

Sean Ricks



Sean Ricks is working as a reporter at the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yleisradio). He is currently presenting the “Perjantai” programme at TV1, which he has also developed. Additionally, Sean has worked at the A-Studio programme as an investigator and foreign reporter.

Twitter: @seanaricks

Esko Aho



Esko Aho is former prime minister of Finland. He worked as prime minister between years 1991-1995. Currently, he is the chairman of board at the East Office of Finnish Industries.

LinkedIn: [Link](#)

Marja-Riitta Pihlman



Marja-Riitta is the head of Enterprises and Regional Development department at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. She is responsible for coordinating the management, strategic planning and performance management of ELY Centers and TE Offices, developing the structure of the agencies and budgeting the operating appropriations of the ELY Centers, TE Offices and their Joint Development and Administration Center (KEHA). Additionally, her duties include coordinating urban, rural and archipelago policies and the development and guidance of regional program work.

Twitter: @MarjaPihlman

Kajal Sanghrajka



Kajal is the founder of Growth Hub where she supports European companies to internationalise with a focus on the North American market. This year she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to research how cities attract and integrate international entrepreneurs. In 2017, she has so far travelled to 9 cities and publishes the findings in a monthly editorial - The Transatlantic Post.

As a London native, she experienced a number of challenges as an immigrant entrepreneur when she started and successfully grew her first business in New York in 2012. In tandem, she also co-founded Columbia Business School's first start-up incubator where she supported other international entrepreneurs navigate the process. She is currently a business mentor for Berlin Techstars and the Mayor of London's International Business Programme.

Kajal holds a BSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Twitter: @Kajalnyclon

Nikolaj Lubanski



Nikolaj Lubanski is the Director for Talent Attraction at Copenhagen Capacity, the official investment promotion agency of Greater Copenhagen. In Copenhagen Capacity, he assists Danish companies in attracting the right highly skilled international candidates – and has innovated the way in which we grab the attention of international candidates through digital channels and direct marketing. Nikolaj is passionate about research and knowledge-sharing, and is the author of several books and publications within the area of innovation, labour-market issues and management. Most recently he has co-authored a book on Talent Attraction Management introducing some best practice guidelines to Talent Attraction for Cities, Regions and Countries.

Twitter: @nikolajlubanski

Elina Nurmi



Elina Nurmi is currently working at the City of Helsinki's Executive Office, in department of Economic Development. She is a project manager for an EU-funded regional project entitled At Work in Finland (2016-18), which consists of 6 sub-projects. The main goal of the project is to develop and implement a one-stop service centre for international newcomers in the Greater Helsinki area – International House Helsinki – which makes available a wide range of government, city and other support services for internationals under one roof. International House Helsinki also serves companies and employers who are looking to hire or integrate international workers into the workplace.

Elina has also previously worked as a regional coordinator for the Uusimaa Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment, as well as in academia both in Finland and in the United States.

LinkedIn: [Link](#)

Matthias Deschryvere



Matthias Deschryvere is an innovation economist and technology enthusiast @ VTT Technical Research Centre Finland. He believes diversity and mutual respect are a breeding ground for creativity. To be able to attract foreign talent one has to develop a 'world explorer mindset' and 'excellence in mission oriented science, innovation and business'. But for talent attraction to fully succeed every citizen has a role to play. Deschryvere has lived and worked in six countries and does not understand why Finns are so modest.

LinkedIn: [Link](#)

Mari Liesjärvi



Mari Liesjärvi is RedLynx's HR Manager. RedLynx, a Ubisoft Studio is a multiplatform game development studio located in Helsinki. Founded in 2000, we are one of the oldest and biggest game studios in Finland. Since 2011 RedLynx has been part of Ubisoft, the 3rd biggest independent publisher in the world with over 12 000 team members. Among the hugely popular Trials series we have developed and published more than 100 games, and our latest game is the South Park: Phone Destroyer™ mobile game. We are a passionate team of 145 people of 22 different nationalities from all over the world.

Together with my superb team of two we want to make sure that all RedLynx team members come to work smile on their faces. HR supports our team members during the whole employment cycle. RedLynx has doubled its staff during last five years, so we've been recruiting a lot and we are happy to say that RedLynx has been able to attract quite many international candidates. We truly believe that multicultural working community enriches our every day at work and takes our games to next, awesome level.

