

Annual report from
The Nordic Network on Cognition in Relation to Congenital Deafblindness
Nordic leadership forum of deafblindness, spring 2020

Members

NO: Kirsten H Costain, Joe Gibson, Torill Gullvik, Annika Maria Johannessen, Jude Nicholas, Lynn Skei, Elena Hauge & Anne Nafstad. New member from 2020 Magnus Tollefsrud.

SE: Vuokko Einarsson. Possible new member from 2020 also Ida Jifält.

FI: Emmi Toumi

DK: Pia Solholt & Tina Bendixen New member from 2020 Ulrik Skov Hansen.

NL: Saskia Damen

GB: Jacky Smith, Jonathan Reid & Paul Hart

Meetings and activities 2019:

Dates: the 3rd- 4th of June. Venue: NVC, Stockholm

- Planning of the book: **"Revealing hidden potentials - Assessing cognition in individuals with congenital deafblindness"**. Group and plenary discussions. In-depth discussions on the book structure, book chapters, contributions, editorial management, deadlines and publication matters.
- Planning of a seminar based on the book in October in Helsinki.

Tasks of the network:

The cognitive network was established in 2008. The main aim of the network is to promote professional competency in understanding cognitive development and identifying cognitions and their relation to learning and everyday functioning of individuals with congenital deafblindness (CDB).

Some members of the network are affiliated to different universities, conducting research, and collaborating with other professionals in the field of CDB. The other members are clinicians and practitioners working in the field, consisting of psychologists, educational specialists and supervisors who are involved in conducting assessments and intervention planning in the different countries. Since congenital deafblindness comprises a diverse, small-scale and heterogeneous group it is important that the collaboration and knowledge sharing of Cognition in Relation to Congenital Deafblindness takes place in a Nordic and International manner. Besides, the knowledge developed from this network would be feasible to be applied to other related fields.

Future plans:

- The release of the book. We are hoping this will happen before the end of June 2020.
- Disseminating information of the book and having several seminars/webinars.
- The first seminar regarding the topic of “Revealing hidden potentials - Assessing cognition in individuals with congenital deafblindness” has been planned to take place in Helsinki on October the 20th – 22nd 2020. Currently, it is being planned as a seminar in the physical world. However, due to the circumstances of Covid-19 and the uncertain future, we would consider doing the seminar digitally.
- Continue the crucial Nordic and International collaboration for the purpose to understand how to assess cognition and enhance cognitive development in persons with congenital deafblindness.

We thank NVC and especially Maria Creutz and Christina Lindström for their valuable contribution and on the tremendous work of publishing the book.

Next meetings:

- The 9th of June 2020: A video conference network meeting.
- October 2020 (week 43): A physical seminar in Helsinki or a digital seminar.

On behalf of members of the network
Bergen, April 24th, 2020
Jude Nicholas,
Statped, Norway.