

Minutes from the Nordic Leadership Forum of Deafblindness 2022 “Political influence and leadership within the disability field”

June 8th and 9th, 2022

Bergen, Norway

1. Welcome and introduction

Maria Creutz, Nordic Welfare Centre.

2. Presentation of participants

Participation list, with contact information, will also be found at the event page. In addition, all participants were presented in a printed leaflet.

3. Opening of the Nordic Leadership Forum of Deafblindness 2022

A user organization perspective

Geir Jensen, President of World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB), Norway.

Jensen participated via a prerecorded video. The link is available on the event page.

4. Youth with acquired deafblindness

Eva Juul Toldam, Academic Consultant at CFD Counseling, Denmark.

The presentation is available on the event page.

5. Complexity and Leadership

Sten Are Aksnes, Head of department, Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Rare Disorders, Oslo University Hospital.

The presentation is available on the event page.

6. Short presentation of the different structures in the Nordic countries

Maria Creutz, NWC.

The presentation is available on the event page.

7. Status on working groups and networks

Maria Creutz, NWC.

Networks

Cognition and congenital deafblindness

No comments on the report, the network continues.

Communicative relations

No comments on the report. The network has applied to continue, and will continue for three years.

Tactile Language

No comments on the report, the network continues.

CHARGE

No comments on the report. The network has applied to continue, and will continue for three years.

Self-regulation in relation to congenital deafblindness

No comments on the report, the network continues.

Collaboration on Usher in a life perspective

This is not a formal network, but the group is very active and will be encouraged to apply to become a network in the future. Their webinars have gathered quite an audience.

During the last years, the different networks have been quite visible as they have published books, booklets and held a number of seminars. It was suggested that a yearly webinar, where the networks could present their work, may be a good idea to spread knowledge to the Nordic countries. In return the Nordic countries themselves should establish routines to facilitate dissemination of knowledge nationally.

Status on working groups/projects

Nordic master

NWC coordinates the working group. The group is still active and the idea of the Nordic master has not been abandoned. One of the challenges has been to find a university to host a Nordic master. There is also a question about getting an acceptable number of applicants for a master program. Maybe a collaboration with the University of Groningen is the solution? And in addition, investigate whether other universities could host courses/modules at a master level? NWC will communicate the forum's thoughts to the working group.

Tactile transition

A presentation will be given on the Nordic conference in September, and the group will arrange a webinar in November.

Nordic Conference

NWC will arrange a dinner in Tampere for the leadership forum on Tuesday evening.

At the social dinner on Wednesday, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Kuurosokeat. An idea to greet colleagues about to retire, was also submitted. Organizations with colleagues at the end of their career, please send information to Saga within a week before the dinner.

All the networks will present themselves at the conference. There will also be possible to form new networks during the conference.

Nordic definition and Nordic study plan (congenital and acquired)

Nordic definition

The Nordic definition will be reviewed every four years, to ensure a common understanding. Names for a group to conduct the work, should be sent to Maria within July the 5th.

Curriculum

The curriculum will be revised, but the work will not start until the beginning of 2023.

New Project Leader for Deafblind Issues

The recruitment process for a new Project Leader for Deafblind Issues is ongoing, and will be completed during the summer. Maria resigns at the end of August, but will moderate the Nordic conference in September. Gunnar Mikkelsen will replace Maria as responsible for planning the conference. As soon as a new advisor is recruited, the leadership forum will be notified.

8. Nordic definition and status of the project Methods for identification of people with deafblindness and follow up from the conference in Norway 2021

Marianne Disch, Head of Unit, Statped, Norway, and Maria Creutz, NWC.

The presentation is available on the event page.

9. Nkcdb – presentation of reports on deafblindness and support

Ann-Sofie Sundqvist and Moa Wahlqvist participated via a prerecorded video.

The presentation is available on the event page.

10. How can we speak as one?

Nordic Welfare Centre in the Nordic Context. Eva Franzén and Maria Creutz.

Eva Franzén participated via prerecorded video.

The presentation is available on the event page.

The council of Nordic Cooperation on Disability, represented by Eva Buschmann, FFO.

The presentation is available on the event page.

Why Nordic collaboration on deafblindness? Trine Seljeseth, NKDB.

The presentation is available on the event page.

11. Group and plenary discussion

Mandate, Nordic Council of Ministers, Maria Creutz.

A proposal for a mandate was shared before the meeting. The mandate will be active from 2023 until 2025. Plenary discussions on the mandate.

“Nordens Välfärdscenters roll”

Arranging Nordic conferences, should be added to the paragraph.

“Syfte och oppdrag”

The Nordic leadership forum *suggests* activities, projects and themes for expert groups.

The mandate should be more precise in terms of what NWC is supposed to finance. NWC cannot overrule decisions from the leadership forum, but NWC may reject to finance.

“Organisering”

It was suggested that at least one representative from each organization listed in the addendum, should be member of the leadership forum. The role as host of the meetings in the forum rotates among the Nordic counties in a predefined order. NWC will lead the meetings.

The addendum was updated in the meeting.

A revised mandate will be shared, with a deadline for possible further comments.

What do you want to get out of the Nordic cooperation? What can you bring to the Nordic cooperation?

Plenary discussion, some suggestions:

- The need for courses for new employees
- More focus on leadership and discussions on strategy in coming leadership forums

12. Evaluation and planning of 2023

The meeting next year will be in Iceland at June 14th and 15th.