

Switching Perspectives

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In 2017, Kela paid 8.6 billion euros in key benefits, with 15 percent going to people whose mother tongue is not Finnish, Swedish or Sámi. By 2024, total payouts had risen to 9.2 billion euros, with foreign-language speakers receiving 20 percent — around 1.8 billion euros.

A. How might the increase in benefits received by foreign-language speakers reflect broader demographic changes in Finland? Consider the tone you use to present your argument.

B. Here are two roles based on the previous fragment. Pick a role and imagine what kinds of opinions that person would have on the topic. Then role-play with your partner: argue with them, trying to convince them your opinion is right. Remember to identify the main objective of your speech and adapt your tone to support it.

- **Person A:** A policy analyst who believes the increase in benefits for foreign-language speakers is a positive sign of integration and support for a growing demographic.

- **Person B:** A taxpayer concerned that the rising costs of benefits for foreign-language speakers may strain public resources. Spin your arguments to present your concerns as constructive criticism aimed at improving the system.

C. Discuss with your pair:

- Which of the perspectives seemed more reasonable to you?
- Was it difficult to put yourself in another person's shoes? Why/why not?