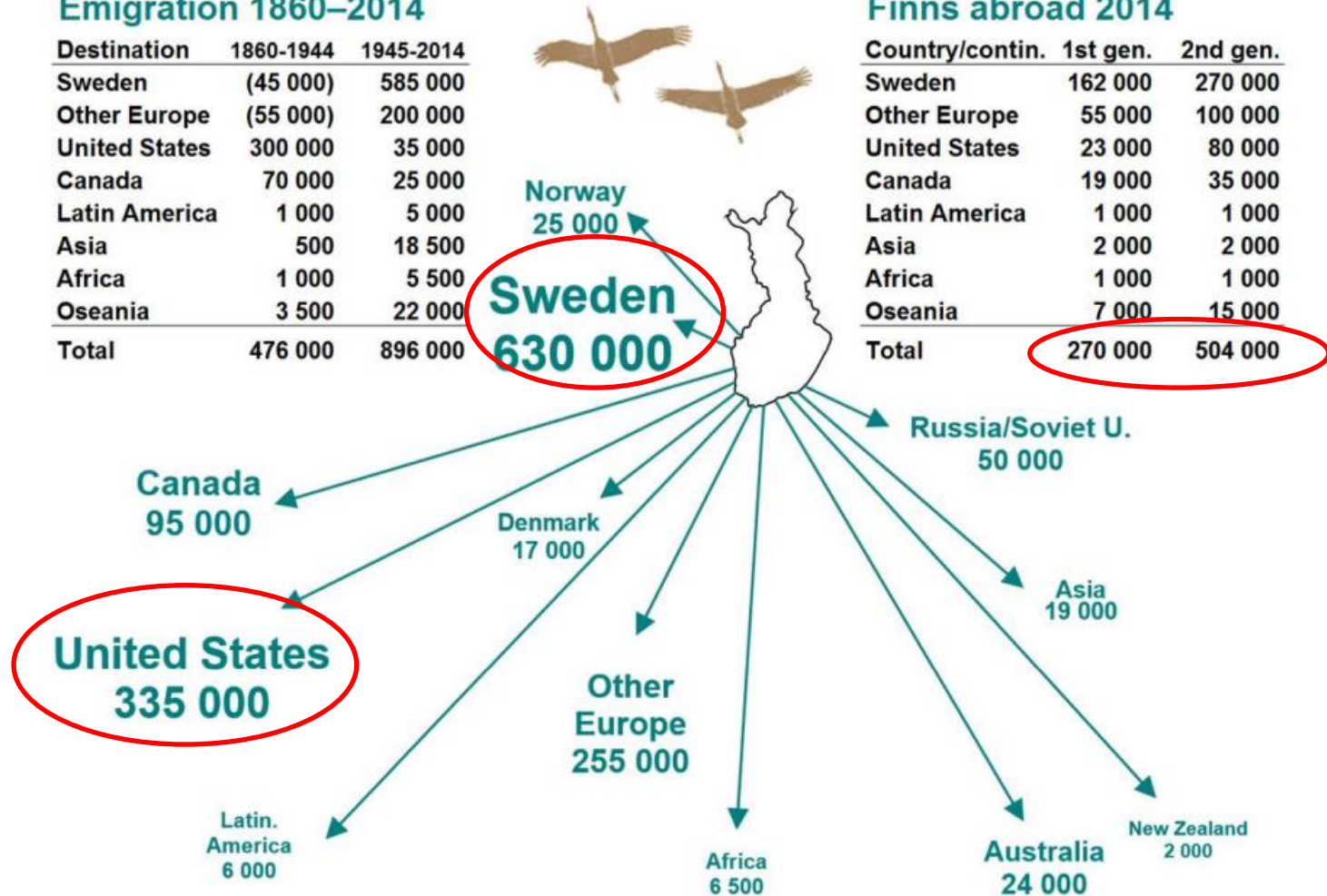
(Source: Migration Institute of Finland/Jouni Korkiasaari)

