Foreign posted employee needs Finnish ID number

If you are a foreign employee of an employer who operates in Finland, you need to apply for a Finnish ID number as soon as possible after arriving in Finland.

How do I get a Finnish ID number?

To get a Finnish ID number, go to one of the Local Register Offices or a tax office. You can also ask for the Finnish ID number when you register for the EU residence permit for residence that lasts for more than 3 months from the Finnish Immigration Services or when you apply for a residence permit from one of the Finnish embassies abroad.

When you apply for the ID number, you have to present a valid passport or an EU citizen’s ID card with your photograph, as well as a statement on the work that you will do in Finland. When you apply for the ID number from a Local Register Offices or a tax office, you must also present proof of your right of residence in the form of, for example, your residence permit card.

Why do I need a Finnish ID number?

When you have a Finnish ID number, it is easier for you to make important arrangements in Finland. Even if you would not need the ID number yourself, it makes a difference in terms of your social security.

If you come to Finland from an EU/EEA country, you have to present your A1 certificate to prove that you are covered by the social security laws of the country that has sent you to work in Finland temporarily. If you have been posted from a country with which Finland has a social security agreement, you will have a certificate that is in line with the social security agreement.
The Finnish Centre for Pensions will get a copy of the certificate that proves that you are a posted employee. It will also register your certificate in order to make sure that your social security is properly arranged while you work here. When you apply for a pension in due course, your insurance history in the different countries you have worked in will be established. At that point, comprehensive register data is of great use. The Finnish Centre for Pensions can register your certificate only if you have a Finnish ID number.