



MONIHELIRY ACTION PLAN 2023

Moniheli ry: Action Plan 2023

Text by Moniheli ry

Pictures by Moniheli ry, Bisher Sawan, Kerttu Malinen,
Jukka Luoma, Anni Huovinen

Design by Moniheli ry

Translated to English by Kerry Osborne & Unna Kontio

Contents

Greetings from the Executive Director.....	4
Core activities.....	5
Advocacy work.....	6
Parliamentary elections.....	7
Activating associations.....	8
Moniheli grant.....	9
Internal development.....	10
Information and guidance activities.....	11
Strategy 2022-2024.....	12
Projects.....	13
Katto-program.....	14
DigiUp.....	16
Luontokoti.....	18
Yhteinen Polku.....	20

Greetings from the Executive Director

Abdirahim Hussein



2022 has been a busy year for Moniheli, and there are no plans to slow down next year. In 2023, we will hopefully have moved into a post-COVID era, focusing on our projects, our members and our advocacy work. During the election year, our activities will also focus on promoting inclusion and a functioning civil society. In 2023, Moniheli will focus on the environment, digital inclusion, homelessness work, disseminating reliable information and strengthening democracy.

We want to make environmental awareness a stronger part of the integration process. During the spring of 2023, we will organise a tree planting campaign where immigrant and foreign-language Finns can literally plant their roots in Finland. The aim is to establish tree planting as part of the citizenship process.

Digitalisation and digital inclusion will remain the themes of Moniheli in 2023. Finland is very much a digital country, and therefore access to online platforms and digital participation must also be offered to migrants and their communities. The current barriers to participation in civil society

include the unclear regulation of banks when registering organisations, and the lack of plain language and digital skills that hinder individual participation.

The transmission of incorrect, inaccurate and false information is becoming a major community problem. This is why we will focus next year on the fight against mis- and disinformation. We will invest in the clarity and factuality of Moniheli's own communications, and we hope to set an example for the Finnish foreign language community. We want our members to be aware of the importance of media criticality and to invest in it in their own activities.

In 2022, Moniheli has worked with authorities, organisations and other actors in a huge number of ways. We want this to continue. The cooperation of immigrant and foreign-language associations with Finnish authorities and public actors brings huge benefits to all parties involved. We strongly believe that integration will succeed when we do it together.



Core activities

In 2023, Moniheli's core activities will focus on advocacy work, member activation and internal capacity building.



Minister of Social Affairs and Health Hanna Sarkkinen visited the Moniheli's office in October 2022

Advocacy work

Moniheli's advocacy work focuses on increasing the immigrant and foreign-language Finns' positive media visibility and improving the consideration of their needs as well as valuing their voices in the design and delivery of legislation, regulations and services.

Immigrants are underrepresented in the media, even when the issues under discussion concern them closely. Developing representation requires activating the media. This is why Moniheli is constantly developing and maintaining an active relationship with representatives of the various media representatives. We organise meetings with journalists to network and report on phenomena affecting migrants and foreign-language speakers in Finland. In addition, we promote the voice of immigrants in our own presentations and statements.

Moniheli receives a growing amount of media attention, and this is reflected particularly in the increase in the number of requests for comments and expert opinions, in addition to representation within networking events. In each and every event and comment, our message focuses on listening to the immigrant population and highlighting their needs. Our aim is that in the future, foreign-language speakers and their representative organisations will automatically be taken into account when planning public services or drafting legislation, for example.

We also lobby outside the traditional media. Moniheli is involved in more than 20 different committees, advisory councils, ministerial working groups and governments. In 2023, we will be working from the municipal and city level all the way to the EU level, as Finland's only representative in the European Commission's expert group on the views of migrants.

Parliamentary elections

Parliamentary elections will be held in spring 2023. Moniheli will cooperate with, among others, Fingo in the field of election lobbying.

All Finnish citizens have the right to vote in Parliamentary elections. In 2021, there were more than 100 000 foreign-language voters, i.e. people over 18 years of age whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami. However, a 'Democratic Deficit among Immigrant and Multilingual Finns' has been noted. Moniheli promotes participation through both general lobbying and the 'Kaikkien Vaalit' campaign. Our election-related activities target not only the foreign-language population but also the election information providers and candidates. As part of Moniheli's advocacy work, we aim to activate parliamentary parties, candidates and election information providers to provide

information pertaining to the elections in more languages. At the moment, the election compass can be navigated in several languages, but candidates' open answers are mostly only in national languages. Moniheli's goal for 2023 is to increase the number of open answers in English in the election compass.