Emigration 1860–2014

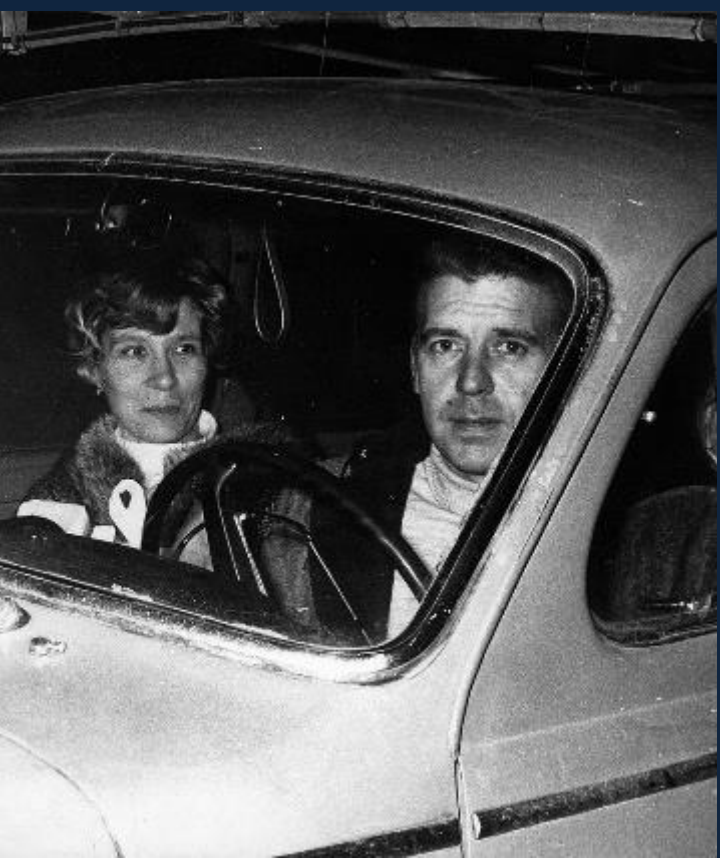
Destination	1860-1944	1945-2014
Sweden	(45 000)	585 000
Other Europe	(55 000)	200 000
United States	300 000	35 000
Canada	70 000	25 000
Latin America	1 000	5 000
Asia	500	18 500
Africa	1 000	5 500
Oseania	3 500	22 000
Total	476 000	896 000

Finns abroad 2014

Country/contin.	1st gen.	2nd gen.
Sweden	162 000	270 000
Other Europe	55 000	100 000
United States	23 000	80 000
Canada	19 000	35 000
Latin America	1 000	1 000
Asia	2 000	2 000
Africa	1 000	1 000
Oseania	7 000	15 000
Total	270 000	504 000



Reasons for emigration



To the United States

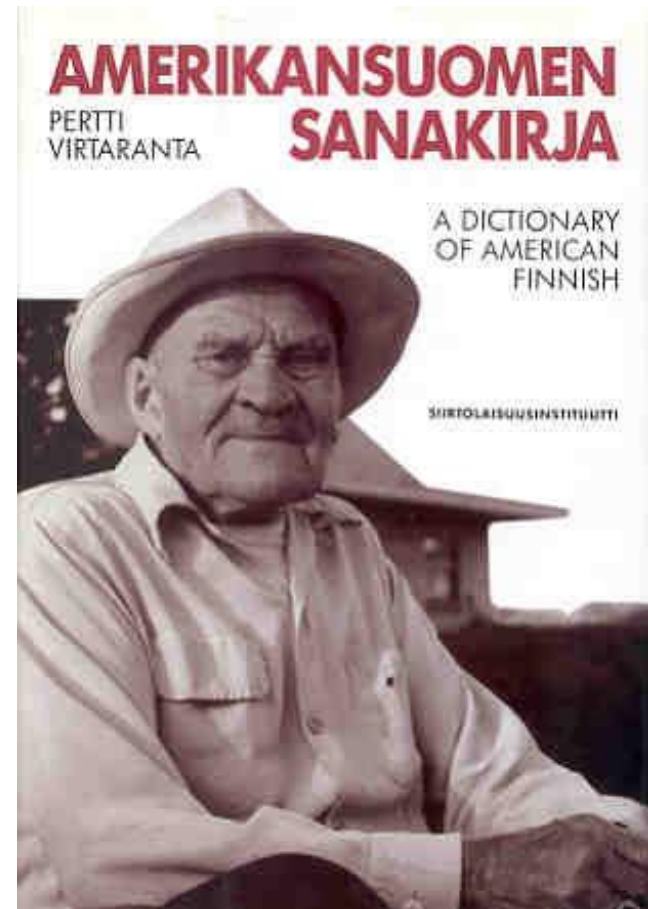
- living conditions, famine
- Russification
- looking for a better life
- invitations by relatives

To Sweden

- structural changes in the 1960s and 1970s
- unemployment, housing shortage
- better salaries in Sweden

Examples of American Finnish

- lokari < logger
- tineri < dinner
- petiruuma < bedroom
- paarmentti < apartment
- larmi < alarm
- rapoli < trouble
- törsti < thirsty



Listen to Finnish American music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P59U0jFMxxo&list=RDP59U0jFMxxo>

Let's discuss!

Do you know Lithuanians who have lived abroad for a long time? Has their Lithuanian changed over time?



