

## MINUTES FROM THE NORDIC LEADERSHIP FORUM OF DEAFBLINDNESS 2018

**May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**

Malmö, Sweden

### 1. Welcome and introduction

*Maria Creutz, Nordic Welfare Centre*

### 2. Presentation of the participants

### 3. Knowledge based methods and research, including group work and presentations

*Moa Wahlqvist, R&D coordinator, Nkcdb, Sweden*

### 4. Status from NVC and the Nordic work

*Presentation by Jonas Bergström, Nordic Welfare Centre.*

### 5. Feedback from the participating countries and national reports

The national reports were available at the event site ahead of the meeting.

- **Status on workgroups and networks**

- *Courses at university level*

At the moment, the work on a common Nordic education has remained a bit in the background. But, Høgskolan Sørøst will start a module called "Diversity in Communication" in January 2019 and parts of this module can be done as distance learning. The goal is to become Nordic in the future.

- *Methods for identification of people with deafblindness*

There is a need to identify people with deafblindness and Maria will have a meeting with members from different Nordic countries in 2018. NVC will outline a project for a potential future working group that would look into the issue concerning methods of identification. NVC will pay for travels and accommodations for the Nordic participants. The co-workers and leaders are: Johan Granli Karlsvård from Sweden, Helle Buelund Selling from Denmark, Britta Nilsson from Norway, Estella Björnsson from Iceland and Taru Kaaja from Finland. The group will introduce a project plan suggestion in December 2018. NVC will investigate the possibility to obtain external project funds.

- **Networks**

The reports from the networks were available at the event site ahead of the meeting.

Currently, there are four Nordic networks.

- *The CHARGE network:* leaders expect a written report after every meeting in the network. The network will have a live seminar, in Oslo, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

- *The Cognition Network:* members of the network are writing a book with expected release in 2019.

- *The network on Communicative Relations*  
The network is planning a course in March 2019.
- *The Tactile Linguality Network*: The network is writing a book that is expected to be released in December 2018. The network will have a live seminar, in Oslo, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

We discussed the importance of spreading knowledge from the networks in to the field.

#### **6. Items for discussion**

- A research network was discussed, and we decided to postpone the discussion to 2019.
- Is there a need for teachers in Special Needs Education to meet and exchange? Maria will facilitate a meeting for interested participants to see if there is an interest of make an apply for a network.

#### **7. Online learning workshop - Linn Eidem Kristiansen, Helsekompetanse, Norway**

#### **8. Planning of 2019**

Next meeting will be held in May 22-23, in Iceland.