

Welcome  
to  
Eikholt!



# History

- 1975: Governmental survey about the incidence of deafblindness in Norway
- 1980: Opening of Eikholt by H. M. King Olav V  
- unique Centre for deafblind people

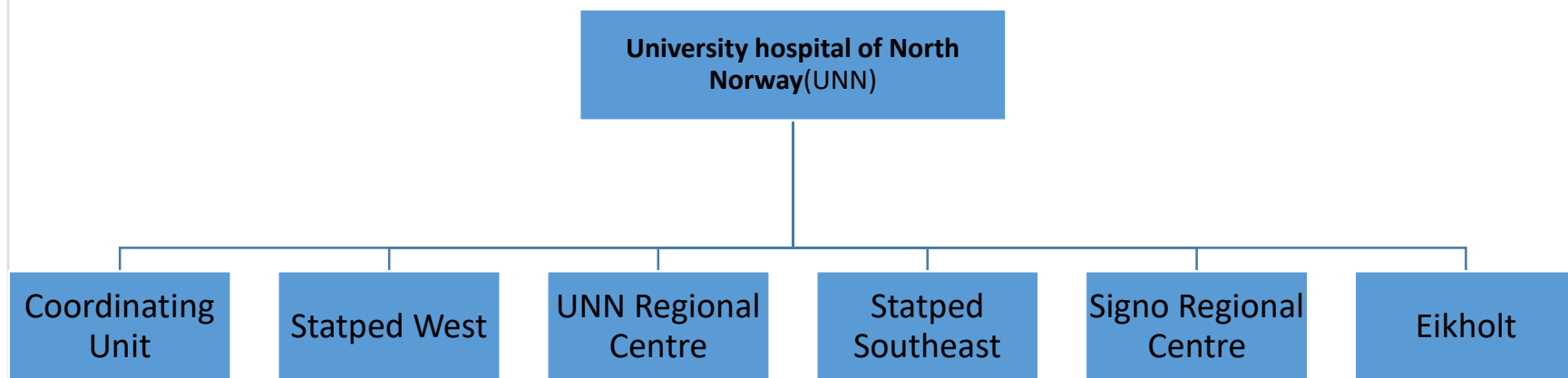


# Organization

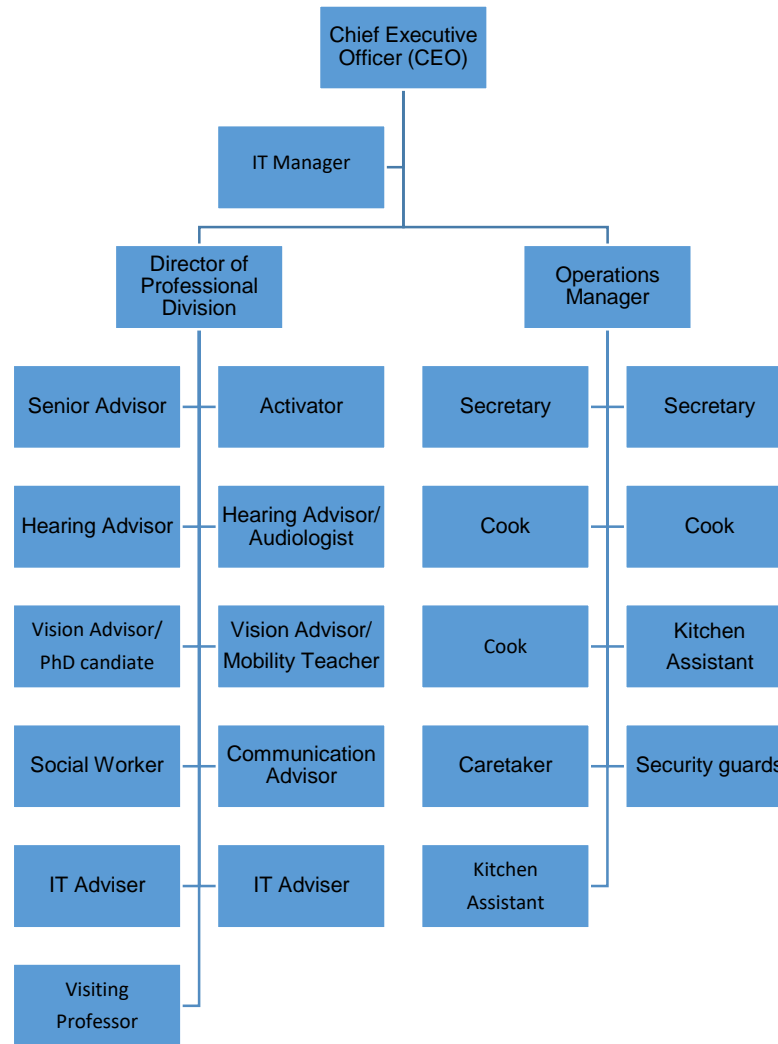
- Governed by the Foundation Eikholt
- National resource centre
- Part of national resource system for deafblind people
- Operated through public funds



