

Conference “Living Independently and Working Inclusively: A Nordic–Baltic Dialogue”

2 – 3 June 2026, Tallinn, Estonia, [Nordic Hotel Forum](#), Sirius Hall

Day 1

Moderator: Kadi Jaanisoo

Tuesday, 2 June: Education and Employment Pathways

12.30 - 13.00 Registration

13.00 - 13.15 Opening words

Maria Gratschew, Director, Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Estonia

Karmen Joller, Minister of Social Affairs, Estonia

Meelis Joost, Chairperson of the Board, Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities - *Introduction to the objectives of the seminar and the focus on youth-centred transition pathways*

13.15 - 13.45 From inclusive education to inclusive labour market

Iceland - Eiður Welding, Chairperson of *UngÖBÍ* (Youth Movement of Icelandic Disability Alliance)

Estonia - Külliki Tamm, Astangu Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Head of Educational Development Department

Lived experiences of young people with disabilities. Barriers and enabling factors in education-to-work transitions. What support works in practice?

13.45 - 14.00 Inclusive education and transition pathways from (special) schools to vocational training

Finland - Tarja Anneli Heikkinen, Finnish National Agency for Education (*EDUFI*), Counsellor of Education

Inclusive education policies and practices, individual learning pathways and early career guidance.

14.00 - 14.15 Supported employment models

Denmark - Trine Lycke Borgstrup, Policy Officer, Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment

14.15 - 14.30 Supported employment models

Denmark - PhD Inge S. Bonfils, Senior Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, University College Copenhagen

Supported employment, including employers' engagement in inclusive labour market support

14.30 - 14.45 Break

14.45-15.00 Supported employment models

Denmark - Per Fruerled, CEO, Grennessminde

An example of how to create jobs with and for colleagues in different kinds of supported employment.

15.00 - 15.15 Political strategies and presentation of promising cases/practices

Estonia - Tom Rüütel, Employers' counsellor, Unemployment Insurance Fund

15.15 - 15.30 Political strategies and presentation of promising cases/practices

Norway - Yngve Bråten - The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs

15.30 - 15.45 Political strategies and presentation of promising cases/practices

Iceland - Anna Klara Georgsdóttir, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing

15.45 - 16.15 Vitamin break

16.45 - 18.45 Field trips to various locations organized by bus.

Locations:

- [Astangu Vocational Rehabilitation Centre](#) - address Astangu 27, Tallinn
- [Tallinn Specialized Care and Rehabilitation Service Center Haabersti Clubhouse](#) - address Õismäe tee 105a, Tallinn
- [Pool & looP](#) -Recovery Learning Community - address Põllu 63, Tallinn.

Day 2

Moderator: Kadi Jaanisoo

Wednesday, 3 June: Independent Living, Youth Perspectives and Cross-sector Cooperation

9.00 - 9.10 Welcome to Day 2

Introduction to the objectives of day 2 - Meelis Joost, Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities

9.10 - 9.40 Independent living and community-based supported living, including personal assistance, accessible housing, and digital solutions.

Estonia - Reet Asmer, *service manager, AS Hoolekandeteenused* (Welfare services)

Lithuania - Families initiative, Milana Juknaitė, Social worker, *Nepatogūs* (Uncomfortables)

Principles of independent living, accessible and supported housing models, digital tools supporting autonomy and daily life.

9.40 - 9.55 Youth perspectives, ensuring that the lived experiences of young people with disabilities inform policy discussions

Denmark - William Korte, Chairperson, *SUMH* (Association of Young People with Disabilities)

Young people's voices and personal stories, what supports successful independent living and employment? Meaningful participation of young people in policy development.

9.55 - 10.10 Independent living and community-based supported living: Comments and Responses from Disability Organisations. Linking lived experience to systemic policy solutions

Lithuania - Indrė Širvinskaitė, President of Lithuanian Disability Forum, Disability Rights and Inclusive Education Expert

10.10 - 10.25 Cross-sector cooperation, highlighting practices where education, employment services, municipalities and NGOs work together.

Lithuania – Laura Mikelevičiūtė, Adviser, Agency for Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lithuania

Integrated service models, case management and coordination, the role of municipalities

10.25–10.45 Break

10.45 - 11.15 Cross-sector Cooperation

Latvia - Daiga Veinberga, Policy Officer in Accessibility of Environment and Services and Project Manager, Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations *SUSTENTO*

Examples of effective intersectoral collaboration, data sharing and division of responsibilities

11.15 - 12.00 Panel discussion: Ideas for the future Nordic-Baltic cooperation on Disability Policy and Practice – presentations of good examples of cooperations

Moderator: Meelis Joost, Chairperson of the Board, Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities

- Inclusive education Model - Finland – Kimmo Hurtig, Team Manager, *Valteri* (National centre for learning support)
- Youth representative - Denmark - William Korte, Chairperson, *SUMH* (Association of Young People with Disabilities)
- Indrė Širvinskaitė, President of Lithuanian Disability Forum
- Leif Olsen, Senior Researcher, *VIVE* (Danish Center for Social Science Research)

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

13.00 Safe travel home