

# **COUNTRY REPORT: FINLAND**

## **A.A. 2021/22**



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## INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to analyze in depth the migration phenomenon in Finland. For this purpose, data available on the Eurostat platform were used. Our investigation is based on data generally from 2010 to 2021 when available, otherwise we selected the most relevant and recent data in this decade.

Finland's global approach ranks high in the MIPEX "Top Ten", within the international Top 3. Finland scores 85 points on the 100-point MIPEX scale, while the average MIPEX country scores only 49/100. A comprehensive approach to integration ensures equal rights, opportunities, and long-term security for both newcomers and citizens.

Finland's comprehensive approach to integration is very similar to Canada, Sweden, and Portugal and more inclusive than the other Nordic countries. Compared to Sweden, Finnish policies are more inclusive on political participation and permanent residence, but slightly less inclusive on health and access to nationality.

The MIPEX "Top Ten" countries treat immigrants as equals and invest in integration as an opportunity. In Finland, integration goes both ways, as policies encourage the public to see immigrants as their peers, neighbors, and potential citizens.

These policies are important because the way governments treat immigrants strongly influences how immigrants and the public interact and think about each other. Based on 130 independent scientific studies using MIPEX, integration policies emerge as one of the strongest factors shaping not only the public's willingness to accept and interact with immigrants, but also the attitudes, belonging, participation, and even health of immigrants in their new home country. Under inclusive policies such as Finland's, both immigrants and the public enjoy similar levels of positive attitudes, awareness of discrimination, life satisfaction, trust in society, and belonging in their new home country.<sup>1</sup>

The report is structured as follows:

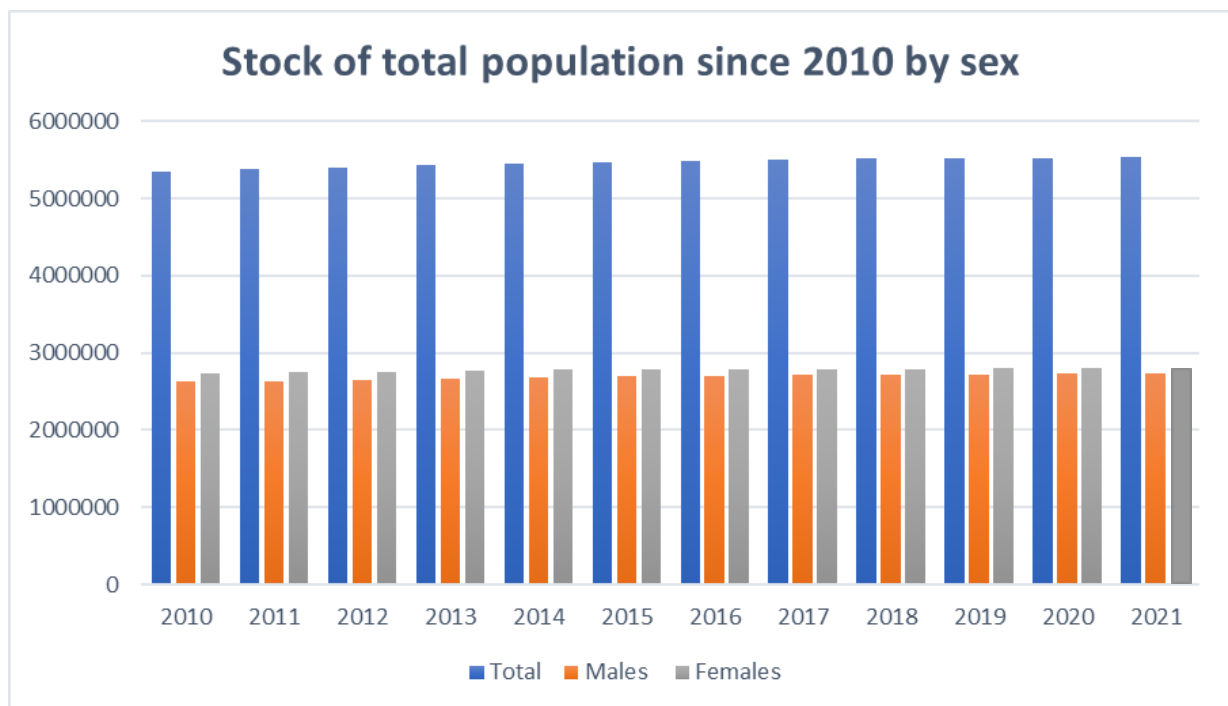
1. Population stock and population growth
2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years
3. Immigrant stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reasons for migration)
4. Immigrant flows by category (sex, age, country of birth and reasons for migration)
5. Refugees and asylum seekers
6. Migrants' integration indicators employment or unemployment.

<sup>1</sup>*Migrant Integration Policy Index | MIPEX 2020*, <https://mipex.eu/>. Accessed 19 April 2022.

## 1. Population stock and population growth

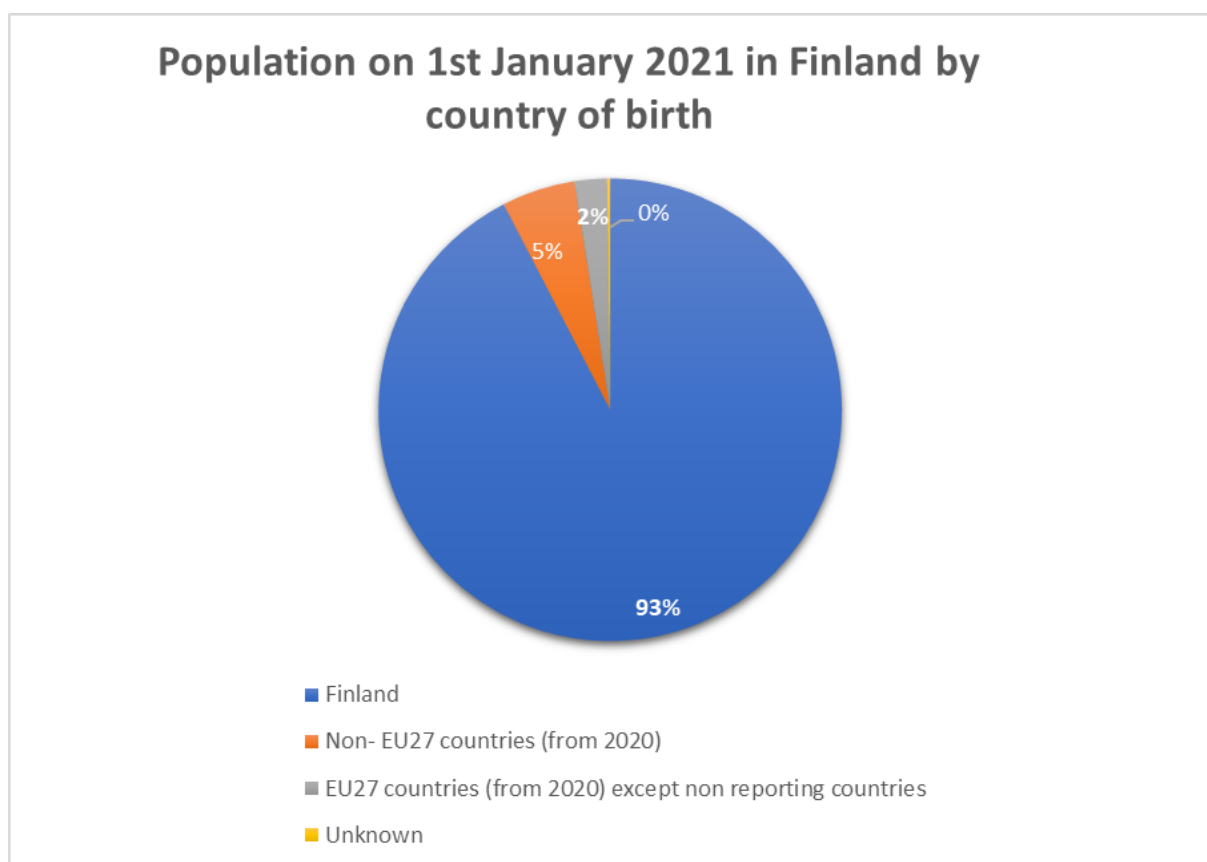
Our analysis starts with the stock of total population from **2010** until **2021** by sex and after that we can focus on data of the stock by country of birth in the same period.

Starting from the first section, in the following graph, we can see that, despite a slight majority of females, the population is distributed almost equally and there is not a large gap between the two sexes.



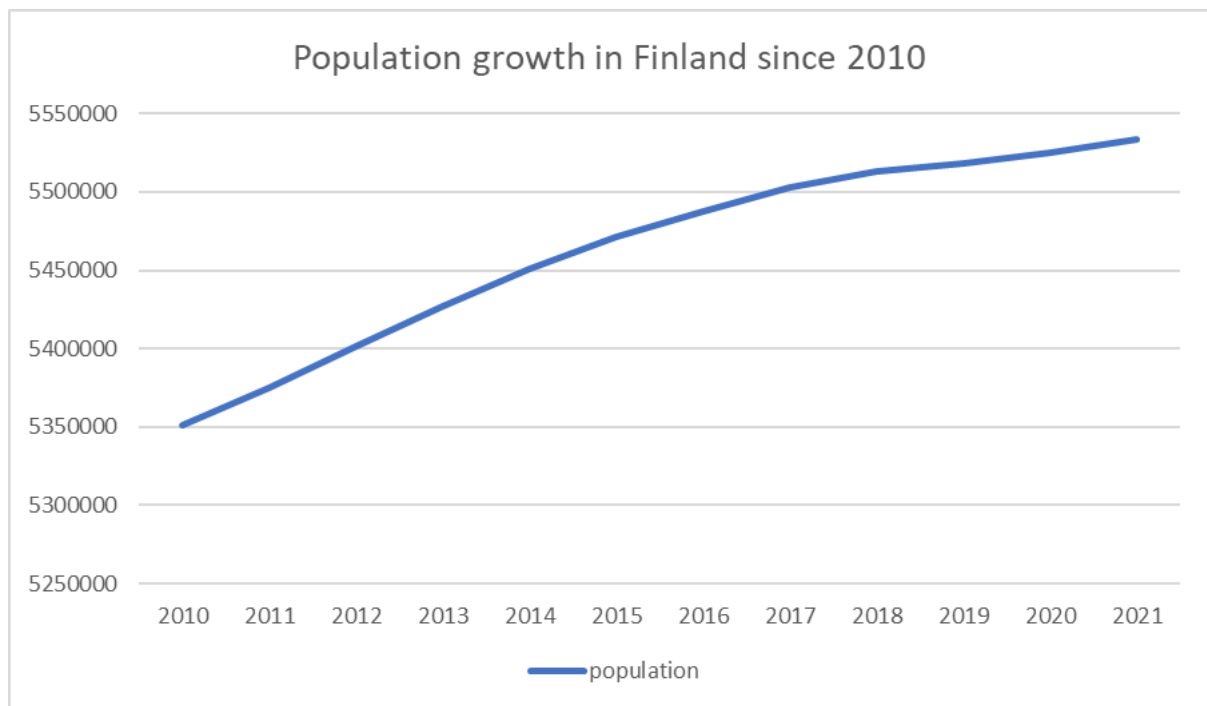
Source: [t\_demo\_pop]

From the previous data we can notice that in 2021 the total population is **5 533 793** (as of 1 st January 2021). Also, if we go deeper into details, looking at the data 1st of January 2021 and considering the country of birth, we notice that only 7% of total population were not born in Finland. As a matter of fact, data shows that 93% of the total population is born in Finland, otherwise their country of birth is non-European country (2%), a European country (5%) or their country of birth is unknown (0,2%). Even if we look at the population on 1st January 2010, we see that the main country of birth is Finland and only 0,09% of the population were born in an unknown country. We have no data for the EU27/NonEU 27 countries.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

As the first graph anticipated, the population growth in Finland within the last decade has a growth of 3,41%. On the 1st January 2010, the total population was 5 351 427, on the other hand in 2021 it was 5 533 793.



