

ENOC Working group on Children on the Move

Response to questionnaire from the Ombudsman for Children in Finland

Data

This data is from National Migration Service Statistics.¹

Statistics concerning children seeking for asylum 2015-2017

2015

32477 asylum seekers, of which 4250 aged 0-13 and 3402 aged 14-17. Of the children 4619 (2026 girls, 2591 boys) came with their family and 3014 (184 girls, 2826 boys) were unaccompanied.

2016

5646 asylum seekers, of which 1419 aged 0-13 and 338 aged 14-17. Of the children 1163 (550 girls, 613 boys) came with their family and 292 were unaccompanied.

2017

5046 asylum seekers, of which 1116 were aged 0-13 and 254 aged 14-17. of the children 854 (420 girls, 434 boys) came with their family and 142 were unaccompanied.

Statistics concerning the decisions for the asylum seekers 2015-2017

2015

Unaccompanied minors 112 positive, 2 negative and 43 other decisions.
Accompanied minors 267 positive, 289 negative, 358 other decisions.

2016

Unaccompanied minors 1515 positive, 141 negative and 112 other decisions.
Accompanied minors 1450 positive, 2171 negative and 873 other decisions.

2017

Unaccompanied minors 187 positive, 21 negative and 27 other decisions.
Accompanied minors 841 positive, 702 negative and 212 other decisions.

Education

The municipality has obligation to provide early childhood education and care for the inhabitants of the municipality and if needed also to other residents. The asylum seekers and the people without residence permit are not official inhabitants of the municipality. Therefore the obligation to provide early childhood education and care for the children that seek for asylum or whose family is residing in Finland without a residence permit is not clear. The Ombudsman for Children has stated that the legislation should be made clear and that all also children without residence permit or children seeking for asylum would have right to early childhood education and care.²



Children on the move study in the mainstream educational system. There is no national deadline to enrol pupils to the school but it should be done as soon as possible. In Finnish legislation for the basic education (For children aged 7-16) it is stated that all children have the right to go to school. In Finnish school system there is a one year long preparatory instruction for migrant pupils. The providers of instruction (mainly municipalities) receive extra funding for pupils in preparatory instruction. After the year in preparatory instruction the pupils continue in mainstream basic education. Teaching of pupil's native language is optional for the provider of the instruction and is partly financed by the state. According to the Basic Education act the instruction of a minority (other than Lutheran or orthodox) religion must be provided if there are three pupils whose legal guardian makes a request.

In Higher Education there is no data about the Children on the Move. There are data collected by the background of the students but there are many foreign degree students so that data is not relevant in this sense.

In education there is no specific data about the children on the move. However there is some data of the pupils with a migrant background.

In 2017 in Basic Education there were 547 797 pupils, of which 40067 were foreign-languaged (had other mother tongue than Finnish, Swedish or Sami). There were 2934 pupils under 17 years in the Migrant children's preparatory instruction for the basic education.³ In General Upper Secondary Education there were (2016) 4788 foreign-language students of 96268 (Those that study with the curriculum for young students). In vocational training (15-19 years old) there were 5098 foreign-language students out of 92003 students.⁴

According to statistics the students that have background in Finland graduate from General Upper Secondary Education and Vocational training education quicker than the students with a migrant background. The length of the studies is three years. In three and half years 81% of students with Finnish background and 66% of foreign background completed their General Upper Secondary Education. In the same time 69% of students with Finnish background and 60% of students with foreign background graduated from Vocational training.⁵

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¹ National Migration Service (Maahanmuuttovirasto). Statistics available online tilastot.migri.fi. Referred 9.5.2018.

² Ombudsman for Children: Statement on the Government bill for Early Childhood Education and care act 16.3.2018

³ National Board of Education (Opetushallitus) , State Subsidy Statistics 2017. Available online <https://vos.opi.fi/rap/>. Referred 9.5.2018

⁴ Vipunen – National statistics for education. Available online www.vipunen.fi. Referred 9.5.2018

⁵ Statistics Finland: Studying statistics (Opintojen kulku) 2016, article 14.3.2018. Available online www.tilastokeskus.fi . Referred 9.5.2018