

Livelihoods

Traditional Sámi livelihoods include reindeer-herding, fishing, hunting, small-scale agriculture, gathering nature's products and making handicrafts. Today, a common way to make a living is to combine these traditional livelihoods with tourism and services.

Nature-based occupations play a small role in terms of turnover and workforce but are of considerable cultural significance. They are not merely about making a living, but rather part of a traditional way of life.

Some of the Sámi are engaged in traditional livelihoods, but many have a modern job.

In Finland, the definition of a Sámi is laid down in the Act on the Sámi Parliament and is mainly based on the Sámi language. According to the definition, a Sámi is a person who considers him- or herself a Sámi, provided that this person has learnt Sámi as his or her first language or has at least one parent or grandparent whose first language is Sámi.

THE SÁMI HOMELAND is legally defined and covers the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki as well as the Lappi reindeer-herding district in the municipality of Sodankylä.

