Inclusive crisis preparedness – Nordic-Baltic lessons and innovations

The fourth Nordic-Baltic meeting on disability policy and practice

Date: Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November.
Location: Nordic Hotel Forum, Viru väljak 3, 10111 Tallinn, Estonia

The meeting is organised by the Nordic Welfare Centre and the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Estonia.

Program

Tuesday 10th

Conference room Sirius

13:00	Registration and light lunch at Nordic Hotel Forum
14:00	Welcome to the seminar Maria Gratschew, Director, the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Estonia and Leif Olsen, the Danish Presidency for the Disability Council, VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research (Moderator day 1)

Workshop

14:10 Workshop:
Strengthening preparedness for vulnerable citizens

Presentation of a preparedness model developed by the Danish Civil Protection League and implemented in five Danish municipalities.

The model supports vulnerable citizens with physical and mental disabilities living independently by strengthening their personal preparedness and promoting collaboration with local support networks and communities.

The workshop will introduce the model, including a Train-the-

Trainer programme, e-learning for municipal staff and volunteers, practical dialogue tools, and key experiences from local implementation.

Participants will have the opportunity to try out key elements of the model, including group exercises from the seminar day, selected exercises from the e-learning programme, and reflections on the materials and tools that can be used in preparedness-related dialogues with citizens.

Speakers: Betina Foget and Sussi Wille, Danish Civil Protection League

15:30 Break

European perspectives

15:50 Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building, represented by Farah Soraya Ridanovic, European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, DG ECHO, European Commission

16:15 Ready Baltics
– a regional initiative strengthening disability-inclusive civil protection and disaster risk management (CP/DRM) in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, represented by
Phillipa Tucker, Coordinator Central and Eastern Europe, European Disability Forum

16:30 From obligations to action: The CRPD Committee's General Comment No. 10 (2026) on addressing the impacts of situations of risk, represented by Jorge Araya, Human Rights Officer,Secretariat of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Panel

16:45 Reflections from disability organizations in the Baltic and Nordic countries (TBC)

- Meelis Joost, Chairman of the Board, Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities
- Karl Wahlman, Funktionsrätt Åland
- Anna Caldén, SAMS – Finnish Disability Forum, Finland

- Marija Bočiarovaitė, Project Coordinator, Lithuanian Disability Forum (LDF)
- Ása Olsen, Chair, Faroese Disablity Organizations MEGD

17:30 End of day one

18:00 Dinner buffet at the Nordic Hotel Forum's Restaurant Nomel

Wednesday 11th

Conference room Capella

09:00 Welcome to day 2
Katrīna Vītola, Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia, and Vida Gintautaite, Nordic Council of Ministers office in Lithuania (moderators day 2)

Nordics initiatives

09:10 Nordic Preparedness Plans within the Social and Elderly Care Sector, represented by Helle Sörensen, Senior Adviser, Digitalisation, The Nordic Welfare Centre

Nordic-Baltic Social and Health Care Evacuation Project

09:25 From the Nordic Public Health Preparedness Agreement to Preparedness-, contingency- and business continuity plans that safeguard access to basic services for persons with disabilities, represented by by Yrjö-Pekka Halme, Senior Specialist. Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Department for Safety, Security and Health/TUTO, Preparedness Unit/VAL, and Svalbard group, the Nordic Group for Public Health Preparedness.

Inclusive crisis preparedness: Nordic–Baltic lessons and innovations: Promising cases/practices

09:40 **Lithuania**, represented by Edgaras Geda, Adviser, Firefighter

	Training School of Lithuania
09:55	**Latvia**, represented by Agrita Vītola, Senior Inspector at the Resource Management Division of the Civil Protection Department, State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia.
10:10	**Estonia**, represented by Kadi Luht Kallas, Adviser, Government Office of Republic of Estonia
10:25	Break
10:45	**Faroe Islands,** represented by Ann Kristina Svabo Simonsen, Department of Social Affairs and Housing & Regin Berg, from Almannaverkið
11:00	**Finland**, represented by Päivi Nurmi-Koikkalainen, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), and Anna Caldén, SAMS – Finnish Disability Forum, Finland
11:15	**Norway**, represented by Maren Anna Lervik, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir), Norway
11:30	**Åland**, represented by Erika Elfsberg, Funktionsrätt Åland
11:45	**Sweden**, represented by Anna Teljfors, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and Daniel Andersson, Security Manager, Åmål Municipality
12:00	End of Day 2 – Safe travels home