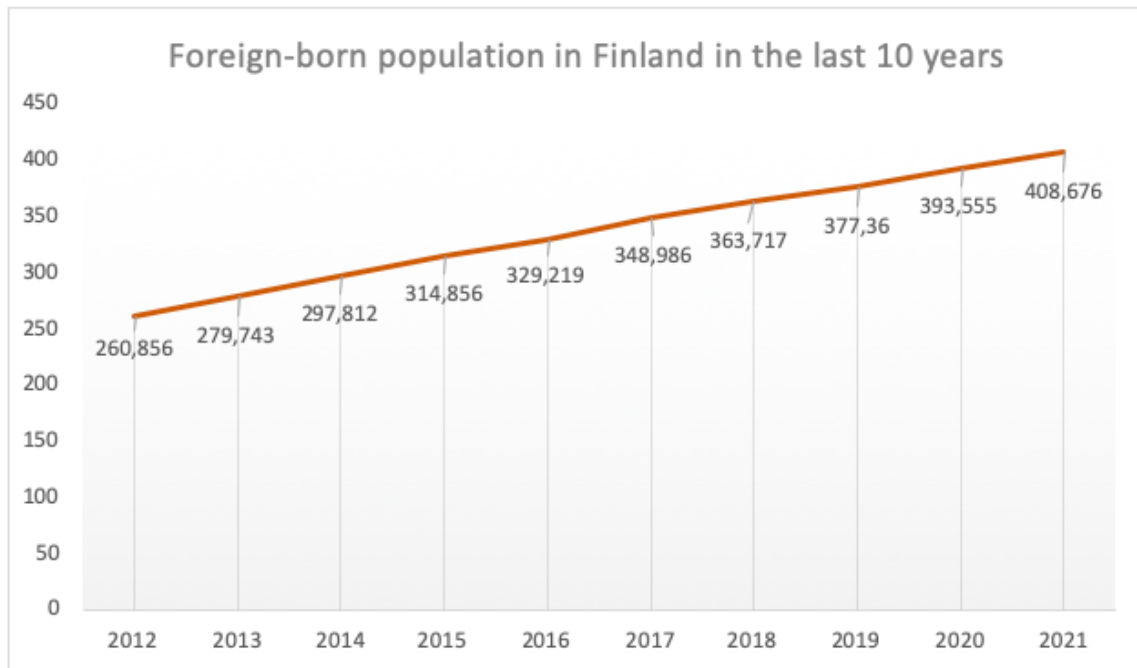
Source: EUROSTAT [t\_demo\_pop]

## 2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

Immigration can be considered a relatively new phenomenon in Finland, as the first wave of migration started in the early 1990s: in those years, people from Somalia came to Finland as refugees or asylum seekers. In the late 90s the Finnish government allowed the “Right to return” of Finnish people descendants residing in other countries, so the migration’s figure saw an exponential growth. Currently, there are almost 400.000 foreign-born people residing in Finland.

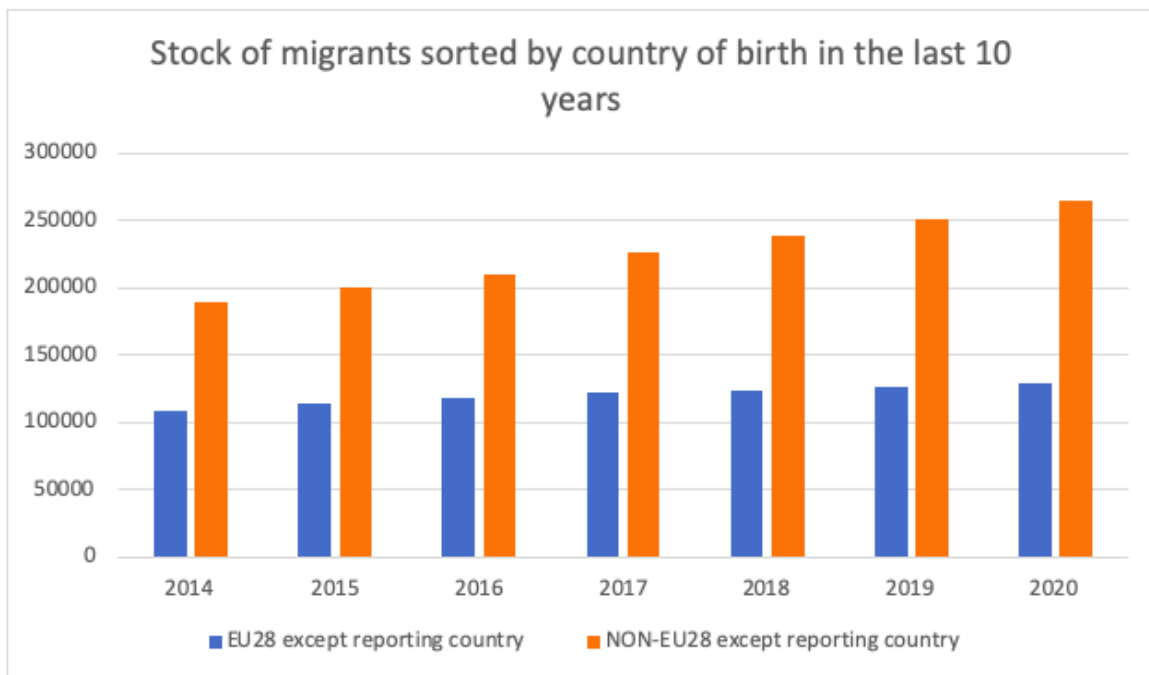
If our aim is to calculate the stock of international migrants residing in Finland in the last 10 years, we must consider the data about foreign country nationals present in the destination country on the 1st of January of each year. According to the “Push-Pull model”, migration is a result of economic, political, and social factors.

The following graph illustrates the stock of foreign-born population living and residing in Finland from 2012 to 2021. As we can see, the graph confirms a continuous and constant growth trend reaching the highest number of foreign-born inhabitants in 2021.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

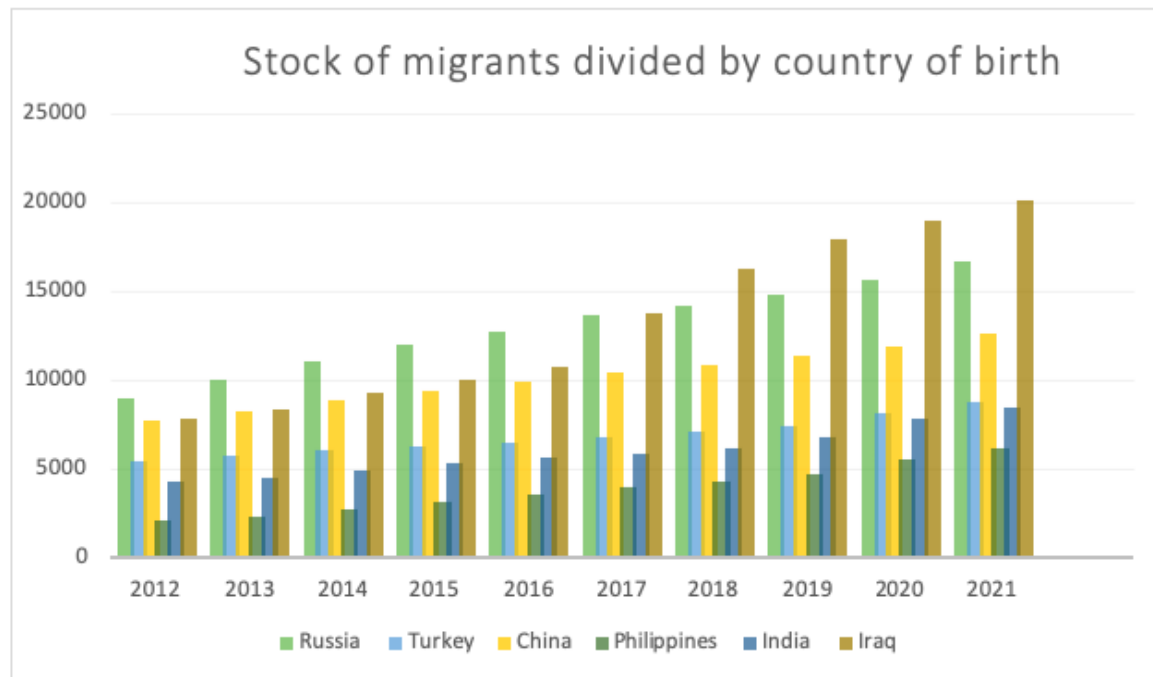
According to the following graph, we can see that Finland's migration gain is almost completely made of people coming from outside the European Union. Accurate data is not available for the years 2011-2013. In 2021 immigration from non-EU countries grew by 13.000 people from last year, while immigration from EU countries remained almost at the same level (the United Kingdom is here to be considered as a Member State).



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

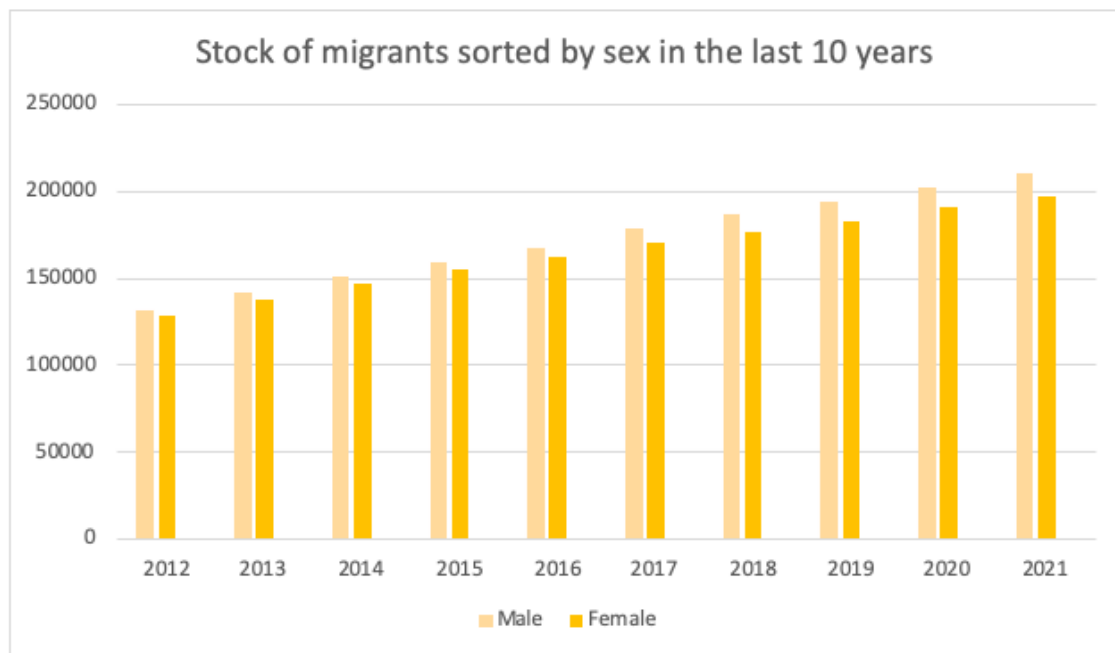
Since non-EU countries nationals are the majority of individuals moving to Finland, we were wondering which non-EU nationalities are most likely to go to Finland; then we decided to take a closer look at some non-Member States to further investigate this point.

In the following graph, we can see that in 2021 the immigration gain was largest in Iraqi citizens followed by Russia, and the third most immigration gain to Finland comes from Chinese (including Hong Kong) citizens.

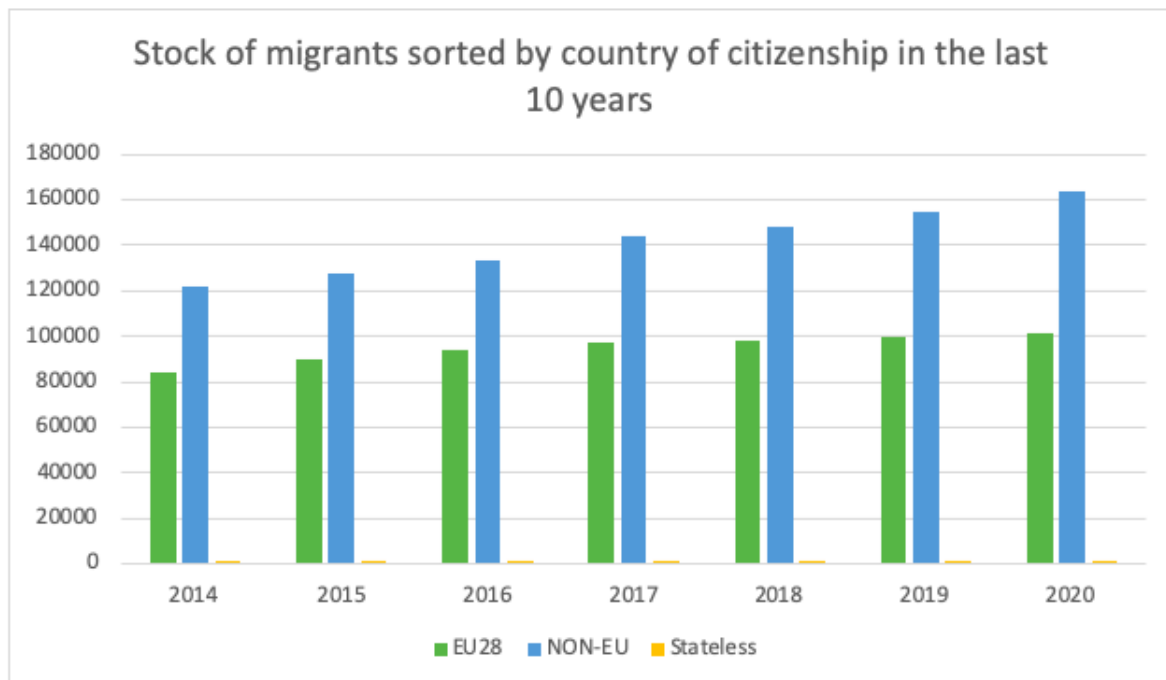


Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

For what concerns sex, the following graph shows that in the last 10 years males migrants exceeded female migrants, but the gap is slight. The migration trend tends to be constant and there are no major changes from the past years.