# National Advisory Unit on Deafblindness



# Organizational map Eikholt



# Facilities



- 24 000 m<sup>2</sup> campus
- 10 buildings
- Conference facilities
- Laboratory rooms
- Rental housing / guest housing
- Swimming pool, work room
- Park grounds with specially designed touring path







During courses we offer participants different activities like morning exercise, walking tours and swimming opportunities.





# Our competence

- Inter-disciplinary staff
- We use external expertise when needed
- Co-operation with universities and other resource centres.
- Continuous development of expertise
  - Nordic co-operation, Nordic Staff Training Centre for Deafblind Services (NVC)
  - Internal courses



# Target groups

- Persons with combined vision and auditory impairment / deafblindness
- Personnel working with people with deafblindness
- Next of kin / relatives



# Facts

- Number of identified deafblind persons in Norway

	<b>Acquired</b>	<b>Congen.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2005</b>	416	129	545
<b>2013</b>	257	105	362
<b>2015</b>	247	104	351

- Today there is no official national registry of persons with deafblindness in Norway.



# Facts Eikholt 2016

- Congenital deafblindness: 82
- Acquired deafblindness: 257
- Total: 339
- New in 2016: 28
- Unique clients in 2016: 130
- Average age: 51
- Persons between 19 and 66 years: ca 67 %
- Persons with Usher syndrome: roughly 50 % of the deafblindness population.



# Courses

- We customise courses according to the needs of each individual applicant
- A course can consist of several modules, where each module may last up to five days
- Courses may take place at home, at school, at study campus or at work



# Health Sport / Activity weeks



# Range of courses

- We offer individual and group courses within different specialized fields:
  - Mobility
  - Braille
  - Communication
  - ICT, Information and communication technology
  - Adaption/testing of technical aids
  - Optimization of vision and hearing
  - Hobbies- and activities
  - Psycho-social themes





Illustrations of different courses at Eikholt (clockwise); mobility, ICT, hobby and communication.





# Services

- Rehabilitation concerning working life
  - Adjustments at home, school/university, work
- Alternative forms of communication
  - Sign, Tactile, Haptic
- ICT
  - Telephone support, Remote assistance,
- Sight and Hearing screening



# Development of expertise - Projects

- PhD project - linked to Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden
- Communication Development
- Vision loss influence on experienced hearing loss
- Optimization of vision and hearing



# Teaching/Supervision

- Training of interpreters at three universities
- Training of Audio pedagogs
- Training of Audiologists
- Training of other professions



# A place to meet

Eikholt is a place where people with deafblindness can meet others who face the same challenges and difficulties:

*“The best part was meeting other people in the same situation as me. I wish that had happened much earlier.”*

Quote course participant





[www.eikholt.no/english](http://www.eikholt.no/english)

Thank you for your  
attention!