Kaikkien Vaalit -campaign

Moniheli is seeking funding from the Ministry of Justice to organise the Kaikkien Vaalit 'Elections for All' campaign for the upcoming Parliamentary elections. The campaign differs from Moniheli's other electoral activities in that it targets Finland's foreign-language population. The Elections for All-campaign has been organised in election years since 2015. The aim is to increase voter turnout and candidacy while decreasing the deficit of foreign-language Finns in our democracy.

Members of the MOVA working group at the Ministry of Justice and State Secretary Mikaela Nylander.



Activating associations

Moniheli supports the activities of associations promoting multiculturalism and integration in Finland. In 2023, we will strengthen the capacity and cooperation of organisations in several ways.

In 2023, Moniheli will organise several training sessions and events aimed at increasing the capacity of organisations promoting multiculturalism and integration to influence and cooperate with other Finnish actors. The trainings will cover topics such as advocacy and action in new welfare areas, project planning and grant applications.

Most of Moniheli's services are open to all organisations in our target group, not just our members. The events and advice we offer do not require membership of the network. For example, guidance on organisational activities is open to all multicultural organisations. In 2023, Moniheli's services will include general organisational advice and a digital support service for organisations.

In 2023, we aim to increase cooperation between our network and other actors, such as municipalities and ministers, by organising events together with the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. We will also organise cooperation fairs, which have become a tradition, as well as a number of other events.

In addition to the services, training and events mentioned above, membership of Moniheli gives you the opportunity to apply for a membership grant, attend training courses organised by the Citizens' Forum and use Moniheli's meeting room and facilities services. The Citizens' Forum also works with Moniheli to deliver the training courses that our members need.



Moniheli grant

Members of Moniheli can apply for a grant to help them actualize their small projects.

For 2023, a grant of €120,000 has been requested.

In recent years, Moniheli has distributed Membership Organisation Grants with the support of STEA. The entire amount granted is distributed directly to the member organisations.

Multicultural and migrant organisations with limited resources need financial support to cover their operating costs. However, grant application processes are cumbersome and often require good Finnish language skills. The application threshold is therefore rather high for small operators, especially those whose key people have moved to Finland as adults. Moniheli's The Member Organisation Grant process supports our members in two ways in addition to the direct grant. Firstly, it gives the organisations the opportunity to learn about project design in practice, so that they may be eligible for grants elsewhere in the future. Secondly, the grant application and reporting process supports the development of project planning as well as project management skills for member organisations.

In 2023, we will also activate cooperation between member organisations with a new 'Network Initiatives' approach. This pilot scheme will be funded with a €10 000 grant. In early 2023, member organisations can submit initiatives for non-profit activities requiring cooperation. At the Moniheli Spring General Assembly 3-5 'initiatives' for implementation will be selected. Each initiative will be led by one member organisation, whose role it is: to ensure that the proposed initiative is implemented; participate in follow-up meetings with Moniheli staff; and present the results of their Network Initiative at the following year's Spring General Assembly. The results of the 'Network Initiatives' pilot projects will be evaluated differently from other member organisation grants. Primarily the process is to be evaluated on the implementation of the activities which enabled and enhanced the development of cooperation and collaboration between member groups.



