

Report from EUNAD IP pilot trainings held during 2017 and 2018

The pilot trainings had two aims. The first aim was to present results and outcome from the research project to user organizations and their members and to initiate a discussion on how knowledge of visual impairment, traumatic experiences, coping and mental health can be implemented in strategies and practice of the user organizations.

How can knowledge be incorporated to prevent risk and hazards, reduce the feeling of unsafety, increase coping and efficacy, as well as to assist members in the aftermath of traumatic events.

The second aim of the pilot training was to expand the knowledge and skills of psychologists and medical students on vision loss and mental health.

22nd of September 2017; Trainings for user organisations; Half day program:

"Knowledge about People With Visual impairment and their general Health status" by Audun Brunnes.

"Implications for Research and practice" by Trond Heir.

At this meeting delegates from all over Norway participated. More than 150 people were present as representatives of their local team around Norway. The study findings on mental health and visual impairment was highly appreciated, as this represent the first population study ever carried out. A significant proportion of the members from the Norwegian Association for the Visual Impaired and Blind Individuals contributed to the study, and thus the pilot training served as an important feedback on their collective effort to the study.

The findings from the study have furthermore been included in teaching packages for clinical psychologists at their specialists programs, for medical students at the University of Oslo during their psychiatry sessions, and for the professional staff at two departments on Oslo University Hospital:

7th September 2017; Trainings for clinical psychologists, Oslo. "Visual impairment and trauma; Implications for clinical practice", by Marianne Bang Hansen

18th October 2017; Trainings for clinical psychologists, Oslo. "Visual impairment and trauma; Implications for clinical practice", by Marianne Bang Hansen

11th September 2017; Trainings for medical students, Oslo. "Visual impairment and trauma; Implications for clinical practice", by Trond Heir

2nd October 2017; Trainings for medical students, Oslo. "Visual impairment and trauma; Implications for clinical practice", by Trond Heir

27th October 2017; Trainings for Medical doctors, Oslo. "Visual impairment and trauma; Implications for clinical practice", by Trond Heir

12th January 2018; Trainings for the staff at The Norwegian National Unit for hearing and mental health, Oslo University Hospital, and the user organization Advisory Office for Vision and Hearing, Oslo, by Marianne Bang Hansen

15th February 2018; Trainings for the staff (psychologists, psychiatrists, MD, special nurses, and social workers) at Oslo University Hospital, Department for mental health and aging, by Marianne Bang Hansen

Evaluations: The trainings revealed great need for knowledge about challenges of being visually impaired. User organizations as well as professional health care personnel appreciated research based knowledge about risk and hazards, traumatic experiences, coping and mental health. An important outcome of the project has been to raise awareness of challenges and minority stress of being visually impaired.

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