

Crisis Management

Did Finnish Government Succeed in Managing the Refugee Crisis 2015?

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Abstract. This paper will document Finnish policy responses to the increase in asylum applications in 2015 and document How Finnish government manage refugee crisis and answer to the question (Did Finnish government succeed in managing the refugee crisis 2015?).

Between 2015-2016 the number of asylum seekers applications filed in Finland increased rapidly and around 35000 asylum seekers arrived Finland. Inflows on this scale had not been seen in Finland since the World War II (Sarvimäki 2017). In 2015/2016, Finland received 38,123 asylum-seeking applications, which is about 10 times the figure in 2013 and 2014. (Between, January 2015 and December 2018 received 47719). This change has necessitated a reassessment of the Finnish integration policy, legislation on integration and its implementation practices as well as resource allocations and official processes (FMEE 2016). Integration has become both a key policy objective related to the resettlement of refugees and other migrants, and a matter of significant public discussion (Alastair & Alison 2008).

The Finnish government responded to the rapid increase in asylum seekers in three ways. First, it had to coop with the situation at hand. Between August and December 2015, the number of reception centers increased from 22 to 144 and the number of workers at the Immigration Service from 365 to 508. The second response was to make Finland a less attractive destination. The third policy response was to rethink integration policies. The government published an action plan on May 2016 on the overhaul of integration services (Sarvimäki 2017).

One of the most important challenges facing the government is ensuring the integration of the foreign born and their children (Tanner, 2011). Policymakers are trying to come to grips with the next challenge. Ensuring the social and economic inclusion of those who have arrived (Papademetriou et al. 2017) so, the main aim of Finnish integration policy is to get newcomers to enter the labour market as soon as possible (Saukkonen 2016).

Keywords: management, crisis management, refugee, integration

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