Internal development

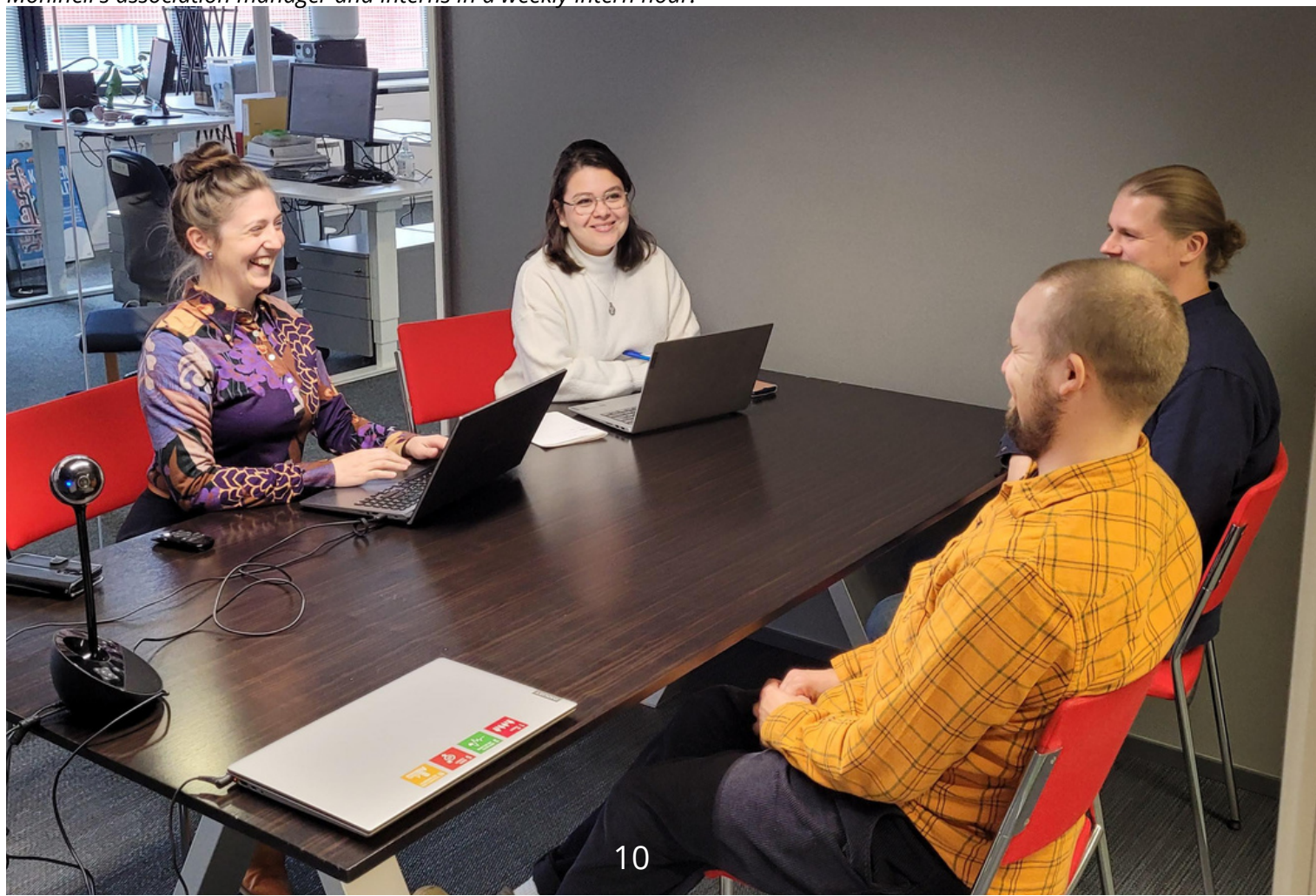
In 2023, Moniheli staff will focus on developing internal capacity. Development work will be done to make Moniheli more accessible and to provide better services.

The growth of Moniheli projects and the resulting increase in staff has brought the need to update many internal processes and guidelines. The growing staff and administrative needs have increased the workload of core staff, which will be alleviated in 2023 with the help of a Placement Openings Grant, as well as a range of trainees and work experience placements. In addition, we have applied to make permanent the post of Communications Planner, which started in 2022.

The division of labour between the Board of Directors and the employees of Moniheli has been clarified through a communication policy established in 2022. In 2023, Moniheli plans to update the organisation's rules and internal guidelines, for example on financial management practices. Communication will also continue to evolve through the creation of a communication plan and the development of various platforms for staff use.

In 2022, Moniheli's websites were redesigned, including the renewal of the membership register, which is still ongoing. In 2023, Member Services will be streamlined both internally and externally by creating a Membership Directory to make it easy for Moniheli members and other partners to find information about each other within the network.

Moniheli's association manager and interns in a weekly intern hour.



Information and guidance activities

We will continue to work with cities, municipalities, public authorities and other non-profits in 2023. We will implement a new information project with the support of the City of Helsinki.

