

Integration projects to support multiculturalisation

# Immigrants into a resource in rural areas

Project funding under the Rural Development Programme enhances viability and quality of life in the countryside. There are opportunities for integrating immigrants as well.

In the integration projects for immigrants it is well possible to take into account the capability of both immigrants and the original rural population to work together: means to improve the capability of immigrants and, on the other hand, of the rural population to accept and benefit from the competence and involvement of immigrants living in the area.

Education, training and information projects aim to enhance the immigrants' knowledge and skills in, for example, languages, culture and local customs. The projects may also aim for a better management of change and new situations.

In many projects the aim is to integrate immigrants to working life tasks that correspond to their education background. Learning the language and culture makes it easier to find employment. The projects allow to learn about matters and skills needed for everyday living in the countryside and construct cooperation with public authorities and businesses. The local enterprises will also benefit from this as their services become more accessible.

Under the Rural Development Programme funding is also available for supporting communities and joint action, involvement, networking and possibilities to have influence on



what is going on in your area. Hobbies and events may be organised where people from different backgrounds meet each other. Art and culture may be an important part of integrating immigrants.

Rural services, security issues, culture and creative fields, use of information technology in services and everyday life, early-stage entrepreneurship and hobbies for children and the young are among the main themes of the projects, which may also facilitate the integration of immigrants.

## Applicants

Support for development projects may be applied for by corporations governed by the public and private law, including local government bodies, associations and cooperatives.

## Type and amount of support

Projects relating to integration may be implemented as education, training and information projects, development projects of general interest, or cooperation projects. The amount of support varies according to the selected measures. Support may be paid up to 100% of the approved, reasonable costs. The beneficiaries may be required to contribute part of the funding. Support is paid retroactively, which means that temporary funding is also needed.

## Projects may be implemented

- locally
- regionally
- trans-regionally
- nationally and
- internationally.

## Application procedure

Application may be filed at any time but the decisions are made by specific application periods. The applications are assessed and scored by means of the selection criteria of the Rural Development Programme.



## Electronic application

You may apply for support on the internet at the Hyrrä service [mavi.fi/hyrra](http://mavi.fi/hyrra). At this service you can file your application, follow the processing of the matter and browse the information on your application. When costs arise from your project, you may file the application for payment using the same service. No special skills are needed for using the service. Filing the application is easy and the system guides you step-by-step.

## Please contact us and ask more!

Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and Leader groups give more information on the support and how to apply for it. Immigrants and their integration have been given special attention especially in the local rural development plans of the Leader groups. Start by contacting the Leader group operating in your own area. You will find the contact information of the nearest Leader group at [www.leadersuomi.fi](http://www.leadersuomi.fi)

## More information on the internet

[www.mavi.fi/hanketuet](http://www.mavi.fi/hanketuet)



The European Agricultural Fund  
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