

# Setting the Nordic Agenda: Participation and Inclusion for Children and Young People in the Nordic Region in the Shadow of the Pandemic

What restricts the participation and social inclusion of children and young people and what action can be taken?

**Venue:** European Social Services Conference 2022, Hamburg

**Time:** 7th of June 2022 at 15:00-18:00

## Program

### PART I

15.00

#### **Welcome**

A child rights and youth perspective, a prerequisite for a sustainable future  
*Kai Koivumäki Deputy Director and Merethe Løberg, Senior Adviser, Nordic Welfare Center*

**Meet** Nordic youth – the right to be heard and the pandemic

15:25

#### **See, listen, and include I**

**Research:** Have children and young people been heard and involved in school and leisure activities during the COVID-19 pandemic? Preliminary results.

*Merethe Løberg, on behalf of the Consortium of Finnish Youth Research Society and The Danish Center for Social Science Research*

**Meet** The Nordic Youth Council, a forum for the political youth groups in the Nordic countries

*Annika Lyytikäinen, member, Finland*

**Promising practice:** Involving children and families in meetings with social services – cooperative solutions

*Hulda Björk Finnsdóttir, Head of department, The Bridge, Iceland*

**Promising practice:** Talking with children – use of simulation games in teaching adults how to explore sensitive subjects with children

*Ane Heiberg Simonsen, Snakkemedbarn.no, Specialist Adviser, RVTS - Regional Centre on Violence, Traumatic Stress and Suicide Prevention, East region, Norway*

16:15

#### **Nordic fika**

Coffee, refreshments, and some small talk

## PART II

16:45

### **See, listen, and include II**

**Research:** Ensuring children and youth with migrant background are not left behind. The importance of preschool and education.

*Kaisa Kepsu, senior adviser, Nordic Welfare Center*

**Meet** *Lul Absir* from Somalia who is now living in Hallstahammar in Sweden

**Promising practice:** Making the youth perspective on social inclusion visible – the Nordic NABO –project

*Linus Wellander, development manager, Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society, Sweden*

**Promising practice:** Open preschool and language training for children and women with immigrant background

*Hanna Sällemark, Project Manager, The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Sweden*

17:30

### **Panel discussion and final thoughts**

*with Hulda Björk Finnsdóttir, Annika Lyytikäinen, Linus Wellander and Kai Koivumäki*

18:00

### **Reception and mingel**