Moniheli's past cooperation projects with various authorities and our member organisations have highlighted the fact that migrants are frequently not able to find services which are provided. Language barriers and differences in the service culture can also lead to services not being utilised, even when they are known of. To address this challenge, Moniheli will develop information and guidance activities in Helsinki in 2023.

Foreign-language families with children in Helsinki have a low awareness of the services and support offered by the city, especially in relation to leisure activities for families and children, child protection and other family services. In 2023, Moniheli and its member organisations and the City of Helsinki will work together to correct misunderstandings about services. This collaborative work will lead to the dissemination of accurate pertinent information among foreign-language families.

Moniheli is also planning to cooperate with the Helsingin Pelastusliitto. The aim is to organise safety training in purpose specific mother-tongue languages, covering topics such as fire safety and first aid.

Picture from Moniheli and Police's event.

Strategic priorities for 2022-2024

We will continue to promote the objectives of Moniheli's strategy also in 2023. The core advocacy work, the activation of organisations and the Network Initiatives model all contribute to Moniheli's strategic objectives.

We activate the network

- 1) We organise collaborative venues and meetings within the network, both live and online.
- 2) We create ways for network members to make their voices heard, by theme.
- 3) We ensure that members are more familiar with Moniheli.

We strengthen equality

- 1) We communicate in an accessible, understandable and clear way to reach the different target groups.
- 2) We will carry out long-term and planned advocacy work in an efficient and precise manner.
- 3) We influence the structures of society in relation to the integration, well-being and inclusion of immigrants and their communities.

We invest in partnerships

- 1) We build primarily joint projects with member associations and other stakeholders.
- 2) Strengthen the capacity of member associations to take active and effective action.
- 3) We support cooperation both between member associations and between member associations and stakeholders.



Projects

In 2023, the Katto-program, DigiUp and Luontokoti projects are continuing their work at Moniheli. We have also applied for funding for the new Yhteinen Polku project.

Katto-program

Katto-program aims to prevent housing problems and homelessness among immigrants and to help immigrants who have experienced housing problems.

The main objectives of Katto-program for the year 2023 are to prevent migrant housing problems and homelessness, to train professionals nationwide on specific housing issues for migrant clients, and to promote dialogue on solutions to migrant housing problems between homelessness actors.

860 migrants receive information about housing.

Housing information is shared in integration training sessions, adult basic education groups, events organised by organisations, individual counselling and social media, for example. We offer individual guidance on how to apply for housing in Finnish, English and Arabic. Our housing advice team also visits the most popular places for immigrants. These include the premises and events of organisations, educational institutions and libraries. In 2023, 10 outreaches are planned. We will also use social media channels to disseminate housing information to migrants and actors in the housing field.

50 % of customers find a home with the help of Katto





Dialogue between the relevant actors involved in the housing of migrants will increase.

Katto-program aims to reach out to organisations and public sector actors as well as politicians and civil servants. The aim Sidos-group collaboration is to find solutions to the housing problems of migrants and the structural problems that cause homelessness, in cooperation with actors from the homelessness, housing, integration and social fields. Katto-program participates in a joint advocacy group of organisations and coordinates the advocacy group of organisations working on homelessness among migrants.

In addition to its target group, Katto-program reaches out to landlords and housing professionals. We train homelessness, housing and integration practitioners on the housing problems of migrants and the underlying issues of homelessness

120 professionals reached through training

Katto-program will wrap the knowledge it has accumulated over its 6 years of operation on the specific aspects of homelessness among immigrants into a video training package to enable professionals to be trained nationwide when it best suits their schedule.

Photo by Bisher Sawan





DigiUp-project

DigiUp strengthens the digital inclusion of multicultural organisations and immigrants. The project will provide digital literacy and digital empowerment training for volunteers and representatives of organisations.

DigiUp's Yuri trains on Excel at an event organised by the Monaliiku Association.

The DigiUp project's objectives include strengthening the digital skills of multicultural organisations, taking better account of migrants in the development of digital support, and training volunteer multilingual digital support workers. These objectives will be promoted through the provision of digital support to representatives of multicultural organisations, advocacy work and training. In 2023, the project will focus in particular on the third objective, to develop the capacity of volunteers to provide digital support in the multicultural field.

50 meetings in digital support with representatives of multicultural organisations.

