

National report from Iceland 2024

Sjónstöðin, National Institute for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deafblind

In August 2024 The National Institute moved to a new office in a brand new 6th floor in the same building. The acoustic was secured and we can also adjust the lighting to the needs of our clients. The staff is very happy with the new working facilities and others are impressed especially members from Fjóla the deafblind organization.

We also started to change our registration system last fall and it has taken a lot of our focus and we are still adjusting things manually.

Our website is now a part of governmental portal Island.is and is still under fine tuning.

Staff from Sjónstöðin has participated in several working groups within NVC this last year. We have staff members in two networks at the moment; Usher network and Charge network. We also have representation in the study group about age related deafblindness. A member of Fjóla has started a research as part of her Master, on the situation of the deafblind population. She is also a member of the Research Network.

Cooperation with Fjóla the deafblind organization is ongoing with the new board. They have appointed representatives for young deafblind and elderly also. It is important for our work to have a good dialog with the members of Fjóla. The members of Fjóla has increased due to the new leadership. The Board of Fjóla is engaged with ÖBÍ to fight for rights to improve services regarding hearing aids but hearing aids are very expensive in Iceland.

The functional diagnostic team is represented with specialist from: The National Hearing and Speech Institute, The Counseling and Analysing Center, The Communication Center and Sjónstöðin, The team meet once a month to finalize reports and follow-up.

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Manager DB matters