Linguistic minorities in Finland

the Sámi

Finland Swedes

the Roma

“Old Russians”

Jews

Tatars

Karelians

sign language users

other language groups



The Sámi



Finnish

kala 'fish'

äiti 'mother'

poro 'reindeer'

Northern Sámi

guolli

eadni

boazu

Inari Sámi

kyeli

enni

puásui

Skolt Sámi

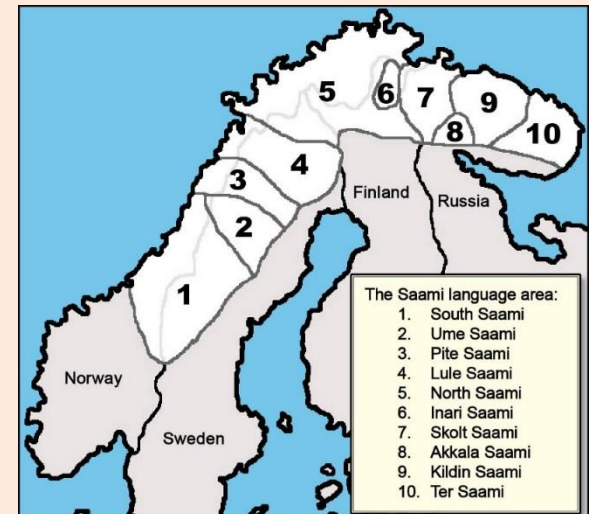
kue'll

jeä'n'n

puäžž

Listen to Ailu Valle rap in Northern Sámi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU8I6JU-NXI>



Finland Swedes

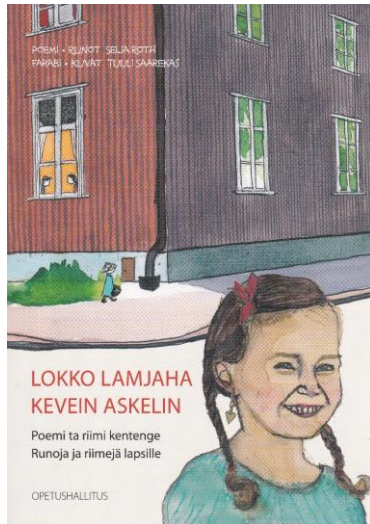


Year	Population	Speakers of Finnish %	Speakers of Swedish %	Speakers of other languages %
1900	2 712 562	86.7	12.9	0.4
1920	3 105 103	88.7	11.0	0.3
1940	3 695 617	90.0	9.6	0.4
1960	4 446 222	92.4	7.4	0.2
1980	4 788 778	93.5	6.3	0.2
2000	5 181 115	92.4	5.6	2.0
2020	5 533 793	86.9	5.2	7.8



The Roma

- arrived in Finland via Sweden and the Baltic provinces in the 16th century
- approximately 11,000 people
- most of the Roma have nowadays Finnish as their first language



Listen to Romani music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfmiKPCw2-A>

“Old Russians”

SOFIEGATAN
SOFIANKATU
СОФІЙСКАЯ УЛИЦА



- descendants of the serfs who were transferred from Russia to eastern Finland in the 18th century
- during the period of autonomy (1809–1917) several groups, for example, merchants
- in 1870, speakers of Russian constituted 12.1 per cent of the population in Helsinki

Jews

- the ancestors of the Jewish people came to Finland at the end of the 18th century
- later: tradesmen, craftsmen, retired officers from the Czarist army
- Yiddish → Swedish → Finnish (language shift)
- Yiddish has only about 100 speakers; an endangered language in Finland



Tatars

- the first Tatars came to Finland from Russia in the late 19th century as merchants, trading textiles and furs
- around 1,000 people
- a well-established minority, have been able to maintain their traditions and language, Tatar



Year 1870	Helsinki	Vyborg
Russian	3 878	3 257
German	562	610
Yiddish	262	107
Polish	288	234
Lithuanian	153	20
Estonian	83	?
Tatar	47	10
Danish or Norwegian	25	0
English	24	5
French	16	11



Founder: Karl Fazer (1866–1932),
son of a Swiss immigrant, Eduard
Fazer



Karelians

- In 2015, the number of Karelians in Finland was estimated to be approximately 300 000.
- Their identity consists of their own language, Orthodox religion and modern and traditional Karelian culture.
- They are bilingual in the same way as other national minorities.
- Around 5 000 persons use the Karelian language on a daily basis, and it is understood and spoken, at least on an elementary level, by about 25 000 Karelians.
- During the past two decades, there have been a number of efforts to revitalize the Karelian language.



Sign language users

- Finnish legislation recognized Finnish Sign Language as one of Finland's so called domestic languages in 1995 when it was included in the renewed constitution.
- Developed originally out of Swedish Sign Language, but now distinct.
- Closely related to Finland-Swedish Sign Language.
- **Finnish Sign Language:** about 15,000 users
- **Finland-Swedish Sign Language:** about 300 users, endangered

Listen to Signmark: *Fighting*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfNoMJ1GYzM>

Let's discuss!

How is linguistic diversity present in your everyday life? Which languages do you hear when walking on the streets of Vilnius?

