

MINUTES FROM THE NORDIC LEADERSHIP FORUM OF DEAFBLINDNESS 2019

May 22nd and 23rd 2019

Reykjavik, Iceland

1. Welcome and introduction

Maria Creutz, Nordic Welfare Centre

2. Opening of the Nordic Leadership Forum of Deafblindness 2019

Ásmundur Dadason, Minister of Social Affairs and Equality

3. Presentations of participants

Link to a list of participants has been distributed. This was the first time the Faroe Islands was represented.

4. How is it possible to enhance personal autonomy in the daily lives of disabled people who require more intensive support?

Guðrún Valgerður Stefánsdóttir, Professor, Disability Studies University of Iceland

Link to presentations has been distributed. Note that presentations will only be available for download until July 1st.

5. Violence against Disabled Women

Rannveig Traustadóttir, Professor and Director, Centre for Disability Studies University of Iceland

Link to presentations has been distributed. Note that presentations will only be available for download until July 1st.

6. Status from NWC and the Nordic Work

Operation manager Kai Koivumäki, Nordic Welfare Centre

Link to presentations has been distributed. Note that presentations will only be available for download until July 1st.

Short discussion in groups after the talk.

A newsletter is published a few times per year. Please send suggestions on content to NWC, for example to present new members of the various organizations.

7. Feedback from countries and national reports

National reports were available at the event website ahead of the meeting. The various countries complemented the submitted newsletters in the meeting.

8. Working groups, items for discussion and networks

a) Working groups

- Courses at university level

At the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) the master module with students from several Nordic countries, completed its first term this spring. The course will continue in 2020. USN is still interested in collaboration with other universities about a Nordic master. The criteria for a Nordic master have changed: two collaborating universities is required, not three as earlier. Kai Koivumäki is going to look closer at the possibility for cooperation in this, and will get back to Marianne Disch who is the contact person at Statped in relation to USN.

- Methods for identification of people with deafblindness

A working group started two years ago. The group has written a draft of a project plan, which was shared ahead of the meeting. The plan is to make Nordic guidelines, comprising both congenital and acquired deafblindness. The group will continue the work, and present it to the forum, no later than September.

b) Items for discussion

Tactile transition

The leadership forum decided not to do this as a common project.

Nordic Conference

The conference will be arranged in 2021 and planning will start in the fall of 2019. Both Finland and Denmark may be possible locations. A committee with members from all Nordic countries will be put together, and names should be submitted within the end of September. There will be one administrative and one scientific committee.

Day course in the Baltics on deafblindness

Organizations who have the possibility to participate, can contact Maria, one professional within congenital and one in acquired deafblindness.

Digitalization

The topic will be seen in connection with the guidelines on identification.

Research network

This will be addressed at the conference at Eikholt in 2020.

Elderly

Advisors in Denmark would like a network about elderly people with vision and hearing impairment. The topic was on the schedule on day two, possible with comments then.

School network

The topic was discussed last year. The schools in questions cannot participate now, so we will leave this at the moment.

c) Networks

Every country should assess their own representation in the networks. The national leader forums should initiate a dialogue about expectations with their representatives.

Nordic network on communicative relations

The forum has a great structure with both closed and open meetings.

Nordic network on tactile linguality

The book "Hvis du kan se det, kan du understøtte det" is so far published in 1000 copies. An English translation will follow in July. The project will be presented at a poster at the Dbl-conference in Australia.

The network held a successful seminar at Statped, Oslo. In November, a course based on the book will be held.

Nordic cognition network

The network will meet in June. The book on congenital deafblindness will be published before summer 2020. The network is large, also with members from Scotland and the Netherlands.

Nordic network on CHARGE syndrome

The network hosted a seminar streamed by Statped, with many participants. A new seminar is planned in 2020 or 2021. A report on case studies is written and distributed after every meeting.

9. Workshops

Functional diagnosis and how it is done in the different countries.

Discussion in groups and short summary in plenary.

Alt 1 Services to the elderly with combined vision and hearing loss in the different countries

Alt 2 NVC questions for the meeting

Alt 3 Educational cooperation; common Nordic Bachelor/Master, common courses for example.

Discussion in groups and short summary in plenary.

10. Evaluation and planning of 2020

Feedback on these two days and suggestions for topics for next years meeting may be sent to NWC.

**The next Nordic leader forum will take place in 2020 on June 3rd and 4th
in Copenhagen, Denmark.**

Eva Hirsti

Universitetssykehuset Nord-Norge HF
Nasjonal kompetansetjeneste for døvblinde