

INVITATION

Forum for Ethnic Relations 2018: More participation, more power

Tuesday, 22 May 2018 at 9.00-16.00
Helsinki, Old Student House, Mannerheimintie 3

Registration is required by 15 May 2018

<https://link.webropolsurveys.com/S/B41BF7B7476E6AoF>

Additional information: Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations, Ministry of Justice, etno.om@om.fi
The main language of the event is Finnish. Workshops 1 and 3 will be held in English. We encourage the participants to discuss also in other languages.

Participants: Experts dealing with questions related to power, societal influence and equal participation of foreign-language speakers as well as those interested in these questions. The event is free of charge.

Programme in English: <http://oikeusministerio.fi/en/etno-forum1>

PROGRAMME

9.00 **Registration & breakfast**

9.50 **Opening of the event, Great Hall, 1st floor**

10.00 Talk the talk – open discussions

Participation and being an influencer in Finland, Minister of Justice Antti Häkkinen
Being a political citizen in Finland, Member of Parliament Ozan Yanar

10.30 **Power in Finland.** PhD, Editor-in-Chief Johanna Vuorelma

What is power? Politics, economy, justice, science, culture, media visibility, gender, private or public? How do the different dimensions and actors of power affect each other? What does the constant change entail for democracy and power structures in Finland?

In Finland, who will act as change agents when it comes to societal participation and influence, and who are marginalised?

*How does genuine inclusion support citizens' trust in democracy and institutions of power?
Why is exclusion an important question from the perspective of good relations and social cohesion?*

*How are foreign-language speakers and immigrants visible and being heard in the field of policy-making?
How could we promote foreign-language speakers' societal participation?*

10.45 Talk the talk – open discussions

11.00 **At the core and margin of societal influence and participation**

Media as means for opinion-makers, Member of Parliament Ozan Yanar
Democracy indicators – who in Finland votes and for whom?
Academy Research Fellow Hanna Wass & Doctoral Student Josefiina Sipinen
Influence through research, Senior Researcher Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé

- 10.20 Talk the talk – open discussions
- 11.40 **Power of opinions**
The influential power of civil society,
Secretary General Kaari Mattila, Finnish League for Human Rights
Corporate social responsibility and the private sector changing the world,
Diversity & Inclusion Specialist Sara Salmani, Milton Oy
- 11.50 Talk the talk – open discussions
- 12.00 **Lunch (for full-day participants)**
- 12.45–15.00 **Workshops:**
Foreign-language speakers' equal opportunities for participation in Finland
- 15.00 Culture. Great Hall, 1st floor
- Fishbowl conversations, i.e. lessons learned from the workshops
- Closing words, *Secretary General Peter Kariuki, Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations*
- 16.00 The Forum ends

WORKSHOPS 12.45–15.00

*They are must-have, not just nice-to-have:
equal opportunities for foreign-language speakers to participate and influence in the
Finnish society. How could we promote participation rights and who would assume*

WORKSHOP 1 **REFUGEE PARTICIPATION FROM DAY ONE** (in English)

Organizer: UNHCR in collaboration with Etno's member associations

- How can persons with refugee background participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policy, legislative, procedural or programmatic developments that may impact on them and their communities?
- In Finland, are all the members of communities with refugee background equally involved in decision-making processes and activities that affect their lives?
- How can participation be ensured for all women, girls, boys and men of all ages and backgrounds in an age/gender/diversity sensitive manner - starting with reception, through integration and beyond?

WORKSHOP 2: **POWER STRUCTURES AND NGOS IN COUNTIES**

Organiser: Advisory Board on Civil Society Policy (KANE)

- What kind of structures for exerting power and influence are being constructed in the counties? How will foreign-language speakers be able to make their voices heard within these structures?
- How could foreign-language speakers become involved in county-level decision- and policy-making via non-governmental organisations?

WORKSHOP 3: **REPRESENTATIONS IN THE MEDIA & THE POWER OF VISIBILITY AND VOICE**

Organiser: ARF (Anti-Racist Forum) & (in English & Finnish)
ARMA (Anti-Racism Media Activist Alliance) project, Kone Foundation

- Why is "for us by us" needed to support and empower participation?

WORKSHOP 4: **SERVICE DESIGN TO THE RESCUE!**

Organiser: Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO)

- How could service design be utilised to enhance the quality of public services and to save costs?
- Why should foreign-language speakers become involved in the development of public services and activities?
- Let's practice service design! CASE: e-services

WORKSHOP 5: **VOTING & PARTICIPATION WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE – RIGHT?**

Organiser: Moniheli ry

- What kind of measures should be taken to raise awareness of voting and other forms of societal participation and influence among foreign-language speakers and to increase their trust in these?
- Foreign-language speakers are clearly less eager to stand as candidates in political elections than speakers of the national languages. The percentage of foreign-language speaking candidates who are elected in municipal elections is also clearly lower than that of national-language speakers. Foreign-language speakers and young people in particular are thus left without any experience of municipal positions of trust and do not feel at home in political associations.