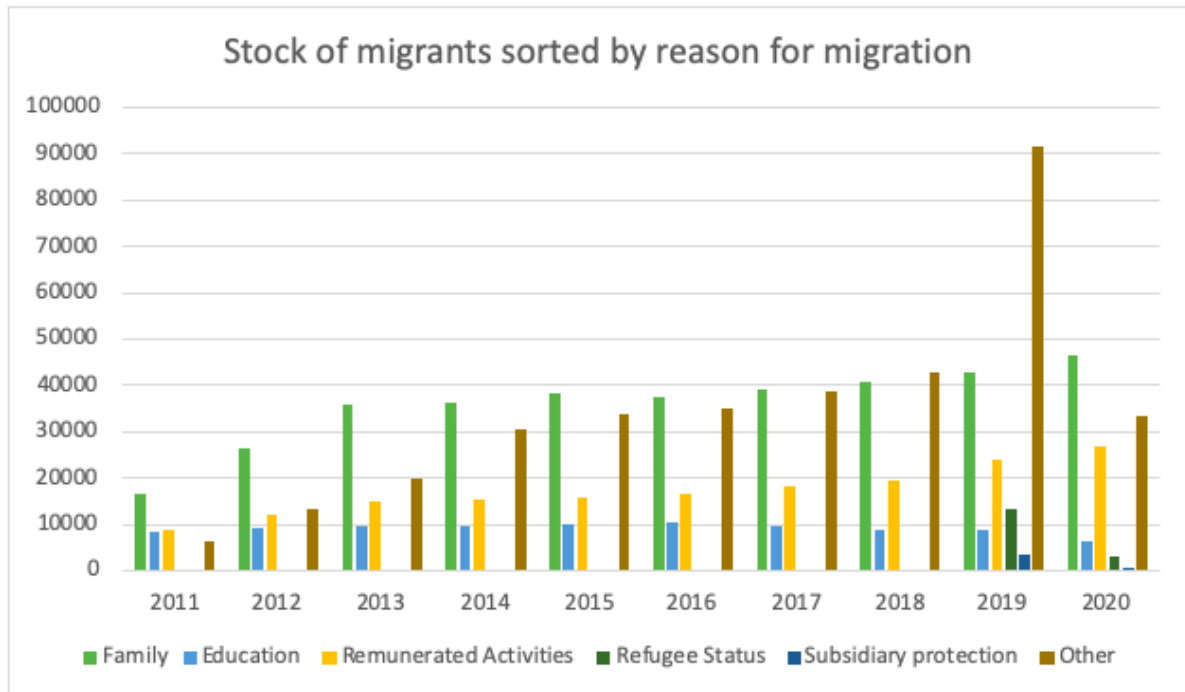


In the following graph, we examine the number of migrants sorted by their country of citizenship. Although data is not available for the years 2011-2013, we can draw the same conclusions as illustrated in the previous graphs, noticing that the figure of migrants coming from non-European countries in the last years has always exceeded the EU countries (British nationals are here accounted for as European citizens).





Speaking of reasons for migration, the following graph shows the trend of the last 10 years in Finland. From 2011 to 2016, migrants moved to Finland mostly for “family reasons”, however, based on the latest statistics a change of trend is noticeable, as a matter of fact in 2019 reasons classified as “other” have been the first door to enter Finland.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_resvalid]

### 3. Immigrant stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reasons for migration).

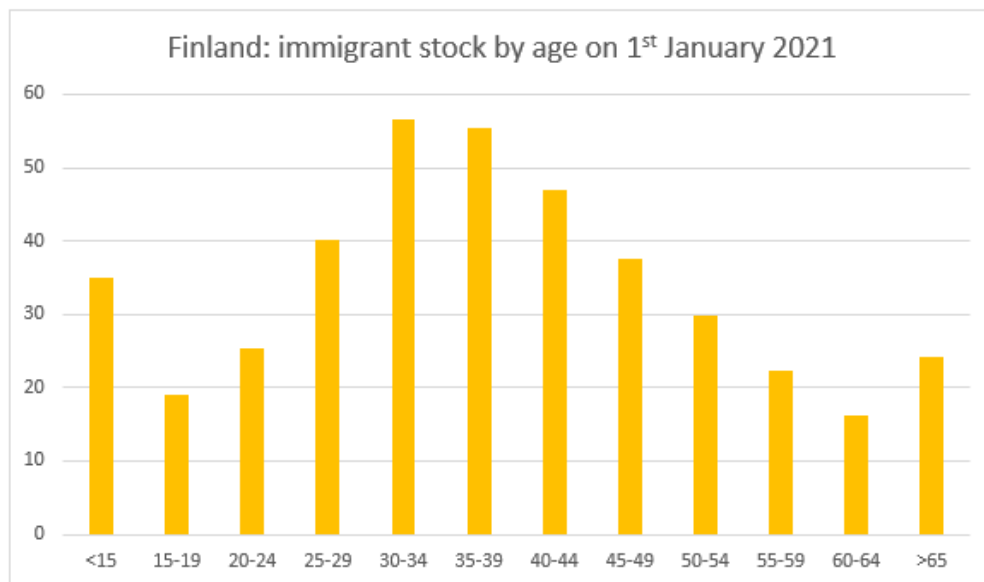
Firstly, we analysed the immigrant stock in Finland by category of sex.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

As we can see on the graph, the EUROSTAT database reveals an immigrant stock of 408,676 people, distributed in 210,902 males and 197,774 females, therefore there is a short difference between the two sexes. These informations have been found using the label [migr\_pop3ctb] and selecting “foreign country” as country of birth, “Finland” as reporting country, both sexes and “2021” as time.

Secondly, we analyzed the immigrant stock in Finland by category of **age**.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

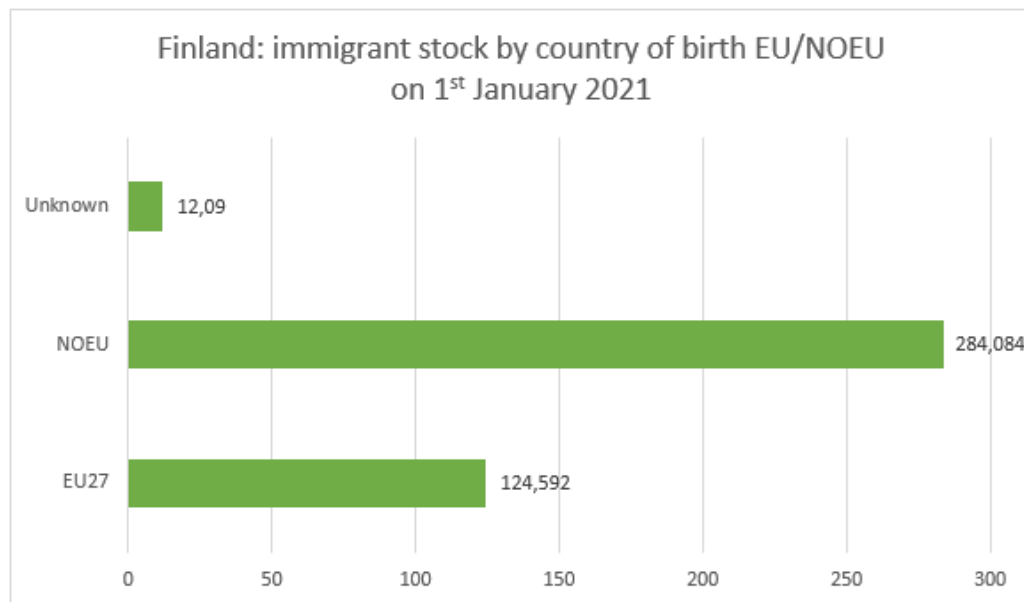
As we can see on the graph, the EUROSTAT database reveals that most immigrants are relatively young. They are mostly between 30 and 39 years old. Moreover, another relevant data is the high number of minors under 15, which is 34,923. So, as we can see in the graph, after the peak of 30-34, there's a negative correlation between age and number of immigrants. In particular, in Finland there are:

AGE	NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS
<15	34,923
15-19	19,142
20-24	25,333
25-29	40,237
30-34	56,492
35-39	55,504
40-44	46,974
45-49	37,582
50-54	29,837
55-59	22,309
60-64	16,141
>65	24,202

Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

For these informations we have used the same previous label [migr\_pop3ctb], but underlying the differences on age's ranges.

Thirdly, we analyzed the immigrant stock in Finland by category of **country of birth**. We looked before at the European community and then at the singular states or continents.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

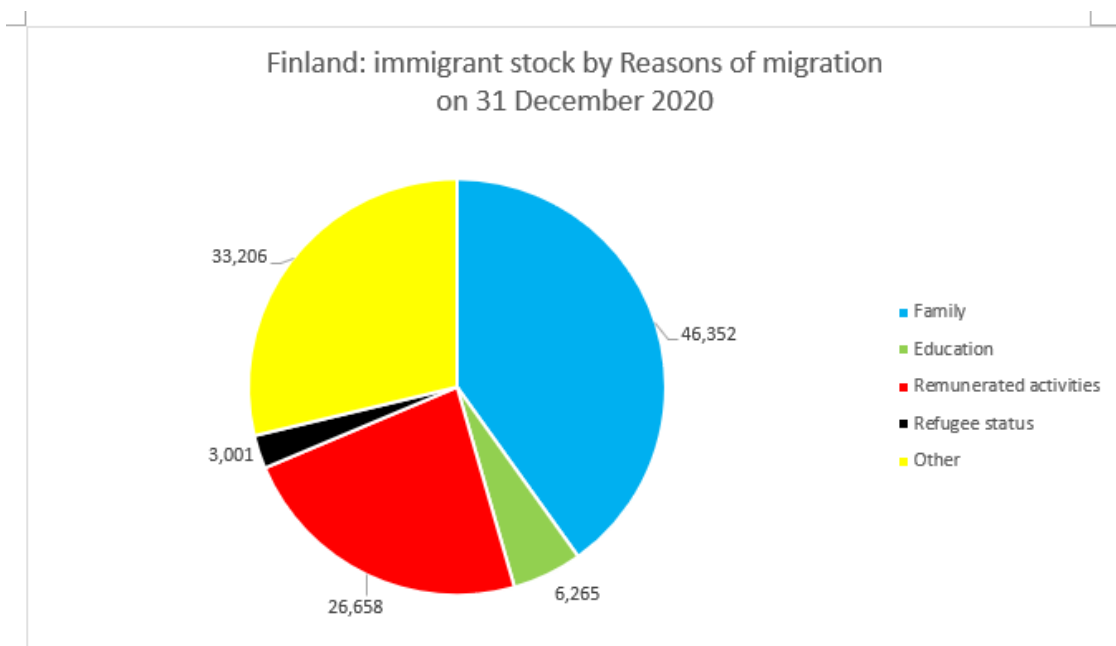
As we can see on the graph, we have researched where most of the immigrants in Finland come from and we have found that mostly of them aren't European. Unfortunately, the number of immigrants from EU 28 countries (2013-2022) wasn't available, therefore we used the number from EU27 countries (2020).



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_pop3ctb]

Then we researched which were the sending countries or continents with the larger number of emigrants (>10,000) in Finland and we discovered that they are Estonia with 46,160 people and South Asia with 36,689.