30 representatives of organisations receive digital training

In digital support, we aim to find appropriate solutions to the digital challenges organisations face in their everyday lives. Support is available in the form of individual and group coaching, and can be accessed by booking an appointment with Yuri through the booking system on the Moniheli website, or by contacting her directly. We support organisations' digital inclusion through training and the production of current materials. In 2023, there will be training sessions to strengthen digital skills, covering topics such as folder management and cloud computing.



50 meetings to improve the capacity of those developing digital support to work with migrants.

We act as the voice of multicultural organisations and migrants in the field of digitalisation promotion. We provide expert speeches, statements and trainings on language and cultural awareness in the digital era. We complement the competency profile of the Digital and population data services agency's national digital support skill profile with the competency tag "Multicultural Guidance Skills". We will develop and share approaches for the inclusion of migrants in the development of digitalisation and integration

20 multilingual volunteers have received Digital Buddy training and gained experience in the field through individual and group mentoring.

We are developing a multilingual digital support volunteering model that links volunteers and the needs of a multicultural organisational landscape. The project's "Digital Buddy" volunteer programme provides a package that enables multilingual volunteers to use their language skills and strengthens their involvement in the multicultural organisational community through a range of training courses.

Participants in the 2022 Digital Buddy training.





Luontokoti-project

Luontokoti is a three-year project run jointly by Moniheli and the Martha organisation to integrate immigrants into Finnish nature and home gardens.

The objectives of Luontokoti-project for 2023 relate to developing the skills of migrants, promoting the capacities of the organisations involved in the project and increasing cooperation between organisations and martha's.

We organise a total of 12 course series with local organisations in 5 different regions: in Uusimaa, Southwest Finland, Pirkanmaa, South Karelia and North Karelia. The course series consist of about four individually designed excursions, readings or other learning and/or well-being-enhancing activities. We improve knowledge of nature recreation and conservation by reminding everyone of their rights and responsibilities.

400 migrants reached
through courses
and events

At least one community nature event will be organised in the participating areas. In a nationwide tree planting event, we will plant a total of 3000 trees around Finland together with foreign language speakers. In addition, the project areas can organise other open Nature Home events, the theme of which will depend on the timing. The project will also participate in the World Village festival.

We organise trainings focusing on the development of nature activities of organisations supporting multiculturalism and integration. The trainings are aimed at active members of organisations. The trainings provide information on nature integration and the well-being effects of nature, as well as tips on how to organise activities in their own communities. The project staff and the participating Martha districts will support the activities by giving advice on opportunities in the different areas. We also organise training sessions for Marthas on nature activities that support integration and on multiculturalism.

10 organisations taking part in nature integration training.

10 different organisations working together on courses.

Ten organisations are involved in this cooperation. The partners coordinate with the project staff and the Marthas in their area, planning activities, marketing and inviting participants to the courses.

A total of 20 different actors are involved in the organisation of events. Through these activities we bring together different organisations and actors and encourage cooperation outside the project now and in the future.

Luontokoti-project on an excursion in Vanhankaupunginlahti together with Finn-mamu monikulttuurinen yhdistys ry.



Yhteinen Polku-project

Yhteinen Polku is a new three-year project of Moniheli. It aims to bring together the lessons learned from the previous OmaPolku and Mikki sulle projects and to continue to strengthen family inclusion.

Yhteinen polku-project supports young people growing up in two cultures by strengthening the inclusion of young people and the capacity of migrant parents to support their young person. The main target groups of the project are young people growing up bilingual, immigrant parents and Moniheli member organisations.

3 youth groups in Helsinki, Turku and Vantaa

During 2023, youth groups will be created to plan and implement events for young people. The project will also include the development of a set of indicators to measure inclusion. The young people involved in the project will also be involved in the design of the evaluation. The toolkit and evaluation methods produced may be of use not only to the activities of Moniheli's member organisations and to young people's and parents' own communities, but also to Finnish society at large.

The project partners are the City of Helsinki, the Police, Samha ry, Kuntoutussäätiö, African care ry, Etelä Sudan ja Sudan sawa yhdistys ry, Suomen Somalinaisten kehitys ry, Suomi-Syyria Ystävyysseura ry, Mirsal ry and Lastensuojelun keskusliitto ry.

Photo by Bisher Sawan