LinkedIn: [Link](#)

Tiia Leino



Tiia Leino is currently heading the Global Resourcing and Employer Branding team at Wäertsilä. Previously, she has held positions as a business HR partner and has a background in financial analysis and process development.

LinkedIn: [Link](#)

Kimmo Koivu



Kimmo Koivu is a serial software entrepreneur and Board professional of 20 years. He has founded and co-founded SaaS-companies, e.g. Arc Technology and LATO Leadership Automation.

He is active in the Industry as Board Member of Finnish Software Entrepreneurs Association, council member in Technology Industries, and popular speaker on subjects of software, Cloud & Mobile and foreign talent.

In his companies Kimmo abolished the requirement of Finnish language in 2010– and has since managed to employ talent from e.g. India, Pakistan and Russia.

In this capacity he is willing to share experiences of finding, employing and managing people from different cultures.

Twitter: @KKoivu

Hanna Puura



“My passion is in technology and people skills. Developing an effective and happy organisation is my mission.” Hanna has more than 10 years of experience in working with international talents from recruiting to enabling teams to work together, finding solutions to leadership practices and comprehensive welfare at work. She has previously worked for example in the Embassy of Finland in Moscow, Roschier Attorneys and CMI Crisis Management Initiative. Currently she is responsible for people operations at BlueFors in a high-tech growth environment.

Twitter: @HannaPuura

Sam Govenius



Sam Govenius, Managing Director of JS Suomi since 2012. Sam has a long history in the company and firsthand experience of the importance of multicultural skills. Diversity and international talents play a big role in JS. One of the cornerstones of our internationalization strategy is to find talents with multicultural background and language skills in the existing offices and enter new market with their help. This is also how Sam first started in the company 10 years ago.

LinkedIn: [Link](#)

Pärtel-Peeter Pere



Pärtel-Peeter Pere leads a management consultancy company, based in Stockholm, that focuses on strategic talent attraction management. Cities like Copenhagen, Helsinki, Gothenburg, Oslo, Berlin, Birmingham, Eindhoven, Bilbao, and others have worked with them on how to become more attractive to talents. This entails setting up and co-ordinating (for example) reception and integration services, as well as pre- and post- arrival information people need before and during their stay at their new location.

The international competition between cities and regions is gathering momentum and with a growing supply of attractive cities for ever mobile talent, these soft-landing services matter. Pärtel has worked as an adviser and project leader in the Nordics as well as internationally. Pärtel is involved in the annual City Nation Place jury in London. He has also spent five years as an adviser in European Parliament with foreign affairs regional development and public relations.

Twitter: @Paertel

Topi Koskinen



Topi Koskinen is Chief Operating Officer at Finland's best workplace Gofore Plc. In his current and previous positions, Topi has been very successful in creating and managing sustained growth business in Finland and internationally. As a speaker and mentor Topi supports Finnish companies to build international teams that leverage the value of diversity. Topi's professional background is in designing and developing customer centered digital products and services that make them easier, more fun, more efficient, and more beautiful.

Twitter: @parempaa

Ari Tolonen



Ari Tolonen is CEO at Labkotec, a leading measurement equipment manufacturer and related services provider for various industrial applications. Founded in 1964 Labkotec has a long experience of providing innovative measurement solutions for many kinds of applications. Our mission is to provide solutions which enhance our customers' business and help them to protect the environment and people.

LinkedIn: [Link](#)

Michael Beversdorf



American-Finn with an international background. Born and lived in the Philippines for 10 years, spent 12 school years in the US, two separate years in Germany as an exchange student and has lived in Finland for the past 20 years. Lucky to have an IT background during a time in Finland when IT has been in high demand - worked for both "big IT" companies and also a 3D mobile startup. Culturally curious and enjoy meeting and getting to know new people and hear their stories. Especially interested in the creation and development of communities, or "villages within cities", by nurturing a common identity through shared interests and activities.

Twitter: @beversdorfcgi

Sonja Hämäläinen



Sonja Hämäläinen is Migration Director at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. She is currently leading the Integration of Immigrants group at the Ministry. Additionally, Hämäläinen acts as the chairperson of the Talent Boost operational planning working group.

Twitter: @sonjahamalaine2