

Sign languages in Finland

Finnish Sign Language as a first language



5,500



Deaf people who have Finnish Sign Language as a first language

3,000



People who can speak Finnish Sign Language

10,000—14,000



Finnish Swedish Sign Language

~100



Finnish Sign Language Act

Year 2015

Recognised in the constitution

Year 1995

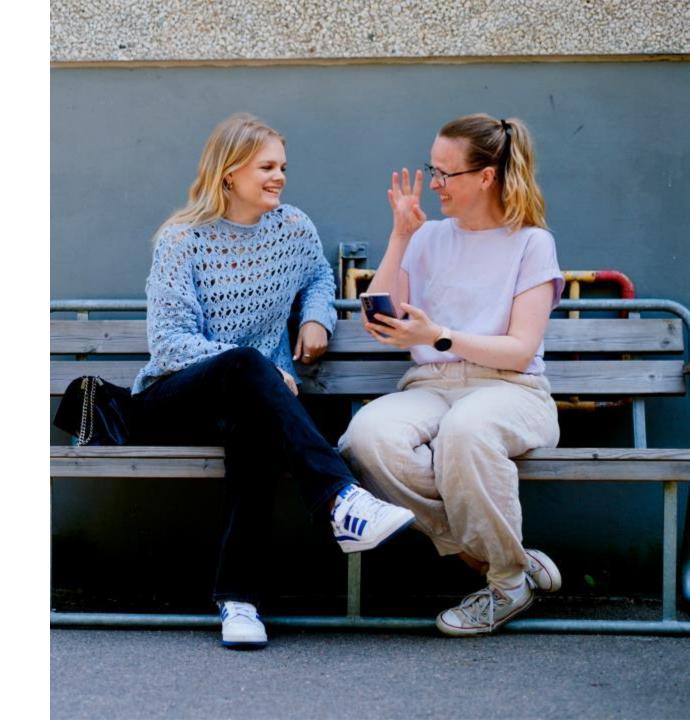
The Truth and Reconciliation Process: 2021->



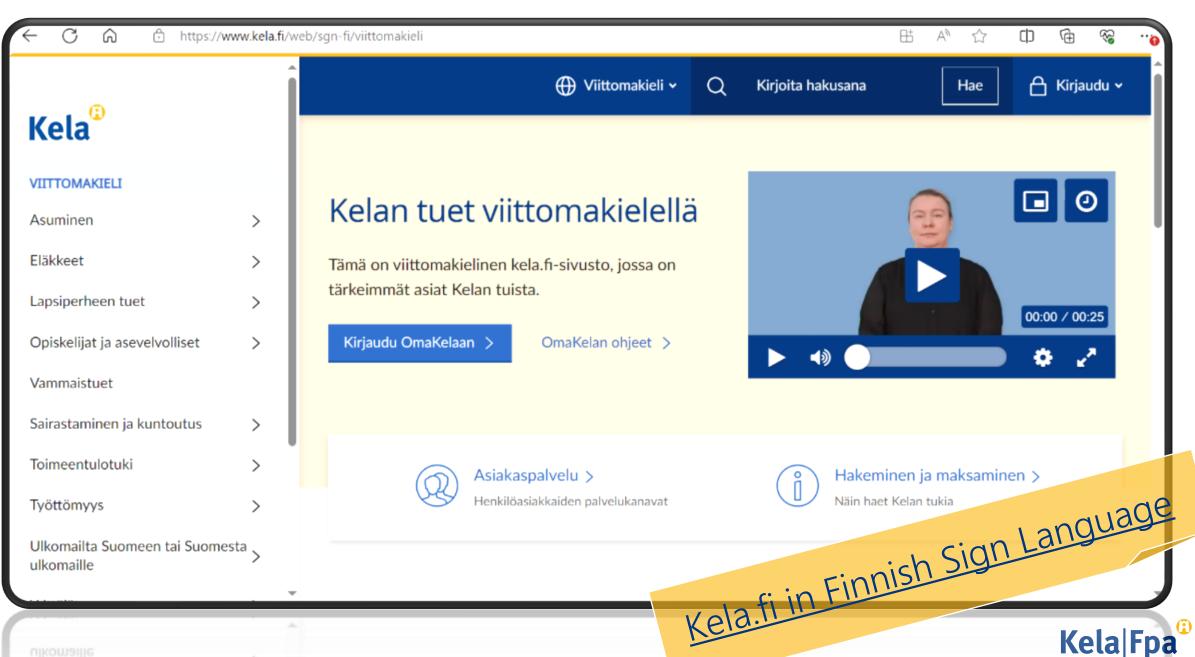


Language Policy for customer service

- Finnish and Swedish
- Sámi Languages and Sign Languages
- English
- Other languages







Ulkomailta Suomeen tai Suomesta , ulkomaille



1,500-3,000 users per month

Most popular content:

- 1. Housing benefits
- 2. Rehabilitation
- 3. Pensions
- 4. Benefits for families with children



Sign language website update 2023

Videos of **all** of the benefits that Kela offers and for the first time information about the benefits that Kela has for self-employed persons

Update of the existing videos, with sign language

Same structure and almost the same content as we have in our plain language site -> "One Size Fits All" -> support the processes after changes in benefit rates and eligibility criteria & saves time.

More up-to-date information and press releases.







Right to interpreter service

- hearing impairment, vision and hearing impairment or speech impairment
- place of domicile in Finland
- Possibility to express themselves through interpretation and use a functioning communication method

<u>Interpreter service for the disabled | Our Services | Kela</u>



Interpreter service can be used in connection with

- work
- for post-comprehensive school study
- errands
- participation in society
- hobbies or recreation.



6,000 users

Clients:

- 1. Hearing impairment 60%,
- 2. Speech impairment 34%,
- 3. Vision and hearing impairment 6%

Channels:

- 1. Kela.fi
- 2. Phone
- 3. Remote service
- 4. Email and text message
- 5. OmaKela e-service
- 6. Oral application
- 7. E-application and mail







Remote interpreting – customer service in sign language

- client and the interpreter are not in the same place physically
- interpreting is done over a remote connection
- Kela can lend a phone or tablet



Emergency call in Finnish Sign Language

Video through online service







Problems and challenges online

- Online booking does not in work real time
- Opening hours
- Missing booking app
- Missing chatbot
- Missing images/symbols

Unemployment rate of deaf people who speak sign language is

three times higher

than of those who can hear.