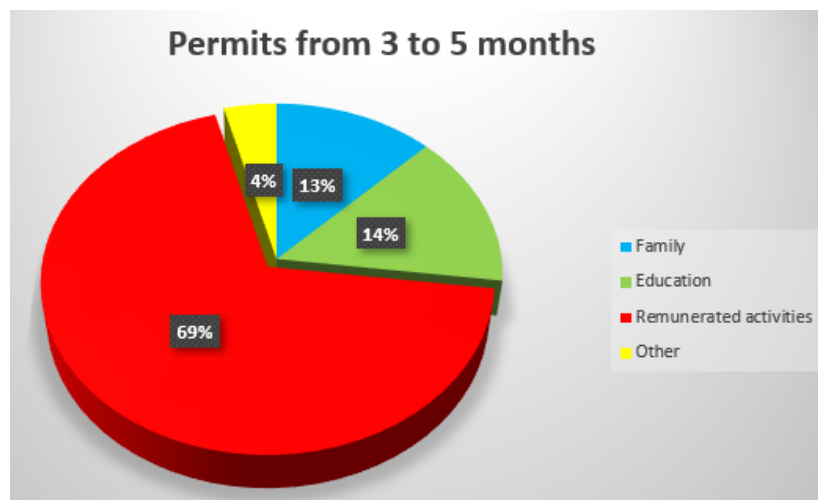
Lastly, we analyzed the immigrant stock in Finland by category of **reasons for migration**. We analyzed the label [migr\_resvalid] and considered the stock on 31 December 2020, because there was no data for the year 2021.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_resvalid]

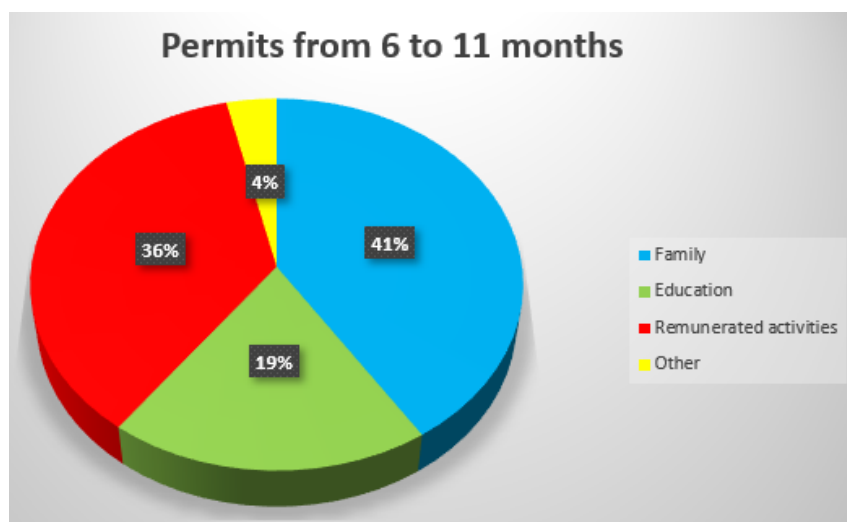
This graph shows the reasons for the migration of 115,662 people now based in Finland. As we can see the major reasons to migrate were family (46,352) and other (33,206). Then, Remunerated activities, education and Refugee status followed. Lastly, we found 179 people, who moved for subsidiary protection, but we didn't put them in the graph for their low incidence.

The stock of migrants presented above can be also divided according to the duration of the immigrant's permit. We analyzed 3 types of permits: from 3 to 5 months, from 6 to 11 months and from 12 months.



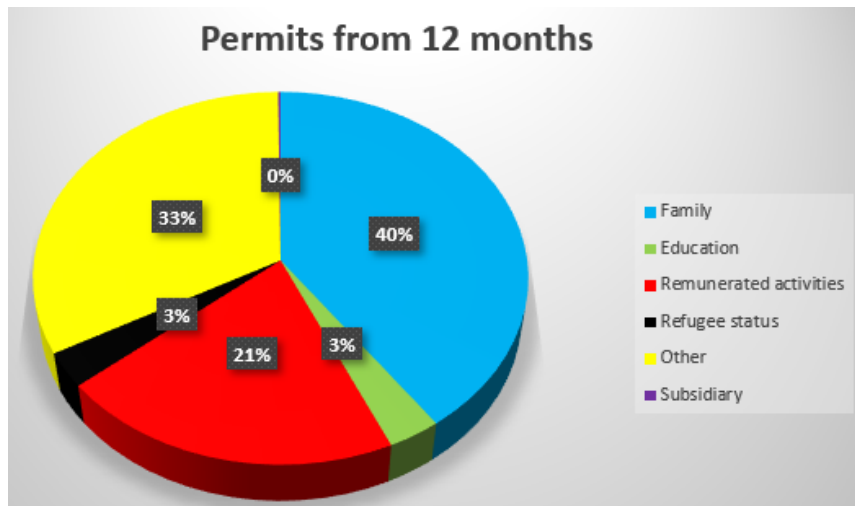
Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_resvalid]

As we can see in the graph, the majority of the immigrants (69%, 385 people) moved to Finland in 2020 with a permit from 3 to 5 months because of remunerated activities, then 14% for education and only 4% for other reasons.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_resvalid]

On the contrary, the graph above shows that, if we look at a more long-term permit, family reunification became the major reason to migrate (41%, 6,396 people), followed by remunerated activities (36%, 5,679).



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_resvalid]

In the end, if we look at a definitely long-term permit from 12 months, family reason keeps its top place (40%, 39,887), but also new reasons start emerging: 3% of people are refugees (3,001) or have a subsidiary protection (only 179) and 33% have other reasons to migrate.

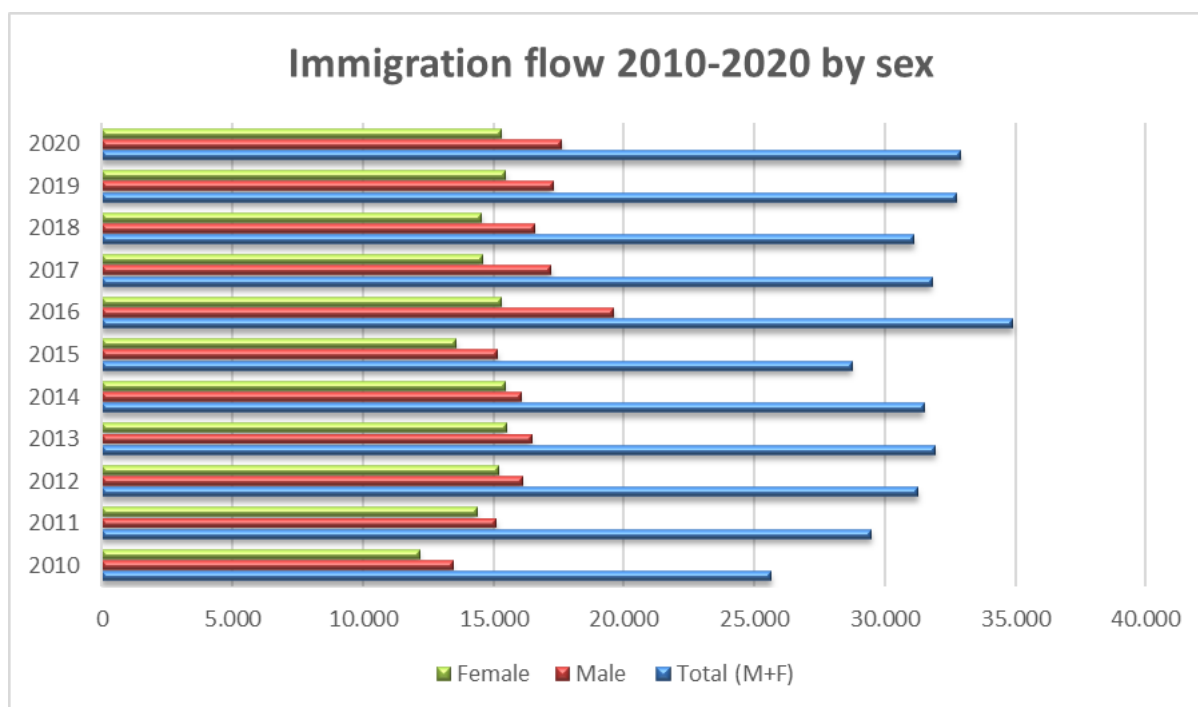
#### **4. Data and statistics on immigration flow in Finland from 2014 to 2020 by sex, age, country of birth and reasons for migration.**

In this paragraph we will see the immigration flow from several points of view for an analysis that considers the complexity of reality. In addition, for each data we propose a recent focus of 2020 (or 2019 when the 2020 data is not provided.)

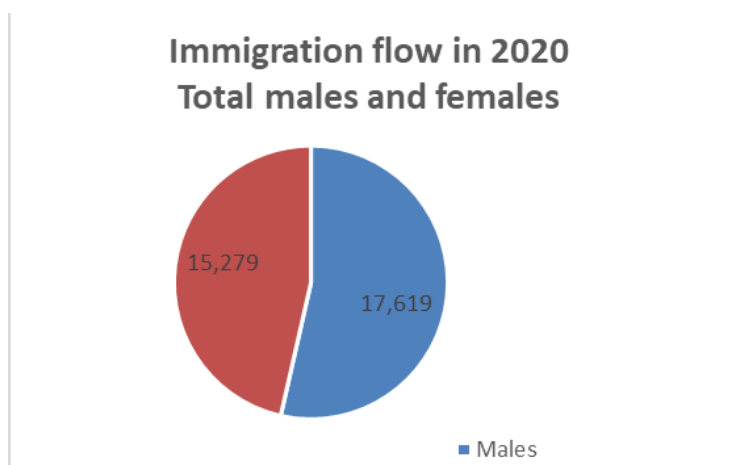
##### **Sex**

As we can see on the graphs on immigration flow by sex, there is no big difference between males and females immigrants. For example in 2020 the percentage of males differs by a few points from the percentage of females à male 54% vs female 46%

In 2016 we can see the largest number of immigrants and in 2010 the smallest one with only 25636 total immigrants.



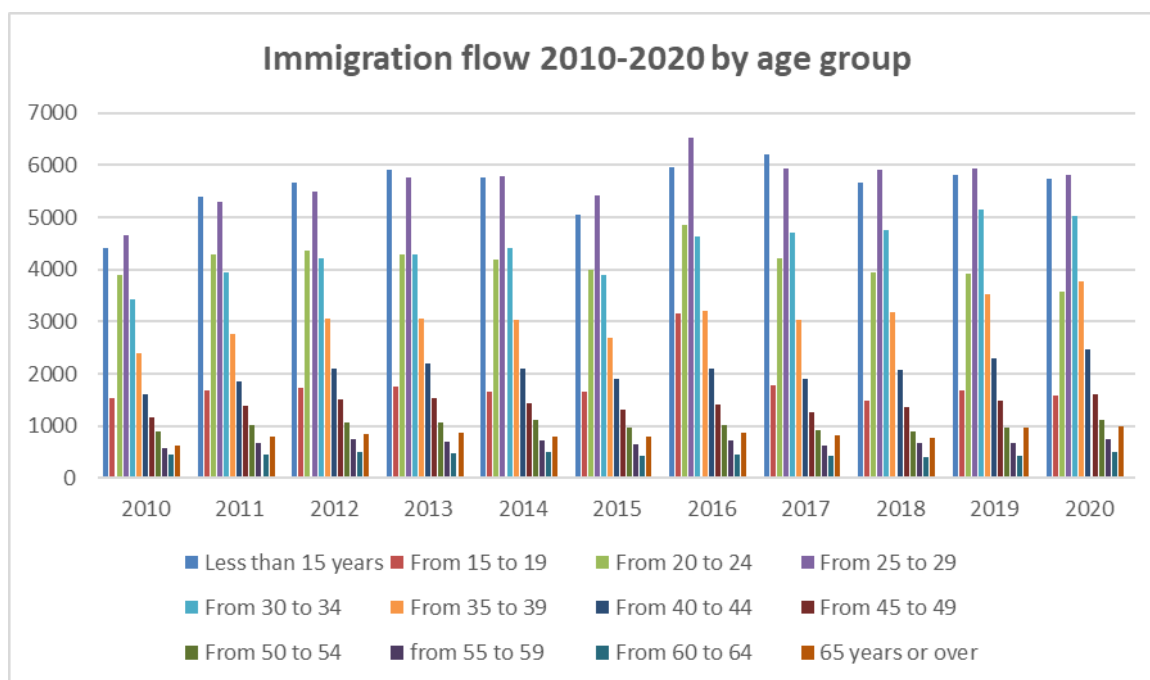
Source: Eurostat [migr\_imm3ctb]



#### Age group

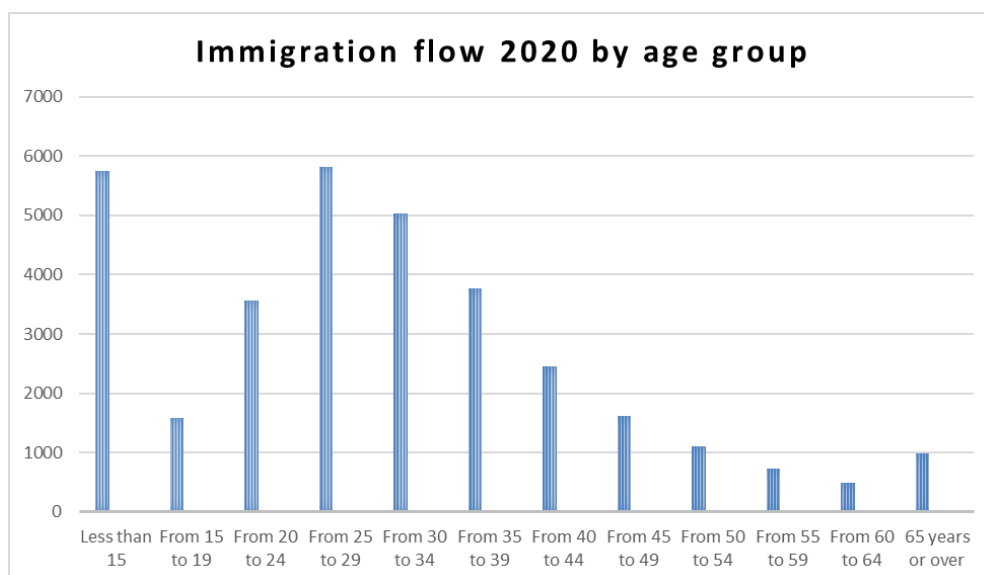
Here we present the dynamics of immigration flow by age group

from 2010 to 2020, with a special attention to 2020.



