

Refugee and Migrant integration in Minority Language Communities.

Webinar: 14.3.2024, 13:00-14:30.

The webinar was co-hosted by the ‘Opportunity-based entrepreneurship among refugees’ project (funded by the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland)

The integration of refugees and migrants into minority language communities is a multifaceted process with significant implications for social cohesion, cultural diversity, and economic development. As newcomers navigate linguistic, cultural, and structural barriers within multilingual countries they may choose to integrate into a minority language community. Various organizations that provide resources for integration are at the heart of facilitating successful integration. The purpose of this webinar is to discuss the mechanisms through which different organizations can support refugees and at the same time share the experiences of a refugee who have successfully integrated into minority language communities.

Presenters:

Veronica Hertzberg, Team leader at Luckan Integration, a Swedish-speaking information and cultural center in Finland which provides information about Swedish services and the Swedish-speaking community, including its cultural life and associations.

Alexandr Foy arrived in Finland as a refugee in 2012 with a determination to learn Swedish and integrate into Swedish-speaking society. Today, he serves as the Chairperson of Globe Art Point ry, an advocacy organization for foreign-born artists based in Finland, which promotes diversity in the arts and culture field. He is also the co-founder and current chairman of [Svenska.fi](https://svenska.fi) association, which focuses on helping foreigners integrate into the Swedish language in Finland. Additionally, he is a co-founder and producer of [Tochka.fi](https://tochka.fi), a non-profit Russian-speaking media and event agency based in Helsinki.

Magdalena Kosová is a research associate and doctoral researcher at Åbo Akademi University, and her research focuses on integration, minority languages, and the integration of labor migrants. She places particular emphasis on examining integration dynamics among minorities including the Swedish-speaking community in Finland.