



Advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities worldwide

RI Global: Office of the Commission on Policy and Service
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FACT SHEET: COMMISSION ON POLICY AND SERVICE

Purpose/Mission

RI Global's Commission on Policy and Service identifies new policies and programs in each of the world's geographic regions and disseminates information about best practices. Through annual meetings in Helsinki, the commission also analyses the policy developments in different countries and the ways in which these developments align with the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). Finally, it compares rehabilitation program development between different countries and closely follows that development at the UN level. Once per year, the Policy and Service Commission organizes outreach at the National Rehabilitation Conference in Helsinki, one of the most important training and networking events for rehabilitation practitioners, decision and policy makers, leaders and administrators in the field of rehabilitation from across the European Union. In 2015, plenary sessions concentrated on return to work practices in various European countries; in 2014 the conference focused on rehabilitation among children and young adults and their transition to work, with papers presented on challenges for disabled young people.

Chair: Veijo Notkola

Veijo Notkola is an epidemiologist and demographer who has conducted extensive research in the area of occupational mortality, disability and rehabilitation, as well as mortality and fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa and mortality among those affected by HIV. He began his career teaching at the University of Helsinki and oversaw the Institute of Occupational Health before he became the head of the Survey Department for Statistics Finland, the only Finnish public authority specifically established for statistics. From 2001 to 2015, Mr. Notkola served as the General Manager of the Rehabilitation Foundation, an independent, non-profit organisation that specialises in devising new operating models for rehabilitation work, assessing the effectiveness of current practices and providing up-to-date information on rehabilitation to experts and the general public. He received a MA degree from the University of Helsinki in Sociology, a MS in Medical Demography from the University of London and a Ph.D. from the University of London. Mr. Notkola's work has been supported by Finnish Work Environment Fund, the Rehabilitation Foundation of Finland, the Kone Foundation and the University of Eastern Finland.