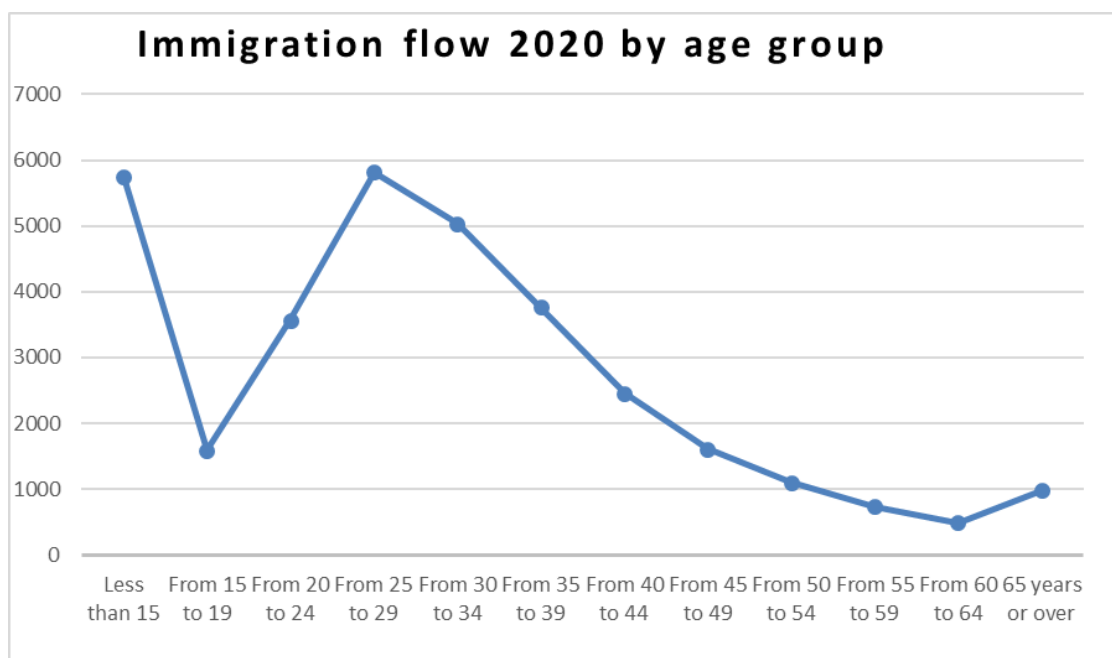
Source: Eurostat [migr\_imm3ctb]

The histogram shows us a clear prevalence of people of the group from 25 to 29 years (violet column) and of the group of less than 15 years. The second group is bigger than the first only in 2017, but in all the years there is a clear domination of the younger generation, while people over 45 have the smallest weight in terms of numbers of immigrants.



Source: Eurostat [migr\_imm3ctb]



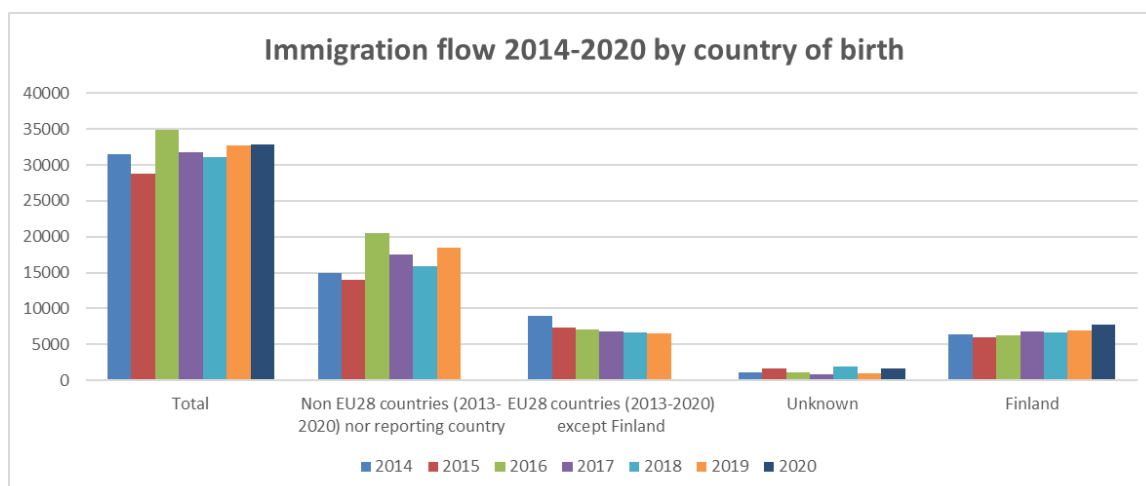


Source: Eurostat [migr\_imm3ctb]

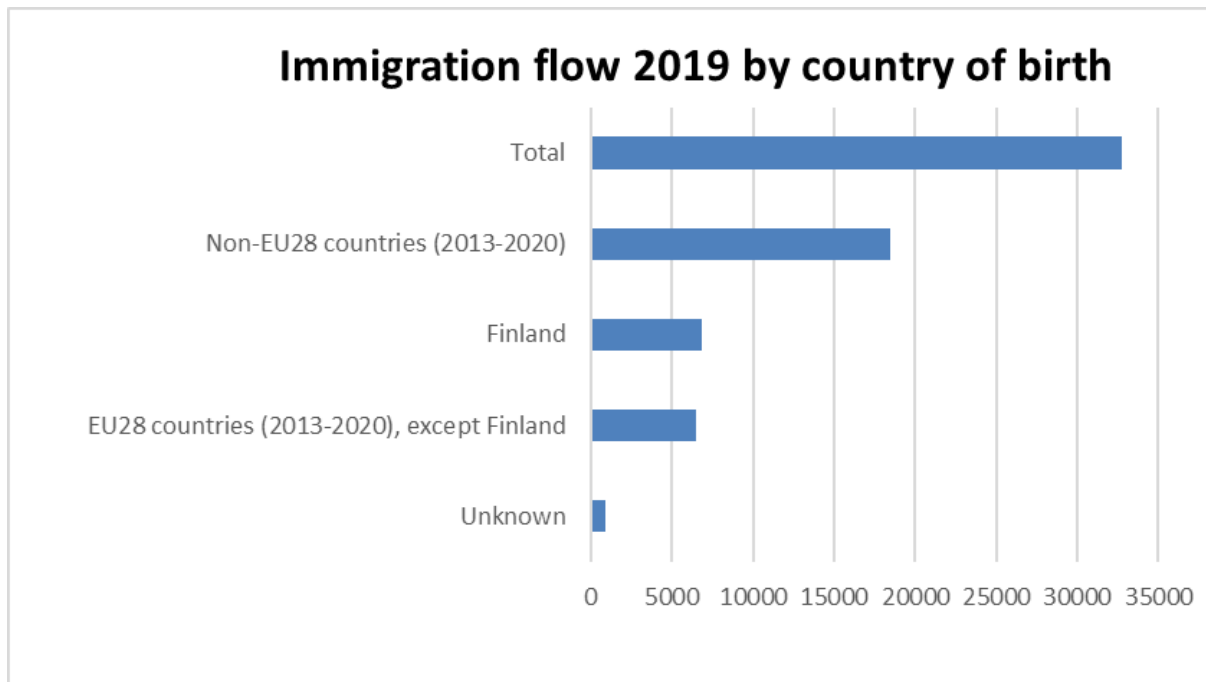
## Country of birth

We can continue our description with the analysis of immigration flow by country of birth. Looking at the data we can see that immigrants from non-EU28 countries are the majority and always exceeded the immigrants coming from EU countries. Another interesting thing is that the numbers of immigrants coming from EU countries are almost the same of the ones born in Finland.

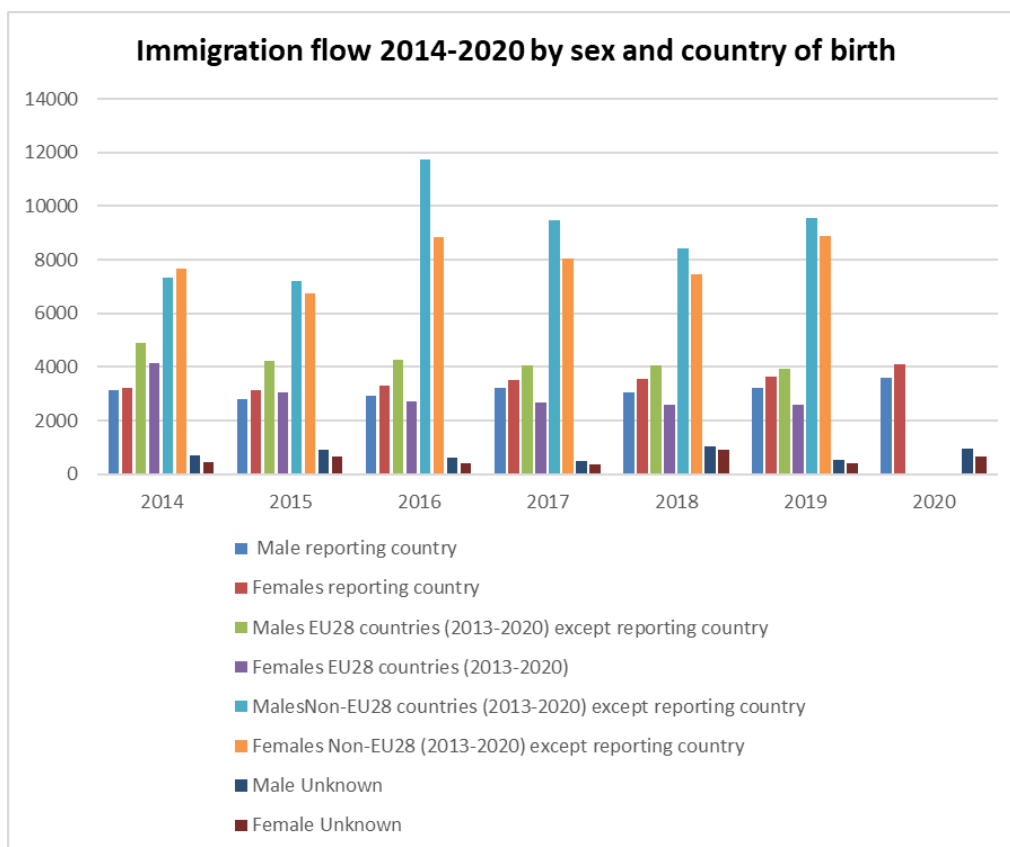
The graph below shows that in 2019 out of a total of 32758 people, 18441 are from non EU countries, 6520 from EU countries and 6864 are natives born in Finland.



