

## **Conference Supportive Municipalities**

**Tallinn, 5th. Of March 2008**

**Good afternoon**

**My name is Marianne Smedegaard. I am from Denmark, working in Nordic Cooperation on disability, NSH in Stockholm Sweden. NSH is an institution under Nordic Council of Ministers.**

**NSH is secretariat for the cooperation programme between Nordic Council of Ministers, Northwest-Russia and the three Baltic countries aimed at disabled children and their families.**

**The cooperation programme is a 3-years programme runs from 2006-2008. I am the project manager .**

**The organisation of the programme is that national steering committees have been established in every country.**

*Using the powerpointpresentation*

**In Estonia the steering is very active. A conference about “design for all” was held in January 2007. In March last year was held a conference “The wellbeing of a disabled child”.**

**A study visit in Sweden took just place financed by the local Council of Ministers office “practice in institutions”.**

**Based on the results of the conference in March last year this conference was decided and planned. The answered of a questionnaire showed that it is important to focus on the important role of the municipalities to implement the legislation and to provide a broad range of services aimed at disabled children and their families.**

**The steering committee wants with this conference to get in contact with politicians, leaders and staff from municipalities and have a dialogue about good examples from Estonia and from the Nordic countries to get inspired to develop each municipals service. Therefore municipals are invited to join this project.**

**And what are necessary elements in developing services**

*See powerpoint planche*

**There are different tools to use**

*See power point presentation*

**The process for the project could be done this way, but it must be chosen by the specific municipality. What is important is that the municipality must want changes. They will be supported in the process under the frame of this project and it will be decided with each municipality.**

**At last I want to draw your attention to the the Council of Europes Action Plan: Improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015.**

**Estonia`s legislation supports what is in the action plan a lot has been done, but more can be done and I hope that this cooperation programme can give you the support you may want to follow the road you are already on.**

**I am looking forward to further cooperation with the specific municipalities, who have showed their interest in participating in this programme.**

**Thank you**