

Starttipaja initiates cooperation between different operators to promote integration

STARTTIPAJA brings together municipal authorities and representatives of the third sector to discuss issues related to supporting the integration of immigrants. The operators do not need to have existing activities that support integration: the aim is to generate ideas and to network.

How to organise a Starttipaja workshop and fill in the integration platform:

1. Contact the municipal employee responsible for integration to map out the need for activities.
2. Suggest the organisation of a Starttipaja workshop.
3. Invite various partners (social and health care organisations, other organisations & clubs) to the Starttipaja. At the workshop, the municipality's integration activities are examined with the authorities. This enables cooperation with the municipality from the outset.

Starttipaja contents (duration approx. 2 h)

1. Participants/invitees are selected together with the authority. This helps identify the potential operators.
2. Catering is organised (coffee, tea, snacks).
3. The representative of the municipality gives their greeting and an opening speech regarding the theme.
4. Greetings of the responsible organisation and its role in the municipality.
5. Presenting the integration platform and guidance for using it (the integration platform can be used either as a PowerPoint file or the printed platform templates can be ordered free of charge from the Red Cross's online shop).
6. Participants are divided into small groups and given some questions to help with filling in the integration platform:
 - What is your organisation/club/community already doing at the moment? They do not have to be integration activities; you can list any activities of the organisation's activities that are open to everyone.
 - Discuss which stage of the [integration timeline](#) your activities involve.
 - Discuss how you are enabling immigrants to get involved in the activities.
 - Discuss what kind of support or training is needed. As a further topic, you can discuss who can provide support and where support can be obtained.
 - Wishes for integration activities on both sides.
7. The responses are entered into the integration platform. The platform collects together the activities available in the municipality. Utilising the answers, it is easier to promote integration among all operators in the municipality.
8. It is a good idea for someone to be in charge of the event and help the small groups with filling in the platform if needed.
9. Finish with a summary and agree on the future – agree on and write down the next steps, who does what.

When the integration platform is completed and the regular activities in the municipality are known, the information should also be entered into the kotoutumisentukena.fi platform. It collects together information about the available activities of different municipalities on a national level, making it easier to find different types of activities. The page also features manuals and guidelines in different languages. Read more at <https://kotoutumisentukena.fi/etusivu> (in Finnish and Swedish).