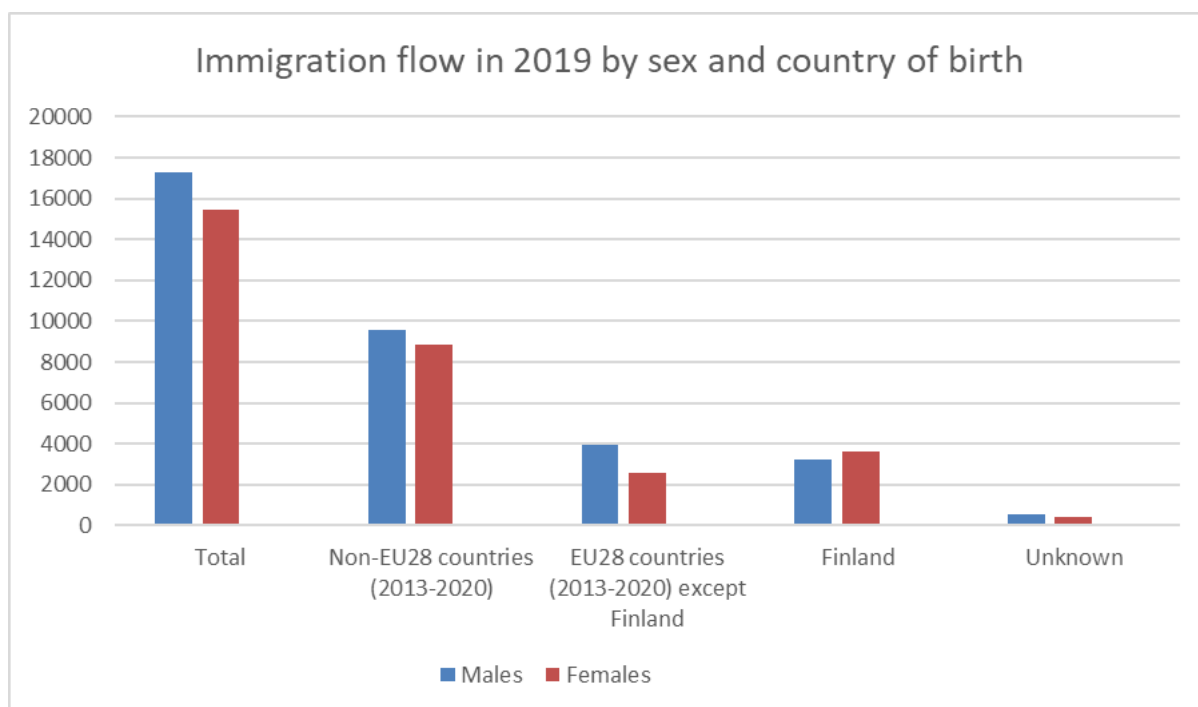
Source: Eurostat [migr\_imm3 ctb]



## Sex and country of birth



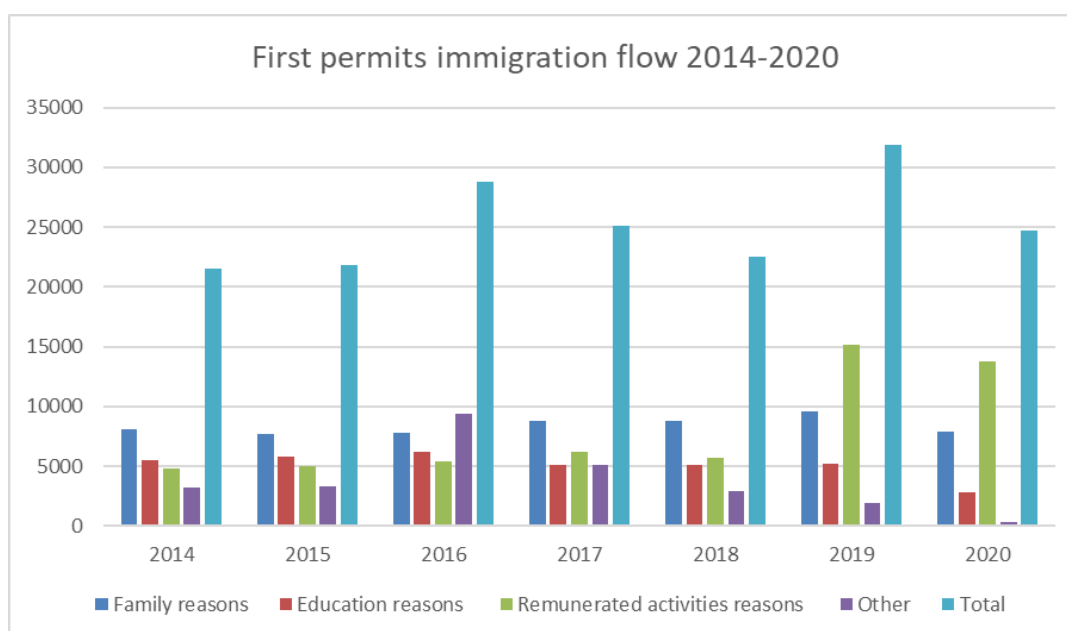
Source: Eurostat [migr\_imm3ctb]



Source: Eurostat [migr\_imm3ctb]

Looking at the previous graphs we can observe a very little difference between male immigrants and female immigrants. The second ones are less for what concerns EU countries, while females born in Finland are dominant in all the years we analyzed.

## Reasons for migrate

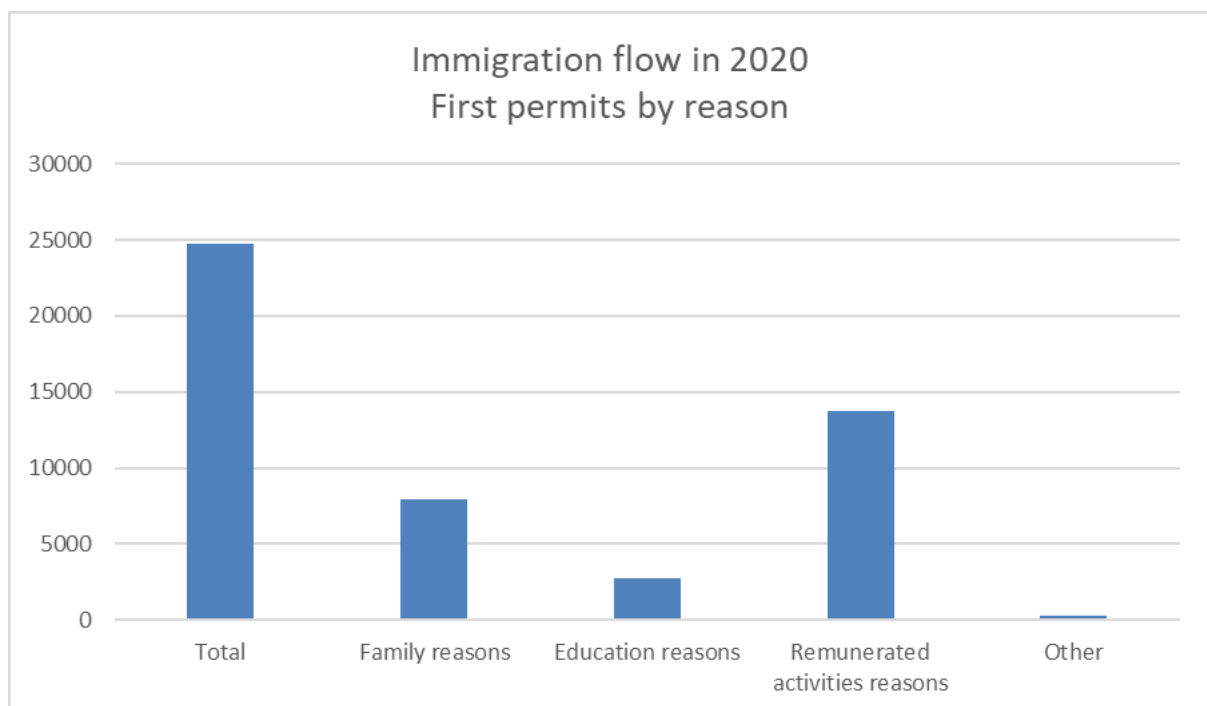


Source: Eurostat [migr\_resfirst]

The graph shows the first permits immigration flow from 2014-2020. It resulted that the higher number of first permits was issued in 2019, while we can find the smallest number in 2014.

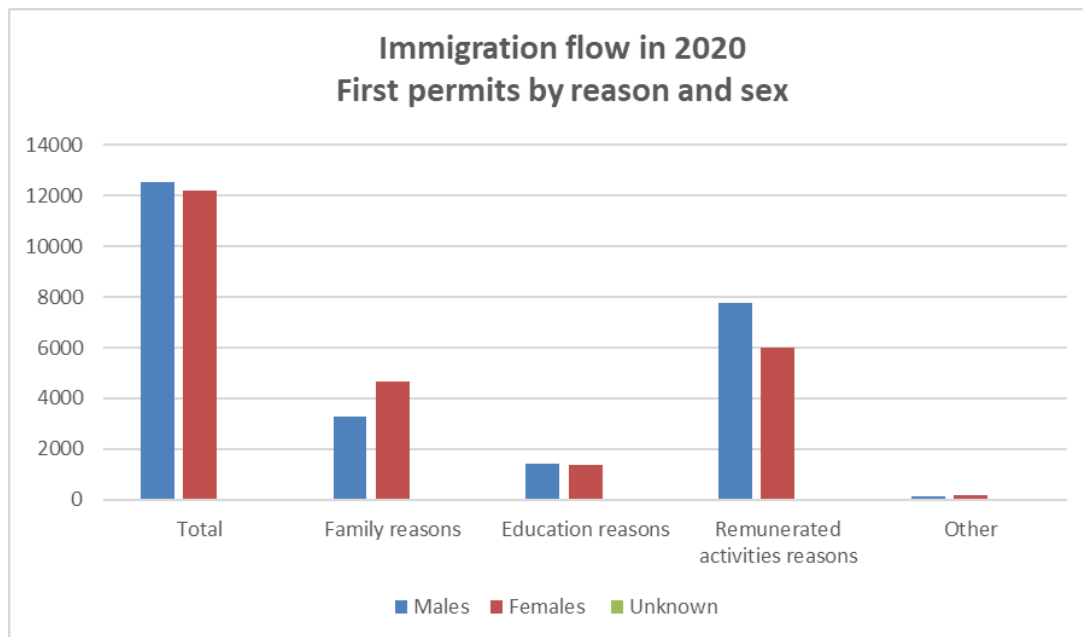
A very high number of first permits concerned family reasons with a pike in 2019 with a number of 9601.

In 2016 the first permit issued for "other reasons" stands out in the graph interrupting a fairly regular trend. In 2019 and 2020 the category "remunerated activities reasons" strongly increases in a relevant way. In 2020 the first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons represented more than 50% of total permits.



Source: Eurostat [migr\_resfirst]

