

The ambition today for us at NHV is to increase Universal design activities and networking in the Nordic and the Baltic countries. A Diploma Program in the topic Universal Design starts here at NHV in 2010. We have recently formed a group of Nordic representatives who is going to work with the content and design of the program.

We intend to provide all courses in English further on to open up for countries outside Scandinavia to participate

Our Research activities has started and so far with

- a literature review where the aim is to find out in what areas of society research has been carried out with a Universal Design perspective. We have had a special interest to find out what has been done in the Nordic countries, and so far we can see that between 1997 and 2007 education and ICT are the two big areas where research has been carried out and published.
- In another research project it was investigated how the common product development methodologies used in Industry today support the philosophy of Universal design. (not yet published). The result of that study was that we found that of the 6 main existing methodologies behind industrial models for product and system development only two were to some degree supportive to a Universal Design perspective.
- Third . a Phd student project focus on Public purchasing from Universal Design perspective.

We intend to build a Center of competence at NHV for research and education based on a Universal Design perspective. New solutions and ideas are needed to achieve an accessible environment, an understandable and a supportive layout in products and information systems where the main goal is to optimize the conditions for participation and equity for all people in society.