

# Equal opportunities for children of foreign origin with developmental disorders in the Nordics

September 27, 2022, at 9–14

Nordic Culture Point, Kaisaniemenkatu 9, 00171 Helsinki, Finland

Organizers: Counselling and Diagnostic Centre, Iceland  
Integration Norden / Nordic Welfare Centre, Nordic Council of Ministers  
Nordic Culture Point

The Nordic countries are seeing growing numbers of children with an immigrant background and developmental disorder. The seminar gathers experts from the Nordic and Baltic countries to share knowledge and experiences on how to support the wellbeing of foreign-born children and youth with developmental disorders.

What does the situation look like in the Nordics in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic? What are the biggest challenges and what types of services seem to be the most successful for different groups? What can service providers working with immigrant families learn from the work in other Nordic countries to guarantee equal opportunities for all children?

## Program

- 9:00      **Welcome**  
*Henrik Öhman*, Nordic Culture Point  
*Kaisa Kepsu*, senior adviser, Nordic Welfare Centre
- 9:10      **Integration of services in the interest of children's wellbeing**  
*Ingólfur Einarsson*, MD, developmental paediatrician, Iceland
- 9:30      **The rising figure of developmental issues among children with foreign background – with focus on autism spectrum disorders**  
*Anna Sarajuuri*, Chief Physician, New Children's Hospital, HUS, Finland
- 10:00     **Rehabilitation of children and youth with foreign background**  
*Anna-Mari Paavonen*, researcher, Kela, Finland

10:30–10:45 Coffee break

10:45 **Children and youth with intellectual disabilities in Swedish schools: developments and experiences over time**

*Thomas Barow*, Associate Professor in Education, University of Gothenburg, Department of Education and Special Education

11:15 **Well-being among immigrants with disability during the COVID-19**

*Pilvikki Heinonen*, FAIDD – The Finnish Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Kehitysvammaliitto) and *Marja Holm*, THL/Finnish institute for health and welfare

11:45–12:30 Lunch

12:30–14 **Panel discussion with the audience involved**

*Participants:*

*Representative of Hilma*- the Support Center for Immigrants with Disabilities (not confirmed)

*Marjut Virsu*, Finland: special needs teacher, doctoral researcher, Tampere University

*Lise Roll-Pettersson*, Professor of Special Education, Stockholm University

*Ingólfur Einarsson*, Iceland

Moderator: *Kaisa Kepsu*, Integration Norden/Nordic Welfare Centre