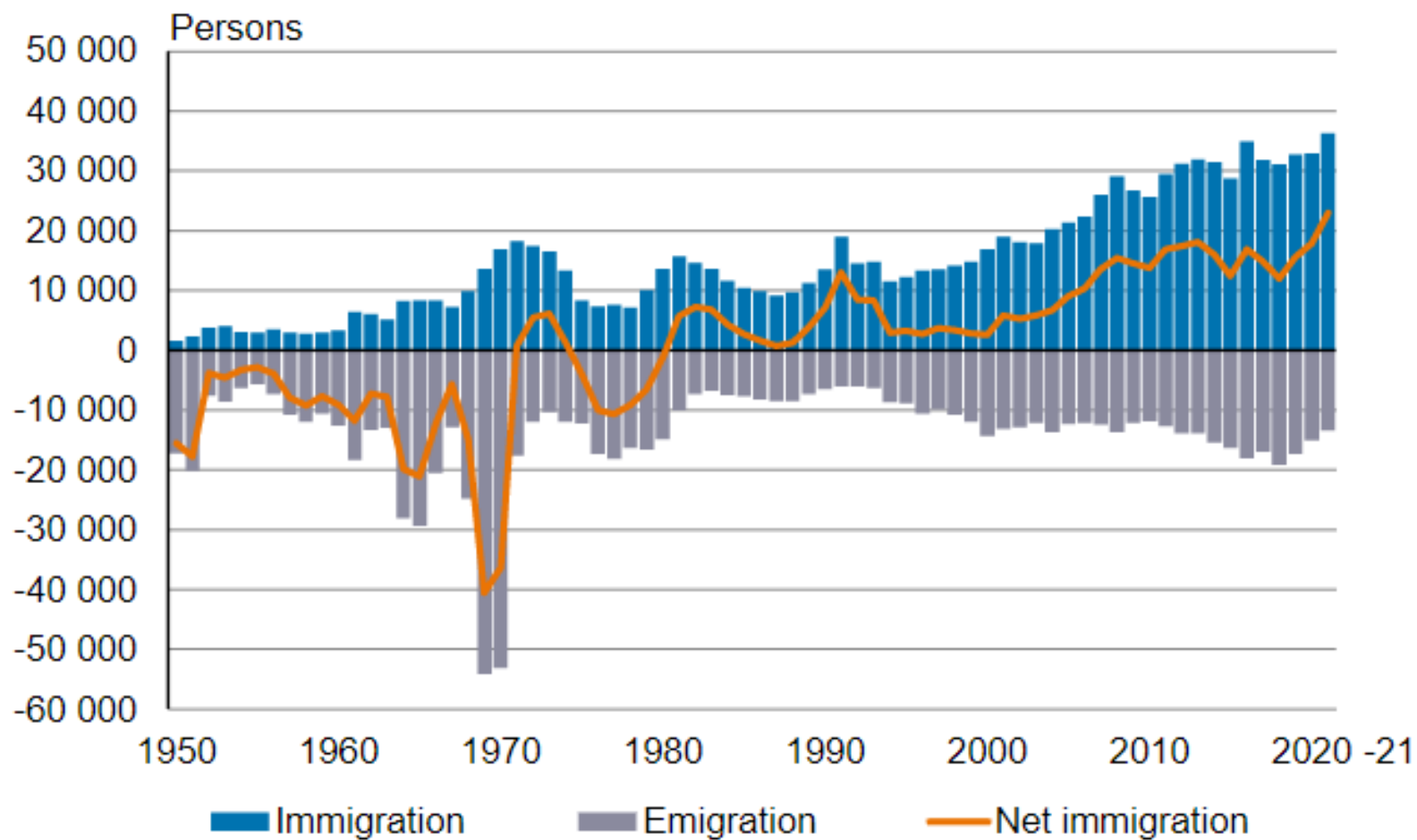
Immigration to Finland

- **1973**: refugees from Chile
- **1979**: refugees from Vietnam
- in the **1980s**: asylum seekers from, for example, Somalia
- in the **1990s**: returnees, especially Ingrian Finns; also recruitment of labour **to some extent** (then recession)