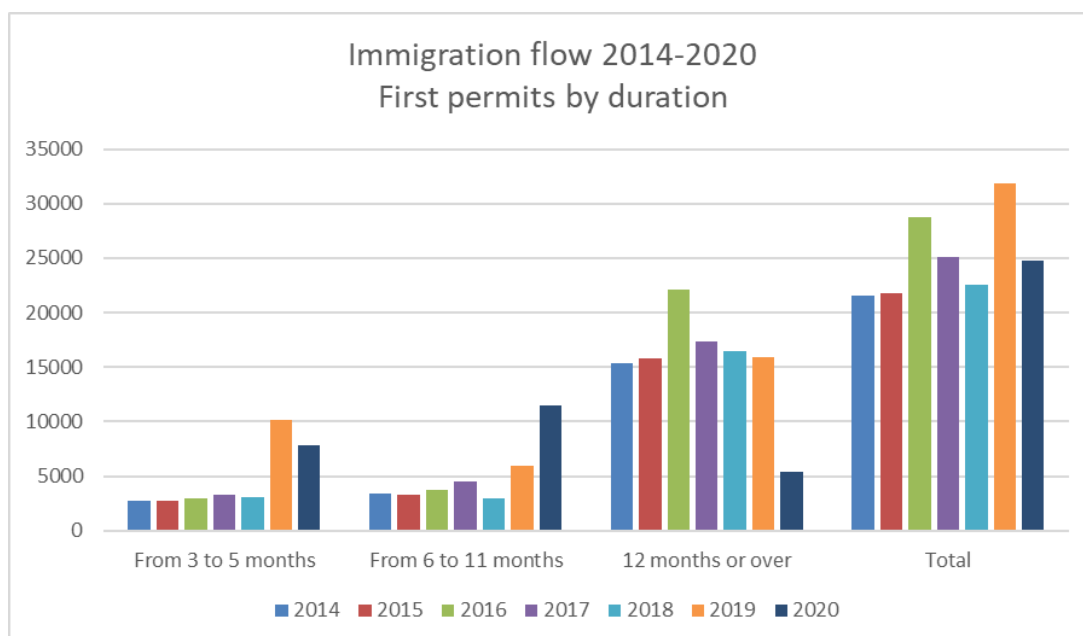
## Reasons and sex



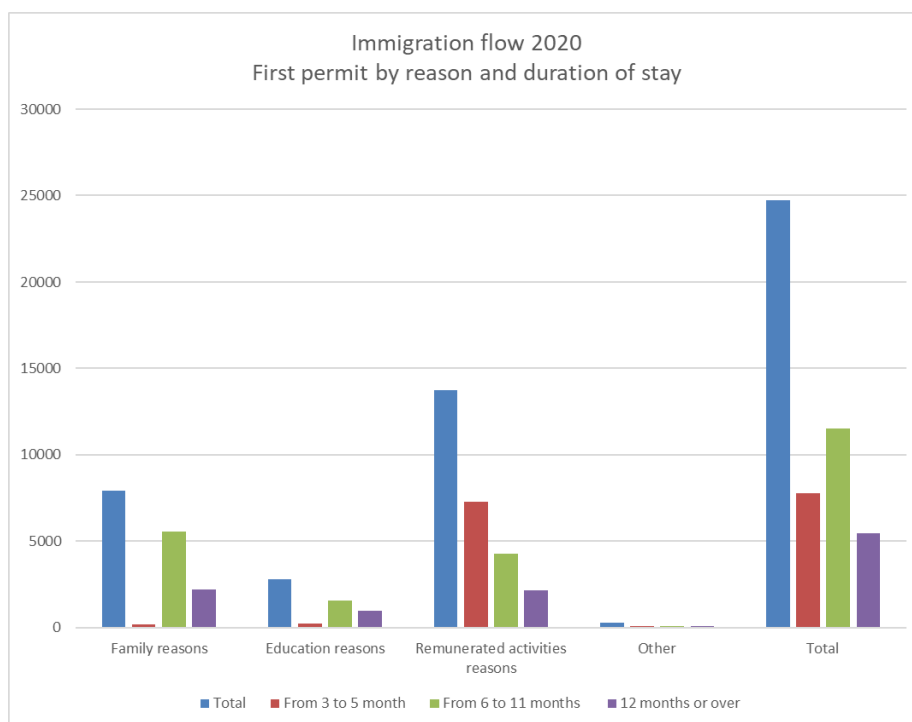
Source: Eurostat [migr\_resfas]

A relevant data in this graph is that in 2020 female immigrants received more permits for family reasons but less for remunerated activities reasons.

## First permits and duration of stay



Source: Eurostat [migr\_resfirst]



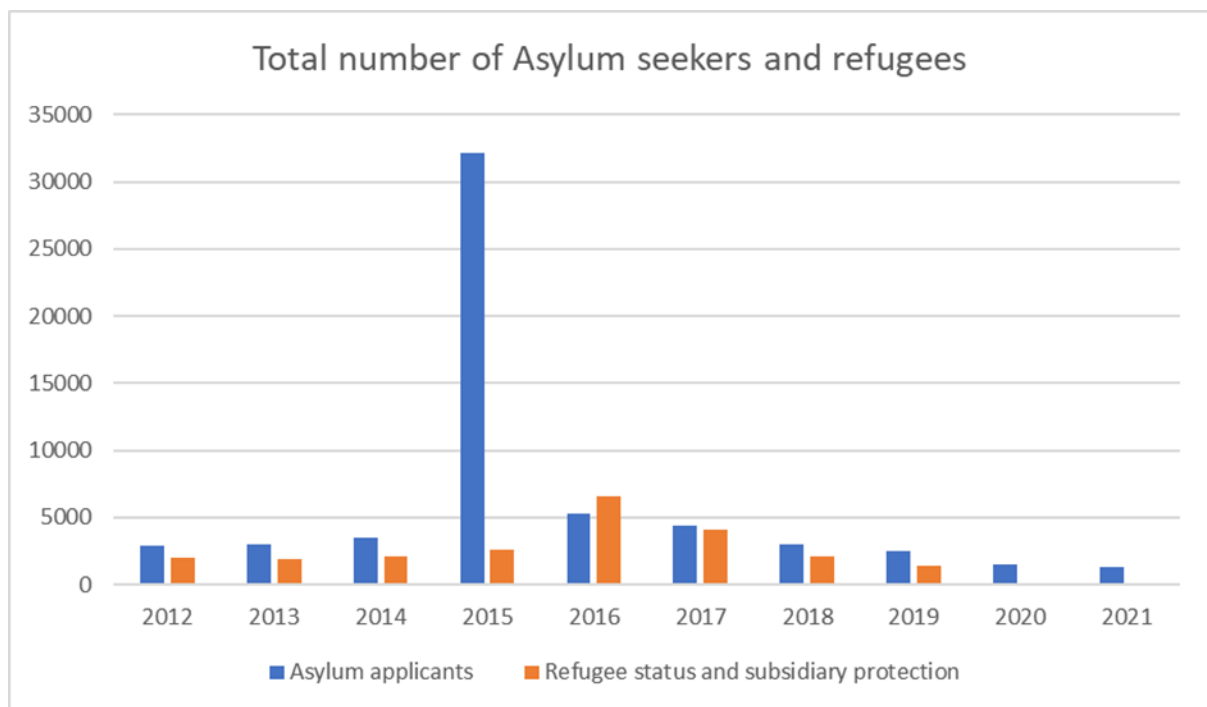
Source: Eurostat [migr\_resfirst]

## 5. Refugees and asylum seekers

In this section, we will look more closely at the categories of asylum seeker and refugee in Finland. Although the term of asylum seekers is often used interchangeably with that of refugees, the latter identifies a narrower category, which is that of asylum seekers who have had their refugee status successfully recognized by the host country. This first distinction will be illustrated in the first graph. Instead, the following charts will focus on the sex ratio, age and country of citizenship distribution in the asylum seeker population. Finally, the last graph will show the share of refugees in the total migration.

### 5.1 Total number of asylum seekers and refugees

In the following graph we join together data about asylum applicants and permits issued for refugee status/subsidiary protection to find out who has been granted refugee status over the total number of asylum seekers. Asylum applications seem to be rather stable, peaking in 2015, which is also known as the year of Europe's refugee crisis. Consequently, in the following year there has been an increase in the number of permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection, although not as relevant as the increase in asylum applications. Unfortunately, data on the number of permits issued in 2020 and 2021 are not yet available on Eurostat.

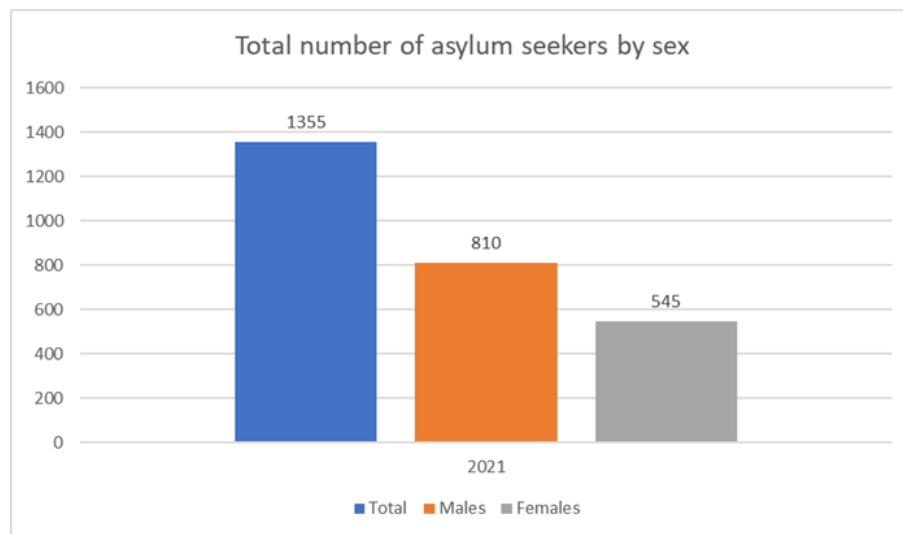


Sources: EUROSTAT [migr\_asyappctza], [migr\_resoth]

### 5.2. Asylum seekers by sex, age and country of citizenship (2021)

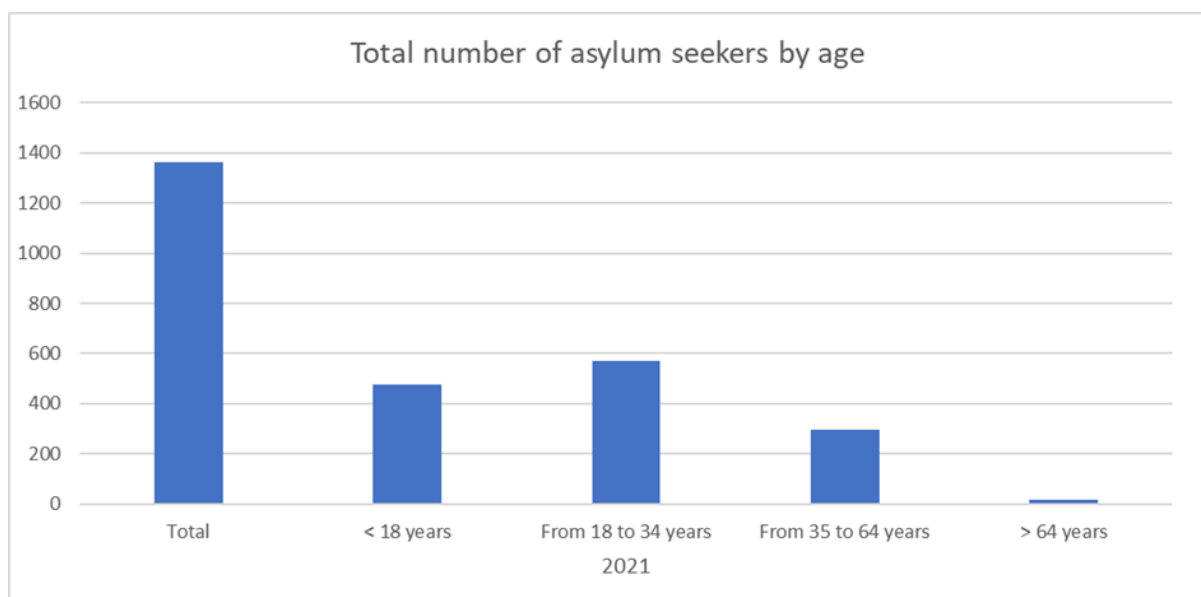
By considering the sex ratio of asylum seekers, from the following chart we can see that in 2021 the number of female asylum seekers in Finland is a bit smaller than the number of their male

counterparts. This result is aligned with what we found in section 2, where the number of male immigrants was slightly higher than that of their female counterparts.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_asyappctza]

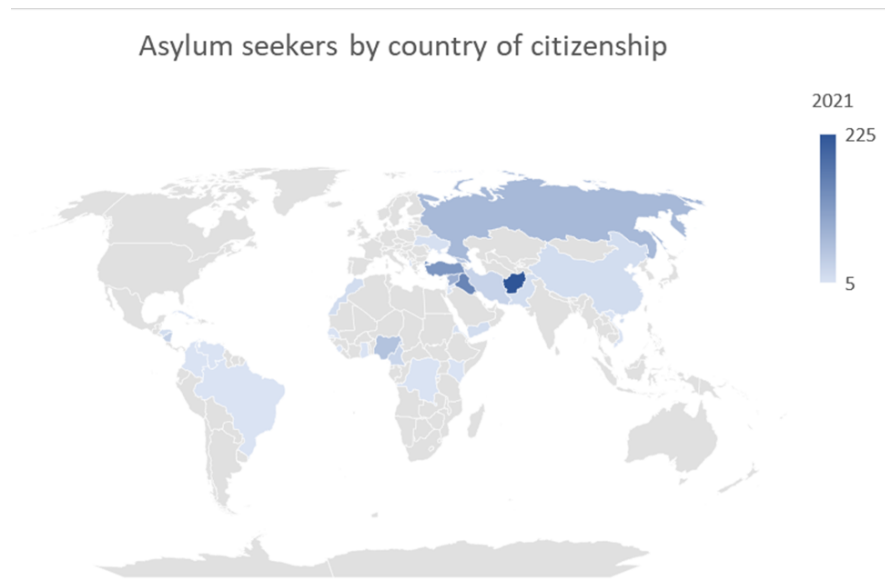
In the following graph, we can observe the distribution of asylum seekers under four age groups and the total number of them, during the year 2021. Looking at it, it stands out that the majority of asylum seekers belong to the age group "From 18 to 34 years". This age group is immediately followed by "< 18 years old", which clearly suggests that the majority of immigrants concerning asylum seekers, is composed of minors and people in the working age. In contrast, the graph suggests that older people represent an almost insignificant portion of asylum seekers.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_asyappctza]



