

Summary of Problematic Points in the Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's "A strong and committed Finland" Government Program from an Anti-Racist Perspective:

Over the past six weeks, we have thoroughly examined the Government program "A strong and committed Finland". The analysis has incorporated public statements from experts such as lawyers, researchers, human rights organizations, and economic actors.

< <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/governments/government-programme#/> >

Conflicted Racist Motive:

The Finnish government program contains several concerning features in every chapter (1-11.) that exhibit clear underlying racist tendencies (4.2, 4.4, 5.4, 10.3). These features reveal a baffling contradiction: while the program claims to strengthen Finland's economy, it simultaneously imposes restrictions that hinder the acceptance of international expertise in Finland (10.) and diminish the country's global attractiveness. Furthermore, the program damages Finland's international reputation, weakens its position in international policy-making and trade, thus negatively impacting the country's global influence.

The policy proposal fails in its stated aims to create savings while boosting the economy, for example measures to ensure that migrant workers remain in Finland would apply integration resources more efficiently and reduce the need for immigration, instead of increasing the rotation with more people leaving and having to recruit and integrate others instead (1., 2.1, 3., 5.3, 4., 6.).

Lack of Justification and Racist Attitude:

The absence of justification, or rather the lack thereof, for specific policy proposals (1-11.) is problematic and reflects a racist attitude. In each case, we question why there is a need to alter the current system and how the proposed change is expected to enhance tangible outcomes. The public interest in prolonging the qualifying periods for certain legal statuses, such as permanent residence and citizenship (10.), is by no means obvious. This change is highly likely to increase the workload of the already overwhelmed public authorities responsible for processing these matters, so where is the benefit? We find it challenging to see any constructive purpose in these policy measures, and they are costly to implement.

Productivity Growth and Sustainable Immigration:

Previous programs acknowledged the need to prevent Finland from becoming a training ground where newly qualified international employees come for a year or two to make their early-career mistakes before moving on to less hostile and more visionary career centers elsewhere. Immigrants' productivity increases over time, underscoring the importance of persuading them to stay. (1., 2.1, 3., 4., 6.) This approach is far preferable to a "revolving door" policy that only ensures a continuous exchange of inexperienced individuals before they move on to better places. Permanent immigrants tend to appreciate Finland's strengths over time, becoming effective ambassadors and advocates for the nation. Those who stay for a relatively short period, on the other hand, tend to focus on the negative aspects of their experience.

Structural Racism in Cost-Saving Measures:

Examining the structure of the program's cost-saving measures reveals that immigrants suffer disproportionately due to embedded structural racism. The negative impacts of this approach extend far, affecting both the economy and social integration. For example, for migrant workers there is an intersectional issue between weakening general job security and being penalized for a temporary unemployment (4., 10.).

Overlooking Essential Matters and Igniting Concerns:

Perhaps even more concerning is the program's tendency to overlook essential matters, notably neglecting important issues such as right-wing violence and racism. These omissions highlight the program's attitude and raise doubts about its commitment to addressing fundamental challenges (4.2, 5.1, 5A, 6.5A, 8.2 10.2).

Undermining Constitutional Values:

Particularly worrisome is how these features conflict with Finland's constitution, especially in Chapter 6. This contradiction underscores the disparity between the goals the government declares and the framework guiding those goals (10., D.).

Racist Attitude in Language and Expressions:

The program's language itself reveals underlying racist attitudes. For instance, the emphasis on "for the benefit of Finns" rather than "for the benefit of all residents in Finland" raises significant concerns about inclusivity and discrimination avoidance (1., 4.4, 5., 5.4, 5., 7., 10., 10.3, 11.).

Neglecting Positive Effects:

It's crucial to recognize the positive effects of inclusive policies. By embracing diversity and promoting an anti-discriminatory stance, Finland can enhance its international reputation, foster a motivated and harmonious workforce, and achieve economic savings through increased stability and efficiency (3.1).

Values and Ethics at Risk:

Furthermore, the values and ethics that the program overlooks are concerning. A program that genuinely reflects the nation's principles should embody equality, human rights, and ethical standards (1-11.).

Call to Action:

Considering the extensive inconsistency, inefficiency, and absence of anti-racist principles in the current program, it is imperative for the government to take immediate action. We urge decision-makers to review, reform, and create an updated program that genuinely serves both the nation and its inhabitants. Moving forward, priorities must include equity, appreciation of diversity, protection of human rights, and rejection of all forms of discrimination.