

Cerebrum, a non-profit patient organisation for people with acquired brain injury, in cooperation with Heilaheill, an Icelandic patient organisation for people after stroke, organised a joint Czech-Icelandic conference on October 17, 2024 under the project "Exchange of experience of patient organisations specialising in patients with brain injury" funded by the EEA and Norway Grants with the theme "**Iceland - The life of neurological patients**".

During the morning, a workshop was held with the participation of Czech and Icelandic experts, which took place both in person at the Randls Training Centre in Prague 4 and online via Webex video conference. A total of 50 people attended (11 of them online). The project Ms. Evelína Milfort, DiS. presented the purpose and goal of the mutual cooperation between the two patient organizations, followed by presentations by clinical speech therapists from both countries. The entire workshop was simultaneously interpreted from Czech to English and from English to Czech.

Icelandic speech therapist Thorrun Hana Halldorsdottir M. Sc. presented the topic "The functioning of patient organizations in Iceland and their funding" and also introduced the local patient organization Heilaheill, which helps people after strokes. In the second part of the workshop, Thorrun gave an interesting presentation on the Icelandic SLAG app, which can save lives when a stroke occurs. Especially in Iceland, where the population density is really very sparse and a stroke can meet you in the middle of glaciers/volcanoes where you don't meet anyone for long hours, the app is really crucial for a quick rescue, which according to Thorrunn arrives in a few minutes.

Her colleague, also a speech therapist Helga Thors Ph.D., CCC-SLP, then addressed the topic "Group speech therapy for neurological aphasia patients in Iceland".

Czech participants of the conference clinical speech therapist Mgr. Jana Horynová introduced the participants to the exchange stay that the Czech delegation had in September and the experience that the participants gained during the exchange stay.

The set of lectures was then closed by our colleague from Iceland, Anna Berglind Svansdóttir M.S, whose contribution titled "Group for people with aphasia", dealt with the issue of rehabilitation of these people and the importance of group speech therapy specifically focused on this disease.

Irena Grimová's photographs from Iceland were exhibited during the workshop.

The discussion continued after the workshop with refreshments. The workshop was attended by representatives of patient organisations, representatives of the state administration, rehabilitation staff, especially speech therapists.

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A patient-led non-profit organization of people who have suffered brain injury, their family members and caregivers. Cerebrum provides information leading to an understanding of brain injury and operates a community centre for patients - a safe place, a space for peer motivation and support where no one is "on their own".