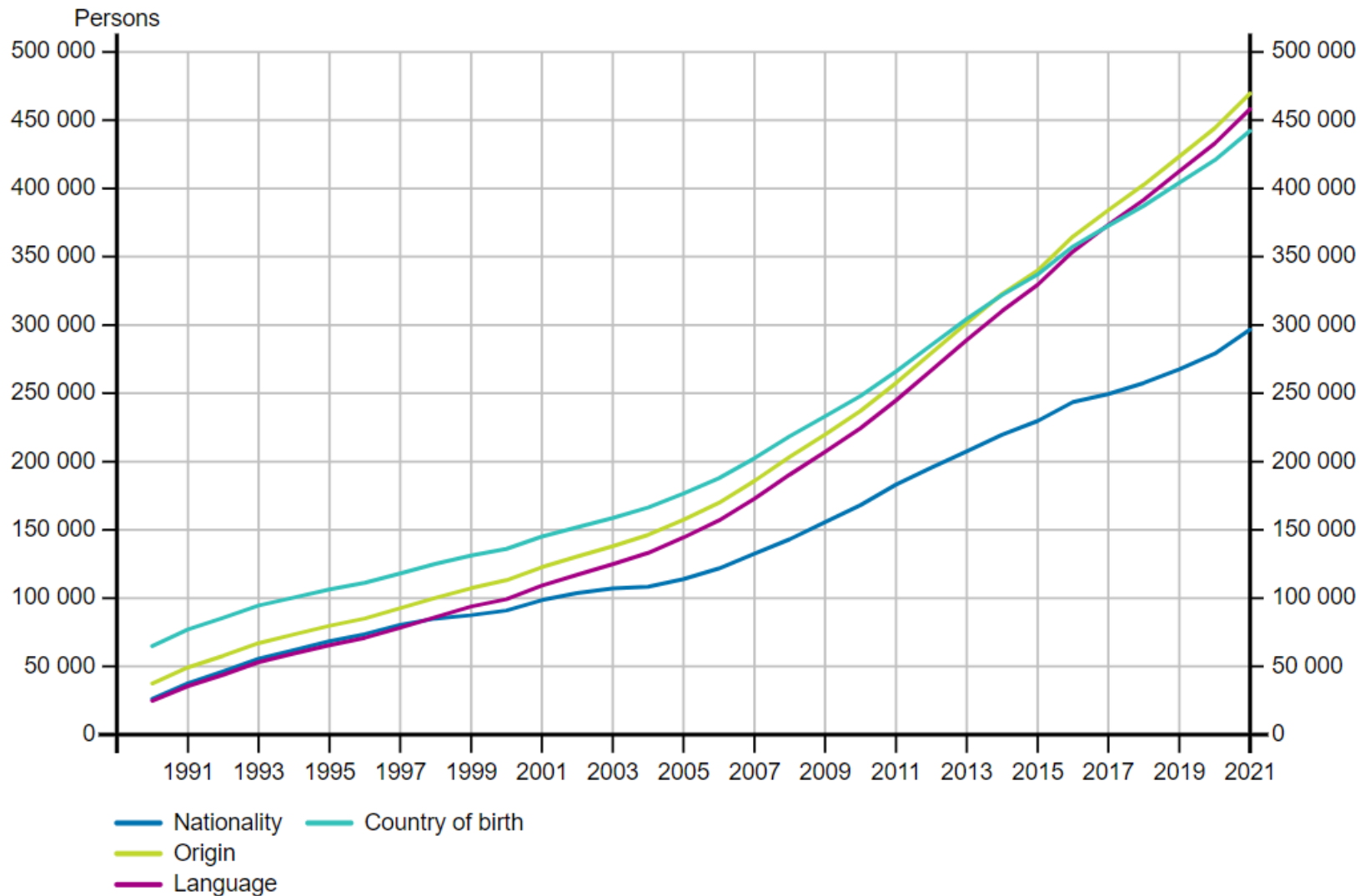
- reasons to move to Finland: family, work, studies, seeking the status as a refugee, seeking asylum
- in 2015: more than 32,000 asylum seekers



