

Finnish Intercultural Community

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shared values

compassion

respect for human dignity

dialogue

friendship

peace



respect for diversity

integrity

love

forgiveness

equality

freedom

Prepared by **Suomen Kulttuurienvälinen Yhteisö (SKY)**

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Suomen Kulttuurienvälinen Yhteisö



WHO WE ARE

Suomen Kulttuurienvälinen Yhteisö* (Finnish Intercultural Community) is a working group under the civil society organization 'FINPOLAR Kulttuurikeskus ry'. It was born in September 2019, to develop a community of shared values, shared challenges, and equal opportunity within Finland, based on a sense of cooperation, trust, hope and reciprocity among all living in Finland.

In other words, as The Council of Europe (Europe 2008) defines social cohesion, SKY aims to advance “the capacity of a society to ensure the well-being of all its members, minimizing disparities and avoiding marginalization” with the following characteristics:

- (1) reciprocal loyalty and solidarity
- (2) strength of social relations and shared values
- (3) sense of belonging
- (4) trust among individuals of society (the community)
- (5) reduction of inequalities and exclusion

The Finnish Intercultural Community (SKY) aims to increase awareness of common values, cross-cultural relations, and develop a sense of belongingness to Finland, among its members, and among the wider society. SKY consists of eleven enthusiastic volunteers coming from different professional backgrounds such as culture, art, economy, student, communication, IT, and public sector with vast experience, people who came to Finland from very different regions of Turkey and Central Asia. “As newcomers to Finland, we do not want to live in a bubble (ghetto’s) isolated from culturally rich, diverse, and open people of Finland. We want to foster interaction and learning. Our exposure to different people enriches us and broadens our perspectives on life” (Khalimzoda, 2020).

“Actions talk louder than words” – Let’s get to know SKY’s activities.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Intercultural Dinner

On September 18th, 2019, SKY had its first cooperative event called “Intercultural Dinner”, with the UN Association of Jyväskylä and AIESEC Jyväskylä – for the UN Peace Week. In this event, people from more than 6 countries were present. We took off with a welcoming, introduction to the importance of learning about one another, played cultural awareness games, and introduced attendants with foods from different cultures.



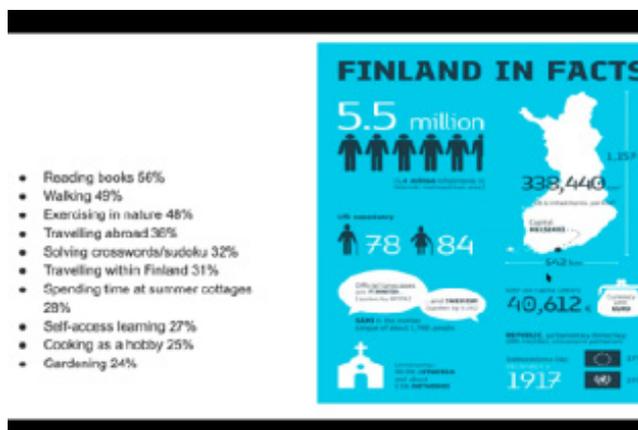
Workshops

On October 21st, 2019, Mustafa Ozbasi represented SKY in a workshop organized by Maaailma.net to discuss the new project about the role of the immigrant population's active participation, visibility in the media and public discourse.

Timeout Week 2019

On December 5th, 2019, amid Finland's independence, SKY joined the nationwide Timeout Week 2019, during which an enormous number of discussions on Finnishness was organised around Finland which was initiated by Timeout Foundation - Erätauko. Given the dialog tool by the Timeout foundation, we discussed questions such as what it means to be a Finn? How are Finland and people in Finland doing? What do you find important about Finland and Finnishness? The insights collected during the Timeout weeks of 2019 were delivered to the foundations. The detailed report from this event is available on our homepage.

Discovering and Embracing the Finnish Culture – Online Lecture

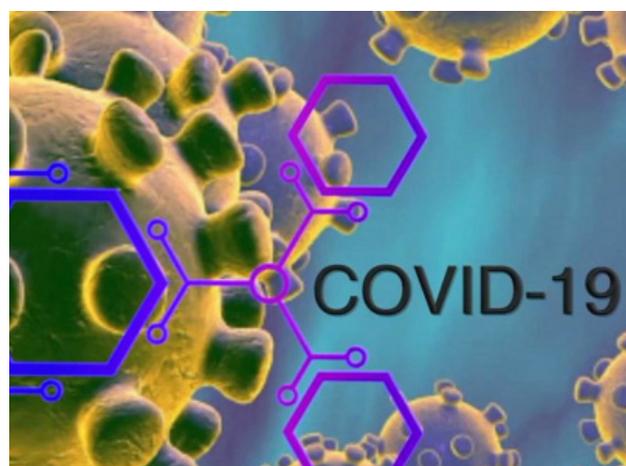


Ikhom Khalimzoda, a Doctoral researcher in Intercultural Communication at the University of Jyväskylä provided two seminars about Finland and Finnish culture from his observations and secondary sources. Exposure to various traditions, regional specifics, habits and customs can be a stressful process for newcomers. However, starting to explore other cultures, especially the culture of the place, where it is considered to be the second home we live in, must be crucial.

That has been the motivation for the Finnish Intercultural Community (SKY) to organize two lectures for its members and beyond. Lectures took place online via zoom and proved to be interactive, challenging and engaging at the same time. To find more inside about the seminar and its content, please refer to our homepage.

Covid-19 initiatives

As a Suomen Kulttuurienvälinen Yhteisö (SKY) volunteers, we have taken many steps to minimize the risk of infection such as cancelling the events; promoted staying at home; taken precautions; following the Finnish government's guidelines and brainstormed on how we can help our society to share the responsibility. We have organized 30 volunteers from 7 municipalities in Finland speaking 12 languages and reported our readiness to the municipalities with the hope that our volunteers can help in municipalities' phone helpline to seniors during the epidemic.



Community and Faith leaders in Finland Prayed Amid Covid-19

Given the Pandemic, many difficulties have covered all countries around the world and thousands of people lost their lives. Increased suicide, divorces, psychological problems, unemployment, isolation, and loneliness has been among many consequences. While also it seems that we are on the better side of the pandemic, no one knows what the future has to bring.



It is a screenshot from the event, Erdal Atak (up-left), Tulku Dakpa (down-left), Ilkhom Khalimzoda (up-middle), Heidi Routinmaa (down-middle), Roija Aflatuni (up-right), A.Bilal Dalkilic (right-down).

Among many other civic activities, we participated in during the Covid-19, Suomen Kulttuurienvälinen Yhteisö brought the community and religious leaders to pray for people in Finland and humanity at large online, on Wednesday, 03.06.2020. Hundreds of people joined the prayer on Live Stream via YouTube strengthening the overall spirit.

Goodwill Initiative – Project Apple | August-September 2020

Apple is widely available in Finland and many households have apple trees in their gardens. In years where there is a blessed harvest, households do not necessarily consume all apples and therefore it is subject to waste. However, through us, it is possible to start sharing it more with people willing to take apples for consumption.



The motto of the whole initiative which explains for itself is: “Do not lose a single apple, gain a new friend!”

Screenshot from the project apple - video introduction

The goal is “sustainable consumption” and “caring communities” following the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN. If you would like to find out the details of how it will work, please check our homepage.



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