

## **Q&A municipal model – Helsinki**

### **What does the municipal model entail?**

The Finnish Immigration Service has initiated a municipal model for refugees from Ukraine, intended to make it possible for those applying for and receiving temporary protection to find accommodation where they have settled when arriving in Finland.

The municipal model is a quick and temporary solution, whereby the municipality provides the reception centre and those applying for and receiving temporary protection with reception-related accommodation and guidance services. The municipal model is currently planned to remain in force until September 2022, with the Finnish Immigration Service set to issue a notification on its potential continuation by 15 August 2022.

The municipal model is implemented as part of a strong cooperation and collaboration between the Finnish Immigration Service, the reception centres and the municipalities. In the municipal model, the municipality provides the accommodation services, accommodation, guidance and counselling related to everyday life. The reception centre is responsible for arranging other reception services. In addition, the municipality provides all of the services it would otherwise arrange for the residents of the municipality (such as early childhood education and care, education, child welfare, urgent health care, etc.).

People seeking support from the municipal model will receive accommodation in apartments owned or rented by the municipality, which must meet the statutory requirements for housing units. Accommodation provided by the municipality comes furnished and equipped. Essential items, electricity, water, waste management, maintenance and insurance policies are all provided for, and apartments are restored back to their original condition once people move out.

### **Who can apply?**

Customers in the Helsinki region who have registered for private accommodation at Luona's Itäkeskus unit or the Helsinki reception centre and who have applied for or received temporary protection and whose private accommodation is ending can apply for the apartments. If there are more applicants than there are apartments available, the selection is made according to need-based criteria. Selected applicants will be notified about the decision within approx. one month from submitting the application.

### **Who decides who will receive an apartment?**

The social workers at Luona's Itäkeskus private accommodation service unit as well as the private accommodation service unit of the Helsinki Reception Centre together with a representative of the City of Helsinki are responsible for selecting applicants.

### **Can you appeal against the decision?**

If an applicant is not satisfied with the decision, they can submit an appeal via email to [kuntamalli.helsinki@luona.fi](mailto:kuntamalli.helsinki@luona.fi)

### **What is the condition of the apartments?**

The apartments meet the statutory requirements for housing units.

According to the Decree of the Ministry of the Environment on lived, accommodation and work premises (1008/2017), an apartment is defined as a unit equipped with a kitchen, kitchenette or a cooking area consisting of one or more residential rooms intended for year-round housing with its own

direct entrance. The municipality is responsible for the quality of accommodation and its suitability for the respective purpose.

The apartments are furnished and come with the necessary equipment for everyday life (e.g. dishes and household linen).

**How long is the apartment available for accommodation?**

The apartment can be used as long as the municipal model is in force; at present, the model is planned to end on 30 September 2022. Further information will be available after 15 August 2022.

**How will the apartment affect the reception allowance?**

It will not affect the allowance. The allowance will be the same as for those living in private accommodation.

**Can employed people receive an apartment?**

Yes, they can.