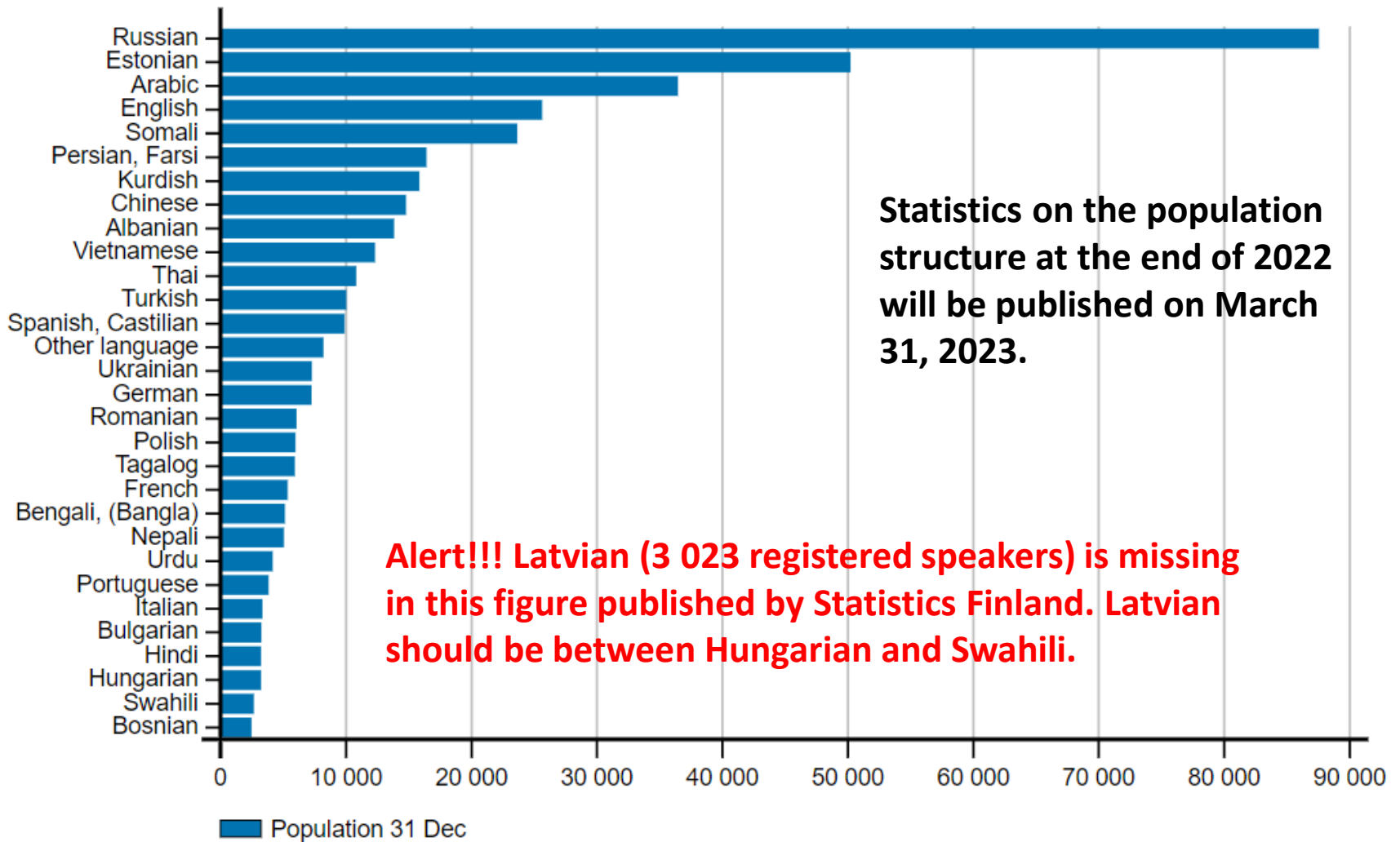
Migration



Foreign citizens, persons with foreign backgr., foreign-language speakers and persons born abroad 1990-2021



Biggest numbers of foreign-language speakers 2021



Statistics on the population structure at the end of 2022 will be published on March 31, 2023.

