

13.3.2025

Espoo's pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights principle 3 – Equal Opportunities

As a forward-thinking, resident-focused city, Espoo is committed to the European Pillar of Social Rights promoting social sustainability, equality and well-being. In alignment with our city strategy, we pledge to Principle 3: Equal Opportunities. We take concrete actions to ensure that Espoo remains an innovative, fair, and responsible city where everyone can live, work and thrive.

A good example of Espoo's work to ensure everyone has the same fair chance to take part in the world around them is Espoo's commitment to being the most effective city in Finland for integrating newcomers. We recognise that everyone, regardless of their background, should have an equal opportunity to participate in society, build a career, and feel at home in Espoo. We have created a Hello Espoo-concept that welcomes newcomers to Espoo. Hello Espoo is an umbrella consisting of a web page, events with city services, a physical service point and online communities.

One-fifth of the foreign working-age population living in Espoo is unemployed, while the general unemployment rate is 11%. Espoo aims to close this gap and ensure equal opportunities for foreign language speakers in the labour markets. The employment of a growing population of foreign language speakers is one of the key factors in vitality, the availability of labour and the sustainability of public finances. This is particularly significant in Espoo, where foreign language speakers account for 70–90% of the population growth in recent years.


One of the flagship initiatives in this effort is the Espoo Talent Hub and Skills Centres, which provide a wide range of services designed to help immigrants and their families find employment, access education, and integrate into local communities. Through these initiatives, Espoo

not only welcomes newcomers but actively values their contributions, ensuring that everyone is seen, heard, and included. The actions of Espoo Talent Hub and Skills Centers are highly appreciated by the customers (NPS for job seekers 36,5, for companies 77,1). Nearly half of the customers from Highly Educated Immigrant's Skills Center found work in 2024, 87% of them in the private sector.

We also understand and recognise the different starting points of new residents. Special attention is paid to the integration of stay-at-home mothers. We have developed language and integration courses supported by early childhood education services and are studying the inclusivity of our digital services from the perspective of particularly vulnerable groups (Trust-M project).

In Espoo, you are not only welcome to stay, but you are also recognised as a valued member of the community. Espoo is committed to the European Pillar of Social Rights and will continue working for equal opportunities for our residents.

City of Espoo, 2025


Kai Mykkänen
Mayor of Espoo