Suomen Kuurosokeat ry

Deafblind in Finland

Tytti Kauppinen, Service Advisor

The Finnish Deafblind Association

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The Situation of Deafblind

- The population of deafblind approximately 1000
- The number of people with combined visual and hearing impairment higher

- Finding and applying for services is often difficult

Who Provides the Services?

- Social Insurance Institution (Kela)
- Wellbeing Service Counties
- Municipalities
- Organizations

Social Insurance Institution (Kela)

- Social benefits / financial aid
- Rehabilitation
  - Vocational rehabilitation: assistive devices at school/work
- Interpreter service for disabled
- EU Disability card

Wellbeing Service County

- Health care
  - General health care (primary)
  - Special health care: assistive devices for everyday life

- Social services
  - Social welfare act (primary)
  - Disability service act: some of the assistive devices

Municipalities

- Employment and activation services
- Local accessibility improvements
- Childcare, basic education

Organizations

- Guidance and help applying for the services
- Peer support
- Information sharing
- Service provider for municipalities and counties

Problems and Need for Improvement

- Long and unequal waiting times for services
- Conflicting decisions from the service providers
- Lack of expertise about deafblindess
- Lack of information about the services

THANK YOU

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