

# 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?*