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## Competitive tendering of reception centres may affect your reception centre

The Finnish Immigration Service is putting reception centres out to tender in early 2024. The law requires the Finnish Immigration Service to put reception centres out to tender. Competitive tendering means that some of the current reception centres will be closed.

For some customers, this means that their current reception centre will close.

If your reception centre is closed, you will need to transfer to another centre that may be located in a different area. If you have organised your own accommodation and your reception centre is closed, you will become a customer of another centre.

We will do our best to minimise the inconvenience caused to our customers. The reception centre will contact you if this matter concerns you. You can also contact your reception centre if you have any questions.

### **You may be able to apply for a municipality of residence and decide where you live**

If you have been granted temporary protection and stayed in Finland for at least a year, you can apply for a municipality of residence from the Digital and Population Data Services Agency and become a municipal resident instead of a customer of the reception system. How to apply: [dvv.fi/en/instructions-on-arriving-in-finland-from-ukraine](https://dvv.fi/en/instructions-on-arriving-in-finland-from-ukraine) or [dvv.fi/en/municipality-of-residence](https://dvv.fi/en/municipality-of-residence).

By applying for a municipality of residence and becoming a municipal resident, you can decide where to live and changes in reception centres will not affect you. After being granted a municipality of residence, you can choose which municipality to live in.

The Finnish Immigration Service strongly recommends that customers receiving temporary protection apply for a municipality of residence, if possible.

Your reception centre will let you know when you can apply for a municipality of residence. Apply for a municipality of residence in good time, and please note that you cannot look for housing until after your municipality of residence has been registered.

Once you have a municipality of residence, you will have the same more extensive rights and services as those permanently living in Finland, and you will no longer be a customer of a reception centre. Remember to let your reception centre know once you have a municipality of residence.

Learn more about municipality of residence: [migri.fi/en/temporary-protection-and-municipality-of-residence](https://migri.fi/en/temporary-protection-and-municipality-of-residence).

You may be eligible for a housing allowance from Kela: [kela.fi/how-the-war-in-ukraine-affects-the-benefits-available-from-kela](https://kela.fi/how-the-war-in-ukraine-affects-the-benefits-available-from-kela) or [kela.fi/benefits-available-from-kela](https://kela.fi/benefits-available-from-kela).

If you are an asylum seeker, you can apply for a municipality of residence and become a municipal resident after receiving a positive residence permit decision.

## **If you do not apply for a municipality of residence or if you are not eligible for a municipality of residence, your accommodation will be arranged in a reception centre or you can arrange your own accommodation**

If you do not apply for a municipality of residence or if you are not eligible for a municipality of residence, you will remain a customer of a reception centre. In that case, you will continue to receive your services and accommodation, if necessary, from your reception centre.

Because of competitive tendering, you may need to move to a different reception centre and area. The Finnish Immigration Service will arrange your accommodation in a reception centre that has vacancies at that time. You cannot choose your reception centre. The reception centre may be located anywhere in Finland.

You can also arrange your own housing in private accommodation outside your reception centre. In that case, you will be able to decide where to live. Costs arising from accommodation will not be compensated. Learn more about private accommodation: [migri.fi/en/living-in-private-accommodation](https://migri.fi/en/living-in-private-accommodation)

### **Further information:**

- Resources of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency: **[dvv.fi/en/instructions-on-arriving-in-finland-from-ukraine](https://dvv.fi/en/instructions-on-arriving-in-finland-from-ukraine)**  
Resources of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency: **[dvv.fi/en/municipality-of-residence](https://dvv.fi/en/municipality-of-residence)**
- Resources of Kela: **[kela.fi/how-the-war-in-ukraine-affects-the-benefits-available-from-kela](https://kela.fi/how-the-war-in-ukraine-affects-the-benefits-available-from-kela)**  
Resources of Kela: **[kela.fi/benefits-available-from-kela](https://kela.fi/benefits-available-from-kela)**
- Information about municipality of residence released by the Finnish Immigration Service: **[migri.fi/en/temporary-protection-and-municipality-of-residence](https://migri.fi/en/temporary-protection-and-municipality-of-residence)**
- Information about private accommodation released by the Finnish Immigration Service: **[migri.fi/en/living-in-private-accommodation](https://migri.fi/en/living-in-private-accommodation)**
- Contact details of reception centres: **[migri.fi/en/reception-centers](https://migri.fi/en/reception-centers)**