Population by language 1990-2021

Lithuanian

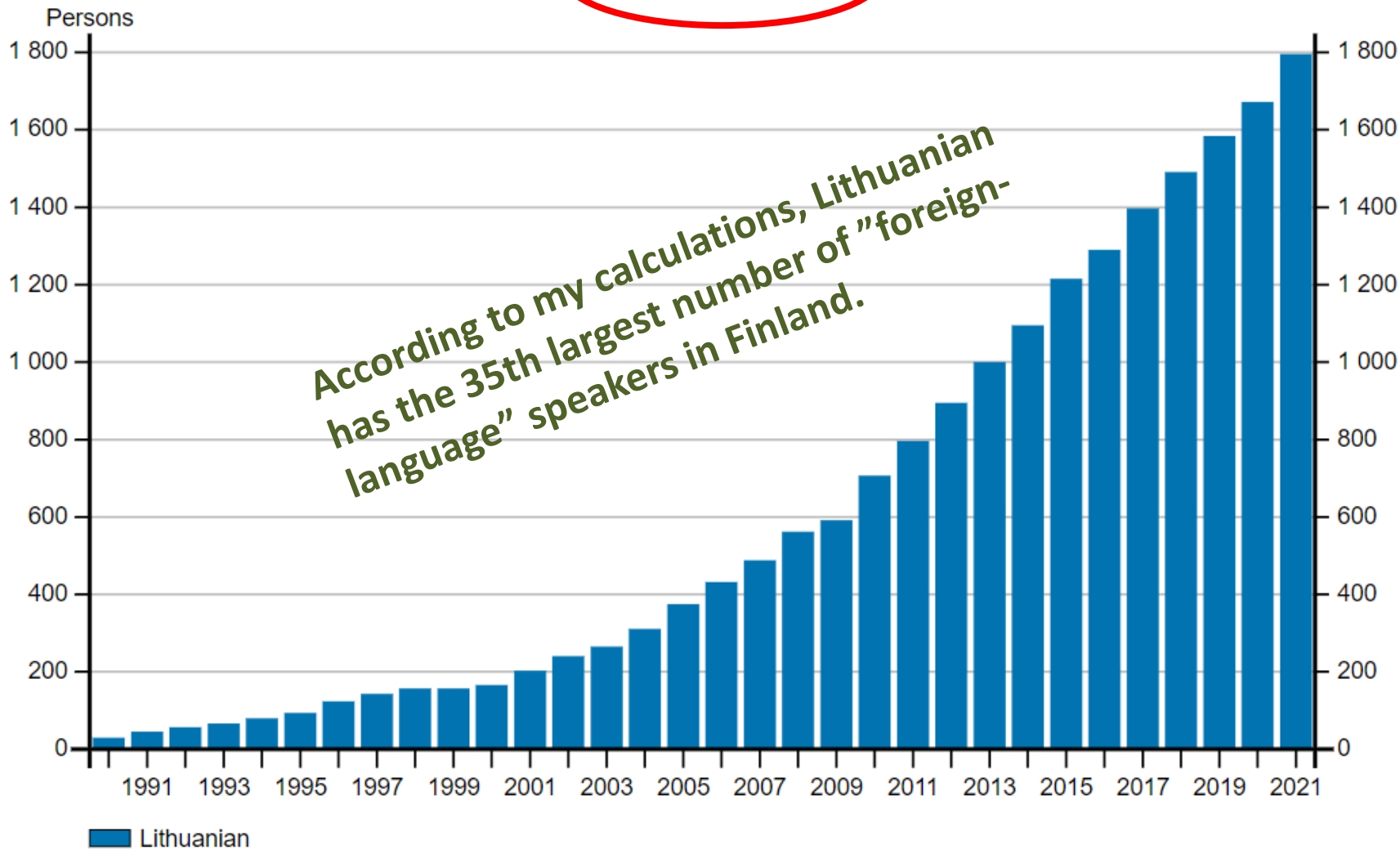


Figure: SL; data from:

Statistics Finland / Population structure

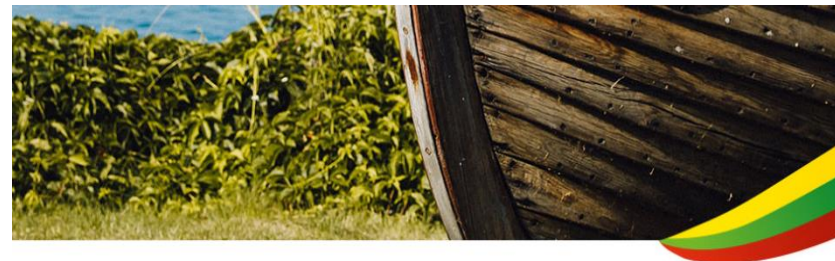
Suomijos lietuvių bendruomenė



Maloniai kviečiame į Užgavėnių šventę, suvalgyti karštų blynų, patrepsėti ir nuotaikingai išvaryti žiemą iš kiemo.

*Šventė vyks vasario 19 d. (sekmadienį)
14 val., Kunnarlantie 110,
Pirttimäki, Espoo.*

Laukiame atvykstant!



DONELAIČIO DRAUGIJA

Donelaičio Lietuvos bičiulių draugija yra visoje Suomijoje veikianti **Suomijos-Lietuvos draugija**, atvira visiems besidomintiems Lietuva. Draugija organizuoja su Lietuva ir jos kultūra susijusius renginius, leidžia žurnalą Lietuva, prižiūri ir plečia lietuvišką Helsinkyje įsikūrusios Baltijos šalių bibliotekos sekciją bei aktyviai veikia bendradarbiavime tarp Lietuvos ir Suomijos.



Linguistic rights

Linguistic rights

Linguistic rights are based on section 17 of the [Constitution](#). [The Language Act](#) contains more detailed provisions on the linguistic rights laid down in the Constitution, and it applies to the Finnish and Swedish languages.

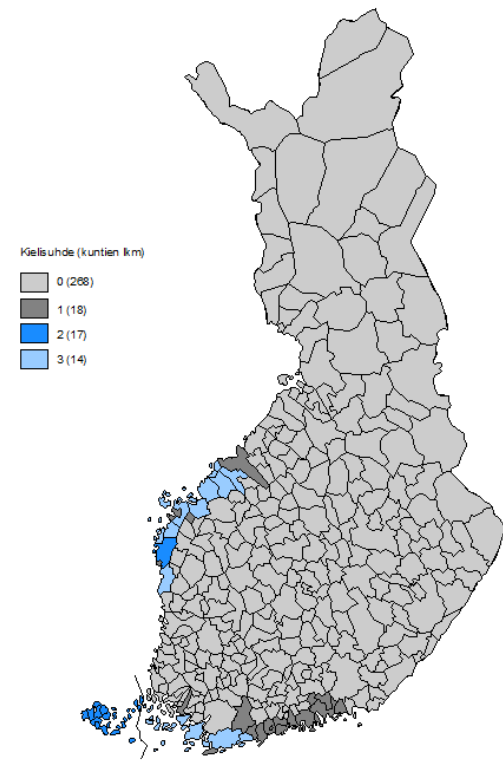
[The Saami Language Act](#) applies to all three Saami languages spoken in Finland: Inari Sámi, Skolt Sámi and North Sámi. The Saami people have more extensive linguistic rights in their native region than outside it.

[The Sign Language Act](#) entered into force in 2015. The Act obliges authorities to promote sign language users' opportunities to use their own language and receive information in their own language.

