

News from CFD Denmark 2026

VISO and the Specialization Plan

At the moment, we are awaiting a new tender from VISO under the Danish Social and Housing Authority regarding a new contract that is due to take effect on 1 May 2027. We have previously been in dialogue with VISO about the issue of complexity, which in many ways governs their service delivery — namely that VISO, together with its providers, only undertakes cases of a certain level of complexity.

Our argument regarding the complexity of our own delivery service is that, with only 13 deafblind consultants, we cover the entire country, which in itself is a highly complex task in terms of professional expertise, logistics, and the development and maintenance of the specialist field.

Since 2019, there have been political discussions in Denmark concerning the development of a National Specialization Plan for the specialized and highly specialized social sector — inspired by the healthcare sector — but this has been postponed several times. At present, the status is that we are still waiting, and confidence that anything meaningful and innovative will emerge is diminishing with each passing day.

Development projects

SenseWork – Danish contribution

SenseWork is a Nordic-European research and development project focusing on working life and acquired deafblindness. The project is carried out in collaboration between CFD Counselling, Knowledge and Development in Denmark, Royal Kentalis in the Netherlands, and Örebro University in Sweden. The overall aim is to strengthen knowledge about the conditions that support or hinder labour market participation among people living with acquired deafblindness.

The Danish part of SenseWork consists of two phases. The first phase has recently been completed and consisted of a qualitative interview study. In this phase, CFD conducted focus group interviews with three key groups: employees living with acquired deafblindness, employers with experience of employing people with deafblindness, and professionals who provide counselling and support to people with deafblindness. In total, the Danish study is based on qualitative interviews with 22 participants across these groups. The findings from this phase have been disseminated in both a short practice-oriented publication and a more comprehensive research report, published by CFD in 2026. The report is entitled *Arbejdsliv og erhvervet døvblindhed. Delrapport 1* and is available through CFD's website.

The first phase shows that participation in working life for people with acquired deafblindness cannot be understood simply as a matter of individual motivation, resilience, or work capacity. Rather, sustainable participation is shaped by the interaction between personal coping and recognition processes, access to timely and relevant support, the organisation of work, and the

relational quality of the workplace. Work is described as important for identity, dignity, belonging and the experience of contributing, but it may also become a source of accumulated strain if support and workplace adjustments are delayed or insufficient.

A central finding is the concept of “double delay”. This refers to a situation where both the person’s own recognition of support needs and the response from surrounding systems or workplaces often come too late. The report also highlights the importance of “hidden work”: the invisible extra effort required to plan, compensate, manage energy, adapt work routines, handle transport and repeatedly explain one’s needs to colleagues, managers and public systems. When this hidden work is carried mainly by the individual, the risk of exhaustion and labour market withdrawal increases. A further finding is the risk of “well-intentioned marginalisation”, where protective or considerate actions may unintentionally exclude the employee from tasks, decision-making or workplace communities.

At the same time, the study identifies several conditions that can promote sustainable participation in working life. These include access to specialised and timely support, flexibility in the organisation of work, workplace adjustments that are anchored organisationally rather than left to the individual employee, and safe workplace communities where needs can be expressed without social risk. The findings therefore point to the importance of shifting attention from the question of how the individual can endure working life, towards how working life can be organised so that continued participation becomes possible.

The second phase of the Danish contribution will consist of a questionnaire survey among workers living with acquired deafblindness. The target is to obtain 50 responses. The questionnaire will examine a number of issues identified in the qualitative phase, including support needs, workplace adjustments, hidden work, transport, disclosure of needs, and factors that promote or hinder sustainable employment. This phase is expected to be completed in summer 2027.

Meaningful Youth with Usher Syndrome: Current Status and Key Activities

The MUUS project (Meaningful Youth with Usher Syndrome) is an ongoing action research collaboration between Aalborg University, CFD, and the Specialist Consultancy for the Deafblind. The project focuses on co developing new approaches to counselling and supporting young people with Usher syndrome, their relatives, and professionals.

The project is currently moving forward through research, development, and sharing of results. Two research articles present central insights from the project. One is in progress and one has been accepted for publication. A Danish article for the journal *Psyke & Logos* is currently in progress and explores how young people with Usher syndrome experience forms of loss that often remain socially unrecognised, highlighting disenfranchised grief as a central lens for understanding their need for support. An English article in the journal *Nordic Welfare Research* examines how support becomes meaningful when it enables young people to create, negotiate, and maintain spaces for autonomy and identity development in their everyday lives.

In parallel, the project has developed a set of recommendations for the Danish Social and Housing Authority (Social- og Boligstyrelsen) on how to strengthen support structures and develop new ways of providing services for children and young adults with Usher syndrome.

The project is also collaborating with Materialecentret on a *Life Course Guide* aimed at providing an overview of support options and relevant information for people with acquired deafblindness and their relatives.

The project has also collaborated with a group of IT-architecture students, who have developed a mock-up of a digital platform designed to provide accessible and relevant information for this target group. Options for developing a viable platform are currently being explored.

Overall, the project is moving from analysis towards concrete outputs and practice-oriented initiatives, combining research insights with tangible tools and recommendations.

E-learning about sensory impairment in nursing home residents

Vision and hearing impairments are often overlooked by nursing home staff because of limited awareness, varying skill levels, and time constraints, and high staff turnover.

This project aims to strengthen the staff's abilities to recognize signs of sensory impairments and adapt communication, workflows, and physical environments to individual residents' needs.

The e-learning program combines theoretical information with video illustrations and practical tips and advice. The videos showing different behavioral signs of sensory impairment were shot in a nursing home with professional elderly actors to ensure identification and recognition from the staff watching it. The project presents examples of visual, hearing, and dual sensory impairment but does not aim to teach how to distinguish between them. The initial goal is to enable nursing home staff to interpret a resident's behavior as a sign of sensory impairment.

The project is a collaboration between The Danish Committee for Health Education, The Center for Communication Disorders, and CFD. It has been funded with 1,9 million Danish kroner and is planned to finish around Christmas 2026.

[Nordic Conference](#)

All CFD's deafblind consultants will be represented at this year's Nordic Conference in Copenhagen, where they will contribute with several workshops and a World Café. This includes collaboration with the Centre for Sensory Impairment, Region North Jutland, and the working group under the Nordic Welfare Centre focusing on older people with acquired deafblindness.

We look forward to meeting Nordic colleagues at the conference.