



Family policies and child welfare in the Nordic countries

Conference on child and family welfare

September 5. 2014 Nauthóll, Reykjavík.

Description: The conference is part of programme of events of Iceland's presidency in the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2014. It aims at highlighting the development of family policies in the Nordic countries with the emphasis on Iceland. The main challenges faced by authorities as well as elements that have aimed at improving the welfare of families and children, will be discussed. Among them is the role of basic municipal services for family welfare. At the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the focus will be on future steps and solutions in the Family Policy and Action Plan for Iceland, which is currently under development.

Programme

08:45-09:00 **Registration**

09:00-09:15 **Welcome address** *Gunnar M. Sandholt, Chair*

Music performed by young artists: *Jóhann Örn Thorarensen, violin and Jóhanna Brynja Ruminy, violin*

09:15-09:30 **Opening address** *Eygló Harðardóttir, Minister of Social Affairs and Housing*

Part I - Policies and support for children and families

09:30-10:15 **Family policies and child poverty in the Nordic countries:**

Tapio Salonen, Professor in Social Work, Malmö University

10:15-10:30 **Coffee break**

Part I continued

10:30-11:00 **Children and poverty in Iceland - Characteristics and explanations:**

Stefán Ólafsson, Professor of Sociology, University of Iceland

11:00-11:45 **In search of a European social policy on supporting children and parents:**

Mona Sandbæk, Professor in Social Work at Oslo and Akershus University

11:45-12:15 **Panel discussion:** *Mona Sandbæk, Sigríður Jónsdóttir, Senior Advisor,*

Ministry of Welfare, Stefán Ólafsson and Tapio Salonen

12:15-13:00 **Lunch break**

**Part II – Prevention and family welfare**

- 13:00-13:20** **Family counselling - a preventive intervention:**
Sigrún Júlíusdóttir, Family Therapist and Professor in Social Work
- 13:20-13:55** **Services for youngsters with ADHD and related disorders: Status and policy**
Gyða Haraldsdóttir, Director, Centre for Child Development and Behaviour
- 13:55-14:15** **Primary health care: Body and soul** *Ingibjörg Sveinsdóttir, Psychologist, Primary Health Care of the Capital Area*
- 14:15-14:45** **Panel discussion:** *Gyða Haraldsdóttir, Hildigunnur Árnadóttir, Social Worker, Icelandic Association of Local Authorities, Ingibjörg Sveinsdóttir, Sigrún Júlíusdóttir and Sveindís Anna Jóhannsdóttir, Social Worker*
- 14:45-15:05** **Coffee break**

Part III – Family policy in Iceland and UN convention on the rights of the child

- 15:05-15:25** **Paths, policies and families: The history of Icelandic family policies**
Guðný Björk Eydal, Professor in Social Work, University of Iceland
- 15:25-15:45** **Why listen to children?** *Herdís Ágústa Kristjánsdóttir Linnet, Kristinn Jóhannsson and Sara Líf Sigsteinsdóttir from youth councils of Save the Children in Iceland, Ombudsman for Children and Unicef in Iceland*
- 15:45-16:05** **Significance of the Convention on the rights of the child:**
Petrína Ásgeirsdóttir, Social Worker and Independent Consultant
- 16:05-16:25** **Looking at the future:** *Guðrún Valdimarsdóttir, Economist and chairman of the group who formulated the Icelandic family policy 2013-2014*
- 16:25-16:55** **Panel discussion:** *Elísabet Gísladóttir, Lawyer, Ombudsman for children, Guðný Björk Eydal, Guðrún Valdimarsdóttir, Ingibjörg Broddadóttir, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Welfare, Kristinn Jóhannsson, María Rún Bjarnadóttir, Senior Legal Adviser, Ministry of the Interior and Petrína Ásgeirsdóttir*
- 16:55-17:00** **Summary and closing remarks** *Gunnar M. Sandholt*

The conference is a part of the programme of events for health and social affairs during the Icelandic Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2014.

The conference is open to all with emphasis on professionals, researchers, administrators, politicians and others policy makers in the field. Registration is required at <http://registration.yourhost.is/forms/fpcw2014/skraning.php>

The conference language is English.

There will be simultaneous transmission on the internet from the conference on the ministries website www.vel.is.