

MINUTES FROM THE NORDIC LEADERSHIP FORUM OF DEAFBLINDNESS 2020

June 3rd, 2020

Adobe Connect

1. Welcome and introduction

Maria Creutz, Nordic Welfare Centre

2. Presentation of participants

Please find the link to the list of participation on the event website. The event website will be open until October 31st.

3. Status on networks and national reports

The national reports from Denmark (CDH/CFD), Norway, Sweden and Iceland were available at the event website ahead of the meeting. The different countries complemented the submitted newsletters in the meeting.

Finland and the Faroe Islands each gave a summary in the meeting.

Maria presented NWC's plans for 2020. See presentation on the event website.

Nordic network on cognition in relation to congenital deafblindness

A new chair for the network will be a subject in the next meeting.

Nordic network on CHARGE

The network is progressing as planned, and they intend to present a book or booklet. They are planning a seminar at the end of 2021.

Nordic network on communicative relations

Last year the network held a course in Copenhagen, and they are planning one in Gothenburg in November this year. The network would like to have a psychologist as a new member.

Nordic network on tactile language

The network presented the book "If you can see it, you can support it" at the Dbl conference in August 2019. They have also arranged webinars and are making plans for a new one.

Application for a new network: Self-regulation in relation to CDB

The application was distributed ahead of the meeting, and was approved without comments. The network is open for members from the countries without representation. The network will be an item at the Nordic leadership forum in January.

4. Status on working groups

- **Courses at university level**

Two groups of students have completed the master module at the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN). A new group of students will start in 2021.

The working group has met three times and has established initial contact with the universities in Helsinki, Copenhagen, Högskolan Sørøst, Örebro and Jyväskylä. They will continue the work to establish cooperation with the universities. The next meeting is in August.

- **Methods for identification of people with deafblindness**

The working group has members from Norway and Denmark, and the process of updating the old material has started. Sweden and Iceland is part of the Reference group. The expected time of presentation will be at the Nordic leadership forum in 2022 and the group will keep the leadership forum informed as the work proceeds.

- **Nordic conference, September 14th – 16th, Tampere, Finland**

As the Finnish association celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2021, the Nordic conference will take place in Tampere, Finland. All the Nordic countries each have a member in the planning committee, which is working on the theme for the conference. The conference language will be English. The first invitation for the conference will be distributed in early fall. As there are many new employees in the different countries, the program will have generous time for networking.

- **Discussion about political anchoring in the Nordic deafblind cooperation**

Astrid Utterström, Senior Adviser, Nordic Council of Ministers, Denmark, and Kai Koivumäki, Operations manager, Nordic Welfare Centre, Sweden.

The presentations are available on the event website.

Statistics from 2019.

The NWC courses gathered 210 participants.

One-day educational course in Riga, Latvia, 160 participants.

Meetings in the four networks gathered 48 participants.

5. Meetings 2021

- January 19th – 21st, Copenhagen, with original program
- September, Tampere, one day in connection with the Nordic Conference on Deafblindness

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