

Migration and Ethnic Identity



Миграция и этническая идентичность

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Photo: Votic folk music group "Linnud".
2006 Leningrad Region, Russia. K. Hafeez.

Migration

Definition of migration

- Movement of people from one place to another

Scale of migration:

- Internal migration= migration within one geopolitical entity (f.e. nation-state)
- Cross-border migration= migration in-between of different geopolitical entities

QUESTIONS:

- *Where do people of your Finno-Ugric group migrate (present-day and recent past)?*
- *Does there exist internal or cross-border migration in your Finno-Ugric group?*

Migration

Duration of migration:

- Permanent / temporary / seasonal

Reasons for migration:

- Forced= migratory movement with an element of coercion, including threats to life and livelihood (refugees)
- Voluntary= movement with an element of free will (migrants)

QUESTIONS:

- *Does there exist permanent, temporary or seasonal migration in your Finno-Ugric group?*
- *Do people migrate voluntarily or are they forced to migrate?*

Reasons for migration

1) Economic

- Moving to find work

2) Social

- Better quality of life, near to friends and relatives

3) Political

- Moving to escape political persecution and war

4) Environmental

- Natural disasters

QUESTION:

- *What are the most common reasons for migration in your Finno-Ugric group?*

Ethnic identity

- Ethnic identity= refers to the group with which an individual identifies

- What defines ethnic identity?
 - Common language or dialect
 - Shared cultural heritage and history
 - Homeland
 - Symbolic systems such as religion
 - Cuisine, art, dressing style

QUESTIONS:

- *What could be done in order to maintain ethnic identity in those places, where your Finno-Ugric people have migrated?*
 - *What should individuals by themselves do?*
 - *What should society do?*

A case-study: Sami people in Helsinki subregion

- Homeland area of Sami covers 4 countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia
 - About 9000 Sami people in Finland
 - 3 Sami languages spoken (Northern Sami, Skolt Sami, Inari Sami)
 - Because of internal migration more than 60 % of Finnish Sami live outside of Sami homeland area
 - About 1000 Sami living in Helsinki subregion



A case-study: Sami people in Helsinki subregion

- Migration happened from 1960's onwards (countryside > cities)
- Background: structural change in Finnish society
 - from agriculture-based economy to industry- and service-based economy
- Reasons for migration were economic and social
 - Pushing factors: unemployment, lack of services, education possibilities
 - Pulling factors: demand for labor force, higher standard of living

A case-study: Sami people in Helsinki subregion

What is done in order to maintain the ethnic identity of Sami outside the homeland area ?

Example of non-governmental organization:

City-sámit ry

- Established in 1988
- Organization for Sami living in Helsinki subregion
- About 100-150 members

A case-study: Sami people in Helsinki subregion

City-sámit continues...

- Goals of the organization:
 - To promote cultural, juridical and economic rights of Sami people
 - To organize cultural events, seminars and workshops for Sami and non-Sami
 - To maintain connections with Sami homeland area and with Sami people in other countries

- “Máttabiegga” language nest in Helsinki
 - Established in 2013, coordinated by City-sámit
 - Day-care centre for children (1-6 years)
 - Northern Sami language spoken
 - Financed by Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Cultural Fund

Questions about Finno-Ugric migration

Consider the situation of your own Finno-Ugric group (Finnish, Estonian, Carelian, Udmurt, Mari etc.). Time period: present-day/recent past.

- 1. Where do people migrate?
(internal/cross-border migration)*
- 2. For how long time people migrate?
(permanently, temporarily or seasonally)*
- 3. What are the main reasons for migration?
(economic, social, environmental or political)*
- 4. Give examples, how to maintain ethnic identity in those places,
where your Finno-Ugric people have migrated?*
 - What should individuals by themselves do?*
 - What should society do?*