

Invitation to press conference on 7 September 2009 at 12.15 a.m.

The new Helsinki Region section of the Info Bank online service increases the amount of information available to immigrants in their own languages.

Immigrants in the Helsinki region are now receiving better service than ever in 15 different languages. The webpages of Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen, new to the nationwide Info Bank online service, will be published on 7 September 2009. At the same time, the information on Helsinki has been updated. There are around 190,000 people living in Finland whose mother tongue is a language other than Finnish, Swedish or Sami. Of these, around 91,000 live in Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa or Kauniainen.

The Info Bank online service offers information about accommodation, education, Finnish and Swedish language studies and employment, among others. The Helsinki Region section will serve not only those who already live in Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen, but also people who are planning to move to the region.

As a multilingual source of information, Info Bank supports effectively the integration of immigrants and the work of the immigration authorities. The online service attracts around 50,000 users a month and has received a national prize for the publication of information, and a good practice label from the European Commission. Info Bank is an online service funded by the government and municipalities. During the press conference we will hear speeches from the representatives of Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa, and an Infobank user will give his views about the service. We look forward to seeing you!

Time: Monday, 7 September 2009 at 12.15 a.m. Place: Kansainvälinen kulttuurikeskus Caisa (International Cultural Centre Caisa), Festivity hall, 1st floor. Mikonkatu 17 C, Helsinki

There will be a salad buffet and coffee/tea available.

Further information and registration for the press conference by 2 p.m. on 3 September 2009:

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www.infopankki.fi

The main language of the event is Finnish.

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