What does “officially bilingual” mean?

A municipality is bilingual, if the minority language group consists of at least 8 per cent of the population, or at least 3,000 speakers. On the Åland archipelago, the language law does not apply.

In the **bilingual municipalities** signs are in both languages, important documents are translated and authorities have to be able to serve in both languages. Authorities of the **central administration** have to serve the public in both official languages, regardless of location.



Right to one's language and culture (Section 17 in the Constitution)

The national languages of Finland are **Finnish** and **Swedish**.

The right of everyone to use his or her own language, either Finnish or Swedish, before courts of law and other authorities, and to receive official documents in that language, shall be guaranteed by an Act. The public authorities shall provide for the cultural and societal needs of **the Finnish-speaking and Swedish-speaking populations** of the country on an equal basis.

The Sami, as an indigenous people, as well as **the Roma** and **other groups**, have the right to maintain and develop their own language and culture. Provisions on the right of the Sami to use the Sami language before the authorities are laid down by an Act. The rights of persons using **sign language** and of persons in need of interpretation or translation aid owing to disability shall be guaranteed by an Act.

SIGN THE INITIATIVE

MULTI MOTHER-TONGUED

Citizens' initiative to register more than one mother tongue



Read more about this initiative:
<https://monikielinen.fi/en>

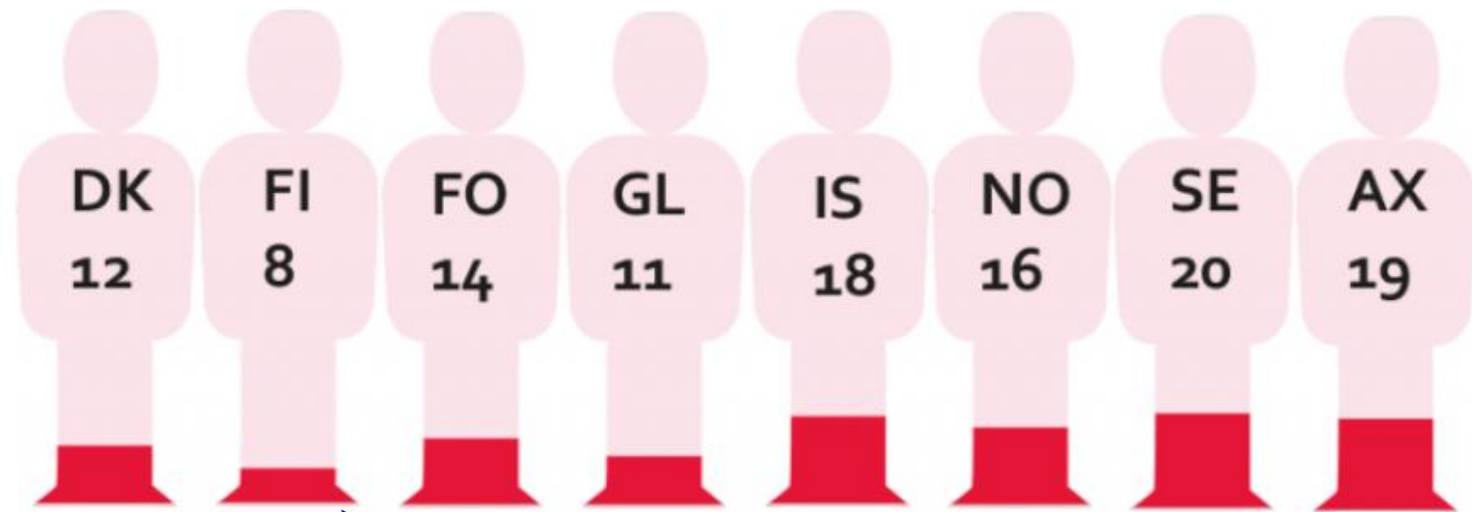


Monolingual Finland – myth or reality?

*“Finland is a relatively ethnically homogeneous
country.” (Wikipedia 2023)*

Foreign-born % of the total population (2021, GL and IS 2020)

IMMIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT | 31 Aug 2022



Source: Nordregio's calculations based on Nordic statistics

DK = Denmark
FI = Finland
FO = Faroe Islands
GL = Greenland
IS = Iceland
NO = Norway
SE = Sweden
AX = Åland

Further reading

Latomaa, S., & Nuolijärvi, P. 2005. The Language Situation in Finland. In R. B. Kaplan, & R. B. Baldauf (eds) *Language Planning and Policy in Europe, Vol. 1. Hungary, Finland and Sweden*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 125–232.

Minority Rights Group Finland 2016. [*National Minorities in Finland – Richness of Cultures and Languages*](#). Translated and updated from: "Suomen kansalliset vähemmistöt – kulttuurien ja kielten rikkautta" (2012).

Ministry of Justice Finland (2019) [Linguistic rights](#).