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Nordic Council of Ministers



Ministry of Social Affairs

Breaking the barriers – new thoughts in organizing vocational rehabilitation and other interventions

April 14-15, 2005, Hotel Loftleidir

Reykjavík, Iceland

*Chairperson: Thor Gardar Thorarinsson, Director of Family Affairs Department,
Ministry of Social Affairs in Iceland*

Day one:

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:10 Opening

Mr. Arni Magnusson, Minister of Social Affairs in Iceland

09:10 – 09:20 Mr. Emil Thoroddsen, Chairman, Organization of Disabled in
Iceland

09:20 – 10:05 *Work and Activation in the Nordic Welfare State: an International
Comparison*, Mr. Stefan Olafsson, Professor, Faculty of Social Science,
University of Iceland

10:05 – 10:20 Discussion

10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break

10:45- 12.00 1. Session:

Nordic overview of major challenges and political commitments

10:40 – 11:20 **Denmark,**

Jens Hørby Jørgensen, Head of Department & Ilse Dickmeiss,

Head of Section, National Labor Market Authority

11:20 – 12:00 **Finland,**

Jorma Jarvisalo, Deputy Director, Research Director,

Social Insurance Institution

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 13:40 **Iceland,**

Sigurdur Thorlacius, Medical Director, State Social Security

Institute & Associate Professor, Medical Faculty, University of Iceland

13:40 - 14:20 **Norway,**

Hanne Børrestuen & Trude Eliassen, Advisers, Department of Welfare

Policy, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

14:20 - 15:00 **Sweden,**

Christina Janzon, Senior Insurance Manager, Social Insurance Agency

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 - 16:30 2. Session, workshops - 4 themes

THEME 1: The current development models- analyzing what works and what does not, what pros and cons can be seen and what good practices can be identified from each country.

THEME 2: Central level and administrative levels: how much are the needed seamless services systems reflected in the central and administrative discourse?

THEME 3: Risks of benefits, (or combinations of benefits) which create negative side effects, leading to barriers for people with disabilities from entering or staying in the labour market.

THEME 4: Internal factors at workplaces hindering people with disabilities from working. Are the problems related to the individual, the working environment or attitudes of colleagues?

Groups will choose reporters to summarize the themes discussed on day two

Bus departs Hótel Lofleiðir for a reception (tbc)

Day two:

09:00 – 10:30 Group work continues

10:30 – 10:50 Coffee break

10:50 – 12:00 Group work continues

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 13:30 Summary report from theme 1 and discussion

13.30 – 14:00 Summary report from theme 2 and discussion

14:00 – 14:30 Summary report from theme 3 and discussion

14:30 – 14:50 Coffee break

14:50 – 15:20 Summary report from theme 4 and discussion

15:20 – 16:00 Recommendations for reorganization of vocational rehabilitation
and other interventions

16:00 - 16:10 Closing of the conference,
Mr. Jon Kristjansson, Minister of Health and Social Security in Iceland

Breaking the barriers – new thoughts in organizing vocational rehabilitation and other interventions

Each country will provide the following material two weeks before the conference:

1. Overall analysis of major challenges and political commitments in prevention of work disability.
2. An overview of the current and planned developments (models, collaboration techniques etc.) in managing the local collaboration of services in order to facilitate problems of people being at risk of work disability.
3. An overview of the current central and regional administrative systems and their developmental needs to make the local disability system more capable of managing the problems of the people in need of services.

The Ministry of Social Affairs in Iceland organizes the work-shop in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Security in Iceland and State Social Security Institute in Iceland, with a grant from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The workgroup that prepared for the workshop in Reykjavík consists of the following persons:

Iceland:

Thor Gardar Thorarinsson, Ministry of Social Affairs
Sigurdur Thorlacius, State Social Security Institute
Arna Gerdur Bang, Ministry of Social Affairs

Finland:

Heidi Patero, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Jorma Jarvisalo, The Social Insurance Institution

Sweden:

Bergendorff Sisko, National Social Insurance Board
Maria Eklund, National Social Insurance Board
Christina Janzon, National Social Insurance Board

Norway:

Børrestuen Hanne, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Conference language: English

