



The Autonomy of the Åland Islands

"INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE LANGUAGE POLICY"

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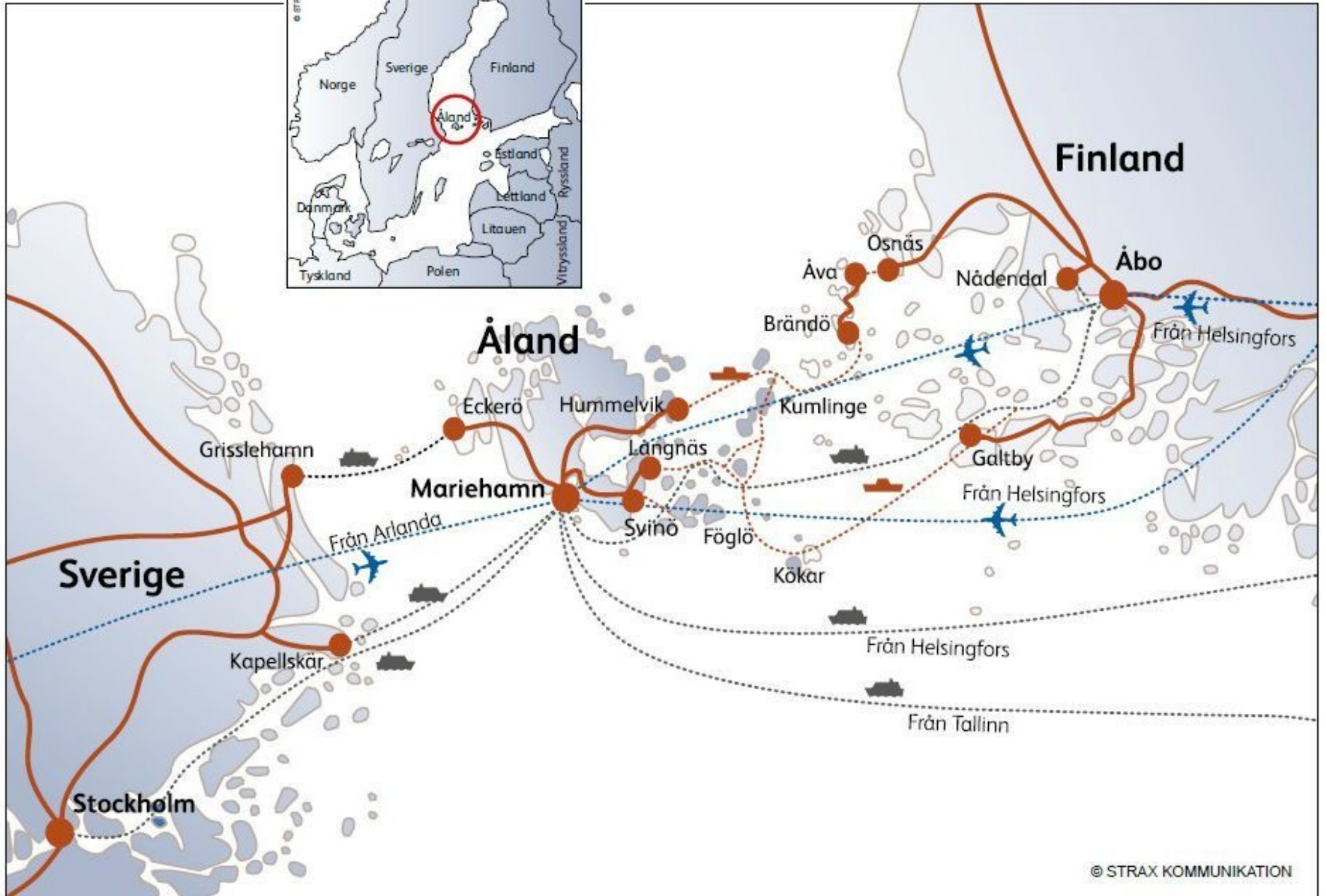


**The Åland Islands
or 6 564 islands with names**

Population 30 359 (2022)

**38 % born outside Åland
9 % outside the Nordic Countries
14 % has another mothertongue than
Swedish**





History Bomarsund

- 1809
- 1854 Bomarsund



Demilitarisation - Neutralisation

- 1856 Versailles Treaty
 - Åland Servitude



Genève 1921

- 1917 Spring discussed their future
- 6 december 1917
- June 1919 Referendum
- Reunification with Sweden
- 1919 Paris
- George Clemenceau statement
- Finland offered Autonomy
- Security Question
- 1920 Geneva Britain referred League of Nations
- 1921 June three days





1. The Sovereignty of the Aaland islands is recognised to belong to Finland;

3. The..guarantees... should specially aim at the preservation of the Swedish language in the schools....

4. The Council has requested that the guarantees will be more likely to achieve their purpose, if they are discussed and agreed to by the Representatives of Finland with those of Sweden, if necessary with the assistance of the Council of the League of Nations.....

The Swedish Language

- Part of Finland with as extensive autonomy as possible without becoming an independent state
- The Swedish language and culture would forever be guaranteed.
- Not Assimilation
Not Integration
- Finland – a bilingual state
- Only schools where the language of tuition is Swedish
- The Islands should be Demilitarised and Neutralised



Minority protection

- Restrictions on buying land
 - Starting business
 - The right to participate in elections to the Legislative assembly
 - No Military Service in the Finnish Army
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- The Right of Domicile



European Union – Åland Protocol

- Could have remained outside the EU
- The Guarantees from Geneva Accepted by the EU
- Have no representation in the EP
- Competence Leakage
- Outside the Tax-union
- Transformed from Linguistic protection to playing a role
- The survival of the inhabitants





Kin-state – Sweden
Media
Education
Social and health care



Cross border Cooperation

Formal or informal cooperation

The Sámi – four different countries