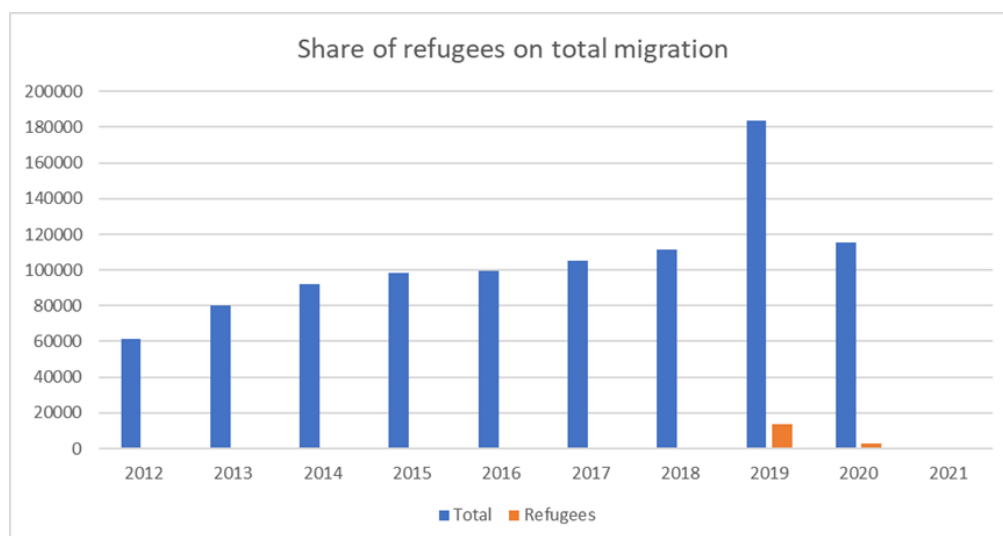
As we expected, the chart below shows that the majority of asylum seekers come from countries of the Middle East and Africa. The chart is aligned with UNHCR reports indicating that the majority of refugees come from areas of the world such as the Middle East, South Asia, Africa and the Western Balkans. The highest number of asylum seekers is among those with Afghan citizenship, followed by Iraqis and Turks. In fact, in 2021 as a result of the crisis in Afghanistan, Europe saw the arrival of several asylum seekers from that country.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_asyappctza]

### 5.3 Share of refugees on total migration

In the chart below we have attempted to capture the share of asylum seekers in total migration over the past 10 years, but unfortunately the only data available for refugees on Eurostat can be found in the years 2019 and 2020. Anyway, looking at these years we can say that refugees represent a small portion of the total migration, as we have seen in the 2nd and 3rd section.



Source: EUROSTAT [migr\_resvalid]

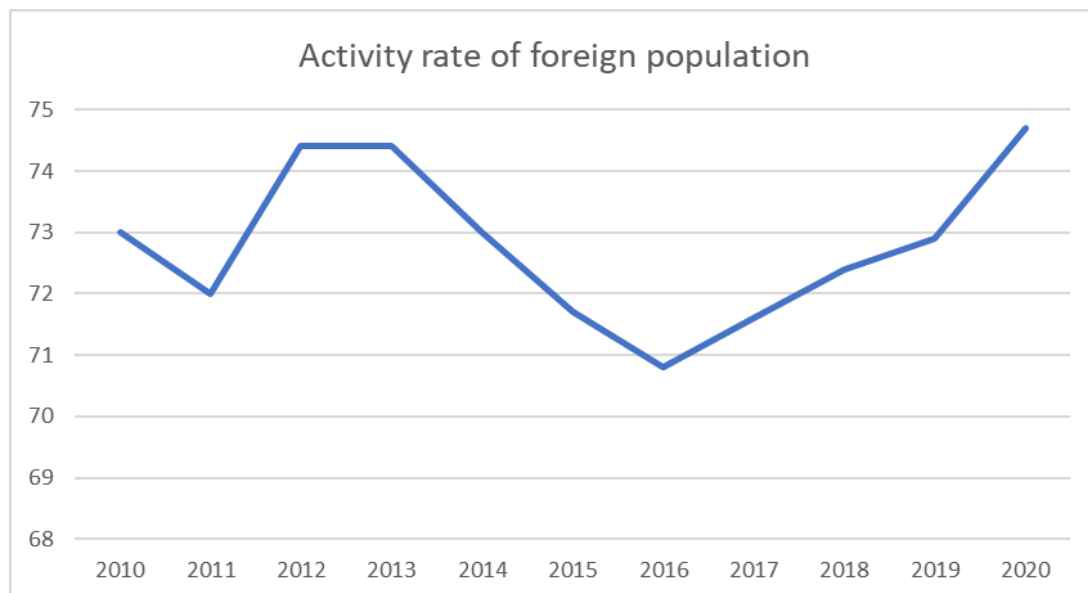
## 6. Migrants' integration indicators employment or unemployment.

In this last section, we are focusing on the integration of migrants in Finland since 2010 specifically through the two indicators of activity and employment which are connected to the labour market integration. Consequently, our analysis investigates the most relevant categories of the two rates found (activity rate and unemployment rate) with the additional variables of sex and country of origin.

Also in this case, due to covid pandemic effects, our data are influenced by the lack of certified information from 2020.

### 6.1 Foreign Population's Activity Rate

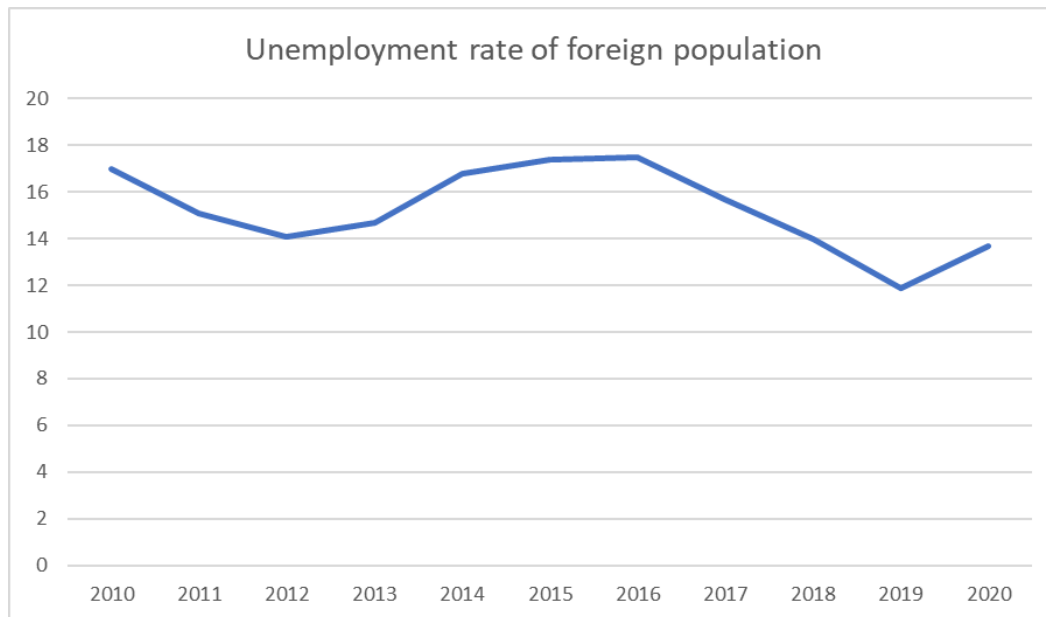
In the chart above, we can have a quick and intuitive frame about the activity trend of people with foreign origin in the decade 2010-2020. The activity rate in percentage, which includes all people of working age without distinction between employed and unemployed, starts from the 73% of 2010 to the slightly different 74,8% of the 2020's one. During this decade, there were some lows like in 2011 and 2016 and a peak from 2012 to 2013.



Source: EUROSTAT [Ifsa\_argacob]

### 6.2 Foreign Population's Unemployment Rate

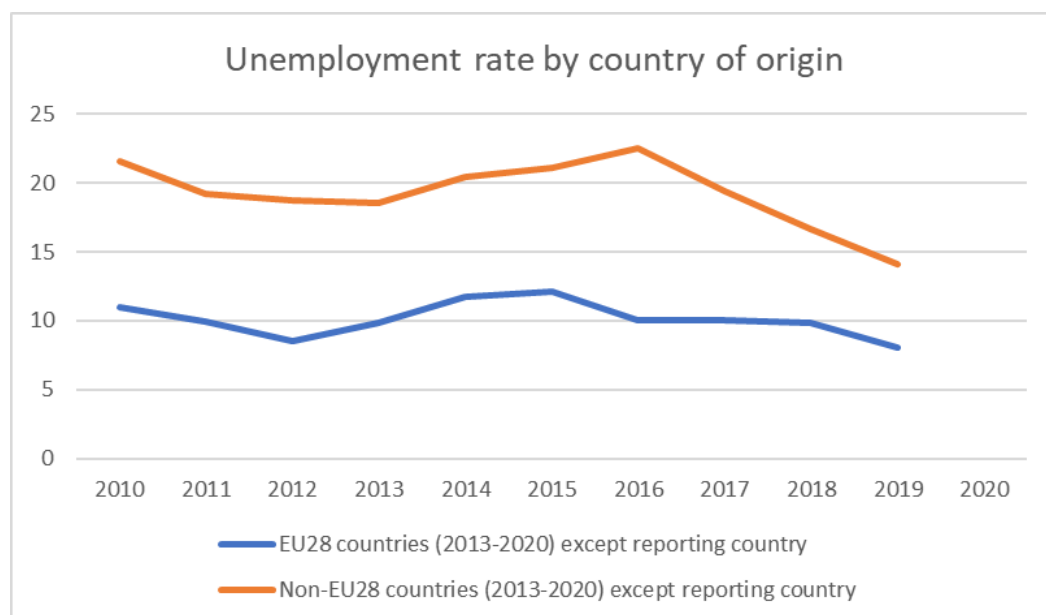
After that, we analyzed the unemployment portion of the immigrant's activity rate. Data in the graph above shows that it consistently decreased in the decade of reference. Especially from 2016 onwards, we could observe an ongoing drop. As the graph shows, the situation changes again from 2019, because unemployment increases again.



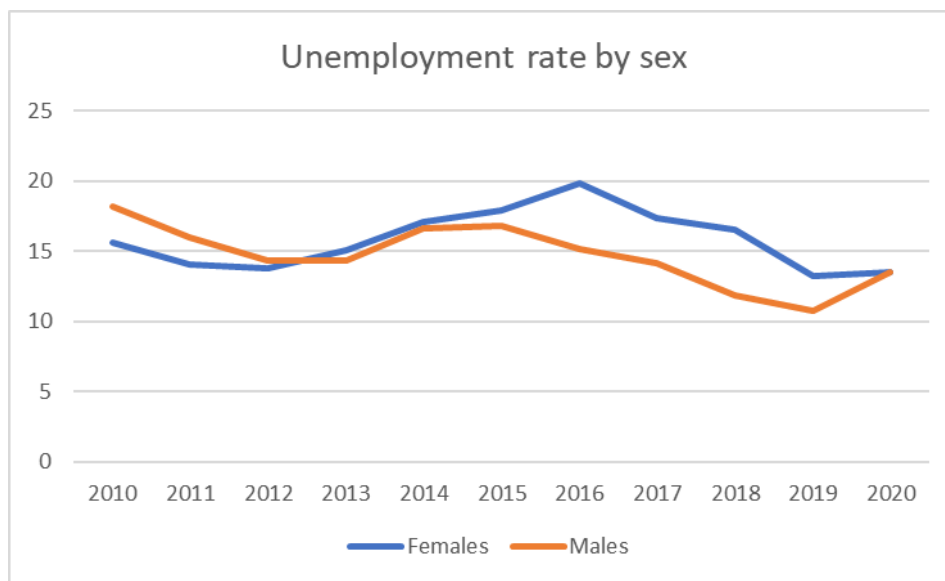
Source: EUROSTAT [lsfa\_argacob]

### 6.2.1. Unemployment rate of foreign population by sex and country of origin

In this paragraph we try to understand how the two variables of “sex” and “country of origin” inflict the unemployment rate. Predictably, it is people from non-EU countries (EU28) who are more susceptible to disoccupation. As can be seen in the graph below, the difference in the unemployment rate between non-EU and EU immigrants remains fairly stable over the years and, from 2010 to 2016 there is approximately a 10% difference. Instead, the lowest gap is found between 2018 and 2019, reaching, in the latter, the 6%.



Source: EUROSTAT [lsfa\_urgacob]



Source: EUROSTAT [lfsa\_urgacob]

The data on gender shows a very different scenario: in Finland the unemployment rate is not very different for male and female immigrants. Before the intersection in 2012-2013, the unemployment rate for males was higher (16% males, 14,8% females). After 2013 the trend changed, especially since 2016, when we can find the highest gap (15% males, 20% females). From 2019 the gap decreased and in 2020 the data shows that the unemployment rate for males and females was identical (14%).