

The Capacity to Avoid Incapacity

Nordic Conference in Hótel Nordica, Reykjavík, Iceland,
9 and 10 November 2009.

Monday – November 9th

- 17:30 Welcome.
Árni Páll Árnason, Minister of Social Affairs and Social Security.
- 17:45 Labour market inclusion in the Nordic countries during the current crisis.
Björn Einar Halvorsen, Special adviser, Norwegian Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion.
- 18:05 Disability in a High-Work Society: The Case of Iceland.
Stefán Ólafsson, Professor in Sociology, University of Iceland.
- 18:35 Active inclusion of the labour market – barriers and opportunities.
María Björk Óskarsdóttir from Nýttu kraftinn, Gylfi Arnbjörnsson president of ASÍ (Icelandic Confederation of Labor) and Vilhjálmur Egilsson director of SA-Confederation of Icelandic Employers and Gissur Pétursson, director of the Directorate of Labour in Iceland.
- 19:10 Discussion.
- 19:30 Reception, jointly with participants from the conference The Effects of Employment on the Health and Quality of Life of the Elderly.

Tuesday – November 10th

- 09:00 Tackling the Jobs Crisis: An OECD Perspective.
Paul Swaim, senior economist at the OECD and a co-editor of the OECD Employment Outlook 2009.
- 09:20 The assessment of work ability.
Sören Brage Ph.D. Director for Labour and Welfare, Oslo.
- 09:40 Realising potential: active inclusion as a means to integrate young people in the labour market.
Dorota Tomalak, leading policy officer on the issue of active inclusion and employment of the European Social Network.
- 10:00 Pause
- 10:20 **Best practices presentations**
Getting people back to work - Norwegian reforms and challenges.
– *Thorgeir Hernes, director at the Norwegian Labour and Welfare organisation (NAV).*
- 10:50 Evaluating work skills, using working ability method.
Irene Juliussen, owner and director of Socialfaglig Undervisning og Konsultation, Denmark.

- 11:20 Innovative approaches to unemployment of young people in Finland.
Erik Häggman, Senior Officer, State Provincial Office of Western Finland.
- 12:00 Lunch.
- 13:00 Motivation-participation and opportunities - the emphasis of vocational rehabilitation in the Icelandic labour market.
Vigdís Jónsdóttir, Director at Virk - Vocational Rehabilitation Fund, Iceland.
- 13:30 Vocational Rehabilitation of young people with disabilities.
Åse Larsson, co-ordinator at Arbetsförmedlingen / The Swedish Public Employment Service.
- 14:00 Pause.
- 14:15 **Discussions in workshops.**
- A) The crucial cooperation between different parties – How can professionals and systems cross borders and work successfully together on behalf of an individual in need?
Soffía Gísladóttir, Director of the NE Regional office of the Directorate of Labour, Sveinbjörg Pálsdóttir, Public Management Consultant at InDevelop Iceland.
- B) Long term unemployment and measures to prevent it.
Ingí Rúnar Eðvarðsson, Professor in Management, University of Akureyri.
- C) Young (18-24) job seekers - the importance of a purpose in society.
Héðinn Unnsteinsson, Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Health and Runólfur Ágústsson, Chairman of the Board, Directorate of Labour, both members in a ministry committee on unemployment and education.
- D) Inclusion of the labour market – how can we be more effective?
Sigrún Sigurðardóttir, Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant and Ása Dóra Konráðsdóttir, Senior Consultant at VIRK - Vocational Rehabilitation Fund.
- 15:50 Presentation from Workshops.
- 16:30 End.

Moderator: Ambassador Sigríður Snævarr.



Participation is free of charge, refreshments and lunch included.

